Volume 51, No. 4 January, 2024



Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First thing – I want to thank Carl Libbey for being on the ball relative to producing several newsletters every year. Carl has one of those behind-the-scenes positions for WSSA (Newsletter Editor), and I want to personally thank him for being responsible for the newsletter "happening!" He does a great job of assimilating and producing this info. There are multiple situations within

WSSA where people do a great job – please look at your committee list and thank people who are performing exceptionally on the Board and within the Society.

It has been said that every day that goes by is a lower percentage of your life and that is why time seems to move so rapidly. The days go by slowly and years quickly – and I must say that is the case for 2023. The past-Covid world seems a bit surreal, and I hope that those days continue to stay in the rear-view mirror. WSSA continues to move forward under the guidance of many great volunteers – section chairs, committee chairs, officers, weed contests volunteers and general overall supporters. Please remember that we have over 45 committees and if you feel "left out," make sure you engage with the individual responsible for your committee. Sometimes they may not understand or know your level of enthusiasm for a certain subject!

It has been an honor for me to serve as President over the year, yet I will never be able to give back as much as the Society has given to me. There are so many peers, friends, colleagues, students, and others that have taught all of us much over the years. I am forever thankful for the relationships built over the years to help move Weed Science in the right direction. I am especially thankful for the officers Stanley Culpepper (Past-President), Greg Dahl (President-Elect) and Hilary Sandler (Vice-President). These folks are the hitch pins for establishing committees, filling the officer slate, establishing the meeting programs, keeping up with committees, and addressing Society needs over time. I am thankful for the many committee chairs, inclusive of Anita Dille who moved off of the Executive Committee last year and is already engaged as the Committee Chairperson for WSSA Strategic Planning. This committee will continue to set direction for WSSA. CONTINUED on pg 2 >>>

2024 MEETING NOTES

GRAD STUDENT FUNDRAISER

FOR SWSS: Make sure you sign up for TopGolf on Sunday night at the Annual Meeting. This is a fundraising event for the SWSS Student Endowment. It is not just for students; everyone is being encouraged to attend and participate.

ABSTRACTS: Please get your presentations into the WSSA Abstract submission program. The deadline to get your presentations entered into the WSSA Abstract system is January 15, 2024. It will take some time for your moderators to get this big program loaded and to be ready to go.

PAPERS & POSTERS: We have a total of 506 presentations, including 226 posters.

NISAW: National Invasive Species Awareness Week is scheduled for February 26 – March 3, 2024, in Washington, DC. This is the 25th anniversary of NISAW.

IN THIS ISSUE

WSSA Publications Update 3 EPA Field Trip Recap 4
 Important Contacts
 10

 Calendar of Events
 11

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED from pg 1

There are several other folks that I would like to thank in the list below (apologies, as I know I have left some out!):

- Janis McFarland for her steadfastness and diligence relative to the Science Policy Committee
- Lauren Lazaro stellar job as Secretary, providing us with notes a short time after meetings
- Greg Elmore time as Treasurer and especially the additional time needed to complete the Innovative Grants process
- Bill Chism outstanding service as chair of the ESA committee (submitted 100+ pages of comments to the Federal Register) on behalf of WSSA, the four Regional Societies and APMS
- Caren Schmidt thanks for three years of chairing the Public Awareness Committee, one of the most active WSSA committees, and to Bart Clewis for taking on the charge to lead the PAC Committee
- Linda Edgerton (independent writer, Greensboro, NC) for making our press releases much better and "readable" over the years (approximately 16)
- Sarah Lancaster for working tirelessly on the WSSA website
- Marty Schraer and Pratop Devkota –planning and organizing the student contests
- Tom Mueller for continuously organizing the poster session

I strongly urge that you take a look at the committee list on this page https://wssa.net/society/wssa-committees/ and volunteer where you have a passion or interest. Reach out to committee chairs to see where you would like to participate! Just remember that the website will be updated soon. Sarah Lancaster has done a great job of getting input and preparing WSSA.net "II." Kudos to the committee as we all know that updating websites takes a significant amount of time. This year also saw the National Weed Contest take place back during the summer. We all know how much work it takes to put on a Regional Weed Contest - multiply that several times for the National Contest and congratulations to Garret Montgomery, Joey Williams, Mathew Goddard, Daren Bohannon, Alan Coskrey, Greg Stapleton, and Clete Youmans plus all of the volunteers for putting on a great show in Union City, TN - and thanks to Bayer for hosting. I will forever support Regional and National Weed competitions as I think this is one of the most productive things we do and is not found in many other disciplines. It gives us some foresight as to the next leaders in Weed Science - and makes sure that we learn the new ways of doing things (from the students!).

Looking back through 2023, we have had an extremely productive year, starting with committee meetings and the annual meeting in Arlington in late January, early February. It is great to circle back to the DC area every few years so that many of our Federal agencies can more easily participate. Understanding how to interact with these organizations is critical to our weed management mission. Our liaisons, Jill Schroeder (CAST), Jim Kells (USDA-NIFA), and Mark Van Gessel (EPA), continue to maintain busy schedules with their contact organizations. These interactions are strongly needed and very productive for WSSA.

In July, Lee Van Wychen, Bill Chism and Stanley Culpepper organized a seminar, "Protecting Endangered Species While Feeding the World." Approximately 75 congressional staffers attended. The event sponsors were: WSSA, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), Extension Committee on Policy (ECOP), CropLife America (CLA), and Syngenta. Additional collabo-

WSSA FUTURE MEETING SITES AND DATES

Jan. 22–25, 2024 WSSA-SWSS Joint Meeting San Antonio, Texas www.wssa.net and www.swss.ws

WSSA HOME PAGE ACCESSED AT: WWW.WSSa.net

THINK NEWSLETTER Deadline for April issue

March 1, 2024

SEND NEWSLETTER MATERIAL TO: Carl Libbey 225 S. 10th Street Mount Vernon, WA 98274 newsletter@wssa.net Phone: (360) 708-5543

WSSA NEWSLETTER

VOL. 51, NO. 4

JANUARY, 2024

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:

Carl Libbey 225 S. 10th St.

Mount Vernon, WA 98274 newsletter@wssa.net

WSSA PUBLICATIONS UPDATE

Weed Technology has completed the transition to a Gold Open Access publishing model. All articles accepted from December 4, 2023 onwards will be published open access, and starting with the 2024 volume year, Weed Technology is also switching to continuous publication. After final formatting and copyediting, accepted articles will immediately be assigned page numbers and published online in the current volume as the version of record, without waiting to be gathered into a journal issue. This will significantly reduce the time from article acceptance to final publication. The number of manuscripts submitted to Weed Science and *IPSM* increased in 2023 compared to 2022, which is encouraging as we prepare to transition both these journals to Gold Open Access at the end of 2024.

Chris Willenborg and Sarah Ward traveled to the UK in early December to visit the headquarters of our publishing partner, Cambridge University Press. We were generously hosted by Catherine Hill, our UK-based CUP Executive Publisher, who organized two days of very productive discussions with CUP staff. We came away impressed by the breadth of professional knowledge and experience of our CUP colleagues, and assured that seven years into our publishing partnership with Cambridge University Press, WSSA journals are in good hands. There will be plenty of WSSA publication activity in 2024 as we follow up on ideas that surfaced during these discussions.

> Sarah Ward Chris Willenborg WSSA Co-Directors of Publications

SEND NEWSLETTER MATERIAL TO: Carl Libbey 225 S. 10th Street Mount Vernon, WA 98274 newsletter@wssa.net Phone: (360) 708-5543

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED from pg 2

rators were the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) and American Soybean Association (ASA). Bill also traveled to several other meetings to discuss ESA initiatives.

If you get a chance, catch up with Lee Van Wychen relative to policy, regulatory matters, and anything DC related. Lee's portion of the newsletter gets longer every year as he is imbedded in so many projects. Lee helped the Society respond to multiple comments in the Federal Register, including over 100 pages in responses. I would also like to mention how efficient the process is relative to working with IMI and Eric Gustafson as the Executive Secretary of WSSA. He is a "constant" on the board – providing us with great historical views and suggestions on how to prepare for the future. Thanks also to Kelley Apodaca (also with IMI) for working with us and the SWSS to pull off the joint meeting.

The last, but not least, part of this newsletter will be a thanks to the Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS) members that have been working directly with Greg Dahl to plan our meeting in San Antonio. Thanks to Eric Castner, Todd Baughman, Gary Schwarzlose, Luke Etheridge and the Local Arrangements Committee. These folks have been great to work with and I look forward to seeing them later this month!

If this newsletter article sounds like a

large thank-you note – it is! There is no way that we could get any of this done without the many volunteers associated with WSSA. Please realize that your work is appreciated. I hope that many of you feel the same way that I do about giving back and that you will tirelessly continue to provide your energy and input to a great WSSA organization. We look forward to seeing everyone in San Antonio later this month!

> Sincerely, Carroll Moseley WSSA President

EPA Tours Maryland Crops & Weeds Research

In its continuing quest to keep regulators connected with current farming practices, the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA), the University of Maryland and the University of Delaware led a group of EPA scientists through row crop and specialty crop research plots on September 13. The EPA staffers work on issues and topics across the United States and were eager to learn more about the agriculture in their backyards.

The field tour took place on the Wye Research and Education Center, which encompasses 1,000 acres along the Wye River on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Perched along the Chesapeake Bay, the center is well situated to evaluate conservation agriculture techniques, such as no-till, cover crops and field buffers, explained the Center's director, Dr. Kathryne Everts.



Farmers in the mid-Atlantic states face some of the most restrictive regulations aimed at reducing nutrient run-off and pollution of the Bay, University of Maryland Extension Agronomist Dr. Nicole Fiorellino reminded the tour. As a result, Maryland ranks number one in the country in the percent of agricultural fields in cover crops, and number two for fields devoted to no-till. "The mid-Atlantic region in general has led the way in the nation in conservation practices," she explained.

This dynamic makes the University of Maryland's agriculture research particularly essential, as lawmakers turn to the ag scientists there to help set those regulations. "For instance, UMD nutrient management recommendations have become their regulatory guide-lines," as Dr. Fiorellino put it.

TILLAGE, COVER CROPS & WEEDS

John Draper, a Centreville, Maryland farmer who works as the center's farm manager, parked a series of tillage implements for the EPA employees to examine – a chisel plow, a cultipacker, and a field cultivator and



Dr. Nicole Fiorellino discusses differences in production systems between tilled, no-till, and no-till with cover crops.



roller. The equipment set the stage for a discussion of a nearby series of demonstration plots, examining the differences in corn stands grown on tilled plots, no-till plots and plots with cover crops.

Some of the agronomic differences observed between the plots were weed control, nitrogen uptake, stand uniformity and yield, Draper said. Draper and Dr. Fiorellino also discussed the differences in planting equipment and fuel consumption required for tilled versus no-till plots, complete with a planter demonstration.

There to help explain the effects of these different production practices on weed management – particularly the herbicide-resistant weeds plaguing the mid-Atlantic – were University of Delaware Extension Weed Scientist (and WSSA liaison and tour organizer) Dr. CONTINUED on pg 5 >>>

EPA FIELD TRIP RECAP CONTINUED from pg 4

Mark VanGessel, as well as University of Maryland Extension Weed Scientist, Dr. Kurt Vollmer.

Top of the list of problematic weeds in the region are Palmer amaranth, marestail (horseweed), lambsquarter, morningglory and johnsongrass. The group discussed the different herbicide-tolerant crop varieties available to try to control these weeds, as well as the mounting herbicide-resistance problems that continue to endanger herbicide use in both the region and across the country.

Dr. Vollmer discussed recent research on how different nozzle tips affect the spray penetration of in-row (between individual crop plants) and inter-row weeds (between crop rows).

GROW postdoctoral researcher Dr. Eugene Law explained the role cereal rye cover crop mulch can play to help farmers implement different integrated weed management tactics. Cover crops help by smothering weed seeds early in the season and reducing and slowing their emergence. This can keep the weeds to a manageable size as farmers wait to get into the field to spray herbicides during the oft-soggy mid-Atlantic springs, Law said.

"Combining chemical and cultural management like this can help give you more flexibility with those narrow spray windows," he explained.

Draper also called attention to an equally wily pest of Maryland row crops – the booming local deer population. Bambi, it turns out, has a robust appetite for just about every row crop except sorghum and hemp. Draper estimated that many row crop operations lose \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year to deer feeding, particularly on the edges of fields. Solutions are costly and include repellent sprays, fencing and trap crops – and as a last resort, hunting.

DIGGING INTO SPECIALTY CROPS

Chris Cochran, Talbot County vegetable farmer and Wye's Fruit and Vegetable Farm Manager, walked the group through fruit production practices in the region. Highlighting grapes, blueberries, and blackberries, Cochran described the challenges of pesticide use on farms growing a variety of specialty crops. These crops have many of the same issues with herbicide resistance as field crops, and often without the diversity of tools available. Perennial crops do not allow for cultivation, there is a limited number of herbicides registered for these crops, and damage from herbicides can have ramifications for future years. For instance, peren-





Top: John Draper answers questions about the workings of a no-till planter. Bottom: Field day participants examine seed trench and seed placement.

nial weeds such as poison ivy or green brier are not tolerated in u-pick berry production and require chemical control, but use of glyphosate and accidental contact can kill the berry bushes.

Another complicating factor is the use of drip irrigation within the row of bushes, which keeps the soil moist and favors microbial activity that degrades herbicides faster than in non-irrigated field crops. This often leads to weeds emerging sooner in these treated rows and requiring additional management.

Cochran and his team also demonstrated specialized pesticide application equipment for specialty crops. They showcased a hooded sprayer, which allows for herbicides to be applied to the inter-row areas of vegetables grown with black plastic, allowing for better crop safety and less herbicide use across the field. They also discussed the airblast sprayer and its utility for tree fruit.

EPA FIELD TRIP RECAP CONTINUED from pg 5

FIELD TOUR IMPACTS

Altogether, approximately 30 EPA staffers participated in the field day, representing at least five divisions within the Office of Pesticide Programs. In a poll taken after the tour. the vast majority (91%) reported that the experience had increased their understanding of agricultural production systems and the intersection of production practices and weed management.

Authors: Emily Unglesbee, GROW and Mark VanGessel, University of Delaware

Photo Credits: Emily Unglesbee, GROW

"...[W]e learned a lot," as one EPA participant put it. "I have an even higher appreciation for the enormous challenges farmers face, especially in the Mid-Atlantic."



Left: Dr. Kurt Vollmer discusses the need for effective herbicides to control weeds prior to no-till planting.

Bottom: Dr. Mark VanGessel demonstrates soybean growth stages.



WSSA Contacts

Interactive Management Incorporated (IMI) Eric Gustafson, Executive Secretary 12110 N. Pecos St., Suite #220 Westminster, CO 80234 (720) 977-7940 info@wssa.net

Cambridge University Press Gabrielle Bauman Publishing Editor gabie.bauman@cambridge.org 2024 Annual Meeting Gregory Dahl President-Elect gkdahl19@gmail.com

WASHINGTON REPORT by Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

SCIENCE POLICY FELLOWS VISIT DC



In October, the WSSA Science Policy Fellows Annu Kumari (left) and Cynthia Sias (right) visited Washington, DC to meet with their Congressmen and

Senators. Main issues included supporting appropriations for the USDA NIFA IR-4 Project and the Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) program, as well as other key USDA research programs. Beyond our eight Congressional visits, we also met with eight different trade associations, commodity groups and other ag research stakeholders to get a better understanding of how these groups operate and how we can work together through coalitions to achieve common policy goals.

APMS LEADERS SEEK FUNDS FOR AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT



(Left to right) Cynthia Sias, Annu Kumari, Rob Richardson, Troy Goldsby, and Jason Ferrell

In November, Dr. Jason Ferrell, University of Florida, president of the Aquatic Plant Management Society

(APMS); Mr. Troy Goldsby, Aqua Services, Inc, APMS Director; and Dr. Rob Richardson, North Carolina State University, APMS science policy rep, traveled to Washington, DC for 15 Congressional visits to discuss funding and cost share issues for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers aquatic plant control research program (APCRP). WSSA's Science Policy Fellows Annu Kumari and Cynthia Sias also joined us. APCRP is the nation's only federally authorized program for research and development of effective, science-based strategies to manage invasive aquatic weed species.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION KEEPS GOVERNMENT FUNDED

A second, relatively clean Continuing Resolution (CR) passed and was signed by President Biden prior to expiration of the first on November 17, 2023. This did not solve the funding problem, but it did prevent a government shutdown and gave Congress additional time to work toward a solution. All 12 appropriations bills must still be passed by both Houses and signed by the President. The current CR has two deadlines: January 19, 2024, for USDA and three other agencies, and February 2 for the other eight appropriation bills.

Both the House and the Senate are slated to return to session the week of January 8, meaning there is very limited time to reach the needed agreements. It seems likely that additional CRs will be needed if the government is to remain open.

The current CR did extend the Farm Bill to September 30, 2024, providing added time to work on this. House and Senate Ag Committee leaders expressed hope that it can be completed by the end of the first quarter or shortly after. However, no draft Farm Bill language has been released, and it does not appear the Speaker of the House has entered into negotiations with the Senate. This means it is likely to be an extended process and with 2024 being an election year, there is a 50-50 chance that a new Farm Bill might not be passed until 2025.

EPA PUBLISHES UPDATE ON ITS VULNERABLE SPECIES PILOT (VSP)

On November 21, EPA published an update on their VSP based on the 10,000 plus comments (200 unique comments) they received during the 45-day comment period. The following summarizes EPA's current thinking on revisions to the VSP framework:

- Narrow the areas within the endangered species range map to only include locations that are important to conserving a species;
- Clarify the scope of the VSP for non-agricultural uses;
- Clarify potential exemptions to the proposed mitigation and whether additional exemptions are needed;
- Revise some of the proposed mitigation and include additional mitigation options specific to non-agricultural uses and specialty crops;
- Revisit how EPA selected the pilot vulnerable species; and
- Develop a consistent approach to reduce pesticide exposure to listed species from spray drift and run-off.

EPA continues to consider the public comments, meet with stakeholders, and collaborate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA, and state agencies. By fall 2024, EPA intends to provide additional updates on the VSP. The full update, along with additional details regarding the VSP proj-CONTINUED on pg 8 >>

WASHINGTON REPORT CONTINUED from pg 7

ect and mitigation proposals, are available in the public docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0327.

WEED SCIENCE SOCIETIES COMMENT ON EPA'S "HERBICIDE STRATEGY" FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES Executive Summary:

The Weed Science Societies suggest nine additional ways to mitigate the impact of herbicides on listed species due to spray drift, which includes decreased buffers for ultra-coarse droplets, additional types of vegetation to intercept spray droplets and grower education.

We also suggest six additional ways to mitigate herbicide runoff and erosion, which also includes grower education, more specific terminology for agricultural vs specialty crops as well as assigning more compensatory mitigation points for fields with subsurface drainage or cover crop practices.

Most importantly, the Weed Science Societies want to stress that grower education will be the most effective way to implement EPA's Herbicide Strategy. We recommend a minimum of a 3-5 year phase-in period for the herbicide strategy ESA mitigation practices, which corresponds to the 3-5 year interval that pesticide applicators must be recertified.

The Weed Science Societies also present the results of a survey of weed scientists from across the country that looked at the 13 crop scenarios for pesticide runoff and erosion mitigation points that the EPA provided, plus two additional crop scenarios. Alarmingly, only two of the 15 crop production scenarios, or 13%, could obtain the nine runoff/erosion mitigation points considered necessary to maintain existing weed control practices.

We provide additional information on conservation specialists and programs in different states as well as a rationale for why EPA should create a database of the mitigation points needed by crop, pesticide use limitation area (PULA), and herbicide. We also provide suggestions to enhance "Bulletins Live Two!" as well as a list of topics in dire need of research funding so we can best help protect threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat.

Finally, we have provided a list of suggested education and training activities to successfully launch the ESA mitigation practices for pesticides.

The Weed Science Societies' comments and suggestions to improve EPA's draft herbicide strategy for endangered species are at: https:// wssa.net//wp-content/uploads/ Weed-Science-Society-comments-on-EPA-Herbicide-Strategy_Final.pdf

This was truly a national and regional effort! I'd like to especially acknowledge the members of WSSA's Endangered Species Act Committee for their tireless work on these issues.

EPA PESTICIDE LABEL REFORM IS HAPPENING

On November 15, EPA released a white paper titled "Benefits of the Adoption of Structured Content and Digital Pesticide Labels" and is requesting feedback on its plan to adopt digital pesticide labels that will make labeling information clearer, more consistent, and more accessible to users.

EPA's plan for digital labels covers the creation of both a structured label-which would provide a framework for consistently placing and ordering label information-and a digital label, which would organize the label information as electronic data. Currently, the pesticide product label registration process is mostly manual, with EPA staff reading through long, detailed label submissions to pull out specific information, like application rate, to enter into the EPA's Pesticide Product and Label System. This has led to time-consuming reviews and high cost to registrants and regulators. Further, the increasing complexity of pesticide labels and lack of standardized label format and language can create challenges for pesticide users and the public seeking information about which products to use and how to use them.

Moving from traditional labels to digital labels and providing a database of accepted label language would make submitting label content simpler and more consistent for all pesticide registrants and would improve the Agency's ability to review and access submissions efficiently.

EPA is requesting public comment on all aspects of structured digital labels, including:

- anticipated benefits
- risks and challenges
- key information fields (such as pesticide use site, formulation, and maximum application rate), and
- potential phases of adoption.

The whitepaper will be open for comment until **March 14, 2024** on docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0562.

EPA RELEASES FINAL REPORT FROM FIFRA SAP REGARDING THE USE OF 11 CONTROVERSIAL ATRAZINE COSM STUDIES

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) provides independent scientific advice to the EPA on health and safety issues related to pesticides. The FIFRA SAP conducted on August 22-24, 2023 was titled: "Examination of Microcosm/Mesocosm Studies for Evaluating the Effects of Atrazine on Aquatic Plant Communities." Many thanks to Aaron Hager, Jay Ferrell, John Madsen and Kurt Getsinger for their service and data review for this SAP.

To protect aquatic plant communities from the effects of atrazine, EPA developed an aquatic plant communitybased concentration-equivalent level of concern (CE-LOC). The CE-LOC is determined using a combination of singlespecies aquatic plant toxicity studies CONTINUED on pg 9 >>

WASHINGTON REPORT CONTINUED from pg 8

and microcosm/mesocosm (cosm) studies. The cosm studies included in the CE-LOC calculation can be defined as complex experiments used to examine aquatic plant communities under semi-controlled conditions that simulate natural environments. Endpoints for these cosm studies were defined as single determinations of the response of one or more components of the aquatic plant community (e.g., phytoplankton, periphyton, macrophytes) for a defined individual atrazine test concentration as it relates to the controls in the study.

From 2002 to 2016, EPA considered over 70 cosm studies. However, a FIFRA SAP conducted in 2012 identified 11 of those studies as warranting further review because of concerns about study design or performance flaws, as well as EPA's interpretation of the results.

EPA received additional public comments about the 11 controversial atrazine cosm studies in its 2022 Proposed Revisions to the Atrazine Interim Registration Review Decision where they used a CE-LOC of 3.4 ppb. The CE-LOC for atrazine was previously 15 ppb. When the atrazine CE-LOC is exceeded, it triggers additional monitoring and/or mitigation to protect aquatic plant communities.

After EPA issued the 3.4 ppb CE-LOC last year, many stakeholder groups, including WSSA, asked the EPA to conduct this independent FIFRA SAP on the use of the 11 controversial atrazine cosm studies in calculating the CE-LOC.

To EPA's credit, they published an excellent white paper earlier this year that presents EPA's reevaluation of the 11 controversial atrazine cosm studies. The white paper also provides an overview of atrazine, its history as it relates to the cosm studies, and the "Charge Questions" (pg 16) for the 2023 FIFRA SAP that met in August.

On November 16, the FIFRA SAP final report on the use of the 11 atrazine cosm studies was released. Based on

the SAP's discussions, most of the 11 atrazine cosm studies in question did suffer from various flaws and should not be used to calculate a CE-LOC for atrazine. There are nearly 50 other cosm studies that meet EPA's criteria for inclusion in its cosm database. If EPA follows the 2023 FIFRA SAP's recommendations, they would be using the best available science to calculate the CE-LOC for atrazine, which would likely mean a higher atrazine CE-LOC.

NISAW 2024 SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 26–MARCH 3, 2024 IN WASHINGTON, DC (but may change)

The 25th anniversary of National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) will occur from Feb. 26 – Mar. 3, 2024. The 2024 NISAW webinar series is listed below. Get more information at NISAW events page.

Planning for the 25th anniversary of National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) is ongoing. Please note that the date may change due to Congress just changing their work schedule. The House and Senate are always in session the week after President's Day when NISAW is held, but that will not occur in 2024 due to the House being in session for 10 weeks straight after Labor Day. Please stay tuned. My hope is that all the invasive species stakeholder groups traveling to Washington, DC will make establishing an invasive species management fund their #1 priority.

This year we are spotlighting the urgent need to protect North American Biodiversity. With webinars from our partners during NISAW that include the following topics:

- February 26, 2024 Annual USGS Invasive Species Research Forum
- February 27, 2024 The Invasive Species Language Workshop in partnership with the National Sea Grant Law Center
- February 28, 2024 The Federal Interagency Committee on the Man-

agement of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW)

- February 29, 2024 Opportunities and Challenges for Preventing the Next Plant Invasion (NOTE: this is a Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) white paper that was developed by the following representatives from WSSA and NIASMA: Jacob Barney, David Coyle, Erik Lehnhoff, Daniel Tekiela, and Paul Tseng.)
- March 1, 2024 Protecting North American Biodiversity from Invasive Species

Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D. Executive Director of Science Policy Weed Science Society of America 5720 Glenmullen Pl Alexandria, VA 22303 Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net Cell: 202-746-4686

THINK NEWSLETTER Deadline for April issue March 1, 2024

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

PRESIDENT

Carroll Moseley Syngenta carroll.moseley@syngenta.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT Gregory Dahl gkdahl19@gmail.com

VICE-PRESIDENT Hilary Sandler UMass Cranberry Station hsandler@umass.edu

PAST-PRESIDENT Stanley Culpepper University of Georgia stanley@uga.edu

CONSTITUTION/MOPS John Lindquist University of Nebraska Jlindquist1@unl.edu

SECRETARY Lauren Lazaro Blue River Technology lauren.lazaro@bluerivertech.com

TREASURER Greg Elmore Bayer Crop Science Greg.Elmore@Bayer.com

MEMBERS AT LARGE Michael Flessner Virginia Tech University flessner@vt.edu

Lynn Sosnoskie Cornell University Lms438@cornell.edu

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Eric Gustafson IMI Group info@wssa.net

CO-DIRECTORS OF PUBLICATIONS

Chris Willenborg University of Saskatchewan chris.willenborg@usask.ca

Sarah Ward sarah.ward@colostate.edu

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Carl Libbey newsletter@wssa.net

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SCIENCE POLICY Lee Van Wychen Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net

CAST REP Jill Schroeder New Mexico State University jischroe1@gmail.com

GRAD STUDENT REP Pamela Carvalho-Moore University of Arkansas pcarvalh@uark.edu

USDA-NIFA FELLOW Jim Kells Michigan State University kells@msu.edu

EPA LIAISON Mark VanGessel University of Delaware mjv@udel.edu REGIONAL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES:

APMS REP Ben Sperry University of Florida bpsperry@ufl.edu

NEWSS REP Steven Pyle Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC steve.pyle@syngenta.com

NCWSS REP Brett Miller Syngenta brett.miller@syngenta.com

SWSS REP Peter Dotray Texas A&M University (806) 834-3685

WSWS REP Alan Helm Gowan (970) 466-1466 ahelm@gowanco.com

CWSS REP Darren Robinson University of Guelph (519) 674-1500 Ext. 6360 drobinson@uoguelph.ca

International Weed Science Society (IWSS) Samunder Singh sam4884@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS ·

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
January 22–25, 2024	Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) and Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS) Joint Annual Meeting	San Antonio, Texas	www.wssa.net and www.swss.ws
February 26–March 3, 2024	25th National Invasive Species Awareness Week	Washington, D.C.	www.nisaw.org
March 4–7, 2024	Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) Annual Meeting	Denver, Colorado	www.wsweedscience.org
July 14–18, 2024	Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) Annual Meeting	St. Petersburg, Florida	www.apms.org
November 2024	Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS) Anual Meeting	Virtual Meeting	www.weedscience.ca
December 8–12, 2024	North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS) Annual Meeting	Kansas City, Missouri	www.ncwss.org

Additional Weed Science Meetings and Events can be found at http://wssa.net/meeting/calendar-of-meetings/

THINK NEWSLETTER

Deadline for April issue March 1, 2024

Send Newsletter material to: Carl Libbey 225 S. 10th Street Mount Vernon, WA 98274 newsletter@wssa.net