



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our society celebrated a great 58th annual meeting in Arlington, Virginia in February. It was a great success due to the mixture of science, graduate student activity, government inclusion, a great venue and great volunteers. It was also our initial event with our new Executive Secretary and Meeting Manager, Eric Gustafson and Interactive Management, Inc. As Meeting Manager, Eric made all the difference and we look forward to a long and productive relationship with him and IMI. We had one of our largest, non-joint meetings with 571 registered attendees generating a total of nearly 400 paper and poster submissions. Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, USDA-ARS Administrator, welcomed us to the Washington, DC area with her ideas on what USDA-ARS will look like over the next 10 years. We were exceptionally honored to have Dr. Jacobs-Young address our group. Special thanks to Dr. Carroll Johnson for suggesting and helping us contact Dr. Jacobs-Young.



Chavonda Jacobs-Young

We had a highly competitive poster contest and oral presentation contests for our graduate students. The future certainly is bright based on the performance of all of these young people. It took a substantial time investment from our judges and from our student contest chair, Marty Schraer. Thanks to these folks who are investing in our youth and our future. We had six exceptional and well attended symposia related to important and impactful subjects. These included: 1) Grade Report for New Dicamba Technology in 2017; 2) Herbicide Metabolism in Crops and Weeds: A Revisit, Current Understanding, and New Insights; 3) Learning by Listening: Herbicide Resistance Listening Sessions; 4) Pesticide Registration in the U.S. and How the WSSA Can Inform the Process; 5) Fostering Sustainable Programs to Improve Pesticide Applications and Promote Resistance Management; and 6) The State of the Weed Control Industry in 2018. We also held a Teach-

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CALL FOR 2019 SYMPOSIA

(see inside, page 3)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED from pg 1

ing Workshop again this year. Thanks to all the symposium chairs and the Program Committee for helping us put together a fantastic program.

Thanks to the board members who have finished their service this year. It has been a joy to work with Kevin Bradley (Past President), Hilary Sandler (Secretary), Rick Boydston (Treasurer), Andrew Kniss (Member At-Large), Chase Samples (Graduate Student Member), Eric Page (Canadian Weed Science Society), and Reid Smeda (North Central Weed Science Society). Thanks to all of these folks for your service to WSSA. We have some great folks coming behind them with Phil Banks (Treasurer), Darrin Dodds (Secretary), Bill Curran (Vice President), Dawn Refsell (Member-at-Large), Jess Bunckek (Graduate Student Member), Marty Schraer (Western Weed Science Society), Francois Tardif (Canadian Weed Science Society), Greg Elmore (North Central Weed Science Society), and Rakesh Chandran (Northeastern Weed Science Society). We look forward to a great year with this talented and committed group.

We are welcoming others to WSSA service this year. Mike Barrett has provided tremendous service for us as EPA Liaison. Greg Krueger has already been extremely busy as his replacement in that role and is doing a great job. Donn Shilling has decided to step down as the WSSA NIFA Fellow this year. He will be filling that role until it is filled. Currently, we are taking applications for the position and hope to have a replacement for Donn in the early summer. Thanks to both Donn and Mike for their tremendous service.

Our local arrangements could not have been in more capable hands with Phil Banks and Lee Van Wyche. I cannot thank them enough for all their hard work in putting together tours, helping with the hotel arrangements, and connecting our scientists with EPA. Lee has been doing great work in science policy as well. Between our EPA Liaison, the NIFA Fellow, and Science Policy Representative, the WSSA is as well connected in Washington, DC as we ever have been. Thanks, Lee and Phil, for all that you are doing for our society.

Our next meeting is going to be in New Orleans, February 11 to 14, 2019. Larry Steckel is working on the program as program chair and has sent out a call for symposia. Please be thinking of ideas to put forward. We are looking forward to another successful meeting.

Finally, I would like to thank Janis McFarland, our Past President, for leading us this past year. Janis has been tirelessly working to move our society forward. Thanks for creating a great template for us to follow going forward.

It is going to be a busy year. Growth regulator herbicide technology issues will certainly be at the forefront. Legislatively, we are incredibly active and we need to be. This connection will create many opportunities for our society to connect and to be a part of the conversation. Our membership is a strong and talented group of scientists. We will do our best to lead the scientific discussion toward positive outcomes on these important issues but we will need your help in support as we go forward. I look forward to working with all of you this year. We will see you in New Orleans in 2019.

Scott Senseman
President, WSSA

WSSA FUTURE MEETING SITES AND DATES

Feb. 11-14, 2019
59th Annual Meeting
Sheraton New Orleans Hotel
New Orleans, Louisiana
Larry Steckel, Chair
Email: lsteckel@utk.edu
www.wssa.net

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

THINK NEWSLETTER
Deadline for July issue
June 1, 2018

**SEND NEWSLETTER
MATERIAL TO:**
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CALL FOR SYMPOSIA

2019 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WSSA

59th Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America Sheraton New Orleans Hotel New Orleans, Louisiana • February 11–14, 2019

We are really excited about the 2019 Annual WSSA meeting to be held at the Sheraton in New Orleans, LA on February 11 – February 14, 2019.

WSSA members are invited to submit proposals for symposia. The deadline is June 15, 2018. The WSSA Board of Directors will have the difficult task of deciding which proposals to accept for the program.

The board will evaluate the proposed symposia based on the justification, the target audience, publication plans and the completeness of the proposal agenda and budget. Symposia organizers are strongly urged to consider publication of the symposium papers in one of the WSSA's journals. Publication will be one of the factors considered in selecting symposia for the meeting.

Organizers should make it clear to invited speakers that a publication is required if that is the original intent. Please see the guidelines listed below for symposia funding from WSSA. Requests for travel support can be made for non-members only.

Symposium proposals can be emailed directly to Larry Steckel (mailto:lsteckel@utk.edu) and are due June 15, 2018. If you have any questions, feel free to email or call Larry at (731) 425-4705.

SYMPOSIUM PROPOSAL

Outline of the Proposal Form 2019 Annual WSSA Meeting New Orleans, Louisiana

Title:

Organizers:

Contact Person:

Phone:

Email:

Justification and Objectives (approximately 300 words):

Target Audience:

Publication or Outreach Plans associated with symposium presentations

Associated Section(s):

Length of Proposed Program:

Proposed Titles and Speakers:

Budget Requested: (Please specify the expenditure of the

funds as opposed to submitting an overall amount. The more detailed the budget, the better the WSSA Board of Directors can evaluate the proposal.)

GUIDELINES FOR DISPOSITION OF WSSA FUNDS FOR SYMPOSIA EXPENSES

Funds are available to support symposia approved by the WSSA Board of Directors for the upcoming meeting. These funds can be used by the symposium organizers, working in conjunction with the Program Chair, for expenses incurred in securing speakers.

The following guidelines are intended to help the symposia organizers and the Program Chairs in allocating available funds. For a half-day symposium, the maximum allowable budget will be \$5000 of which up to \$1000 can be used for symposium publication costs. For a full day symposia the maximum allowable budget will be \$6000 of which up to \$2000 can be used for symposium publication costs. The funds will be allocated as necessary to partially cover travel speaker expenses.

Members of the WSSA who agree to present symposium papers **will not** be offered travel funds except in dire emergencies to be determined by the Program Chairs. An example of such a circumstance would be a WSSA member who is a renowned expert in the field of the symposium topic but who has no source of funds to attend the annual meeting in question.

No honoraria will be offered to any speaker. No more than three nights' lodging will be offered to non-member symposium speakers. All symposium speakers who are not members of WSSA will be offered free registration at the annual meeting and a free ticket to society events (other than tours) during that week. Funds for reimbursement of some, or all, travel expenses (travel, meals, and lodging) will be made available to non-member symposium speakers on the basis of need, availability of funds, and the value of the speakers to the program.

Room rates at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel for the 2019 meeting will be \$210 per night plus applicable taxes. If less than the maximum allowable funds (\$5000 for the half-day; \$6000 for a full day) are used for speaker travel ex-

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CALL FOR SYMPOSIA CONTINUED from pg 3

penses, the difference cannot be used for other purposes. Chairs should contact their intended speakers and determine their financial needs for participation. This information should be incorporated into the budget for the proposed symposium.

Symposium proposals must be submitted to the Program Chair by June 15, 2018. The WSSA Board of Directors will evaluate the submitted proposals and decide which symposia will be funded. The Program Chair will inform the organizers of the symposia selected for funding. Symposium organizers that receive funding can then proceed with offers of funding to non-member speakers. In no event should symposium organizers make commitments for more funding from WSSA greater than what was approved by the board. Symposium organizers are free to seek additional or alternate funding sources if symposia budget limits are insufficient to cover travel expenses for non-member speakers. Symposia organizers should consider publication of symposium papers in *Weed Science*, *Weed Technology* or *Invasive Plant Science Management*.

Larry Steckel, 2019 Program Chair
WSSA President-Elect

WSSA Contacts

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2019 Annual Meeting
Larry Steckel, President-Elect
lsteckel@utk.edu



JOURNAL OF AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT RESEARCH METHODS

Weed management in aquatic environments presents unique challenges that are not commonly faced in weed science research. This publication contains 14 chapters from leading researchers to explain the difficulties and detail how to generate repeatable data in aquatic systems.

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From Our Annual Meeting

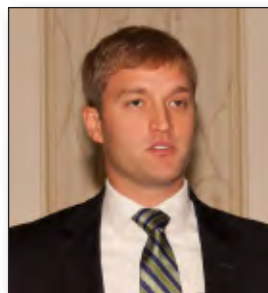
2018 WSSA AWARDS



Christy L. Sprague
Outstanding Extension Award



Jason Norsworthy
Outstanding Research Award



Chris Meyer, Outstanding
Graduate Student Award



Prashant Jha, Outstanding
Early Career Weed Scientist



Mark Peterson
Outstanding Industry Award



Amit Jhala
Outstanding Reviewer Award



Nicholas Korres
Outstanding Reviewer Award



Anita Dille
Outstanding Teacher Award



Phillip Stahlman
WSSA Public Service Award



Rafael De Prado
Honorary Membership



Hugh Beckie
WSSA Fellow Award



Jason Norsworthy
WSSA Fellow Award



Outstanding Paper Award, Invasive Plant Science and Management
Invasion Shadows: The Accumulation and Loss of Ecological Impacts from an Invasive Plant

L-R: Jacob Barney, Virginia Tech and Daniel Tekiela, University of Wyoming

Outstanding Paper Award, Weed Science
Evaluation of Dicamba Persistence Among Various Agricultural Hose Types Plant and Cleanout Procedures Using Soybean (*Glycine max*) as a Bio-Indicator

L-R: Daniel Reynolds, Mississippi State University; Gary Cundiff, Valent USA; and Thomas Mueller, University of Tennessee



Outstanding Paper Award, Weed Technology
Influence of Cover Crops on Management of *Amaranthus* spp. in Glyphosate- and Glufosinate-Resistant Soybean

L-R: Lawrence Steckel, University of Tennessee; Jason Norsworthy, University of Arkansas; Doug Spaunhorst, USDA-ARS Sugarcane Research Unit; Kevin Bradley, University of Missouri; and Bryan Young, Purdue University
 Not pictured: Mark Loux, Ohio State University; Bill Johnson, Purdue University; Anthony Dobbels, Ohio State University; and Matheus Palhano, Monsanto.



Ian Burke
 Washington State University
 Retiring Associate Editor,
 Weed Technology

For more information on the awards:
<http://wssa.net/2018/02/weed-science-society-of-america-announces-2018-award-winners>

The WSSA would like to thank Joseph Omielan, who generously volunteered his time and talents to furnish the photographs included in this Newsletter.

WSSA 2018 Student Contest Winners

For more information on the awards:

<http://wssa.net/2018/03/wssa-recognizes-outstanding-student-weed-scientists>



Scatt Bales



Ethann Barnes



Marlon Bastiani



Jodi Boe



Aaron Brooker



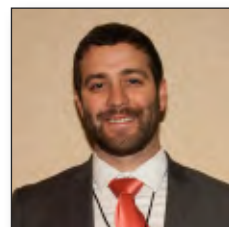
John Buol



Zachary Carpenter



Oliver Carter



Drake Copeland



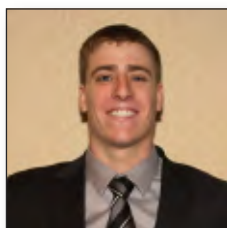
Brian Dintelmann



Shea Farrell



Meghan Grguric



Garrison Gundy



Marshall Hay



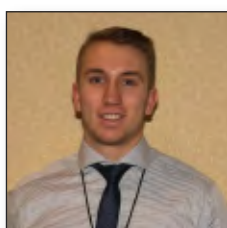
Niels Jorgensen



Anita Kupper



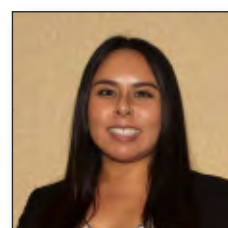
Margaret McCollough



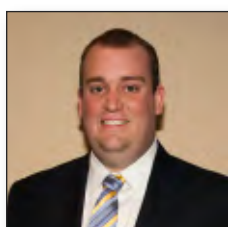
Brendan Metzger



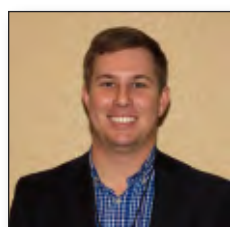
Chris Meyer



Elizabeth Mosqueda



Eric Oseland



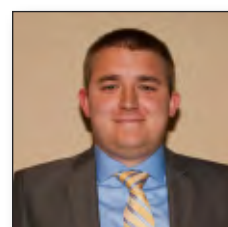
Michael Plumblee



Michael Probst



Neeta Soni



Derek Whalen

More Photos From Our Annual Meeting



2018-2019 Board of Directors



Monday Botanical Garden Tour



Passing of the Gavel

Monday Welcome and Awards Reception



Tuesday BASF Reception



Tuesday Poster Session



WASHINGTON REPORT

by Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

CONGRESS AVOIDS SEQUESTRATION WITH 2-YEAR BUDGET AGREEMENT

On February 9, Congress approved a budget blueprint for FY 2018 and FY 2019 that raised the sequestration caps on defense and nondefense discretionary spending by nearly \$300 billion over two years, with nondefense discretionary spending – the biggest source of research funding – getting a \$63 billion boost in FY 2018 and an additional \$68 billion in FY 2019. The agreement passed in the Senate (71-28) and House (240-186) and was signed into law by President Trump.

CONGRESS APPROVES FY 2018 OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS

After several weeks of negotiations following the 2-year budget agreement, the House voted 256-167 and the Senate voted 65-32 to approve the bill that distributes \$1.3 trillion in funding for the remainder of FY 2018. The President signed the bill on March 23. The federal government was operating under a Continuing Resolution since Oct. 1, 2017.

The omnibus appropriations legislation provides either increased or level spending for most of the science agencies. Agricultural research programs, including the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), will receive \$3.03 billion, an increase of \$138 million over FY 2017 and rejects the Administration's proposal to close 17 ARS locations. The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) is funded at \$400 million, \$25 million over FY 2017 and the Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education (SARE) program is funded at \$35 million, an increase of \$8 mil-

lion over FY 2017. The Hatch Act (\$243M), Smith Lever b & c (\$300M), IR-4 (\$11.9M) and Crop Protection and Pest Management (\$20M) programs are all level funded compared to FY 2017.

The Aquatic Plant Control program in the Army Corp of Engineers was appropriated \$5 million in FY 2018, a \$1 million increase over FY 2017, plus an additional \$1 million was designated for flowering rush control. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the National Sea Grant Program will receive \$300 million and \$65 million, respectively, which is at or just above 2017 levels.

WILDFIRE FUNDING FIX IN FY2018 OMNIBUS

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue expressed his appreciation for the work of Congress to find a bipartisan fix for the way the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is funded for fighting wildfires. "The fire funding fix, which has been sought for decades, is an important inclusion in the omnibus spending bill and I commend Congress for addressing the issue," said Secretary Perdue. "Improving the way we fund wildfire suppression will help us better manage our forests. If we ensure that we have adequate resources for forest management, we can mitigate the frequency of wildfires and severity of future fire seasons. I thank Congressional leaders, with whom I've frequently discussed this issue."

The solution included in the omnibus provides a new funding structure from FY2020 through FY2027. Beginning in FY2020, \$2.25 billion of new budget authority is available to USDA and the Department of the In-

terior. The budget authority increases by \$100 million each year, ending at \$2.95 billion in new budget authority by FY2027. For the duration of the 8-year fix, the fire suppression account will be funded at the FY 2015 President's Budget request – \$1.011 billion. If funding in the cap is used, the Secretary of Agriculture must submit a report to Congress documenting aspects of the fire season, such as decision-making and cost drivers, that led to the expenditures. The omnibus includes a 2-year extension of Secure Rural Schools, providing rural counties approximately \$200 million more per year. It also provides Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act Reauthorization. The legislation also includes seven important forest management reforms, including:

- Categorical Exclusion for Wildfire Resilience Projects
- Healthy Forest Restoration Act inclusion of Fire and Fuel Breaks
- 20-year Stewardship contracts
- Cottonwood Reform
- Fire Hazard Mapping Initiative
- Fuels Management for Protection of Electric Transmission Lines
- Good Neighbor Authority Road Amendment

Until the funding solution was achieved, the fire suppression portion of the USFS budget was funded at a rolling ten-year average of appropriations, while the overall USFS budget remained relatively flat. Because fire seasons are longer and conditions are worse, the ten-year rolling fire suppression budget average kept rising, consuming a greater percentage of the total Forest Service budget each year. This increase forced the agency to take funds from prevention programs,

CONTINUED on pg 10 >>>

such as invasive species management, to cover fire suppression costs. In addition, hunting, fishing, and other recreational programs were cut to cover the costs of fire suppression.

PRIA AUTHORIZATION EXTENDED TO SEPTEMBER 30

The FY 2018 Omnibus spending bill temporarily extended the authorization for the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) to Sep. 30, 2018. PRIA sets a fee schedule for registrants (~\$46 million in FY 2017) in exchange for specified time frames for regulatory decisions on low risk products and increased funds for pesticide education and training. PRIA reauthorization was easily expected in 2017, but environmentalists have blocked its passage to protest other unrelated regulatory decisions by EPA. The registrant fees provided under PRIA support approximately 200 positions in the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs, which is just over one-third of their workforce.

MANY FEDERAL AGENCY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS STILL VACANT

Over a year into the Trump Administration, many federal agency leadership positions remain unfilled for a variety of reasons. Of the 642 key positions requiring Senate confirmation, 293 have been confirmed by the Senate as of March 23. Just under half of the key leadership positions at USDA, DOI and EPA have Senate confirmed appointments. The Washington Post and Partnership for Public Service are [tracking roughly 600 key executive branch nominations](#) through the confirmation process.

NORTHEY CONFIRMED TO LEAD USDA FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

The Senate confirmed Bill Northey

to serve as USDA Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation on voice vote on Feb. 27 after Sen. Ted Cruz (TX) lifted his nearly six month hold on Northey's nomination. Unfortunately Northey was used as a political football by Sen. Cruz and the oil industry in an on-going tiff over the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Under Secretary Perdue's reorganization plan for USDA, Northey will oversee the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Risk Management Agency (RMA).

Northey is a corn and soybean farmer from Spirit Lake, IA. He is a 1981 graduate of Iowa State University with a degree in agricultural business and also received an M.B.A. from Southwest Minnesota State University in 2004. Northey served as president of the National Corn Growers Association from 1995-96 and was co-founder and president of Innovative Growers, LLC, a farmer-owned and managed group designed to capitalize on demand for the production of specialty grain products. Northey had served as Iowa's Secretary of Agriculture since 2006, having won races in 2006, 2010 and 2014. Some of you may remember Bill when he addressed NCWSS members at the 2016 meeting in Des Moines. He will have a key role in shaping the 2018 Farm Bill, which Congress will start to move forward on shortly.



IR-4 PROJECT CONTRIBUTES \$9.4 BILLION TO GDP

Since 1963, the IR-4 Project has been the major resource for supplying pest management tools for specialty crop growers by developing research data to support new EPA tolerances and labeled product uses. Since its inception,

IR-4 Project data has supported the approval of nearly 50,000 conventional reduced risk pesticides and biopesticides in fruits, vegetables, nuts, herbs, and ornamental crops. A recently [updated study](#) out of Michigan State University shows that the IR-4 Project supports over 95,000 U.S. jobs and contributes about \$9.4 billion to annual gross domestic product (GDP). Considering that the IR-4's core budget is only around \$15 million annually, this is an incredible return on taxpayer investment. **Dr. Jerry Baron** (photo), Executive Director of the IR-4 Project, recently presented a seminar on Capitol Hill titled "[Keeping the Good Food, Good](#)" where he discussed the role of the IR-4 Project in preventing pest damage and food waste in specialty crops.



EPA CONCLUDES GLYPHOSATE NOT CARCINOGENIC

In late December, EPA released its [human health draft risk assessment and supporting documents](#) that concludes that glyphosate is not likely to be carcinogenic to humans and found no other meaningful risks to human health when the product is used according to the label.

On Feb. 27, EPA officially opened a 60 day comment period on both its human health and ecological draft risk assessments for glyphosate. Comments are due April 30, 2018. Details are at: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0361>

CALIFORNIA JUDGE STRIKES PROP 65 LABELING REQUIREMENT FOR GLYPHOSATE

On Feb. 27, a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction prohibiting California from implementing its

CONTINUED on pg 11 >>>

Proposition 65 labeling requirement for glyphosate. This injunction was sought out by more than a dozen agricultural groups, including commodity organizations, industry representatives and eleven attorneys general across the U.S. The National Association of Wheat Growers was the lead plaintiff in the case. The decision will halt California's labeling requirement until a final ruling is issued later in court.

The judge stated that given the heavy weight of evidence in the record that glyphosate is not in fact known to cause cancer, the required warning is factually inaccurate and controversial. California initiated the Prop 65 labeling requirement based on the IARC finding in March 2015, which we now know edited out non-carcinogenic findings and was a case of gross scientific negligence. "It is inherently misleading for a warning to state that a chemical is known to the state of California to cause cancer based on the finding of one organization," said the judge, "when apparently all other regulatory and governmental bodies have found the opposite, including the EPA, which is one of the bodies California law expressly relies on in determining whether a chemical causes cancer."

EPA: FOIA REQUESTED AND SUED AT RECORD PACE

From Jan. 20 to Dec. 31, 2017, EPA received 11,431 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, up about 17 percent compared with an equivalent period during Obama's last year in office, according to an analysis by the Project on Government Oversight. Likewise, outside groups have filed 55 lawsuits against Trump's EPA for public records thus far. As a comparison, George W. Bush's EPA faced only 57 FOIA lawsuits during his entire 8-year presidency.

HURRICANES HAMMER MONARCHS BUT CONSERVATION EFFORTS CONTINUE

On March 5, the overwintering area for monarch butterflies in Mexico was reported as 2.48 ha, which is down for the second year in a row from the 4.01 ha occupied in 2015–16. By all accounts, there were some excellent monarch numbers reported in the upper Midwest last summer, but the occurrence of two tropical storms and three hurricanes during the monarch fall migration was attributed to the decline.

On-going monarch conservation efforts such as the Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy continues with plans to establish 1.3 billion new milkweed stems over the next 20 years in the upper Midwest monarch breeding areas. In Iowa alone, the [Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium](#) seeks to establish approximately 480,000 to 830,000 acres of monarch habitat by 2038. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working to [assess the effectiveness these monarch conservation efforts](#) and has until June of 2019 to determine whether the monarch should be listed under the Endangered Species Act.

NEW CAST ISSUE PAPER: REGULATORY BARRIERS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF INNOVATIVE AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY BY SMALL BUSINESSES AND UNIVERSITIES

Despite foundational contributions requiring considerable public resource commitments for genetically engineered (GE) crop innovation and development, academic institutions and small private entities have been almost entirely excluded from the agricultural biotechnology market.

This issue paper explains the problem by examining several key topics:

- the history of GE or genetically

modified development and regulations

- evidence that genetic engineering in plants is safe and beneficial
- the need for better record keeping and communication about management and practices
- the problem of inconsistent and costly regulations—by U.S. and international agencies
- poor regulatory practices that hinder production and commerce—and lead to trade disputes
- unfair labeling practices that influence consumer perceptions and negatively affect research and development—especially for academic institutions and small businesses

Unreasonable barriers result in biotech innovation projects that have been slowed down or shelved. Regulations need to align with the stated public policy goal of reasonably assuring safety—in a way that is commensurate with the degree of risk posed. Otherwise, public, academic, and small business entities will continue to be frustrated in using these safe and beneficial tools. The 35-year history of public and small private investment in agricultural biotechnology will continue to be squandered.

This [CAST Issue Paper \(IP59\)](#) and its [companion Ag quickCAST](#) are available online at the [CAST website](#), along with many of CAST's other scientific publications. CAST Issue Papers, Commentaries, and Ag quickCASTs are FREE.

FEDERAL RULE DELAYS 2015 WOTUS "APPLICABILITY DATE" TO FEBRUARY 6, 2020

The EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers (The Agencies) finalized a rule on January 31 that delays the "Applicability Date" of the 2015 Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule. The "Applicability Date" Rule was intended to

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avoid confusion with a recent Supreme Court ruling regarding federal court jurisdiction and give the Agencies additional time to carry out the President's two-step Executive Order on WOTUS issued last year.

The comment period for the Agencies proposed "step-one" rule to rescind the 2015 WOTUS rule closed in September 2017 and a final rule could be released at any time. The Agencies proposed "step-two" rule to revise the definition of "waters of the United States" is expected out later this year.

NPDES FIX LEGISLATION

There is a renewed effort on the Senate side to pass a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) fix bill, S. 340, which is the companion bill to H.R. 953 on the House side that was passed on May 24, 2017. The bills amend FIFRA and the Clean Water Act to prohibit the EPA from requiring duplicative permitting under the NPDES for a pesticide application into navigable waters if the pesticide is already approved for aquatic use under FIFRA. The six national and regional weed science societies endorsed letters of support to both the [House on H.R. 953](#) and the [Senate on S. 340](#) and recently endorsed a letter urging the House Ag Committee to include the NPDES-fix language in the 2018 Farm Bill.



FEBRUARY 26–MARCH 2, 2018

We had another successful National Invasive Species Awareness Week that was held in conjunction with a [3 day meeting](#) of the federal Invasive Species Advisory Council (ISAC). Please visit www.nisaw.org to check out the activities that occurred during the week.

One Capitol Hill seminar that I was particularly excited about was "*Gene Drives 101: Perspectives on Potential Invasive Species Management*" led by Heath Packard, Director of Government and Public Relations for Island Conservation. They are part of the Genetic Biocontrol of Invasive Rodents (GBIRD) program, an international partnership investigating both the suitability and feasibility of gene drives as a potential tool to safely achieve island invasive species eradications.

The ISAC meeting was also productive and there was good discussion on the priorities the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) should consider in drafting their 2019–2021 invasive species management plan.

Next year will be the 20th NISAW! If you are interested in getting involved with NISAW or would like to sponsor events during the week, please contact me at Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net or Rick Otis with the Reduce Risks from Invasive Species Coalition (RRISC) at rick.otis@rrisc.org.

WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION LISTS "TOP 50 INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE WEST"

On March 15, the Western Governors Association (WGA) released its first ever list of their top 25 terrestrial and aquatic invasive species. Weeds dominated both the terrestrial (18 of

25) and aquatic (10 of 25) categories and included the #1 ranked invasive species on both land (*Tamarix spp.*, saltcedar) and water (*Myriophyllum spicatum*, Eurasian watermilfoil). [Download the complete list.](#)

2018 SURVEY OF THE MOST COMMON AND TROUBLESOME WEEDS NOW AVAILABLE

The National and Regional Weed Science Societies survey of the most common and troublesome weeds in the U.S. and Canada is now available at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018weedsurvey>

The 2018 survey focuses on weeds in the following areas:

- 1) Aquatic: irrigation & flood control
- 2) Aquatic: lakes, rivers, reservoirs
- 3) Aquatic: ponds
- 4) Forestry
- 5) Natural Areas: parks, wildlife refuges
- 6) Ornamentals: field nursery crops, outdoor containers, Christmas trees
- 7) Right-of-Ways: railways, roads, public utilities.

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NECROLOGY

TIMOTHY R. MURPHY 1951 – 2018

It is with sadness and regret that we announce the passing of Dr. Timothy R. Murphy, Professor Emeritus and Extension Agronomist - Weed Science with the University of Georgia at the Griffin Campus. Dr. Murphy died on 13 April 2018 at the age of 66.

Dr. Murphy was born in Knoxville, Tennessee on 12 August 1951. He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard Dennis Murphy and Frances Juanita Blazier Murphy. He received his B. S. from Berea College in 1975, his M. S. and Ph.D. in 1979 and 1985, respectively, from Clemson University. Dr. Murphy was hired by the University of Georgia in 1985 and retired in 2007.



Dr. Murphy served as a technical specialist for weed science programs in turfgrasses, roadsides, non-cropland, and forages in Georgia. Dr. Murphy was the first extension specialist to be housed at the Griffin Campus and quickly established a stellar reputation of service to county agents, golf course managers, homeowners, ranchers, and various agencies responsible for roadside maintenance. An area of personal interest and excellence was weed identification. Dr. Murphy was among the best in plant identification and universally considered to be the in-house expert. This interest led to him co-authoring several superb weed identification reference books that were the classic example of successful multi-institutional collaborations among several land-grant universities. Dr. Murphy was instrumental in the implementation of in-service training sessions for Georgia County agents. These training sessions were conducted throughout the state on a recurring basis and featured quality weed science instruction in many different settings; agronomic crops, horticultural crops, aquatics, turfgrass, non-cropland, and (of course) weed identification where his weed ID quizzes were legendary. Dr. Murphy was part of the team of Georgia weed scientists who hosted the 1993 Southern Weed Science Society Weed Contest.

The highest award for a University of Georgia faculty member in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences is the D. W. Brooks Award for Excellence in Extension, which Dr. Murphy received in 1995. Dr. Murphy's stature and impact as a weed scientist were recognized by the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) in 1999 by him receiving the Outstanding Extension Award. Dr. Murphy was elected to serve on the Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS) Board of Directors as WSSA representative in 2002. His long-term service to the SWSS and the weed science discipline were recognized by the SWSS in 2009 by him receiving the Distinguished Service Award, which is now considered to be the Fellow Award. As recently as November 2017, Dr. Murphy received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Georgia Crop Production Alliance. Dr. Murphy clearly made a difference in the weed science discipline and many aspects of agriculture benefited from his service.

Dr. Murphy was always approachable, even when the demands of his career consumed every single minute of the work day. His service, availability, sense of humor, and humility continued long after he retired from the University of Georgia. For many years, he worked as a volunteer in maintenance of the physical plant at First Baptist Church of Griffin. Additionally, he volunteered as carpenter in the construction of houses built by Habitat for Humanity in the Griffin area.

While Dr. Murphy was an accomplished agricultural professional, he was first and foremost a family man. He is survived by his wife, Marguerite J. Murphy; daughter, Molly Murphy; sisters, Alice Murphy Garrison, Helen Murphy Payton, Jeanie Murphy Hogg; brothers, Michael Murphy, Jim Murphy; and nieces and nephews.

A memorial service for Dr. Murphy will be on Wednesday, 18 April 2018 at 1:00 pm at First Baptist Church, 106 W. Taylor Street, Griffin. Following the services, the family will receive friends in the church parlor. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a contribution to First Baptist Church, Building Fund, P. O. Box 908, Griffin, Georgia 30224 or to the Griffin Habitat for Humanity at <http://www.griffinhabitat.com> in memory of Dr. Murphy.



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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
July 15–18, 2018	Aquatic Plant Management Society Annual Meeting (APMS)	Hyatt Regency Hotel Buffalo, New York	www.apms.org
November 19–22, 2018	Canadian Weed Science Society Annual Meeting (CWSS)	Marriott on the Falls Niagara Falls, Ontario	www.weedscience.ca
December 3–6, 2018	North Central Weed Science Society Annual Meeting (NCWSS)	Hyatt Regency Hotel Milwaukee, Wisconsin	www.ncwss.org
January 7–10, 2019	Northeastern Weed Science Annual Meeting (NEWSS)	Delta Hotels Baltimore, Maryland	www.newss.org
February 3–7, 2019	Southern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting (SWSS)	Renaissance Oklahoma City Convention Center Hotel Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	www.swss.ws
February 11-14, 2019	Weed Science Society of America Annual Meeting (WSSA)	Sheraton New Orleans Hotel New Orleans, Louisiana	www.wssa.net
March 11–14, 2019	Western Society of Weed Science Annual Meeting (WSWS)	Hyatt Regency Downtown Denver Denver, Colorado	www.wsweedscience.org

Additional Weed Science Meetings and Events can be found at <http://wssa.net/meeting/calendar-of-meetings/>

Online course: Herbicide Physiology (PSPP 546) • Aug. 24–Dec. 14, 2018

- Explore the fundamental physiology, biochemistry, and molecular biology of **herbicides and their effects on plants**,
- Understand how **herbicide resistance** evolves and its physiological mechanisms,
- Examine the processes by which herbicides are discovered/developed for **commercial release**, and
- Learn about practical **herbicide resistance** management strategies.

3 graduate credits • See Web for pre-requisites, tuition and admission guidelines

Instructors include: William Dyer, Plant Sciences & Plant Pathology, Montana State University; Tracy Sterling, Land Resources & Environmental Sciences, MSU; and Sarah Ward, Soil & Crop Sciences, Colorado State University.



Herbicide Mode of Action

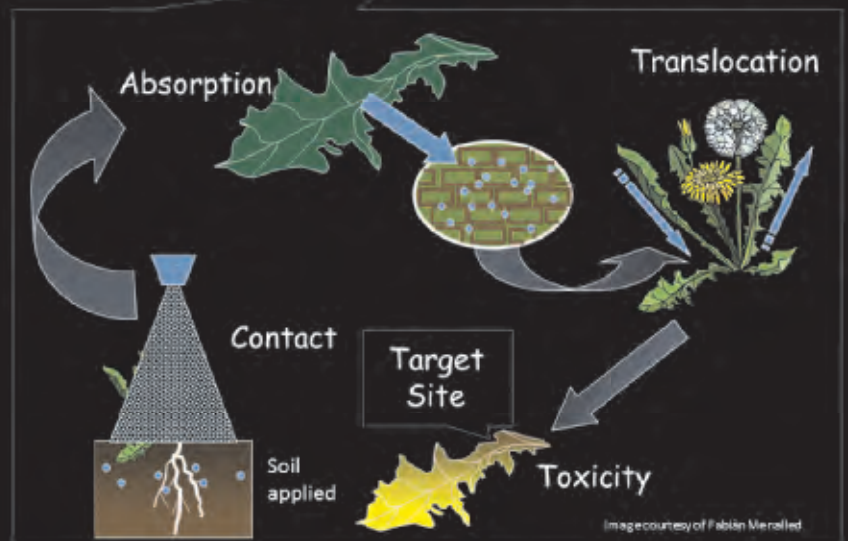


Image courtesy of Fabian Merellid