

WSWS Newsletter



FEBRUARY 2005

Message from the President

The annual meeting is just weeks away, the first to be held in Canada. We have another full program of volunteered posters, papers and stimulating project discussion topics. And Phil Banks has arranged for two special symposia (see his report). You can view the entire program on the website at www.wsweedscience.org. Entry into Canada and back into the U.S. is not difficult as long as you have a passport or birth certificate with a raised pressed seal. Canadian Customs has been informed about the dates of our meeting and should be expecting an influx of U.S. citizens on Sunday and Monday of that week. If you are not an experienced international traveler, you might want to review Tim Miller's Tips for Travel to Vancouver, BC in the September 2004 Newsletter.

The Board of Directors meeting will be held on Monday, March 7 starting at 8:00 a.m. I request that committee chairs send their reports to their designated Board contact by March 1. If anyone has items they would like included on the agenda, please contact me by March 1.

Annual meeting registration. By now most everyone should be aware that they are encouraged to pre-register for the annual meeting by February 15. The preferred way is to register online through the website and mail a check for the registration fees to Wanda at the address given on the registration invoice. We can not accept debit or credit cards. If you have not already sent your registration

fees to Wanda, or plan to register when you arrive at the meeting, please be prepared to pay with check or cash (\$US). It is important to the Society that out-of-town meeting attendees stay at the Hyatt Regency Hotel during the annual meeting. Our contract with the hotel specifies that members occupy a minimum number of sleeping rooms in order to receive use of the meeting rooms at no cost to the Society. The penalty is steep if we do not occupy the contracted number of rooms.

Student night out. This event has been a great success the past two years and is very much appreciated by the students and has been a good experience for the hosts as well. We urge members to sign up to take a student to dinner on either Tuesday or Wednesday nights. Sign up sheets for students and hosts will be available at the registration desk. This is a great opportunity to meet students and help them feel welcome and as valued members of the WSWS.

I want to update you on several issues that have been addressed since last year's annual meeting and at the Board of Directors summer meeting. We invite member input on all aspects of Society activities, Board actions, and/or items under consideration.

- The Board voted to subsidize publication of the book "Biological Control of Invasive Plants in the United States".

The book is dedicated to the memory of longtime WSWS member and Past-President Barbra Mullin. The WSWS will receive all royalties from sales of the book. The book can be purchased through the website or directly from Oregon State University Press.

- Shortly after last year's annual meeting, multiple website problems occurred when trying to obtain database information necessary to complete the proceedings of the annual meeting. Also, several pages of the website were inaccessible for several weeks. Because the hosting company was unresponsive to our requests to fix the problems, the decision was made to discontinue their services, redesign the site, and transfer everything to a Windows-based server with a different hosting company. This took a great deal more time and effort than Tony White had anticipated when he agreed to serve as the new Website Editor. He is to be commended for his dedication and persistence in resolving this and other website issues and in developing the new website with several new features. Job well done, Tony!!

- At last year's annual meeting in Colorado Springs, members were asked to fill out a survey to gather information on what they valued about the WSWS, concerns, and suggestions to improve the value and future direction of the Society. Of the 320 people in attendance, 215 completed the survey.

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ATTCHMENTS TO THIS ISSUE

Annual Meeting Pre-registration Form

Annual Meeting Program

Message from the President (*continued*)

An Ad-Hoc committee tabulated the responses and your Board spent considerable time at our summer meeting discussing the results and developing short-range and long-range plans based on results of the survey. During the General Session, I will report the results of the survey and Vanelle Carrithers will report the outcomes of the Board's visioning session at our summer meeting.

- One outcome of the visioning session was a proposal to increase the number of At-Large members on the Board of Directors from one to two. Because this will require a change in the WSWS Constitution, it must be voted on and approved by a majority of the membership after 30 days notice of the proposed change. Elsewhere (adjacent) in this Newsletter is more information on the proposed change. That announcement satisfies the required 30 day notice. Please review the question and come prepared to discuss and vote on it during the WSWS Business meeting on Thursday morning, March 10.

- The Board has discussed and will be considering various plans and fee structures at our meeting in Vancouver with the intent of entering into an agreement to accept credit cards in the future.

- There was considerable discussion and healthy debate during the summer Board meeting about the need to subsidize travel and/or lodging of board members who attend the summer meeting. Currently the only compensation is a continental breakfast and lunch. Some members have indicated that the cost of travel and lodging to attend the summer board meeting is a factor deterring them from agreeing to accept a leadership role within the Society. I

have asked Past-President Gil Cook, Finance Committee Chair Rick Boydston, Research Section Chair Drew Lyon, and Business Manager Wanda Graves to perform a cost analysis, develop a budget, and prepare a report/recommendation to the Board for further consideration. Because of the potential costs to the Society, the membership will be given the opportunity to comment vote on the committee's recommendation.

- There has been reoccurring concern in recent years over the value of service provided by Helms-Briscoe relative to fees received from the hotel for future meeting site selection and hotel negotiation. The Society incurs no direct costs for using HelmsBriscoe for site selection, but there is an indirect cost to the members who attend the annual meeting in the form of higher room rates, meal and beverage costs, and discretionary fees charged by the hotel to cover the commission paid to HelmsBriscoe. The Board voted to discontinue our relationship with HelmsBriscoe and to enter into a one-year contract for \$1,500 with Allen Marketing & Management for site-selection and hotel negotiation for the 2008 meeting. This is the same company the WSSA uses.

- In reviewing the hotel contract for the 2007 meeting in Portland, I discovered that we have been in breach of contract with hotels the past couple of years in that we have not had the required liability insurance specified in those contracts as a result of 9/11. Fortunately, the hotels did not require proof of coverage nor was there a liability claim. However, because this is now a standard non-negotiable provision in major corporate hotel contracts, we can not knowingly operate in

violation of the provision. Thus, we must purchase liability coverage for future annual meetings.

I look forward to seeing you in Vancouver.

Best regards,
Phil Stahlman, President

Proposed Change to the Constitution

Proposal.

Increase the number of Members-at-Large on the Board of Directors from one to two with one representing the public sector and one representing the private sector.

- Each Member-at-Large will serve staggered two-year terms by appointment in alternate years.
- The President-Elect will appoint one Member-at-Large each year in order for those two individuals to serve concurrent terms.

Rationale.

1. Currently there are eight voting members on the Board of Directors creating the potential of tie votes with no approved guidelines on how tie votes are to be broken.

2. There is need to balance public and private sector member representation on the Board of Directors.

Vancouver Program Committee Report

The program for the upcoming meeting is complete and is posted on the WSWS website. Those of you that registered should also be receiving, if not already, the printed program in the mail. A total of 157 titles were submitted (64 posters) and the on-line submissions process went very smoothly thanks to the efforts of web editor Tony White. Please take the time to review the program before the meeting and make sure to bring your printed program with you since Wanda will only have a few extras for on-site registration. A few happenings that you will not want to miss are: Members Welcome and Retirees Reception on Monday evening (a great view of the city from the 34th floor); the General Session on Tuesday morning (find out what is going on in WSWS from Phil Stahlman and Vanelle Carrithers, how national activities are affecting Weed Science opportunities from Rob Hedberg plus a stimulating keynote address by Neil Harker); two special symposia (Crop Protection Chemistry vs. Genetically Modified Crops on Wednesday morning and History and Status of Dose Response Functions on Thursday morning); and of course the Awards Luncheon on Wednesday and the Business Meeting Breakfast on Thursday. The meeting has something for everyone and I want to thank Drew Lyon, Charlie Hicks, Tony White, and Tim Miller for their assistance in putting the program together. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in Vancouver.

Submitted by Phil Banks,
Program Committee Chair

CAST Report

Sometimes things in Washington D.C. move at a slow pace and sometimes they catch you by surprise. It came as a surprise to me when I received word from Teresa Gruber in late-November that she would be leaving as the Executive Vice-President of CAST effective 1Dec 2004. We had recently completed our Fall board meeting in Oklahoma City and Teresa had several projects either just beginning or in progress.

A committee has been formed to begin the process of selecting a new Executive Vice-President. In the interim, CAST is very fortunate to be able to secure the services of Dick Stuckey. Most of you remember that Dick was the CAST EVP till 2001 when he retired. Dick is coming on board during the interim period as a "Senior Advisor" until an EVP is hired. He will report to the Executive Committee and President Stanley Fletcher. CAST is in the process of identifying an interim person to provide oversight for the task forces and symposiums in progress. CAST hopes to have a new EVP at the Spring Board meeting in April. If anybody has any com-

ments, questions or concerns, please contact me at Rod.Lym@ndsu.edu.

In other news: A conference entitled "Water Quality and Quantity Issues for Perennial Grasses Used in the Urban Landscapes of North America" will take place in the spring of 2005 under the direction of Dr. James Baker, Professor Emeritus of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering at Iowa State University. Watch the CAST web page for further information.

During the Fall Board Meeting, the Editorial and Publication Committee voted to move forward with producing compilations of searchable CAST publications grouped on CD's. Collections will be available starting January of 2005 and a free copy of the brochure is available upon request.

In one of my favorite changes, it was determined by the Board of Directors during the Fall Board Meeting that all publications, including NewsCAST, will be published in hardcopy and all CAST members will have the option whether they want hardcopy or

electronic versions of CAST publications. The electronic version of the newsletter was not well received by members.

Rod Lym
CAST Representative

Retiree Information Request

Please contact me by either e-mail or phone with the name(s) of anyone who has recently retired. WSWS would like to formally recognize them Monday evening at the Immediate Past Presidents Reception sponsored by Monsanto.

E-mail:
cookge@comcast.net
Phone: 509-922-4433

Gil Cook
Immediate Past President

Washington Report

The Noxious Weed Control Act of 2004, Not just a good idea, It's the Law.

On October 30, 2004, President Bush took a little time out from the final moments of his reelection campaign to sign the Noxious Weed Control Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-412). This new law that was nearly five years in the making marks important progress for the many groups concerned with managing weeds of range and natural areas.

This law was ultimately passed as an amendment to the Plant Protection Act of 2000. It gives the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture authority to create two new funding programs of up to \$7.5 million each. One program will be a competitive grant program that provides cost share support to local weed management groups and the other program will use cooperative agreements to fund high priority or time sensitive projects such as rapid eradication of newly detected weed infestations. Full text can be found at: <http://thomas.loc.gov> by entering S.144.ENR.

Many changes were made in this bill as it threaded its way through the legislative process. One of these is that the authority was placed in the Department of Agriculture rather than the Department of the Interior. Another is that the authorized funding levels were reduced to \$15 million a year rather than \$100 million. This reduction was made in the final days of the legislative session solely to allow the bill to be passed on the House "Suspension Calendar". Bills that are voted on via this mechanism may not exceed specific preset spending levels.

Most importantly, passage of this legislation indicates that success is possible when many groups work cooperatively. Several different congressional offices and committees invested significant time learning about weed management issues, listening to constituents and refining the bill. Because these individuals now understand the severity of weed issues more clearly, further progress may come more easily. And of course there is still much more to do, including obtaining annual appropriations for the programs this law will now create.

WSSA Comments on Open Access Publishing

Momentum has been building for "open access" publishing for scientific literature over the past several years. This new paradigm would substantially increase free access to published scientific literature by essentially eliminating subscription or fee based distribution of scientific articles and journals. Instead authors would bear most (all) of the costs of publishing. Unfortunately these costs are substantial and are generally estimated to be in

the range \$1500 to \$3000 per article for scientific publications.

As part of the "open access" movement there have been Congressional attempts to mandate that some or all federally supported research be freely available to the public through some variation of open access publishing. In addition the National Institute of Health (NIH) proposed such a policy in mid September and opened a sixty public comment period to obtain input on the policy. With over 6000 comments submitted, NIH got a bit more input than anticipated and is now trying to buy time to digest these comments before implementing their proposed new policy.

WSSA submitted comments on this policy as did many other scientific societies that publish the core journals for their respective disciplines. The WSSA comments recommended that NIH postpone implementing the new policy because it would set a precedent that other federal science funding agencies would be compelled to follow. The comments stated that such significant changes could be very disruptive of the business practices that have evolved to support scientific publishing and this disruption could in fact impede the rapid dissemination of new scientific information. Copies of the WSSA comments on the proposed NIH open access policy are available on request.

WSSA Comments on EPA's Ecological Risk Assessment for Chlorsulfuron

In mid September the EPA released their preliminary ecological risk assessment for chlorsulfuron herbicides and opened a sixty day public comment period on the assessment. As would be expected for herbicides in this family the ecological risk evaluations were generally very favorable. However, in regard to impacts on non-target vegetation, the assessment yielded excessively high "risk quotients" (RQ's).

These risk quotients are designed to estimate risk by dividing the concentration of herbicide that is believed to cause adverse effects (known as the Level of Concern or LOC) by the anticipated environmental exposures. Within a suite of modeled scenarios these RQ's were calculated to be in the hundreds, thousands and tens of thousands. The highest risk estimates occurred with Threatened and Endangered (T&E) plant species because very low effect thresholds (5% change in measures such as seedling emergence or vegetative vigor) were used to determine the LOCs.

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Washington Report *(continued)*

It was important for WSSA to weigh in on this assessment because it has the potential to set precedent for future risk assessments for many other herbicides. One of the most ticklish aspects of the situation is that the EPA is now required to pay much closer attention to the effects their pesticide registration decisions may have on T&E species. Simultaneously there is much greater interest in using herbicides to manage weeds in range and natural areas where it is much more likely that T&E plant species will occur than in croplands. Finally, because herbicides are used to kill plants the operating assumption has been that they would have a negative impact on T&E plant species.

In a nutshell the WSSA comments expressed concern about the excessively high RQ's that were calculated for chlorsulfuron and that these high levels of calculated risk seemed inconsistent with actual results after over 20 years of use on approximately 5 million acres per year. The comments recommended further refinements in the risk assessment including mitigating factors such as modern application technology, chemical selectivity and spatial or temporal separation between use sites and sensitive vegetation. WSSA also offered to help the agency identify additional technical expertise and published literature that will help them improve this assessment. Variations of this issue will be with us for a long time and it will be very important for members with specific expertise to work with EPA staff to help them interpret these complicated situations. Copies of the WSSA comments on chlorsulfuron are available on request.

Herbicide Application Demonstration for Federal Agency Staff

In mid November WSSA worked with a number of other organizations to hold a field demonstration of herbicide application techniques for federal agency staff that regularly consider herbicide registration packages and permitting applications. The organizers for this event included WSSA, The Nature Conservancy, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, BASF and DowAgro Science. The objective was to help agency staff people recognize the significant improvements that have been made in herbicide application, specificity and selectivity for work in non-crop settings.

The application techniques that were demonstrated included aerial (helicopter) applications using sophisticated guidance and monitoring systems; aquatic applications for emerged and submerged vegetation; ground applied low volume foliar applications; ground applied selective foliar treatments; hack and squirt; basal bark

and cut stump techniques. Many thanks are due to the professional staff of Invasive Plant Control, Aquatic Nuisance Plant Control, Arborchem/Waldrum Specialties, and Summit Helicopters who did an excellent job demonstrating these techniques.

Overall the day was a considerable success with 75 attendees including representation from EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the USDA Forest Service and the National Invasive Species Council. From comments during and after the program it was obvious that participants learned a great deal and that they will have a better sense of how herbicides are used and applied in non-crop environments. They will also know additional resource people they can turn to with questions about herbicide use.

Jill Schroeder Participates in CoFARM Congressional Visits Day

In late September, CoFARM (Coalition on Funding Agricultural Research Missions) held a Congressional Visits Day (CVD) in cooperation with the Biological and Ecological Science Coalition (BESC). The objective of the CVD was to help Congressional representatives and staffers appreciate the value of past investments in competitive research programs such as the NRI (National Research Initiative).

The WSSA Board recommended that Jill Schroeder participate on behalf of WSSA based on the quality of her research, her record of service to the societies and her ability to communicate well. Jill did an excellent job describing the importance of the work she has done on crop production systems in the arid Southwest with the NRI funding she has received. She was able to convey the fact that this funding helped local and regional growers, that it provided opportunities for students to get valuable training and that the work has global significance as well. In total the CoFARM and BESC scientists who participated in the CVD event met with representatives from 26 congressional offices.

Reminder: The Sixth National Invasive Weed Awareness Week; February 27- March 4 in Washington DC. For details go to:

http://www.nawma.org/niwaw/niwaw_index.htm

Rob Hedberg,
Director of Science Policy

News From Around the West

You are invited to attend an upcoming workshop:

Sheep, Goats, Weeds and Wildlife

Missoula, Montana

March 29th-31st

- Sharing information and ideas about grazing for weed control and talking about cooperative ideas and solutions.
- Discussing potential interactions between grazing sheep, goats, and wildlife

Contact:

Kate Meinig

College of Forestry and Conservation

University of Montana

University Hall, Room 309

Missoula, Montana 59812

406/243-4903



The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Yuma County seeks an Associate/Full Extension Agent, Agriculture for a 12-month continuing-eligible track position located at the Yuma County Extension Office in Yuma, AZ. Position (number 32016) provides direction and leadership for Agricultural Extension programs. Crops grown in Yuma County, a semiarid environment, include; vegetables (numerous types of lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, melons, etc.), cotton and specialty crops. Potential County Director assignment in the future. Master's Degree in Agronomy, Plant Sciences, Soil Science or a closely related field is required along with five years applicable professional experience. Job Description and application are online at www.hr.arizona.edu. Application review begins March 1, 2005 and will continue until filled. The University of Arizona is an EEO/AA Employer - M/W/D/V.

Recent Retirement

Phil Motooka, Extension Specialist in Weed Science retired at the end of 2004, after 32 years of service with the University of Hawaii

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR - WEED SCIENCE UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY


The Plants, Soils, and Biometeorology Department at Utah State University in Logan, Utah, is seeking to fill a 12-month tenure-track Weed Science position (80% research and 20% teaching). The position will focus on weed management in sustainable agronomic cropping systems and support broad-based agriculture in Utah. The successful candidate will be required to carry out independent and collaborative research in proportion to the appointment, publish in refereed journals, secure extramural funding, team-teach an upper-division weed science course, teach a graduate course in her/his area of expertise, and advise graduate students. An earned Ph.D. in weed science or a closely related plant science discipline emphasizing weed science, with a strong background in agronomic crop production or agro-ecology is required at time of hire. Applications will be accepted through February 28, 2005.

For additional information: Dr. Steven A. Dewey, Plants, Soils and Biometeorology Department, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-4820; email: stevd@ext.usu.edu, phone: 435-797-2256; Fax: 435-797-3376

Utah State University is an Affirmative action/equal opportunity employer with a National Science Foundation ADVANCE Gender Equity program, committed to increasing diversity among students, staff, faculty, and all participants in university life. Women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply, and partner accommodation is available for dual-career couples (see <http://www.usu.edu/provost> for more information).

Western Society of Weeds Science
P.O. Box 963
Newark, CA 94560
510-790-1252

Hours of Operation:
9:00am to 5:00pm Pacific Time



Visit the web site at
www.wswedscience.org

WSWS Objectives

- To foster and encourage education and research in weed science.
- To foster cooperation among state, federal and private agencies in matters of weed science.
- To aid and support commercial, private and public agencies in the solution of weed problems.
- To support legislation governing weed control programs and weed research and education programs.
- To support the Weed Science Society of America and foster state and regional organizations and agencies interested in weed control.

Looking for Content

If you would like to post events, position announcements, new hires, or other news from around the west, please send information to Pat Clay (contact information below). The next issue will be available in February. Please submit materials by March 23, 2005 to:

Pat Clay
University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
4341 E. Broadway Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85040
Phone: (602) 470-8086 ext. 313
Fax: (602) 470-8092
Email: pclay@ag.arizona.edu
Electronic submissions are greatly appreciated

Calendar of Events

February 11, 2005

WSWS Annual Meeting Hotel Reservation deadline

February 15, 2005

WSWS Annual Meeting Pre-registration deadline
(NO CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED/
checks or money orders in US Dollars or drawn on US Bank only)

March 8-10, 2005

WSWS Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC

March 23, 2005

WSWS Newsletter submission deadline

March 29-31, 2005

Sheep, Goats, Weeds and Wildlife Workshop, Missoula, Montana

Annual Meeting Lodging Reminder

Hyatt Regency-Vancouver
655 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6C 2R7
Telephone: (604) 683-1234

The cut-off date for making room reservations is **FEBRUARY 11, 2005**.

Please make plans to stay at the facility and make your room reservations early.