

Report to the Weed Science Society of America from the Southern Weed Science Society
David Jordan, SWSS Representative
2007 Winter Report, February, 2008

The following items were discussed at the SWSS winter BOD meeting held January 30, 2008. The report on WSSA activities provided to the SWSS BOD is provided at the end of this report.

1. **SWSS/WSSA joint meeting in 2009.** SWSS and WSSA had agreed in principal to a joint meeting but all details not worked out. Both organizations approaching a joint meeting on a “good faith basis”. It was suggested that Schmidt drive to Chicago for the 2008 WSSA meeting and that Executive Secretaries and officers of both societies meet and work out details of joint meeting.

One significant concern is that the processes and times lines for title submission and abstract submission vary greatly between the two societies. The SWSS felt strongly that there should be one procedure for both societies for the joint meeting. The SWSS suggests that editors of both organizations, along with computer application committees, be charged with working on ideas of how to handle the above concern and bring ideas to January 2008 meeting of SWSS Board. The proposal should include all aspects of the meeting, including title and abstract submission. Program chairs of the two societies and the abstract editor will address this issue at the annual WSSA meeting.

2. **SWSS Meeting Structure and 2008 Conference Report:** The 2008 meeting was held January 28-30, 2008 in Jacksonville, FL with the theme *Weed Science – Share Our Knowledge*. Approximately 300 people attended the meeting, down by about 15 people from the 2007 meeting in Nashville. Symposia at the 2008 meeting included *New Technologies in Weed Science* and for the Graduate Students. The Quiz Bowl was held for a second year and was well attended. The SWSS BOD suggested that the program chairs for the 2009 joint meeting consider having this event as well.

Weed ID Book update: *Weeds of the South* will be published by UGA Press and has been sent to two external reviewers. The book is still scheduled to be released in early 2009.

Planning for Joint SWSS/WSSA Meeting

The following items were included in the summer report, and several of these items will be addressed at the 2008 WSSA BOD meeting.

The following was taken from e-mail from Dan Reynolds to David Monks: *David Shaw and I have had several preliminary discussions regarding the 2009 joint meeting. I have attached a document containing many of our thoughts and ideas regarding that meeting. We are supplying this information to both organizations to let them see what our thought process has been. We know that the uncertainties involved in this process has made many people uneasy. We want to be as open and transparent as possible to ensure a successful meeting for both organizations. David Shaw has forwarded the attached document to the WSSA Board and I would ask that you do the same for the SWSS Board. We look forward to receiving feedback from both organizations. We are both convinced that this could be one of the best meetings that either organization has ever had!*

Program

- The first and basic assumption is that the entire meeting will be completely integrated from a program standpoint. Reynolds and Shaw are in strong agreement on this point.
- Shaw and Reynolds would have to clearly delineate the role of the program and section chairs from each organization to prevent confusion and ensure that all tasks are completed. One possible scenario would be that both would be involved in the development of symposia, tours, etc, while one would be responsible for ordering the papers and the other responsible for securing moderators and room setups, etc.
- Preliminary symposia ideas would include: horticulture, invasive weed management, ROW.
- Tour ideas would include: EPCOT, invasives, aquatic, golf/turf
- We are thinking of trying to combine some tours and symposia into special efforts. For example, we could have a joint turf tour and golf event.
- We will either need more concurrent sessions or more posters to make it work time-wise.
- How do we handle the awards ceremonies: Have a Monday afternoon ceremony followed by a reception for WSSA; the next day do the same for SWSS, with all invited to the reception.
- What about the SWSS graduate student paper/poster contest? Option is to either open it up for everyone or keep it just for SWSS students (trying to do this could be a management problem). This should be discussed by SWSS, but there could be benefits to having it open to all students. That would also increase interest in a separate reception for the grad student award ceremony, too.
- One idea that Reynolds and Shaw agree on and want to explore further is that, in the poster session, we could try organizing sessions around topics, allow the authors to have one slide and get up and present their objective and three bullets on major findings, and then a discussion period that would follow. This would let us try to push more papers to posters, would be much more time efficient, and would increase the discussion at the meeting.
- For the poster session, we may want to split the sessions to keep interest in the posters during the week.
- The room for posters is large enough to handle as many as we want, and would be easy to construct in such a way as to accommodate the idea mentioned above, with seating on one end.
- What is the maximum number of posters that WSSA can handle from an equipment standpoint?
- We may want to try to have one half-day period that we don't have papers/posters; instead, have tours, etc.

Registration

- How do we handle registration? Can't do both, so one or the other organizations has to do it.
- WSSA doesn't use the registration info for membership purposes. SWSS will have to get that info somehow. Does SWSS just give everyone a one-year membership for attending? Reynolds and Shaw agree that's a good idea.
- Do we want to have special one-day registration for special target audiences, e.g. turf? This would be a great location, and great opportunity, to do that.

Meal Functions

- We could look at a Monday afternoon WSSA Awards ceremony followed by food reception. Tuesday afternoon have a SWSS Awards ceremony followed by reception. Thursday have the graduate student awards, followed by an all-out banquet or gala.

Other Considerations

- How will we handle the proceedings for two societies? Three options: 1) use WSSA, 2) use SWSS, 3) use either, but provide the abstracts to the other. First option alone will not work; SWSS will want a permanent record. Does WSSA have a contract with the company doing the abstract collection that would preclude not using them? If not, we could use the SWSS system since it is low/no cost. And, WSSA is not making a permanent printing or archive any more, so it would not disrupt the archive to go with the SWSS system. SWSS costs for producing the CD's would go up somewhat.

- Committee meetings will be one of our biggest challenges. Both societies have a lot of committees. We will probably have to schedule meetings during the conference, as well as shortening the meetings whenever possible.
- The SWSS financial need was based on assumption that a number of items from their normal conference costs (e.g. banquet, A/V) would need to be recouped. There is plenty of room to negotiate how these are handled. Reynolds and Shaw have a breakdown of costs from which to work.

**Report to the Southern Weed Science Society on Activities of the Weed Science Society of America
Winter Board Meeting, January 28-30, 2008
Jacksonville, Florida
Submitted by David Jordan**

The following items were highlighted in the October WSSA Newsletter in Dr. Jill Schroeder's column. These are the most important issues the WSSA is currently addressing. Although not listed in these comments, WSSA and SWSS will be having a joint meeting in 2009 in Orlando, Florida. Dan Reynolds and David Shaw will be serving in roles of leadership for their respective organizations at the meeting. The special committee appointed to assist with planning for this meeting was dissolved.

The ninth edition of the *Herbicide Handbook* is available. Thank you to Scott Senseman and his committee (P6) for all their efforts. The *Herbicide Handbook* is a valued resource worldwide and is priced at \$95 per copy.

The Public Relations Committee (S65) chaired by Janis McFarland has been actively working on the initiative to increase public awareness of Weed Science and especially the areas of invasive weed management and urban weed control. As of September, the committee released three articles and can be accessed at the WSSA website (press room.) Titles include: *Invasive Plants Threaten National Landscapes*, *Four Things You Need to Know About What Might be Lurking in Your Garden*, and *Wildfires: Fueling the Argument for Increased Invasive Weed Control*. The committee has been meeting regularly with Achieva to develop public relations messages about weeds. If you are contacted for information, please provide assistance so they can acquire the most current and accurate information about our discipline. The committee and board will be evaluating the effectiveness of this initial campaign at the summer board meeting.

The Research Committee (E6) chaired by Dean Riechers is writing a manuscript that outlines the future research needs and opportunities in Weed Science. To ensure that they understand the breadth of issues facing our discipline, the committee developed a survey that has been sent to the membership. If you have not provided your input to the committee, please complete the survey so that they can develop a manuscript that reflects the views of our entire membership.

The Professional Development Committee (S64) chaired by Tracy Sterling has continued work to implement their recommendation that WSSA provide additional activities to enhance professional development opportunities for members. To further that objective, Chad Brommer, Tracy, and the rest of the committee developed a survey designed to assess member's professional development needs and goals.

Steve Dewey has already begun working with EPA as the WSSA/EPA Weed Science Subject Matter Expert. John Jachetta, Board Member at Large, the Federal Noxious and Invasive Weeds Committee (E4), chaired by Charles Bryson, and Lee VanWychen, Director of Science Policy, were instrumental in developing this opportunity, recruiting for the position, and selecting Steve

to serve in this position. As a result, WSSA has a unique opportunity to interact with, learn from, and provide information to a federal agency. We will look forward to regular updates from Steve as this year progresses.

The new journal, *Invasive Plant Science and Management*, is on track for publication beginning in 2008. Janet Clark, Program Manager, and Joe DiTomaso, Editor, are working with the committee (P4), chaired by Vanelle Peterson and Lars Anderson, to make this an outstanding publication. In addition, we are contracting with the Chain Bridge Group to develop a sound business and marketing plan for the new journal.

James Anderson was selected to replace Michael Foley as the Director of Publications for WSSA. Neil Harker is now the Associate Editor for *Weed Technology*. Trey Koger and Wun Chao are new WSSA Newsletter and WSSA Abstract editors, respectively.

Lee VanWycken, Director of Science Policy, has been working to develop and maintain contacts in Washington, D. C. on behalf of WSSA and the affiliated societies. Rich Bonanno, chair of the Science Policy Committee (E2), provides regular guidance and support to Lee. In addition to his activities in Washington, Lee has been an active participant on WSSA committees related to policy, public relations, and activities in Washington. Lee's report is provided in detail in the December SWSS Newsletter.

The second annual tactical planning session was held at the summer WSSA BOD meeting. Mike Barrett, John Jachetta, and Jill Schroeder, along with Thomas Sullivan, facilitator, developed a process to evaluate risks and awards of proposed and ongoing projects, keeping in mind the volunteer nature of the organization and the financial constraints the organization performs under. Details of results will be discussed at the winter 2008 WSSA BOD meeting. WSSA has been actively addressing their strategic and tactical plans and backing up those plans with financial support.

The Program Committee (W1) chaired by President-elect Jeff Derr has prepared the program for the 2008 annual meeting scheduled for February 4-7 at the Hilton Chicago. A highlight of the meeting will be the ARS National Program Workshop that will be held in Chicago from February 7-9 and bring in stakeholders from around the U.S. Symposia for the meeting include: *Invasive Plant Species and the New Bioeconomy*; *GIS for Invasive Weed Management and Research*; *Charting the Course for Weed Genomics*; *The Role, Value, and Importance of Complementary Herbicides for Weed Management in Glyphosate-Tolerant Crops*; *Glyphosate Resistance Mechanisms: Current Understanding and New Insights*; and *Tips and Tricks for Journal Writing: What Everyone Needs to Know for Preparing Submissions to WSSA Journals (Graduate Student Organization)*.

Planning for the International Weed Science Society (<http://iws.ucdavis.edu/>) meeting scheduled for June 23-27, 2008 in Vancouver, BC, Canada, co-sponsored by WSSA and CWSS (S63), continues. Please consider attending and participating. Abstract submission closed January 15, 2008.