



WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY of AMERICA

RESEARCH - EDUCATION - INNOVATION
FOUNDED 1956

WSSA Committee Report

COMMITTEE: Awards Parent Committee I3

Date: 1/21/2026

BOARD LIASON:

Include in Consent Agenda: Yes (no discussion needed, just informational update)

No (items in report require discussion or action)

Green = updated information

Yellow = New MOP language has been drafted for these committees and will be reporting results to the director of publications. These subcommittees are being removed from the Awards Parent Committee.

Name	Term Ending	Sub Committee	Name	Term Ending	Sub Committee
Landau, Olivia*	2027		Schwarzlose, Gary	2029	I3g
Dayan, Franck	2029	I3a	Post, Angela	2029	I3h
Butts, Tommy*	2029	I3b	Brim-DeForest, Whitney	2029	I3i
Dotray, Peter	2029	I3c	Willenborg, Chris		w3l, P1
MacDonald, Greg	2029	I3d			w3m
Sosnoskie, Lynn	2026	w3e	Ferrell, Jay	2029	I3j
Dittmar, Peter	2026	w3f	Clewis, Bart	2027	I3k
Horvath, David	2029	I3e	Jhala, Amit	2029	I3l
Malik, Mayank	2029	I3f			

Reviewed MOP for updates: **YES** **NO**

Comments re: MOP:

This year, the co-Directors of Publications coordinated with the journal award subcommittees (w3e, w3f, w3l, and w3m) to efficiently identify winners and then submitted the results to the chair of the Awards Committee. Revising the MOP to continue this practice is encouraged to avoid past communication issues. New MOP language has been drafted for these committees and will be reporting results to the co-Directors of Publications. These subcommittees are being removed from the Awards Parent Committee.

Please add information regarding the reconsideration of unsuccessful award nomination packages. Something to the effect of “unsuccessful nomination packages can be resubmitted for three consecutive years. After three years, a new, updated nomination package must be submitted.”

Committee Actions/Impacts/Activities:

- Successful in nominating and awarding deserving WSSA members (see table below).
- Successful in identifying new members to serve on various subcommittees (see updated subcommittee membership list).

Committee Meeting Schedule*: (Include all planned meeting dates and times):

All activities were completed via email. In general, members of the subcommittees will rank nomination packages and send results to the subcommittee chair. Results are then relayed to the chair of the parent committee. Meetings are organized when a clear consensus for a winner can't be achieved through tallying submitted rankings.

Budget needs:

None

Areas for improvement/concerns:

1. Add instructions on the awards page informing members to submit nominations to both Awards@wssa.net and the email of the current chair of the specified committee. This ensures nominations are not lost, which was a concern this year due to the government shutdown, and federal employees were unable to access their email.
2. Update the information forms for the awards to reflect contact information for the current chair of each committee, especially for I3a, I3b, and I3e.
3. Update the subcommittee membership lists. Information that needs to be added is highlighted in green.
4. Update the committee sign-up form to include US-HRAC Herbicide Resistance Management Award Subcommittee (I3I) as an option.
5. Encourage members to nominate colleagues for the Industry Award. This award typically struggles to get at least one nomination.
6. Add instructions on the awards page informing members to submit nominations to both Awards@wssa.net and the email of the current chair of the specified committee. This ensures nominations are not lost, which was a concern this year due to the government shutdown, and federal employees were unable to access their email.
7. Update the information forms for the awards to reflect contact information for the current chair of each committee, especially for I3a, I3b, and I3e.
8. Update the subcommittee membership lists. Information that needs to be added is highlighted in green.
9. Update the committee sign-up form to include US-HRAC Herbicide Resistance Management Award Subcommittee (I3I) as an option.
10. Encourage members to nominate colleagues for the Industry Award. This award typically struggles to get at least one nomination.

Opportunities for future (symposia, speakers, communication, general):

*This will be visible to all members for engagement.

Continue to encourage members to nominate fellow members for awards and volunteer to serve on the subcommittees. It doesn't hurt to have more than the minimum number of subcommittee members since it's not uncommon for members to need to recuse themselves.

Award	Recipient
Early Career Outstanding Scientist	Rodrigo Werle
Fellows	Larry E. Steckel and Joseph C. Neal
Honorary Member	Virender Kumar
Excellence in Journalism	War Against Weeds Podcast (Sarah Lancaster, Joe Ikley, Alyssa Essman, and Stephanie DeSimini)
Outstanding Extension	Brad Hanson
Outstanding Graduate Student	Tristen Avent, University of Arkansas (Jason Norsworthy, advisor)
Outstanding Industry	Gary Schwarzlose
Outstanding Research	Todd Gaines
Outstanding Teacher	Jason Norsworthy
Graduate Student Travel Awards	Alexander Lopez, PhD, University of Illinois Abigail Schulken, MS, University of Florida Dana Russell, MS, Cornell University Ainsley Graham, MS, University of California Davis Soundharya Sivakumar, MS, Texas A&M University Adebisi Adeleke, MS, University of Minnesota
US-HRAC Herbicide Resistance Management Award	Kevin Bradley
Outstanding Paper in Weed Science	McKenzie-Gopsill, et al. (2025) Weed seedbank community structure's response to land-use intensity and its relationships to soil properties in Atlantic Canada. <i>Weed Sci.</i> 73: e58
Outstanding Paper in Weed Technology	Tristen H. Avent, et al. (2025) Commercial sprayer efficiency for application success on targeted weeds. <i>Weed Technology</i> 39: e65
Outstanding Paper in Invasive Plant Science and Management	Grace K. Lew-Kowal, et al. (2025) Suppression efficacy of remotely piloted aircraft systems-based herbicide application on invasive <i>Phragmites australis</i> in wetlands. <i>Invasive Plant Science and Management</i> 18: e18
Outstanding Reviewer	Sachin Dhanda (Weed Science) Shawn Beam (Weed Technology) David Gorchov (IPSM)
Outstanding Associate Editor	Bhagirath Singh Chauhan (Weed Science) Kevin Bradley (Weed Technology) Ryan Wersal (IPSM)
Public Service Award	Kelly V. Tindall
Publication Board – Retiring Editors	Martin Williams (Weed Science) Sharon Clay (Weed Science) Drew Lyon (Weed Technology) Charles Geddes (Weed Technology) Ryan Thum (IPSM)
John Jachetta Undergraduate Research Award	Breawna Smith (Cornell University, Dr. DiTommaso) Morgan Ourada (Kansas State University, Dr. Dille) Julianna Jojoa-Portilla (Mississippi State University, Dr. Tseng) Maia Olson (Trinity Western University, Dr. Clements) Trisa Das (Mississippi State University, Dr. Tseng) Elijah Spanbauer (Oregon State University, Dr. Becerra-Alvarez)
Photo Contest	<u>Vegetative Structures:</u> Runner Up - Bhupesh Dhaka 1 st place - Prakriti Dhaka <u>Landscape Division:</u> Runner Up - Himani Ahlawat 1 st Place - Sirwan Babaei <u>Fruit & Flowers Division</u> Runner Up - Sai Suvidh Maddela 1 st Place - Sirwan Babaei

I3a Fellows and Honorary Member Subcommittee			Board Liaison: Vice President (B4)		
Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation	Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation
Dayan, Franck*	2029	W	Derr, Jeff	2027	NE
Ak-Khatib, Kassim	2027	W	Anderson, James	2027	NC
			Upadhyaya, Mahesh	2027	NC

I3b Extension Award Subcommittee			Board Liaison: Vice President (B4)		
Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation	Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation
Butts, Tommy*	2029	NC	Varanasi, Vijay	2029	S
Cahoon, Charles	2028	S	VanGessel, Mark	2028	NE
Sprague, Christy	2028	NC	Ribeiro, Victor	2029	W

I3c Research Award Subcommittee			Board Liaison: Vice President (B4)		
Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation	Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation
Dotray, Peter*	2029	S	Adjesiwor, Albert	2029	W
Patterson, Eric	2029	NC	Aicklen, Isabelle	2029	C
Brunharo, Caio	2028	NE	Kumar, Krishna	2029	NE

I3d Teacher Award Subcommittee			Board Liaison: Vice President (B4)		
Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation	Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation
MacDonald, Greg*	2029	S	DiTomasso, Toni	2027	NE
Basinger, Nick	2027	S	Schutte, Brian	2027	W
Haramoto, Erin	2027	NC	Howatt, Kirk	2027	NC
Sharpe, Shaun	2028	C			

I3e Graduate Student Award Subcommittee			Board Liaison: Vice President (B4)		
Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation	Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation
Horvath, David*	2029	NC	Meyer, Stephen	2027	NC
Butts, Tommy	2028	NC	Rana, Sandeep	2028	NE
Wiggins, Matthew	2028	NC/S	Werle, Rodrigo	2028	NC
Kumari, Annu	2027	NE			

I3f Early Career Outstanding Scientist Subcommittee			Board Liaison: Vice President (B4)			
Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation		Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation
Malik, Mayank*	2029	NC		Odero, Calvin	2029	S
Kezar, Sarah	2029	NC		Shergill, Lovreet	2029	W
Kumar, Vipan	2029	NE		Tidemann, Breanne	2029	C

I3g Industry Award Subcommittee			Board Liaison: Vice President (B4)			
Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation		Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation
Schwarzlose, Gary*	2029	S		Gast, Roger	2027	NC
Drost, Dirk	2027	NE		Richardson, Jesse	2027	W
				Zollinger, Richard	2029	W

I3h Photo Contest Subcommittee			Board Liaison: Vice President (B4)			
Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation		Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation
Post, Angela*	2028	NE		Schwarzlose, Gary	2027	S
Vargas, Javier	2027	NC		Liu, Rui	2027	W
DiTommaso, Antonio	2027	NE		Victor Ribeiro	2028	W

I3i Undergraduate Research Award Subcommittee			Board Liaison: Vice President (B4)			
Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation		Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation
Brim-DeForest, Whitney*	2029	W		Lawrence, Nevin	2027	W
MacDonald, Greg	2027	S		Kumari, Annu	2027	NE
Tseng, Paul	2027	S		Galvin, Liberty	2028	W
Westbrook, Sophie	2029	NC				

I3j Public Service Award Subcommittee			Board Liaison: Vice President (B4)			
Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation		Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation
Ferrell, Jay*	2029	NC		Schroeder, Jill	2027	W
Van Wychen, Lee	2027	B18		Shaw, David	2027	S

I3k	Excellence in Journalism Award Subcommittee	Board Liaison: Vice President (B4)
The Public Awareness Committee (See E13)		

I3l	US-HRAC Herbicide Resistance Management Subcommittee		Board Liaison: Vice President (B4)				
	Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation		Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation
	Jhala, Amit*	2029	NC		Ligenfelter, Dwight	2029	NE
	Ganie, Zahoor	2029	NE		Cahoon, Charlie	2029	S
	Lancaster, Sarah	2029	NC		Calhoun Justin	2029	S
	Varanasi, Vijay	2029	S		Liu, Riu	2029	W