



WSWS Newsletter

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January 2008

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Important Annual Meeting Deadlines

Abstract Upload:

February 4, 2008

Pre-Registration:

February 22, 2008

Hotel Registration:

February 18, 2008

Annual Meeting:

March 11-13, 2008

Annual Meeting Program Now Available Online

Contact Us

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Spring Newsletter Deadline April 1, 2008



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Report from the President and President-Elect, by Ron

P. Crockett and Dan Ball

President

Ron.Crockett@clark.wa.gov



Welcome to sunny southern California! The Western Society of Weed Science welcomes you to its 61st annual meeting. In addition to a full program, there is a broad array of destinations close to the hotel that will certainly provide lasting memories of this meeting. The hotel offers complimentary shuttles to Disneyland and provides discounted tickets, as well. There are more than 20 restaurants within easy walking distance from the hotel. For those wanting to get wet, the beaches are "close-by" in California terms, but certainly accessible, and worth the trip if you haven't had an opportunity to see them before. Temperatures in L.A. can vary, but generally a light jacket or sweater should suffice for an early morning or evening stroll. Walking with a friend or associate is always a good plan. If you have allotted extra time before the meeting or after, there are unlimited venues to explore within Los Angeles or the entire region surrounding the city. See you soon.

Notes from the Business Office by Phil Banks



Treasurer-Business Manager,

MARATHON-Agric.&Environ. Consulting, Inc.

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Registration for the Meeting

Pre-registration for the meeting will be open on the website (www.wsweedscience.org) until February 22. After that, you will need to call the office (575-527-1888) to register for the meeting and/or symposium. Rates for preregistration and late registration are posted at the website. If you have already registered and not yet paid, please do so before the February 22 deadline. Otherwise, you will be charged the late registration rate. The registration desk (located outside the Royal Ballroom) at the meeting will be open from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm on Monday and from 7:15 am until 4:00 pm on Tuesday and Wednesday and from 7:00 am until 1:00 pm on Thursday. Pick up your registration packet if you preregistered or you may register at the desk. We will be able to take cash, checks, or credit cards. If you have any questions about registration please give me a call. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the meeting. Please be sure to bring your printed program with you to the meeting.

ONLINE! by Tony White, WSWS Webmaster



Webmaster, Website technical assistance

webmaster@wsweedscience.org

573-248-2909 (office)

www.wsweedscience.org

To Register for the meeting, please go to www.wsweedscience.org and login to your account. Once at the 'My Account' page, simply go to 'Meeting Registration' under Quick Links or scroll down to that section. Abstracts must be posted by **February 4, 2008**. Please carefully follow all online instructions to complete each section of the registration process. A key feature will be added to the website this year to allow WSWS members to view all submitted abstracts online.

Continued on page 4



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Around Anaheim

Meeting Facilities

Hyatt Regency Orange County
11999 Harbor Blvd., Garden Grove, CA

Reservations:

phone: 714-750-1234, fax 714-740-0465 (Be sure to tell them you are with WSWs. The meeting rate is \$ 145.00 per night plus tax.)
Or online at www.wsweedscience.org. Log onto your account, Register, submit your abstract and click on "Register for a Hotel Room". Thanks for making it so easy Tony! The hotel provides the following information and services

Transportation

John Wayne Orange County Airport (SNA)

Drive time: 20 minutes, Distance: 13 miles
PCAM Shuttle: \$14 per person (one way) with **NO STOPS**, PCAM Shuttle leaves the front of the hotel at the top of every hour, starting at 5:00AM until 7:00PM. Call PCA at (714)240-1556 to make your reservations now.
Super Shuttle: \$10 per person/one way
Disneyland® Resort Express Bus: \$14 per person/one way
Resort Express Bus: \$14 per person/one way
Taxi or Van: \$35 per car or van load/one way, rates are metered
Town car or SUV: approx. \$40 pre-arranged through concierge
Rental car or Van: \$45-\$95 per car/daily

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)

Drive time: 50 minutes, Distance: 35 miles
Super Shuttle: \$15 per person/one way
Disneyland® Resort Express Bus: \$19 per person/one way
Taxi or Van: \$90 per car or van load/one way
Town car or SUV: approx. \$95, pre-arranged through concierge
Rental car or Van: \$45-\$95 per car or van/daily

Long Beach Airport (LGB)

Drive time: 30 minutes, Distance: 18 miles
Super Shuttle: \$33 for the first person + \$9.00 each additional person/one way.
Taxi or Van: \$50 per car or van/one way, rates are metered
Town car or SUV: approx. \$55, pre-arranged through concierge
Rental car or Van: \$45-\$95 per car or van/daily

Ontario Airport (ONT)

Drive time: 50 minutes, Distance: 37 miles
Super Shuttle: \$39 for the first person + \$9.00 each additional person/one way.
Taxi or Van: \$95 per car or van/one way, rates are metered
Town car or SUV: approx. \$100, pre-arranged through concierge
Rental car or Van: \$45-\$95 per car or van/daily
Taxi: Meter rate \$2.65 first 1/5 mile + \$0.50 per additional 1/5 mile. Wait fee \$28.80
*All prices are estimates and subject to change

Onsite Services

Parking: \$15 Self / \$17 Valet (includes in/out privileges). All parking is located outdoors For more hotel information: <http://orangecounty.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/>

Visit the Orange County Anaheim "it so California" Online Travel Guide

<http://www.anaheimoc.org/visitors/visitors.asp>. The features the local tourism information, including weather, maps, transportation, shopping, restaurants, beaches, parks sporting events, coupons, discounts and other special offers are available.

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WSWS

2007-2008 Standing and Ad Hoc Committees Awards

Don Morishita (2008)
Roland Schirman, Chair (2009)
Robert Wilson (2010)

Education-Ad Hoc Distance Education

Tracy Sterling, Chair
Carol Mallory-Smith
Scott Nissen

Bill Dyer

Kassim Al-Khatib

Noxious Weed Shortcourse

Celestine Duncan

Fellows and Honorary Members

Vanelle Peterson (2008)
Rod Lym, Chair (2009)
Phil Westra (2010)

Sites of Interest

Theme parks Disneyland Resort, Knott's Berry Farm, San Diego Zoo & Wild Animal Park, SeaWorld San Diego, and Universal Studios Hollywood. **Beaches** The area boasts 42 miles of coast with six unique cities. Enjoy the surf and sunsets at Seal, Huntington, Newport and Laguna Beaches. **Shopping and Dining** can be experienced at the South Coast Plaza, Fashion Island or the Block at Orange. Other popular **tourist attractions** include Discover Science Center, Angel Stadium, Crystal Cove State Park, San Juan Capistrano Mission, the Bowers Museum of Cultural Arts and the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum. Check out the site to learn more about these and other attractions.

Requesting Judges for Graduate Student Paper and Poster Contest by James Harbour, Chairman; Brad Ramsdale, Past- Chairman; Paul Figueroa, Chair Elect

I am requesting three sets of Judges for the 22 Graduate and four Undergraduate students presenting research at this years Annual Meeting. WSSWS requires a minimum of three judges for each section; more judges are always welcome and it makes the scoring easier. Please let me know if you wish to judge the following: Agronomic Crops plus Horticulture papers (7 papers); Range and Forest plus Basic Sciences papers (9 papers); Posters (6 Graduate students will be judged separately from the four Undergraduate students). Please reply to me at this address: james.d.harbour@usa.dupont.com. p.s. Call me to let me know you submitted your name and selection - some of my email notes end up in SPAM and I may inadvertently miss your note. Jim Harbour, PhD., DuPont Field Development, 3913 22nd St. S. Fargo, ND 58104 701-261-8456

Necrology Committee by Brad Hanson

The Necrology Committee is requesting information on weed science colleagues who have recently passed away. If you know of any colleagues who have passed this year, please help us by providing their names and any additional information so that the Society can recognize their accomplishments and contributions during the March meeting in Anaheim, CA. Please send the information to: Brad Hanson, Necrology Committee Chair USDA-ARS, 9611 S. Riverbend Ave., Parlier, CA 93648 559 596 2860 brad.hanson@ars.usda.

Coarse Announcements Spring 2008

Turf and Landscape Weed Management Course Online.

March 10 - May 2, 2008. Noncredit Registration Fee: \$150 (\$200 after March 3)

Instructor: Dr. Roch Gaussoin -- The Department of Agronomy and Horticulture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is offering this distance-delivered mini-course for academic credit, noncredit professional development and CEU credit. For more information visit the department's Distance Education and Life-Long Learning Program Web site at www.agronomy.unl.edu/newprospective/distanceed.html, or contact Cathy Dickinson, cdickinson2@unl.edu, 402.472.1730. Individuals interested in taking the course for noncredit or CEU credit can register online through the ADEC eStore at: <https://estore.adec.edu>.

This mini-course provides a comprehensive, in-depth study of weed biology and control as applied to turfgrass and landscape management. The course examines the specifics of weed management and related control strategies, including non-chemical methods. Along with basic terminology and concepts, students learn why weeds appear, persist and dominate in turf and landscapes.

January Job Postings

For full descriptions of these and other positions go to:
<http://www.wssa.net/WSSA/Jobs/listing.htm>

Research Statistician
University of Georgia-Tifton
Campus

Term - Seasonal
Utah State University
Logan, UT

Assistant Professor: Invasive
Weed Scientist
The University of Wyoming
Laramie, WY

Pennsylvania Invasive Species
Coordinator
Pennsylvania Department of
Agriculture
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Assistant Professor - Agronomist,
Position # 1521
University of Wyoming, Research
and Extension Center
Powell, WY

Research Associate
Monsanto
Davis, CA

Finance

Phil Munger, Chair (2008)
Jesse Richardson (2009)
John Fenderson, (2010)

Herbicide Resistant Plants

Steve Seefeldt (2008)
Monte Anderson (2008)
Steve King, Chair (2009)
Craig Alford (2009)
John Obarr, (2010)

Legislative

Sandra McDonald (2008)
Case Medlin, Chair (2009)
Dana Coggon (2010)
Lee VanWychen, Standing Member,
Ex-officio

Local Arrangements

Carol Mallory-Smith (2008)
Carl Bell, (2009)
Nelroy Jackson, Chair (2009)
Keith Duncan (2010)
April Fletcher (2010)

Job Posting

University of Wyoming, Department of Plant Sciences: ACADEMIC POSITION AVAILABLE
Assistant Professor: Invasive Weed Scientist

This is an 11-month tenure-track position in the biology and management of invasive weeds. Responsibilities of the position include extension (60%), research (25%) and teaching and service (15%). The successful applicant will be expected to build an innovative extension program relevant to agricultural concerns in Wyoming, develop an externally funded research program in invasive weed biology, and teach an undergraduate invasive plants course once annually. Recruitment and training of graduate students is expected.

Applicants must possess a PhD in Weed Science, Agronomy, Rangeland Ecology or a relevant field. Highly effective written and oral communication skills and the ability to deliver science-based information to diverse audiences are essential. Candidates with relevant post-doctoral experience and a strong record of peer-reviewed publication and grant procurement are preferred.

To apply, please submit the following as PDF files attached to an e-mail message: cover letter, curriculum vitae, names and contact information for three references, and a three-page (maximum) statement of goals and philosophy regarding extension, research and teaching. Please submit electronic materials to: Dr. Ann Hild c/o Arlene Mascarenas arlenem@uwyo.edu

ONLINE!

Continued from pg 1

This system is targeted to be fully functional by February 10, 2008. This feature will give each meeting participant the opportunity to learn more about each presentation before the meeting instead of waiting to see them later in the printed proceedings

REGISTER NOW! Arundo/Phragmites Symposium Giant reed (*Arundo donax*) and common reed (*Phragmites australis*) are major invasive plants of riparian and wetland ecosystems in the US. The Arundo/Phragmites Symposium brings together experts from both coasts to present the current knowledge on the biology, ecology, impacts, and management of both species. While common reed is principally thought to be a problem of the east coast, invasive biotypes have been identified from California and Idaho. This will be an opportunity for "weed warriors" in the west to learn first hand about this potential new pest. Plan now to attend this important symposium. Registration for the Symposium and Hotel reservations are available at the Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) website (<http://www.wsweedscience.org>). Registration fee for the Symposium is \$100 or \$50 for students with current student identification. You can also register for the full WSWS annual meeting at a discounted rate.

Need to Pay Annual Membership Dues? If you are unable to attend the next annual meeting, you can conveniently pay your \$25 annual dues fee online. Simply login to your member account and go to the 'Member Dues and Annual Meeting' section on your personal account page. Click the 'Pay Annual Dues ONLY' button to go to a secure payment site and finalize payment with a major credit card. **NOTE:** Annual meeting attendees do not need to make this payment as annual dues are included in the meeting registration cost.

Washington Report by Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D., Director of Science Policy

SIGN UP FOR YOUR CONGRESS MEMBER'S ELECTRONIC UPDATES

Please go to www.senate.gov and www.house.gov and sign up for your Senator's or House member's E-newsletters, E-lines, or E-mail updates. Not all member's of Congress offer this service. However, for those who do, it's a great way to keep up with what's happening with Federal issues and laws that impact your state and district.

Necrology

Lisa Boggs (2008)
Brad Hanson, Chair (2009)
Laurel Baldwin (2010)

Nominations

Bob Parker (2008)
Vent Hicks, Chair (2009)
Jill Schroeder (2010)
Kassim Al-Khatib (Past President)

Poster

Linda Wilson (2008)
David Belles, Chair (2009)
Carl Libbey (2010)
Charles Hicks (2010)

Program

Dan Ball, Chair (2008)
Rick Boydston (2008)
Mike Edwards (2008)

Public Relations

Brian Olson, Chair
Mark Ferrell
Milt McGiffen
Brad Hanson
Bill Cobb
Erin Taylor
Dennis Scott

Publications

Dan Ball, Chair
Joan Campbell, Proceedings
Traci Rauch, Research Progress Report
Cheryl Fiore, Newsletter
Tony White, Web site, Webmaster

Site Selection

David Vitolo (2008)
Brian Olson, Chair (2009)
Bill Kral (2010)

Student Paper Judging

Brad Ramsdale (2008)
Jim Harbour, Chair (2009)
Paul Figueroa (2010)

Sustaining Membership

Neil Harker, (2008)
Jeff Tichota, Chair (2009)
Peter Forster (2010)

Special Symposium/Workshop Ad Hoc

Janet Clark April Fletcher
Lincoln Smith Matt Rinella
Tim Miller, Chair Joe DiTomaso
Rita Beard Celestine Duncan

Membership Ad-Hoc

Phil Stahlman, Chair
Phil Banks, ad hoc Dirk Baker
John L. Baker Lisa Boggs
Vanelle Peterson Eric Coombs
Steve Fennimore Jeff Koscelny
James Olivarez Dudley Smith
Randy Smith Kai Umeda
Brenda Waters Ralph Whitesides

WSSA PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEE IS SPREADING THE WORD, NOT THE WEEDS

In July 2006, the WSSA Board of Directors identified a series of strategic goals to make the Society a more recognized force in the national debate over ecosystems management and sustainable practices in plant management and provide greater value to members. Subsequently, the Board created the Public Awareness Steering Committee whose mission was to raise the public awareness of weeds and invasive plants. Initial Steering Committee members include Janis McFarland as chair, Mike Chandler, Carol Mallory-Smith, John Jachetta, Tony White and myself. Over the past year, Carol Somody and Joyce Lancaster have also become active members. With 300+ hours of volunteer effort in 2007, we have developed a detailed public awareness strategy, prioritized our main outreach messages, and issued six press releases. The press releases (www.wssa.net/WSSA/PressRoom/) have covered a number of opportune invasive weed issues such as their influence on wildfires and their potential negative impacts if used as biofuels. The press releases have been distributed via PR Newswire (www.prnewswire.com) as well as invasive plant-related list serves and have been featured on other websites and accessed by various types of media. The WSSA's relationship with the media is growing as a recent press release was accessed 942 times on the PR Newswire site. Reporters from major newspapers are starting to call us for expert opinion and commentary and more importantly, helping us expand our credibility and awareness to the public.

The Public Awareness Steering Committee is also working with the Website Committee to update and expand the WSSA Website, which now includes a section for press releases and detailed information and links concerning invasive plants.

IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE PRESENTED AT EPA SHOWING ATRAZINE WILL NOT FEMINIZE KERMIT THE FROG

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) conducted a public peer review meeting on October 9-12 at EPA to review the data from recently concluded independent studies on the "Response of Larval *Xenopus laevis* (African clawed frogs) to Atrazine Exposure: Assessment of Metamorphosis and Gonadal Morphology". The FIFRA SAP (<http://www.epa.gov/scipoly/sap/pubs/about.htm>) is a body of independent scientific experts that provide advice and recommendations to the EPA on important pesticide-related issues. After this meeting, EPA concluded that **atrazine does not adversely affect amphibian** gonadal development based on a thorough review of 19 laboratory and field studies, including studies submitted by the registrant and others in the public literature. At this time, EPA believes that no additional testing is warranted to address this issue. This meeting decisively finalized many years of debate and cleared atrazine of the bad science previously conducted by biased groups who used fear mongering tactics to promote their environmental agenda.

In June 2003, the EPA evaluated available literature on the potential effects of atrazine on amphibian gonadal development. The agency concluded that while there was sufficient information to formulate a hypothesis that atrazine exposure can affect amphibian gonadal development, there was insufficient information to refute or confirm that hypothesis due to limitations of the study designs and uncertainties in the data.

In a 2003 White Paper on the subject, EPA critically reviewed the data from 19 lab and field studies, discussed remaining uncertainties in determining the potential effects of atrazine on amphibian development, and outlined a tiered approach for future research that could address these uncertainties. A Scientific Advisory Panel reviewed EPA's White Paper and agreed with its review and the need for future studies.

In response to a November 2004 Data Call-In (DCI) Notice from EPA, Syngenta, the primary atrazine registrant, developed an EPA-approved testing protocol for determining the effects of atrazine on amphibian gonadal development, and went on to conduct two simultaneous studies consistent with the first tier of testing described in the 2003 White Paper. The raw data from these independent studies was submitted to EPA in January 2007 and a final report was provided to EPA in June 2007.

Results showed that exposure to atrazine in concentrations from 0.01 ppb to 100 ppb **had no effect** on the growth, development or sexual differentiation of the test species, *Xenopus laevis*. Frogs were tested over a period of time that included the sensitive window for sexual differentiation and metamorphosis. Therefore, no mode of action relative to the potential for atrazine to feminize amphibians is suggested by these results.

Atrazine has been one of the most commonly used and widely studied herbicides in the U.S. and around the world. Despite its widespread intensive use, atrazine has always been considered safe because of its short half-life and negligible bioaccumulation and biomagnification. It's unfortunate that atrazine's "image" over the past 10 years has been "muddied" by certain groups who had a pre-determined agenda to "link" atrazine to the endocrine-disruptor debate. However, the science of atrazine has prevailed and we can only hope that the results from these studies reflect positively on the incredible work that EPA does in implementing FIFRA, safe-guarding our environment, and protecting our natural resources.

2008 Calendar

For more information on these and other events:

www.wsweedscience.org

Weed Science Society of America Annual Meeting
Chicago, IL February 4-7

Invasive Species in Natural Areas:
A Conference on Impacts and Management
Hilton Garden Inn
3720 North Reserve Street
Missoula, MT Feb. 13 & 14

Prairie Universities Biological Symposium
University of Manitoba
Fort Garry Campus
Winnipeg, Manitoba Feb. 21-23

2008 Montana Plant Conservation Conference
Sponsored by the Montana Native Plant Society and the Montana Natural Heritage Program Bobcat Stadium, Montana State University Campus Bozeman Feb. 27-28

National Invasive Weed Awareness Week (NIWAW)
Washington, DC
www.nawma.org Feb. 24 – Mar. 1

WSWS Noxious Weed Management Short Course.
Chico Hot Springs Resorts Pray, Montana April 21-24

Western Aquatic Plant Management Society Conference
Granlibakken Resort & Conference Center Tahoe City, CA Mar 3-5

The 18th High Altitude Revegetation Workshop
Hilton Hotel
Fort Collins, Colorado Mar 5-6

SARE 20th Anniversary Conference: The New American Farm,
Kansas City, MO Mar 25-27

CAST

Council for Agricultural Science and Technology

Become a member

<http://www.cast-science.org/>

DAVIS PRESENTS WSSA RESEARCH PRIORITIES AT USDA-CSREES STAKEHOLDERS MEETING IN DC

On November 20, 2007, the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) hosted a one day workshop on stakeholder priorities in the area of plant and pest biology. Over 20 different stakeholder groups provided comments and concerns during the workshop. Dr. Adam Davis, Ecologist with the USDA-ARS Invasive Weed Management Unit in Urbana, Illinois and incoming Chair of the WSSA Research and Competitive Grants Committee traveled to DC to present WSSA's research priorities. Much of Dr. Davis's written comments and presentation were based on a research priorities survey conducted this summer that he and Dr. Dean Riechers, the current WSSA Research Committee chair, developed as well as follow-up review from the WSSA Board of Directors. Many thanks to Adam and Dean for their efforts!

Points of interest from the meeting: 1) USDA CSREES is considering lengthening time of awards for some of its programs, possibly up to 10 years; this could open up many exciting opportunities for longer-term research projects; 2) CSREES staff and stakeholders continue to be very excited about the integrated programs (linking research to substantial outreach components within the project) but these grants are undercompeted => there's a good opportunity here for weed scientists who want to link research and extension.

The following comments were submitted by Dr. Davis on behalf of WSSA:

The mission of the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA), a non-profit professional society, is to "promote research, education, and extension outreach activities related to weeds; provide science-based information to the public and policy makers; and foster awareness of weeds and their impacts on managed and natural ecosystems." Member research on weedy and invasive plants covers a wide spectrum, from fundamental biology to applied management to environmental impacts of weeds and weed management systems. As such, our research priorities overlap with USDA-CSREES strategic goals 2 ("enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of rural and farm economies") and 6 ("protect and enhance the nation's natural resource base and environment").

Weed science as a discipline has had many successes over the years, but its future is in some ways imperiled by its very success. A confluence of factors, including reduced farming system diversity, the widespread adoption of herbicide resistant crops grown in monoculture, a near cessation in herbicide discovery by industry, and lack of herbicide rotation has gradually undermined the foundations of weed management. Herbicide resistant weed biotypes are proliferating at the same time that producer knowledge of the fundamentals of weed management is eroding. We need to add new weed management tools that increase options for the future, and this will require a far better understanding of weed biology and ecology than we currently have. Unfortunately, with the weed management successes of the past have come reduced public and commodity group concern with weeds, consolidation of industry, and stagnant government funding for weeds. How will we fund the basic and applied science needed to develop the next generation weed management tactics?

The NRI Competitive Grants Program continues to be an important source of research funding for U.S. weed scientists. Several aspects of program 51.9, "Biology of Weedy and Invasive Species in Agroecosystems", however, are of ongoing concern to the WSSA membership. The points raised by Dr. David Shaw, in his 2005 report to the CSREES Stakeholder Workshop are still pressing:

- *"Program 51.9 now targets not only weedy and invasive plants, but all other invasive species without an increase in funding. The WSSA would like to point out that NRI Programs 51.2, 51.3 and 51.8 that deal with the biology of arthropods, nematodes, and microorganisms were not opened up to invasion biology for their representative organisms. The WSSA would like to see invasion biology for different species placed in their respective NRI Programs.*

- *The current request for application (RFA) for Program 51.9 appears to be focused on ecological studies on invasive species at the population level and above with no emphasis on weed biology at the suborganismal level on physiology, biochemical, genetic, and molecular aspects. This is surprising with recent initiatives on weed genomics. The WSSA would like to see a balance in research priorities that consider both suborganismal and population level weed biology. Furthermore, this balance in research should address current problems using economically relevant species. There has been a recent trend towards funding NRI projects that seem to focus on model systems and invasive species with limited geographic range and little economic relevance in agroecosystems.*

- *Only the RFA for Program 51.9 now requires a letter of intent by December 6 after which a committee will decide on invitations by January 1, 2006. This process will not provide much flexibility to consider other programs and limits the grant preparation period to less than 1.5 months."*

Research areas of primary interest to the WSSA membership identified by a 2007 survey include, by category:

- *Weed biology and ecology: herbicide resistance; invasion biology; cropping system ecology and crop-weed interactions; transgenic crop cultivars; crop tolerance; weed evolution; genomics; landscape ecology; site-specific management; seed biology; population dynamics; allelopathy*• *Applied weed management: herbicide discovery and efficacy; decision support systems; non-chemical weed management methods; management thresholds; weed management system models; neutraceuticals; biocontrol.*
- *Environmental impacts of weeds and weed management systems: herbicide fate and transport in soil, water and air; phytoremediation; drift management*

DITAMASO AND BARNEY PRESENT CAST ISSUE PAPER ON BIOFUELS AND INVASIVE WEEDS ON CAPITOL HILL

The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) released a new CAST Commentary titled, **Biofuel Feedstocks: The Risk of Future Invasions**. The paper was written by WSSA members Dr. Joseph DiTomaso, Dr. Jacob Barney, and Dr. Alison Fox, reviewed by Dr. Steven Dewey and Dr. Jodie Holt and facilitated by Dr. Kassim Al-Khatib, who is the current CAST President and WSSA Past-President. The WSSA is very fortunate to have such great talent and leadership within the National and Regional Weed Science Societies!

The objectives of the CAST Commentary paper were to describe the potential risk of dedicated lignocellulose biofuel species becoming weedy or invasive, and to provide a process to quantify and, subsequently, minimize this risk. Several of the candidate biofuel feedstock species being considered for commercial production in the United States are invasive weeds in other regions where they have been introduced. The critical questions addressed in the DiTomaso, Barney and Fox commentary paper include the following:

- What similarities exist between agronomic and invasive traits?
- How will genetic modification affect potential invasiveness?
- How can future invasions be mitigated?
- What are the policy implications with regard to economic or ecological damage?

The full text of **Biofuel Feedstocks: The Risk of Future Invasions** can be found at: <http://www.cast-science.org/websiteUploads/publicationPDFs/Biofuels%20Commentary%20Web%20version%20with%20color%20%207927146.pdf>

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT BECOMES LAW

The Senate dealt President Bush the first veto override of his presidency on November 8, with its 79-14 vote to adopt the \$23.2 billion Water Resources Development Act (Public Law No: 110-114) authorizing a huge number of water resource projects across the nation. There is something in this bill for every Congressional district in the country. The Senate action occurred two days after the House voted 361-54 to override the veto of the WRDA legislation that supporters said would bring much-needed improvements to the nation's water transportation infrastructure and help expand wildlife habitat programs. The new law authorizes funding for **hundreds** of projects and initiatives across the U.S. including 43 aquatic ecosystem restoration studies in 20 states that will address the spread of aquatic invasive species. Other major initiatives in the Act include continued restoration for the Florida Everglades and the coastal wetlands of Louisiana, prevention of further shoreline and streambank degradation, and improved shipping on the Mississippi River.

If you want to find out which water resources projects are authorized in your state, you can search the 250 + pages of the WRDA at: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:h1495enr.txt.pdf. Please keep in mind that "authorized" projects does not necessarily mean that they will be "appropriated" projects.

PESTICIDE REGISTRATION IMPROVEMENT ACT RENEWED

The House and Senate passed the Pesticide Registration Improvement Renewal Act, also known as PRIA 2, without hardly any fanfare this fall. The legislation renews the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA 1) for five more years until 2012. PRIA 1 amended the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) in 2003 to allow EPA to collect pesticide registration service fees from registrants in return for a more predictable and typically shorter evaluation process. In addition, new reduced risk pesticides get "fast track" review due to their perceived environmental benefits. PRIA 2 also provides new funding for a pesticide safety education program, to ensure that these products are applied safely.

NEW AGRICULTURE SECRETARY NOMINATED

In a surprise move on October 31, President Bush nominated former North Dakota Governor Ed Schafer (R) to be Secretary of Agriculture. If confirmed by the Senate, Schafer would replace Mike Johanns, who resigned from the post in September to run for the U.S. Senate seat held by retiring Republican Chuck Hagel of Nebraska. Bush's nomination of Schafer surprised many Washington, DC-insiders who assumed Acting Secretary Charles F. Conner would continue to hold the post. In his capacity as Deputy Secretary under Johanns, Conner played an instrumental role in constructing the Administration's farm bill proposal. The Senate confirmation hearing for Gov. Schafer is scheduled for Jan. 24, 2008.

FARM BILL FINALLY CLEARS SENATE...AWAITS CONFEREES

The 2002 Farm Bill expired on September 30, 2007, but has since been extended to March 1, 2008. The House of Representatives passed their version of the 2007 Farm Bill (H.R. 2419) by a vote of 231-191 last July. Progress on the 2007 Farm Bill stalled in the Senate during November over partisan wrangling about which amendments could be offered. The Senate finally passed their version of the 2007 Farm Bill on December 14 by a vote of 79-14.

It is anticipated that the farm bill conferees from the House and Senate will be named and the conference will convene in the week of January 28 or soon thereafter and push to complete its work as soon as practicable. Congressional leadership is looking to get the farm bill completed by the first of March. However, some of the differences between the House and Senate versions don't look amenable to quick resolution (e.g., price support levels and payment limitation rules), and the Administration is strongly opposed to portions of both versions. So, the conference might take many weeks before completion. And even then, the President can still veto the conference report if he doesn't like it and send the legislation back to Congress for additional work.

It is thought that a final "drop dead deadline" for final agreement on a new Farm Bill is March 15, 2008. If Congress and the Administration cannot overcome their differences by then, a 1 to 2 year extension of the 2002 Farm Bill is very likely.

As for the Research Title, the WSSA favors the House's version of the Farm Bill that was passed in July. The House Farm Bill protects the \$200 million in mandatory research funding for the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (IFAFS) that is scheduled to become available in FY2010. The IFAFS program was created in 1998 to provide a source of mandatory funding for integrated competitive programs sponsored by the land-grant universities. Since its inception, however, IFAFS funds have been "stripped out for other uses" in all but two years by the Appropriations Committees, the Office of Management and Budget and Committees on Agriculture via the budget reconciliation process. Nonetheless, the land-grant system has worked hard to reverse this situation in light of the tremendous unfunded needs -- in areas as diverse as human nutrition and biofuels -- that must be addressed through programs where scientific research is directly linked to public outreach. The Senate version of the Farm Bill had the IFAFS funding stripped out entirely during the Ag Committee markup and the agricultural research coalitions that we are members of have been working hard to get that money restored. However, our backs are against the wall with the Senate version because any "new" money has to be offset by taking it away from another part of the Farm Bill.

Another reason the WSSA supports the House-passed Farm Bill Research Title is the way the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) would be organized within the USDA Research, Extension, and Economic (REE) mission area. The Senate version would basically duplicate responsibilities between the USDA Under Secretary for REE and the NIFA Director, since the NIFA Director would report directly to the Secretary.

USDA CONCLUDES GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CREEPING BENTGRASS INVESTIGATION

On November 26, 2007, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) concluded its investigation into alleged compliance infractions by The Scotts Company, LLC. The investigation related to regulated genetically engineered glyphosate-tolerant creeping bentgrass. Under the settlement agreement, Scotts has agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$500,000 which is the maximum penalty allowed by the Plant Protection Act of 2000. Read more: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2007/11/0350.xml>

NEW E-LEARNING WEBSITE ON INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Center for Invasive Plant Management announced a new e-learning website aimed at engaging volunteers and the public in invasive plant issues and management. Designed for National Wildlife Refuge volunteers and Friends groups, the website provides science-based, introductory information that is suitable for anyone interested in learning about invasive plants. The five self-study modules address the purpose and history of the Refuge System, how volunteers help in invasive plant management, how refuges manage invasive plants, and tips for community outreach. Each module contains a quiz and web-based resources that enable learners to explore topics more thoroughly.

The website is part of a larger program carried out by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in conjunction with partners, such as the National Wildlife Refuge Association, to engage volunteers in managing invasive species on National Wildlife Refuges. This program includes competitive grants and training in how to map invasive plant infestations using hand-held computers and GPS devices. More information at: <http://www.fws.gov/invasives/volunteersTrainingModule/index.html>

NIWAW 9 IS FEBRUARY 24-29, 2008

The 9th National Invasive Weed Awareness Week (NIWAW 9) will be held in Washington, D.C. the week of February 24 to February 29, 2008 to bring people and groups from across the country together to focus national attention on the severe impacts caused by invasive weeds. Individuals and organizations interested in this issue are invited to participate in this event and help build on the success of NIWAW activities in previous years. NIWAW 9 events are designed to focus on the important roles the Federal government must play to help the U.S. deal with invasive weed problems. We have also designed the schedule to provide ample time for attendees to meet with their Congressional delegations, individual federal agencies and each other.

The theme for NIWAW 9 is "Weeds won't wait: Don't hesitate". The six invasive weeds that will be featured on this year's poster are: beach vitex, cheatgrass, giant salvinia, Japanese stiltgrass, Russian olive, and yellow starthistle. This year will be the first year we will be setting up easels and 4' X 4' poster boards at the hotel for **participants to display their research**, case studies and other invasive weed related issues. The headquarters hotel for NIWAW 9 is the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 1201 K Street NW, Washington, DC. The deadline for the "NIWAW Block" hotel reservations (202-289-7600) is **January 24, 2008**.

The registration fee for NIWAW 9 is \$100 and the **deadline is February 1, 2008**. NIWAW 9 registration, an invitation, an on-line version of the NIWAW 9 poster, a draft agenda and previous partners and sponsors can be found at: <http://www.wssa.net/Meetings/Invasive/index.htm>

DERR AND SHAW PARTICIPATE IN AAAS LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN DC

During the week of November 12 -16, WSSA President-Elect Jeff Derr and WSSA Vice President David Shaw attended the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Leadership training program on Science and Technology policy. Dr. Derr was kind enough to write a report to the WSSA Board following the completion of their week here in Washington, DC. Below is most of his report. Thanks Jeff!

The week-long program contained AAAS presenters along with guest speakers on a wide variety of topics. Some of the topics discussed were the fit of science in public policy, nanotechnology, stem cell research, energy policy/climate change, the space program, strategic weapons, ethics, and evolution. There was a diverse set of attendees, including two from NASA, five international attendees including three connected to the British embassy, two from the USDA Forest Service, one from USGS, and one from the American Chemical Society, plus researchers and grants people from various universities, among others. There were about 35 attendees total. One common comment I received was "I didn't know there was a Weed Science Society of America". One attendee even googled us.

We had Judy Schneider address us on Congress – its structure and Policy. She probably was one of the best speakers of the week. If you ever have the opportunity to hear her speak, take advantage of the opportunity.

Francis Slakely from the American Physical Society gave an excellent presentation on how a scientist can interact with a congressional office.

He mentioned 4 numbers in his presentation: \$10,000 – the amount of money a member of the House of Representatives needs to raise each week for 2 years for his/her re-election; 110,000 – the average number of votes needed for a representative to get elected; 7 minutes – the average time a house staffer has to spend on each contact (phone call, email, etc.) a representative receives; and 8 months – the average length of time a house staffer is in their position.

We heard from 3 lobbyists, one from the University of Michigan, one from United Technologies, and one from a private firm. John Marburger, the Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy spoke to us, along with the Executive Director of Research! America, and a former Representative, John Edward Porter. Kei Koizumi gave a good talk on the Federal budget.

While we were in DC, David, Lee Van Wychen and I were able to meet with Rob Hedberg and USDA Under Secretary Gale Buchanan. We discussed concerns we had about cutting of funds for the National Agricultural Statistics Survey (NASS) to do pesticide use surveys. If the use surveys are cut, government agencies would instead rely on surveys from private companies (Doane) which would not be publicly available like NASS data. We also discussed NRI funding for weed science research and our concerns about funds potentially being shifted to other invasive species. Dr. Buchanan discussed the need for societies to support the President's budget. We also need to congratulate David Shaw for being named a Fellow in AAAS. Dr. Buchanan supported David's nomination.

Overall, I feel the AAAS program was worthwhile, although it is more of an educational program than leadership training. However, to be able to speak in DC on issues, one does need to be knowledgeable on how Congress works, along with understanding the issues involved in the interaction between science and public policy. Jeffrey F. Derr WSSA President-Elect

VAN WYCHEN, JACKSON ATTEND 2007 ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES (AFWA) MEETING

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) annual meeting was held September 16-21 in Louisville, KY. AFWA represents all of North America's fish and wildlife agencies promoting sound management and conservation, speaking with a unified voice on important fish and wildlife issues. Our primary goal was to build relationships and identify areas of common interest shared by WSSA and AFWA regarding the impacts of weeds and invasive plants on wildlife habitat. AFWA considers invasive plants as one of the greatest challenges to wildlife and fisheries management in the 21st century.

In 2005, AFWA established an Invasive Species Committee to provide a national forum for coordinated action among state and federal agencies, and provide a foundation for development of a strategic AFWA invasive species plan. Federal land management agencies commit millions of dollars to fighting invasive species and strategic coordination among state and federal agencies is critical to the conservation and expansion of existing wildlife and fisheries habitat. During the past year, the AFWA Invasive Species committee completed coordination with the National Wildlife Federation on joint letter of support to Congress regarding reauthorization of comprehensive invasive species legislation and finished the review of an invasive species script for a new video being developed by the Wildlife Forever Foundation and the US Forest Service targeting hunters and anglers. The Committee will continue to work with Wildlife Forever Foundation and the US Forest Service to explore the concept of a jointly funded Inter-Agency Personnel Agreement (IPA) for a State Employee to collaborate with Wildlife Forever in the development and deployment of messages targeted at hunters, anglers and outdoors persons to join in the effort to stop invasive hitchhikers.

AFWA will again be represented at the National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week (NIWAW) activities in Washington, D.C. John Kennedy with the Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. and chair of the AFWA Invasive Species Committee is committed to continued partnership with NIWAW. For more information about the AFWA Invasives Species Committee or to become a member, please contact Amber Pairs at 202-624-7890 or apairs@fishwildlife.org.

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WSWS REGISTRATION FORM
61st ANNUAL WESTERN SOCIETY OF WEED SCIENCE MEETING
Hyatt Regency Orange County
MARCH 11, 12 & 13, 2008

Deadline: Mail-in registration must be postmarked by February 22, 2008. **PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION-NO EXCEPTIONS.** Check or Money Order (U.S. Dollars) Only. Credit card payments may be made with online registration or call 575-527-1888. Visit:

www.wsweedsociety.org

<u>Registration</u>	<u>Mail by 2/22/08</u>	<u>After 2/22</u>	<u>Total</u>
_____ Regular meeting only	\$ 195.00	\$ 240.00	_____
_____ Regular meeting plus Symposium	\$ 260.00	\$ 305.00	_____
_____ Symposium only	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	_____
_____ Student/Regular meeting only	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	_____
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Publications

_____ 2008 Proceedings	\$ 20.00	_____
_____ 2008 Research Progress Report	\$ 20.00	_____

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Note: Registration is available at the meeting at the higher rates noted above. Go to www.wsweedsociety.org for more information on the Symposium. Full program is currently posted at the website.

IF YOU DO NOT PLAN TO ATTEND BUT WANT TO REMAIN A MEMBER, FILL IN THE INFORMATION BELOW AND SEND \$ 25.00 FOR DUES \$ _____

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