



## **WSWS Officer and Committee Report 2016 Albuquerque, NM**

**Office or Committee Name:** Program-Chair, Pres-Elect

**Officer or Chairperson Name:** Kirk Howatt

**Date of Preparation (include year):** March 2016

### **Committee Activities during the Year:**

The program has 62 posters and 89 papers, of which 6 are Gen Session, included in the program.

Student contest presentations total 46. total (student)

Undergrad poster 4 (3)

Range poster 15 (6), paper 17 (5)

Hort poster 11 (3), paper 7 (1)

Ag poster 22 (6), paper 34 (10)

Teach/Tech poster 4 (-), paper 7 (1)

Biol/Ecol poster 6 (2), paper 16 (9)

Ed/Reg paper 2 (-)

Gen Session paper 6

The General Session will include addresses from the Albuquerque Mayor Office, President Joseph Yenish and Science Policy Director Lee Van Wychen. Mary O'Connell, NMSU, will present about some local wild plants. And Terry Crawford, NMSU, will discuss industry changes and agriculture opportunities.

Kaci Buhl was part of the program but had to remove herself. Sandra McDonald has prepared a discussion on interpreting PPE materials and requirements.

Jane Mangold has worked with project chairs to assemble several discussion sessions:

Range and Natural Areas: Weed Risk Assessment as a Decision-Making Tool for Invasive Species Management.

Horticultural Crops: Impact of Increased Irrigation Water Salinity on Crop Injury from Soil Residual Herbicides.

Agricultural Crops: Use of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Technology in Weed Management.

Teaching and Technology: Reaching Out: Who and How.

Biology and Ecology: How Can We Harness Genetic and Physiological Tools to Advance Understanding of Weedy Plants?

Cheryl Wilen and Kassim Al-Khatib asked in early December if the Western Integrated Pest Management Center Invasive Species Signature Program could sponsor a training on use of the CLIMEX software program. This program can help identify potential new weed invaders according to changes in environmental conditions. Since there was not another symposium scheduled and the workshop did not seem to be for product marketing, we decided to accommodate. Time was available on Thursday since we were able to run four concurrent sessions during the meetings.

Ryan Rector (Judging) was supplied with abstracts for the contest participants. I was able to forward him scorecards from when I was Contest Chair for him to revise as needed.

Two students withdrew from the contest and two were added to the contest after program publication. One had to be moved to an earlier timeslot to be judged. This was accommodated in the student's interest. Another request to move times was not granted to limit schedule confusion.

Participated in conference call into NAISMA board of directors meeting to discuss Business Manager Position joint selection. NAISMA is supportive of this but would like to have more options with discipline expertise in the region and invasive species. A position announcement will be distributed through grass-roots channels to solicit new applicants.

**Recommendations for Board Action:**

None

**Budget Needs:**

None

**Suggestions for the Future:**

Include title submission comments in Gen Session remarks to reduce editing for next Chair. Also for Gen Session announcement, reminder to upload abstracts. Still missing 12. Also for Gen Session announcement, notice of Public Relations survey. Questions sent to David Krueger for potential website code to improve submission entries.

**Current Committee Members:** Jane Mangold and Sandra McDonald

**Name of Person Preparing This Report:** Kirk Howatt