



WSSA

WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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January, 2009

Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Virginia Beach! I hope you had an enjoyable holiday and are ready for the New Year. Is it too early to toss out the New Year's resolutions or do we have to wait a month to do that?

The plans are now complete for our annual meeting in Orlando. When you see them, please thank David Shaw and Dan Reynolds, co-program chairs, plus Joyce

Lancaster and Kate Counter for all their hard work compiling the program. I would like to thank the symposium and section chairs for their assistance in organizing an excellent set of posters and oral presentations. Greg MacDonald and the local arrangements committee deserve our thanks for the excellent trips they put together. We could not have such well-run annual meetings without the work of a lot of volunteers behind the scenes.

Dr. Edward Knipling, administrator for USDA ARS, has accepted my invitation to be keynote speaker in Orlando. I would like to thank Dr. Knipling for taking time out of his schedule to speak to us. He will be discussing the agency's plans for the New Year, including the national program for weed science.

Lori Wiles, chair of the awards committee, has been very busy compiling the list of awardees, collecting their biographical information, and preparing the awards brochure. Lori, her committee, and the award subcommittees have done an excellent job evaluating all of the candidates for society awards. The awards presentation will occur Monday afternoon, February 9, 2009, during the general session. Please come to congratulate our awardees.

Our business meeting will be on Monday this year, as opposed to our usual Wednesday meeting. It will be a part of the general session Monday afternoon. Please participate as this is an opportunity both to learn about the status of society activities as well as have input on future plans.

Sarah Ward and the Professional Development Committee, working with Vince Davis, Graduate Student representative to the board, have made their decision on recipients of the graduate student travel grants. The purpose of this program is to increase student participation in our society and the annual meeting. Six students will be receiving travel grants to the Orlando meeting. The awardees will assist with registration and other activities during the meeting.

I have contacted all of the committee chairs, asking them for their summary

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FINALIZED MEETING
PLANS INSIDE!

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of accomplishments for 2008 plus their goals for 2009. We are posting the committee reports on the WSSA website — click on 2009 annual meeting under the Meetings heading of the home page. These reports are not only meant for the board — it is an opportunity for the membership to learn about committee activities. I have sent the committee chairs the evaluation plan the board uses for WSSA projects plus the project proposal form. Contact the board if you would like to propose a new project for the society. As you have seen, the board is very receptive to new ideas.

Janis McFarland and her committee continue to produce excellent press releases. One great example would be the release on changes to the Extension IPM funding. Based on my discussion with representatives of other agriculture societies, it appears that WSSA has taken the lead on this issue.

I would like to thank Lee VanWychen for all his work planning the tenth annual National Invasive Weed Awareness Week (NIWAW). NIWAW will be held February 22–27, 2009. With a new administration in Washington, coupled with the development of the Healthy Habitats Coalition, this will be an excellent opportunity to learn about, and have input on, invasive weed management efforts. See the WSSA website for additional details. Consider attending since this an excellent time to meet representatives from the various government agencies within the Departments of Interior and Agriculture. It is also a good time to discuss the importance of invasive weeds with congressional staff. The host hotel is the Four Points by Sheraton, 1201 K Street NW, Washington, DC. Hotel rooms are \$186 per night. There is a January 22, 2009, deadline for hotel reservations and meeting preregistration.

The WSSA Board of Directors created the position of Academic Subject Matter Expert (SME) in May, 2007. This liaison position is a partnership between WSSA and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Herbicide Registration Section. Our first EPA Liaison was Dr. Steve Dewey, Utah State University. Steve completed his term this past December, 2008. WSSA greatly appreciates Steve Dewey's many accomplishments in this area. Real contributions to the Agency have been made in expanding their understanding of the practical aspects of weed control in both managed crop systems and invasive species control over the past 18 months. Dr. Jill Schroeder, New Mexico State University, has been selected by WSSA's EPA Subject Matter Expert Nomination Committee to replace Steve based on a competitive assessment of applicants. Jill's first visit to EPA was in December with Steve's and her term continues for the next two years. WSSA welcomes the addition of Jill Schroeder to EPA's staff to continue and build this relationship for the benefit of both EPA and WSSA.

A meeting was held November 5–7, 2008, to discuss the possible formation of an alliance of those science societies working in agriculture. David Shaw, John Jachetta and I represented WSSA. Other societies attending were the American Dairy Science Association, American Meat Association, American Phytopathological Society, American Society of Animal Science, Entomological Society of America, Federation of Animal Science Societies, Poultry Science Association, Society for Range Management, Society of Nematology, Agronomy Society of America, Crop Science Society of America, and the Soil Science Society of America. We discussed agricultural issues of importance to each of our societies and issues that related to management of our societies. At the end of the meeting, a decision was made to meet again in 2009, possibly in the spring, to continue the discussion. One area where we all seemed to agree was that an alliance of our societies could be useful is public policy, such as gaining support for funding of agricultural research, as the combined membership of the societies is over 50,000. We learned that similar meetings to form an alliance were held in 1975 to 1976 and in 2005. WSSA was represented by Larry Foy in the 1975–1976 meetings, where an Intersociety Consortium for Plant Protection was discussed. WSSA voted to ratify a charter for the group, which apparently was incorporated as a 501(c)3 organization in Minnesota. Carol Mallory-Smith represented WSSA

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WSSA FUTURE MEETING SITES AND DATES

2009

**Hilton/Walt Disney World
Orlando, FL**

February 9–12, 2009

**David Shaw & Dan Reynolds,
co-chairs**

The 2009 WSSA meeting will be a joint meeting between the Weed Science Society of America and the Southern Weed Science Society from February 9–12, 2009 in Orlando, FL. The joint meeting will be held at the Hilton in the Walt Disney World Resort. The website for the hotel is: http://www1.hilton.com/en_US/hi/hotel/ORLDWHH-Hilton-located-in-the-WALT-DISNEY-WORLD-Resort-Florida/index.do

For more information:

**www.wssa.net or
[www.weedscience.msstate.edu/
swss](http://www.weedscience.msstate.edu/swss)**

2010

**Sheraton Denver Hotel
Denver, CO**

February 7–11, 2010

**Joint Meeting between WSSA and
Society for Range Management**

For more information:

www.wssa.net

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CONDENSED JOINT MEETING SCHEDULE

49th Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America 62nd Annual Meeting of the Southern Weed Science Society February 7–13, 2009

Saturday, February 7

WSSA Board of Directors

Sunday, February 8

IBG Workshop

WSSA, SWSS Board of Directors

Golf Tournament

Airboat Tour

Monday, February 9

Committee Meetings

Paper Sessions

Symposium: Invasive Plant Web-Accessible Databases and Volunteer Monitoring Program

Biocontrol Field Trip

Epcot: Behind the Seeds Tour

WSSA General Session, Business Meeting and Awards Presentations

Awards Reception

Tuesday, February 10

Committee Meetings

Symposium: Impact of Usage of Below-Label Herbicide Rates

Poster Sessions

Paper Sessions

Graduate Student Luncheon

Symposium: Plant Pathogens and Biological Control of Weeds

Florida Citrus Tour

Wednesday, February 11

Committee Meetings

Presidents' Breakfast

Symposium: Emerging Palmer Amaranth Resistance to Glyphosate

Poster Sessions

Paper Sessions

Symposium: Research Ethics and Mentoring in Weed Science

Florida Strawberry and Vegetable Tour

Thursday, February 12

Committee Meetings

Symposium: Technology Innovations in Weed Science Communication

Poster Sessions

Paper Sessions

Symposium: New Directions in Weed Population and Community Modeling

SWSS General Session, Business Meeting and Awards Presentations

Awards Reception

Grad Student Quiz Bowl

Friday, February 13

Poster Sessions

Paper Sessions

Symposium: Non-Herbicide Uses of Herbicides Backstage Safari Tour

Cattle Ranch Tour

WSSA, SWSS Board of Directors

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED from pg 2

at the 2005 meeting, which was attended by representatives of APS, ASA, SSSA, CSSA, and ESA. Apparently no formal agreement was made at that meeting.

It is with some regret that I mention that this is my last newsletter article as president. I have truly enjoyed working with the board this past year — it is a great group of individuals. Thanks, board members, for all your help the past year!!! I have told many people that the past few years has been an exciting time to be on the board — we have initiated a number of successful projects. The key to success with any professional society is dedicated volunteers, and our society is blessed with hard-working board members, committee chairs, and members. Please continue volunteering to help with society activities. I would like to thank Joyce Lancaster, Kate Counter, Karen Ridgeway, and the rest of the staff at Allen Press for their help the past year. I would also like to thank my colleagues back at Virginia Tech for supporting me throughout my career, thus allowing me to have this opportunity to serve as president.

Thank you for your support of WSSA and its activities.

Jeffrey Derr, President
jderr@vt.edu

2009 MEETING PLANS FINALIZED

David Shaw, WSSA Program Chair
Dan Reynolds, SWSS Program Chair

The program for the joint meeting of WSSA and SWSS is complete, and details are posted on the websites for each organization. All of the special events and symposia are in place and the volunteered papers and posters have been arranged to maximize sharing information throughout the entire week. And particularly because of the location, we have been able to pull together an unusually large number of special events in conjunction with the meeting. Finally, our meeting site's proximity to the Orlando attractions encouraged us to make this a very family-friendly program, with enough open times in the late afternoon to allow you to take advantage of these opportunities.

We need your help! This year we have particularly emphasized posters, and are experimenting with a new format. One of the complaints often heard is that there is not enough opportunity to interact with the poster authors. That, coupled with the need to handle far more volunteered papers than we would normally have, drove us to the decision to try a new approach. This year, rather than having one time for all poster authors to be present for discussion, we are having discussion sessions for the posters arranged topically. Twelve posters will be pulled out of the "poster room" and displayed in one of our breakout rooms for a specific two-hour period. The author will give a five-minute overview of their objectives and major findings, and then an hour is set aside for a discussion period on the thematic area that the group of posters represents. So, take a good look at the program, evaluate the poster breakout sessions that are of interest to you, and come prepared to talk about the specific research as well as the overall topic. We need your help to make these successful. Please plan on attending several of these poster breakout sessions, and actively participating in the discussion sessions associated with them.

We are very pleased to have two excellent keynote speakers at each of our general sessions. Dr. Edward B. Knipling, Administrator, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, will address our Monday afternoon session, and will discuss weed science program developments in the agency. On Thursday afternoon, Chuck Zimmerman of ZimmComm New Media will discuss communications in the 21st Century. We encourage all meeting participants, no matter which society you are with, to attend both of these sessions.

A Few Reminders to Presenters

All presentations MUST be in PowerPoint for MS Windows (PC compatible). MacIntosh/Apple formats will NOT be supported. Your presentation must be saved as a PowerPoint show file. ALL presentations must be prepared and sent to the appropriate section chair at least one week in advance of the meeting so that preloading of the computer can be accomplished. You can send your presentation to the section chair on a CD-R (NOT a CD-RW). Zip disks will not be accepted. Presentations also can be sent to the section chair as an email PowerPoint attachment if not too large. Please limit the size of presentations to less than 25 MB. No audio clips or sounds will be allowed. Video clips are discouraged unless absolutely necessary. PowerPoint animation is discouraged. Please contact the section chair PRIOR to sending your presentation if you need to use a video clip or have any questions on your file. Limit fonts used in the presentation to basic ones, as not all machines may have the same choice of fonts. Examples of standard fonts are Times New Roman, Arial, Courier, Tahoma. Section chairs and computer operators are not responsible for changes in fonts, bullets, and other formatting at the time of presentation. Use up-to-date virus protection software to avoid infecting the computers provided by the section chairs.

Section chairs must receive the presentation at least one week in advance of the meeting (no later than January 26, 2009). See the summer issue of the newsletter for contact information for your section chair. You will be able to preview your presentation at the meeting to ensure that the formats/fonts are all as you intended them to be. Please check with your section chair to proof your file. Due to the limited time and equipment, last minute editing is highly discouraged. At the conclusion of the session, the presentations on the laptop will be removed. Submission of files at the time of the presentation or at any other time during the session will NOT be allowed.

A Windows PC laptop computer and projector will be provided for each session. Presenters will NOT be allowed to use their own computers in the sessions. If possible, computers will be located on the podium in each session. There will also be an infrared remote providing forward and backward control of the PowerPoint presentation in each session.

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Special Events

Lunch/Beverages will not be provided on any tours other than the Golf Event. Participants may bring their own lunches/beverages on the busses.

Golf Tournament-Awards Event Sunday, February 8

A Golf Tournament is being planned as a kickoff event for the Joint WSSA/SWSS Meeting in Orlando. It will take place on Sunday, February 8th from approximately 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Format will be Four-Person-Team-Captain's-Choice. There will be competitions and awards for various team categories including 1) University-Student Teams (eg. Texas A&M vs. Auburn, etc.) 2) Companies vs. Companies (eg. Syngenta vs. BASF, etc). Objectives of the event are to 1) Raise funds for the WSSA and SWSS organizations – proceeds to be split equally. 2) To provide a fun social event for the joint WSSA/SWSS Conference. The event will be held at Disney's Osprey Ridge Course. Cost is \$50 each for students, \$100 each for all other registrants. Fees include transportation, greens fees, cart fees, a pre-round practice, a boxed lunch and all taxes and gratuities. Golf clubs and shoes can be rented on site for additional fees.

Airboat Tour – Sunday, February 8

Florida has some of the most pristine wilderness in the world and much of this territory is aquatic or wetland. Airboats are used to travel to these remote areas to view wildlife — both above and below the water. Boggy Creek Airboat Rides provide an exceptional way to view Florida's wildlife in their natural settings. Bring your cameras and be prepared to see alligators, turkeys, eagles and maybe even snakes! Tours are 45 minutes long and will be accompanied by University of Florida researchers discussing the challenges of invasive exotic weed control in these types of areas. 8:45 a.m.–11:15 a.m., \$75/person.

BioControl Field Trip – Monday, February 9

The Biological Control Committee (W16) is sponsoring a field trip for members of the International Bioherbicide Group and interested WSSA/SWSS delegates on Monday, February 9, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Participants will have an opportunity to visit two biological control implementation sites – one for the aquatic weed hydrilla and the other for the pasture weed tropical soda apple. The cost is \$25 per person to cover bus transportation. The bus will be stopping for lunch (not included) at one of the local restaurants while travelling between sites.

Epcot: Behind the Seeds Tour Monday, February 9

Venture beyond the boundaries of the Living with The Land boat ride to explore the science behind the scenes in The Land greenhouses and labs. You'll discover fascinating things about hydroponic gardening and fish farming, integrated pest management and biotechnology. You'll be

hosted by a member of the Epcot Science Team as you explore innovative, environmentally friendly methods of growing more than 60 different food crops from around the world, including our world record setting tomato trees. 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. Cost is \$50 per person.

Florida Citrus Tour – Tuesday, February 10

Florida is the largest producer of citrus and has the only research center dedicated to this crop. The Citrus Research and Education Center is part of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and the University of Florida. Learn about citrus production and the critical issues facing citrus in Florida. Participants will tour a juicing facility and observe the various facets of citrus production including grafting, harvesting and pest management. 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m., \$25 per person.

Florida Strawberry and Vegetable Tour Wednesday, February 11

Florida is the largest producer of fresh market strawberries and a major producer of winter vegetables and foliage crops. Participants will hear from major strawberry and vegetable growers and visit a U-pick operation where they can sample the goods! 1:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m., \$25 per person.

Quiz Bowl Thursday – February 12

Students compete in 4-person teams using a scholar's bowl format. The event is fast-paced, and includes questions from a wide variety of topics. While competition is a factor, the main idea is for all society members in attendance to enjoy a time of fellowship in an informal learning atmosphere.

Backstage Safari – Friday, February 13

Take a journey to find out what happens behind-the-scenes at Disney's Animal Kingdom™! During this in-depth program, you'll get an insider's look at conservation, animal nutrition and medicine, animal care and behavioral studies. Highlights include visits to a backstage animal housing area, the Animal Nutrition Center, the Veterinary hospital, and a special ride on Kilimanjaro Safaris. The majority of this program takes place behind-the-scenes — there may be no opportunity to view animals. Due to its behind the-scenes nature, participants must be ages 16 and over. 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Cost is \$55 per person.

Cattle Ranch Tour Friday, February 13

Central Florida is untamed and wide open and often the best kept secret in the state. Florida boasts the largest cow-calf operation in the country with over 1.5 million acres of improved and native range. Participants will listen to ranchers discuss their operations and visit a nearby ranch. Tour will be approximately one hour long and will be accompanied by University of Florida researchers discussing weed, including invasive species, management techniques. 1:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m., \$25 per person.

Joint 2010 WSSA/SRM Conference Call for Symposium and Workshop Proposals 2010 MEETING

John Jachetta, Rod Lym and Rita Beard, WSSA Program Chairs

WSSA and the Society for Range Management (SRM) are holding a joint national meeting at the Sheraton Denver Hotel in Denver, Colorado, on February 7–11, 2010; the theme for this meeting is *Working Landscapes—Providing for the Future*.

As we are still gearing up for the 2009 joint meeting of WSSA and SWSS in Orlando on February 9–13, 2009, this 2010 symposia and workshop call may seem a bit early, however, this timing is necessary to meet the unique needs of the 2010 joint meeting with SRM. This call for symposia will close on May 1, 2009, a bit earlier than in previous years.

At the 2010 joint meeting, WSSA will hold all of its regular National Meeting sessions. Where appropriate, SRM sessions will be combined with existing WSSA sessions to broaden their scope and enhance communication. SRM will also hold their traditional sessions in sustainable rangeland management and research. WSSA and SRM will be holding a joint keynote symposium on invasive plants. This symposium is being arranged by a WSSA/SRM committee led by Rita Beard, Joe DiTomaso, Rod Lym, John Mitchell, Cini Brown, Chad Cummings, Nelroy Jackson, and Dick Mack. With the exception of the joint symposium on invasive species, SRM will be scheduling its symposia separately. However, all attendees are invited to attend any session or symposia presented by either organization.

WSSA members are invited and encouraged to submit proposals for symposia or workshops on any topic at the 2010 meeting. As you prepare your proposal, realize that the board will have the difficult task of deciding which proposals to accept for the program. The program can handle four to five WSSA symposia per meeting. The board will evaluate the proposals based on how well they are justified, the target audience, and the com-

pleteness of the proposed agenda and budget. The maximum funding from WSSA is \$5,000 per symposium. See the guidelines listed below for symposia funding from WSSA. Requests for travel support can be made for nonmembers only. Sheraton room rates in Denver will be \$124 per night plus taxes; \$134 for triple or quad rates. Please estimate travel and lodging costs for invited speakers.

Our webmaster has established an online form on the WSSA website to submit symposium proposals for the 2010 meeting — look under the headlines heading on the homepage. Please complete the form online. Clicking the submit button will automatically email the symposium proposal to me. Symposium proposals are due to me by May 1, 2009. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at jjjachetta@dow.com or call me at 317-337-4686.

Here is the outline of the proposal form:

Symposium Proposal 2010 WSSA/SRM Joint National Meeting Denver, CO

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:

Guidelines for Disposition of WSSA Funds for Symposia Expenses

A total of \$5,000 is available for each symposium approved by the WSSA Board 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 allotting available funds.

Although \$5,000 has been budgeted for each symposium, 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 an emergency would be a WSSA member who is a renowned expert in the field of the symposium topic but has no source of funds to attend the WSSA meeting in question.

No honoraria will be offered to any speaker. No more than three nights lodging will be offered to nonmember symposium speakers.

All symposium speakers who are nonmembers of WSSA will be offered free registration at the WSSA annual meeting and a free ticket to society events during that week.

Reimbursement of some or all travel expenses (travel, meals, and lodging) will be offered to nonmember symposia speakers on the basis of need, availability of funds, and the value of the speakers on the program. Funds can only be used for speaker travel; if less than \$5,000 is needed for speaker travel for a given symposium, the difference cannot be used for other purposes.

Program organizers need to con-

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CALL FOR 2010 SYMPOSIUM PROPOSALS CONTINUED from pg 6

sider travel costs when considering invitations to speakers located far from the meeting site. Whereas foreign 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 important considerations. For example, a Canadian speaker traveling from Ontario to New York may 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 distant foreigners, symposium organizers should strongly consider the value of bringing in speakers from distant foreign countries unless other

arrangements for funding of travel can be made.

Symposia chairs should contact their intended speakers and determine their financial needs for participation no later than April 1, 2009. This information should be incorporated into the budget for the proposed symposium. Symposium proposals must be submitted to the Program Chair by May 1, 2009. The WSSA Board will evaluate the submitted proposals and decide which symposia will be funded. The Program Chair will inform symposium organizers which ones will receive funding for the upcoming annual meeting. 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 can search for alternate funding opportunities if \$5,000 will not cover all travel expenses for nonmember speakers.

Symposia organizers should consider publication of symposium papers in *Weed Science*, *Weed Technology*, or *Invasive Plant Science and Management*. When necessary, the symposia chairs may request that the Editor of *Weed Science*, *Weed Technology*, or *Invasive Plant Science and Management* waive page charges for publication of symposia papers by contributors who are not WSSA members.

WSSA Academic Subject Matter Expert

The WSSA Board of Directors created the position of Academic Subject Matter Expert (SME) in May, 2007. This liaison position is a partnership between WSSA and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Herbicide Registration Section. Our first EPA Liaison was Dr. Steve Dewey, Utah State University; Steve's last visit to EPA is this December, 2008. Dr. Jill Schröder, New Mexico State University, has been selected by WSSA's EPA Subject Matter Expert Nomination Committee to replace Steve based on a competitive assessment of applicants; Jill's first visit to EPA is this December to overlap with Steve and continues for the next two years.

The vision for this position is to develop a liaison between the academic Weed Science community and the EPA in order to assist the Agency in addressing crop and non-crop weed management issues that directly impact the weed management practitioner. The WSSA/EPA SME is expected to learn the registration and reregistration processes at the EPA, become familiar with the Agency's scientific committees and how they operate, and develop a basic understanding of how EPA Office of Pesticide Programs risk assessments are conducted. With this background, the WSSA/EPA SME would represent the WSSA membership to EPA and provide critical input on topics such as the utility of label mitigations for herbicide use, spray drift management, invasive species management near endangered species, and the role of weed control in land management. It was expected that the WSSA SME would also meet with other appropriate federal and state personnel who are responsible for the control of invasive weeds on public lands in order to utilize their expertise

when questions arise on herbicide labeling and use applications.

WSSA greatly appreciated Steve Dewey's many accomplishments in this area. Real contributions to the Agency have been made in expanding their understanding of the practical aspects of weed control in both managed crop systems and invasive species control over the past 18 months. WSSA also welcomes the addition of Jill Schröder to EPA's staff to continue and build this relationship for the benefit of both EPA and WSSA.

AWARD NOTIFICATION

The following paper received the Grodzinsky Award in September 2008 from the International Allelopathy Society for the most significant paper on allelopathy.

Baerson, S. R., Dayan, F. E., Rimando, A. M., Nanayakkara, N. P. D., Liu, C.-J., Schroder, J., Fishbein, M., Pan, Z., Kagan, I. A., Pratt, L., H., Cordonnier-Pratt, M.-M., Duke, S. O., 2008.

A functional genomics investigation of allelochemical biosynthesis in *Sorghum bicolor* root hairs. *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. 283:3231-3247

WASHINGTON REPORT

by Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

EXTENSION IPM NETWORK THREATENED

The Weed Science Society of America is advocating that Congress rescind a last-minute amendment to the 2008 Farm Bill that changes how Extension IPM programs are funded. We encourage our members to contact elected and appointed government officials and other influential constituents in their state to discuss the benefits of Extension IPM programming, the damage the new funding model causes, and the importance of maintaining a stable, efficient nationwide IPM network.

Issue Summary

- Extension IPM programs run by the nation's land grant universities make an essential contribution to the common good — providing training and advice that helps us protect our food supply, minimize human health risks, use pesticides judiciously, conserve environmental resources and improve the profitability of the nation's farmers.
- Historically, this national network of programs has been funded by the Farm Bill at an average of approximately \$135,000 per state each year. This modest investment produces far-reaching results by enabling a nationwide IPM infrastructure that supports seamless information sharing and knowledge transfer. Here are three examples of recent program successes:
 - As the result of IPM training in Iowa, six out of 10 soybean farmers used an economic threshold analysis to help them cost-effectively manage yield-robbing soybean aphids.
 - Kentucky's Integrated Weed Science Group has won state, regional and national awards for its work, which is directly tied to a dramatic increase in wheat yields within the state.
 - The IPM program in South Dakota coordinated an effort to collect and redistribute 1.8 mil-

lion flea beetles to combat the noxious weed leafy spurge. This tactic is credited with an 18,000-acre reduction in leafy spurge in northeast South Dakota.

- A last-minute amendment to the 2008 Farm Bill threatens the very existence of many extension programs that support farmers and homeowners across the country.
- For the first time in the 30-year history of Extension IPM, funds will not be allocated to universities in each state on a proportional basis. Instead, a limited number of grants will be awarded competitively by the Secretary of Agriculture. This change erodes our national IPM network and is expected to leave entire regions of the country without the grower training and outreach needed to manage pests and weeds effectively.

The Impact of the Change

- The new funding model reduces our capacity to respond quickly and effectively to emerging pest threats. Critical expertise will wither away in states that lose funding, leaving entire regions of the country vulnerable to insects, diseases and weeds that know no geographical boundaries.
- With more limited areas of coverage, we also weaken our ability to address pest, crop, climate, culture and environmental issues that are unique to a particular region or locale. Pest management in agricultural and urban settings cannot be addressed by a simple "one size fits all" answer, and without an IPM infrastructure, thousands will be unable to receive the location-specific training they need.
- Even though USDA-CSREES expedited the new grant application process, current programs lost funding without warning on October 1, 2008 and successful grant applicants will not receive IPM money until next spring. In the interim, many key highly

skilled educators are at risk of losing their jobs and some have already received termination notices. As a result, we have begun to suffer what could be a permanent loss of expertise in our national Extension IPM network.

- We also can expect to lose the springboard effect our investment in IPM programs has delivered. They are an important foundation for a wide range of initiatives in land management, environmental stewardship, pesticide safety, and other areas critical to sustainability.

Our Recommendation

- In recognition of the critical need for a national IPM network, the Weed Science Society of America advocates an immediate change in the amendment to the 2008 Farm Bill to restore formula funding for the Extension IPM program (Section 7403 of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008).
- We encourage our members to contact elected and appointed government officials and other influential constituents in their state to discuss the benefits of Extension IPM programming, the damage the new funding model causes and the importance of maintaining a stable, efficient nationwide IPM network.
- Contact information for your Representative and Senators can be found at: www.house.gov and www.senate.gov. An email to them is a fast, efficient way to voice your concerns.

ECONOMICS BRIEF ON INVASIVE SPECIES ISSUED BY USDA-ERS

'Integrating Invasive Species Prevention And Control Policies' is the title of a report from the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) which synthesizes the implications of a series of studies that describe the information and data needed by public and private decision makers.

This report synthesizes the implica-

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tions of a series of studies that describe the information and data needed by public and private decision makers. Keeping detailed records about the estimated size of an invasion, control costs, and the numbers of organisms removed — or acreage cleared — will enable decision makers to modify control programs as needed to improve program efficacy and economic efficiency. Information about an organism’s ability to spread and a potentially invaded ecosystem’s carrying capacity is also important.

Understanding how agricultural producers and homeowners, both at home and abroad, will respond to outbreaks and public prevention/control policies is important, especially when the decision maker can affect the risk of infestation only indirectly.

The report is at

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EB11/>

The USDA ERS Briefing Room on Invasive Species Management is at

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/InvasiveSpecies/>

GAO REPORT ON IMPROVING OVERSIGHT OF BIOTECH CROPS

Currently, the United States accounts for about 50 percent of the genetically engineered (GE) crops planted globally. In 2008, GE varieties accounted for about 80 percent of the corn, 92 percent of the soybeans, and 86 percent of the cotton planted in the United States. Last year the Senate Agriculture Committee had asked the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to analyze current federal regulatory and oversight policy on GE crops. Taking direction from the 1986 Coordinated Framework for Regulation of Biotechnology, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulate GE crops to ensure that they are safe. The unauthorized mixing of some GE crops with non-GE crops has caused controversy and financial harm. In this report, GAO examined (1) unauthorized releases of GE crops, (2) coordination among the three agencies, and

(3) additional actions they have proposed to improve oversight.

WSSA members provided input and comments on several sections of the 109-page report including discussions around the need for more resources to monitor herbicide resistance and whether GE crops pose a risk as future noxious weeds.

Title: “Genetically Engineered Crops: Agencies Are Proposing Changes to Improve Oversight, but Could Take Additional Steps to Enhance Coordination and Monitoring.”

Full Report:

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-09-60>

Highlights:

<http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d0960high.pdf>



10th NATIONAL INVASIVE WEEDS AWARENESS WEEK (NIWAW)

The Invasive Weeds Awareness Coalition (IWAC) invites you to Washington, DC for a week of events focused on educating our new federal policy makers and elected officials about the environmental and economic losses caused by invasive weeds. The theme for NIWAW 10 is “Preserving America’s Heritage.” The headquarters hotel for NIWAW will be the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 1201 K Street NW, Washington, DC, just several blocks from the White House in the heart of DC. We have a “NIWAW” room block with rooms at \$186 per night. There is a January 22, 2009 deadline for hotel reservations and meeting pre-registration. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.wssa.net/Meetings/NIWAW10/index.htm>

Healthy Habitats Coalition

A new political advocacy coalition for invasive species funding called

the Healthy Habitats Coalition (HHC) will be meeting in conjunction with NIWAW for the first time. Current federal efforts and budgets are inadequate to address the invasive crisis effectively and local and state interests alone cannot resolve invasive issues. The magnitude and scope of such invasive issues require a strong federal commitment with a sustained, long-term involvement. While NIWAW has been successful in raising awareness of invasive weeds, the Healthy Habitats Coalition plans to take this message to the next level by advocating for legislation and policies year-round that improve the prevention and management of invasive and noxious weeds as well as other invasive pests and diseases.

The Healthy Habitats Coalition is organized under Wildlife Forever, one of the nation’s leading sportsmen’s non-profit conservation groups working to halt invasive species’ harmful impacts on native habitat. Working in Washington, DC, the HHC Director lobbies and coordinates national efforts to obtain enhanced federal legislation and resources for invasive species prevention and management.

The mission of HHC is to promote the conservation and restoration of the nation’s natural heritage and economic interests from the negative impacts of invasive species. Again, HHC will focus on all invasive species taxa.

Specifically, HHC seeks enhanced federal legislation and appropriations that assist public and private landowners nationwide. Improved structure and procurement of funding for the protection and restoration of the nation’s land assets across the USA is the goal. To accomplish this mission, HHC will engage the executive and legislative branches of the federal government. HHC will immediately begin to engage the new Administration, Senators, and Congressmen to get support.

We Need Your Help — HHC is a growing collection of leading expertise partners and lobbyists from industry, university, state, county and pri-

CONTINUED on pg 10 >>>

vate practitioners. We are targeting diverse types of organizations for an Advisory and Steering Board to build a diverse base. Examples include:

- Champion legislators
- Governors Association
- National Congress of State Legislatures
- NGO's: Wildlife Forever, DU, Cattleman's, TNC
- National Invasive Species Council
- National Firefighter Chiefs
- National Network for Invasive Plant Centers
- Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
- Agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, mining, forestry, chemical, retailers and other invasive professionals.

Attend NIWAW 10 — While we have had numerous conference calls and planning sessions to form the framework for HHC, there will be many exciting opportunities to shape the future direction of invasives species policy. You don't want to miss it. The HHC will hold its first official meeting during the 10th National

Invasive Weeds Awareness Week (NIWAW). In addition, HHC members will be discussing invasive species policies and legislation targets for the new 111th Congress.

For more information about how to get involved in the Healthy Habitats Coalition, please contact HHC Director, Tim Richardson at 301-770-6496 or

trichardson@wildlifeforever.org

NEW NAME FOR USDA NRI GRANTS

The USDA National Research Initiative (NRI) grants have been replaced by a new competitive grants program in the 2008 Farm Bill called the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). While AFRI covers most of the same grant programs that were offered by the former NRI, the new authority allows greater flexibility in the types of projects funded to include: single function projects in research, education and extension, and integrated research, education and/or extension awards.

Total program funds for the "Biology of Weedy and Invasive

Species in Agroecosystems" are approximately \$4.6 million. The Letter of Intent deadline for this grant program is April 20, 2009.

The synopsis of the AFRI program: <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=44421>

NEW NAME FOR NASULGC

The National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges Board of Directors voted unanimously to change the association's name to the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), Advancing Research, Learning and Engagement, effective April 1, 2009.

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Western Aquatic Plant Management Society Aquatic Plant Scholarship Announcement

The Western Aquatic Plant Management Society (WAPMS) is pleased to announce the 2009 Barbra H. Mullin Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to support students in the pursuit of a degree in aquatic sciences.

To be eligible, applicants must be currently 1) enrolled as a full-time undergraduate or graduate student in an accredited college or university in the western United States and 2) engaged in course work or research related to the biology, ecology, management, or education of aquatic plants. All scholarship applicants will receive a one-year membership to WAPMS and a waiver of registration fees for the meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii March 29 to April 1, 2009.

Applications will be judged by a committee of academic, industry, and agency representatives. Judging will not be done by individuals with a personal or institutional affiliation with the applicant. Announcement of the scholarship winner will be made at the 2009 WAPMS meeting. Winner need not be present.

Application Procedure:

1. Applicant must provide a short resume/curriculum vitae, transcripts of college/university coursework (unofficial is acceptable), and a statement that describes the intended use of scholarship funds, applicable collaborators, and the applicant's career goals. The statement should be limited to four pages (double spaced).
2. Two letters of support must be submitted. At least one should be from a college/university faculty member familiar with the applicant's abilities, interests and career goals. Letters may be emailed.
3. All application materials should be submitted electronically to the WAPMS Scholarship Program Chair, Toni Pennington (toni.pennington@tetrattech.com), by February 20, 2009 at 5:00 (PCT).

WAPMS is a professional and scientific society of western aquatic plant managers and scientists. Members include research scientists, aquatic vegetation managers, agency personnel, and industry interested in all aspects of aquatic plant biology, ecology, and management.

www.wapms.org

INTERNATIONAL IPM CONFERENCE IN 2009

Multi-Functional Rotations and Weed Management

The 6th International IPM Conference will be held in Portland, Oregon, during March 24–26, 2009. One aspect of the conference that may be of interest to weed scientists is that sessions will be held on the design of cropping systems in relation to pest and weed management. Scientists in Europe have been testing the impact of rotation design on pest management along with other agronomic goals. Janjo de Haan of the Wageningen Research Institute, The Netherlands, will discuss this research focus where pesticide inputs can be

reduced almost 90% with multi-functional rotations compared with conventional management. Janjo will describe the multi-functional concept and experimental results from long-term rotation projects. In addition, a brainstorming session with Janjo will be held to explore the possible use of multi-functional rotations in North America and discuss possible research objectives related to rotation design and pest management.

Other sessions related to weed management will also be held at the conference, such as invasive weeds,

integrating GIS with management, and integrated crop management.

Information on the conference is available at:

<http://www.impcenters.org/ipmsymposium09/>

**WSSA HOME PAGE
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www.wssa.net**

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THINK NEWSLETTER
Deadline for April issue
March 1, 2009

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POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR VEGETABLE SPECIALIST UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

Academic 11-month appointment, extension specialist, 70% extension, 30% research, to be classified as a continuing, non-tenure track assistant professor. The successful candidate will develop and implement a dynamic extension vegetable program that supports the commercial vegetable industry in Delaware. He/She will develop a comprehensive applied research program capable of delivering non-biased, research-based information to the vegetable industry. He/She will contribute to extension programming in the form of industry newsletter articles, fact sheets, industry workshops, presentations at scientific and grower meetings, providing vegetable expertise and support for county and state

extension staff; will maintain and enhance the Delaware vegetable website; and will work with one full time vegetable extension associate and one half time bioresources engineering extension associate.

Ph.D. required in horticulture or a related field with an emphasis on vegetable production and five years of broad experience in vegetable production extension and research. Ability to work and communicate well with producers and processors in the vegetable industry, academic colleagues and the public. Ability to conduct applied research related to vegetable production in a sustainable and economically viable manner. Excellent verbal and written communication skills with a record of publications. Ability to use technology to deliver information to a variety of audiences. Strong people and leadership skills. Supervisory experience.

Skill and experience in grant writing.

Applicants should submit curriculum vitae, letter of interest, and the names and contact information of at least three professional references to Dr. Susan Barton, Search Committee Chair, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, Townsend Hall, Newark, DE 19716-2170; or by email to sbarton@udel.edu. Deadline for receipt of applications is January 5, 2009. The curriculum vitae and all application materials shall be shared with departmental faculty.

The University of Delaware
is an Equal Opportunity Employer
which encourages applications
from Minority Group Members
and Women.



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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
January 5-8, 2009	63rd Annual Meeting of the NEWSS	Renaissance Harborplace Hotel Baltimore, Maryland	www.news.org
February 8, 2009	IX International Bioherbicide Group Workshop	Orlando, Florida	Joe Neal (joe_neal@ncsu.edu) Chairman, WSSA Biocontrol Committee IBG website: http://ibg.ba.cnr.it/
February 9-12, 2009	Joint WSSA-SWSS Meeting	Hilton in Walt Disney World Resort Orlando, Florida	WSSA: www.wssa.net SWSS: www.weedscience.msstate.edu/swss
February 22-27, 2009	10th National Invasive Weed Awareness Week	Four Points by Sheraton Hotel 1201 K Street NW Washington, DC	
March 24-26, 2009	6th International IPM Symposium	Oregon Convention Center Portland, Oregon	Margaret Appleby margaret.appleby@ontario.ca or 613-475-5850 Robert Hedlund rhedlund@usaid.gov or 202-712-4188 Greta Schuster gschuster@mail.wtamu.edu or 361-595-4116
June 8-11, 2009	Fourth International Symposium on Plant Dormancy	Fargo, North Dakota, USA	Marcia Meyer or Mike Foley Email: info@plantdormancy.com www.plantdormancy.com
June 8-12, 2009	10th World Congress on Parasitic Plants	Kusadasi, Turkey	Ahmet Uludag secretary@ippsturkey.com www.ippsturkey.com http://www.ippsturkey.com/
February 7-11, 2010	Joint Meeting of WSSA and Society for Range Management	Sheraton Denver Hotel Denver, Colorado	www.wssa.net
