

Western Society of Weed Science holds 75th Annual Meeting in Newport Beach

The Western Society held its 75th Annual Meeting March 7-10, 2022 in Newport Beach, California. With it being the 75th anniversary the society took numerous opportunities to reflect on the past and look forward to the future.

After a Board of Directors meeting, the week kicked off with a WSWs Members Welcome Reception on Monday night. Tuesday the meeting really kicked off with a poster session followed by the WSWs General Session. The General Session included a Presidential Address by WSWs President Sandra McDonald, followed by an update on the history of the WSWs, presented by Vanelle Peterson. This was followed by presentations on the future of teaching, research, and extension in the west given by Andrew Kniss and Jane Mangold. Lee Van Wychen brought the DC update for the membership and Steven Snyder rounded out the session with a presentation on automated weeding.

Tuesday afternoon brought an exciting symposium on New Technology for Physical Weed Control, including talks on deep learning and robotics, the business of robotics, laserweeding, physical weed control in vegetable crops, information on electrical weeding in both perennial and row crops, and finished with a talk on biodegradable mulches in perennial crops followed by a panel discussion. Concurrently on Tuesday afternoon, presentations were occurring in the Weeds of Agronomic Crops, and Weeds of Range, Forest, and Natural Areas projects. This involved student presentations and full member presentations ranging from topics including temperature effects on metabolic resistance, chemical control of weedy rice, seedbank management strategies, management challenges for garlic mustard, remote sensing of leafy spurge, and downy brome and Palmer amaranth management. At the end of the day, a reception was held for the graduate student members.

Wednesday continued presentations in Weeds of Agronomic Crops, Basic Biology and Ecology, Weeds of Horticultural Crops throughout the morning. Lunch brought the opportunity to recognize many of our members at the WSWs Awards Luncheon. Presentations continued through the afternoon followed by one of the unique events of the meeting – the WSWs discussion sessions. The Weeds of Horticultural Crops held a discussion on the future of online extension resources in horticultural crops, the Education and Regulatory Section ruminated on the future outlook for WSWs, and the Basic Biology and Ecology section considered emerging tools for ecological management of weeds and herbicide resistance. The afternoon ended with the What's New in Industry session followed by another unique WSWs event, the Student Night Out. This event, organized by the student liaisons, gives students the opportunity to go out for dinner with members of the society, ask about careers, network, and really make connections and get to know other members of the society.

Thursday morning included the Teaching and Technology Transfer presentations as well as the discussion session on learning from the past to improve the future of teaching and technology transfer, while the Weeds of Agronomic Crops section discussed supply chain disruptions and herbicide shortages and how they will change weed control in 2022. Thursday afternoon, there was a discussion in the Weeds of Range, Forest, and Natural Areas section on new, emerging, or existing problem weed species and research gaps. Ending the week was a workshop on Weeds and Wildfires in the West. The workshop focused on an integrated approach to the problem. Presentations highlighted the

juxtaposition of the weed management challenges in the intermountain West and Plains states compared to California.

Among all of these wonderful sessions were of course our fabulous student members giving oral and poster presentations on their research. We are pleased to recognize our student award winners:

Agronomic Crops Oral Presentations M.Sc.:

- 1st – Tyler Hicks, University of Wyoming
- 2nd – Ryan Johnson, University of Wyoming

Agronomic Crops Oral Presentations Ph.D.:

- 1st – Grace Ogden, Oklahoma State University
- 2nd – Liberty Galvin, University of California, Davis

Basic Biology and Ecology Oral Presentations

- 1st – Joe Ballenger, University of Wyoming
- 2nd – Albert Kwarteng, University of Idaho

Horticultural Crops Oral Presentations

- 1st – Deniz Inci, University of California, Davis

Range, Forestry and Natural Areas Oral Presentations

- 1st – Chloe Mattilio, University of Wyoming
- 2nd – Jodie Crose, University of Wyoming

Agronomic Crops Poster Presentations

- 1st – Sachin Dhanda, Kansas State University
- 2nd – Milos Zaric, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Basic Biology and Ecology Poster Presentations

- 1st – Crystal Sparks, Colorado State University

Horticultural Crops Poster Presentations

- 1st – Andrew Contreras, University of California, Davis

Range, Forestry and Natural Areas Poster Presentations

- 1st – Jodie Crose, University of Wyoming
- 2nd – Mariana Amaral, Washington State University

Undergraduate Poster Presentations

- 1st – Felipe Bagnara, Colorado State University

At a meeting reflecting on the history of the Western Society of Weed Science, it is clear that the future of the society is bright based on the caliber of science being conducted by our student members.

The Western Society of Weed Science looks forward to gathering again next year in Boise, Idaho and invites you to join us from February 27th – March 2, 2023 for our upcoming joint meeting with the Western Aquatic Plant Management Society.