



WSWS Board of Director Candidates Information

President-Elect

Corey Ransom



Dr. Corey Ransom is an Associate Professor and Extension Weed Specialist in the Department of Plants, Soils, and Climate at Utah State University in Logan. He was raised in Pocatello, Idaho and gained a love for agriculture working on the neighbor's farm. Corey completed his B.S. degree in Botany at Idaho State University, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Weed Science at Utah State University and Michigan State University, respectively. In 1997, he began his career at the Oregon State University, Malheur Experiment Station working on crop and vegetable weed management. Corey moved to Utah State University in 2006 and filled a research/teaching appointment until changing over to an extension/research role two years ago. Over his career, Corey has conducted research in a variety of crops and in wildland settings. Projects have ranged from herbicide efficacy trials to development of effective control strategies for invasive plants. His research has also addressed landscape scale approaches to weed management; including development of prioritization protocols and mapping techniques for weed inventories.

Corey served as President of the Oregon Society of Weed Science in 2001 and as Chair of the Terminology Committee for WSSA from 2004 to 2014. He currently serves as Treasurer to the Utah Weed Control Association, Utah State Liaison to Western IR-4, and is an appointed member of the Utah State Weed Committee.

Corey first attended WSWS meetings in 1992 and has been a member ever since with exception of four years in Michigan. In the WSWS, Corey has served as a student poster/paper judge, Research Project Chair, and as a member and chair of the Site Selection and Necrology committees. Most recently, Corey served for five years as the Constitution and Operating Procedures Representative to the WSWS board. Corey has authored or co-authored 59 posters and papers at the WSWS meetings and submitted 27 Research Progress Reports.

Corey is passionate about his family, Weed Science, mountain biking, and photography. His favorite awards and honors include Graduate Student Mentor of the Years for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and Teacher of the Year for his department at USU. He also prizes a 1st place photo award given in the WSSA photo contest and a Weed Supervisor Appreciation Award given to him by the Utah Weed Control Association.

President-Elect

Tim Prather



Dr. Timothy Prather completed a Ph.D at University of Idaho in Plant Science in 1992. He started his career with University of California's Integrated Pest Management Program where he was the weed ecologist located at Kearney Agricultural Center with 24 other faculty from 1992 to 2000. Dr. Prather then took a position at University of Idaho in 2000 and now is a professor in the Department of Plant Sciences in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences where he is involved in teaching, research and extension.

Tim teaches two classes, PLSC 410/510 Invasive Plant Biology and PLSC 419 Plant Community Restoration Methods. His areas of research include use of remote sensing to detect invasive plants, use of remote sensing data to define ecological limits to an invasive plant species' distribution, and plant dispersal modeling across canyon grassland landscapes. He conducts IPM research to develop decision tools for wildland and forage systems. He has authored 6 book chapters and 45 journal articles. Tim is a founding member of the UI Rangeland Center that works to solve problems within our public and private rangelands in Idaho. Within his extension program he administers the UI weed diagnostic lab that identifies plants statewide, he authors

"Idaho's Noxious Weeds", the university's best-selling bulletin with over 125,000 copies sold since the year 2000. He authors and coauthors sections within the Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook and has produced over 70 other regional and university extension bulletins.

In addition, Tim has participated in over 380 workshops in Idaho and surrounding states. He served as an associate editor to Weed Technology (2004-2009) and Invasive Plant Science and Management (2008-2015). Honors included Best Paper, Weed Technology 2002, Bronze award in 2006 by Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals and admitted to the Idaho Weed Hall of Fame in 2011. With respect to service within the Western Society of Weed Science, Tim has served on Federal Noxious and Invasive Weed Committee (2003-2007), Education and Regulatory Chair (2011-2012), Education Committee Chair (2013), helped organize three symposia on Spotted knapweed, Knotweeds and Ventenata and participated in 36 presentations at WSWS meetings.

Research Section Chair-Elect



Mithila Jugulam

Mithila Jugulam originally comes from India, where she earned her BSc and MSc degrees in Agriculture. She then worked as a Scientist with Indian Government for several years. She received her PhD degree and postdoctoral training at the University of Guelph, Canada. Mithila is currently working as an Associate Professor (Weed Physiology) at Kansas State University. Her program is internationally recognized for high-quality research addressing weed problems in crop and rangeland systems. Specifically, her research focuses towards: a) understanding mechanisms of weed resistance to herbicides, b) effect of abiotic stress on herbicide efficacy and c) identifying sources for herbicide-tolerant traits. She has secured research funds (>\$1,600,000) from various agencies. Jugulam

has authored or co-authored a career total of nearly 70 peer-reviewed publications in high-impact journals including PNAS, Plant Physiology, Scientific Reports, Weed Science and Weed Technology. She also edited a book “Biology, Physiology and Molecular Biology of Weeds.” She is currently on the Editorial Board for Pest Management Science and a reviewer of numerous journals, including Plant Physiology, Plant Science, Weed Science, Weed Research and Pest Management Science, etc. She teaches graduate and undergraduate courses related to herbicide physiology and weed resistance to herbicides at KSU. She is also a recipient of several awards, including KSU-College of Agriculture Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award, Faculty Development Award, Academic Excellence Award (twice) and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, NY, USA - Fellowship. Mithila is an active member of several professional societies including WSWS, IWSC, WSSA, NCWSS and ASPB. Jugulam also served as a judge and evaluated graduate students’ presentations at WSWS meetings and member of WSWS- Adhoc Committee “Weeds of West-What’s next?”. Many of her students received awards at WSWS annual meetings. (for more information about Jugulam’s laboratory, please visit <https://www.agronomy.k-state.edu/people/faculty/jugulam-mithila/jugulam-lab/>)

Research Section Chair-Elect



Beth Fowers

Beth Fowers received a B.S. from Utah State University in Conservation Restoration Ecology as well as an M.S. in Rangeland Science with a cheatgrass management and reseeding project. She earned her PhD at the University of Wyoming in 2015 in Agronomy with a project focusing on weed management in reclamation settings. The same year, she began working at the University of Wyoming as an Assistant Research Scientist focusing on research and extension related to rangeland restoration and weed management. In addition to these duties, she provides greenhouse management oversight and research support for a variety of projects at UW’s Sheridan Research and Extension Center. She routinely presents research findings and extension-related information at venues such as the Wyoming Weed Management Association and various workshops in the state. She attended her first WSWS meeting in 2014 as a graduate student and has presented at four meetings. Beth is also active in the Society for Range Management - presenting research, representing Northeast Wyoming on the Wyoming Section leadership council, and serving on the international Rangeland Cup student competition committee.

Education Regulatory Section Chair-Elect

James Leary

Dr. James Leary is a Research and Extension Specialist with the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources with the University of Hawaii. He has held this position since 2009 and was promoted to associate rank in 2015. He has 20 years of weed science experience in Hawaii with a mission to extend knowledge and technology contributing to efficient and effective invasive plant species management in natural and managed landscapes. His current claim to infamy, is the development of Herbicide Ballistic Technology (HBT) for surgically eliminating invasive species targets from helicopter platforms. In 2015, Leary et al. was awarded WSSA Outstanding Paper in the Journal Invasive Plant Science and Management and in 2016, Dr. Leary was honored as the Maui County MVP with a Hawaii State Senate Proclamation Honoring Hawaii Invasive Species Awareness Week. He previously served as a WSWS section chair in Range and Natural Areas in 2016.

Education Regulatory Section Chair-Elect

Todd Neel

As Pesticide Specialist for the Intermountain and Northern Regions of the U.S. Forest Service since November of 2014, Todd assists USFS state & private partners and National Forest System units in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Utah and Wyoming with training and technical advice related to pesticide application and safety, risk assessment, and the control of invasive species. Todd also administers the USFS cooperative weed management cost share grant program for the Regions, and is an active participant in the national USFS human health and ecological risk assessment and pesticide impact and assessment programs. Prior to working for USFS, Todd spent fourteen years with the National Park Service's Exotic Plant Management Team, working to help manage invasive plant populations in the Southwest, the Pacific Northwest, and Hawaii. Todd has been a member of WSWS since 2006, and has previously served on the public relations committee; as a student poster judge; as chair-elect of the Weeds of Range and Natural Areas Section; and is currently a member of the board of trustees for the WSWS Rita Beard Endowment Foundation. Todd received his M.S. in Agronomy

(Weed Science) from the University of Florida in 1999.