



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to everyone who made the fifty-sixth annual meeting of our society a tremendous success. The venue was outstanding and it was truly a pleasure to work with Peter Dotray and others from the Southern Weed Science Society to convene this joint meeting. Overall it turned out to be one of our largest meetings ever with 723 registered attendees and a total of 564 paper and poster presentations. As usual, we began our meeting with the general session and awards presentations which included an introduction from the Puerto Rican Secretary of Agriculture, Dr. Myrna Comas, and continued with a very interesting and entertaining presentation from Mr. Ricardo Valentin on his work with the endangered Puerto Rican parrot project. Special thanks to our Local Arrangements Chair, Wilfredo Robles, who helped arrange the general session speakers.

Our meeting was very full and contained four outstanding symposia held throughout the course of the week. The first symposium was organized by John Madsen and was titled "21st Century Challenges in Aquatic Weed Management." Jim Westwood organized the second symposium, "Weed Control in 2050: Imagining Future Strategies and the Knowledge Needed to Achieve Them," while Michael Horak and Adam Davis organized the third symposium, "Intersection of Agricultural and Wild Areas: Management of the Non-crop Vegetation as Habitat for Pollinator, Beneficial and Iconic Species." The final symposium was titled "Use of Endemic Plant Diseases and Insect Pests for Biological Control of Invasive Weeds" and was organized by William Bruckart. The graduate students also held a professional development workshop titled "WHO You Are is HOW You Lead" which was organized by our graduate student representative, Rand Merchant.

For the second year in a row, the WSSA held a graduate student poster contest and the event was once again a huge success. Many thanks to Darrin Dodds and Matthew Goddard for all of the time and effort they spent in organizing and managing this contest. We had a total of 44 M.S. students and 40 PhD students who participated. Congratulations to all of the contest winners, and to all the students for their outstanding posters. The Board of Directors also voted to

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**CALL FOR SYMPOSIA  
2017 GUIDELINES**  
(details inside on pages 3-4)

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approve a new graduate student oral presentation contest next year, so be on the lookout for more details about this new contest in a future newsletter. This was also the second year of use with our WSSA meeting app that helps attendees develop their own personalized schedule. After only two years and many positive comments, I think this app is now a mainstay of our meetings, but please let me know if you have any comments about the app and/or suggestions for improvement.

As is the case each year, these meetings don't happen without the efforts of the many volunteers that put in a lot of hard work behind the scenes. I want to especially thank my co-chair from SWSS, Peter Dotray, for all of the time he spent planning and coordinating this joint meeting with WSSA. Also, thanks very much to Gary Shwarzlose who provided the majority of our A/V equipment and made sure all of it was up and running each day. I also want to thank all of the many section chairs for their service to the society. And finally, a special thanks to our Executive Secretary Joyce Lancaster and meeting manager Tony Ballard for all of the many tasks they do leading up to and during the meeting, and most importantly for keeping me on track throughout this whole process. Next year's meeting will be held in Tucson, Arizona, and the program chair and President-Elect is Janis McFarland. See the announcement for symposia proposals that Janis has written in this newsletter.

There is a lot happening in WSSA right now and if I had to summarize it all, I could sum it up with one word—change! Our society is going to undergo some pretty big changes in the next few years, and I'm sure we will work through it and come out better on the other side. The first major change happened in February when our WSSA Board of Directors voted to approve a change in the publisher of our three journals. Towards the end of 2016, our journals will begin to transition from Allen Press to Cambridge University Press, and we look forward to this new partner. This decision was made after much consideration as to the best interests of our society and our publications, and also after a great deal of background research and time spent investigating all of the available options by our Director of Publications, Sarah Ward.

Unfortunately, the second major change that will affect our society is that our long-time Executive Secretary, Joyce Lancaster, will be retiring after our 2017 meeting in Tucson, Arizona. These will be "big shoes" to fill for sure, but our society has already been working for many months to find a suitable replacement company. Several rounds of interviews have already taken place and we expect to have a recommendation to make to the Board of Directors by the time of the summer board meeting. We also expect to have a new Executive Secretary on hand during the 2017 meeting to work alongside Joyce before she leaves us, and to get to know us better.

In addition to all of these new items, all of the "normal" activities of the society continue forward. Lee Van Wychen continues to work as our point person in Washington, D.C. and keeps us informed on any activities or policies that could affect WSSA membership. Lee works closely with the Science Policy committee and with Donn Shilling, our USDA-NIFA Fellow. Mike Barrett is now in his third year as EPA-subject matter expert and continues to develop a closer working relationship between WSSA and EPA. This past year Mike has been working with two special committees that have been appointed to provide input to the agency on ways to monitor and mitigate herbicide resistance. These committees have been very active since our meeting in February. As a result of their efforts, we are working on a letter to EPA that outlines our response to EPA's proposed 11-point resistance management plan. The herbicide resistance education committee, chaired by David Shaw, continues to be very active and is currently planning to

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## WSSA FUTURE MEETING SITES AND DATES

February 6–9, 2017  
57th Annual Meeting  
Hilton El Conquistador  
Tucson, Arizona  
Janis McFarland, Chair  
Email: [Janis.mcfarland@](mailto:Janis.mcfarland@syngenta.com)

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

THINK NEWSLETTER  
Deadline for July issue  
June 1, 2016

## WSSA NEWSLETTER

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# CALL FOR SYMPOSIA

## 2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WSSA

### 57th Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America Hilton El Conquistador Hotel Tucson, Arizona • February 6–9, 2017

We are really excited about the 2017 Annual WSSA meeting to be held at the Hilton El Conquistador Hotel in Tucson, Arizona on February 6–9, 2017. WSSA members are now invited to submit proposals for symposia. The deadline is June 8, 2016. The WSSA Board of Directors will have the difficult task of deciding which proposals to accept for the program. The board will evaluate the proposed symposia based on how well they are justified, the target audience, publication plans and the completeness of the proposal agenda and budget. Symposium 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 nonmembers only. Symposium proposals can be e-mailed directly to Janis McFarland ([Janis.mcfarland@syngenta.com](mailto:Janis.mcfarland@syngenta.com)) and are due June 8, 2016. If you have any questions, feel free to email or call Janis at 336-707-5873.

#### SYMPOSIUM PROPOSAL

##### Outline of the Proposal Form 2017 Annual WSSA Meeting Tucson, Arizona

Title:

Organizers:

Contact Person:

Phone:

Email:

Justification and Objectives (approximately 300 words):

Target Audience:

Publication or Outreach Plans associated with symposium presentations

Associated Section(s):

Length of Proposed Program:

Proposed Titles and Speakers:

Budget Requested: (Please specify the expenditure of the funds as opposed to submitting an overall amount. The

more detailed the budget, the better the WSSA Board of Directors can evaluate the proposal.)

#### GUIDELINES FOR DISPOSITION OF WSSA FUNDS FOR SYMPOSIA EXPENSES

Funds are available to support symposia approved by the WSSA Board of Directors for the upcoming meeting. These funds can be used by the symposium organizers, working in conjunction with the Program Chair, for expenses incurred in securing speakers. The 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. For a full day symposia the maximum allowable budget will be \$6000 of which up to \$2000 can be used for symposium publication costs. The funds will be allocated as necessary to partially cover travel speaker expenses. Members of the 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 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 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. Room rates at the El Conquistador Hotel for the 2017 meeting will be \$179 per night plus applicable taxes. If less than the maximum allowable funds (\$5000 for the half-day; \$6000 for a full day) are used for speaker travel expenses, the difference cannot be used for other purposes. Chairs should contact their intended speakers and determine their financial needs for participation. This information should be

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** CONTINUED from pg 2

hold a series of regional herbicide resistance educational workshops in the fall of 2016. These workshops would serve as a prelude to another Herbicide Resistance Summit to be held in 2017. 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 our society.

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

Kevin Bradley  
President, WSSA

## **CALL FOR SYMPOSIA** CONTINUED from pg 3

incorporated into the budget for the proposed symposium. Symposium proposals must be submitted to the Program Chair by June 8, 2016. The WSSA Board of Directors will evaluate the submitted proposals and decide which symposia will be funded. The Program Chair will inform the organizers of the symposia selected for funding. Symposium organizers that receive funding can then proceed with offers of funding to non-member speakers. In no event should symposium organizers make commitments for more funding from WSSA than is approved by the board.

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 consider publication of symposium papers in *Weed Science*, *Weed Technology* or *Invasive Plant Science Management*.

Janis McFarland, 2017 Program Chair  
WSSA President-Elect

### **WSSA Contacts at Allen Press, Inc.**

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

Tony Ballard, Meeting Manager

E-mail: [tballard@k-state.edu](mailto:tballard@k-state.edu)

Regarding: WSSA annual meeting

Beverly Lindeen, Managing Editor

E-mail: [blindeen@allenpress.com](mailto:blindeen@allenpress.com)

Regarding: Reviewer questions

### **THINK NEWSLETTER**

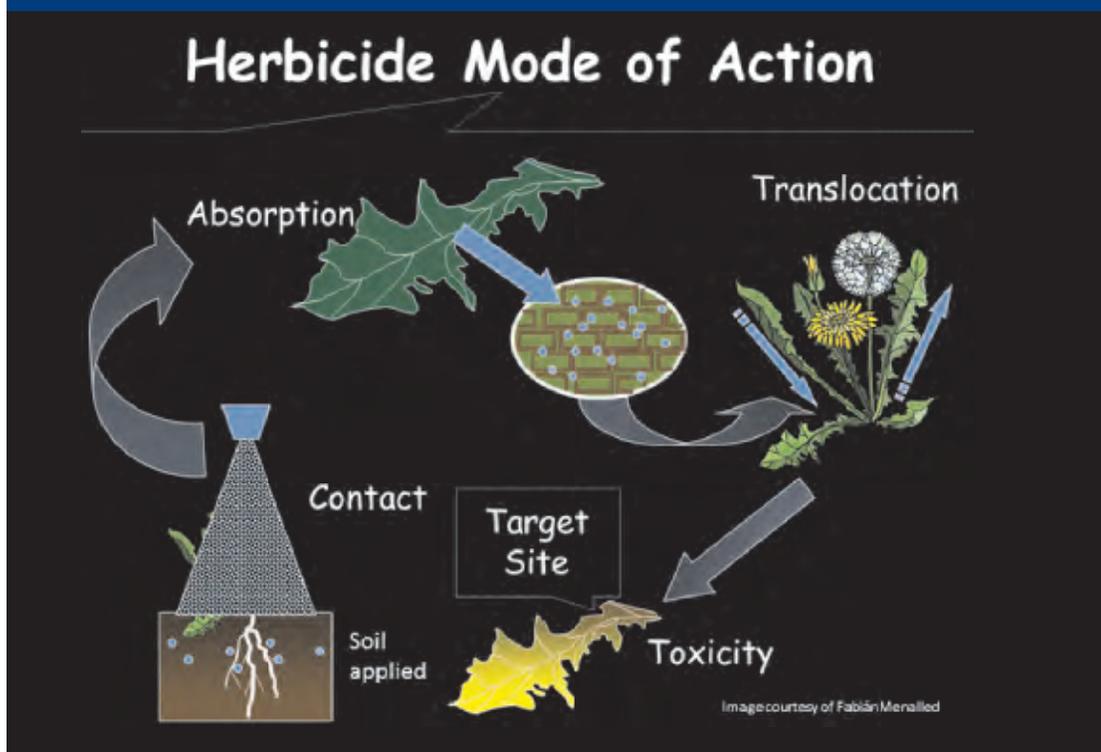
**Deadline for July issue  
June 1, 2016**

**WSSA HOME PAGE  
ACCESSED AT:**

**[www.wssa.net](http://www.wssa.net)**



# Herbicide Physiology PSPP 546 • Aug. 29–Dec. 16, 2016



3 graduate credits

**Prerequisites:**  
Upper division courses in biochemistry (BCHM 340 General Biochemistry or equivalent) and plant physiology (PS 450 Plant Physiology or equivalent), or consent of the instructors.

**Program Manager**

Lisa Brown  
MSU Extended University  
(406) 994-3062  
lisa.brown@montana.edu

**Instructor**

Dr. William Dyer  
MSU Department of Plant Sciences & Plant Pathology  
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**Full course description and tuition information:**

<http://bit.ly/PSPP546>

Learn more about MSU's online master's degree in Land Resources & Environmental Sciences: [montana.edu/online/degrees](http://montana.edu/online/degrees)

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This course covers topics in herbicide classification, herbicide mode of action, and resistance mechanisms. The goals of the course are: to understand the fundamental physiology, biochemistry, and molecular biology of herbicides and their effects on plants; to study the physiological mechanisms of herbicide resistance; to examine the processes by which herbicides are discovered and developed for commercial release; and to investigate typical herbicide non-performance scenarios and practice troubleshooting field complaint situations.

**Target Audience**

Students from Weed Science, Plant Physiology, Plant Biology, Land Reclamation, Ecology, Range Science, Agronomy, Integrated Pest Management, and Conservation Biology will be served by this course. The course is designed for students without traditional access to this course material, and is not designed to replace existing, on-campus courses at other institutions.

**Instructors include:**

**William Dyer** is a professor, Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology, Montana State University. Dyer studies applied agricultural problems using molecular biology and genetics, seeking to understand the physiological strategies used by plants that are highly successful as weeds in agricultural settings.



**Tracy Sterling** is a professor and department head of MSU's Land Resources & Environmental Sciences (LRES) Department. Her weed physiology research centers on how environmental, insect, and herbicide stresses influence crop and weed productivity.



**Sarah Ward** is associate professor of plant genetics in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences at Colorado State University, and a faculty affiliate in LRES at MSU. She is director of publications and a member of the executive committee of the Weed Science Society of America. A former plant breeder, Dr. Ward's research focuses on the genetics and population biology of weedy and invasive plants.



# WASHINGTON REPORT

by Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

## NATIONAL WEED SURVEY

Last year, the National and Regional Weed Science Societies conducted a survey of the most common and troublesome weeds in 26 different cropping systems and natural areas across the U.S. and Canada. Common weeds refer to those weeds you most frequently see, while troublesome weeds are those that are most difficult to control (but may not be widespread). There were nearly 700 responses from 49 states, Puerto Rico, and eight Canadian provinces. The entire data set for 2015 is available for download at: [http://wssa.net/wp-content/uploads/2015-Weed-Survey\\_final.xlsx](http://wssa.net/wp-content/uploads/2015-Weed-Survey_final.xlsx)

The lists at right are based on an aggregation of their responses, based on my interpretation of the 2015 data. For example, none of the foxtail species (giant, green, & yellow) would have made the top 10 list individually, but since their biology and management is fairly similar, I combined them into one category.

Seven weeds appeared on both the “most troublesome” and “most common” lists in the United States, including common lambsquarters, waterhemp spp., foxtail spp., horseweed, kochia, morningglory spp. and Palmer amaranth. More than 650 weeds were mentioned at least once by survey respondents.

For Canada, the weed species in the Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba prairies tended to dominate the survey. I only included the “top 5” list for Canada because we had a smaller sample size. The most troublesome weed species were from the genus *Galium* which includes cleavers (a.k.a. catchweed bedstraw) and false cleavers. The most common weed in Canada was wild buckwheat, which

TOP 10 WEEDS IN THE UNITED STATES					
Rank	Most Troublesome	Times Listed	Rank	Most Common	Times Listed
1	Palmer amaranth	123	1	foxtails (giant, green, yellow) 2	152
2	morningglory (ivyleaf, pitted, tall, sharppod)	100	2	common lambsquarters	137
3	common lambsquarters	87	3	crabgrass (large, smooth)	117
4	waterhemp (common, tall)	86	4	Palmer amaranth	93
5	horseweed (marestail)	85	5	morningglory (ivyleaf, pitted, tall, sharppod)	92
6	nutsedge (yellow, purple)	84	6	pigweed (redroot, smooth)	85
7	kochia	69	7	common ragweed	75
8	giant ragweed	68	8	waterhemp (common, tall)	73
9	Canada thistle	67	9	horseweed (marestail)	71
10	foxtails (giant, green, yellow)	63	10	kochia	68

\*“Times Listed” is the number of survey respondents who listed that weed as one of their top five species in any of the 26 cropping systems or natural areas that were sampled in the United States.

TOP 5 WEEDS IN CANADA					
Rank	Most Troublesome	Times Listed	Rank	Most Common	Times Listed
1	<i>Galium</i> spp.	25	1	wild buckwheat	30
2	wild oat	23	2	wild oat	28
3	Canada thistle	21	3	pigweed (redroot, smooth)	27
4	kochia	19	4	foxtails (green, yellow, giant)	27
5	wild buckwheat	18	5	common lambsquarters	25

\*“Times Listed” is the number of survey respondents who listed that weed as one of their top five species in any of the 26 cropping systems or natural areas that were sampled in Canada.

appeared on both the “common” and “troublesome” lists along with wild oat.

Weed species in the *Amaranthus* genus ranked high on the United States list. I grouped them into three main categories: Palmer amaranth, tall & common waterhemp, and redroot & smooth pigweed. However for Canada, there was not one single survey response that listed Palmer amaranth or tall & common waterhemp. Only redroot & smooth pigweed were listed by Canadian survey respondents.

Not surprisingly, almost every weed species listed above has confirmed resistance to at least one herbicide mechanism of action.

Finally, I picked 12 representative crop/ecosystem categories (chart shown on page 7) and listed the most troublesome weed and the most common weed for each, based on the number of times that species was listed by survey respondents for that crop/ecosystem category across both the U.S. and Canada.

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Going forward, the National and Regional Weed Science Societies will conduct this survey every year, but split it into a 3-year rotation. The 2016 survey will cover the most common and troublesome weeds in broadleaf crops (i.e alfalfa, canola, pulse crops, etc...), fruit & nut crops, and vegetables. The 2016 survey is currently open and available at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016weeds>

In 2017, the survey will cover weeds in grass crops/pasture/turf. In the third year of the rotation, 2018, the survey will cover weeds in aquatic/non-crop/natural areas.

**EPA INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATING HERBICIDE RESISTANCE**

The EPA’s Office of Inspector General (OIG) has launched an evaluation of how effective the agency is at delaying or preventing the spread of herbicide resistance weeds. While this evaluation was not part of [EPA OIG’s original FY 2016 annual work plan](#), my understanding is that it is a logical offshoot of an EPA-OIG evaluation of the Office of Pesticide Programs’ Genetically Engineered Corn Insect Resistance Management Program which they expect to finish up this summer. I had a very pleasant interview with the EPA OIG team conducting the herbicide resistance evaluation on March 29. The overall objective of the meeting was to obtain external perspectives on federal work to address herbicide resistance, particularly as it pertains to emerging issues and potential opportunities for improvement. The OIG team asked many excellent questions about herbicide resistance, including:

- Please discuss your perspective on federal regulation of GE crops and herbicides.
  - Do you have any opinion on or knowledge of the coordination

Crop/Ecosystem	Most Troublesome Weed	Most Common Weed
Aquatic systems	hydrilla	watermilfoil spp.
Cereal grains, spring	wild oat	wild oat
Cereal grains, winter	downy brome (cheatgrass)	downy brome (cheatgrass)
Corn	waterhemp (common, tall)	foxtail (giant, green, yellow)
Cotton	Palmer amaranth	Palmer amaranth
Forestry	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>
Fruit and nut crops	eastern poison-ivy	red sorrel
Parks, wildlife refuges	Canada thistle	downy brome/cheatgrass
Pasture, rangeland, R.O.W.	Canada thistle	Canada thistle
Soybean	horseweed (marestail)	foxtail (giant, green, yellow)
Turf	annual bluegrass	crabgrass (large, smooth)
Vegetables	nutsedge (yellow, purple)	common lambsquarters

and interactions between FDA, USDA, and the EPA on GE crops?

- How well do you feel federal regulators work with and incorporate the perspectives of outside organizations?
- How well does the regulatory system work to allow farmers and manufacturers to be nimble in adapting to herbicide resistance?
- In your opinion, does the federal community do a good job of managing GE crops and protecting against herbicide resistance?
- What is the extent of the problem of herbicide resistant weeds in agriculture? Please quantify this in financial terms, if possible.
- What are the issues facing in the agricultural community in conveying issues of resistance to federal regulators?
- Please discuss what you see as the greatest challenges facing the agricultural community in herbicide resistance. Are there any instances of resistance emerging in the past about which you can talk, specifically how farmers were affected, how herbicide manufacturers addressed resistance, and what, if any, federal actions were taken in response?
- Please discuss your thoughts on the

registration and then withdrawal of Enlist Duo. What were the problems in the registration process? What is the impact of this on farmers?

- What are the areas where more work is needed or missed opportunities that the federal government should encourage?
- How well do you feel issues of risk are communicated by the federal government when it comes to GE crops and herbicide resistance?

The weed science community has been dealing with many of these herbicide resistance issues for several decades and I would encourage you to share your expertise with the EPA OIG herbicide resistance team if they reach out to you.

**EPA PROPOSES NEW PARAQUAT RESTRICTIONS**

EPA has proposed new restrictions and mitigation measures for paraquat, which is currently undergoing registration review. Paraquat is an important option for non-selective weed control. It is widely used in non-crop areas and fallow and as a defoliant for crops like cotton and potatoes. We also know that paraquat is highly toxic in mammalian systems and can be lethal if ingested in small amounts. Since

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2000, there have been 17 deaths caused by accidental ingestion of paraquat. These cases have resulted from paraquat being illegally transferred to beverage containers like Gatorade bottles and coffee cups, and later mistaken for a drink and consumed. EPA is proposing the following changes:

1. New closed-system packaging designed to make it impossible to transfer or remove the pesticide except directly into the proper application equipment;
2. Special training for certified applicators who use paraquat to emphasize that the chemical must not be transferred to or stored in improper containers;
3. Changes to the pesticide label and warning materials to highlight the toxicity and risks associated with paraquat;
4. Prohibiting application from hand-held and backpack equipment; and,
5. Restricting the use to certified pesticide applicators only (individuals working under the supervision of a certified applicator would be prohibited from using paraquat).

Paraquat is already a Restricted Use Pesticide for use only by certified applicators or persons under their direct supervision. We support increased education and enhanced warning materials for paraquat, but have concerns about application prohibitions or restrictions. EPA's proposed restrictions on paraquat will be available for comment until **May 9, 2016**. If you have specific concerns or suggestions, please contact me. EPA will consider all public comments before finalizing these proposed actions later this year. For more details:

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0855>

### **EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON DECISION TO REGISTER DICAMBA-TOLERANT CROPS**

EPA is making available a 30-day public comment period for a proposed regulatory decision to register dicamba for use in controlling weeds on genetically-engineered (GE) dicamba-tolerant cotton and soybeans. After the comment period closes on April 30, 2016, EPA will review all of the comments and reach a final decision, which they expect to issue in late summer or early fall. In other words, **dicamba will not be registered for use on dicamba-tolerant varieties in the 2016 growing season**. USDA-APHIS has already announced its final decision to allow the sale dicamba-tolerant GE crop seeds on January 20, 2015.

EPA's proposed decision outlines a Herbicide Resistance Management Plan (HRMP) to ensure that use of dicamba on GE cotton and soybeans successfully manages weed resistance problems. The proposed HRMP includes: 1) robust monitoring and reporting to EPA; 2) grower education; and 3) remediation programs. In addition, EPA is proposing a time limited registration of the proposed uses that would **expire in five years**. At the end of 5 years, EPA can work to address any unexpected weed resistance issues that may result from the proposed uses before granting an extension or allow the registration to terminate if necessary. The label will also contain information on resistance management consistent with **WSSA's Best Management Practices (BMPs)** for comprehensive resistance management approaches.

EPA's human health risk assessment showed no exceedance of their levels of concern for human health, resulting in a determination that the pesticide's use, as approved, will not cause health risks to people living near treated fields, even at the edge of those fields.

Even so, EPA added protective measures to ensure there is reduced off-field movement of the herbicide:

- The herbicide may not be applied from aircraft.
- The herbicide may not be applied when wind speed is over 15 mph.
- A **within-field buffer that ranges from 110 to 220 feet in all directions**, depending on application rate, has been set to protect endangered plants and will also further protect bystanders and non-target plants.

EPA's proposed registration of the new use for dicamba on GE cotton and soybean **will allow use in 34 states**: Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. (States **NOT** on the proposed label: AK, HI, WA, OR, CA, NV, ID, MT, WY, UT; and CT, RI, MA, VT, NH, and ME.) Additional states may be added to the labeling once an endangered species assessment is completed and demonstrates that a no effects determination is appropriate for any such state.

Public comments on the EPA's proposed regulatory decision must be submitted no later than **April 30, 2016**. Comments may be submitted to the EPA docket [EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0187](http://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/epa-seeks-comment-proposed-decision-register-herbicide-dicamba) at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

For more details: <https://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/epa-seeks-comment-proposed-decision-register-herbicide-dicamba>

**WOTUS – CONGRESS DOESN'T HAVE 2/3RDS MAJORITY TO REPEAL; FEDERAL COURTS WILL DECIDE**

The majority of the House and Senate supported legislation (H.R.1732; S.1140, S.J.Res.22) that would have forced the Obama administration to rewrite the controversial Clean Water Act rule that expanded “Waters of the United States (WOTUS).” However, neither chamber had the necessary 2/3’s majority needed to override an Obama veto.

On February 22, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals concluded that it has jurisdiction to review challenges regarding the administration’s rule that expanded the scope of WOTUS under the Clean Water Act. Given the Sixth Circuit Court’s decision from October 9, 2015 to put the controversial WOTUS rule on hold nationwide, things would seem to look good for those challenging the rule such as the American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Association of Manufacturers. However, there are still ongoing legal proceedings regarding court jurisdiction that have to be resolved.

**NPDES FIX POSSIBLE AS PART OF BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN’S BILLS**

Last year the House Agriculture Committee passed The Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2015 (H.R. 897). This legislation had passed the House in two previous sessions of Congress but failed to get floor consideration 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. In the Senate, Crapo (R-ID) and

McCaskill (D-MO), along with 14 other Senate Co-sponsors, introduced S. 1500 as a companion bill to H.R. 897, but it has not gotten a vote on the Senate floor. However, S. 1500 was offered and accepted as an amendment to the long awaited “Bipartisan Sportsmen’s Act of 2016” (S. 659) by the Senate Environment Public Works (EPW) Committee on Jan. 20. We’re hoping that S.659 gets a vote in the Senate sometime soon. Similar legislation called the “Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015” (SHARE Act, H.R. 2406) was passed by the House of Representatives on Feb. 26 by a 242-161 vote.

**GLYPHOSATE NOT FOUND IN BREAST MILK**

Results of a study commissioned by the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) in which renowned research laboratories in Europe developed two independent analytical methods with high sensitivity to test 114 breast milk samples showed that none of the analyzed samples contained glyphosate residues. The BfR confirmed in its opinion that based on the physicochemical properties of glyphosate and on data on the toxicokinetics and on metabolism in laboratory and farm animals that no relevant transfer of glyphosate to breast milk occurs. The study results were published in the January 25, 2016 issue of the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry.

**OVERWINTERING MONARCH BUTTERFLY NUMBERS TRIPLE, THEN HIT WITH MARCH SNOWSTORM**

On February 27, the World Wildlife Fund and the Mexican National Commission of Protected Natural Areas reported that the total forest area in central Mexico occupied by overwintering monarch colonies was 4.01

hectares. This is up from last year’s number of 1.13 hectares and 0.67 hectares the year before that. This year’s reported population is estimated to be 200 million monarchs compared to the long-term average of 300 million. The National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators has set a short-term target of 225 million monarchs overwintering in Mexico (approximately six hectares of covered forest) by 2020 through national/international actions and public/private partnerships.

Many anti-GMO groups have been plastering the internet with all kinds of misinformation about the impact of herbicide tolerant crops on milkweed numbers, and thus on monarch numbers. But the fact remains that milkweed spp. have never been a dominant “driver” weed species in farm fields across the Midwest. Farmers have been effectively managing milkweed patches in their fields with tillage and/or herbicides long before the advent of genetically-engineered crops. When I was a crop scout and research assistant in college, the places where I always saw the most milkweed species was in the road ditches, right-of-ways, and other non-tilled, non-farmed areas.

To me, the major factors dominating monarch butterfly population fluctuations are the loss of overwintering habitat in Mexico (the oyamel fir forest is reportedly only 2% of once it once was) and the weather. Unfortunately, only 2 weeks after the overwintering monarch population numbers were announced in February, a March 11 snowstorm with subfreezing temps and 50 mph wind gusts hit Mexico’s overwintering grounds for the monarch. Only time will tell how many monarchs perished, but the estimates range from 3 – 50% of the reported overwintering population of 200 million. CONTINUED on pg 10 >>>

Weed scientists can advocate steps to promote habitats where pollinators or iconic insects such as the monarch butterfly can flourish, beginning with the adoption of a prudent approach to weed management. While it is crucial that we control invasive, noxious, and herbicide-resistant weeds that can overtake crops and native plants, other weeds such as common milkweed might be left to grow in areas where it is likely to do no harm. The key is to exercise good judgment about which weeds to control, when and where. Let's hope that science and facts prevail in people's decisions for promoting monarch butterfly habitat.



**National Invasive Species Awareness Week** (NISAW) was February 21–27, 2016. Invasive weeds alone represent a multibillion dollar annual drain on our economy, so it's important that we educate ourselves, become mindful of invasive species and use what we know to guide our actions throughout the year. Here are some tips for staying informed and making wise decisions:

- Learn about invasive species, especially those found in your region. Your [county extension office](#) and the [National Invasive Species Information Center](#) are both trusted resources.
- Fully comply with all U.S. government regulations regarding the [transport of agricultural products](#) into the country through U.S. Customs.
- If you camp, don't bring firewood along. Instead, buy wood where you'll burn it, or gather it on site when permitted.
- Clean hiking boots, waders, boats

and trailers, off-road vehicles, and other gear to stop invasive species from hitching a ride to a new location.

The following webinars were recorded during NISAW and are available at [www.NISAW.org](http://www.NISAW.org)

- "Let's Take a Hack at 'Hack and Squirt' Individual Plant Treatments"
- "Volunteers Make a Difference in an Early Detection Rapid Response Citizen Science Program"
- "Protecting the Sierra Nevada from Invasive Plants: Incorporating Climate Adaptation into Wildland Weed Management"
- "Treating Firewood is a Hot Topic: Seasoning, Solarizing, Kiln Drying and Heat Treatment"
- "Weed Wrangle: A Template for Engaging Local Communities through Citywide Invasive Plant Events"

In addition to those webinars, February 22 was "rollout day" in Washington, DC, for the CAST Commentary: [A Life-cycle Approach to Low-invasion Potential Bioenergy Production](#). With the assistance of the National Coalition for Food and Ag Research (NC-FAR), CAST presented the timely paper to a morning session of Senate staffers and then at a lunch gathering of House staffers where I served as moderator. In the afternoon, CAST and the Environmental Law Institute co-hosted a presentation regarding bioenergy and invasive species where CAST EVP Kent Schescke served as moderator. Jacob Barney (Virginia Tech) and Read Porter (Environmental Law Institute) presented key information from the new commentary and commenters included Aviva Glaser (National Wildlife Federation), Anthony Koop (USDA/APHIS), and Jonathan Jones (USDA/APHIS). The webinar was recorded and is available [HERE](#).

National Invasive Species Awareness Week concluded with a Congress-

sional Reception and Fair on Capitol Hill were many of the Federal Agencies presented information and educational materials on their invasive species activities. Welcoming remarks were given by Congressional Invasive Species Caucus Co-Chairs, Reps. Dan Benishek (R-MI) and Mike Thompson (D-CA), in addition to remarks by Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY). The keynote address was given by the Administrator of USDA-APHIS, Kevin Shea.

### **PERFECT HERBICIDE? DON'T EXPECT HELP FROM NEW CHEMISTRY AND THIS IS WHY**

*By Stanley Culpepper and William Vencill, University of Georgia*

*(reprinted with permission)*

Ever wonder why weed scientists are so aggressive about protecting herbicide chemistry? Growers are constantly being told to protect the chemistry available today because who knows when, or if, they will get anymore. But why is that? In short, any new chemistry would have to be 'the perfect herbicide.'

But let's say we want to try to bring new chemistry to the farm today and make that perfect herbicide. What do we need to do?

To get our new herbicide chemistry venture started, we need at least \$250 million. After Brad Haire (reporter for Southeast Farm Press) donates the money, we will begin our research and development of the perfect herbicide. Brad needs to understand he will have to wait 10–15 years to begin getting any of his investment back and then only has 14 years before others can start selling the same product. Let's say by some miracle Brad coughs up the \$250 million. What do we need to do next to get to growers new herbicide chemistry?

Environmentally friendly is a requirement for our new product. It can-

CONTINUED on pg 11 >>>

not pose a threat to surface waters, ground waters, wildlife, fish and most every other critter on earth. And for sure, it cannot pose any risk to endangered species: to plants as well as animals that eat plants. Persistence of the herbicide also must be understood early in development, or in other words we need the herbicide to last just long enough to help growers, but then we need the herbicide to break down into friendly natural compounds that will not harm the environment or people. The herbicide certainly can't pose any carryover risk to the crops our growers rotate into either! Additionally, we have to:

- 1) Make sure the product does not cause unacceptable crop injury under a million different environmental conditions and grower production practices.
- 2) Make sure the product has an extended shelf life for storage, so it doesn't go bad in a few years or separate out in the tank.
- 3) Understand how soil/water pH, as well as other water and soil characteristic, influence the activity or life of our product.

We need to focus on making sure our new herbicide chemistry does not have any potential for an unfriendly odor or be prone to volatilization or drift. And, of course, we have to check every potential tank mix partner for compatibility and impact on spray

droplet size. If a mixture influences droplet size by just the tiniest amount, we may have the EPA increasing our buffers as well as restricting our use pattern, which could threaten a grower's ability to implement a sound weed management program.

As our product is nearing commercialization, we will need to develop a resistance management plan and strategically figure out the most effective use patterns to maximize weed control, minimize crop injury and prevent resistance development. We have to make sure we can produce the appropriate amount of the product and have perfect, timely distribution across the world, because we'll need access to the global market if we hope at all to get our initial investment back.

We're almost there. We almost have the perfect herbicide. But wait, there's one more hurdle and it can come out of the blue at any time: We better be prepared for various groups to challenge our label in the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals of California in attempts to delay or prevent our new tool getting to the growers who desperately need it as they strive to feed the world.

"Hmmm... maybe those weed science guys are on to something. Seems pretty smart to protect the herbicide chemistry we have today by making wise decisions, implementing diversified herbicide modes of action into an

integrated program that uses cover crops, tillage and/or hand weeding." At least we hope this is what you are thinking now if you haven't thought something similar already. Of course, we still need to be concerned that even if our growers do all the right things to protect current herbicide chemistries in the field today, will the products we do have now survive the current rigorous regulatory processes.

As you can see, to develop and then bring to market a new herbicide chemistry is nothing short of miraculous, which is why we haven't had any new chemistry in more than two decades. A new chemistry today would have to be perfect. And very few things are perfect. If agriculture and those who like to eat can't come together to support the development of new effective tools that are friendly within sound science reason to the consumer, the environment or for our growers, wonder who really will feed our kids and grandkids... They'll have to do it 'perfectly.'

Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D.  
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National and Regional Weed Science Societies

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**THINK NEWSLETTER**

**Deadline for April issue**

**March 1, 2016**



Kevin Bradley, Chair



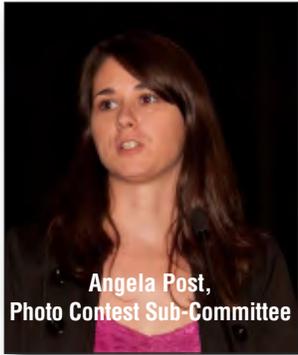
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Local Arrangements Chair



Myrna Comas,  
Secretary of Agriculture



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Awards Committee Chair



Angela Post,  
Photo Contest Sub-Committee



Robert Norris, Photo Contest  
sponsored by Gylling Data Management



Toni DiTommaso, Photo Contest  
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# Photos From Our Annual Meeting



Calvin Odera,  
Grad Student Grants



Stephen Enloe,  
Undergrad Research Award



Shawn Askew,  
Outstanding Extension Award



Anil Shrestha,  
Outstanding Teaching Award



Carol Mallory-Smith,  
Outstanding Research Award



Rodrigo Werle, Outstanding  
Graduate Student Award



Micheal Owen,  
Outstanding Weed Science Paper



Lauren Schwartz,  
Outstanding Weed Science Paper



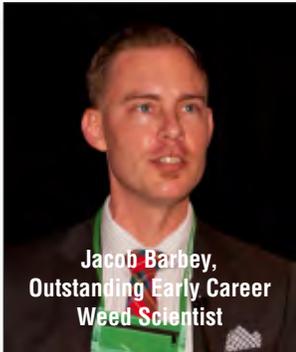
Karla Gane,  
Outstanding Weed Science Paper



Bryan Young,  
Outstanding Weed Science Paper



Scott Senseman accepting  
Outstanding Weed Technology  
Paper Award on behalf of authors



Jacob Barbey,  
Outstanding Early Career  
Weed Scientist



Roger Gast,  
Outstanding Industry Award



Karen Renner,  
Outstanding Reviewer Award



Jill Schroeder,  
WSSA Public Service Award

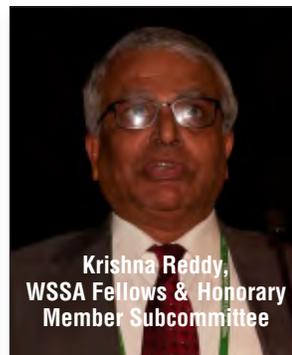
# More Photos From Our Annual Meeting



Retiring Associate Editors,  
Weed Technology



Retiring Associate Editors,  
Invasive Plant Science Management



Krishna Reddy,  
WSSA Fellows & Honorary  
Member Subcommittee



Jose Luis Gonzalez,  
WSSA Honorary Member



Donn Shilling,  
WSSA Fellow Award



William Vencill,  
WSSA Fellow Award



Local Arrangements  
Committee



WSSA Presidents

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## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
June 19–25, 2016	7th IWSC Annual Conference	Prague, Czech Republic	
June 20–24, 2016	11th International Symposium on Adjuvants for Agrochemicals	Monterey, California	<a href="http://www.isaa2016.org">www.isaa2016.org</a>
July 17–20, 2016	Aquatic Plant Management Society Annual Meeting	Amway Grand Plaza Hotel Grand Rapids, Michigan	Dr. John Madsen, APMS Program Chair Email: <a href="mailto:jmadsen@ucdavis.edu">jmadsen@ucdavis.edu</a>
February 6–9, 2017	Weed Science Society of America Annual Meeting	Hilton El Conquistador Hotel, Tucson, Arizona	<a href="http://www.wssa.net">www.wssa.net</a>

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