It doesn’t seem like nearly a year since I began my term as WSSA President in Baltimore. It has been an exciting year with many activities, most of which were described in previous newsletters. I will be presenting a brief summary of major developments within the Society during the WSSA Business Meeting in Vancouver. I encourage you to attend.

One recent development that I am pleased to report is that Sarah Ward has agreed to serve as the next WSSA Director of Publications. Sarah’s appointment has been approved by the WSSA Board of Directors and she has been working with Jim Anderson to assure a smooth transition. I am very pleased that Sarah has agreed to take on this important role within the Society. On behalf of WSSA, I wish to express our appreciation to Jim Anderson for his 6 years of service in this role. Jim has provided outstanding leadership for our publications and has made several significant improvements over this period. Most notably, he was instrumental in the establishment of our newest journal, *Invasive Plant Science and Management*. Jim’s efforts, along with those of Editor Joe DiTomaso, were critical to the successful launch of this journal, which is gaining momentum and has received a Thomas Reuters Impact Factor.

It is my pleasure to welcome two newly elected members to the WSSA Board of Directors. Kevin Bradley has been elected Vice President and Larry Steckel has been elected Secretary. Both new members will begin their terms on the Board at the Thursday meeting in Vancouver. Congratulations to both Kevin and Larry.

I would like to thank all the members of the WSSA Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and Journal Editors, Associate Editors, and Reviewers for their contributions to the Society. Much of the work of the Society is done by members who are volunteering their time. In addition, the financial contributions of WSSA Individual Members and Sustaining Members make it possible for the Society to

CONTINUED on pg 2
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE CONTINUED from pg 1

publish three journals, have a Director of Science Policy and an EPA Liaison, and
to have high quality annual meetings. It’s been an honor and a pleasure to serve
as WSSA President for this past year. The next President’s Message will be
written by incoming WSSA President Joe DiTomaso. Best wishes to Joe as he
begins his year as WSSA President. I look forward to seeing many of you at the
joint WSSA/CWSS Meeting in Vancouver.

Jim Kells
President, WSSA

2014 WSSA Committee Report Template
Summary for 2013 and Action Plan for 2014

Committee Code and Name:
Committee Chair:
Committee Members – 2013:

Board Coordinator:
Committee Members Rotating Off:

Summary of Activities
• What were the committee’s goals for 2013?
• List the committee’s accomplishments (since the last annual meeting):
• What information was posted on the WSSA website?
• What amount of funds were requested? How much was spent?
• What was the impact of the committee activities/accomplishments on the
  following: membership, publication, policy, legislation, and/or education?
• What is the current state of the committee’s projects and activities?

2014 Plan for Committee Activities
• Goals for 2014:
• Plan of Action:

Recommendations for Board/Society Action:
• Funds requested for 2014:
• Other requests for the Board:

WSSA FUTURE MEETING
SITES AND DATES

2014
Vancouver, BC, Canada
February 3–6, 2014
Hyatt Regency
Joint meeting of WSSA and
Canadian Weed Science Society

2015
Lexington, Kentucky

2016
San Juan, Puerto Rico

2017
Tucson, Arizona

WSSA HOME PAGE
ACCESS AT:
www.wssa.net

THINK NEWSLETTER
Deadline for April issue
March 1, 2014

WSSA NEWSLETTER
VOL. 42, NO. 1 JANUARY, 2014
Published quarterly by the Weed
Science Society of America. Subscrip-
tion included in the annual dues paid
by members of the Society. Address
correspondence and information to:
NEW EDITOR INFORMATION
TO BE ANNOUNCED
GOOD NEWS FOR FY 2014 USDA BUDGET

House and Senate appropriators are on the verge of passing an actual omnibus appropriations package. It’s been pretty dismal over the past couple of years with continuing resolutions, sequestration, and no clear policy guidance. The conference agreement numbers released on Jan. 13 for USDA’s research, education and extension initiatives were all quite positive.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is slated for $1.277 billion, which is over $100 million more than last year’s sequester levels and the highest since 2010. The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) will receive its highest appropriation ever of $316.4 million. The funding for federal land-grant capacity programs for research and extension will also receive some of the largest appropriations in recent memory. Smith-Lever 3b & c programs will get $300 million, the highest level in at least a decade. The same can be said for the Hatch Act which will be funded at $243.7 million in FY 2014. The Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program will also receive its highest-ever funding of $22.6 million.

There is a new line item under the Integrated Activities section of the USDA NIFA budget called “Crop Protection/Pest Management Program.” This line item combines the following five programs: Extension IPM Coordinators (Smith-Lever 3d), Regional IPM Centers, the Expert IPM System, the IPM Grants program, and the Pest Management Alternatives Program (PMAP). The Crop Protection program is funded at $17.1 million in FY 2014. Congressional appropriators accepted USDA’s Crop Protection proposal the second time around since, much to our relief, it did not include the IR-4 program. Last year, the House and Senate appropriators rejected USDA’s proposal because IR-4 would have incurred indirect cost recovery of approximately 30 percent if they were moved from the Research activities account to the Integrated activities account. Under the USDA NIFA budget for FY 2014, IR-4 will receive $11.9 million, which is over $1 million more than last year’s sequester amount.

Other USDA agencies also fared pretty well. The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and Economic Research Service (ERS) all received their largest appropriation since 2011. In FY 2014, APHIS will receive $821.7 million, ARS will receive $1.122 billion, and ERS will receive $78.05 million. The House and Senate did reject ARS’s proposal to reallocate funds and it’s proposal to close six more research locations in FY 2014.

APPROPRIATORS INCLUDE $4 MILLION FOR AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL RESEARCH

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Aquatic Plant Control Research Program (APCRP) is the nation’s only federally authorized program for research and development of science-based management strategies for invasive aquatic weeds. For three years in a row now, the Administration has not requested any funding for APCRCP. However, the Senate Energy and Water appropriators have understood the true value of APCRCP and have recommended funding the program each year. It would be a grave mistake by the Corps’ to eliminate the expertise and institutional knowledge encompassed by APCRCP. Thankfully, the FY 2014 omnibus appropriations bill includes $4 million for APCRCP.

FARM BILL FATE “UDDERLY” UNCERTAIN

Having grown up on a dairy farm near Green Bay, Wisconsin, I couldn’t resist using some cow humor in these trying times. There have been a number of contentious issues delaying Farm Bill negotiations like food stamps and commodity support programs, but the biggest sticking point has been dairy policy. There are two entrenched camps of thought surrounding the dairy farm safety net. One is supply management and the other is margin insurance. Both have their good points and not-so-good points, but it appears that a new margin insurance plan could be the compromise. For USDA to hold down the cost of the margin insurance, the program’s rates would be scaled back so that they do not provide an incentive to overproduce when market prices are low and costs are high. Let’s just hope the negotiations keep “Mooo-ving”.

2,4-D RESISTANT CROPS DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

On Jan. 3, USDA-APHIS released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) as part of its review to determine whether to deregulate genetically engineered corn and soybean plants that are resistant 2,4-D. APHIS is holding a virtual public meeting on Jan. 29, 2014, from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. EST to receive comments on the DEIS, which analyzes the potential environmental impacts of one corn and two soybean varieties genetically engineered by Dow AgroSciences to be resistant to 2,4-D, and several other herbicides.

APHIS developed the DEIS after conducting a thorough scientific analysis and considering public comments received during a scoping
process that helped inform the development of the DEIS. APHIS will consider all public comments made during the virtual meeting and through www.Regulations.gov before finalizing the DEIS and preliminary plant pest risk assessment, and making its final regulatory decision on the Dow petitions. The public comment period is open from now through February 24, 2014.

For complete details and supporting documents, please go to: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology/meetings_24d_deis.shtml

SUPREME COURT DENIES HEARING ORGANIC SEED GROWERS HYPOTHETICAL LAWSUIT

In March 2011, seed and organic groups and farmers preemptively filed a lawsuit against Monsanto seeking a ruling that they could not be held liable for patent infringement should their products or fields be found to be contaminated with Monsanto’s GMO products.

The lawsuit is not based on an actual dispute over a farmer getting caught with Monsanto’s licensed seed in a field (i.e. the Bowman case where he harvested his GMO beans and then re-planted them next year), but rather an effort to bar such actions from being initiated by Monsanto. The district court dismissed the suit in February 2012, agreeing with an argument made by Monsanto that the plaintiffs lacked subject matter jurisdiction, finding “it is clear that these circumstances do not amount to a substantial controversy and that there has been no injury traceable to defendants.” Later in 2012, the U.S. Court of Appeals also dismissed the case, thus the organic farmers and seed growers tried one last desperation attempt with the Supreme Court.

Monsanto has repeatedly told the plaintiffs that the company has no desire or intent to sue if their patented seed or traits are found in a farmer’s field as a result of inadvertent means. Both the constitution and the Declaratory Judgment Act “do not permit federal courts to exercise jurisdiction over such artificial and hypothetical disagreements, engineered solely to advance a political position.” The Supreme Court’s decision not to review the case brings closure on the matter.

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<td>Joint WSSA and Canadian Weed Science Society Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Vancouver, Canada</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wssa.net">www.wssa.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 13–16, 2014</td>
<td>Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Savannah, Georgia</td>
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<td>February 8–11, 2016</td>
<td>Joint WSSA and Southern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting</td>
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