



Western Society of Weed Science NEWSLETTER

February 2004

In this Issue

Report From the President

Meeting registration

Student night out

Comments: Cook under the knife

Program Chair's Report

Papers and posters

Reminder to session chairs

Reminder to all presenters

Annual Meeting Information Reminders

Please preregister

Registration payment

WSWS Member Reception – March 2004

Hedberg's Washington, D.C. Report

*WSSA - NAWMA Invasive Plant Species
Workshop*

*Invasive Plants in Natural and Managed
Systems Conference*

*National Research Initiative Request For
Applications Released*

Invasive Plants Tour for EPA Staff

Atrazine Revised Interim Reregistration

Eligibility Document

Invasive Species Advisory Committee

Meets with Interior Secretary Norton

Montana Weed Management Plan Update
Underway

News From Around the West

Calendar of Events

Position Announcements

Report from the President

It is amazing how fast the year is progressing. Please see Phil Stahlman's report on the annual meeting in this newsletter. Phil with the help of many others has done a great job of putting together an excellent program. We are very grateful for the continuing support from our industry friends that allow us to have refreshments and other events. Without their support some activities would not

happen. The board meeting will be held Monday morning, March 8 and begin at 8:00 AM and run until 4:00 PM. I have asked the committee chairs to send their reports to their board contacts and me by March 1. I encourage all committee chairs to attend and participate in the meeting. If you have any items that you would like included on the agenda, please contact me by March 1.

Meeting registration. We appreciate the efforts of all of you that have pre-registered for the meeting. This not only saves you money but it also helps us with meal planning. Wanda would like to remind you that "if you have not sent in your pre-registration but plan to attend the meetings, please be prepared to pay registration fees with check or cash. No credit or debit cards will be accepted." I also hope that you are all staying at the Doubletree during the meeting. WSWS must commit to a certain number of room reservations by members in order to receive the meeting rooms at no additional cost.

Student night out. Last year the Student Night Out was a great success in Hawaii. Thanks to all of the efforts of Steve Dewey and his committee, especially Lisa Boggs, student representative. This year Steve Dewey has a new student representative, Doug Shoup from Kansas State University. We urge you to participate again in the student night out activity this year. Sign up will be at the meeting for either Tuesday or Wednesday night. This is a great opportunity to meet the students, get to know them and help them learn more about the WSWS and its members. These people are our future leaders.

Compared to last year, this has been relatively uneventful. We sent two representatives to a CAST leadership workshop, Phil Stahlman and Vanelle Carrithers. CAST was very generous in helping support travel & registration expenses. It was a very good opportunity for them and WSWS. Jill started us thinking last year about what WSWS is and where are we going. Phil will continue to have us look at this and would appreciate any comments or suggestions that you may have. Please contact any member of the board with your comments or concerns. WSWS is a great organization and we want it to continue meeting the needs of our membership. Thanks to all of you for your efforts.

Comments: Cook under the knife. I apologize for missing the last newsletter, I got a new knee and am doing well. Thanks for all of your concern and encouragement. I look forward to seeing you in Colorado Springs!

My Regards,
Gil Cook, President

Program Chair's Report

The Program Committee consisting of Dan Ball, Monte Anderson, and myself thank everyone who submitted papers and posters and those who will be speaking in the General Session, symposia, or project discussion sessions. The 57th meeting should have something for everyone. The General Session includes Gil Cook's Presidential Address, Rob Hedberg's perspective on U.S. federal policy, and keynote addresses by Celestine Duncan on "Assessment of Economic, Environmental and Societal Losses from Invasive Plants on Rangeland and Wild Lands"; by David Heering on "Glyphosate Resistance Review and Update"; and by Bob Wilson on

"Sustainability of Glyphosate Resistant Cropping Systems". I will complete the General Session with a review of WSWS programs in past years and look to the future. The remainder of the program features 72 poster and 69 oral presentations, two excellent symposia on Saltcedar (Tamarisk) and Soil Organic Matter, and interesting topics for each project discussion session. Thanks to Alex Ogg and Phil Westra for organizing the Saltcedar Symposium and to Bill Cobb for organizing the Soil Organic Matter Symposium, both on Wednesday.

We will have two poster sessions but this year all posters will be displayed two days rather than only one as in recent past years. Authors of odd-numbered posters should be present at their poster on Tuesday morning and authors of even-numbered posters should be present at their posters on Wednesday morning from 7:45 to 9:15 both days. Depending on the number of people attending the Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, we might have to temporarily encroach on poster display space, but the hotel staff doesn't think this will be a problem. The alternative would be to display half the posters each day but most people seem to prefer that all posters be displayed both days.

I urge everyone to pre-register for the meeting (due Feb 15) and to stay at the DoubleTree-World Arena Hotel. Be sure to request the Group Rate for the WSWS, otherwise the WSWS will not receive credit for your stay. If we do not meet our contractual obligations for number of sleeping rooms, then WSWS will have to pay for the use of the meeting rooms.

Reminder to session chairs. Dan Ball reminds all Session Chairs to be sure that they have a laptop computer and LCD projector for their sessions.

Reminder to presenters. All presenters must bring a copy of their presentation on a CD-R (not CD-RW) as previously directed. All presentations on Tuesday must be loaded onto a computer for the appropriate section the night before between 6:00 and 8:00 pm in the Fountain Creek room (across the hall from the reception). Likewise, presentations on Wednesday and Thursday must be loaded Tuesday between 6:00 and 8:00 pm, also in the Fountain Creek room. Use of the presenters own computer is not allowed.

There will be sign-up sheets for state accreditation pesticide licenses at the registration desk.

Thanks for helping us make this a successful meeting. I look forward to seeing you in Colorado Springs.

Phil Stahlman, President-elect

Annual Meeting Information Reminders

Please preregister. If you have not already sent in your preregistration form, you still have time. This helps the Society plan for the meeting.

Registration payment. The WSWS can only accept cash, checks, or money orders for both pre and on-site registration for the 2004 annual meeting. If you have not sent in your preregistration please be prepared to pay registration fees with check or cash. Credit cards cannot be accepted due to cost of processing.

WSWS Member Reception – March 2004

The member reception at the annual meeting serves to welcome everyone to the meeting. In addition, we recognize members who have retired in the past year.

Please, if you are retiring or if you know of a member who has retired since the March 2003 meeting, I am anxious to hear from you! My email is jischroe@nmsu.edu and

my phone is 505/646-2328. Thank you for your assistance!

Submitted by,
Jill Schroeder, Past-president

Hedberg's Washington, D.C. Report

WSSA - NAWMA Invasive Plant Species Workshop. Attend the 2004 Invasive Plant Species Workshop co-hosted by the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) and the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA). Attend the workshop, or both the WSSA annual meeting followed by the workshop. This workshop is intended for land managers, those on the ground wrestling with invasive plants. Target audience includes, but is not limited to consultants, enforcement officials, natural resource managers, rights-of-way and non-cropland managers; anyone engaged in active management of invasive plants. This workshop will feature researchers, educators, regulatory and policy personnel discussing issues relevant to current invasive plant management in the Midwest.

Invasive Plants in Natural and Managed Systems Conference. The IPINAMS Conference was held November 3-7, in Ft. Lauderdale Florida. The results were an overwhelming success for Weed Science. After nearly three years of planning and preparation, this conference drew over 800 people from around the country and around the world. This number includes approximately 100 international participants and 125 students. Unsolicited comments include phrases such as “Exceptional”, “Watershed Event”, “Conference of the Decade”, “The greatest gathering of invasive plant managers, researchers and decision makers in the world.”

It has been a real pleasure to be part of initiating and planning such an important event on behalf of WSSA and it is satisfying that it was so well received. The interaction we sought between managers and researchers, weed scientists and ecologists, students and seasoned veterans met and exceeded all of our expectations. The participants left the conference enthused with new knowledge, new contacts and new confidence that many invasive weed problems can be solved. In the process, a strong foundation was laid for further interdisciplinary cooperation and progress.

At the risk of overlooking the many WSSA members who contributed substantially to this conference I would like to specifically thank Nelroy Jackson for his leadership as the conference Co-chair, Carol Mallory-Smith, Jodie Holt and Randall Stocker for their Plenary Session presentations and Kai Umeda for his management of the poster sessions. These and the many other members who attended did an outstanding job representing our discipline and the contributions we can make to efforts against invasive plants.

I would also be remiss if I failed to mention the many Federal agencies, businesses and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that provided substantial financial support. The major Federal contributors included the United States Forest Service, the Department of Defense Legacy Program, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Geologic Survey, the National Research Initiative, the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Science Foundation, the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Environmental Protection Agency. Private groups sponsoring the conference

included The Nature Conservancy, The Center for Invasive Plant Management and RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sustainable Environment). Major corporate sponsors for lunches were BASF, Dow AgroScience and Syngenta. Corporate sponsors for the morning and afternoon breaks were Dupont USA, United Agri Products (UAP), Thale's Navigation and the University of Miami.

Although the conference is over, the work continues as we work with John Wilcut to produce a Special Issue of Weed Technology as the official conference publication to gather and distribute the conference presentations. We plan to have the issue distributed by November 2004.

National Research Initiative Request For Applications Released. The new NRI- RFA was released November 2003. There are some tight deadlines within the program so members are encouraged to act quickly to prepare applications. Details on the program can be found at <http://www.reeusda.gov>. Deadlines for several program areas that apply for weed science follow. The Managed Ecosystems program deadline is March 16 and the Animal and Plant Biosecurity Program deadline is June 15. This year Diana Jerkins (djerkins@csrees.usda.gov, (202)401-6996) will manage the Managed Ecosystems Program and Kitty Cardwell (kcardwell@csrees.usda.gov, 202-401-1790) will manage plant science components of the Biosecurity Program.

As you look at the priorities within this RFA please make note of changes that you think should be made and share them with the WSSA Competitive Grants Committee. The NRI leadership is seeking input for next year's RFA and the upcoming annual meeting will provide a timely opportunity to

develop unified recommendations on behalf of WSSA.

Invasive Plants Tour for EPA Staff. In late October, on behalf of the Invasive Weed Awareness Coalition, I led a field tour for 22 staff members from the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs to help them learn about the problem of invasive plants in natural areas. I was assisted in this effort by Ann Bartuska of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Ron Cornish of Dow AgroScience, Gina Ramos of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Mike Ielmini of the USDA Forest Service. Gina and Mike are also the co-chairs of the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW).

The tour was intended to help the staff understand the severity of invasive plants problems in natural areas, the complexity of current management efforts and the Agency's role in making herbicide registration decisions. Our stops included the Great Falls National Park and the TNC Licking Creek Preserve in central Maryland. At these sites members of the National Park Service Exotic Plant Management Team and TNC's Conservation Ecology team showed the EPA staffers how invasive species can interfere with efforts to protect threatened and endangered species and the wide variety of IPM techniques they are currently using. There was good discussion throughout the day and a new understanding on the part of many staffers about the need to make sure these dedicated field workers have a good array of weed management tools available.

Atrazine Revised Interim Reregistration Eligibility Document. On October 31 the Environmental Protection Agency held a "closure call" to inform interested organizations about their decision to allow continued use of atrazine and to announce

new monitoring stipulations to protect against adverse ecological impacts. The revised IRED can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/atrazine/>. A final Reregistration Eligibility Document cannot be issued until the Food Quality Protection Act "cumulative risk assessment" for all triazines is completed.

Invasive Species Advisory Committee Meets with Interior Secretary Norton. On October 30 Department of the Interior Secretary Gail Norton met with the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) in a joint session with the National Invasive Species Council. During this meeting, she demonstrated a personal interest in the problem and a first hand understanding of much of the work that is being done on this issue within the Department of Interior. During the session, Randall Stocker, Chair of the ISAC, presented Secretary Norton with a summary of the committee's compliments and concerns after four year's since the signing of the Executive Order on Invasive Species. Dr. Stocker, Dr. Nelroy Jackson and Dr. George Beck are the current ISAC members who were nominated by the weed science societies for the second term of this highly visible national advisory committee. A Federal Register notice seeking new nominations for the third term of the ISAC will be issued shortly. If you would like to be considered for this committee or know somebody who should be nominated please let me know.

Rob Hedberg, Director of Science Policy

The Future of the WSSWS

Most everyone is aware that we are undergoing a period of dramatic change caused by revenue deficits and other fundamental changes occurring throughout North America. These changes are affecting

professional societies in lost membership, declining number of graduate students in pest management disciplines, and shifts in scientific focus. WSWS is not immune to these changing dynamics, though fortunately to date it seems the WSWS has lost a smaller percentage of its membership than the other regional and national weed science societies. The WSWS Executive Committee and other individuals are engaged in discussions both internally and with other societies on how best to remain a viable and relevant organization of value to the membership.

The Board recently completed a Benchmarking survey to assess and strengthen our organizational capacity by measuring how the way we do things compares to standard and best practices among non-profit organizations. The process helps organizations gain a perspective of their organizational development needs and challenges, prioritize those and helps develop a plan of action. A summary of the survey results will be presented during the general session. Also, we want to alert you that we will be asking the membership to complete a narrative survey at the annual meeting consisting of six or seven questions. The survey process and exact questions are still being decided, but questions likely will be open-ended similar to the following:

- 1) What does WSWS offer that is most valuable or useful to you?
- 2) What else could or should WSWS offer that would be of high value or use to you?
- 3) What do you see as big challenges, opportunities and/or trends in Western North America weed management in the next 5 to 10 years?
- 4) What, if any, of the above in question 3 is critical for WSWS to be engaged in or working on?

- 5) How well does WSWS recognize and cultivate leadership and how can we improve?
- 6) Please identify any groups or categories of individuals who you believe are not represented or underrepresented in WSWS? (Who needs to be part of this organization that isn't?)

We invite you to think about these questions ahead of time to help provide well thought-out responses. If there are other questions you would like to suggest, please send them to Jill Schroeder at jschroe@nmsu.edu no later than March 1, 2004.

Montana Weed Management Plan Update Underway

Montana is updating its Montana Weed Management Plan. To get this process started, the Summit Steering Committee appointed by Director Ralph Peck of the Montana Department of Agriculture met with the Statewide Noxious Weed Awareness and Education Campaign, the Center for Invasive Plant Management, and representatives from the Montana Weed Control Association to begin building a pool of information about what has been done and what still needs to be done. An initial assessment was made of accomplishments during the past few years. Listed below are some of those accomplishments:

1. Across the state of Montana, we have adopted the plan, incorporated its concepts, and integrated it into our daily activities.
2. Funding for noxious weed efforts has increased.
3. Increased information sharing across Montana and regionally.
4. Increased the diversity of agencies and organizations actively engaging in implementing the Montana Weed Management Plan.

The weed plan is scheduled to be updated and reprinted in the fall of 2004. If you would like more information about the Montana Weed Management Plan update, contact Dave Burch, State Weed Coordinator (dburch@state.mt.us). If you would like more information about examples leading to these four bulleted points, contact Carla Hoopes, Project Coordinator, Statewide Noxious Weed Awareness and Education Campaign (choopes@montana.edu).

Carla Hoopes, Project Coordinator
Statewide Noxious Weed Awareness and
Education Campaign

News From Around the West

Syngenta Crop Protection. John Orr, Kurt Volker, and Steve Watkins, long time WSWS members, have retired. However, Orr has taken a job with AMVAC Chemical Co. as a Product Development Specialist while Volker and Watkins are starting their own consulting businesses.

Idaho. Brett Bingham recently completed his M.S. program. His thesis title was "The competitive ability of yellow starthistle across a slope gradient." He begins work this month for USDA ARS in Burns Oregon where he will be working for Roger Sheley. Tim Prather served as his major professor.

Calendar of Events

February 22-27, 2004 National Invasive Weed Awareness Week, Washington, DC. Contact Craig Searle at 801-370-8638 or ucpw.craigs@state.ut.us.

Mar. 9-11, 2004, Western Society of Weed Science Annual Meeting, Colorado Springs, CO. Contact Wanda Graves at 510-790-1252 or wgraves431@aol.com.

September 20-23, 2004. 12th Annual NAWMA Conference and Trade Show, Rapid City, SD. Contact Scott Guffy at 605-394-5320 or scottg@co.pennington.sd.us.

Position Announcements

The University of Idaho seeks a cereal agronomist (70% extension, 30% research) to be located at the Aberdeen R & E Center. This is a twelve-month, tenure track position. Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Responsibilities: Plan and deliver extension programs. Conduct varietal performance trials of cereals. Develop cereal crop management systems for southern Idaho. Interface with barley and wheat industries.

Required: Ph.D. in crop science, agronomy, agroecology or related discipline. Ability in oral and written communication. Training and experience in cropping systems or crop production. Ability to conduct, analyze, and interpret research.

For more information, contact: Dr. Stephen L. Love, University of Idaho, Aberdeen R & E Center, P.O. Box 870, Aberdeen, ID 83210. Phone: 208-397-4181. Email: slove@uidaho.edu. Closing date for applications, March 1, 2004, or until a suitable candidate is identified.

Editor's note:

If you have corrections, suggestions, or wish to submit news for the WSWS newsletter contact Don Morishita, WSWS newsletter editor at 208-736-3616 or don@uidaho.edu.