

# CALL FOR SYMPOSIA

## 2015 Annual Meeting of the WSSA

**55th Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America  
Hilton Lexington Downtown and Lexington Convention Center  
Lexington, Kentucky • February 9–12, 2015**

WSSA members are invited to submit proposals for symposia at the 55th Annual Meeting to be held in Lexington, Kentucky on February 9–12, 2015. As you prepare your proposal, realize that the Board of Directors will have the difficult task of deciding which proposals to accept for the program. The WSSA board will evaluate the proposed symposia based on how well they are justified, the target audience, and the completeness of the proposal agenda and budget. For a half-day symposium, the maximum allowable budget will be \$5000, of which up to \$1000 can be used for symposium publication costs, provided they are published in a WSSA journal. For a full-day symposium, the maximum allowable budget will be \$6000, of which up to \$2000 can be used for symposium publication costs. Full day symposia may not be feasible depending on the number of oral papers and room limitations, so please also indicate how a full day symposium might be condensed into a half-day program. Symposia organizers are strongly urged to consider publication of the symposium papers in one of the WSSA's journals. Publication of the symposium 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 organizers' intent. Chairs should also determine which authors will receive page waivers. Typically, this is reserved for invitations to non-WSSA members. Make sure that all authors are aware of page fees.

Please see the guidelines listed below for symposia funding from WSSA. Requests for travel support can be made for non-members only. Room rates at the Hilton Lexington Downtown will be \$156 plus tax. Please estimate travel and lodging costs for invited speakers. **Symposium proposals can be e-mailed directly to Dallas Peterson (dpeterson@ksu.edu) and are due June 1, 2014. If you have any questions, feel free to email or give me a call (785-532-0405).**

### **SYMPOSIUM PROPOSAL**

#### **2015 Annual WSSA Meeting**

#### **Lexington, Kentucky**

#### **Outline of the Proposal:**

Title:

Organizers:

Contact Person: Phone: Email:

Justification and Objectives (approximately 300 words):

Target Audience:

Associated Section(s):

Length of Proposed Program:

Proposed Titles and Speakers:

Budget Requested: (Please specify to the extent possible 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 (\$6000 with \$2000 for publication costs for full day symposium).

Although funds have been budgeted for the symposia, the goal is to spend the least amount necessary to obtain excellent symposia speakers. The funds will be allocated as necessary to partially cover travel expenses of speakers. Members of WSSA who agree to present symposium papers **will not** be offered travel funds except in dire emergencies to be determined by the Program 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.

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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. Funds can only be used to pay for speaker travel expenses. If less than the maximum allowable funds (\$5000 and \$6000 for the half-day and full-day symposia, respectively) are used for speaker travel expenses, the difference cannot be used for other purposes.

Symposium organizers need to consider travel costs when considering invitations to speakers located far from the meeting site. Whereas international speakers who are experts in the field of the symposium topic might receive a higher priority for expenses than domestic speakers, the cost of travel and needs of the individuals should be more important considerations. For example, a Canadian speaker traveling from Ontario to New York might incur lower costs and have a lesser need for funding than a California speaker also traveling to New York. Because of the limited budget for symposia expenses and the high cost of travel for many

international speakers, symposium organizers should strongly weigh the value of international speakers unless other arrangements for funding their travel can be made.

Symposia chairs should contact their intended speakers and determine their financial needs for participation no later than May 1. This information should be incorporated into the budget for the proposed symposium. Symposium proposals must be submitted to the Program Chairs by June 1. The WSSA Board of Directors will evaluate the submitted proposals and decide which symposia will be approved and 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 than is approved by the board. Symposium organizers are free to seek additional or alternate funding sources if symposia budget limits are insufficient to cover all of the travel expenses for non-member speakers. Symposia organizers should seriously consider publication of symposium papers in *Weed Science*, *Weed Technology* or *Invasive Plant Science Management*.

Dallas Peterson, 2015 Program Co-Chair  
WSSA President-Elect

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED from pg 2

Among the other new items of the society, the Board of WSSA and all the regional societies, as well as the Aquatic Plant Management Society, approved a letter that was sent to EPA outlining our recommendations on mode of action labeling for herbicides. In addition, all the societies approved and signed a letter sent to USDA ARS which emphasized the importance of weed science as they develop their five-year priority plan. We plan to visit the new Research Leader in April or May to discuss the issues related to Weed Science in the US. Thanks to the leadership of Dale Shaner, in 2014 the new *Herbicide Handbook* (10th edition) will be out in print. We expect that to

occur by summer. Eventually we will also have an electronic version available, but this will be a bit after the hard copies are printed. You should see an advertisement for the *Herbicide Handbook* in the next few months. The Board also approved of a new committee called the Past President's Corner that will document the experiences of past presidents and record in perpetuity their thoughts and issues that presented themselves during their terms. For the first time next year, in Lexington, there will be a graduate student poster contest. This is currently being organized by the students. And finally, we will be presenting one additional award at

future WSSA meetings starting next year. The Board approved of an award called the Weed Science Public Service award which will be presented to a member that goes above their responsibility to educate or reach out to regulators, legislators, government agencies, media, trade groups, or other non-traditional clientele. You will hear more about this later.

In parting, I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President. It is an honor and promises to be a very exciting year. Should you have any concerns or ideas, please do not hesitate to discuss them with me.

Joe DiTomaso  
President, WSSA