



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had a great meeting in Lexington a few weeks ago, and apparently lucked out on the weather, as Kentucky experienced lots of snow and ice the next three weeks after the meeting. We shouldn't have to worry about that in Puerto Rico next year. Lexington was the first meeting since Hawaii that wasn't a joint meeting with another society. Consequently, attendance was lower,

but we still had about 400 members and guests in attendance and 300 volunteered and invited paper and poster presentations at the meeting.

The General Session and Awards presentations were a highlight of the meeting. Mr. Steve Johnson, owner of the Silver Springs Stud Farm, provided an enlightening overview of the Kentucky horse industry and local history, and Dr. Rosalind James, USDA-ARS Program Leader for Invasive Pests of Crops, provided her vision of the "Future of Weed Science Research in USDA-ARS." Following the award presentations, members and friends were able to congratulate the award winners, renew old friendships and make new acquaintances at the WSSA and Syngenta co-sponsored social.

This year's program included two outstanding symposia, a graduate student workshop, and a wide range of interesting papers and posters. The symposium on Tuesday focused on "Integration of 'Omics' Approaches in Weed Science Research" and was chaired by Nishanth Tharayil. The symposium on Wednesday afternoon was an overview of the Herbicide Resistance Summit II, chaired by David Shaw and titled "Are We Going To Do The Same Thing and Expect A Different Result," Both symposia brought some new perspectives on the topics and were well organized and attended.

The graduate student workshop on Wednesday morning focused on "Preparing Students for Work after Graduate School" and was organized by Katelyn Venner. The Graduate Student Organization also had a discussion about publishing in WSSA journals with the journal editors at the graduate student luncheon. Katelyn is to be commended for her energy, fresh ideas, and hard work as the graduate student representative on the WSSA Board this past year.

Two new features at this year's meeting were the graduate student poster

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**CALL FOR SYMPOSIA
2016 GUIDELINES**
(details inside on pages 3-4)

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contest and a meeting app. A special thanks to Darrin Dodds and Katelyn Venner for establishing the rules and coordinating the poster contest. Forty five graduate students participated in the contest and were divided into five groups for judging. Congratulations to all students for their outstanding posters, especially the contest winners. A meeting app was available for the first time this year to help attendees develop their own customized schedule and receive updates and notices during the meeting. Please let us know if you liked the meeting app and provide any ideas for improvements.

A meeting of this magnitude takes a great deal of planning and coordination. I want to thank the local arrangements committee, especially Mike Barrett and Bill Witt for all of their help with identifying a keynote speaker, organizing the preconference tour, providing AV equipment, and ordering up the good weather while we were in Lexington. The staffs at the hotel and conference center also were very helpful and responsive to our requests. Finally, a special thanks to our Executive Secretary Joyce Lancaster and meeting manager Tony Ballard for all of their help with the meeting arrangements, app development, and simply keeping me on track prior to and during the meeting.

Next year's meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico will once again be a joint meeting, this time in conjunction with the Southern Weed Science Society. Kevin Bradley (WSSA President Elect) and Peter Dotray (SWSS President Elect) will serve as program co-chairs and are already hard at work planning the meeting. You will find their call for symposium proposals elsewhere in the newsletter. I'm sure they would welcome any suggestions or ideas on ways to enhance our meeting experience in San Juan.

WSSA continues to do well financially, which has allowed us to continue and expand initiatives on many important weed science issues. Lee Van Wyche continues to deal with the Washington, DC scene as our Director of Science Policy and provide valuable input to policy makers and agencies, as well as keeping us informed on activities of interest. Lee works closely with the Science Policy committee, chaired by Donn Shilling. Donn will have an even greater influence for WSSA in Washington, DC in the future as he assumes the role as our USDA-NIFA Fellow to work with USDA on weed science funding and research initiatives. Mike Barrett is now in his second year as EPA-subject matter expert and has developed a strong working relationship with EPA. At the request of EPA, we are currently assembling two committees to provide input to the agency on ways to monitor and mitigate herbicide resistance. The herbicide resistance education committee, chaired by David Shaw, has been very successful at raising awareness of herbicide resistance issues and building new relationships and educational opportunities with other organizations. Hopefully, we can continue to build on their efforts. The Public Awareness committee, chaired by Carroll Moseley, is also very active and continues to develop news releases on important weed science issues that reflect positively on the society. Many of these committees and individuals interact closely with each other to provide an accurate and unified message.

WSSA publications continue to thrive under the direction of Sarah Ward. Tony DiTommaso has assumed the role of Editor of *Invasive Plant Science and Management*. We owe a great deal of gratitude to retiring Editor Joe DiTommaso for serving as the initial editor for the first eight years of *IPSM* and doing a great job of getting the journal off to a good start. I would also like to recognize Jason Norsworthy and Bill Vencill for their outstanding efforts as editors of *Weed Technology* and *Weed Science*. The 10th edition of the *Herbicide Handbook* was published this past year and has already turned a profit. This is a valuable resource for technical herbicide information for both WSSA members and non-

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WSSA FUTURE MEETING SITES AND DATES

2016

**56th Joint Annual Meeting
SWSS and WSSA**

San Juan Sheraton

San Juan, Puerto Rico

Kevin Bradley, Co-Chair

Email: bradleyke@missouri.edu

Phone: 573-882-4039

Peter Dotray, Co-Chair

2017

Tucson, Arizona

**WSSA HOME PAGE
ACCESSED AT:**

www.wssa.net

THINK NEWSLETTER

Deadline for July issue

June 1, 2015

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Published quarterly by the Weed Science Society of America. Subscription included in the annual dues paid by members of the Society. Address correspondence and information to:

Elizabeth Simpson

Box 450

Nampa, AB Canada T0H 2R0

elizabeth.simpson@richardson.ca

Phone: 780.322.3737

Fax: 780.322.3760

CALL FOR SYMPOSIA

2016 Joint Annual Meeting of the SWSS and the WSSA

56th Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America Hilton Lexington Downtown and Lexington Convention Center Lexington, Kentucky • February 9–12, 2015

SWSS and WSSA members are invited to submit proposals for symposia at the Joint Annual Meeting to be held at the Sheraton in San Juan, Puerto Rico on February 8–11, 2016. As you prepare your proposal, please realize that the Board of Directors will have the difficult task of deciding which proposals to accept for the program. The SWSS and WSSA boards 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. A full-day symposium will not likely be accepted at the 2016 meeting due to room limitations and the number of oral presentations that will need to be accommodated. Symposia organizers are strongly urged to consider publication of the symposium papers in one of the WSSA's journals. Publication 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 original intent. 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 San Juan Sheraton will be \$189 plus tax. Please estimate travel and lodging costs for invited speakers. Symposium proposals can be e-mailed directly to Kevin Bradley (bradleyke@missouri.edu) and are due June 1, 2015. If you have any questions, feel free to email or call (573-882-4039).

SYMPOSIUM PROPOSAL **2016 Annual SWSS and WSSA Meeting** **San Juan, Puerto Rico**

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 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.)

Outline of the Proposal Form: **GUIDELINES FOR DISPOSITION OF WSSA FUNDS** **FOR SYMPOSIA EXPENSES**

Funds are available to support symposia approved by the SWSS and WSSA Boards 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. 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 speaker expenses. Members of the SWSS or 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 SWSS or 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.

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 SWSS or 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 for the half-day) are used

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED from pg 2

members. A special thanks to Editor Dale Shaner and the *Herbicide Handbook* committee on their efforts to complete the 10th edition. The board continues to discuss electronic alternatives to a hard copy of the handbook in the future. An online special issue of *Weed Science* on "Weed Science Research Methods" was recently published and should provide a valuable resource to reference regarding weed research methodologies. The WSSA Board decided to publish these articles as an online special issue of *Weed Science* instead of a book so that it could be easily updated, new chapters could be added as they are completed, and the positive effect future citations should have on the Weed Science impact factor.

WSSA continues to evolve and look to the future. The WSSA Board, with input from committee chairs and regional presidents, is currently in the process of reviewing a new five year strategic plan developed by the Strategic Planning committee, chaired by Vanelle Peterson. We hope to approve a final version of the strategic plan at the summer board meeting to help guide us into the future.

These are just some of the ongoing activities of your society. It is an honor to have the opportunity to serve as President of WSSA for the upcoming year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or ideas regarding WSSA business or activities.

Dallas Peterson
President, WSSA

CALL FOR SYMPOSIA CONTINUED from pg 3

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. 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 Chair by June 1. The SWSS and WSSA Boards of Directors will evaluate the submitted proposals and decide which symposia will be funded. The Program Chairs 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 boards. 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*.

Kevin Bradley, 2016 Program Co-Chair
WSSA President-Elect

Peter Dotray, 2016 Program Co-Chair
SWSS President-Elect

WSSA Contacts at Allen Press, Inc.

For All Contacts:

Phone: (800) 627-1326, (785) 843-1234 • Fax: (785) 843-1274

Joyce Lancaster, Executive Secretary

Ext. 250; E-mail: jlancaster@allenpress.com

Regarding: Society reimbursements, committee activities, membership reports, list rental requests

Tony Ballard, Meeting Manager

E-mail: tballard@k-state.edu

Regarding: WSSA annual meeting

Beverly Lindeen, Managing Editor

E-mail: blindeen@allenpress.com

Regarding: Reviewer questions

THINK NEWSLETTER

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WASHINGTON REPORT

by Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

SUPERWEED DEFINITION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

At the recent WSSA meeting in Lexington, KY, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the following definition for “superweed.”

***Superweed:** Slang used to describe a weed that has evolved characteristics that make it more difficult to manage due to repeated use of the same management tactic. Over-dependence on a single tactic as opposed to using diverse approaches can lead to such adaptations.*

The most common use of the slang refers to a weed that has become resistant to one or more herbicide mechanisms of action (www.weedscience.org) due to their repeated use in the absence of more diverse control measures. Dependence on a single mechanical, biological, or cultural management tactic has led to similar adaptations (e.g. hand-weeded barnyardgrass mimicking rice morphology, dandelion seed production in a regularly mowed lawn, knapweed resiliency to gall fly biocontrol).

Two common misconceptions about a superweed are that they are the result of gene transfer from genetically altered crops and that they have superior competitive characteristics. Both of these myths have been addressed by the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) at www.wssa.net/weed/wssa-fact-sheets. WSSA has created a variety of free educational materials and recommendations concerning herbicide resistance and how to avoid it, available at www.wssa.net/weed/resistance.

FY 2016 USDA APPROPRIATIONS

The administration released its FY 2016 budget request at the beginning of February. Things look pretty good for USDA budget items overall with NIFA, ARS, NRCS, the Economic Research Service (ERS), and National Ag Statistics Service (NASS) all receiving higher budget requests compared to FY 2015 that was just passed in December. Within USDA-NIFA, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) grants program was recommended for a large increase from \$325 million to \$450 million. Many of USDA-NIFA’s capacity building programs also were recommended for increases compared to FY 2015, including the Hatch Act increasing from \$244 million to \$256 million and Smith Lever 3b and 3c increasing from \$300 million to \$304 million. FY 2016 funding for the IR-4 program (\$11.9 million) and the Crop Protection and Pest Management line item (\$17.2 million) would remain as in FY 2015.

HOUSE AG COMMITTEE PASSES “NPDES FIX” BILL

On March 19, the House Agriculture Committee passed [The Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2015 \(H.R. 897\)](#). This legislation has passed the U.S. House as a stand-alone bill in two previous sessions of Congress but failed in the Senate. H.R. 897 clarifies congressional intent and eliminates the duplicate regulatory requirement of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the use of herbicides in, over, or near waters of the United States that are already approved for use under FIFRA. This stems from the problem created in 2009 by a three-judge Court

of Appeals Ruling for the Sixth Circuit. The 2009 court ruling invalidated a 2006 EPA regulation exempting pesticide applications that are in compliance with FIFRA from a requirement to also comply with NPDES permits.

MILKWEED AND MONARCHS

The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) was petitioned by three environmental groups last August that claimed that extensive use of glyphosate on glyphosate resistant corn and soybeans in the Midwest has devastated native populations of milkweed, the sole source of food for monarch butterfly larvae. The petitioners claim that monarch butterfly populations have decreased 90 percent over the past 20 years. FWS is reviewing the status of the monarch butterfly to consider if it needs federal intervention under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). However, if we actually want to see monarch butterfly numbers rebound, listing it under the ESA is a bad idea as the ESA has a terrible track record for promoting species recovery. Along those lines, Monsanto has taken a proactive approach by contributing \$3.6 million over three years to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund. The \$3.6 million will be used to match funds provided by FWS and other federal agencies that will support habitat restoration, education, outreach, and milkweed seed production to benefit monarch butterflies. To learn more about the Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund, visit www.nfwf.org/monarch. In addition to its commitment to NFWF’s Monarch Butterfly Conserva-

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tion Fund, Monsanto will provide approximately \$400,000 in grants to other organizations working to protect biodiversity through both immediate and long-term actions.

WASHINGTON POST – WE DON'T NEED LABELS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

In a March 29 editorial by the Washington Post, the editorial board discusses the false balance between scientific consensus and fear mongering in the GM food debate. They state "The GM-food debate is a classic example of activists overstating risk based on fear of what might be unknown and on a distrust of corporations." The editorial can be found at: http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/we-dont-need-labels-telling-us-our-food-has-been-genetically-modified/2015/03/29/66f97f4a-d4c5-11e4-8fce-3941fc548f1c_story.html

USDA STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP ON COEXISTENCE

USDA recently conducted a two day stakeholder workshop to advance an understanding of agricultural coexistence – the concurrent cultivation of conventional, organic, identity preserved (IP), and genetically engineered (GE) crops consistent with farmer choices and consumer preferences – and discuss opportunities for making coexistence more achievable for all stakeholders. The workshop was organized around three sessions: 1) the current state of affairs of coexistence; 2) knowledge gaps, challenges, and USDA's responses so far to the AC21 recommendations; and 3) additional steps USDA is considering to respond to the challenges. Webcasts of the workshop as well as copies of workshop's presentations and summaries of USDA activities that are either newly proposed or already

underway to support of coexistence – are available for public viewing on the USDA Stakeholder Workshop on Coexistence Web page: <http://1.usa.gov/1CCWEXU>. There is a ton of information provided there, but I would like to guide your attention to two excellent presentations in particular regarding USDA and EPA actions on herbicide resistance weeds:

[U.S.D.A. Actions to Address Herbicide Resistance in Weeds](#): Jill Schroeder, Ph.D, USDA Office of Pest Management Policy
[EPA's Perspective on Herbicide Resistance in Weeds](#): Jack Housenger

Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D.
Science Policy Director
National and Regional Weed Science Societies
Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net
cell: 202-746-4686
www.wssa.net

GRADUATE STUDENTS AWARD – A COMPETITION

The IWSS has decided to continue with its tradition to encourage the participation of graduate (M.Sc. and Ph.D.) students in the 7th International Weed Science Congress in Prague (<http://www.iwsc2016.org>).

A limited number of awards will cover registration fees, accommodation and part of travel expenses. The Graduate Students Award Committee will select the awardees according to the following criteria:

1. The candidate must be enrolled as a M.Sc. or Ph.D. student, pursuing a degree related to weed science as of **1 January 2016**.
2. A 5-page manuscript including tables, figures and photos (PDF file, 12 pt font, 1.5 line spacing, and 3-cm margin all around), with Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results and Discussion.
Deadline for submission is 1 January 2016.
3. Submissions will be appraised based on the following merits: quality of research, novelty, and contribution to the discipline of weed science.

4. Submissions should include a letter of commitment from the major Professor or institution to provide additional travel support should the student receive the award from IWSS.
5. All material should be sent via e-mail, **no later than 1 January, 2016** to the three members of the Graduate Students Award Committee:
pbhowmik@umass.edu
paolo.barberi@sssup.it and
rubin@mail.huji.ac.il.

Please ask for confirmation that your manuscript has arrived safely to **all** committee members.

The IWSS is grateful to the EWRS and the WSSA for their financial support to partially cover these important awards. The student submitting the most outstanding paper as determined by the Graduate Students Award Committee will receive the "IWSS Larry Burrill Graduate Student Travel Award," which covers all expenses to attend the Congress.



NECROLOGY

DR. STANFORD N. FERTIG

February 7, 2015



Dr. Stanford N. Fertig of New Oxford, Pennsylvania, died February 7, 2015. He was 95 years old. He is survived by his wife of 66 years Tillie, daughter Sheela Hall, son-in-law Michael Hall, and grandson Bryan Hall.

Stan had a very busy life and he and his Tillie both enjoyed every minute. He loved his work and loved his garden (provided produce for all the neighbors and office crew). Tillie stated, "But I think most of all he was proud of his education and where it took him. He worked his way (no money from home) from Potomac State College (milking cows, etc.) to Ph.D. from Cornell.

Dr. Fertig was from Marlinton, West Virginia, where he grew up on a crop and livestock farm. He attended Potomac State College and West Virginia University where he finished his B.S. degree and started his Masters. In June 1942, he volunteered in the U.S. Navy. He served in the Pacific theater aboard the aircraft carrier USS Cabot (CVL-28) as a Radar Specialist with Air Group 31 / VF-31 Fighter Squadron. He was honorably discharged (LTJG) in January, 1946. Dr. Fertig returned to WVU and received his Masters degree. During this period he held a teaching assistantship and instructor position in the Dept. of Agronomy and Genetics. In July, 1947 he was granted a graduate teaching assistantship at Cornell University where he completed the Ph.D. in 1950. From 1950–66 Dr. Fertig served as Professor of Agronomy and Weed Science at Cornell where he organized and directed research, teaching and extension programs in agronomic, industrial and aquatic weed control and directed the training of graduate students at the M.S. and Ph.D. levels in the emerging field of Weed Science. From 1954 to 1956, he was Visiting Professor at the University of the Philippines College of Agriculture where he organized research and teaching programs in the Dept. of Botany and Plant Pathology and training of staff, undergraduate and graduate students. The College of Agriculture at Los Banos was totally destroyed during World War II and a complete rebuilding of facilities and programs was necessary.





NECROLOGY

OLIVER GEORGE RUSS **August 10, 1920 – February 25, 2015**



Oliver George Russ, 94, of Seneca, Kansas died February 25, 2015 at Life Care Center of Seneca.

He was born August 10, 1920, on a farm southwest of Kelly, KS, the son of George C. and Pauline Wilhelm Russ. He first attended Sunny Knoll School near his home. Later the family moved to the Corning, KS, area where he attended several rural schools before graduating from Corning Rural High School in 1938. After a year of Normal Training, he taught in a rural school south of Sabetha for two years and at Pleasant Ridge School north of Baileyville, KS.

On July 7, 1942, he was drafted into the US Army and served in the Medical Corps in the South Pacific with the 27th General Hospital. After his discharge on January 3, 1946, he enrolled at Kansas State Agricultural College and earned a B.S. and a Master's degree. He began working on the bindweed experiment field at Canton, KS, and then opened a new research field at Newton, KS. After a year and a half as superintendent of the Mound Valley Branch Experiment Station, he returned to the Manhattan Campus in 1965. He continued to work there as an agronomist in weed control research and advising graduate students in weed control research. In 1990 when he retired from Kansas State he moved to Lincoln, NE. In 1996 he moved to Seneca, KS.

As a member of the American Bluebird Society, he has continued a lifelong interest in Bluebirds and in restoring them to northeast Kansas. In recent years, he has maintained a 35 nesting-box trail for Bluebirds. He has checked the boxes weekly during the nesting season from March 1, to September 1. Usually about 150 bluebird nestlings are fledged each year. In addition to building bluebird nesting boxes, he also builds other bird houses and bird feeders.

He married Ruth Robison on September 6, 1946 at Corning, Kansas. She died October 17, 1956. On June 17, 1957, he married Marguerite Robison, from Pawnee City, NE, the sister of Ruth Robison.

Survivors are two daughters, Deborah Jo Russ Farwell and her husband Jim Farwell of Lincoln, NE and Deanne Russ of The French West Indies; a sister Irene Mohringer of Holton, KS; four grandchildren and three great grandsons.

Besides his first wife, Ruth, and his second wife Marguerite, he was preceded in death by a sister, Alice Hauldren.

Funeral service were Friday, February 27, 2015 at 1PM at the Lauer Funeral Home in Seneca. Inurnment will be in the Pawnee City Cemetery at Pawnee City, NE at a later date.

Memorials may be sent to Basic Cancer Research at Kansas State University.



IMPORTANT ADDRESSES

PRESIDENT

Dallas Peterson
Kansas State University
Telephone: (785) 532-0405
e-mail: dpeterso@ksu.edu

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Kevin Bradley
University of Missouri
Telephone: (573) 882-4039
e-mail: bradleyke@missouri.edu

VICE-PRESIDENT

Janis McFarland
Syngenta Crop Protection
Telephone: (336) 707-5873
e-mail: janis.mcfarland@syngenta.com

PAST-PRESIDENT

Joe DiTomaso
University of California-Davis
Telephone: (530) 754-8715
e-mail: jmditomaso@ucdavis.edu

CONSTITUTION/MOPS

Peter Porpiglia
Telephone: (949) 221-6116
e-mail: peterp@amvac-chemical.com

SECRETARY

Larry Steckel
University of Tennessee
Telephone: (731) 425-4705
e-mail: lsteckel@utk.edu

TREASURER

Rick Boydston
USDA-ARS
Telephone: (509) 786-9267
e-mail: rick.boydston@ars.usda.gov

DIRECTOR OF PUBLICATIONS

Sarah Ward
Colorado State University
Telephone: (406) 491-2102
e-mail: sarah.ward@colostate.edu

DIRECTOR OF SCIENCE POLICY

Lee Van Wychen
5720 Glenmullen Place
Alexandria, VA 22303
Telephone: (202) 746-4686
e-mail: Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Joyce Lancaster
P. O. Box 1897
Lawrence, KS 66044
Telephone: (785) 843-1235, ext. 250
Fax (785) 843-1274
e-mail: jlancaster@allenpress.com

IWSS

Albert J. Fischer
Vegetable Crops Dept
University of California
One Shields Ave.
Davis, CA 95616
Telephone: (530) 752-7386
Fax: (530) 752-4604
e-mail: ajfischer@ucdavis.edu

CAST

James Kells
Michigan State University
Telephone: (517) 355-0271, Ext. 1103
e-mail: kells@msu.edu

AIBS (Our Representative)

Lee Van Wychen
5720 Glenmullen Place
Alexandria, VA 22303
Telephone: (202) 746-4686
e-mail: Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net

GRAD STUDENT REP

Rand Merchant
Texas A&M University
Telephone: (229) 325-9036
e-mail: rand.merchant@ag.tamu.edu

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

WSSA

Elizabeth Simpson
Box 450
Nampa, AB Canada T0H 2R0
Telephone: (780) 322-3737
Fax: (780) 322-3760
e-mail: elizabeth.simpson@richardson.ca

Aquatic Plant Mgmt. Society (APMS)

Cody Gray
Telephone: (719) 886-4708
e-mail: cody.gray@uniphos.com

NEWSS

Prasanta Bhowmik
e-mail: pbhowmik@psis.umass.edu

NCWSS

Mark Bernards
Telephone: (309) 298-1569
e-mail: ml-bernards@wiu.edu

SWSS

Darrin Dodds
Telephone: (662) 325-4072
e-mail: dmd76@pss.msstate.edu

WSWS

Pat Clay
Telephone: (602) 206-9261
e-mail: Pat.Clay@valent.com

CWSS-SCM

Hugh J. Beckie
Telephone: (306) 385-9350
e-mail: hugh.beckie@agr.gc.ca

IWSS

Dr. Samunder Singh
Department of Agronomy
CCS Haryana Agricultural University
Hisar 125 004, India
Voice: 91 94160 07242
e-mail: sam4884@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

| DATE | EVENT | LOCATION | CONTACT |
|----------------------|---|---|--|
| July 12–15, 2015 | APMS Annual Meeting | Myrtle Beach, South Carolina | www.apms.org |
| November 23–27, 2015 | Canadian Weed Science Society/ Société canadienne de malherbiologie (CWSS-SCM) Annual Meeting | Westin Hotel Edmonton, Alberta Canada | www.weedscience.ca |
| December 7–10, 2015 | NCWSS Annual Meeting | Indianapolis, Indiana | www.ncwss.org |
| February 8–11, 2016 | Joint WSSA and Southern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting | San Juan Sheraton San Juan, Puerto Rico | www.wssa.net |
| March 7–10, 2016 | WSWS Annual Meeting | Albuquerque, New Mexico | www.wsweedscience.org |
| June 19–25, 2016 | 7th IWSC Annual Conference | Prague, Czech Republic | |
| 2017 | Weed Science Society of America Annual Meeting | Tucson, Arizona | www.wssa.net |

Send Newsletter material to:
Elizabeth Simpson
Box 450
Nampa, AB Canada T0H 2R0
elizabeth.simpson@richardson.ca
Phone: 780.322.3737
Fax: 780.322.3760