



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I sit in my office in this December day in California, I see something quite unusual out the window. I believe they call it rain, and I had nearly forgotten what that was. Okay, it must mean we are getting closer to the annual meeting. As most of you know, the 2015 WSSA Annual Meeting will be held in Lexington, KY from February 9–12. Dallas Peterson is working with the local arrangements committee and Joyce Lancaster and Tony Ballard, to finalize the agenda. One unique aspect of this year's meeting is that you will have access to a meeting app that will allow you to see the agenda and all the information on the various sessions and symposia. By the time you read this newsletter, the membership, those attending the meeting, and all the abstract authors should already have received an email from Joyce Lancaster about how to download the app.

As I mentioned in the October Message, the WSSA Graduate Student Organization and the Chair of the committee, Darrin Dodds, have taken the lead on organizing the first student poster contest. We have at least 50 students signed up to participate. You may have received an email from WSSA asking for volunteer judges. Many thanks to those that volunteered to judge student posters.

At the Business meeting I will give a brief summary of all the major developments within the Society since our last meeting in Vancouver, but I wanted to update you on some of the more important recent activities. At the Lexington meeting, after eight years as the Editor of *Invasive Plant Science and Management*, I will officially step down and turn the reigns over to my very capable colleague, Toni DiTommaso. The journal now has an impact factor and is in the black financially. Another important item related to the future of our Society is that Vanelle Peterson and her committee will present a new five year strategic plan for WSSA. It is our hope that this new plan can provide the Society a blueprint of guidelines and targeted strategies that will lead us into the next decade.

During the past few months there have been a few other important developments. First, you may have heard that USDA has provided funding in a

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SEE YOU IN  
LEXINGTON, KY  
FEBRUARY 9-12!

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partnership with WSSA to develop education and outreach materials for various stakeholders on managing herbicide-resistant weeds. David Shaw and his committee have been extremely successful in bringing attention to the resistance issue and they will now have the task of developing effective educational materials. Besides David, much of the credit for this goes to Harold Coble, Jill Schroeder, Mike Barrett, Lee Van Wychen and many other members of the Herbicide Resistance Committee. The Board of Directors also passed a motion to increase the funding support for the undergraduate research awards to up to \$20,000 a year (previously \$10,000). Because we increased the award last year from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per recipient, this will now allow us to provide more awards to deserving undergraduates working on weed science research projects. Another major development for the Society is the appointment of Donn Shilling as the first WSSA Fellow to work with USDA NIFA on issues related to weed science funding and other topics. Donn will be a great addition to our other Society folks that represent WSSA in DC, including Lee Van Wychen, Mike Barrett, and Jill Schroeder. As the Chair of the Science Policy Committee, Donn is very well informed of the many issues important to the society.

Serving as your President this past year has been an honor and a very educational experience. It is amazing how much we accomplish as a whole. I would very much like to thank all the fine people that contribute so much to the society, most in volunteer activities. In particular, the WSSA Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and members, Journal Editors and Associate Editors, all the reviewers, Director of Science Policy, EPA Liaison, WSSA Fellow, Sustaining Members, and other Society volunteers. Of course, one cannot conduct almost any business without the ever present wisdom of Joyce Lancaster. Finally, I would like to thank Ian Burke (Treasurer) and Jim Kells (Past-President) for their outstanding and dedicated service to the Society. They go off the Board at the Lexington meetings. On the same vein, I would like to welcome Rick Boydston (new Treasurer) and Janis McFarland (Vice-President) to the Board and wish Dallas Peterson the best as he takes over as the new President of WSSA at the Business Meeting in Lexington.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Lexington meeting in February and I wish you a great 2015.

Joe DiTomaso  
President, WSSA

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Regarding: Reviewer questions

## WSSA FUTURE MEETING SITES AND DATES

**February 9–12, 2015**  
**55th Annual Meeting**  
**Hilton Lexington Downtown**  
**and Lexington Convention**  
**Center**

**Lexington, Kentucky**  
**Dallas Peterson, Chair**  
**Email: [dpeterso@ksu.edu](mailto:dpeterso@ksu.edu)**  
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**2016**  
**San Juan, Puerto Rico**

**2017**  
**Tucson, Arizona**

**WSSA HOME PAGE**  
**ACCESSED AT:**  
**[www.wssa.net](http://www.wssa.net)**

**THINK NEWSLETTER**  
**Deadline for April issue**  
**March 1, 2015**

### WSSA NEWSLETTER

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# Report from the 2014 Canadian Weed Science Society/ Société Canadienne de Malherbologie (CWSS-SCM) 68th Annual Meeting – Montreal

After the successful WSSA / CWSS-SCM joint meeting in Vancouver held in February of 2014, the challenge for the CWSS-SCM Local Arrangements Committee to host another successful meeting in the same calendar year was daunting. Diane Benoit and her committee rose to the challenge and another great meeting was held in the lovely setting of Montreal, Quebec from November 17–20. The theme of the plenary session was “Audit on Integrated Weed Management” with invited speakers discussing advances in IPM and challenges with producer adoption. Three professional development workshops were held including: “Introduction to R Using RStudio,” “Professional Use of Social Media,” and “How to Review a Scientific Manuscript.” The highlight of the meeting is always the Graduate Student presentations with sixteen graduate students sharing their research findings with an attentive audience.

The Annual Meeting allows the society to recognize excellence amongst its membership. The CWSS-SCM presented the Fellow Award to Dr. Diane Benoit who is now retired from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in St. Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec. The Excellence in Weed Science Award (sponsored by Dow AgroSciences) was presented to Dr. David Clements, Professor of Biology and Environment at Trinity Western University in Langley, British Columbia. Dr. Tom Wolf of AgriMetrix in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan was presented with the Excellence in Weed Extension Award, sponsored by Valent.

Student scholarships and travel awards were presented to:

## **Ph.D. students**

1st Place (sponsored by Monsanto)

Breanne Tidemann, University of Alberta.

2nd Place (sponsored by Dow AgroSciences)

Charles Geddes, University of Manitoba.

3rd Place (sponsored by CWSS-SCM)

Andrew McKenzie-Gopsill, University of Guelph.

## **M.Sc. students**

1st Place (sponsored by Monsanto)

Andrea DeRoo, University of Saskatchewan.

2nd Place (sponsored by Syngenta)

Katherine Stanley, University of Saskatchewan.

3rd Place (sponsored by CWSS-SCM)

Annemarie Van Wely, University of Guelph.

The 69th Annual Meeting will be held at the Westin Hotel in Edmonton from November 23 to 27, 2015. The planned theme of the plenary session is NEXT, which will include a retrospective on herbicide resistant weeds and discuss future “game-changing” technologies in weed science.

Eric Johnson, President  
CSWW-SCM

# WASHINGTON REPORT

by Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

## NEW CHAIRS FOR HOUSE AND SENATE AG COMMITTEES

With the November 4 elections in the rear view mirror, members of Congress have been jockeying for committee leadership assignments on Capitol Hill. Due to a self-imposed GOP rule that limits its committee chairs to three terms, nearly half of the current chairs in the House will have to step aside, including Ag Committee Chair Frank Lucas of Oklahoma. Michael Conaway of Texas will take over as House Ag Committee chairman. He grew up in Odessa, TX and was a member of Odessa Permian High School football team that won a state championship in 1966 (which eventually led to the movie "Friday Night Lights"). He has a B.A. in accounting from Texas A&M. He worked at Price Waterhouse after serving in the army, and then was the chief financial officer for Bush Exploration. Rep. Collin Peterson of Minnesota will remain as the Ranking Member of the House Ag Committee.

The new chair of the House Natural Resources Committee will be Rob Bishop from Utah who will take over for the retiring Doc Hastings from Washington. Bishop grew up in Kaysville, UT, just north of Salt Lake City and has been a lifelong resident of the district that he will be representing for the 7th term in Congress. Bishop will seek to extend the expiring Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS), two programs that provide critical funding to rural counties across the West, which includes funding for invasive weed management. Support for those programs is broad and bipartisan, but finding funding and agreeing how the money is spent will

challenge the new Natural Resources Committee chair. Rep. Raul Grijalva (AZ), a strong proponent for invasive species management, will be the new ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee.

For the House Appropriations Committee, Rep. Harold Rogers (KY) will remain the chair and Rep. Nita Lowey (NY) will remain the ranking member of the full committee. The "cardinals" or subcommittee chairs for Agriculture and Rural Development, Energy and Water Development, and Interior and Environment will remain the same. They are Robert Aderholt (AL), Mike Simpson (ID), and Ken Calvert (CA), respectively.

In the Senate, Thad Cochran of Mississippi, the current Ranking Member of the Senate Ag Committee, will be named as the new Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, a position he occupied from 2005–2007. Sen. Pat Roberts of Kansas will be named as the new Chair of the Senate Ag Committee. As House Ag Committee Chair in the 1990's, Roberts was a driving force behind the "freedom to farm" commodity policy in the 1996 Farm Bill. He is a fourth generation Kansan from Topeka, KS, has a journalism degree from Kansas State, and served four years in the Marine Corps. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1980 and then to the Senate in 1996 where he has served since. Senator Roberts has been a proponent of research and technology and had led efforts in promoting food safety and biosecurity. Sen. Deb Stabenow of Michigan, the current Sen. Ag Committee Chair, will now slide down to the Ranking Member slot. For the Senate Ag Appropriations Subcommittee, Sen. Roy Blunt from

Missouri will take over as chair after having served as the ranking member. The new ranking member spot will probably go to either Jon Tester (MT) or Jeff Merkley (OR). Sen. Blunt grew up in rural southwest Missouri and served in the House of Representatives from 1997–2011 until he was elected and sworn in to the Senate.

Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska will take over as chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. She is a 3rd generation Alaskan and the first Alaskan-born Senator to serve the state, where she has served as Senator since 2002. It's no secret that Sen. Murkowski's top priority will be energy development. She unveiled her plan almost two years ago: Energy 2020: a Vision for America's Energy Future, which calls for opening up federal lands for energy exploration among other initiatives. However, Sen. Maria Cantwell from Washington, expected to be the committee's ranking member, will run strong opposition to the chair's proposals. Murkowski's committee also has jurisdiction over most of the federal land management agencies, but don't expect much camaraderie between her and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell as they have already disagreed on a proposed road through a remote Alaskan wildlife refuge that the Senator considers a life-and-death issue for local residents. Either way, Sen. Murkowski will play a huge role in shaping Energy and Natural Resource policy in the next session of Congress because not only will she be the top authorizer, she will also be the top appropriator for land management issues as chair of Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for Interior-Environment.

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Finally, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will have a 180 degree opposite agenda when Sen. Jim Inhofe from Oklahoma takes over the gavel from Barbara Boxer of California, who will slide down to the ranking member spot. However, Sen. Inhofe will only be chair for 2 years under GOP rules since he chaired the committee from 2003–2007. You can expect an array of oversight hearings on Obama administration environmental policies such as expanding the scope of the Clean Water Act and the science underpinning federal environmental rules. Sen’s Inhofe and Boxer are about as far apart as you can get on the ideological spectrum and there will be no shortage of polarizing drama within this committee over the next two years.

### **FY 2015 USDA APPROPRIATIONS**

The last act of the 113th Congress before leaving town for the year was to pass the “Cromnibus,” which funds the federal government for FY 2015. Things look pretty good for USDA budget items overall with NIFA, ARS, APHIS, NRCS, the Economic Research Service (ERS), and National Ag Statistics Service (NASS) all receiving higher budgets compared to FY 2014. The ERS received the largest increase among the aforementioned agencies with a 9.4 percent increase over last year to \$85.37 million. Within NIFA, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) grants program increased 2.8% from \$316 million to \$325 million. Meanwhile, FY 2015 funding for the Hatch Act (\$244 million), Smith Lever 3b and 3c (\$300 million), and the IR-4 program (\$11.9 million) remain the same as last year. The Crop Protection and Pest Management line item, which includes funding for Extension IPM and the Regional IPM Centers among other things, received a small increase from \$17.14 million to \$17.2 million.

### **CONGRESS DITCHES WOTUS INTERPRETIVE RULE, BUT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE STILL MOVING FORWARD**

EPA and Army Corp of Engineers jointly published an “administrative rule” meant to clarify what are “Waters Of The United States” (WOTUS) and an “interpretive rule” meant to clarify which NRCS practices are exempt from Clean Water Act (CWA) permits for dredge and fill material under CWA 404(f)(1)(A). The proposed administrative rule would greatly expand the “waters” covered under the Clean Water Act to almost all waters in the United States. This would subject thousands of streams, ditches, and other “small” waters to federal permitting and citizen lawsuits, including those on agricultural property. When Congress passed the CWA in 1972, their intent was for the CWA to cover “navigable waters of the United States”. The expanded jurisdiction and the imprecision of the terms used by EPA and the Army Corp will result in significant added legal and regulatory costs. To try to minimize the potential effect on agriculture, EPA issued the “interpretive rule” at the same time as the “administrative rule” on WOTUS, which specifies 56 NRCS conservation practices that farmers must do to qualify for the CWA exemptions for dredge and fill permits. However, this “interpretive rule” only added confusion since agricultural storm water runoff and irrigation return flows are already except from CWA permitting. NRCS has more than a 160 approved conservation practices. Would the remaining 104 NRCS conservation practices still be considered normal farming practices? Or would they be subject to CWA citizen lawsuits under the administration’s new WOTUS rule? Thankfully Congress “ditched” EPA’s interpretive rule of NRCS approved conservation prac-

tices with a rider in the “Cromnibus” that was passed on December 12. However, the “administrative rule” that greatly expands EPA’s authority under the CWA is still moving forward. EPA Administrator McCarthy has said that the CWA exemptions for ag storm water runoff and irrigation return flow will be upheld. We’ll see. The bottom line is that EPA and the Army Corp of Engineers will very likely move forward to finalize their “administrative rule” this spring. However, the new 114th Congress will certainly have something to say about this, as well as the President’s veto pen. Stay tuned.

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**THINK NEWSLETTER  
Deadline for April issue  
March 1, 2015**



# NECROLOGY

## **GIDEON DEE “Gid” HILL, JR.**

**April 10, 2011**



Gideon Dee “Gid” Hill, Jr., age 88, born November 2, 1922, died April 10, 2011 in Fresno, California.

Gid grew up in Pilot Mountain, North Carolina. His family raised tobacco during the Great Depression and he assisted his father with their livestock business.

He attended Berea College in Berea, Kentucky, but World War II interrupted his education. From 1942 to 1945, he served as crew chief on a Curtiss-Wright C-46 Commando in the China-Burma-India theater. Stationed in India under the command of General Joseph “Vinegar Joe” Stilwell, his unit flew gasoline and supplies over the Himalayas – “the hump” – to supply Allied forces in Burma and those of the Nationalist Chinese.

In 1948, he graduated from Berea College. He attended North Carolina State (M.S., 1951) and Ohio State (Ph.D., 1953). His research was in the then emerging field of chemical control of weeds in agricultural crops. His published theses were Chemical Weed Control in Tobacco Plant Beds (M.S.) and Herbicides and adjuvants on Canada thistle: Relation of 2, 4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) to certain soils and soil-like materials (Ph.D.).

In 1953, Gid joined E.I. duPont de Nemours and Company and relocated to Wilmington, remaining with the company until retiring in 1988 as Senior Director of Biochemical Research. He led the corporate task force for urea herbicides in the 1950’s which laid the foundation for the modern science of chemical weed control. He was also involved in the development of Karmex, Lannate, and Glean, among other products.

He served as the President of the Northeastern Weed Science Society in 1965–1966. He was Fellow of the Northeastern Weed Science Society and named a Distinguished Member of the Weed Science Society of America. He received Honorary Membership in the Weed Science Society of America in 1982. In 1986, he was inducted into the Hall of Marketing Excellence of the DuPont Agricultural Products Department.

In retirement he maintained an avid interest in agriculture. As President of the Agricultural Research Institute in Washington, D.C., he provided expert testimony before various committees of the United States Congress.



# POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
*Achieve International Excellence*

## ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR FACULTY OF SCIENCE SCHOOL OF PLANT BIOLOGY

Job no.: 493808

Work type: Full-time

Location: Crawley

Categories: Science

- Teaching & Research Academic, Tenurable appointment
- Salary Range: Level D \$133,440–\$147,012 p.a.

### About the University

The University of Western Australia (UWA) is a member of Australia's prestigious Group of Eight and ranked among the top 100 universities (88th in the world) with a broad and balanced coverage of disciplines in the arts, sciences and major professions. For the past 100 years, UWA has contributed significantly to the intellectual, cultural and economic development of the State of Western Australia and the nation as a whole.

### About the Position

The School of Plant Biology seeks to recruit an Associate Professor in weed science/crop science/weed control technologies to be Deputy Director of the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative (AHRI) and contribute to our teaching, research and extension programs.

AHRI is a GRDC funded national initiative that addresses herbicide resistance, weed control and crop agronomy. The appointee will work collaboratively within UWA and build links with external partners, grains industry and grower groups. We are seeking a person with energy, vision, leadership and a commitment to excellence in research, graduate stu-

dent training (PhD and MSc) and coursework teaching.

The successful candidate will be part of a succession plan for the ongoing success of AHRI beyond 2020. To be considered for this role, the successful applicant will:

- Have PhD qualifications in plant science and/or agronomy, with preference for weed science and the skills and willingness to focus on research on innovative weed control technologies
- Have a strong track record for research leadership, including grant success, publications and postgraduate student supervision
- Have enthusiasm for university teaching, scientific communication and collaboration with the grains industry and agriculture

Criteria are outlined in the position description (role statement and selection criteria). Applicants with teaching experience are requested to submit a teaching portfolio as part of their application.

### Benefits Include:

17% superannuation, generous leave provisions and fares to Perth (if applicable) for appointee and dependants along with a relocation allowance. These and other benefits will be specified in the offer of employment

### Closing Date:

Monday 23 February 2015

### Application Details:

Applications must be submitted online. Full details of the position's responsibilities and the selection criteria are outlined in the position description and applicants should clearly demonstrate they meet the selection criteria.

Please see the position description prior to applying: [313801.pdf](#)

### Advertised:

04 Dec 2014 W. Australia Standard Time

### Applications Close:

23 Feb 2015 11:55 PM W. Australia Standard Time

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## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
February 9–12, 2015	Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) Annual Meeting	Hilton Lexington Downtown and Lexington Convention Center Lexington, Kentucky	Dallas Peterson Email: dpeterso@ksu.edu Telephone: 785-532-0405 www.wssa.net
March 9–12, 2015	Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) Annual Meeting	Portland, Oregon	www.wsweedscience.org
March 23–26, 2015	8th International IPM Symposium	Salt Palace Convention Center Salt Lake City, Utah	Elaine Wolff Email: wolff1@illinois.edu Telephone: 217-244-7670
November 23–27, 2015	Canadian Weed Science Society/ Société canadienne de malherbologie (CWSS-SCM) Annual Meeting	Westin Hotel Edmonton, Alberta Canada	www.weedscience.ca
February 8–11, 2016	Joint WSSA and Southern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting	San Juan, Puerto Rico	www.wssa.net
2017	Weed Science Society of America Annual Meeting	Tucson, Arizona	www.wssa.net

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