

NEWSS Update – February 2020

The 74th Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Weed Science Society (5th Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference or NEPPSC) was held Jan 6-9 at the Penn's Landing Hilton, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A total of 126 titles were submitted with 123 presented, breaking into 22 Student Posters, 20 Student Presentations, 30 Posters, 20 Agronomic papers; 20 Turf, Ornamental, and Non-crop papers; and 11 presentations in Fruit, Vegetable, and Tree Crops. E. Mosqueda of Cal State Monterey Bay, and C. Schmidt of BASF led the flagship symposium, *'Inclusion in Science'*. The Students organized a symposium titled *'Overcommitted and Overstressed: A Primer to Our Future Careers'*. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. M. Gallo, President of Delaware Valley University. The 2020 Summer Collegiate Weed Contest will be July 29, at the Syngenta research facility in Guelph, Ontario, hosted by Syngenta Canada and Guelph University. In 2021, the society will meet at the Wyndham Gettysburg, January 4-7. The total net assets of the NEWSS is approximately \$134K including the Endowment Fund.

The NEWSS Executive Committee voted in favor of meeting with WSSA at Arlington in 2023 for a joint-meeting. The partner regional societies that meet jointly with NEWSS, namely the Northeast branch of ASHS (NE-ASHS) and the Northeast Tri-Society were also in favor of this joint meeting. Currently, the joint conference is called the NEPPSC. Dr. Jacob Barney (email: jnbarney@vt.edu), the new Vice President of NEWSS will serve as the Program Chair for NEPPSC in 2023 and will represent the NEWSS for this joint-meeting. Jacob will be getting in touch with Eric Gustafson to discuss details shortly.

The NEWSS will be launching a new initiative to support the development of effective writing skills for its member Graduate Students **'NEWSS Graduate Student Writing Contest'**. Any member graduate student enrolled in an MS or PhD Weed Science degree program in the Northeast will be eligible to participate. The contest topics may include a) identification and biology of a weed species b) description of a nonchemical weed management technique, c) weed species shifts, e) impact of climate change on weed species, f) utility of cover crops for weed management, g) unreported herbicide resistance, h) new laboratory or field research methods in weed science; i) ecological impacts of weed management programs; j) toxicological effects of herbicides; k) weed management techniques for organic or sustainable production systems, or l) integrated weed management techniques. The contest will be funded through the NEWSS Endowment Fund (with a current balance of ~ \$36K) with cash awards for 1st and 2nd place winners in PhD and MS categories, respectively. The Awards Committee will be appointed by the President; contest submission deadline is set for November 1, with awards announced at the following annual meeting in January. Submissions will be judged based on writing skill, originality/creativity, technical accuracy, thoroughness of the topic, and relevance to the Northeast.

Respectfully submitted,
Rakesh Chandran, WSSA Representative