In This Issue

- Annual Meeting Preview
- Annual Meeting Deadline
- Canadian Weed Science Society Annual Conference
- Annual Meeting Hotel Reservations and Highlights
- Invasive Plant Workshop
- Notes from the Business Office
- Volunteer to be a Student Paper/Poster Judge
- Cast Report
- Annual Meeting Registration Form
- Publications Order Form

Annual Meeting Preview Joe DiTomaso, President-Elect

Our upcoming annual meeting on March 8-11 in Waikoloa is coming together nicely with 200 poster or paper submissions and two outstanding symposiums. This is up from the past three years, where posters and papers ranged between 158 and 182. In addition, we have 30 graduate student paper and poster presentations, which is a bit lower than past years. Waikoloa is on the dry side of the big island of Hawaii and March should be a perfect time to get away from the cold, learn what is new in Weed Science in the west, get together with old friends, meet new colleagues, and just relax (when the meetings are over of course). The two outstanding symposiums include *Kochia scoparia*: Enhanced Threat in Western North America organized by Phil Stahlman and Kassim Al-Khatib and scheduled for Wednesday afternoon, as well as a full-day symposium on Thursday organized by James Leary that will focus on comparing mainland and Hawaii issues on the ecology, impacts and management of arid perennial grass invasions. In the general session we will hear from local experts on the invasive algae problems plaguing the coral reefs of Hawaii and also on the development of transgenic papaya that saved the industry on the islands. There are also three field trips planned, all focusing on invasive species. These include a trip to the upper slopes of Mauna Kea to see the extensive gorse invasion, a tour of the crimson fountaingrass infestations in the dryland ecosystems of the big island, and a visit to the pastures of Waimea to look at rangeland weeds. The meeting promises to be a great educational opportunity. We look forward to seeing you all in beautiful Hawaii in March.

Annual Meeting Deadlines

**Deadline for pre-registration rate:** February 12, 2010 rates are higher after this date or at the door

**Deadline for hotel reservations to receive the meeting rate:** February 12, 2010 (instructions for making hotel reservations are also posted at the website and on page 3)

Canadian Weed Science Society’s Annual Conference by Rick Holm

November 15-18, 2010 at the Hotel Delta Regina, Saskatchewan
For more information contact Rick Holm at rick.holm@usask.ca (306) 966-5009 or Clark Brenzil Clark.Brenzil@gov.sk.ca (306) 787-4673.
The Marriott Beach Resort and Spa

The Marriott Beach Resort and Spa at Waikoloa was the old Royal Waikoloan, the 1998 WSWS venue. However, it 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 (It gets cold here, sometimes into the 60’s), ancient Hawaiian fish ponds and a fine beach just beyond. Each room has a refrigerator to stow leftovers and other perishables. Self parking is $15 a day included in the optional daily resort fee. Valet parking is $21 a day.

In the lobby near the conference area is a coffee bar with open air seating overlooking the pools, the fish ponds and the Pacific. Downstairs next to the pools is the hotel’s restaurant. Other food options, from fine dining to fast foods are close by. Across the street is the Kings Shops with three fine dining restaurants, a general store and a coffee shop. A short walk up the street is the Queens Market Place with several fine restaurants, a market with a deli section, and a food court with both familiar and ethnic foods.

Unfortunately, there is not much in options for transfer from the Kona International Airport (KOA) to the hotel. It is an expensive cab ride from the airport to the hotel. So if you can, coordinate your arrivals so you can share a cab or rental car. For drivers, turn left onto Queen Kaahumanu Highway as you exit the airport (traffic light). After about 19 miles turn makai (ocean side) onto Waikoloa Beach Drive (traffic light). The Marriott is just under a mile down on the left just past Queens’ Market Place and across Kings’ Shops.

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. Closer are 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. There are several golf courses associated with the Marriott and there are others nearby.

The Kona-Kohala coast is an important historical and cultural 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. These sites are now open to the public as private, national and state historical parks.

Kailua-Kona, 25 miles south of the Marriott, is the hub of deep sea fishing in Hawaii. It is a picturesque waterfront with shops and restaurants. At the end of the day, with luck, billfish are unloaded and weighed. Adjacent to the pier, the King Kamehameha Beach Hotel covers their namesake’s old home and the lobby holds a few ancient artifacts and paintings.

Workshop on Invasive Plants in the Mediterranean Type Regions

August 2-6, 2010 in Trabzon, Turkey

In May 2005, the first Workshop on Invasive Plants in the Mediterranean Type Regions of the World was co-organized by the Conservatoire Botanique National Méditerranéen de Porquerolles, the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization, the Council of Europe and the World Conservation Union – Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation in Mèze (France). A second workshop is being organized in Trabzon, Turkey, on the Black Sea from August 2-6, 2010. For more information see the website below.

http://archives.eppo.org/MEETINGS/2010_conferences/mediterranean_ias.htm
Notes from the Business Office by Phil Banks

Treasurer-Business Manager, MARATHON-Agric. & Environ. Consulting, Inc.
205 W. Boutz, Bldg. 4, Ste. 5 Las Cruces, NM 88005
Ph: 575-527-1888 Fax: 575-527-8853  wsws@marathonag.com

Information about Meeting Preregistration and Hotel reservations:

Preregistration for the Hawaii meeting is progressing and attendance looks to be similar as the Albuquerque meeting in 2009. If you have not yet preregistered for the meeting, you have until February 12, 2010 to avoid the late registration fee. You can preregister at the WSWS website (www.wsweedscience.org) until this date. In this Newsletter is a registration form for those that want to pay by check. We encourage everyone to pre-register for the meeting since it makes our planning more efficient and saves you money. This is a repeat of the November Newsletter but it needs to be repeated here: To make room reservations at the Waikoloa Beach Marriott you can call Marriott Central Reservations at 1-800-922-5533 (any time) or the Waikoloa Marriott directly at 1-808-886-6789 (9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. MST) M-F. Tell them you are with the Western Society of Weed Science and use one of the codes below for the room rate you want.  Or, go online at www.waikoloabeachmarriott.com. On the right of the page you will see “Check Rates & Availability”. Enter the dates you want and click on “Special Rates and Awards”. Where you see “Group Code” enter the room rate code you want. Room rates are $ 209.00 per night (code WS1WS1A) for Run of the House and $ 239.00 per night (code WS1WS1C) for Ocean View. Click “Check Availability” and you will get our group rate. You will note that when you make the reservations, a resort fee has been tacked on to the total. You will have the option upon check-in to decline this. The fee gives you several perks (internet service, daily Mai Tai, snorkeling, etc.) so make sure to ask for the details before you decline. The group rate is good anytime between check in on March 5 through check out on March 13, 2010.

On another note, if you attend the North Central Weed Science Society or Southern Weed Science Society meetings in the future, you will most likely see me at the registration desk. I have agreed to assume Business Manager duties for both organizations following the retirement of Bob Schmidt. My service to WSWS will continue and I look forward to working with WSWS for many years to come.

If you need to contact the office, please give us a call at 575-527-1888 or e-mail at wsws@marathonag.com.

Phil Banks, WSWS Business Manager/Treasurer

Volunteer to be a Student Poster or Paper Judge

Contact Andy Hulting by February 12.

Based on the number of submissions and content it looks like we will be combing sections together for judging. If you volunteer as a Paper Judge, then please tell me your preference for which section you wish to judge.

1) Weeds of Agronomic Crops and Basic Sciences
2) Weeds of Range and Natural Areas and Weeds of Horticultural Crops

If you do not have a preference, then please respond with, "Paper - no preference". If you wish to judge Posters, then you will judge all the posters together.

However, we will judge the Graduate student posters separately from the Undergraduate student posters. Thank you for volunteering and contributing to this important part of our annual meeting.

Andy Hulting, Chair, WSWS Student Paper Judging Committee
Extension Weed Management Specialist
Dept. of Crop and Soil Science
Oregon State University
ph: 541-737-5098 email: andrew.hulting@oregonstate.edu
CAST - Communicating Science for Sound Policy
by Phil Stahlman, WSWS Representative on the CAST Board of Directors, with input from Linda Chimenti, CAST Director of Council Operations

Last October members of the CAST Board gathered in St. Louis, Missouri for the fall business meeting held at the Monsanto Company headquarters and the nearly Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, a not-for-profit research institute founded in 1998. Most readers of this article will be familiar with Monsanto but they may not be familiar with the Danforth Plant Science Center. The global mission of the Danforth Center is to improve the human condition through plant science. Research is conducted by an impressive interdisciplinary team of 17 principal investigators and nearly 200 scientists including visiting scholars, technicians, post-doctoral and graduate students working to enhance the nutritional content of plants, increase agricultural production to create a sustainable food supply, reduce the use of pesticides, water and fertilizer, and develop new and sustainable biofuels. Check out their website at www.danforthcenter.org.

CAST Restructured

CAST Board Representatives participated in 2 ½ days of general sessions, work group breakouts, and informal discussions to consider proposals for new publications and conduct other business. At the Spring Board meeting in March 2009, the Board directed the Executive Committee to craft a new business model and revised CAST structure. After considerable deliberation and revision, the Board approved the Executive Committee’s proposal and the adopted changes are being made as quickly as realistically possible. The Fall Board meeting was the first conducted under the newly approved structure of the CAST organization.

Major changes resulting from the Board-approved reorganization include:

- Reducing the number of work groups from four to three:
  - Animal Agriculture and Environmental Issues
  - Food Science and Safety
  - Plant Agriculture and Environmental Issues
- Disbanding most standing committees with the work to be handled by members of the Executive Committee
- Requirement of A Code of Ethics applicable to everyone involved with CAST Board activities and management (work in progress)
- Formation of a Board of Trustees to provide oversight of publication proposals and assist with funding and development activities (work in progress)

During the opening general session, President Henry Shands noted the passing of Dr. Norman Borlaug who was a strong supporter of CAST and author of CAST Paper #1. Several guest speakers addressed the group at meal functions and some participated in work group discussions. Speakers were:

Wendell Knehaus, Director of Product Management, and Jim Richards, Manager of Cell Biology Research, Novus International. Started in 1991, the company’s mission is to help feed the world affordable, wholesome food by supplying goods and services to the leading commercial food producers worldwide. Key challenges facing the food industry are food safety, animal welfare, and impacts on the environment. Dr. Richards commented on how certain Novus products function as part of animal diets intended...
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 found 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.

Robert T. Fraley, Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, Monsanto Company. Dr. Fraley commended CAST for standing up for science in agriculture. He said that technological progress within agriculture is increasing at an amazing rate, citing advancements in breeding, biotechnology, and equipment. The biggest challenge ahead for agriculture is to increase yields and productivity sufficiently to meet the growing demands of increasing world population. He encouraged the agricultural community to work together to achieve this goal by 2030.

Jan Jaworski, Vice President for Research, Donald Danforth Plant Science Center. Dr. Jaworski shared information about the structure and mission of the Danforth Plant Science Center and highlighted several ongoing research projects. Principal investigators at the Center are involved primarily in basic research, and the Center’s international programs address challenges throughout the developing world.

Laura Foell, Domestic Marketing Vice-Chair, United Soybean Board. Ms. Foell, a farmer-grower from Schaller, Iowa, is one of 68 volunteer farmer-leaders who serve on the USB. She spoke about the soybean checkoff program and how it supports individual farmers; she also related some experiences from a recent trip to Africa where she saw firsthand how women play a major role in achieving business growth as well as in improving diets for their families.

Work Group Actions

The restructured work groups met during three breakout sessions to discuss publication proposals currently in progress, hear input from guests, and identify the three most important things for the public, legislators, and policymakers to know about science in their area. Of all the issues discussed, the Plant Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Work Group probably considers issues of greatest interest to the majority of WSWS membership. Three publications in various stages of preparation include:

- Resistance Management in Genetically Modified Pest Resistant Crops: Implications for Future Policy
- Colony Collapse Disorder: the Current State of Knowledge
- Impact of Fertilizers on Urban and Suburban Environments

Three new proposals were brought to the group for consideration and were reported out as the group’s suggestions for most important topics to pursue:

- The Future of Bioenergy (an update of CAST Issue Paper 27)
- Breeding Crops for Tolerance to Drought (and other Environmental Limitations): Traditional and New Approaches
- Benefits of Flexibility in Conservation Tillage Systems for Pest Management

Reliable sources tell me that Ms. Bernalyn Mcgaughey, lead author of the recent CAST commentary titled *The Endangered Species Act: Interfacing with Agricultural and Natural Ecosystems*, will address the topic as guest speaker in the Education and Regulatory Section at the WSWS meetings in March.
WSWS REGISTRATION FORM
63rd ANNUAL WESTERN SOCIETY OF WEED SCIENCE MEETING
Waikoloa Beach Marriott, Waikoloa, HI (Big Island)
(see Business Mgr. Notes in Newsletter for room booking details)
MARCH 8-11, 2010

Deadline: Mail-in registration must be postmarked by February 12, 2010. 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.wsweedscience.org

Registration
Mail by 2/12/10 After 2/12 Total
_____ Regular meeting only $205.00 $305.00 ______
_____ Regular meeting plus Symposium $280.00 $380.00 ______
_____ Symposium only $100.00 $100.00 ______
_____ Student/Regular meeting only $80.00 $80.00 ______
_____ Student/Reg. meeting + Symposium $130.00 $130.00 ______
_____ Student/Symposium only $50.00 $50.00 ______
_____ Spouse $30.00 $30.00 ______

Tours (see newsletter or website for schedule and details)
_____ The gorse infestations on Mauna Kea $20.00 NA ______
_____ Fountain grass of dryland ecosystems $20.00 NA ______
_____ Rangeland weeds in pastures of Waimea $20.00 NA ______

Publications
_____ 2010 Proceedings $25.00 ______
_____ 2010 Research Progress Report $25.00 ______

Total Remittance $_____

Note: Onsite registration at the meeting is at the higher rates noted above. Go to www.wsweedscience.org for more
information on the Symposium. Full program will be posted at the website in mid January.

IF NOT ATTENDING BUT WANT TO REMAIN A MEMBER, FILL IN THE INFORMATION BELOW AND SEND $25.00 FOR DUES $_____

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Name Desired on Badge | Spouse name (if registering)
Classification: Student ___ University ___ Federal Agency ___ State Agency ___
Private Industry (manufacturing and sales) ___ Private Industry (consulting) ___
Unemployed ___ Retired ___ Other (specify)__________________________

Send to: WSWS/Phil Banks
205 W. Boutz, Bldg 4, Ste 5
Las Cruces, NM 88005
Publication Order Form (visit our online store www.wsweedscience.org to order and learn more about each publication. Contact WSWS (575-527-1888 or wsws@marathonag.com) or complete this form and mail it with payment to: WSWS, 205 W. Boutz, Bldg. 4, Ste 5, Las Cruces, NM 88005. Other publications are available at the online store.

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Selected copies (hard copy) of past annual Proceedings and Research Progress Reports are available for order at the website for $35.00 per copy.

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