



The WSSA/WSWS 2020 Program

Welcome to the 2020 joint Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) and Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) Annual Meeting at the Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa. This venue is set upon 40 oceanfront acres on Maui's Ka'anapali Beach offering many activities including great beaches and numerous water sports, spa/fitness center, access to oceanfront golf, stargazing, and much more. Pre-conference events will include whale watching and a tour of Haleakala National Park.

At this year's meeting, we are encouraging a more resort casual dress code; tropical/Hawaiian attire would be great! Most committee meetings will take place on Monday, March 2 in the morning or afternoon with some scattered on other days during the week. Check with your committee chairs for the exact time and location. The General Session and WSSA/WSWS Awards Ceremony will begin Monday at 4:00 PM in the Monarchy Ballroom. Our General Session will begin with a welcome and opening remarks from Dr. Sam Gon, senior scientist and cultural advisor for the Nature Conservancy of Hawaii. Dr. Gon is a native of Hawaii and has 40 years of experience in numerous conservation and land management projects. We are excited to have Dr. Gon join our meeting. Presidents Larry Steckel (WSSA) and Pat Clay (WSWS) will collaborate on the presidential address to the membership. The Awards Ceremony will include presentations of the WSSA and WSWS Annual Awards. Be sure to attend this session to help recognize all the awardees. Following the Awards Ceremony, WSSA/WSWS will host an awards reception beginning around 6:00 p.m. All registered attendees are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please be sure spouses and friends that accompany you have registered so that they may attend this fun event.

As in the past, we will begin Tuesday morning with the Poster Session and will again have multiple breakout sessions throughout the week with presentations addressing invasive plants in natural areas to the genetics of herbicide resistance to the latest herbicide technology. We think we have something for everyone. Also, join us for the 3rd WSSA Women in Weed Science Networking Event tentatively targeted for Tuesday at noon. In 2019, a network of mentors and mentees was created, and we look forward to a time of connection, reflection, and support at the 2020 annual meeting. All female attendees at the conference are welcome to attend the event, just sign up when you register so we have a seat for you!

We are again conducting MS and PhD student poster and oral presentation contests. However, a new oral competition event is being offered in 2020 to both WSSA and WSWS students. This will be a Three-Minute Thesis Research Communication Competition (3MT™) developed by the University of Queensland, Australia (<https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/>). It provides students with the opportunity to profile their research and enhance communication skills. A

separate document will be available describing this activity in more detail including how students will be judged and the rules for the competition. A joint WSSA/WSWS student luncheon will take place on Wednesday where the students will conduct business and have a facilitated session focused on some issues that students face in graduate school. And finally, the student awards ceremony will take place late Wednesday afternoon followed by an organized “Students Night Out”, so there should be plenty of opportunities for our students to contribute in the 2020 meeting.

Tuesday through Thursday, we are going to host five symposia related to important and impactful subjects that need attention in Weed Science. These include: 1) Genomics of Weedy and Invasive Species - 2025 and Beyond, 2) The Ecological and Biodiversity Impact of Invasive Grass Species and Their Management, 3) 2020 Vision for Hawaiian Invasive Plant Management, 4) The Role of Intelligent Machines in Weed Management, and 5) Toxicology and Weed Science. The WSSA and WSWS will both host separate business meetings early Thursday morning. We hope that all members will attend their respective meeting to participate in the decision-making process on societal issues and board activities. Most professional activities will end by noon on Thursday but check the schedule once it is announced as a few things such as WSSA Board of Directors and a committee meeting or two may run into Thursday afternoon.

Special thanks to our Local Arrangements Chair, Dr. James Leary. Although he relocated to Florida from Hawaii last year, he has been very helpful with developing the program. In addition, thanks to Josh Atwood with the Hawaii Invasive Species Council in helping to identify our Keynote speaker. We would also like to thank Drs. Marty Schraer and Darrin Dodds for their help in organizing the student contests. Thanks also to Drs. Larry Steckel, Anita Dille, Scott Senseman, Pat Clay, and Andrew Kniss for their help and guidance in preparing the program. We had a tremendous group of loyal and committed folks who submitted great symposia ideas this year, some of which we could not accommodate but hope to have back in 2021 in San Antonio. We thank all our Section Chairs for helping to organize the program and our WSSA/WSWS meeting manager and executive secretary, Eric Gustafson, for his commitment to ensure a successful meeting. We are excited about the great participation and the many opportunities to exchange scientific information on weed science research, education and extension. We look forward to a productive and rewarding meeting.

Bill Curran
WSSA Program Chair and President-Elect

Corey Ransom
WSWS Program Chair and President-Elect