



WSWS Newsletter

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August 2009

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Report from the President by Jesse Richardson



Everyone seems to be fully engaged in the summer field season. In the midst of all the craziness, your WSWS Board of Directors met July 17-18 in Portland, Oregon for their summer meeting. It was a remarkably constructive meeting and I am pleased to report that our society is functioning well and remains in good financial standing. Because Portland is not the site of our annual meeting in 2010, a tour of the facilities was not included in the board meeting, as would be customary. But we did receive an excellent update from Phil Motooka and his local arrangements committee regarding the Hawaii location. Joe DiTomaso and his program committee are already making excellent progress in putting together a program schedule, including a couple of special symposia on kochia and invasive grasses. Please mark your calendars for March 9-11, 2010 for this worthwhile meeting at the Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort, on the big island of Hawaii.

Other items discussed by your Board of Directors included an excellent discussion regarding the fate of the Noxious Weed Short Course. After almost twenty years, Celestine Duncan has decided that the short course in April would be her last as coordinator. We are grateful for her excellent leadership in putting on a very popular and useful educational effort each year. She and the other course instructors have provided a great service to WSWS and to those who have enrolled in the short course. We thank them for their service. Several proposals to continue the short course were received but rather than make a final decision in Portland, the Board decided to take a measured approach by spending more time in evaluating all options. As a result, an ad-hoc committee will be assigned by the President and a final decision will be delayed until the committee's input is received-- no short course will be offered in 2010. The board made the decision to approve three \$1000 scholarships to worthy students, to be given at the awards luncheon each year during our annual meeting. We voted to extend our contract with Phil Banks, to continue serving as Business Manager/Treasurer. We ratified the decision made by attendees of Projects 1 and 5 discussion sessions in Albuquerque, to combine them into one project, entitled Weeds of Range and Natural Areas. The board voted to extend voting status to the CAST representative and the Student Liaison Chair. To make this change official, it must go to a vote of the general membership, which we are recommending.

Please note that the 2011 meeting is being planned for the Doubletree City Center in Spokane, Washington. The tentative symposium topic for that meeting will be on invasive annual grasses. For other possible topics, please submit your ideas to someone on the Board at the Hawaii meeting. Finally, please consider nominating a deserving person for one of the available awards, as well as fellows and honorary members. Contact Frank Young, Chair of the Awards Committee, about award nominations. Also contact Bill Cobb, Chair of the Fellows and Honorary Members Committee. As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me (760-949-2565, jmrichardson@dow.com). Enjoy your summer!

2009 Excellence in Graduate Mentoring Award



Dr. Carol Mallory-Smith has been named the winner of the 2009 Excellence in Graduate Mentoring Award for the entire campus at Oregon State University. She has been cited by the Graduate Dean specifically for her involvement with her graduate students both during their degree attainment and after graduation. The award will be formally presented at Faculty Day in the fall.

Dr. Carol Mallory-Smith

Sidebar highlights

- Contact us
- WSWs Officers
- Executive Committee
- Standing and Ad Hoc Committees
 - Calendar
- 2009 Deadlines

Contact us

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WSWS Officers and Executive Committee

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Jesse Richardson

Awards, Site Selection

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Honorary Members,
Sustaining Members,
Nominations

2010 WSWs Annual Meeting Venue by Philip Motooka

The 2010 WSWs conference will be held at the Marriott Beach Resort and Spa at Waikoloa. This hotel was the old Royal Waikoloan, the 1998 WSWs venue. However, it is under new management and has been extensively renovated. Several meeting rooms have been added and it is now a first class conference venue. The lobby overlooks heated outdoor swimming pools. A few yards beyond is a beach naturally protected from high surf. See their website at <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/koamc-waikoloa-beach-marriott-resort-and-spa/>.

Within a short walking distance of the hotel are two shopping centers. Mauka (towards the mountains) is the Queens Market Place which houses several restaurants including a food court and a convenience store with a deli section and the ubiquitous coffee shop. Across the hotel is the Kings' Shops which contains two nice restaurants and again, the ubiquitous coffee shop. There are also two championship golf courses adjacent to the resort.

Unfortunately, the distance between the airport and the hotel and the rather rural conditions of Kona do not allow convenient and affordable public transportation. The hotel is about 27 miles north of Kailua-Kona and 20 miles north of the Kona International Airport (KOA). It is an expensive cab ride from the airport to the hotel. You may want to coordinate your arrivals so you can share a cab or rental car. For drivers, turn left on Queen Kaahumanu Highway as you exit the airport (traffic light). After about 19 miles turn makai (ocean side; left) onto Waikoloa Beach Drive (traffic light). At the third stop sign, turn left into hotel entrance which is about a mile from Queen Kaahumanu Highway, just past Queens' Market Place and across Kings' Shops.

Hawaii Island (and county), the namesake of the whole state, is larger than all the rest of the other islands put together. Locals call the island "the Big Island" to avoid confusion with the State of Hawaii. Waikoloa is on the Kona Coast of the Big Island and enjoys a reversal of weather from the rest of the state. This is because the massive volcanoes block the trade winds and storms from the north. Thus while the rest of the state is cold and wet during the winter, Kona is cool and dry, "cold" and "cool" being relative terms. Typically what rains that do occur miss the coastal areas, which means good beach weather is almost guaranteed.

Recreationally, the big draw is the Volcanoes National Park some 140 miles south of Waikoloa. Kilauea has been putting on a show almost continuously for nearly 30 years and you may be able to see lava fountains or flows. Activities closer to the hotel include many kinds of ocean sports from swimming to deep sea fishing. Whale watching tours are available in Kailua-Kona, however by March most of the whales are heading to Alaska. Still it's a picturesque cruise and porpoises abound.

Kona is an important historical area as it is the birthplace of Kamehameha the Great and the base from which he launched his campaign to unify the Hawaiian Kingdom. He reigned from Kailua-Kona; was born in Kohala, a few miles from Waikoloa and eliminated his Big Island rival at nearby Kawaihae. These sites are now open to the public as private, national and state historical parks.

Western Society of Weed Science Call for Papers by Joe DiTomaso

The 63rd annual conference of the Western Society of Weed Science will be held March 8-11, 2010, at the **Waikoloa Beach Marriott** on the Big Island of Hawaii. We encourage all members to participate in the program. Members may present a paper as an oral presentation or in a poster session. Oral presentations are strictly limited to fifteen (15) minutes, and that includes a 1 to 2 minute period to respond to questions from the audience. Multiple presentations by presenters can only be accommodated if the program schedule allows. If a presenter submits multiple presentations but the program does not allow, they will be contacted to find out which one they would rather present. Registration and Title Submission will be open at the website (www.wsweedscience.org) on October 1, 2009. Abstracts of the presentations will be published in Vol. 63 of the Proceedings.

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WSWS Research
Project Title and Chairs

**Weeds of Range and
Natural Areas**
Co-chaired by
J. Harbour and C. Gray
Send presentation files to:
Cody Gray
cody.gray@uniphos.com
United Phosphorus Inc
11417 Cranston Drive
Peyton, CO 80831
(954) 562-0254

Weeds of Horticultural Crops
Curtis Rainbolt
Tech Service Rep
4763 N Pacific Ave
Fresno, CA 93705
559-430-4418
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Weeds of Agronomic Crops
Brian Olson
Kansas State University
Northwest Research and
Extension Center
P.O. Box 786
Colby, KS 67701
(785) 462-6281
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**Teaching & Technology
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Pre-announcement: The 2010 WSWS Big Island Weed

Tours by James Leary and Philip Motooka

In conjunction with the 2010 WSWS conference in Kona, Dr. James Leary, University of Hawaii, will lead three separate field trips to managed and natural areas on the "Big Island" to observe major weed infestations. Each tour will last 10 hours and will be conducted pre- and/or post-conference perhaps including Monday. Transportation will be provided since 4WD vehicles will be required. This limits participation to only 42/tour. No host lunch stops will be incorporated into the trips. Given the limited space, applicants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and limited to one tour/person unless space is available. Cost for each tour will be about \$20/person. Watch for the final announcement.

Tour A. The gorse infestations on Mauna Kea

The temperate weed gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) infests over 2000 ha at the 2000 m elevation on the slopes of Mauna Kea. Other species include kikuyu grass (*Pennisetum clandestinum*) and banana poka (*Passiflora tarminiana*). There will also be a stop within the Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge, where a forest of native koa (*Acacia koa*) and Ohia (*Metrosiderous polymorpha*) trees provide a critical habitat for several endangered bird species. This tour will end with a stop at the Mauna Kea telescope visitor center where one can see the rings of Saturn.

Tour B. Fountain grass infestations of dryland lava ecosystems

Active management of the perennial fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*) and restoration of infested lavascapes is in progress at the Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park (KAHO), Kaupulehu and Puu Waawaa. Fountain grass fuels several wild fires annually and is thereby a severe hazard to unique native dryland forests. This C4 species is able to colonize a landscape of unweathered lava.

Tour C. Rangeland weeds in the pastures of Waimea

Waimea is the heart of the cattle country but its beautiful rolling pastures suffer many weed problems. Major weeds include guava (*Psidium guajava*) and Madagascar ragwort (*Senecio madagascarensis*). Techniques in pasture improvement that include multi-species grazing and Wet Blade® mowing will be displayed. For further information contact: James Leary, leary@hawaii.edu or Phil Motooka, motookap001@hawaii.rr.com

Notes from the Business Office by Phil Banks



Treasurer-Business Manager,
MARATHON-Agric. & Environ. Consulting, Inc.
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Not a lot to report since the annual meeting. We have been cleaning up the membership files, so if you did not attend the last two meetings and have not paid the annual dues of \$ 25.00 for this year, we have most likely deleted you from the membership list. For those that did not attend the last meeting and have not paid your dues, you can do so by login to your account at the website (www.wsweeds.org) and scroll to the bottom of the page. We are adding a lot of content to the website (all of the meeting Proceedings, except for the 2009 meeting, have been scanned and are available at the website. We will be doing the same with old Research Progress Reports soon.) and only members will have access. We have some new books that will soon be available for purchase on the website (the SWSS Weeds of the South and Forest Weeds of the Southeast and their Wildlife Uses). Of course, Weeds of the West continues to be our best seller. Visit the Online Store at the website to see everything that is for sale. Our financial situation has improved since the annual meeting and our finance committee and financial advisor are putting our investment funds into safer types of investments. The financial status of the WSWS can be found in the annual Proceedings once published. If you did not purchase the 2009 Proceedings, you can do so at the Online Store. If you need to contact the office, please give us a call at 575-527-1888 or e-mail at wsws@marathonag.com. Thanks, Phil Banks, WSWS Business Manager/Treasurer

Basic Sciences: Ecology,
Biology, Physiology, Genetics

Kassim Al-Khatib
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Director of Science Policy
Summer Report by Lee
Van Wychen, Ph.D. can
be found at:

<http://www.wsweedscience.org/>

The National and Regional
Weed Science Societies
900 2nd St. NE, Suite 205,
Washington, DC 20002
Lee.VanWychen@WSSA.net
Phone: 202-746-4686

Calendar

For more information on
these and other events:
www.wsweedscience.org

September 2009

12 Weed Wacker's Ball -
Wise River - contact Jeanne
Caddy

13-17 2009 International
Conference on Ecology and
Transportation - Duluth, MN

15-18 Natural Areas
Conference - Vancouver, WA

21-24 Response to the
Riparian Invasion: 17th
Annual NAWMA Conference
and Trade Show - Kearney,
NE - contact
www.nawma.org

29-Oct 1 Montana Weed
Control Association Fall
Coordinator Training -
Lewistown - contact Amy
Adler or Jim Sparks

Course Announcement

An online graduate course offered through the Department of Plant Sciences & Plant Pathology,
Montana State University

Herbicide Physiology: PSPP 546

September 7, 2009 - December 10, 2009

3 graduate credits Tuition: \$720

Instructors: Prof. William Dyer and Tracy Sterling, Montana State University and Prof. Scott Nissen, Colorado State University

Topics in herbicide classification, herbicide mode of action, resistance mechanisms, and practical diagnosis of field situations will be covered.

Prerequisites include upper division courses in biochemistry and plant physiology, or consent of the instructors. The expected time commitment is 10 to 15 hours per week over 14 weeks

For more information: Please see

<http://btc.moana.edu/courses/asp/descrip3.aspx?TheID=104> or contact Dr. William E. Dyer at wdyer@montana.edu. **Online registration will begin in late August, 2009.**

WSSA UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD -- 2010

The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) has developed an Undergraduate Student Research Grant designed to encourage and involve exceptional undergraduates in agricultural research. Interested faculty members are encouraged to identify potential award candidates and discuss the possibility of sponsoring a research project. Awards may be used as a stipend, for research budget expenses (travel, supplies, etc.), to defer fees, to defray living expenses for summer research, or any combination of these items.

AWARD: Up to \$1000 for support of undergraduate research to be conducted over a minimum of one quarter/semester during 2010. This award may be used to defray the cost of research supplies or as a stipend. Support of a faculty sponsor is required. Awards will be made to the student, to be administered by the faculty sponsor's department

APPLICANT: The applicant is an undergraduate student with a strong interest in Weed Science. Students majoring in all related disciplines may apply.

TO APPLY: Applicants should prepare a 2-3 page research proposal including name, address, phone number, E-mail address, title, objective, experimental approach, discussion, budget and references. The discussion section of the proposal should describe the expected results and their possible significance to Weed Science. The student should provide a cover letter in which general academic and career goals are discussed. A copy of the student's academic transcripts must also be provided.

FACULTY SPONSOR: Any faculty member who is actively engaged in Weed Science research is qualified to be a sponsor. The faculty sponsor should review the research proposal with special attention to the budget; the distribution of funds should be approved by both the student and sponsor. In addition, the sponsor should provide a letter of reference including a statement of his/her willingness to supervise the proposed research and to provide needed space, equipment and supplies above those requested in the proposal. The sponsor is encouraged to assist the student in presenting his/her results at a regional Weed Science Meeting.

HOW TO APPLY: The completed proposal, academic transcripts, cover letter and faculty letter of support should be forwarded to: Dr. John Jachetta, Dow AgroSciences, 9330 Zionsville Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268-1054; Phone: (317) 337-4686, Fax (317) 337-4649, E-mail: jjjachetta@dow.com. Proposals should be received no later than November 16, 2009. Funding decisions will be made by January 22, 2010 and presented at the 2010 WSSA National Meeting Awards Ceremony.

Deadlines

WSSA Nominations for Distinguished Achievement Awards
September 10, 2009

WSWS Nomination for Distinguished Achievement Awards
December 1, 2009

WSWS Title Submission
December 2, 2009

Research Progress Reports
December 7, 2009

WSSA Undergraduate Research Proposal
January 10, 2010

WSWS Abstract Submission
February 3, 2010

New Items Available in Online Store!

We are proud to announce that the WSWS has recently become affiliated with the John Wiley and Sons Publishing company. This joint venture allows the WSWS to offer an expanded variety of books on the Online Store > Other Items section of the site. A portion of the proceeds from purchases through this affiliation go directly to the WSWS.

Please contact Tony White if you know of books available through Wiley that are not posted, but would be beneficial to do so.

Call for Research Progress Reports by Traci Rauch and Joan Campbell

Please consider submitting preliminary results from ongoing laboratory, physiological, and other research in the WSWS Research Progress Report. It is a good opportunity for staff and graduate students to initiate the process for journal submission and improve their technical writing skills. Also, consider publishing results that will not be submitted for journal publication.

For instructions, see the Call for Research Progress Reports attached to the newsletter and also located on the website <http://www.wsweedsociety.org>. Reports must be postmarked by December 7, 2009.

WSWS Nomination for Distinguished Achievement Awards

Everyone knows of some skilled and outstanding weed scientists in the western region who have contributed a great deal over the years and deserve our recognition and appreciation. One way to recognize such persons is to nominate them for a WSWS award. Please take the time and nominate an individual for one of awards listed below.

CRITERIA USED FOR EVALUATING NOMINATIONS

Awards are based on merit and impact on weed science and weed management practices. Applicants **MUST BE** a member of WSWS. Professional achievements and their impacts are the principal criteria for receiving these awards. There is no requirement that an award be given in any or every category. Past winners are not eligible again in the same category. An award may be given each year in both the private and public sectors for Outstanding Weed Scientist and Outstanding Weed Scientist – Early Career. Only one award may be given each year for Weed Manager and Professional Staff. Within the guidelines for each category, there is flexibility to fit the nominee.

I. OUTSTANDING WEED SCIENTIST

This award recognizes outstanding achievements in weed science from individuals in both the public and private sectors. Principle criteria for this award includes innovative or unique approaches that result in learning, ability to clearly communicate ideas, motivation of the intended audience, demonstrate excellence and creativity in research accomplishments, applying results to solve problems in weed science, the impact on weed management practices and principals of weed science, and recognition of accomplishments by peers and intended audiences.

II. OUTSTANDING WEED SCIENTIST – EARLY CAREER

This award is to be given to members in the private and public sectors with no more than 10 years after completion of their terminal degree. This award recognizes outstanding achievements in weed science early in the individual career with the same criteria as the outstanding weed scientist above.

III. WEED MANAGER

This award recognizes outstanding and sustained contributions in support of weed science activities. This award is intended for those paid by taxpayers and are working in the public sector, such as employees of state departments of agriculture, weed boards, public land managers, and vegetation management personnel. The nominee must have been involved in the WSWS and weed science for at least five years at the time of nomination.

IV. PROFESSIONAL STAFF

This award recognizes outstanding and sustained contributions in support of weed science activities. Nominees will be restricted to individuals that work under the direction of university, federal, or industry scientists. These individuals may have titles such as researcher, research associate, technician, support scientist, or specialist. The nominee must have been involved in the WSWS and weed science research, extension, or resident education for at least five years at the time of nomination.

NOMINATION DEADLINE:

Nomination must be received by December 1, 2009.

NOMINATOR'S RESPONSIBILITY:

The nominator will submit a nomination document following the "Instructions for Nomination" guideline. The nominator is responsible for obtaining three letters of support and including them with the nomination package. Unsuccessful nominations will remain active for three years; however, an updated nomination packet of holdover candidates is encouraged.

THREE COPIES of the nomination package and supporting letters should be sent to the Awards Committee Chairperson by December 1, 2009.

Frank Young, Rm 161 Johnson Hall, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-6420
Email: youngfl@wsu.edu, Phone: 509-335-4196

Instructions:

1. **NOMINATION AWARD:** Name of award the Nominee is nominated for.
2. **NOMINEE:** Provide name, title, complete mailing address, telephone number.
3. **PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SECTOR NOMINEE:** Indicate the appropriate sector.
4. **SUPPORT STATEMENT BY NOMINATOR:** A concise summary and accomplishments of the nominee.
5. **EDUCATION AND WORK EXPERIENCE:** Degrees, institutions, dates, and positions held.
6. **PARTICIPATION IN AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WESTERN SOCIETY OF WEED SCIENCE:** Offices held, committees, papers presented, honors, awards.
7. **PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC AFFILIATIONS OTHER THAN IN THE WSWS:** Memberships, offices held, committee activities, papers presented, honors, awards, state, regional and national organizations.
8. **PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS:** Provide pertinent information relative to the award sought. This may include but not limited to books written or edited, referred journal articles, technical information, research reports, extension material, products developed, patents, agronomic practices researched, innovations, creativity enhancement. List and explain the contributions made to the weed science profession by the nominee.
9. **LETTERS OF SUPPORT:** Obtain three (maximum) supporting letters for the nominee. Preferably these letters should not exceed one **page** in length. The nominator should obtain supporting letters from the different disciplines, i.e.: faculty member or co-worker, individual not employed at same location, industry representative, university, government, or regulatory individual. Members of the Awards Committee are not eligible to write supporting letters.
10. **NOMINATOR:** Provide name, title, complete address, telephone number.

Student Liaison Report by Ryan Edwards

Hello student members of the WSWS. The student liaisons recently participated in the annual summer board meeting, and discussed several projects, which will have a direct positive effect on the 2009 Hawaii meeting.

Firstly, the board of directors has voted to create a \$45 per night room rate reduction for students to allow them to travel to annual meeting. Major Professors must send in the number of students who are attending, and the number of nights (up to three nights) the students stay at the hotel to Phil Banks, WSWS business manager, after the meeting. Students who participate in the program must also present a paper or poster during the annual meeting. Further information on the program will be posted to the WSWS student website soon.

The student liaisons and the board of directors have also been working together to create three \$1000 outstanding student scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students. The scholarship program will begin this year, and awards will be presented at the annual meeting. The announcement for the scholarship program can be found in this newsletter, and more information on when and how to apply will be posted on the WSWS student website shortly.

Finally, the student liaisons have been working with Tony White, WSWS web master, in continually updating the content of the WSWS student website. Future improvements will included information on student activities at the annual meeting, an updated online program for the 'Student Night Out' program, a calendar of surrounding societies meeting dates, information on the herbicide physiology course offered by MSU, tips from the WSWS membership for students presenting for the paper and poster contest, and much more information on weed science related activities for students.

The student liaisons are the student voice to the WSWS Executive Board. Please help us to improve the content of the student webpage and keep us aware of student issues that should be of concern to the WSWS by sending comments and suggestions via email to either me (redwards155@hotmail.com) or Tanya (tskurski@gmail.com).

Position Announcements

New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM

Position Available: Associate/Assistant Professor. Tenure track, 12 month full time. Appointment is 75% research, 25% extension. Ph.D. in (in hand by hire date) in rangeland resources or closely related field with a preferred emphasis in range plant ecology and management. Provide leadership in the field of Rangeland Vegetation Management including coordination of statewide research and extension efforts. Research activities should be devoted to the area of shrub and invasive species ecology and management. Teach a graduate course in advanced vegetation management. Offer of employment contingent upon verification of individual's eligibility for employment in the US and upon completion of applicable background review. For complete job description visit <http://www.nmsu.edu/employment>. Requisition #2009006750.

Reply to: Dr. Tim Ross, Animal & Range Sciences, NMSU, Box 30003, MSC 3-I Las Cruces, NM 88003, Telephone (575) 646-2515, e-mail: tross@nmsu.edu. Review of letter of interest, resume, unofficial transcripts, and four letters of recommendation, sent on your behalf, addressing the qualifications and responsibilities of this position will begin: September 7, 2009 and continue until position is filled. NMSU is an EEO/AA employer.

Sweetwater County Weed & Pest Control Board, Farson, WY

Sweetwater County Weed & Pest Control District Board of Directors is seeking a full-time employee for the position of "Supervisor". This will be an exempt, at will position with District benefits including health, dental, and vision insurance and a retirement plan. This position is salaried and ranges from \$35,000 – \$55,000 based upon experience and qualifications.

Position Requirements: An agricultural background with either a M.Sc. and/or B.S. degree in Weed Science, Entomology or closely related field, or a high school diploma with experience working in the field of weed and or pest management. Must be certified as a Weed & Pest Supervisor in the State of Wyoming or be willing to become certified within two years. Successful applicant must obtain a Wyoming Commercial Pesticide Applicator's License.

Personal Requirements: Applicant must demonstrate knowledge of various invasive and noxious weeds and pests and how they can impact agricultural production and shall demonstrate knowledge of implementing integrated pest management techniques. In addition, the individual must possess experience in the use of rangeland and cropland pesticides. Applicant must be able to communicate with area landowners, federal, state, county and local agencies and staff. Previous supervisory experience is desired. Applicant must be motivated with a strong work ethic. Enthusiasm for early detection/rapid response to weeds is essential. Applicant should be comfortable with map reading and familiar with GPS/GIS technology and have strong computer skills. Applicant needs to present a professional attitude.

Job Description: The individual will become the leader of a team whose mission is to carry out an effective weed control program for Sweetwater County. The supervisor will hire personnel, maintain a functional office, supervise the treatment program, conduct a public education program, assure compliance with State and Federal regulations, keep appropriate records, construct and maintain budgets, conduct contracting and bidding and maintain individual and inter-agency contacts.

Location: This position will be based out of Farson, Wyoming, and will require work and travel throughout Sweetwater County.

Application Deadline: Open until a suitable candidate is identified.

All interested parties please submit a complete resume including all applicable college transcripts and three (3) work references to: Sweetwater County Weed & Pest Control Board, Attn: Lonnie Rich, Chairman
P.O. Box 173, Farson, WY 82932 Phone 307-273-9683.

WSSA Awards Nomination Deadline is September 10.

Nominators Needed: Our society has many members who deserve recognition for outstanding achievements, contributions and service in weed science, but recognition can only come after nomination. The success of the WSSA Awards Program depends on the efforts of WSSA members as nominators. Now is the time to begin preparing nominations as the September 10, 2009 deadline will be here soon. Please take the time to nominate so the society can recognize deserving members and students. Information and instructions for nominations are on the WSSA website: <http://wssa.net/WSSA/SocietyInfo/Nominations.htm>
L. J. Wiles, Weed Ecologist, USDA-ARS, lori.wiles@ars.usda.gov
2150 Centre Ave. Bldg. D, Fort Collins, CO 80526 970-492-7415

WSSA Symposium: Advancements in Automation and Machine Guided Technologies for Precision Weed Control

This will be the topic of a symposium at the upcoming 50th Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America in Denver, Colorado, February 7-11, 2010. Producers across the nation and worldwide are dealing with issues associated with weed control, including site specific applications, integrated weed management and application timing. Come to the symposium and hear about how the potential for improving weed control using automation and machine guided technologies can help address these pertinent, production based weed control problems. The symposium will feature biosystem engineers, industry representatives and crop producers, who have experience with the latest weed control technologies for organic and conventional cropping systems. The panel of experts will share their insights on current research and the prospects for future applications of machine guided technologies for controlling weeds. The symposium will also feature a question and answer session between the panel and the audience. Be sure to mark this symposium as you plan your schedule for the meetings in Denver. It will be one of the highlights of your week!

CAST – Communicating Science for Sound Policy

by Phil Stahlman, WSWS Representative on the CAST Board of Directors

Hot Off the Press

CAST released two Special Publications and one Commentary in July, with another release scheduled for mid-August. Also, a Commentary titled *The Endangered Species Act: Its Interface with Agricultural and Natural Ecosystems* is scheduled for release later this fall. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) directly affects everyone working in vegetation management and should be of interest to all WSWS members. The Newsworthy Item later in this article is an example of decisions influenced by the ESA.

The recent publications cover “the big 3” of agriculture: animals, plants, and food. Though a publication on the *Fate and Transport of Zoonotic Bacterial, Viral, and Parasitic Pathogens During Swine Manure Treatment, Storage, and Land Application* may not be high on the reading list of many WSWS members, it is an important and very timely publication considering the recent declaration by the World Health Organization (WHO) of a global pandemic of novel influenza A (H1N1 virus, commonly known as swine flu). This CAST Special Publication provides a literature review on topics directly related to swine manure management systems and addresses concerns about the potential for pork production facilities to disseminate pathogenic microorganisms into the surrounding environment.

The second CAST Special Publication released on July 20, provides a comprehensive review and evaluation of U.S. soybean production systems currently in use with respect to their environmental and economic sustainability. This publication documents the ecological and economic implications of U.S. soybean production in conventional, transgenic (biotech), and organic production systems, contributes to timely development of a scientific foundation for determining the environmental sustainability of various soybean production protocols and offers verified strategies to mitigate environmental impacts in producing soybeans. See the press release for this publication elsewhere in the Newsletter, or go to the CAST website at www.cast-science.org to review this and other CAST publications.

The third release on July 27, addresses food-related illness associated with fresh produce. Although contamination can occur at any point in the food production-processing-distribution-preparation chain from field to table, this Commentary reminds consumers of important precautions to decrease their risk from disease-causing microbes on fresh fruits and vegetables.

Newsworthy Item

Newsworthy Item

The following is from a Press Release issued by the Center for Biological Diversity on July 17, 2009. The full text of the release is posted at http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2009/herbicides-07-17-2009.html.

ROSWELL, N.M.— In response to an appeal by the Center for Biological Diversity and WildEarth Guardians, the Bureau of Land Management today announced that it has withdrawn a plan to allow herbicide spraying across 1.5 million acres in southeastern New Mexico. The conservation groups applauded the decision and urged land managers to end their addiction to toxic chemicals.

A dozen endangered species exist within the Roswell field office, including two fishes, the Pecos bluntnose shiner and Pecos gambusia; plants such as the Pecos sunflower; and four invertebrates (three snails and a shrimp) found only on the Bitter Lake refuge. Herbicides could harm those species by contaminating their habitat or through direct ingestion. Under the Endangered Species Act, when a project may affect federally protected species, the Bureau of Land Management is required to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which it failed to do in this case.

Background. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) was enacted by Congress in 1973, for the purpose of protecting and recovering imperiled species and the ecosystems upon which they depend. The Act is administered by the Interior Department’s U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Commerce Department’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (collectively, “the Services”). The FWS has primary responsibility for terrestrial and freshwater organisms.

Dilemma and Comment. The ESA does not require risk/benefit analysis when considering species management and mitigation actions. As a result, there is bias towards perceived low-risk actions with short-term impacts without adequately considering benefits that may accrue over time following actions that may have short term risks. Since many environmental activist groups consider herbicides as “bad” (note the language in the press release), there is little recognition that threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat may benefit from the removal of invasive species through the use of herbicides, or that inaction may pose even greater risk to the threatened species. Thus, there is need for more balanced science-based decision making to protect and preserve threatened species and critical habitats.

CAST's New Special Publication Compares Sustainability of Three U.S. Soybean Production Systems: Conventional, Transgenic, and Organic

July 20, 2009 ~ Ames, Iowa. Increasingly, the term "sustainable" is used to describe desirable systems in agriculture. But what does the term really mean, and how does it apply to U.S. crops? The newest Special Publication from the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology--*Sustainability of U.S. Soybean Production: Conventional, Transgenic, and Organic Systems*--defines sustainable agriculture and evaluates its implications in the production of U.S. soybeans.

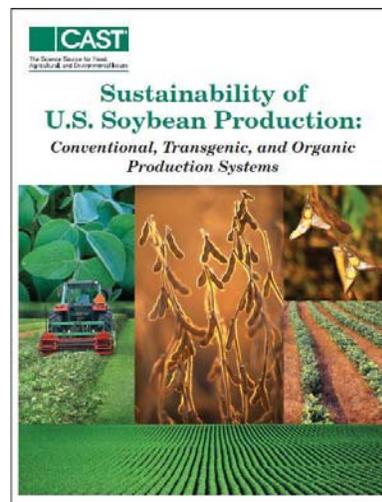
Soybean production has changed in the United States since its first introduction in the mid-1880s. Initially, the crop was produced mainly for forage and received only minimal inputs. Today, soybeans have become a major source of protein in animal diets and vegetable oils for human consumption. In 2002, 68% of the 75.4 million U.S. soybean acres were planted to transgenic varieties compared with 92% of the 75.7 million soybean acres planted in 2008.

With this dramatic change in mind, the United Soybean Board (USB) requested that CAST provide a comprehensive literature review that would evaluate U.S. soybean production systems currently in use with respect to their environmental and economic sustainability. This new CAST Special Publication documents the ecological and economic implications of U.S. soybean production in conventional, transgenic (biotech), and organic production systems.

"Development of technology that supports soybean production in the United States has been and continues to be robust in both the genetics and production/management areas," says Project Manager Dr. Larry Heatherly, agronomic adviser, Seymour, Tennessee. "Development of new technology that will be needed to address anticipated future soybean production issues depends on the continued vigor of this public and private research and development effort." "The combined efforts of each scientist on the 12-member Task Force are reflected in the quality of this critical review," concludes CAST Executive Vice President/CEO Dr. John M. Bonner. "CAST is pleased to contribute to the growing body of literature on sustainable agriculture."

The full text of Special Publication 30 is available in hardcopy (\$18.00, plus shipping) and electronically (\$10.00), along with many of CAST's other scientific publications, by contacting the CAST Office at 515-292-2125 or accessing the CAST website at www.cast-science.org. CAST is an international consortium of 33 scientific and professional societies. It assembles, interprets, and communicates credible, science-based information regionally, nationally, and internationally to legislators, policymakers, the media, the private sector, and the public.

As a benefit of CAST membership, current Members may receive a complimentary hardcopy version of the publication without shipping/handling fee by contacting the CAST office (phone: 515-292-2125; fax: 515-292-4512; e-mail: cast@cast-science.org). Request Special Publication 30.



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News and Events Around the West

2009 Ganado Russian Olive & Saltcedar Removal Project

The Navajo Nation rural communities in northeastern Arizona have concerns for Russian olive and saltcedar taking over major waterways, canals, washes, lake shores, and riparians. The spread of woody invasives is the greatest threats to the long-term environmental stability and health of the land. They are impacting water resources that are already severely stressed from drought conditions. This year Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Fort Defiance Agency received some weed funding to control 340 acres of Russian olive stands down Little Pueblo Colorado Wash near the small town of Ganado, AZ.



Eight federal, state and tribal government agencies are involved with this interagency cooperative project: Navajo Nation Water Resources, 2 Navajo Nation community Chapters, US Park Service, Navajo Nation EPA, Navajo Nation Fish & Wildlife Program, BIA Fort Defiance Branch of Natural Resources, and BIA Navajo Region.



Saltcedar and Russian olive are on the Federal and State of Arizona's noxious weed list as well as the BIA Navajo Region Noxious Weed List. The preferred method to control the two woody species is the cut-stump method. The herbicide "Habitat" has been identified to be utilized for this project, and the application rate is 12 fluid ounces of Habitat with one gallon of Amigo (oil).

The Little Pueblo Colorado Wash riparian area is dominated by saltcedar and Russian olive, exotic woody species introduced in the 1930's by the Federal Government for erosion control. People are concerned about the exotic species out-competing the native desirable vegetation, narrowing the channels, increase in soil erosion, and the difficulty they encounter



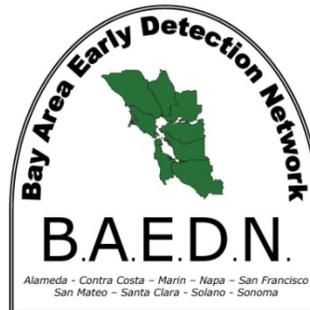
with livestock disappearing in the saltcedar thickets. The woody plants are well established and it would cost more to control if left unchecked. New infestations are easier to control in comparison then established species therefore immediate actions are taken. This year's project is the first of many to come, provided funds are available. The preferred method of treatment is cut-stump treatment which minimizes land disturbances. The cost of the cut-stump is expensive and labor intensive but the economic return is worthwhile. The project is unique due to the cost-share committed from the two chapter communities and the land users.



The local community chapters are committing labor force and other in-kind service with the Agency purchasing the needed chain saws, herbicide and licensed applicators.

Long range plans by Ft. Defiance Agency are to re-establish the historic vegetations along the Little Pueblo Colorado Wash that includes transplanting native species as Cottonwood and Navajo Willow along the stream bed. Long-term benefits are the protection and preservation of native vegetation which will enhance the beauty and conservation of the wash by controlling the aggressive woody species.

SF Bay Area Early Detection Network Each of us has born witness to an ugly invasion, each of us carry the memory of a wild piece of California which has been lost to weedy invaders. We all have noticed a small outbreak of some harmful weed, and thought "someone should do something about that before it expands." Fortunately, there are tools which can save some of our remaining wild places.



Whether we are protecting humans from swine flu or protecting rivers from *Arundo donax*, early detection and rapid response (EDRR) is the most cost-effective approach for coping with biological invasions. EDRR is a "stitch-in-

time" approach which proactively deals with infestations before they can grow into large and costly environmental threats. By acting early we efficiently prevent the environmental and economic damage caused by harmful invaders, and we can use less intrusive techniques, and we dramatically reduce the planning and resources required to control large, established invasive plant populations.

We have all recognized the importance of early detection and rapid response (EDRR), and EDRR is consistently identified as "the single most important element" in coping with biological invasions (2005 California State Noxious Weed Action Plan). Of course, we also know about the benefits of regular exercise; it can be difficult to do what we know is right. An effective EDRR program is a rare thing; it requires large-scale coordination of multiple actors, it requires systems for prioritizing targets and managing multi-year treatment, it means that some large and compelling invasions go without treatment so that we can address small but important outbreaks.

The Bay Area Early Detection Network (BAEDN) is an exciting new initiative that builds an EDRR system to serve the entire nine county San Francisco Bay Area. The group unites and coordinates the EDRR efforts of dozens of agencies, hundreds of professional

land managers, and potentially thousands of volunteers. BAEDN partners work together to develop a scientifically rigorous list of the most harmful invasive plants, train each other in detection techniques, make detections and report them to the online website, and then prioritize individual patches so that the most dangerous outbreaks can be removed before they spread and cause harm. We remove the easiest and most harmful first, while removal is cheap and before ecosystems have been harmed. It's simple, it's sensible, it's about time.

The BAEDN project was initiated in 2006, and was publicly launched during California's Invasive Weed Awareness Week, July 2009. In the last three years we have recruited partners and built the core structure of the network. Calflora has built BAEDN's online occurrence reporting database, leveraging Google maps to make it highly user-friendly. We are adopting site-based prioritization tools developed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and detection protocols recently developed by the National Park Service. Most importantly, we have hired Jennifer Stern to serve as BAEDN's Coordinator, thanks to support from the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife, and US Forest Service stimulus funding.

In spite of all this progress, most of the work is ahead of us and we really hope that you will join the effort! There are several ways to participate. First, you can detect and report unusual or harmful invasive plants; please go to the website (<http://BAEDN.org>) and test out the Google maps driven database right now! Second, we hope you will please help to spread the word; please tell your friends and let us know if you think of groups or newsletters that we can contact. Finally, we hope you will help us to build a BAEDN which is truly collaborative; please go to the website and subscribe to the BAEDN Partners email list, come to the annual meeting to help refine the system, and please let the Coordinator know if about individuals or groups who should learn about the network and participate. One of the goals of the BAEDN initiative is to advance the development of systematic and transparent EDRR

networks across California and beyond –please plan to join us in early 2011 for a Gathering of the Networks, at which EDRR networks will share lessons and plans for uniting and coordinating our common efforts.

Invasive weeds are important, not because they are out of place but because the worst of them can destroy the ancient biodiversity of lands we love. Humans have introduced these species, and humans have disrupted ecosystems so that weeds can thrive. We have the moral obligation to right what we have wronged, and we have the responsibility to use our heads so that our actions are strategic and effective. Please join us in this effort! Your help can really make a difference.

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BAEDN founders at the December 2006 kick-off meeting, photographer = Gluesenkamp.



BAEDN is seeking potentially problematic invaders early in the invasion process, such as these incipient infestations of *Nassella tenuissima*, *Helichrysum petiolare*, and *Echium*



Canary island St. John's wort (*Hypericum canariense*) is a highly invasive shrub which replaces diverse native scrub with natives with 12-foot tall infestations. The plant is highly invasive, but currently occurs at only a few locations on the California coast and so is eradicable. Photos: Flowers of HyCa; the San Mateo coast infestation; Jeff Powers (Peninsula Open Space Trust) and Mark Heath (Shelterbelt Builders) discuss strategies for eradicating *Hypericum canariense*.



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