



Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow, it is the end of March and I feel like I just returned from the WSSA annual meeting in Portland! There is a good reason for that, which should be obvious if you read through this entire message. It also takes my breath away a little looking at the list of all that is going on in the society.

The Portland meeting was a great success. Our total registration was 480 persons which included 265 members, 74 non-members, and 72 students. There were 142 posters and 227 oral presentations. I was pleased that eight emeritus members and retired fellows took advantage of the policy adopted by the Board of Directors last year to waive the meeting registration fees for them. Included among these was Robert Schieferstein, who had attended the first WSSA meeting as a graduate student. He even had his original WSSA membership card which he donated to the WSSA archives! We had some great symposia during the meeting and I want to thank the symposia organizers, Steven Seefeldt, Al Tasker, Prashant Jha, Steve Duke, Chad Brommer and Prasanta Bhowmik, for taking the initiative and time to put these together. Symposia are an important feature of our annual meetings and elsewhere in the newsletter is the call for symposia proposals for the 2012 meeting. While this is a competitive process and we may need to limit symposia in the 2012 meeting, please consider submitting a proposal. I also need to thank Carol Mallory-Smith and, especially, Tim Miller for their work on the local arrangements committee and making sure things went smoothly. Dave Krueger gets high marks for the software his company developed for title and abstract submission. While there were a couple of bumps along the way with the software, it made putting the program together very easy. David is working to make improvements and deal with a couple of unexpected short comings in the program. Finally, and by no means least, I want to acknowledge the continued excellent work by Kate Counter, our meeting organizer, and Joyce Lancaster, our Executive Secretary, both with Allen Press. Their work behind the scenes before, during and after the meeting really is the foundation for our successful meetings.

The general session featured presentations by Dr. John Jachetta, Dr. David

CONTINUED on pg 2 >>>

**MEETING
AWARD WINNERS**
(details inside on pages 7-8)

IN THIS ISSUE

IPSM Progress Report	5	Washington Report	9	ARES Meeting Info	14
WeedOlympics Update	6	Call for 2012 Symposia	11	Important Addresses	15
Award Winners	7	People & Places in the News	13	Calendar of Events	16

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED from pg 1

Shaw and Dr. Barbara Glenn, probably our newest member at the time and CropLife America Vice President of Science and Regulatory Affairs. John recounted the accomplishments of the society over the past year including the addition of an Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) foundational program for 2011 for "Controlling Weedy and Invasive Plants" under the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). A letter of intent to submit was due March 16, and the full application is due on June 8, 2011. The reestablishment of a federal grant program dedicated to Weed Science was a major victory that many people worked to accomplish. David Shaw summarized the multiple WSSA efforts in the area of herbicide resistance and its management. Among these are two papers funded through grants from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The first paper is titled "The Influences of Herbicide-Resistant Crops on the Evolution of Herbicide-Resistant Weeds" (APHIS I). The APHIS I writing and review effort was led by Dr. William Vencill and the paper the historical basis and current status of herbicide resistance in the United States. It is under review for publication as a special issue of *Weed Science*. The second paper (APHIS II) is being edited by Dr. David Shaw and will focus on accepted best management practices to combat development of herbicide resistance, the current levels of adoption of these practices, barriers to their adoption, and recommendations for ways to increase their adoption. This paper is targeted for a mid-summer completion. An exciting outcome of this work is the plans for a national summit, a joint effort between WSSA and The National Academy of Sciences (NAS), on herbicide resistance. Tentative plans are for the summit to be held at the NAS in Washington, DC in September. Finally, David described the development of herbicide resistance training modules by the special WSSA Herbicide Resistance Education Committee that he is chairing. These modules have been discussed in presentations by the committee members at all the regional weed science society meetings as well as at the WSSA meeting.

I asked Dr. Glenn to introduce CropLife America (CLA) to the WSSA members and to also report on CLA's efforts to bring Weed Science expertise to Africa. CLA represents the crop protection industry in Washington, D.C. and it was a key supporter of WSSA efforts to restore the Weed Science Foundational program in NIFA. CLA's efforts increased our effectiveness on this issue and it will be an important ally for future WSSA concerns. However, it was the work of the CropLife Foundation in Africa that led me to extend an invitation to Barbara to speak at the general session. You may remember a call from the CropLife Foundation that was sent to the WSSA members asking for volunteers to work in Africa and I wanted us to hear how that went. Barbara discussed the challenges in weed control faced by Africans and the programs initiated by the CropLife Foundation to demonstrate modern weed management techniques. Dr. Phil Stahlman of Kansas was part of this effort and he told me later that he found this work incredibly rewarding. An unexpected but welcome outcome of Barbara's presentation that was reported to me were discussions among the attendees about the most effective and appropriate weed management technologies for Africa. Anyone want to propose a symposium on this subject? I hope this discussion will continue and possibly lead to a greater commitment from WSSA in this area. I am exploring some options for this and I welcome any suggestions from members.

Dr. Rod Lym, WSSA President-Elect, made an exciting presentation at the business meeting showing how to change from typical WSSA attire (at least typical for a bolo tie wearing, long-distance runner, Westerner) to clothes much more fitting for our 2012 meeting on the Big Island, Hawaii. I doubt his performance will ever be repeated. While our attention has been rightly focused on the impact of the

CONTINUED on pg 3 ➤➤

WSSA FUTURE MEETING SITES AND DATES

2012

Hilton Hotel

Waikoloa Village, Hawaii

February 6-9, 2012

52nd Annual Meeting

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2013

Baltimore, Maryland

February, 2013

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**WSSA HOME PAGE
ACCESSED AT:
www.wssa.net**

**THINK NEWSLETTER
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED from pg 2

earthquake and tsunami on Japan, a tsunami also hit Hawaii. I am happy to report our hotel (Hilton) did not suffer any significant damage. Rod is busy arranging speakers and tours for the meeting.

I tried a few new things at the Portland meeting. There was favorable response from members to the 20 minute length for oral presentations at the 2010 joint WSSA/SRM meeting in Denver so I tried this again in Portland. Also, I shifted the beginning of the poster session to coincide with the reception on Monday evening. Again, this was based on reaction to a similar schedule in 2010. If you attended the meeting in Portland, I hope you responded to the survey that Dr. Jim Kells, current WSSA Vice-President and Program Chair for the 2013 meeting in Baltimore, sent out concerning these changes. This will help guide the structure of future WSSA meetings. We will report on the survey results in a later Newsletter.

I only heard one negative comment about the Portland meeting. Someone wanted more papers in the sections they were most interested in. Well, the answer to that is easy, submit more and encourage your colleagues to attend and present too! The program is composed of the papers and posters submitted. The Program Chair has little control over that. In fact, some sections were a bit short of papers and we even cancelled one section because of lack of papers submitted. I am working with some of the 2012 section chairs to encourage more participation in these sections.

Following the WSSA meeting, I attended part of the National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) held in Washington, DC February 28 – March 4. I was there for the first couple of days and then John Jachetta attended the rest of the week. Pesky teaching responsibilities called me home early. This is the second year that NISAW has been held as an all-taxa event; it is an evolution from the previous National Invasive Weed

Awareness Week (NIWAW) that WSSA was instrumental in founding. NISAW brings in all invasive taxa and has greatly broadened participation and sponsorship of the activities. In broadening the focus of the meeting, WSSA has partnered with the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) to conduct the event. I want to thank Lee Van Wychen and Lori Williams, Executive Director of NISC, for their efforts on NISAW. This was a very successful meeting. I was impressed by the range of participants, representatives of federal agencies, state agencies, NGOs, academia, and industry were all in attendance. I was also impressed by the engagement of the participants in the sessions and the obvious networking that was occurring. Many of the participants used part of the week to visit congressional delegations to express their concerns about invasive species in the United States and its territories. As part of the kick-off festivities for NISAW, Dr. Dick Mack of Washington State University gave a presentation on Capitol Hill titled "Waging War on Invasive Grasses: Preventing – Not Just Controlling – Rangeland Fires in the West." Over 70 congressional staffers and guests attended as part of the 'Lunch-n-Learn' series organized by WSSA (Lee Van Wychen) in conjunction with the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research. This was a great educational opportunity and the staffers asked a number of questions about Dr. Mack's presentation. If you would like to see more of what was presented at NISAW, go to <http://www.nisaw.org/> and you can find the presentations.

While in Washington, D.C., I also attended a House Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on the USDA research, education, and economics (REE) mission area at which USDA REE leadership, including Dr. Roger Beachy, were questioned about their budget request for FY 2012. Some things were apparent; first is the pressure that USDA is under to

reduce their budget. Some of the Congressional budget proposals target USDA programs for higher reductions than other federal programs. Second, how this puts NIFA and other federally supported agricultural research, extension and education programs at risk. And third, I can get very frustrated attending a committee hearing like this. I wanted to stand up and offer comments throughout.

The week after NISAW, I travelled to Spokane, Washington to attend the annual meeting of the Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS). In my career in Weed Science, I have attended all the other regional weed science societies except the WSWS, despite having done my graduate work at the University of California - Davis. One of my goals for my year as WSSA President is to attend all the regional weed science society meetings, maybe the Aquatic and Canadian societies meetings too, to meet with their boards and discuss issues of mutual interest and concern. So far, I have made it to the North Central, Southern, and Western meetings and I am looking forward to the Northeastern meeting. I have had some "animated" discussions with the various board members. One point I am making at these meetings is that WSSA is committed to work with and support the other weed science societies. I also emphasize that I have come to appreciate how important the national presence of WSSA is for Weed Science. The success with the NIFA Weed Science program is a good example of this. I mentioned to the boards that WSSA's willingness to hold joint meetings with the other societies, our sponsorship of the development of the title submission and abstract software for meetings, which we offered to the other societies, and our restructuring of the financial cost of supporting the Director of Science Policy to the Regionals are all concrete examples of WSSA desire work with them. In addition, it has been fun to see how things are

CONTINUED on pg 4 ►►

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED from pg 3

done differently in the meetings. Rod Lym and I are discussing a couple of these for possible addition to WSSA meetings.

The week after the WSWS meeting, I returned to Washington, DC to represent WSSA with the Healthy Habits Coalition. The HHC is an outgrowth of NIWAW and it was created to encourage (lobby) Congress to increase funding for management of invasive species, especially invasive weeds. HHC includes members from the agricultural industry, state departments of agriculture and natural resources, pesticide applicators, and professional societies (WSSA and the Entomological Society of America). Besides myself, WSSA was represented by Lee Van Wychen and John Jachetta was there representing Dow AgroSciences. Of course, John looked out for WSSA too. John and Lee are on the HHC Steering Committee. WSSA cautiously supported the creation of HHC and I wanted to assess its activities and WSSA's continued involvement. The week began with a review of HHC's objectives and developed a strategy for talking to Congressional offices. Of course, any discussion in Washington right now does not involve asking for new funds but rather, at best, focuses on moving funds from somewhere else to what you want. The rest of the week was spent as a WSSA team visiting Congressional offices, particularly those from Indiana and Kentucky because of John and me. I can tell you, things are pretty crazy right now in those offices with the budget deliberations that are occurring. At the end of the week, John, Lee and I sat together and discussed what we had seen and learned about HHC. Unfortunately, we came to the conclusion that the strategies and some of the recommendations proposed by HHC are not in alignment with those of WSSA. And, while we do support more efforts in invasive weed management, the three of us will recommend to the WSSA Board of Directors that we no longer associate with HHC.

Well, I am home now and thinking about a few other WSSA issues. Rod Lym has updated the WSSA committee list and it is posted on the website. This is hard work and I want to thank him for this. One thing I have been concerned with is the health of some of our committees. Committees are really where a lot of the accomplishments of the society come from and it is how members become engaged with WSSA. To help insure that members have an opportunity to be considered for committees, I have asked Jim Kells to work with Dave Krueger to develop a process by which members can volunteer for committees through the website. I expect we will roll this out a little later this year. Second, the WSSA Board generally devotes a day of the summer meeting to a particular society issue. This year, part of that day will be to review and make recommendations for changes in our committees. We will also be reviewing major activities of the society, journals for example, to insure they are on track.

A couple of other initiatives that I am excited about are plans for a new website design and exploring the feasibility of an electronic version of the Herbicide Handbook. The WSSA BOD allocated funds for the website design and I will be appointing a special committee to work with David Krueger on this. Another part of the committee's charge will be to write a job description for a WSSA website content editor. On the electronic version of the Herbicide Handbook, Dr. Anne Legere has taken on the first step in this evaluation, looking at the "need" for something like this.

I know there have been a lot of thanks in this message but I need to acknowledge the contributions that John Jachetta has made to WSSA and the entire discipline of Weed Science through his leadership as WSSA President. One of John's emphases during his time on the WSSA BOD, even before he became president, was to increase the national influence of the society. His professional role in Regulatory Af-

fairs at Dow AgroSciences gives him unique insight into the workings of Washington, D.C. and allowed him to see opportunities for WSSA. He was instrumental in the creation and success of activities like the EPA Subject Matter Expert and the Public Awareness Committee. He was also very effective in strategic thinking, helping lead development of our last two tactical plans. Personally, I have enjoyed working closely with John. He and I shared an office as graduate students at UC-Davis so we go back a long way in our careers. I think of us as Mutt and Jeff (you can decide who is whom) in that we complement each other, John with industry and myself from academia. Because I know John so well, I understand all the personal sacrifices he made in order to be of service to WSSA. Now, Past-presidents are not forgotten and I will continue to rely on John for many things.

I am looking forward to the rest of my year as WSSA President. It already feels like it is going by fast.

Mike Barrett
WSSA President

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THINK NEWSLETTER
Deadline for July issue
June 1, 2011

A Progress Report on WSSA's Newest Journal, *Invasive Plant Science and Management*

Joe DiTomaso and James Anderson

President's Note: Three years after the launch of the new WSSA journal *Invasive Plant Science and Management*, it seemed appropriate to step back and see what level of success the journal is achieving. There are several ways to measure success of a journal including the number of submissions, quality of submissions and the finances of the journal. While I believe that the scientific impact of the journal is the most important measure of success for WSSA and Weed Science, some WSSA members have expressed concern about the financial impact of the journal on the society. I asked Joe DiTomaso, *IPSM* Editor, and James Anderson, Director of Publications, to give me an assessment of where we stand with *IPSM* and to share that with the WSSA membership. This is what they wrote:

The financial success of a journal has historically been dependent on institutional subscribers. Since the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) launched the new *Invasive Plant Science and Management (IPSM)* journal in 2007, institutional subscriptions have increased to 23 in 2010. Based on the financial models developed by both Allen Press and an independent consultant firm initially hired by WSSA to develop a business plan, the journal is ahead of projected schedules. These original projected models for *IPSM* indicated a financial loss over the first five years, after which the journal is expected to show a financial benefit for the society. In the third year of production, 2010, Allen Press projected a loss of \$44,870 and the independent consultant firm projected a loss of \$54,968. Based on the difficult economic times, the fact that actual estimated losses for 2010 were approximately \$38,000 indicates that *IPSM* is on track to a successful future.

In the first three years of production, *IPSM* published 48, 43, and 58 articles,

respectively. In February of 2010, Allen Press applied to have *IPSM* included on the ISI Web of Knowledge of cited journals and we expect to get a positive response sometime this year. This is critical because once included on ISI, the clock begins on obtaining an impact factor, which requires three more years. In addition, when *IPSM* is included on ISI, citing of *IPSM* papers in peer-reviewed journals will count towards an authors H-index and total number of citations.

In 2008 and 2009, *Weed Science* had an ISI recognized impact factor of 1.63 and 1.45 while *Weed Technology* had an impact factor of 0.85 and 0.75, respectively. For comparative purposes, it is possible to calculate an estimated impact factor for *IPSM* using Google Scholar. When comparing the Google Scholar impact factor for the 2008 volumes of *Weed Science* and *IPSM*, the estimated impact factor for *Weed Science* was 2.0 and for *IPSM* was 1.9. Thus, the recognition of *IPSM*, in terms of citations, is very similar to that of *Weed Science* and we expect that *IPSM* will do very well once accepted by ISI.

Furthermore, when the journal is listed on ISI and receives an impact factor, we expect that it should attract more high quality papers. It is also critical to note that institutional subscriptions often increase for journals that have been accepted into ISI, or when it has an impact factor.

In summary, *IPSM* is ahead of schedule; all indications are that it will be accepted in ISI and have an impact factor in about three years. In addition, the journal has found international appeal, with submissions from several countries around the world. As evidence of this, the *IPSM* website was visited 60% of the time by individuals outside of the US. Finally, of the top ten most frequently accessed online journal articles published by the society in 2010, two were from *IPSM*. The society and Board of Directors should be very excited by the current success of *IPSM*, which has filled the void in peer-reviewed journals focusing on how to apply invasive plant biology, ecology and technology to achieve effective management.

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Update on the WeedOlympics

Greg Armel and Jim Brosnan

Dear WeedOlympics students, coaches, and volunteers:

As many of you are aware, we are hosting the first ever WeedOlympics on July 26–27, 2011 in Knoxville, TN. Over the past several months we attended the NCWSS, NEWSS, SWSS, and WWSS meetings to not only inform members about the event, but also solicit feedback regarding contest rules. We have incorporated that feedback into the final set of contest rules attached to this message. You can also access the final set of rules at <http://weedolympics2011.org>. We have combined aspects of the NCWSS, NEWSS, and SWSS contest rules to comprise what we believe to be a very challenging event that incorporates crops, herbicides, farmer/client problems, and weeds of importance to each region. While we realize some of the herbicides, crops, weeds, and farmer/client problems chosen will not relate to your respective regions; however, we hope that we will provide an appropriate balance that will make for fair competition and a broadening experience for all students.

A few important details pertaining to the event:

1. Registration is now open! All participants and contest volunteers must register at <http://weedolympics2011.org>. To facilitate planning, registration will close at 11:59 pm on May 14th. Registration will be required to attend the pre-contest dinner and the awards banquet. Individuals who do not formally register at <http://weedolympics2011.org> will not be able to attend these events. On-site registration will not be available.

2. A limited number of reduced rate (\$95) hotel rooms are available at the Hilton Knoxville Airport. We suggest that participants reserve their hotel room on the same day they register on the WeedOlympics site to avoid missing out on this special room rate.

Due to the strong interest in this event and inquiries regarding lower cost accommodations, we have set up another block of rooms at the Comfort Suites Knoxville Airport. This hotel is directly across the road from the McGhee Tyson Airport and our primary hotel, the Hilton Knoxville Airport. As we have stated previously, the Hilton Knoxville Airport is directly connected to McGhee Tyson Airport. There will be a shuttle which departs from the baggage claim area that will also take people directly to the Comfort Suites.

Should either of these hotels fill completely, there are several other hotels which may have rooms available that are

within walking distance to the Comfort Suites. However, it is strongly recommended that all WeedOlympics participants and volunteers stay at the Hilton Knoxville Airport or the Comfort Suites Knoxville Airport as this will be where we pick you up for all WeedOlympics related activities.

As a point of clarification, please be advised that all WeedOlympics participants and volunteers will still need to pick up their registration materials in the lobby of the Hilton Knoxville Airport on July 26th between 1 and 4 pm even if you are staying at the Comfort Suites or other hotels.

3. Please make your travel arrangements so you can pick up your registration materials on July 26th between 1 to 4 pm in the lower lobby of the Knoxville Hilton. All attendees (participants, coaches, and volunteers) must visit our table in the Hilton to receive access passes to the pre-contest dinner and the awards banquet.

4. Remember buses will be taking you to all portions of the contest event. A finalized contest schedule will be available no later than 2 weeks prior to the event. We ask that you adhere to the schedule for all departures in order to keep the contest moving in a timely manner.

5. Unlike past events, contest coaches will have a different itinerary than students on the day of the contest. A copy of this itinerary will be available at the WeedOlympics desk in the Knoxville Hilton on July 26th. Please be advised that only students and select volunteers will be allowed access to the farm site on the day of the event. In addition, the farm site will be guarded by University of Tennessee police the day before and the day of the event. Access to these sites will be restricted unless you have clearance.

We are excited about the WeedOlympics and look forward to your visit to Knoxville. We have some special guests and a few fun surprises that we hope you will enjoy. The main purpose of the event is to provide a fun educational experience where we can all get together as a group of Weed Scientists. To that end, enjoy the event and please thank our sponsors (Bayer, Syngenta, DuPont, BASF, Monsanto, Dow AgroSciences, Harrell's, Valent, OHP, and Gylling Data Management) for without them there would be no contest. Please use our website, <http://weedolympics2011.org>, as a resource in answering any questions about the event and contact us if you have any questions, ideas, or concerns.

Award Winners

2011 WSSA ANNUAL MEETING



**Honorary Member
Roger Cousens**



**Outstanding Journal Reviewer
Steven Seefeldt**



**Outstanding Journal Reviewer
Steve Duke**



**Outstanding Paper, WS
Jonathan Storkey**



**Outstanding Paper, IPSM
Kim Goodwin**



**Graduate Student Award
Matthew Ryan**



**Industry Award
Raymond Forney**



**Early Career Weed Scientist
Adam Davis**



**Teacher Award
Scott Glenn**

Award Winners

2011 WSSA ANNUAL MEETING



Research Award
David Mortensen



Extension Award
Eric Prostko



Fellow
Kassim Al-Khatib



Fellow
Joseph DiTomaso



Fellow
David Mortensen



Barbara Glenn
Meeting Speaker

WASHINGTON REPORT

by Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

FY 2011 FUNDING FOR USDA PROGRAMS

With the negotiations finally complete over six months into the FY 2011 spending cycle, funding for USDA programs supporting weed science research, education and extension activities was a mixed bag, but not as bad as I originally feared. 'Congressionally designated spending' (i.e. earmarks) were for the most part zeroed out in the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) budgets, and accounted for over \$180M in cuts.

On the bright side, several programs did receive increased, albeit small, compared to FY 2010, including the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) grants program, the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research program and Hatch Act funds. The Regional IPM Centers, which were zeroed out in the President's FY 2011 budget proposal, did receive \$3 million, but the CAR and RAMP research programs were not as fortunate. While AFRI did get a \$2.5

million increase over FY 2010, it's still a disappointing number since the President's FY 2011 budget proposal was \$425M and ag appropriations committees initially agreed to \$288M for AFRI, prior to the continuing resolutions and cuts this spring.

NPDES PERMITS

On March 31, the House passed H.R. 872 by a vote of 292-130. H.R. 872 would prohibit the EPA and states authorized to issue National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits from requiring a permit for pesticide applications already authorized for use under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Under the bill, public and private entities would no longer need to obtain an NPDES permit for FIFRA approved pesticides, except in cases where the application of the pesticide would not fall under FIFRA, or in cases where the discharge is regulated as a stormwater, municipal, or industrial discharge under the Clean Water Act. If you want to see how your

House member voted, Roll Call vote 206 is posted at: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2011/roll206.xml>

On April 4, Senator Pat Roberts (KS) introduced S. 718, which is similar to H.R. 872 in function. The bill currently has 14 co-sponsors: Sen Barrasso (WY), Sen Blunt (MO), Sen Boozman (AR), Sen Burr (NC), Sen Chambliss (GA), Sen Cochran (MS), Sen Crapo (ID), Sen Enzi (WY), Sen Grassley (IA), Sen Johanns (NE), Sen Lugar (IN), Sen Moran (KS), Sen Risch (ID), and Sen Thune (SD). If your senator is not on that list, contact them and ask them to co-sponsor S. 718.

In a separate episode, the 6th Circuit Court granted EPA an extension of the deadline for when an NPDES permit will be required. The deadline was April 9, 2011, but is now October 31, 2011. Thus, no Clean Water Act NPDES permit will be required until October 31, 2011. And if H.R. 872 or S. 718 becomes law, no NPDES permit will be required after October 31, 2011.

CONTINUED on pg 10 >>

USDA Program Description	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2011 Final
Agricultural Research Service (ARS)	\$1,179,639,000	\$1,135,501,000
Economic Research Service (ERS)	\$82,478,000	\$81,978,000
National Ag Statistics Service (NASS)	\$161,830,000	\$156,751,000
National Institute of Food Agriculture (NIFA)	\$788,243,000	\$700,140,000
- Hatch Act	\$215,000,000	\$236,808,000
- Cooperative Forestry Research	\$29,000,000	\$33,000,000
- Improved Pest Control (7 U.S.C. 450i(c))	\$16,185,000	\$16,185,000
- Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	\$262,482,000	\$265,000,000
- Extension Activities	\$494,923,000	\$480,092,000
- Smith Lever	\$297,500,000	\$294,500,000
- Integrated Activities	\$60,022,000	\$37,000,000
- Section 406	\$45,148,000	\$29,000,000
- Regional IPM Centers	\$4,096,000	\$3,000,000
- FQPA Risk Mitigation (RAMP)	\$4,388,000	\$0
- Crops affected by FQPA (CAR)	\$1,365,000	\$0
- Methyl Bromide Transitions	\$3,054,000	\$2,000,000
- Organic Transitions	\$5,000,000	\$4,000,000
- Competitive International Science and Education grants	\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000
- Food and Ag Defense Initiative	\$9,830,000	\$6,000,000
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)	\$904,953,000	\$865,000,000

AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL RESEARCH PROGRAM

In the FY 2012 budget, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Civil Works) has proposed to eliminate the Aquatic Plant Control Research Program (APCRP). This is the nation's only federally authorized program for research and development of science-based management strategies for invasive aquatic weeds. For over 40 years, the APCRP has investigated biological, chemical, ecological and integrated approaches to invasive plant management in aquatic ecosystems and is vital to the Army Corps of Engineers' mission of strengthening our Nation's security, energizing the economy, and reducing risks from natural disasters. We are asking that the Army Corp of Engineers and Congress restore funding to \$4 million for FY 2012. The letter

to the Army Corp of Engineers and a press release can be found at www.wssa.net.

NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK (NISAW)

A very successful NISAW was held the week of February 28–March 4, 2011. Many thanks to Lori Williams and the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) staff for their great work in coordinating the week's many invasive species awareness events. A list of planned events and presentations can be found at www.nisaw.org.

As part of the kick-off festivities for NISAW on Monday, February 28, Dr. Richard Mack from Washington State University gave a presentation titled "Waging War on Invasive Grasses: Preventing – Not Just Controlling – Rangeland Fires in the West." Over 70

Congressional staffers and guests attended the presentation hosted by the House Agriculture Committee and organized in conjunction with the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR) Hill Seminar Series. The program and Dr. Mack's presentation can be found at: www.ncfar.org/Hill_Seminar_Series_2011.asp

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Over 70 Congressional staffers and guests attended Dr. Mack's presentation in the House Agriculture Committee hearing room.



On House Agriculture Committee portico facing the U.S. Capitol after the presentation. From left to right: Dr. Michael Barrett, WSSA President; Dr. Richard Mack, Washington State University; Dr. Lee Van Wychen, WSSA Director of Science Policy; Dr. John Lydon, USDA-ARS National Program Leader for Weed Science.

CALL FOR SYMPOSIA *for* 2012 WSSA ANNUAL MEETING

52nd Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America

Hilton Hotel • Waikoloa Village, Hawaii

February 6-9, 2012

WSSA members are invited to submit proposals for symposia at the 52nd Annual Meeting to be held at the Hilton Waikoloa Village on the Big Island of Hawaii on February 6–9, 2012. As you prepare your proposal, realize that the Board of Directors will have the difficult task of deciding which proposals to accept for the program. The program will not be able to handle as many symposia as in past meetings because of the high number of oral papers at the 2012 meeting. The WSSA board will evaluate the proposed symposia based on how well they are justified, the target audience, and the completeness of the proposal agenda and budget. For a half-day symposium, the maximum allowable budget will be \$5000 of which up to \$1000 can be used for symposium publication costs. Full-day symposium likely will not be accepted at the 2012 meeting, again because of room limitations presented

by the number of oral papers that will need to be accommodated. Symposia organizers are strongly urged to consider publication of the symposium papers in one of the society's journals. Publication of the symposium will be one of the factors considered in selecting symposia for the meeting. Organizers should make it clear to invited speakers that a publication is required if that is the organizers' intent.

Please see the guidelines listed below for symposia funding from WSSA. Requests for travel support can be made for nonmembers only. Hilton room rates in Waikoloa Village will be \$199 plus tax. Please estimate travel and lodging costs for invited speakers. Symposium proposals can be e-mailed directly to me (Rod.Lym@ndsu.edu) and are due June 1, 2011. If you have any questions, feel free to email or phone me (701-231-8996).

Outline of the Proposal Form:

SYMPOSIUM PROPOSAL

2012 Annual WSSA Meeting, Waikoloa Village, HI

Title:

Organizers:

Contact Person: Phone: Email:

Justification and Objectives (approximately 300 words):

Target Audience:

Associated Section(s):

Length of Proposed Program:

Proposed Titles and Speakers:

Budget Requested: (Please specify to the extent possible the expenditure of the funds as opposed to submitting an overall amount. The more detailed the budget, the better the WSSA Board of Directors can evaluate the proposal.)

GUIDELINES FOR DISPOSITION OF WSSA FUNDS FOR SYMPOSIA EXPENSES

Funds are available to support symposia approved by the WSSA Board of Directors for the upcoming meeting. These funds can be used by the symposium organizers, working in conjunction with the Program Chair, for expenses incurred in securing speakers. The following guidelines are intended to help the symposia organizers and the Program Chair in alloting available funds. For a half-day symposium, the maximum allowable budget will be \$5000 of which up to \$1000 can be used for symposium publication costs.

Although funds have been budgeted for the symposia, the goal is to spend the least amount necessary to obtain excellent symposia speakers. The funds will be allocated as necessary to partially cover travel expenses of speakers. Members of WSSA who agree to present symposium papers **will not** be offered travel funds except in dire emergencies to be determined by the Program Chair. An example of such a circumstance would be a WSSA member who is a renowned expert in the field of the symposium topic but who has no source of funds to attend the WSSA meeting in question.

No honoraria will be offered to any speaker. No more

CONTINUED on pg 12 >>

GUIDELINES CONTINUED from pg 11

than three nights' lodging will be offered to nonmember symposium speakers. All symposium speakers who are not members of WSSA will be offered free registration at the WSSA annual meeting and a free ticket to society events during that week. Funds for reimbursement of some, or all, travel expenses (travel, meals, and lodging) will be made available to nonmember symposium speakers on the basis of need, availability of funds, and the value of the speakers to the program. Funds can only be used to pay for speaker travel expenses. If less than the maximum allowable funds (\$5000 and \$6000 for the half-day and full-day symposia, respectively) are used for speaker travel expenses, the difference cannot be used for other purposes. Symposium organizers need to consider travel costs when considering invitations to speakers located far from the meeting site. Whereas international speakers who are experts in the field of the symposium topic might receive a higher priority for expenses than domestic speakers, the cost of travel and needs of the individuals should be more important considerations. For example, a Canadian speaker traveling from Ontario to New York might incur lower costs and have a lesser need for funding than a California speaker also traveling to New York. Because of the limited budget for symposia expenses and the high cost of travel for many international speakers,

symposium organizers should strongly weigh the value of international speakers unless other arrangements for funding their travel can be made.

Symposia chairs should contact their intended speakers and determine their financial needs for participation no later than May 1. This information should be incorporated into the budget for the proposed symposium. Symposium proposals must be submitted to the Program Chair by June 1. The WSSA Board of Directors will evaluate the submitted proposals and decide which symposia will be funded. The Program Chair will inform the organizers of the symposia selected for funding. Symposium organizers that received funding can then proceed with offers of funding to nonmember speakers. In no event should symposium organizers make commitments for more funding from WSSA than is approved by the WSSA board. Symposium organizers are free to seek additional or alternate funding sources if WSSA budget limits are insufficient to cover all of the travel expenses for nonmember speakers.

Symposia organizers should seriously consider publication of symposium papers in *Weed Science*, *Weed Technology* or *Invasive Plant Science Management*.

Rod Lym, 2012 Program Chair,
WSSA President-Elect

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WSSA Member Featured in Science Article

WSSA member and past-president Carol Mallory-Smith of Oregon State University was recently featured in a Science article.

For Carol Mallory-Smith of Oregon State University in Corvallis, the migration of genes in



agricultural crops is not just a research topic or a matter of policy debate. It's the cause of a vexing quarrel among her neighbors: the farmers of Oregon's Willamette Valley.

This valley, because of its mild climate and ample water for irrigation, is one of the world's great seed-growing centers, supplying farms, gardens, and golf courses worldwide. Because pollination is at the heart of seed production, the valley is now the scene of heated debates—and one far-reaching lawsuit—over the consequences of genetically modified pollen or seeds drifting into fields filled with sexually compatible non-GM crops. Organic farmers who fear contamination of their crops are on one side; the growers of seed for genetically engineered sugar beets are on the other. And Mallory-Smith is in the middle. Her publications have found an avid readership among biotech industry lawyers and activists opposed to GM crops. "The research part has been fantastic," she says with a wry smile. "The politics of it is difficult, to say the least."

Mallory-Smith came to the topic of migrating modified genes through her research on cross-pollination between wheat and one of its close relatives, a weed called jointed goatgrass. The two species can produce hybrids, and Mallory-Smith wanted to know whether this would allow new herbicide-resistance genes that had been introduced into wheat to migrate into the crop's weedy relative.

She extended that research to turfgrass in 2001, when the Scotts Miracle-Gro Co. began experimental field trials of glyphosate-resistant, sometimes called "Roundup Ready," creeping bentgrass near the town of Madras, in central Oregon. Mallory-Smith began monitoring areas near the fields and, along with other researchers, documented a large-scale genetic migration: Hundreds of glyphosate-resistant grass plants evaded all the company's efforts to confine them. This grass still has not been approved for unrestricted cultivation, so the company is supposed to find and destroy any such plants that show up outside of its trial plots. Some GM grass was found 20 kilometers from the fields where it belonged. It was destroyed, but years later, researchers continue to find unapproved GM grass plants growing wild near the former test plots in Madras.

Much of this gene jailbreak probably happened on one day in 2003, when an unexpected windstorm blew away swaths of seed that had been left out to dry at the Scotts research facility. Mallory-Smith says this event should not have been a surprise, because freak weather is a natural part of farming: "This is what happens in production agriculture."

That episode cemented Mallory-Smith's reputation as an expert on migrating transgenes, especially in the Willamette Valley. When sugar beet seedlings turned up in topsoil that was sold at a garden supply store in Corvallis, residents brought them to Mallory-Smith for testing. The seedlings turned out to be glyphosate-resistant.

Last fall, farmers in eastern Oregon noticed that some grass in their irrigation ditches seemed immune to Roundup. They, too, sent samples of the grass to Mallory-Smith, who confirmed that the grass contained an inserted glyphosate-resistance gene. She also flew out to take a look for herself. "The plants have obviously been there for a while. They're large. They've gone to seed. My guess is, they're 3 or 4 years old," she says.

Such grass still cannot be legally planted without a permit from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Most likely, it spread from another set of field trials conducted by Scotts Miracle-Gro just across the border in Idaho.

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Co. tried to eliminate the rogue grass over the past few weeks with a herbicide that state regulators approved temporarily for this purpose. (Glyphosate had been the only weed killer allowed in irrigation ditches.) But according to Jay Chamberlin, manager of the Owyhee Irrigation District in Nyssa, Oregon, no more spraying will be allowed this spring because water is about to reenter the ditches. Chamberlin says it is likely that some unapproved turfgrass will remain in the ditches through the summer, and it may spread farther. "The more they look, the more they find," he says.

These experiences convinced Mallory-Smith that USDA regulators haven't fully understood the dynamics of gene flow, at least when it comes to turfgrass. "They knew a lot about corn, soybeans, and cotton. But now we're dealing with a perennial, with lots of relatives. And it's weedier; it does survive outside of cultivation. They didn't have an understanding of that kind of cultivation," she says.

Generally, she says, regulators and biotech companies have been overly confident that they can prevent modified genes from spreading. "When you put them out there, you have to accept the fact that you're not going to contain them; you're not going to retract all these genes," she says. For all the shortcomings that Mallory-Smith sees in GM regulation, she doesn't really fit in the anti-GM camp. "She's an honest broker, if there are any honest brokers in all this," says Steven Strauss, a colleague at Oregon State. Mallory-Smith says she's sympathetic to both sides. "I'm a public servant, and that sometimes means that you end up in the middle of these factions," she says. But she's hoping that both organic farmers and growers of genetically engineered beets can thrive: "We need all our industries."

Dan Charles is a writer based in Washington, D.C.



Phil Stahlman from Kansas was just elected President of CAST.

43rd Annual Meeting
AMERICAN PEANUT RESEARCH AND EDUCATION SOCIETY
THE HISTORIC MENGER HOTEL
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



JULY 12-14, 2011

The annual meeting of the American Peanut Research and Education Society will be held July 12-14, 2011 at the Historic Menger Hotel in San Antonio, Texas. Registration will begin at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, July 12th. Research and extension papers will be presented on all phases of the peanut industry. Several social functions are planned for attendees in addition to the technical conference.

The Menger Hotel, built in 1859, is situated immediately adjacent to the historic Alamo, the Riverwalk, and the Rivercenter Mall. The Menger combines 130 years of refinements and an elegant atmosphere with architecture, history, appointments and museum-quality artifacts. Six Flags Fiesta Texas, Sea World, the San Antonio Zoo, and Schlittrbahn Waterparks are all located within the San Antonio area along with many other cultural landmarks. This family-friendly city just oozes with energy and excitement making it a prime vacation destination and Southwestern hotspot.

For additional information, call:

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THINK NEWSLETTER
Deadline for July issue
June 1, 2011

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
June 7–8, 2011	Symposium: Climate Change and the Implications for Plant Science	University of Guelph Guelph Ontario Canada	Tel: 519-767-5000 info@open.uoguelph.ca www.plantscience.open.uoguelph.ca
June 7–12, 2011	11th World Congress on Parasitic Plants	Martina Franca, Italy	http://ipps2011.ba.cnr.it Organizer: Maurizio Vurro maurizio.vurro@ispa.cnr.it or ipps2011@area.ba.cnr.it
July 2011	APMS Annual Meeting (Aquatic Plant Management Society)	Baltimore, Maryland	www.apms.org
July 12–14, 2011	American Peanut Research and Education Society Annual Meeting	San Antonio, Texas	Todd Baughman, Chair Tel: 940-552-9941 ext. 233 ta-baughman@tamu.edu
July 26–27, 2011	WeedOlympics	Knoxville, Tennessee	http://weedolympics2011.org
September 5–7, 2011	Resistance 2011 Rothamsted Research	West Common Harpenden, Hertfordshire, UK	stephen.moss@bbsrc.ac.uk
September 11–16, 2011	XIIIth International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds	Kohala Coast of the Big Island of Hawaii	http://uhhconferencecenter.com/xiii_isbcw.html
September 25–30, 2011	Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society Conference	Sebel Cairns North Queensland, Australia	www.apwss2011.com
December 15–19, 2011	6th World Congress on Allelopathy	Guangzhou, China	http://www.international-allelopathy-society.org/main/WCA/index.html
February 6–9, 2012	WSSA Annual Meeting	Hilton Hotel Waikoloa Village, Hawaii	Rod Lym, Program Chair Tel: 701-231-8996 Rod.Lym@nds.u.edu
March 27–29, 2012	7th International IPM Symposium, “IPM on the World Stage”	Memphis Cook Convention Center Memphis, Tennessee, USA	Symposium Website: http://www.ipmcenters.org/ipmsymposium12/