



Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hopefully, all of you have submitted abstracts for the annual meeting and are beginning to plan your travels to San Antonio to attend the 47th WSSA meeting. Program Chair Jill Schroeder and the Program Committee have worked hard to develop an excellent program that will feature a pre-meeting tour, a special workshop,

three symposia and new activities for the graduate students. The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency on the Riverwalk which is located in the heart of the famous San Antonio Riverwalk and is across the street from The Alamo. There are many restaurants and other attractions within walking distance of the hotel and the weather in February should be in the mid-60s. It is important for members to register and stay at the Hyatt because we need to meet our guest room block. If we do not meet this block, then the society will have to pay for our meeting rooms. So, please register early and stay at the Hyatt.

Early registration for the 2007 WSSA annual meeting will be the same as last year, \$250. However, to take advantage of the early registration fee, members must register by December 1. From December 2 to January 19 the registration fee will be \$350 for members and after January 19, the fee will be \$405. This year the Board decided to charge all students one registration fee of \$75, regardless of when they register. This is an extremely low registration fee and we urge all students to come to the annual meeting. In addition, there is a block of rooms set aside for students for \$99. If this room is shared with another student, the cost for housing will only be \$50 per student. Please read John Willis' article in this newsletter on the many opportunities that will be available for the students in San Antonio. So please register early to save money and to help us better plan for the meeting.

This year's summer board meeting was extremely busy and we have made many decisions that will impact our society and the direction we will take in the future. The board spent one full day considering our Strategic Plan for Action. Although we have done much to accomplish the goals of that plan in the last five years, we decided to establish a new tactical plan to continue forward in the goals we have set for ourselves. The board decided on eight strategic objectives:

Strategic Goal #1: Advance weed science research

Objective 1: Create a widely used and regularly updated WSSA Website that

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Texans Welcome The WSSA!

San Antonio offers the best of Texas and is a wonderful venue for the 2007 meeting of the WSSA. The weather during February is delightful with temperatures ranging from the low 40's to the mid 60's and a high probability of sunshine. The Hyatt Regency is a first class hotel that is conveniently located near many area attractions, restaurants and the world famous Riverwalk. Within the hotel, Chaps Restaurant serves authentic Texas style cuisine and the River Terrace Lounge offers a perfect place to relax. There is a spa, fitness area, and heated rooftop pool and Jacuzzi in the hotel. The Hyatt has no courtesy shuttle from the airport. Your options would be to ride SATRANS (\$14/person, 40-45 minutes to the hotel) or take a cab (\$20-25/person, 20-25 minutes). The Riverwalk area is located next to the hotel and is 2.5 miles of restaurants, shops and galleries. Rio San Antonio Cruises River Tours lets you indulge yourself with a 40 minute narrated boat ride on the San Antonio River (prices range from \$4.50 to \$6.50). Or, you can catch a Rio Taxi boat and get from place to place for \$4 per person or \$10 for an all day pass. By land, you can ride the Alamo Trolley Tour (located next to the Alamo) for \$20 and touch all of the downtown attractions, getting on and off at the various stops, if you prefer.

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allows members to identify funding opportunities in weed science. This task was assigned to Committee E6—Competitive Grants and Research Committee.

Strategic Goal #2: Support weed science education and outreach

Objective 2: Create and publish a weed science glossary in three languages (English, Spanish and French). This task was assigned to P22—Terminology Committee and working with CWSS, who is already developing a glossary for Canada in English and French.

Objective 3: Develop an e-Xtension project for the website. This task was assigned to W11—Extension Committee.

Objective 4: Publish more articles in *Weed Technology* on education and extension. This task was assigned to P1—Publication Board and W5—Education Committee.

Strategic Goal #3: Produce and Disseminate High Quality Weed Science Publications and Information

Objective 5: Publish a new journal on Invasive Plant Science and Management. This task was assigned to the special committee on the invasive plant management journal co-chaired by Vanelle Carrithers and Lars Anderson. This committee will develop a business plan for the new journal and present that plan to the board and the membership in San Antonio. Please see the article by Vanelle Carrithers in this newsletter.

Strategic Goal #4: Raise public awareness of weeds and their impact

Objective 6: Increase popular press awareness of weed science to raise public awareness of weeds and their impact. This task was assigned to a new special committee with Janis McFarland as the chair. Their task is to examine how the society can increase public awareness of weeds and will make a recommendation to the board in February on how we should move forward.

Strategic Goal #5: Promote sound weed science policy

Objective 7: Increased reliance of federal and state agencies on the WSSA for weed science information. This task was assigned to E2—Science Policy Committee (formerly known as the Washington Liaison Committee) and the Director of Science Policy to identify the needs of federal agencies in weed science that WSSA can address and to put together a list of members who can provide that information.

Strategic Goal #6: Provide Service to our Members and Regional Societies

Objective 8: Develop a program to increase professional development membership. This task was assigned to a special committee chaired by Tracy Sterling with the objective of examining what areas of professional development would help our membership the most and to make a recommendation to the board in February on the areas and how we might proceed.

We have established some very ambitious goals for the society, but with all of us working together, I think we can accomplish them. I was particularly impressed with the response I got from society members when I asked for volunteers to serve on the Professional Development Special Committee and I want to thank all of those who volunteered their time and expertise.

Other actions coming from the summer board meeting were:

- Establishment of a "Publish Articles Ahead of Print" service for *Weed Science* and *Weed Technology* which will allow members to have papers published on the web as soon as they are approved. See Mike Foley's article in this newsletter.
- Selection of a new abstract submission system for the annual meetings.
- Continued support for website development.
- Development and publication of a new membership brochure and a fact sheet for WSSA.
- Approved publication of a new Herbicide Handbook edited by Scott Senseman and which should be available in 2007. The cost of the new Handbook will be \$95.

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WSSA FUTURE MEETING SITES AND DATES

2007

San Antonio, TX

February 5–8

Hyatt Regency on the
Riverwalk

Local Arrangements:

Paul Baumann

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PRE-PUBLICATION

In the April, 2006 WSSA Newsletter, the Director of Publications outlined the issue of prepublication in the article "TO DO OR NOT TO DO – Publish Articles Ahead of Print." As a service to members, authors, and readers, the board of directors voted to approve prepublication of *Weed Science* and *Weed Technology* articles. It is anticipated the service will be initiated in August 2006. When initiated, authors will choose whether or not to prepublish either the uncorrected PDF immediately upon acceptance or the copyedited typeset article. Once the uncorrected PDF is edited and typeset, it will replace the uncorrected version. There will be a \$15 per manuscript charge paid by the author for prepublication. Prepublished articles will be available to members and others through individual library subscribers. If questions arise contact Managing Editor Tracy Candelaria (tcandelaria@acgpublishing.com) or 1-(800) 627-0932, ext. 242.

Michael Foley

Director of Publications

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Major Changes to the Composite List of Weeds

Miller, T., C. Bryson, D. Cudney, J. DiTomaso, K. Gibson, D. Hall, T. Koger, P. Lehtonen, R. Old, S. Shinn, G. Thomas, L. Wax, and S. Weaver

The 2006 revision of the *Composite List of Weeds* as compiled by the Standardized Plant Names subcommittee (P22b, Terminology Parent) has now been posted to the Weed Science Society of America website (<http://www.wssa.net>). This revision represents a four-year effort to include the most current scientific names and approved common names for vascular plants described in the literature as being weedy in North America. The list includes weeds of agriculture, horticulture, range, and forestry and numbers 2730 individual species, as well as 749 commonly used synonyms. Scientific names for previously-listed species have been compared to lists maintained by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (PLANTS database, <http://plants.usda.gov>), the Agricultural Research Service's Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN database, <http://www.ars-grin.gov>), and the Biota of North America Program administered by the North Carolina Botanical Garden (<http://www.bonap.org>) and the consensus choices for current nomenclature were selected for this revision. When possible, common names of previously-listed weed species were maintained to

avoid confusion. In addition, scientific and common names of newly-listed species were checked against the PLANTS, GRIN, and BONAP lists prior to addition to the *Composite List of Weeds*.

The Publications committee suggested that the 2006 version of the *Composite List of Weeds* be made available in an electronic format, and a downloadable .pdf file of the list is on the WSSA website.

Like any taxonomic list, the *Composite List of Weeds* contains the currently accepted nomenclature at the time it was compiled. Because changes in nomenclature often occur without notice, the members of this subcommittee solicit your help in keeping the list up to date. Please contact me should you have questions about the names of the weed species on this list or about particular weed species not included on this list that you feel should be.

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TEXANS WELCOME

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Within walking distance (1-4 blocks) to the hotel are a number of attractions. Of course, everyone knows San Antonio for The Alamo and visiting San Antonio without going to The Alamo is like visiting Texas A&M without wetting your whistle at the Dixie Chicken. This piece of Texas history is located within a block of the hotel. The San Antonio Botanical Gardens is a 33 acre public garden that showcases formal and display gardens, a conservatory, native plants and the Carriage House kitchen. The IMAX theatre is a great place to entertain children and adults, featuring its main attraction "Alamo-The Price of Freedom." To get a breathtaking view of the city, you can visit the 750-foot-tall Tower of the Americas that features both a restaurant and observation deck. Ripley's Haunted Adventure includes a 10,000 sq. ft. haunted house, the Guinness Museum, and Davy Crockett's Tall Tales Ride. There are a number of restaurants also located within walking distance along the Riverwalk. Rosario's, Acenar and the Iron Cactus are known for authentic and Tex-Mex cuisine. The finest steaks are served at Ruth's Chris, Morton's or The Palms. For seafood, you can dine at Pesca or Landry's. There are also a number of fast food restaurants in the area. Approximately 12 blocks away, you can get a great shopping fix at the historic Market Square which offers an overwhelming selection of gifts, souvenirs and art work. Also, don't forget to reserve a spot for the Texas Wintergarden Horticultural Crops Tour on Sunday, February 4. See Russ Wallace's article in the newsletter for more information. Russ has done an excellent job preparing for this informative tour. Finally, for you pro basketball fans, sorry, but the Spurs will not be playing in town during the WSSA.

Paul Baumann
Chairman
Local Arrangements 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED from pg 2

I want to thank the Board members for their time and dedication to the society. They are required to come early and to stay late at the annual meetings and to dedicate a long weekend in the middle of the summer to conduct the business of the society. At the workshop we conducted this summer on our Strategic Plan, the Board members showed how they could work together to achieve a common goal to improve our society. I also want to thank all of the members who are participating on our regular and special committees. Without your dedication and service our society would not be able to function.

I look forward to seeing all of you in San Antonio.

Dale Shaner
President

PROGRAM NOTES for 2007 meeting

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS • FEBRUARY 5–8, 2007

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our local arrangements chair, Paul Bauman, has outlined some of the area attractions in his newsletter article. Come early to the meeting to view the sites of San Antonio. On Sunday, plan on attending the tour of the Wintergarden region to see the leafy green vegetable production areas of Texas. Dr. Russ Wallace and colleagues are our hosts; please see his article in this newsletter. The meeting will begin on Monday at 4:15 p.m., with the General Session and Awards Ceremony followed by the Awardee Reception. On Wednesday, plan on attending the society business meeting followed by our second member reception.

Special Workshop: Drs. Jens Streibig and Christian Ritz will again offer a special one day workshop on “Statistical Assessment of Dose-Response Curves with Free Software” on Monday February 5 (to conclude in time for the General Session). The goal of the workshop is to enable participants to succinctly assess toxicity on the basis of proper choice of dose-response models and compare dose-response curves statistically using the free software programme *R*. The attendance will be limited to a maximum of 25 and the cost will be \$150 per person. Each attendee will need to bring a computer to the class. Please see the associated article in this newsletter for additional details.

Graduate Student Activities: John Willis, President, and the Graduate Student Organization are making plans for the graduate student activities, including a symposium “Employment Opportunities and How to Make Yourself More Marketable” planned for Tuesday morning after the poster session. Please see John’s article in this newsletter. One of the activities planned by the students is a “Take a Student to Dinner” opportunity for nonstudent members. This activity was proposed for the Western Society of Weed Science by Steve Dewey in 2002; participation has been strong and members and students have enjoyed the opportunity to become acquainted through this social activity. Members sign up for an evening and students and nonstudents are paired with the goal to introduce people from different states or regions. Please look for signup sheets at the registration desk in San Antonio! It does not have to be an expensive dinner — you just need to be willing to spend some time getting to know new people!

Symposia: Three symposia, in addition to the graduate student symposium, are planned for the meeting. The Weed Biology and Physiology Sections have joined to offer a symposium “Using Emerging Technologies to Study Weed Biology: an educational forum” on Tuesday afternoon. John V. Anderson and Wun S. Chao are organizing this session and plan to invite vendors whose prod-

ucts complement the topics to display at the meeting. Debanjan Sanyal is organizing the second symposium “Integrated Weed Management Revisited” which will be held on Wednesday afternoon. Finally, a day long symposium “Nursery Stock vs. Invasive Plant: Which is it, and why do we care?” will be held on Thursday and is being organized by Alan Tasker and Nelroy Jackson. They will be advertising this symposium to attract a broad audience including local residents.

Roundtable Discussions: Fred Salzman, Chair, is planning a Specialty Crop Roundtable Discussion as part of the Horticulture Section of the meeting. This will be an informal discussion of research results and issues that are common across the regions. The board of directors is planning a noon-time Roundtable discussion to provide information and obtain member input about the proposed new journal “Journal of Invasive Plant Science and Management.” Look for additional information about these discussions in future correspondence and newsletters.

Abstract and presentation submission: We are using a new abstract submission system, OASIS, for the San Antonio meeting. Many of the features regarding submission are very similar to the previous submission system. A new feature is that once abstract submission closes, attendees will be able to view and print abstracts of interest and prepare personal schedules for the meeting in advance. The abstracts will also be available online, with search capability by author, subject (key word), or program section, after the meeting for a minimum of five years. Because of this online availability, we will not be producing an abstract CD. Additionally, presenters will be able to submit their final PowerPoint presentation to the website prior to the meeting; section chairs will then organize and download the presentations to their computers. This feature will eliminate some of the problems we have encountered with sending section chairs the presentations. However, presenters will need to be sure to complete and submit their presentations ahead of the meeting. Please pay attention to updates and information on deadlines as we get closer to the meeting.

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I am looking forward to seeing you in warm San Antonio in February! The program section chairs and symposium organizers are working hard to develop a strong program for the meeting. Please make your plans to attend.

Jill Schroeder
Program Chair

WSSA Leafy Greens and Vegetable Tour

Winter is the time for vegetables, at least in Texas! Agricultural land in Texas consists of over 150 million acres, with 600,000 acres producing horticultural crops. Texas is a leading producer of winter-grown vegetables, including the region known as the Texas Wintergarden. This region includes many counties located in southwestern Texas near the Rio Grande River and Mexico, and contains over 40,000 acres of vegetables valued annually at \$85 million. In addition, over 49,000 acres of pecans are produced in the region with an estimated value of \$58 million. The cool, mild winter climate and fertile soils offer excellent growing conditions for spinach and other leafy greens, as well as onions, cabbage, carrots, beets, potatoes and green beans.



On Sunday, February 4, 2007, attendees at the 47th annual Weed Science Society of America meeting held in San Antonio will be able to participate on an all day tour of the Wintergarden region to experience Texas-sized agricultural production. This tour will include visits to local producer's farms in Frio, Zavala and Uvalde counties, as well as a visit to the Del Monte Agricultural Research Farm where herbicide and disease control research is conducted in cooperation with Texas A & M University and the University of Arkansas spinach breeding program. After tasting an authentic Texas BBQ, tour participants will also be offered a unique opportunity to see up close what it takes annually to produce millions of cans of spinach and other vegetables at the Del Monte Processing Plant located in Crystal City. Along the way participants may also be able to view Texas-sized cattle, sheep and goat ranches, as well as other "wild critters" found in the region.



The tour is being coordinated by the Weed Science Society of America, the Texas A & M University Agricultural Research & Extension Center and Texas Cooperative Extension, as well as support from Del Monte Foods and the Wintergarden Spinach Producers Board. Tour sponsors include AMVAC, BASF, Chemtura, Dow AgroSciences, Gowan Company, Helena Chemical, Syngenta, UAP Chemical, and Wilbur-Ellis.

Cost for the tour is \$20.00 per person. The tour bus will leave the conference hotel at 7:30 a.m. and will return at approximately 5:30 p.m. For more online information visit <http://www.wssa.net/> or contact Russ Wallace via email at rwwallace@ag.tamu.edu or by phone at 806-746-6101.



GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION UPDATE

Costs Falling, Activities Rising

First thing first, overdue congratulations are due to our new officers, Vice President Wade Givens from Mississippi State and Secretary Bryan Dillehay from Penn State. Thanks to all who participated in the elections.

The WSSA Summer Board meeting was held in San Antonio, TX, the location for the 2007 WSSA annual meeting. San Antonio's Riverwalk area is a great location for the annual meeting, with attractions like the Alamo and a vast downtown area within a stones throw. Also, the average daytime high temperatures for February are in the mid 60's, giving some of us a break from a bitter winter.

My main goal this year has been to increase membership and participation in WSSA's Graduate Student Organization. Through discussions with other graduate students in the society I found several great suggestions to generate involvement. The first thing most students and especial-

ly advisors consider when planning to attend a meeting is COST. At the summer meeting the WSSA board voted to reduce student registration fees from \$185 to \$75. There is also a block of rooms available to students for \$99 per night per room (Find a roommate, and that's \$50 per night). Also, volunteers who work the registration desk can have their registration fee waived saving even more, while gaining the opportunity to interact with several society members.

So what activities are available to students at this year's meeting? **The Graduate Student Symposia** this year will focus on jobs in weed science, and how to get them. We students are constantly searching for "The Edge," trying to make ourselves more marketable to employers searching for weed scientists. We will have speakers from university, industry, and government agencies. The symposia will be followed by a **sponsored**

luncheon and short business meeting for the student organization. The Western Society is having tremendous success with one event, **Students Night Out**, where society members (public and private researchers) host graduate students for dinner. This event has been praised by students and members in the WSSWS, and leads to contacts and friends within the society for years to come. This event offers a wealth of opportunities for students to interact with society members to learn more about WSSA.

All of these great activities will be offered on top of the fact that the WSSA includes a very diverse group of research topics and the highest level of exposure for your research. So be sure to talk with your advisor and plan to come down to San Antonio, and have a great time meeting fellow students and weed scientists from across the country. See you there.
John Willis

Statistical Assessment of Bioassay Data and Other Nonlinear Regression Problems with the Free Software **R**

Course Description

Herbicides are designed to kill plants and their selective use in crops is a question of dose. Consequently, use of dose-response curves is fundamental to understanding herbicide selectivity and efficacy. This principle can be extended to other branches of weed management, e.g. allelopathy, flame weeding, weed steaming, physical control, laser cutting and radiation and weed crop competition. Dose-response curves, germination curves, and competition models are genuine non-linear. The way they are summarized varies and often depends on tradition and/or available statistical software rather than theoretical considerations of the best way to exploit the information contained in the data.

The aim of the course is to make participants able to succinctly assess toxicity on the basis of proper choice of dose-response models and compare dose-response curves statistically using the free software programme **R** and a specific developed extension package, *drc*, developed for weed scientists and freely downloadable at URL: www.bioassay.dk. Additionally, the package *drc* can also be used to fit germination curves and user-defined functions, for example competition models.

Course Content

- The meaning of dose-response curves.
- Installation of **R** and how to work with the programme.
- Fitting and comparing dose-response curves, e.g.: discrete versus gradual endpoints, relative versus raw

data, upper and lower limits, measurement of efficacy and index of selectivity, bioassay design, heterogeneity of variance, which model to choose and how to assess hormesis responses.

- Working on handout data or, preferentially, own data.

Duration

Eight hours

Fee

150 USD

Participants

Graduates and postgraduate students, weed scientists in public and private institutions. **There will be a maximum of 25 attendants** on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants must bring their own PC and data to get the maximum benefit from the course.

Course Material

Course material will be uploaded at the www.bioassay.dk website one week prior to the workshop.

Prerequisite

Basic knowledge of statistics, including regression analysis, would be preferable. Participants must bring their own PC; PCs will not be provided.

Ritz, C. and Streibig, J.C. (2005). Bioassay Analysis using R, J. Statist. Software, Vol. 12, Issue 5. URL: www.bioassay.dk.

Report on Survey to Assess Viability and Need for New Journal on Invasive Plant Science and Management

July 15, 2006

Ad hoc committee / Publication Survey Committee Members:

Co-Chairs: Lars Anderson and Vanelle Carrithers

Members: Joe DiTomaso, Kevin Gibson, Janet Clark, John Jachetta, Greg MacDonald, and ad hoc Mike Foley

INTRODUCTION

At the February meeting the WSSA board approved the formation of an ad hoc committee to investigate the need for and viability of a new journal on invasive plants. A small budget was allocated to conduct a market survey around developing a new journal on Invasive Weed Management. The committee developed a series of questions designed to query WSSA members and members of other organizations and individuals involved with invasive plant management on their interest in and need for a new publication focused primarily on invasive weeds in non-agriculturally dominated habitats.

The survey was placed on the commercially available website/server "Survey Monkey" and the URL for the survey was sent via emails to a large number of society listservs, membership lists, NGO list serves, including Exotic Plant Councils (EPCs) and Invasive Plant Councils (IPCs), all WSSA regional affiliates, Aquatic Plant Management society, FICMNEW, Ecological Society of America and smaller groups whose members are involved with management or control of invasive plant pests.

The survey was designed to accomplish the following:

1. Determine overall interest in such a journal
2. Determine preferred content (types of papers) and format of the journal (e.g. print vs. electronic)
3. Determine likely level of involvement in the journal (subscriber, contributor, reviewer and what types of papers that would be submitted)
4. Determine preferred topics for the journal
5. Determine who the readership might be by profession and by work-related affiliation, and by professional society membership

6. Determine what is the preferred publication frequency and what subscription price is feasible

Limitations of the survey: Due to the electronic pathways used, it is not possible to accurately know how many people who were presented with the survey actually responded to it. Thus it is not possible to provide a "percent returned" figure. It is also possible that some significant audience was not reached.

Strengths of the survey: The results indicate that a wide range of groups are represented and that there is "internal consistency" with the responses when viewed by affiliation of responders. Thus, high ranking for restoration and for case studies tended to come from on-the-ground management-based groups, not so much from research based groups. Likewise responses regarding content and preferred features are consistent with rankings of usefulness of journal types. These indicate integrity within the surveyed pool suggesting that participants did not haphazardly respond. Finally, the large number of comments also reflects the seriousness with which many respondents viewed this exercise.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Highlights of Responses:

1. A total of 793 responses were recorded. Of those, only 9.8% indicated "Not Interested."
 - a. Those that indicated no interest were generally not working in invasive plant management.
2. There was a total 90% responding as "interested."
 - a. 62% of the respondents were "Very Interested";
 - b. an additional 28% were "Somewhat Interested";
3. 40% of the respondents are members of WSSA
4. 35% of the respondents are affli-

ated with regional WSSA societies

5. 24% are affiliated with Exotic Plant Councils/Invasive Plant Councils
6. 9% are Ecological Society of America members
7. 8% are APMS members
8. Of the 706 "interested" respondents, **66% would be likely to subscribe, 41% would contribute papers and 28% would serve as reviewers.**
9. Support for a journal was very consistent among the types of membership.
10. Highly ranked subjects and types of papers were also quite consistent among the different affiliations. The main differences were in higher preferences for papers on case studies and restoration in the non-WSSA/EPC/IPC groups.
11. The two most divergent responses related to Work Affiliations and Primary Activities: About half the WSSA and ESA respondents have "academic" affiliations; whereas the EPC/IPC and "non WSSA" respondents are mainly government-affiliated. Similarly about two-thirds of WSSA and ESA respondents do "research;" only about one-third of the other groups listed this as the primary activity.

This survey not only indicates strong need for the journal, it also clearly shows that there are many who would help to produce it. The information on levels of involvement, content and style of papers can help prioritize solicitations, selection of editors, associate editors and reviewers, and the marketing of the journal.

From the list of journals subscribed to and those used, it would appear that there is some competition from a few other journals or publications. The survey showed that there is rela-

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Recent Changes in the USDA NRI Grant Program for Weedy and Invasive Plants

In the last newsletter I described, in general terms, how government granting agencies define program priorities, goals and objectives. In this column I discuss in more detail the 2006 priorities for the Biology of Weedy and Invasive Species in Agroecosystems Program, and how they came about. In the next newsletter I will discuss the use of logic models to guide program priorities and monitor progress.

The reality is Federal Programs need to evolve or they die. Within the National Research Initiative (NRI) programs have been under increased pressure to make the funded research relevant to US Agriculture, to assure that impacts of that research are measurable and, at the programmatic level, to bring up the funding rate to 25% or better, and to coordinate activities with other Federal programs/agencies. There were two major pushes in 2006 that moved the Biology of Weedy and Invasive Plant Program focus a bit from where it had been in previous years. First, there was pressure both from stakeholders and from Federal interagency working groups to make the program inclusive of plant and animal species, so as to better align it with the emerging science of "Invasion Biology" and the US Invasive Species Management Plan. The intent was to "mainstream" the program not to take the program away from funding weed research; weeds, in fact, remain a primary focus of the program. Second, there was a push to make the funded activities more relevant to the USDA.

The program which, in the past, would consider almost any plant in almost any habitat became, in 2006, focused on the biology of weedy and invasive plant and animal species of "economic importance to agriculture," a qualifier that was added to increase the relevancy of the research funded. Moreover, the program now specifies that the activities proposed should have direct and obvious relevance to the elimination, management, or control of invasive species in "agroecosystems" broadly defined as cropping systems, managed forests, or rangeland. Finally, there was an

emphasis on funding research that examines phenomena and processes at the scale at which management and control programs operate. That is not to say that the program will not consider small-scale or sub-organismal research; it will, but only if a case can be made that the results of that research can be scaled-up to address management-scale issues like different land-use practices, cultivation and nutrient management regimes, disturbance (including fire, pests and grazing), and other landscape-level features and processes.

As a result of these various changes, the formerly taxonomically narrow "Biology of Weedy and Invasive Plant Program" became a more inclusive but more focused "Biology of Weedy and Invasive Species in Agroecosystems Program."

The hope was that the new program restrictions to assure relevancy would more than offset the more liberal inclusion of plants and animals as topics for study and the number of proposals would go down and the funding rate would go up. But just to make certain we required letters of intent to screen proposals for relevancy.

The program received 132 letters of intent in 2006 and encouraged the submission of 92 full proposals. Of those, 79 proposals were submitted for the program. The review panel recommended that 14 proposals be funded, a funding percentage of 18 percent, which was markedly better than in previous years (in one year the funding rate was down as low as 9%). Of the 79 full proposals submitted in 2006, only nine were focused on animal-related studies, of which only one was funded. This indicates the "Biology of Weedy and Invasive Species Program" is, for all intents and purposes, still largely a weed and invasive plant research program.

Michael A. Bowers

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SURVEY FOR NEW JOURNAL

CONTINUED from pg 7

tive low preference for existing *Weed Science* and *Weed Technology* among "non WSSA" and "EPC/IPC-non WSSA" respondents; these groups are precisely those who most strongly rate the need for this journal, which underscores the opportunity for WSSA to expand its audience and membership. However, even among WSSA members, there is a strong indication of support reflected in the high percentages of putative subscribers (65%), contributors (53%) and reviewers (40%).

Based on the strong support shown in the results of the survey, the ad hoc Publications Survey Committee recommended to the WSSA Board that a new journal be established on invasive plant science and management. The Board voted to approve the recommendation but asked the committee to develop a five year operational/financial plan for establishment of a journal of Invasive Plant Science and Management (this is the committee suggestion but another suitable title could be considered) based on the needs identified by this survey. The Board will review their decision in support of a new journal once the operational plan is complete (November 2006).

Send Newsletter material to:

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WSSA Website Update



David Krueger



Tom Fermanian

First, I would like to highlight the two individuals who are leading the redesign of the WSSA website: David Krueger of AgRenaissance Software LLC is the technical webmaster, and Tom Fermanian with the University of Illinois is the web editor. David's responsibilities will be to maintain the structure of the site. Tom will coordinate addition of new material to the website as well as review existing information posted on the site.

The redesign of the website is going well due to the efforts of these two individuals. The basic design of the new site is completed and we have employed a graphic designer to help improve the color schemes and layout. Information from the old site is being moved to the new website. We hope to go live with the new site sometime in October.

After we go live with the new site, responsibility for oversight will fall to the website committee, formerly referred to as the Computer Applications Committee. Ed Luschei chairs this committee. Our technical webmaster and editor will submit brief quarterly reports to the website committee describing their accomplishments during that period. The committee will provide supervisory feedback on performance, expectations and accomplishments. The committee will conduct a formal annual review prior to the annual meeting and submit that report to the board for comment. The website committee will periodically review the information and links on the website, correcting any errors and making any needed changes to keep the information current.

Here is some basic information on the new website. The web host operating system will be Linux. There will

be daily backup with the web hosting company, and a copy will also reside on an AgRenaissance PC. The web address remains <http://www.wssa.net>. The browsers that will be supported include Internet Explorer 5.0 and later, Netscape 6.0 and later, Firefox and other browsers based on Mozilla. The website is being developed using CSS, PHP, and MySQL.

A key to the success of the new website will be development of additional material. The WSSA board recently held a tactical planning session. Two of the strategic objectives focus directly on the website. One objective is to create a widely-used and regularly updated WSSA website that allows members to identify funding opportunities in Weed Science. Another objective is to develop a Weed Science glossary in three languages that will be posted to the website.

In addition each WSSA committee should discuss what information they would like to post to the website. We want the WSSA website to be the best source on the web for information on weed science issues. Once you have decided on information that you would like to post to the site, please contact Ed Luschei [phone (608) 263-7436, email cluschei@wisc.edu] and Tom Fermanian [phone (217) 244-5147, email fermo@uiuc.edu] to get started. Simple corrections to the website, such as correcting dates or phone numbers, should be sent directly to David Krueger [phone (919) 518-8030, email wssa@AgRenaissance.com].

I would like to thank the members of my special committee for their help in the redesign of the website. Special thanks to Ed Luschei for the time he has devoted to this effort.

Jeffrey Derr, Chair
Special Website Committee

THINK NEWSLETTER
Deadline for January issue
December 1, 2006

International Workshop on Weed Biodiversity Held in 2006 Among Italian and US Weed Science Students

An internet discussion workshop entitled **Perspectives in Agricultural Biodiversity in the Old and New Worlds** was conducted from February 27 through April 9, 2006 between students in the US and Italy. Students from Italy were national and international students in the International Ph.D. Programme in Agrobiodiversity at the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa. The US students will be those enrolled in Agronomy 517, Weed Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Iowa State University. The workshop was moderated by Jack Dekker (Iowa State) and Paolo Barberi (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna).

This forum was an experiment of a new, highly interactive, teaching approach, purposely aimed at a very heterogeneous and international group of student scholars. The forum was organized in three modules of two weeks each. Topics were introduced by the moderators at the beginning of each module. The students wrote a short essay on the topic showing their viewpoints and perspectives, and subsequently commented on the essays of the other students from both continents. At the end of each module, and the workshop, the two moderators prepared a short summary of the discussions.

The forum was conducted entirely on the internet, utilizing Moodle courseware. The complete proceedings of this discussion can be found at this URL:

http://www.agron.iastate.edu/~weeds/BioD_Sem_06/BioDSem06_HP.html

Faculty and teachers at any university are encouraged to contact Jack Dekker if they have a group of students at their institution interested in conducting an on-line discussion like this in coming year (anytime during February to April, 2007) on any topic related to weed biology.

WASHINGTON REPORT

by Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

BEGINNING, MID-CAREER, AND RETIRED WEED SCIENTISTS: APPLY FOR AAAS FELLOWSHIP

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) solicits candidates from a broad array of disciplinary backgrounds to apply for a year-long Science and Technology Policy Fellowship in Washington, DC. Fellows come from a range of sectors, including academia, industry, and non-profits, representing a spectrum of career stages, from recent PhD graduates to faculty on sabbatical, to retired scientists and engineers. The age span in the past five classes of Fellows has been from the late twenties to early seventies. The AAAS also serves as the “umbrella” organization for other scientific societies that sponsor a Fellow, such as the Agronomy, Crop and Soil Science Societies.

The Fellowship is a great opportunity to work closely with federal decision-makers in agencies such as the USDA, EPA and the National Science Foundation among others. Fellows receive a stipend of up to \$87,000 for the year, which is based on years of professional experience. Relocation expenses of up to \$3500 are also provided. The deadline for applications for the 2007-2008 Fellowship class is December 20, 2006. For more information, please visit: <http://fellowships.aaas.org>

APPLYING FOR FEDERAL JOB RELATED TO WEED SCIENCE

In June, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) rejected the proposal for a federal job series classification of weed science. In fact, OPM rejected every one of the job series classifications requested by USDA and combined or eliminated some other job series. There are several factors for this, but if you look at the newest federal job series created, they are in the technology sector like

“Information Technology Specialist.” OPM has been working to “simplify” jobs to cater to the “re-toolable generalist” approach. This is OPM’s final decision in a project that began in 1997 to develop a Job Family Position Classification Standard (JFS) for professional work in the Biological Sciences Group, 0400. The new GS-400 classification standard can be viewed at: <http://www.opm.gov/fedclass/gso400p.pdf>. This 99 page document describes OPM’s decisions in detail.

Not to panic weed scientists. The upside of this is anyone graduating with a degree related to weed science or invasive plant management will qualify for just about any job listed under the “GS-401: General Natural Resources and Biological Sciences” job series. In addition, many weed science graduates qualify for other GS-400 series jobs such as agronomy, horticulture, botany, plant physiology, forestry, rangeland, and ecology positions. To search all Federal jobs, please visit USA jobs at: <http://www.usajobs.gov>

I will continue to work with the Federal Agencies that hire and employ individuals required to have more specialized training in weed science and invasive plant management in order to help them include more specific language that defines the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary in our discipline.

WSSA SUBMITS COMMENTS ON APHIS PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE RULE

In June, I worked with the WSSA’s Federal Noxious and Invasive Weeds Committee (E4) to gather comments on how the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) can improve their Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Regulations. Thanks to Jen Vollmer for her extensive remarks. Under the Plant Protection Act, states cannot enact

more stringent regulations governing a pest or weed than the rules that APHIS has imposed. However, when APHIS is silent, states may act. The Plant Protection Act provides that States may obtain an exemption from the Secretary of Agriculture if that State faces a particularly severe threat – but no State has yet been granted such an exemption.

The overall goal of this rule was to better define the process that States would pursue to petition APHIS. The WSSA urged APHIS to delete proposed language requiring that subdivisions of State act only through the State, and instead implement the Plant Protection Act’s broader exemption that extends to allow political subdivisions to make requests to APHIS directly. We also urged APHIS to add language to articulate the agency’s process in circumstances where insufficient evidence may be present, and to provide additional guidance regarding the quantity and quality of data required by APHIS to support a Special Needs Request.

USDA-ARS SOFTWARE AVAILABLE FOR SITE-SPECIFIC WEED MANAGEMENT

Scientists in the USDA-ARS Water Management Research Unit at Fort Collins, CO have developed a software program to assist farmers in determining the best site-specific weed management (SSWM) strategy for their fields. The software, called “WeedSite” was co-developed by WSSA member Lori Wiles and can be downloaded for free at: <http://arsagsoftware.ars.usda.gov>

Growers draw weed maps of their fields based on a simple low-cost method that uses a digital camera and a GPS unit. The software identifies weeds within the photographs, then constructs a weed map with links to the photos. WeedSite then

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PEOPLE & PLACES IN THE NEWS

management in various agro-ecosystems in Bangladesh at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University in Dhaka. Two courses (undergraduate and graduate) will be taught during the second semester from January to June, 2007.

The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the United States Department of State, and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of the over 150 countries that currently participate in the Fulbright Program. Each year, the program sends many U.S. faculty and professionals abroad. Grantees lecture and research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields.

Prasanta C. Bhowmik, Professor of Weed Science, Department of Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences, has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for spring 2007. He will travel to Bangladesh to lecture on weed ecology and



WASHINGTON REPORT CONTINUED from pg 10

uses that information to calculate the effects of various SSWM practices.

EPA PUBLISHES NEW PESTICIDE CONTAINER AND CONTAINMENT RULE

In August, the EPA published its final rule establishing standards for pesticide containers and containment. The rule, which will be implemented over the next 3 to 5 years, establishes standards for refillable and non-refillable containers, including design specifications for rinsing, durability, and standardized closures. Triple rinsing or pressure rinsing to the 99.99 percent removal standard was considered an important adoption in the final regulations. The rule also requires pesticide labels to provide instructions on how to properly clean containers before disposal or recycling.

The regulations affect registrants, distributors, dealers, commercial applicators, and custom blenders, but do not extend to containment at individual farms. The rule is intended to promote the safe refill and reuse of refillable containers and to ensure that pesticides will be stored and transferred under conditions that prevent spills and releases of pesticides into the environment. Additional information about the rule and who is affected can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/containers.htm>

USDA AWARDS \$4.1 MILLION IN GRANTS TO MANAGE INVASIVE SPECIES AFFECTING GRAZING LANDS

On July 28, USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Mark Rey awarded \$4.1 million to fund projects to manage and control invasive plants, animals or insects that adversely affect private and tribal grazing lands. Twenty-seven projects in 20 states received grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$300,000. This is the first year for this grant program.

All of the 27 projects involved some aspect of invasive weed management. Grant awardees ranged from county weed control and management districts to non-profit groups, universities, and state departments of agriculture. The funds are administered through the NRCS Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI). To view the full listing of grants and to get more information about the GLCI, please visit:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/glci>

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IMPACT FACTOR

Publication Manager Karen Ridgway shared the 2005 ISI impact factor numbers. *Weed Technology* impact factor for 2003, 2004, and 2005 were 0.882, 0.904, and 0.749, respectively. The immediacy index for those years was 0.047, 0.053, and 0.121, respectively. For 2005, in the Agronomy Grouping, *Weed Technology* was 25th of 48 journals in impact factor. In the Plant Sciences grouping, *Weed Technology* was 92nd of 144 journals in impact factor. *Weed Science* impact factor for 2003, 2004, and 2005 were 1.230, 1.292, and 1.536, respectively. The immediacy index for those years was 0.187, 0.201, and 0.287, respectively. For 2005, in the Agronomy Grouping, *Weed Science* was 10th of 48 journals in impact factor. In the Plant Sciences grouping, *Weed Science* was 50th of 144 journals in impact factor. According to ISI (<http://scientific.thomson.com/tutorials/jcrweb/index.html>) the impact factor is a measure of the frequency with which the "average article" in a journal has been cited in a particular year. The impact factor will help you evaluate a journal's relative importance, especially when you compare it to others in the same field. It is calculated by dividing the number of current citations to articles published in the two previous years by the total number of articles published in the two previous years. The immediacy index is a measure of how quickly the "average article" in a journal is cited. The immediacy index will tell you how often articles published in a journal are cited within the same year. It is calculated by dividing the number of citations to articles published in a given year by the number of articles published in that year. For more information, check if your local library has a subscription to the ISI Web of Knowledge, including the Journal Citation Reports.

Michael Foley
Director of Publications

NEWSS News

Annual Meeting: The program for the 61st annual NEWSS meeting at the Renaissance Harborplace in Baltimore, MD is quickly coming together and is lead by Bill Curran, NEWSS President and Jerry Baron, Program Chair. The theme for the January 2-5, 2007 meeting will be *Expanding our Weed Science Horizons*. The program will be somewhat different from past programs. Wednesday starts with the Poster Session with the rest of the day for an expanded general session. This general session will include the traditional Presidential Address plus several talks from people in academia, industry and government on various topics such as who is going to train the next generation of weed scientist, the economic impact of weeds as well as a panel discussion on Government Influence in Weed Science: Legislation, Regulation and Science Funding. During this General Session we have reserved time to open the dialogue on the recommendations of the NEWSS Futures Committee. Also included in the General Session is an Awards Luncheon. There will be the Graduate Student Mixer in the evening on Wednesday. Thursday will consist of the traditional breakout sessions. There will be no general symposium this year. Late in the afternoon will be the NEWSS Business Meeting followed by the Social Mixer. Friday is being reserved for workshop and symposiums. We have scheduled several exciting topics including a symposium focusing on new and innovative herbicides compounds for turf and how they impact golf course maintenance, an invasive weeds symposium with the theme of reforesting invaded riparian corridors, and a horseweed biology/ecology symposium to lead to better ways of managing this troublesome biotype. We will also meet jointly with the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council.

Weed Contest: The NEWSS collegiate weed contest was held at DuPont's Stine Haskell Research Center in Newark, DE on August 1, 2006. A total of 44 graduate and undergraduate students participated from six universities. The universities represented at the contest were North Carolina State, Virginia Tech, Penn State, Cornell, Guelph, and Nova Scotia Ag College. Students participated in four contest segments including weed identification, unknown herbicide identification, sprayer calibration, and farmer problems. Greg Armel and Pat Rardon of DuPont Crop Protection organized the overall contest with the help of over 60 volunteers. Also, at this year's contest, Raymond

Forney and Cortney Timmons of DuPont incorporated a Future Farmers of America (FFA) component to the contest. Several FFA students competed in a modified version of the contest in order to educate them about the discipline of Weed Science. It is our hope that this event continues as we see this as a unique opportunity to support FFA while also encouraging new leaders in agriculture to consider a future in Weed Science.

The overall results of the contest were as follows:

Graduate Division:

1st place team: North Carolina State University (Wesley Everman, Adam Hixson)
2nd place team: Cornell (Virender Kumar, Rachel Shuler, Kristine Averill)
3rd place team: Penn State (Joe Dauer, Steven Mirsky, Atila Deak, Nick Hebrock)

1st place individual: Virender Kumar–Cornell
2nd place individual: Wesley Everman–North Carolina State University
3rd place individual: John Willis–Virginia Tech

Undergraduate Division:

1st place team: Guelph (Chrissie Schill, Gerald Pynenburg, Jim Burns, Andrew Chisholm)
2nd place team: Guelph (Joel Hemingway, Adam Pfeffer, Blair Scott, William Judge)
3rd place team: Penn State (Lindsay Spangler, Jennifer Bechtel, Genny Christ)

1st place individual: Adam Pfeffer–Guelph
2nd place individual: Chrissie Schill–Guelph
3rd place individual: Jim Burns–Guelph

Other society news: The NEWSS continues to progress in its efforts to support electronic communication with its membership. The website (www.newss.org) allows electronic publishing of its newsletters, on-line membership database and the ability to handle title/abstract submissions. In a continued effort to better serve our society, a NEWSS Future Committee has been established to discuss ways to determine opportunities for growth and outreach, better organize annual meetings, seek opportunities to pool resources with other regional and national societies, as well as other initiatives.

Dwight Lingenfelter
NEWSS Public Relations

THE NORTHEASTERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY APPROVED A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A HERBICIDE RESISTANCE STEWARDSHIP STATEMENT. THIS STATEMENT WAS DEVELOPED BY THE HERBICIDE-RESISTANT PLANTS COMMITTEE WITH INPUT FROM THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP. THE FINAL VERSION WAS ACCEPTED BY THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP AT ITS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING IN JANUARY, 2006. THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT CAN BE FOUND AT THE NEWSS WEBSITE (www.NEWSS.org).



WHAT: Eighth Annual National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week
WHEN: February 25 to March 2, 2007
WHERE: Washington, D.C.
WHO: Organizations and Individuals who Support Invasive Weed Management and Ecosystem Restoration

The Eighth Annual National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week (NIWAW 8) will be held in Washington, D.C. the week of February 25 to March 2, 2007 to bring people and groups from across the country together to focus national attention on the severe impacts caused by invasive weeds. Individuals and organizations interested in this issue are invited to participate in this event and help build on the success of NIWAW activities in previous years. NIWAW 8 events are designed to focus on the important roles the Federal government must play to help the U.S. deal with invasive weed problems. We have also designed the schedule to provide ample time for attendees to meet with their Congressional delegations, individual federal agencies and each other.

NIWAW 8 Highlights

- Standing exhibits at the United States Botanic Garden Conservatory
- Sunday Kid's Fun Day Activities at the United States Botanic Garden Conservatory
- Sunday evening Orientation Session for First Time Attendees
- Monday morning breakfast and kickoff session on current national invasive weed issues.
- Tuesday and Wednesday briefings with the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and the Interior.
- Wednesday afternoon NGO Partnership Building Roundtable
- Wednesday evening reception at the United States Botanic Garden Conservatory for participants and our Washington allies to socialize in a pleasant and relaxed setting
- Thursday morning special meeting of FICMNEW (Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds)
- Briefing by the National Invasive Species Council on Thursday afternoon
- Special meetings with Federal Agencies on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons

NIWAW 8 is organized by the Invasive Weeds Awareness Coalition, a Washington D.C.-based coalition dedicated to increasing awareness of invasive weed problems and the associated research and management needs. Although some events during the week are open to the public, access to the full array of activities will require payment of a modest registration fee.

For More Details Please Visit The NIWAW 8 Website
http://www.nawma.org/niwaw/niwaw_index.htm

Four Points by Sheraton Hotel
1201 K Street NW, Washington, DC is the Headquarters Hotel for NIWAW 8

For additional information on NIWAW 8 contact:
Dr. Nelroy Jackson (951-279-7787 or nelroyjackson@sbcglobal.net)

NIWAW 8 Registration Deadline: FEBRUARY 1, 2007
Hotel Reservations (202-289-7600) Deadline: JANUARY 25, 2007

A Course on the Biology and Evolutionary Ecology of Invasive Weeds

Agronomy 517, Weed Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, a graduate course, is offered every Spring semester at Iowa State University to anyone anywhere in the (Internet) world, particularly to those who do not have access to an upper level Weed Biology course.

COURSE CONTENT. The course is founded on understanding the invasion biology of plants and weeds, the evolution of life histories, the trait basis of invasive plant evolution and success, and trade-offs among these invasive traits within specific weed species. Featured also are the role of selection by humans and disturbance; opportunities thus created in agricultural and natural habitats; the consequent processes of invasion, colonization, enduring occupation and range expansion; community assembly and plant population shifts. The course utilizes materials on the 517 web site, a textbook (*Silvertown & Charlesworth, Introduction to Plant Population Biology (2001), 4th Ed., Blackwell Science*), and weekly dialogue on the web and in the classroom among all students and the instructor.

THE E-CLASSROOM. The 517 classroom consists of a combination of local graduate students (on-cam-

pus; Iowa State University; USA) and remote WWW-Long Distance (US, Europe) students joined together in the classroom by means of weekly internet discussion questions, exams and projects. At the same time bi-weekly, on-campus, classroom discussions were available by audio-streaming technology on the 517 web site. A feature of the 2006 course was a one-time dialogue among 517 students and students in the International Ph.D. Programme in Agrobiodiversity at the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa. moderated by Dr. Prof. Paolo Barberi. The workshop was entitled **Perspectives in Agricultural Biodiversity in the Old and New Worlds**, and contributions made can be seen at this URL:

http://www.agron.iastate.edu/~weeds/BioD_Sem_06/BioDSem06HP.html

Faculty and teachers at any university are encouraged to contact Jack Dekker if they have a group of students at their institution interested in conducting an on-line discussion this coming year (anytime during February to April, 2007) on any topic related to weed biology.

STUDENTS. The diversity of the outstanding graduate students that

take this course spans a broad disciplinary, cultural and geographic range. This diversity in students provides a rich basis for understanding and discussion. Particular invasive and weed species in each student's geographic and ecological areas of interest are featured.

ENROLLMENT. 517 is offered every Spring semester (January–April). The course is taught in English, and written skills are essential. Due to the content and rigorous approach to invasion biology, and the interactive dialogue nature of the course, enrollment is limited to 12 students per year; all with approval of the instructor.

Off-campus students should contact **ISU Continuing Education Office** (www.lifelearner.iastate.edu) to enroll and arrange credit transfer to other universities.

COURSE URL:

www.agron.iastate.edu/~weeds/AG517/AG517HP.html

Interested students should contact:

Jack Dekker, Agronomy, ISU
(jdekker@iastate.edu)
(www.public.iastate.edu/~jdekker/homepage.html)

Flora ID Northwest, L. L. C. — Compact Discs

Comprehensive plant identification software and photographs for all known native and naturalized plants in 14 western and north central states and British Columbia.

This software is an easy-to-use tool for quickly identifying any plant that is growing on its own, whether or not it is a weed. It is used extensively by scientists and universities, as well as hobbyists and secondary students. Color photos are included for virtually all plant species, along with descriptive information, current scientific names and synonyms, and illustrated definitions of terms. All known native and naturalized vascular plants are included for each state or region, from grasses and flowers, to trees and ferns. A printable User's Guide and Tutorial is included in the Help program.

Statewide CDs are available for British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin. Regional CDs are available for the Pacific Northwest (seven states plus BC) and the Great Plains (the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas,

Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and the eastern portions of Montana, Wyoming and Colorado).

System requirements: Windows 98 or higher, Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher (free download), 650700 megabytes of free space on your hard drive. The CD can also run from the CD drive without installation.

Single CD price: \$99.95 for a single state or province, \$299.95 for the Pacific Northwest region, and \$249.95 for the Great Plains. A 15% discount is available for orders of 10 or more CDs shipped to the same address. Ten-site license price (includes 1 CD copy): \$330.00 for a single state or province, \$990.00 for the Pacific Northwest region, and \$825.00 for the Great Plains. Shipping and handling fee: \$6.00 per order for up to 10 CDs, and an additional \$2.00 for each CD over 10. The purchase of a Site License allows the purchaser to create a specified number of additional copies, or for the program to be used on a specified number of nodes on a network.

Price for a single state or province CD: \$105.95
Orders can be placed www.wssa.net or by calling 1-800-627-0629 ext. 297

WEED ECOLOGY IN NATURAL AND AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

BOOK REVIEW

Booth, Barbara D., Stephen D. Murphy, and Clarence J. Swanton
CABI Publishing, Cambridge, MA. 301 pp. ISBN 0-85199-528-4

Written primarily as a text for an undergraduate weed ecology course, this book provides a comprehensive description of why weeds occur where they do in natural and agricultural environments. Compared to most weed science texts, this book is unique in that its content is exclusively devoted to ecological aspects of weed science. Other texts that purportedly have a weed ecology emphasis often include a section on weed management/control, whereas the authors of this book clearly state that they "have made no attempt to discuss weed management and control." Therefore, this book goes beyond other weed science texts with similar subject matter by providing more in-depth descriptions of weed dynamics.

The book is divided into 15 chapters designed for a 15-week-long semester such that each chapter would be covered during a week of class. The chapters are arranged in five sections which include: (i) introduction, (ii) population ecology, (iii) interaction between populations, (iv) community ecology, and (v) conclusion. Each chapter begins with a list of concepts that serve as an overview of the chapter. At the end of each chapter there is a list of questions, the first of which refers to a weed that the student chooses to study. The idea is that the ecological principles learned from a chapter can be applied to a specific weed species chosen by students.

In the introduction, the authors lay the foundation for this book by defining "weed," "invader," "colonizer" and "non-native," among other terms, and how they differ or are related. Further, the authors make the distinction between the fields of ecology and weed ecology and provide a concise description of the various categories of weeds. The introduction effectively sets up the ensuing discussion on how weeds fit into natural and agricultural environments.

The book is written in a style that makes it easy to read and though a background in ecology is not necessary, an understanding of basic biology

is required. Common weed names are used throughout the book, with Latin binomials identified appropriately, which make them easy to remember. The references cited are current and the inclusion of relevant tables and figures from these citations help the authors make their points effectively. Of particular note are chapters 10 and 14 in which the authors simplify complicated statistical procedures commonly used in weed ecology research, such as multivariate analysis and ordination.

In their conclusion, the authors present two examples on how understanding weed ecology has contributed to the management of one tropical and two temperate invasive weed species. By presenting these examples the authors illustrate how an understanding of weed ecology has led to (i) improved management of invasive weed species, and (ii) development of population models that have been useful tools in spearheading research and integrated weed management.

Though the book is directed towards an undergraduate course, it can serve as a text for a graduate level course with supplemental reading assignments/texts. Because the book is specifically written for a course taught on a 15-week schedule, it may be a little awkward for use in a shorter semester, but this is not necessarily an impediment. The table of contents would be improved by adding subtitles to make it easy to find specific topics. Nonetheless, I recommend this book to all educators who teach weed ecology at all college levels. The authors are well-established researchers in weed ecology and with this book they present an outstanding tool for teaching the ecological aspects of weed science.

Reviewed by George O. Kegode, Northwest Missouri State University, Department of Agriculture, 800 University Drive, Maryville, MO 64468-6001. Email: gkegode@nwmissouri.edu.

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Regarding: Reviewer questions



NECROLOGY

LARRY R. NELSON

Larry R. Nelson, associate professor and extension specialist with the department of forestry and natural resources, died suddenly on Saturday, August 26, 2006.

Nelson began his Clemson career in 1984, establishing himself as a forest vegetation management expert and making significant contributions to the intensive management of Southern forests. He was active in numerous professional organizations, including past chair of the S.C. Forestry Council.

Nelson earned his bachelor's degree in botany from Ohio University, his master's degree in forest pathology from Duke University and his doctorate in tree physiology from Auburn University.

His funeral service will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 29, at University Lutheran Church, 111 Sloan Street in Clemson. The family will receive friends before the service, from 3 p.m. until 4:15 p.m., in the church fellowship hall.

Nelson is survived by his wife, Cindy, and son, Tyler. Condolences may be sent to the family at 168 Will Owens Drive, Central, SC 29630-9067.



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POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASSOCIATE/PROFESSOR AND RESEARCH COORDINATOR

WORK LOCATION: Sweet Potato Research Station, Chase, Louisiana

NATURE OF POSITION: The position is 80% research and 20% administration (research coordinator of the Sweet Potato Research Station). The individual will be a faculty member of the LSU AgCenter Northeast Region. Partial appointment in the LSU Department of Horticulture is available.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

Administration: The successful candidate will provide leadership for and coordinate the research programs of the Sweet Potato Research Station. In concert with the Northeast Regional Director, he/she will manage the station budget, personnel, land resources, facilities, and equipment by providing day to day administrative and budgetary leadership including allocations of labor and other resources to the various research projects at the station, hiring, supervision, and evaluation of station faculty and support personnel, and procuring supplies and major equipment. In addition, he/she will work cooperatively with other LSU AgCenter scientists and the Louisiana Sweet Potato Growers Association to address problems and increase profitability of growers through research conducted at the Sweet Potato Research Station as well as off-station sites throughout Louisiana. As resident coordinator, the successful candidate also will oversee the foundation seed production operations and sales functions of the Sweet Potato Research Station.

Research: The successful candidate will develop or continue a regionally or nationally recognized research program in cultural practice research, in post-harvest physiology/storage, or in the applicant's area of expertise with relevance to the Louisiana sweet potato industry. This will include development and documentation of a research plan of work, securing extramural funds to enhance the research

program, and timely publishing of research results in peer-reviewed journals and other appropriate outlets. The successful candidate will work closely with the regional director, LSU Department of Horticulture, and other campus-based departments to ensure that his/her sweet potato research supports the mission of the LSU AgCenter. Effective communication and collaboration with extension personnel and stakeholders are essential. Participation in regional, departmental and AgCenter committees as well as professional societies is expected as a faculty member in a land grant university.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Ph.D. in Horticulture, Plant Science, Soil Science or closely related field and research experience in a discipline relevant to the economic enhancement of the sweet potato industry is required. Coursework and experience in sweet potato production are highly desirable. Experience in supervising, managing and conducting research at a branch research station is also desirable. Good interpersonal skills and leadership abilities are required for working effectively with diverse professional and lay audiences and cooperators. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively (orally and in writing) with diverse audiences including scientific peers, producers, agrichemical company representatives, etc.

SALARY AND BENEFITS:

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. The LSU AgCenter has an attractive benefits package with a wide variety of benefit options. Current benefits offered include retirement, multiple medical insurance options, supplemental insurances (dental, life, long-term disability, accident, vision, long-term care, etc.), Tax Saver Flexible Benefits Plan (saves tax dollars on some child care and medical expenses), university holidays (14 per year, typically includes a week off at Christmas), generous annual (vacation) and sick leave benefits, Employee Assistance

Program, and possible educational leave and tuition exemption for coursework at campuses of the LSU System. Specific benefits depend on job category, percent effort and length of employment.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 16, 2006 or until suitable candidate is located.

DATE AVAILABLE: Upon completion of interview process.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Letter of application should specifically address candidate's qualification for position and provide (1) complete professional resume, (2) transcripts of all college credits, (3) three letters of recommendation, and (4) other pertinent data. Letters of recommendation should address the candidate's qualifications for the position and potential for development. Letters of recommendation should candidly evaluate both strengths and weaknesses of the applicant for the position. Submit application to:

Dr. Robert Hutchinson,
Regional Director
Scott Research and
Extension Center
212 Macon Ridge Road, Bldg. B
Winnsboro, LA 71295
Phone: 318/435-2903
Web site: www.lsuagcenter.com

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POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONTINUED from pg 18

tion waiver for up to 12 credit hours per semester valued at \$7,182 or \$19,350 for resident or non-resident students, respectively. Health insurance benefits are also provided. Numerous fellowships are available in addition to the GRA for outstanding students. Visit <http://agronomy.unl.edu/agro-gradpro/index.htm> to submit resume, letter of application, transcripts, etc. For more information contact Drs. Mark Bernards (mbernards2@unl.edu), Stevan Knezevic (sknezevic2@unl.edu), or John Lindquist (jlindquist1@unl.edu). Projects available include, but are not limited to:

1. Determine effect of transgenes (improved digestibility) from sorghum on fitness of shattercane x sorghum hybrids.
2. Evaluate the contribution of soil pathogenic fungi to the biological control of weedy and invasive plant species: quantify their effects on weed growth and population biology.
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4. Determine the interaction between soil nutrients, soil pH, and herbicides in the long-term control of invasive plant species on sandbars in the wetlands of Lewis and Clark Lake in northeast Nebraska.
5. Determine the effects of variable soil water supply on corn and weed water use and interspecific competition.
6. Determine water use efficiencies of common winter annual weeds and identify the critical period of winter annual weed control in cropping systems with limited precipitation.
7. Monitor Nebraska fields for the development of glyphosate resistant weeds and generate data from field and greenhouse trials that can be used to model the occurrence of herbicide resistant weeds and the effectiveness of strategies used to mitigate their development.

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
October 15-21, 2006	International Conference: Novel and Sustainable Weed Management in Arid and Semi-Arid Agro-Ecosystems and The Inauguration of the EWRS New Working Groups: "Weed Management in Arid and Semi-Arid Agro-Ecosystems" and "Parasitic Weeds"	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences, Rehovot, Israel	wgarid@agri.huji.ac.il http://www.agri.huji.ac.il/aridconference
November 22-24, 2006	XXVII Congress of the Mexican National Association of Weed Science (ASOMECEMA)	Hotel Corona Ensenada, Baja California	http://www.geocities.com/lain_kro/index.html
November 27-29, 2006	Canadian Weed Science Society Annual Meeting	Victoria, British Columbia, Canada	Victoria R. Brookes Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Agassiz, B.C., Canada Tel: 604-796-2221, ext. 228 brookesv@agr.gc.ca http://www.cwss-scm.ca/index.html
November 29, 2006	Canadian Weed Science Society Forestry and Industrial Vegetation Management Working Group: "Today's Silviculture, Tomorrow's Forest"	Victoria, British Columbia, Canada	http://forestry.cwss-scm.ca/index.html
December 11-14, 2006	NCWSS Annual Meeting	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	http://www.ncwss.org/
January 20-25, 2007	Southern Weed Science Society Annual Conference	Opryland Hotel Nashville, Tennessee	Robert Schmidt raschwssa@aol.com
February 5-10, 2007	WSSA Annual Meeting	Hyatt Regency on the Riverwalk San Antonio, Texas	Paul Baumann Tel: 979-845-4880 p-baumann@tamu.edu
February 25-March 2, 2007	NIWAW 8	Washington, D.C.	Dr. Nelroy Jackson Tel: 951-279-7787 nelroyjackson@sbcglobal.net http://www.nawma.org/niwaw/niwaw_index.htm
March 13-15, 2007	Western Society of Weed Science Conference	Hilton Portland & Executive Tower Portland, Oregon	Phil Banks wsws@marathonag.com Tel: 505-527-1888
April 16-18, 2007	Resistance 2007 Conference	Rothamsted Research Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 2JQ, UK	Resistance 2007 Conference Secretariat Office Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 2JQ, UK Tel: (+44) (0) 1582 763133 Fax: (+44) (0) 1582 760981 res.resistance@bbsrc.ac.uk www.rothamsted.ac.uk/Research/Resistance2007.html
September 17-21, 2007	9th International Conference on the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions Weed Science Society of Western Australia	Perth, Australia	
December 10-13, 2007	NCWSS Annual Meeting	St. Louis, Missouri	http://www.ncwss.org/
December 8-11, 2008	NCWSS Annual Meeting	Indianapolis, Indiana	http://www.ncwss.org/