



Call for Symposia

The 66th Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America
Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley, Raleigh, NC
February 9-12, 2026

WSSA members are invited to submit proposals for symposia at our annual meeting. **The proposal deadline is June 13, 2025.** 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 and publication will be one of the factors considered in selecting symposia for the meeting. We also encourage symposia organizers to consider building in a discussion period to further increase audience participation.

Please see the guidelines below for symposia funding from the WSSA. Requests for travel support can be made for non-members only.

Symposium proposals should be emailed directly to the WSSA President Elect and Program Chair Ian Burke (icburke@wsu.edu) copied to the Vice President Dawn Refsell (dawn.refsell@corteva.com) by **June 13, 2025**. *You will receive an email confirmation that your proposal has been received.* If you have any questions, feel free to email Ian.

SYMPOSIUM PROPOSAL FORM

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 intent of these funds is to support travel of non-member speakers.

The following guidelines are intended to help the symposia organizers and the Program Committee 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 full-day symposia, the maximum allowable budget will be \$6,000 of which up to \$2,000 can be used for symposia publication costs. The funds will be allocated as necessary to partially cover travel speaker expenses.

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

No honoraria will be offered to any speaker. No more than three nights lodging will be offered to nonmember symposium speakers. All symposium speakers who are not members of the 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 based on need, availability of funds, and the value of the speakers to the program.

Room rates for the Marriott Raleigh Crabtree Valley Hotel for the 2026 meeting will be \$225 per night plus tax. There are a limited number of student rooms available for \$169 per night plus tax. The hotel will provide a rooming link and phone number to secure these rates. Cut off date for reservations will be January 15, 2026.

If less than the maximum allowable funds (\$5000 for the half-day; \$6000 for a full day) are used for speaker travel expenses, 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 detailed budget for the proposed symposium.

Symposium proposals must be submitted to the WSSA President Elect and Program Chair (icburke@wsu.edu) and copied to the WSSA Vice President Dawn Refsell (dawn.refsell@corteva.com) by **June 13, 2025**. The WSSA Board will evaluate the submitted proposals and decide which symposia will be funded. The WSSA 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 nonmember speakers. In no event should symposium organizers make commitments for more funding from WSSA 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 strongly consider publication of symposia papers in Weed Science, Weed Technology or Invasive Plant Science Management.

Ian Burke, 2026 WSSA Program Chair