

David Shaw

Period of office: 2009-10

Interestingly, my presidency was bounded by two events on either side that the board and I were involved in. The first was the first-ever joint meeting with one of our affiliated societies. During my time as president-elect and program chair, WSSA jointly met with the Southern Weed Science Society in Orlando. I was in a unique position, since the program chair for SWSS was Dan Reynolds, who was also at Mississippi State University. We spent countless hours together working out the details of how everything from award ceremonies to joint program development could work. Since the two societies use two very different models for funding activities, even determining how registration fees would work was a challenge. In the end, however, both boards were committed to seeing it work, and work well, and it did. The positive experience for all participants set the tone for interest in future joint meeting efforts. Since then, we have met jointly with the Society for Range Management, the Northeastern Weed Science Society, and the Canadian Weed Science Society.

The second major event was the creation of the special committee on Herbicide Resistance Education. Now a standing committee, this effort began under my presidency, and I was so interested in seeing its success that I agreed to chair the effort after my presidency ended. This effort led to the development of the Special Issue of Weed Science in 2012 that included the paper by Vencill et al. "Herbicide Resistance: Toward an Understanding of Resistance Development and the Impact of Herbicide-Resistant Crops", and the paper by Norsworthy et al. "Reducing the Risks of Herbicide Resistance: Best Management Practices and Recommendations". The herbicide resistance educational training modules were developed, and have been widely used, and have now been modified to target not only agronomic crops but also aquatics, turfgrass, and non-cropland weed management. It has also led to two Herbicide Resistance Summits hosted by the National Research Council and organized by WSSA. The society has been placed in a leadership role regarding science-based herbicide resistance information, so much so that the recent release by EPA of the requirements for resistance stewardship on the proposed Enlist Duo label point specifically to WSSA's recommendations on best management practices.