



# Western Society of Weed Science NEWSLETTER

April 2004

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## **Greetings from the President**

### **Meeting Recap**

Thanks to everyone who attended and participated in the 57<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Colorado Springs. It is you – the members - that make the Society what it is. Special thanks go to Mike Edwards, Scott Nissen, and the rest of the Local Arrangements team as well as the hotel staff for making sure the meeting ran smoothly; to project and symposium organizers and section chairs for arranging interesting programs and engaging discussion topics; to industry sponsors of several food and social functions; and to sustaining members for their continued support. Total registration was 323 plus 25 one-day registrations for the very successful Saltcedar (*Tamarisk*) Symposium. By my count there were over 150 in attendance for the Saltcedar Symposium throughout the

day. A group is already at work preparing a proposal for another invasive species (knotweed probably) symposium for next year's meeting in Vancouver, BC. Stay tuned.

The 2004 program included 70 volunteered oral and 74 volunteered poster presentations. This is the first time that posters outnumber oral presentations. Student content papers and posters accounted for 26 and 30% of total paper and poster presentations, respectively. An undergraduate student poster contest was held for the first time on a trial basis in 2004. The Executive Committee has voted to make this a permanent part of the student contest, and other changes are being considered to recognize more student participants. Student presentations always are among the best at the meeting and they raise the bar of expectation for everyone else.

The 'Students Night Out' program, where members from public and private sectors host students (without their major professors) for an evening of dinner and informal conversation, was a great success. More individuals signed up to host students than there were students to host. I commend those who volunteered to host students and thank Steve Dewey and Doug Shoup for organizing this important social function. The students were very appreciative of this function and of the industry sponsored student breakfasts.

### **State of the Society**

The Society is financially sound and our investments have recovered much of the paper loss experienced over the past couple years. Attendance (not counting the one-day

symposium registration) at this year's meeting was down about 7 percent compared to average attendance over the past 18 years. However, there were several first-time attendees from area municipal and county parks departments. Our challenge will be to retain their membership and participation. The makeup of the membership continues to change. There has been a steady decline in the number of members from industry, especially in the past three years. This loss has been partially offset by an increase in the number of members from the public sector, mostly from academia. Most of you realize that the weed science industry is undergoing dramatic change because of company consolidation, downsizing and retirements within both public and private sectors, and shifting emphasis within the discipline of weed science and management.

Though WSSW membership is down slightly, the North Central Weed Science Society, the Southern Weed Science Society, and the WSSA are much smaller now than they were a few years ago. The North Central Weed Science Society has proposed discussion among all the regional pest management disciplines and WSSA to explore possible consolidation or joint meetings in the future. In the near term, some of the other societies are considering changes to include, among other things, more opportunities for discussion of topics patterned after the WSSW format.

The WSSW is not immune to the changes that are occurring within the weed science discipline, thus the leadership is attempting to understand what impacts these changes will have on the future of the organization. Vanelle Carrithers and I attended a CAST-sponsored workshop on Cultivating Leadership for a Changing Agriculture last November to help the society anticipate and

deal with future changes. It became apparent that the leadership needs to re-examine the purpose and function of the society and develop a vision for the future.

### **Benchmarking and Member Survey**

As a first step, 20 current and former board members and selected members completed an extensive benchmarking survey that compared the organization with accepted standards for not-for-profit organizations. The results confirmed that the society is doing several things well, including organizing a high quality annual meeting and in handling the finances of the organization. However, questions were raised about the long-term sustainability of the organization in light of ongoing external changes and whether the society should provide more to its members than the annual meeting.

As a second step, historical trend information on past WSSW meetings was presented during the general session (and will soon be available on the website) to provide background and to solicit input in a number of areas by way of a survey handed out at the end of the general session. For those who did not get a chance to complete the survey or who wish to comment further, the survey is included elsewhere in this newsletter. Please mail completed surveys to Jill Schroeder at the address indicated or send comments to her electronically at [jischroe@nmsu.edu](mailto:jischroe@nmsu.edu). The summer board meeting is being extended a half-day to review and discuss survey results and to start developing a vision for the future. Be assured that you will be given ample opportunity to express your opinions on any major proposed changes in the organization.

### **Opportunities to Serve**

The WSSW is extremely well represented in the leadership of the WSSA. Donn Thill

currently serves as President, Carol Mallory-Smith is President-Elect, Don Morishita is Secretary, and Nelroy Jackson is our rep on the WSSA Board. Because of his new duties with WSSA, Don resigned as WSWS Newsletter Editor. Thus, we are looking for someone to replace Don and also are looking for someone to take over as Website Editor from Joan Campbell, who has very capably filled that role for several years and is ready to pass the torch to someone else. If anyone has any interest in serving as Newsletter Editor or Website Editor, please contact me ([stahlman@ksu.edu](mailto:stahlman@ksu.edu); 785-625-3425 ext 214) to learn more about the responsibilities and rewards of these important positions.

I thank everyone who has volunteered for committee service. Unfortunately, I have not been able to honor everyone's committee preferences or even find a slot for some because more people have volunteered than we have slots to fill. When possible, I'm giving preference to persons who have not served on committees before in an attempt to get more people actively involved in the workings of the organization.

### **Closing comments**

It is my honor and privilege to serve as your president. I will do my best to guide the society through the events of the year and help develop a vision to ensure that the organization maintains value and importance to the membership. The rest of the Executive Committee is committed to this as well. We are only an email or phone call away and want to hear your concerns and ideas on ways to strengthen the organization.

Wishing everyone a very successful year,

Phil Stahlman, President

### **Comments from Business Manager – Wanda Graves**

I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the recognition I received at the end of the annual business meeting on Thursday morning. I was totally surprised and more than a little overwhelmed at the time of the presentation and the only thing I knew to do was to sit down and admire the beautifully engraved boxed clock! A special thanks to everyone. Be assured I enjoy my association with WSWS and appreciate your support.

### **WSWS Survey**

For WSWS members who were not at the annual meeting, we conducted a survey to determine what members think the strengths of and challenges to our organization are at this time. We need to make sure that our organization is providing needed services and opportunities for everyone. A copy of the survey is attached to this newsletter. We would welcome your comments and urge you to complete the survey and send it to Jill Schroeder (address below).

For WSWS members who attended the annual meeting and completed the survey, Thank you for your thoughts. If you have any additional thoughts about WSWS, please forward your comments to Jill. If you did not complete the survey, you have another opportunity to let us know what you are thinking!

Please send your comments by May 15 so that we can include them in the summary. Once we have summarized the information, we will provide you with a summary of the results.

Thank you in advance to all of you for your comments. Please send your comments or completed surveys to:

Jill Schroeder  
New Mexico State University  
Box 30003, MSC 3BE  
Las Cruces, NM 88003  
FAX: 505/646-2328  
Email: [jischroe@nmsu.edu](mailto:jischroe@nmsu.edu)

### **WSWS Fellow & Honorary Awards**

Guidelines for nominating Fellow and Honorary members are included in this mailing. Please contact Jeff Tichota at [jeffrey.m.tichota@monsanto.com](mailto:jeffrey.m.tichota@monsanto.com) or 303-324-4941 for more detail. If you know someone deserving of either of these awards, please take the time to nominate them.

### **New WSWS Officers**

President – Phil Stahlman  
President-elect - Phil Banks  
Immediate Past-President – Gil Cook  
Secretary – Vince Ulstad  
Research Section Chair – Drew Lyon  
Education and Regulatory Section Chair – Charlie Hicks  
Member-at-Large – Vanelle Carrithers  
WSSA Representative – Nelroy Jackson  
CAST Representative – Rod Lym  
Research Section Chair-elect – Corey Ransom  
Education and Regulatory Section Chair-elect – Tim Miller  
Constitution and Operating Procedures Representative: Jill Schroeder  
Business Manager: Wanda Graves

### **2004 WSWS Awards**

#### WSWS Fellows

Fellows of the Society are members who have given meritorious service in Weed Science, nominated by their peers, and are elected by the Executive Committee. This

year Phil Banks and Don Morishita were the recipients from the public and private sectors named as Fellows of the WSWS.

#### Outstanding Weed Scientists

This award is given to active members of our Society who have made significant contributions to the Weed Science profession and to the WSWS. This year, Ron Crockett and Joe DiTomaso were the honored recipients of this award.

The Outstanding Weed Scientist- Early Career award was presented to Jim Vandecoevering.

#### Honorary Member

Honorary members are individuals whose activities have been largely from outside the WSWS and who have significantly contributed to the field of weed science, and who are elected by two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee. For 2004, Douglas L. Schmale was honored as the WSWS Honorary Member for his contributions to weed science

#### Presidential Award of Merit

This award is conferred upon a member of the Society who has demonstrated distinguished service. Joan Campbell was given this award from President Gil Cook.

#### Student Paper Contest Winners

The 2004 Student Paper and Poster Contests were divided into two sections each and 12 awards were presented at the Thursday morning business meeting. In addition, we had one undergraduate student poster session and one award was presented. All of the participating students are to be congratulated for their efforts.

### **Paper Session I**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Krishona Martinson-U of MN & NDSU
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Margaret Rayda – U of WYO
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Eric Blinka – KSU

### **Paper Session II**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jeanne Falk – KSU
- 2<sup>nd</sup> David Belles – CSU
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Bradley Hanson – Univ of ID & OR

### **Poster Session A**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jeanne Falk – KSU
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Krishona Martinson-U of MN & NDSU
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Lynn Fandrich – Oregon State Univ

### **Poster Session B**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Leandro Perugini- KSU
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Scott O’Meara – CSU
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Brian Thrift – MSU

### **Undergraduate Contest**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jon-Joseph Armstrong - KSU

### **CAST Report by Rod Lym**

The CAST Board of Directors met in Arlington, VA on March 18-20th and approved several proposals for CAST activities. The board members devoted much of their time working on an annual action plan for CAST in 2005, prioritizing activities that CAST may undertake. Though this took a great portion of our time, I think it will be very beneficial for CAST in the long-run. We have always had a strategic plan, but never an annual plan of work. The CAST staff will be working to determine resources needed for the Board's highest priority items, and will then be able to finalize the 2005 action plan that will be linked to both the strategic plan and the 2005 budget.

The CAST Board of Directors also approved two projects of special interest to WSWS members. The first was a proposal for a

symposium concerning A Non-dietary Exposure to Organophosphate Pesticides- Reporting and Estimation of Exposure and Risk to Workers and Bystanders. This symposium will be held in conjunction with the EPA and representatives of the Worker Protection Training staff.

The second item passed by the Board was an issue paper dealing with A Post Commercialization Gene Flow from Biotechnology-Derived Crops: Policy and Research Considerations@. The National Concerns Committee recommended to the CAST Board that an outside scientific writer be hired to facilitate the timely publication of this document. The goal is for CAST to have guidelines for policy considerations to government officials as various crops are brought into wide-scale production. These proposals are good examples of how CAST works to deliver science to the law makers in Washington DC. To view current and past CAST activities please you can visit the web site at:

[http://www.cast-science.org/cast/src/cast\\_top.htm](http://www.cast-science.org/cast/src/cast_top.htm)

Please consider becoming a member of CAST.

### **Washington DC Report**

Rob Hedberg, Director of Science Policy

### **National Invasive Weed Awareness Week, NIWAW 5**

The dust has settled on another successful National Invasive Weed Awareness Week. The event continues to grow in numbers, content, importance and accomplishments. Many, many people deserve credit for this success, whether for helping to plan the many details and arrangements, for traveling to Washington to participate in the week or by contributing financially. While meetings with legislators and policy makers are a key component of the week, we should not

overlook the value of “weed folks” meeting and working with each other.

For those of you inclined to look at the numbers we had 132 people from 33 states and Washington, DC register for the week this year. (By comparison we had 110 people from 28 states last year.) Equally impressive is the fact that the registrants listed 65 different organizations as their primary affiliation. This week has become an event where many different people and organizations with many different perspectives meet and work together for improved weed management.

Several things went very well this year including very senior political appointee participation (Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Agency Administrator level) for the USDA and USDI Briefings. Our exhibits at the United States Botanical Garden had excellent exposure due to a simultaneous orchid exhibit and approximately 10,000 people from the general public saw our displays. A new addition this year was Kids Day, co-sponsored with the Botanical Gardens, which attracted over 500 children in a single afternoon.

I cannot summarize everything that was accomplished this year but there have been phenomenal improvements in the attention weed issues now receive at the national level. I am most pleased to hear agencies in both the United States Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of the Interior express strong commitment to pursuing additional weed science technical training for their employees. Several stated they will pursue the possibility of adding a Weed Specialist job classification to their roster of professional positions.

### **National Research Initiative Guidance**

Member input was collected and reviewed by the WSSA Research and Competitive Grants Committee in response to member concerns about the priorities and focus of the Weedy and Invasive Species Program within the National Research Initiative (NRI). These comments were used to prepare guidance to the NRI program staff to highlight areas where members feel renewed emphasis is needed. The major concern expressed was that research on economically significant weeds within mainstream agronomic and horticultural cropping systems must not be overlooked while so much attention is focused on invasive weeds in natural areas.

In addition the Research Committee, chaired by Bill Molin, decided to prepare a list of WSSA members who have served as NRI panel managers or who have been successful recipients of NRI competitive grants in the past. This list will be made available to members in order to provide a source of guidance as people prepare these substantial grant applications. One helpful hint that surfaced during the Research Committee meeting was that although the success rate for initial applications is relatively low, the success rate for revised and resubmitted applications is approaching 50%. (If at first you don't succeed, try, try, and try, again) If you would like to receive a copy of this list or the WSSA comments on NRI priorities please contact Bill Molin or me.

### **Salt Cedar Legislation**

New legislation targeted to management of salt cedar, or tamarisk, is on a fast track for passage before the 108<sup>th</sup> session of Congress adjourns this autumn. There are two bills, (H.R. 2707 in the House and S. 1516 in the Senate) that both go by the name “Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act”. The primary

proponents of the House bill are Congressmen Steve Pearce (R-NM) and Charles Stenholm (D-TX). The primary proponent of the Senate bill is Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM).

The House Bill was passed on Tuesday, February, 24 and has been referred to the Senate for consideration. The Senate bill was originally referred to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Water and Power that held a hearing on the bill on September 23, 2003 (Senate Hearing 108-211). The bill was subsequently amended and referred out of the full Energy and Natural Resources Committee on February 11, 2004. Action on the bill will now be up to the Senate, but cooperation between the two houses is anticipated.

The impetus for this legislation is water, not weeds. As the Southwestern United States is caught in severe drought conditions, salt cedar has been identified as one culprit that is wasting water that would otherwise be allocated to development, agriculture and endangered species protection. Although the problem has been identified, the solution is more elusive and this legislation is intended to provide hard facts. There are many questions about which control and restoration measures are most appropriate. What vegetative cover will constitute a stable and desirable endpoint? What interim erosion and fire control precautions are needed? How much "new" water will control measures yield? Who can provide the necessary technical expertise? And of course, how much will this cost and who is going to pay for it all?

At this writing, there is strong support for these bills that would authorize up to \$20,000,000 per year to support these demonstration and fact-finding efforts but

there are several differences to work out between the bills. Probably the most ticklish issue to be resolved will be what agency in which Department (Agriculture or Interior) has the lead implementation role. This will in turn determine which Appropriations Subcommittees will be looked to for the subsequent funding.

#### Salt Cedar Conference

In parallel with the salt cedar legislation (above) an important conference has been scheduled for March 31-April 2 in Albuquerque, NM by National Invasive Species Council along with several other federal and non-federal partners. The objectives of this meeting are to bring all of the necessary partners together to set the stage for a strategic framework that supports a coordinated regional approach. A number of weed scientists have been asked to review the agenda and/or have been invited to participate in this meeting that has potential to shape salt cedar management for many years to come.

Due to the good efforts of Alex Ogg and Phil Westra the Albuquerque conference will be just three weeks after the Salt Cedar Symposium they have organized for the Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) annual meeting in Colorado Springs. The WSWS symposium will have the weed science community well prepared to define our understanding of salt cedar management and the research gaps that limit our progress.

#### Harmful Weed Control Act

The other important weed legislation that is still in play is S.144/ H.R. 119, known as the Harmful Weed Control Act of 2003. These bills would authorize up to \$100,000,000 per year to be awarded to states for cost sharing on non-agricultural weed management projects. The bills parallel legislation introduced in both the Senate and the House (S.198 and H.R. 1462) in 2001 during the

107<sup>th</sup> session of Congress but which did not reach final passage before that session of Congress was adjourned.

Both a Senate and House version of the bills (S. 144 and H.R. 119) were reintroduced in 2003, in the early days of current 108<sup>th</sup> Congress. The Senate bill sailed to rapid passage in early March and was subsequently referred to the House. Unfortunately, the House Resources Committee, chaired by Richard Pombo (R-CA) has not yet taken up this legislation and no further action will be possible until it is referred out of this committee. At this writing there has been considerable interest expressed in the bill both by NIWAW 5 participants and other interested groups and people hope the Resources Committee will act on the legislation in time for the bill to pass before this session of Congress adjourns.

Please feel free to contact me at [robhedberg@erols.com](mailto:robhedberg@erols.com) or (202)-408-5388 if you have any comments or questions about items listed in this report or other WSSA activities in Washington.

#### **PROPOSED INVASIVE KNOTWEED SYMPOSIUM**

A symposium on invasive knotweeds is being proposed for the 2005 annual meeting in Vancouver, B.C. The Weeds of Wetland and Wildland Section would be expanded to include a full day symposium on the knotweeds, an invasive plant impacting wetland and wildland areas in the northern U.S. and southern Canada. At the suggestion of the executive board, a committee has been formed to plan and organize the symposium. For additional information please contact committee chair: Dr. John Brock, Arizona State

Univ. (480)-727-1240,  
[john.brock@asu.edu](mailto:john.brock@asu.edu).

#### **WSWS CAPS FOR SALE**

From the archives of Don Morishita's storage, two boxes of WSWS caps were found in mint condition. The ever-popular caps, once thought to be long extinct, can be purchased for \$8.00 apiece. If you want one, please contact Don Morishita at 208-736-3616 or [don@uidaho.edu](mailto:don@uidaho.edu). He would be elated if you bought one.

#### **Herbicide Resistance Fact Sheets**

The WSWS Resistance Plants Committee has developed a series of fact sheets related to herbicide resistance. Our goal with the fact sheets is to provide aids for extension specialists and scientists teaching principles of resistance management to producers.

The fact sheets can be accessed via the education section of the WSWS web page; fact sheets can be copied and distributed to producers.

If you have any questions or suggestions for future fact sheets, please contact one of the committee members listed on the fact sheets. Current members are Kirk Howatt, Steve Seefeldt, Mary Corp, Jim Harbour and Tom Beckett.

#### **Summer Business Meeting Scheduled**

The WSWS Executive Committee summer business meeting will be held July 30-31, 2004 at the Hyatt Regency, Vancouver, Canada. All Board Members and Committee chairs are encouraged to attend this meeting if possible. For more information, contact Phil Stahlman, Phone: 785-625-3425, ext 214; [stahlman@ksu.edu](mailto:stahlman@ksu.edu).



## Calendar of Events

June 10. Snake River Weed Tour, Oregon State University, Malheur Experiment Station. Contact Corey Ransom at 541-889-2174 Or [Corey.Ransom@orst.edu](mailto:Corey.Ransom@orst.edu).

June 17. University of Idaho Weed Tour, Moscow. Meet at University Best Western at 7:30. Tour begins at 8:00 and ends with lunch provided at the University of Idaho Parker Farm . Contact Donn Thill at 208-885-6214 or [dthill@uidaho.edu](mailto:dthill@uidaho.edu).

June 22. Snake River Weed Tour, University of Idaho, Kimberly R&E Center. Contact Don Morishita at 208-736-3616 or [don@uidaho.edu](mailto:don@uidaho.edu).

June 23. Snake River Weed Tour, University of Idaho, Aberdeen R&E Center. Contact Pamela Hutchinson at 208-397-4182 or [phutch@uidaho.edu](mailto:phutch@uidaho.edu).

July 13-16. American Peanut Research & Education Society annual meeting – Hyatt Regency Hotel, San Antonio, Texas. Contact: Peter Dotray, Phone: 806-746-6101 or [peter.dotray@ttu.edu](mailto:peter.dotray@ttu.edu)

February 6-10, 2005. Weed Science Society of America Meeting. Honolulu, HI.

March 8-10, 2005 Western Society of Weed Science annual meeting. Vancouver, BC. Contact Wanda Graves at 510-790-1252 or [WGraves431@aol.com](mailto:WGraves431@aol.com).

Western Society of Weed Science  
2004 - 2005 Officers and Board Members

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