

WSWS Newsletter



FEBRUARY 2006

Report from the President

It looks like we are going to have a large number of posters and papers as well as several symposia at the upcoming Reno meeting. Program committee chair Kassim Al-Khatib will have more details on this elsewhere in the Newsletter. The program will be mailed to everyone prior to the meeting but you will be able to visit our website and view the program well before that. Please register and plan on attending the meeting. There will not only be the normal excellent content but also a few surprises as well. I've really enjoyed

serving as President over the past year and am looking forward to passing on the hoe to Kassim. One thing that I could always count on was the cooperation of each member that had taken on the responsibility of being a committee member. Without the dedication and willingness of each member to follow through with their responsibilities, WSWS could not operate. Of course, Wanda Graves our Business Manager has always made things work well without any of us really knowing how she does it. We wish Wanda a fond

farewell at this meeting after serving us so well over many years.

If you have suggestions for the Board, please send them along to me or any of the other Board members. We will be meeting on Monday all day before the Welcome and Retirees Reception that night. Please stop by if you have the time. I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

Phil Banks, President

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NOTICE: Constitution and By-laws Revisions Proposal

Two standing committees, Placement and Student Educational Enhancement, are being eliminated and a majority vote by the membership at the annual business meeting is required to amend the WSWS constitution and by-laws.

The proposed amendments to the constitution and by-laws are:

Amend the number of standing committees from seventeen to fifteen.

Delete all sections pertaining to the Placement Committee.

Delete all sections pertaining to the Student Educational Enhancement Committee.

Appropriately re-number the sections to reflect the committee deletions.

The current WSWS constitution and by-laws may be viewed as the WSWS website prior to voting at the business meeting on March 16, 2006.

Program Chair's Report

2006 Program Highlights.

The program for the Sparks (Reno), Nevada is posted on the WSWS web site for your information. There are 79 posters and 112 papers. Of these, 15 papers and 13 posters will be in the student paper and poster competitions. There are more papers and posters in this meeting than previous meetings, except the 2003 meeting in Hawaii with total of 194 papers and posters. Posters will be posted for two days, however, authors of the odd numbered posters will be present on Tuesday and even numbered posters on Wednesday.

The General Session will feature remarks from your president, Phil Banks, and congressional update by Lee Van Wychen the Director of Science Policy. Joseph DiTomaso will give presentation on the Invasive Plants that Threaten the Lake Tahoe Region. The feature presentation of the general session will be by Dr. Charles Goldman, professor of limnology at University of California, Davis. Dr. Goldman is internationally known for his research on global studies of freshwater lakes with emphasis on biological, chemical and physical interactions between the surrounding watersheds and lakes. The title of Dr. Goldman presentation is "Tahoe: Four Decades of Change."

The 2006 Project Session Chairs have developed excel-

lent discussion topics for each of the project. The discussion sessions are the trademark of the WSWS annual meeting. Some of the topics will include: 'Quantifying the value of weed prevention, Project 1; Herbicide resistant weeds in horticultural crops, Project 2; Sustainability of no-till and conventional tillage farming systems, project 3; Ethics in agriculture, Project 4; Is current research on IWM for riparian areas meeting the needs of land managers or are we missing the boat?, Project 5. We would like to thank the chairs in developing the discussion topics.

The program will include three symposiums. Lincoln Smith organizes a symposium on the "Status of Biological Control of Knapweeds and yellow Starthistle." The symposium will feature presentations by eight experts discussing the capabilities and limitations of different agents on knapweeds and yellow starthistle under different environments, and to identify where best to focus future research efforts. The second symposium is "Prevention or Large-Scale Management? Optimal Allocation of Weed Management Budgets" that is organized by Matthew Rinella and Cynthia Brown. The symposium will have presentations by six experts discussing the relative importance of weed prevention and large-scale weed manage-

ment efforts and "on-the-ground" decisions that managers face when allocating weed management budgets to prevention and control weeds. The third symposium is "Life after Graduate School" that is organized Dirk Baker. The symposium will aid in career path decision.

The Education and Regulatory Session, chaired by Tim Miller, will feature important topic: The Shadow of 911—Agricultural Bioterrorism in North America. The session will feature four invited speakers with considerable expertise in the area. The program also will feature the "What's New in Industry Session" on Wednesday afternoon that is organized by Vince Ulstad.

Many people have helped put together an outstanding program for the 2006 WSWS Annual Meeting. I would like to thank the program committee of Tim Miller and Corey Ransom, the Project Section Chairs, Matt Rinella, Pat Clay, Edward Davis, Ralph Whitesides, Stephen Enloe, and Bill Dyer and the Student Paper Judging Committee, Steve Enloe, Vanelle Carrithers, and Mark Renz for their efforts. Please mark your calendar and join us for the 2006 WSWS Annual Meeting.

Kassim Al-Khatib

Position Announcements

[Cropping Systems Agronomist](#) (Kansas State University, SWREC, Garden City, KS) - Plan, implement, and direct a research (70%) and extension (30%) program in cropping systems focused on traditional and non-traditional crop production systems for southwest Kansas, a semi-arid climate that encompasses full-to-limited irrigation and strictly rain-fed operations. Creating more profit potential for water-limited cropping systems is a high priority. Emphasis will be on developing a mechanistic understanding of physiological relationships for predicting crop response to environment and cultural practices. Cropping systems research will be conducted with a team of scientists at SWREC and other KSU units. Expectations include providing leadership for cropping systems research and collaboration in related areas, publication of results in the peer-reviewed literature in a timely manner, partnering with colleagues on joint publications, and pursuit of extramural funds. This position reports to the Head of the Western Kansas Agricultural Research Centers for research and extension responsibilities. Tenure home is the Department of Agronomy. DEADLINE: Application screening will begin on 1 April 2006 and continue until the position is filled. For further information visit the website: <http://www.wkarc.org/Employment/swrec1.htm> or email JBaier@ksu.edu.

[Graduate research assistant \(M.S.\)](#) Montana Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES), Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana. Academic year will be spent at the main campus in Bozeman, Montana. Summers will be spent at The Southern Agricultural Research Center approximately 15 miles east of Billings, Montana. Research center is 160 miles from the main campus. Graduate student project will focus on determining efficacious weed control programs for crops grown biodiesel production. Primary emphasis will be directed toward establishing an effective herbicide program for weed control in a wheat-camelina-fallow rotation. Additional greenhouse experiments will be conducted to help identify potential herbicides for weed control in biodiesel crops that presently have limited herbicide options, such as camelina and safflower. Student will be expected to present results at professional meetings and to commodity groups. Student will also be involved in other projects that are conducted at the research station. For more information please contact Steve King at 406-348-3400 or by email at sking@montana.edu

Take a Student Out to Dinner

Please remember that we will have a sign up sheet at the registration desk during the Reno meeting for those who wish to take a student out for dinner on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings. All students are eligible and encouraged to participate. We also encourage the students to go out with someone they don't know. This program has been an excellent way for students and regular members to get acquainted.

Washington Report

Congress Passes FY2006 Agriculture Appropriations Bill

The House and Senate approved the conference report on the FY2006 Agriculture appropriations bill and President Bush signed it into law on November 10, 2006. It was only the fourth of eleven FY2006 spending bills to make it through the entire legislative process. The \$100.2 billion Agriculture spending bill boosts spending on food stamps and nutrition programs but delays the implementation of country-of-origin labeling laws and maintains the ban on the reimportation of prescription drugs.

The bill funds USDA Research and Development programs at \$2.4 billion, a slight cut of \$9 million or 0.4 percent that stands in sharp contrast to a requested 15 percent cut because of hundreds of millions of dollars in earmarks. USDA intramural Research and Development funding declined 1.7 percent or \$22 millions to \$1.3 billion, primarily because of a drop in research and development facilities construction funding.

Congress rejected USDA's proposals to slash formula funds in its extramural research portfolio, and instead preserves a balance between formula funds, competitive funds, and earmarks. The final Agriculture appropriations bill keeps Hatch Act formula funding for land-grant colleges at \$179 million, in contrast to a USDA proposal to eliminate half of this funding and shift the funds to a new \$75 million competitive grants program. The National Research Initiative (NRI) of competitively awarded research grants increases slightly to \$183 million. Earmarked special research grants, however, grow from \$120 million to \$128 million. The FY2006 appropriation for Forest Service Research and Development is \$329 million, up \$15 million from last year.

The WSSA Provides Comments for the USDA-CSREES Stakeholder Workshop on Plant and Pest Biology Priorities and Concerns

On November 16, 2005, 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. Working in conjunction with the

WSSA Research and Competitive Grants Committee, written comments were submitted along with an oral presentation by Dr. David Shaw, who did an excellent job in presenting WSSA's concerns.

The WSSA expressed its deep concern with the direction of the NRI Competitive Grants Program 51.9, The Biology of Weedy and Invasive Species in Agroecosystems. This is a significant source of competitively awarded funding for many weed scientists. This grant program now targets not only weedy and invasive plants, but all other invasive species without an increase in funding this year. There are other NRI grant programs that deal with the biology of arthropods, nematodes, and microorganisms which were not opened up to invasion biology for their representative organisms. The WSSA stated that it would like to see invasion biology for different species placed in their respective NRI Programs.

Two other concerns the WSSA expressed for the current request for application (RFA) for the NRI Program on The Biology of Weedy and Invasive Species in Agroecosystems were: 1) its focus on ecological studies on invasive species at the population level and above with no emphasis on weed biology at the suborganismal level; and 2) the fact that this is the only NRI Grant Program that now requires a letter of intent, thus reducing the flexibility of weed scientists to consider other NRI Grant Programs and limiting the grant preparation period to less than 1.5 months.

The WSSA also provided comments to USDA-CSREES about the need for increased funding for weed science research in the following areas:

Weed Biology and Ecology- Better understanding of weed biology and weed ecology is needed for development of more effective integrated weed management systems which utilize all tools available including cultural, mechanical, biological and chemical control strategies. Weed biology and weed ecology research is also needed to accelerate progress in several areas of weed management such as GPS/GIS based variable rate herbicide applications, herbicide resistant crops (HRC) and knowledge based decision support systems. The value of these management tools depends greatly on better understanding of the mechanisms of

weed, crop and cropping system interactions. This includes research in weed genetics and physiology.

Invasive Weeds- Predictive tools are needed to identify species of concern and potential for invasion into sensitive ecosystems. Systems for early detection and rapid response (EDRR) are also needed to combat potentially serious weed invasions caused by human activity, whether accidental or intentional. Development of tools to assess impacts of weeds on ecosystems, including threatened and endangered species, requires basic research on the mechanisms of plant invasion. Economic assessment tools are also needed to quantify the impacts of the problem and to help set management priorities.

Knowledge Based and Systems-Approach Based Decision Support Strategies- With the proliferation of computer technology there are good opportunities to build decision aids that integrate biology and control data, expert knowledge and grower wisdom with social, economic and environmental perspectives. To build these systems, more long-term and large-scale studies are necessary with growers and advisors included in their development. The variable response of crops and weeds according to species, growth stage and environmental conditions also needs further research.

National Invasive Weed Awareness Week (NIWAW 7) is February 26-March 3 in Washington, DC

Details of NIWAW 7 can be found at: http://www.nawma.org/niwaw/niwaw_index.htm. On the website you can also register for the third and final on-line session that I will present in conjunction with NIWAW 7 titled: "Legislative Visit Preparation: Making Your Visit Count" which is January 23, 2006 at 4 PM (ET). Another on-line session you may be interested in registering for is "Media Relations 101: Growing Community Interest in NIWAW" which is on January 9, 2006 at 4 PM (ET). These interactive information sessions are conducted via Microsoft Live Meeting and sponsored by BASF.

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Washington Report *(continued)*

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During NIWAW 7, participants plan to advocate for two main policy issues while visiting Washington DC. A top priority issue is attaining funding for the Noxious Weed Control and Eradication Act (NWCEA) signed into law by President George Bush on October 30, 2004. NWCEA authorizes \$15 million to combat invasive weeds, but no funds have been appropriated to date. The other policy priority will be to urge passage of the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (NAISA), which aims to improve existing legislation to better prevent introductions of new aquatic invasive weeds. There are several NAISA related bills in the 109th Congress and some parts of these bills may be drafted into a new piece of legislation by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

EPA Issues Endangered Species Protection Program Guidance

The EPA published its "Endangered Species Protection Program Field Implementation Notice" in the November, 2, 2005 Federal Register. The document can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/2005/November/Day-02/p21838.htm>. It formalizes a lengthy review process between EPA and other federal agencies on how the EPA addresses concerns about endangered species when it reviews pesticide registrations while not placing undue burden on pesticide users. EPA will implement the Endangered Species Protection Program through pesticide label statements that refer users to Endangered Species Protection Bulletins. These bulletins will only be issued when specific pesticide use limitations are necessary to protect federally listed species or their designated critical habitat and will be available via the EPA's Website or via a toll free number, both of which will be identified on the new pesticide label once it's available.

WSSA Provides Comments to the Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) on Herbicide Use in Rangeland

The PMRA (Pest Management Regulatory Agency) of Canada has been working with stakeholders to gain input on the practicality of prescribing no-spray buffer zones for protection of native plants in rangeland

and aquatic habitats from the effects of herbicide spray drift. The PMRA is concerned that broadleaf herbicides may negatively impact native vegetation without the observance of spray drift buffer zones. I would like to thank John Jachetta from Dow Agro-Sciences for bringing this issue to the WSSA's attention and would also like to thank the Canadian PMRA for seeking input from the WSSA on this critical land management question.

The question of the applicability of spray-drift buffers to rangeland is especially important to weed scientists and practitioners, as the unique issues that must be addressed in rangeland are not at all similar to those present in crops. Virtually all weed control applications in a rangeland setting are for invasive weed management. The main objective of rangeland weed management is to prevent conversion of the plant community to an invasive species monoculture and restore the natural balance of the site. If invasive weeds are not controlled in the buffer areas surrounding treatment sites in rangeland, a refugia for the weeds remains enabling them to reestablish in the treated site.

In cropland, the main objective of weed control is to remove plant competition and shift the use of the site's resources into the production of a single species, i.e., the crop. Under this management scheme, the presence of a buffer-zone around the site may be useful in fostering natural diversity and to provide refuge for birds and other species that would not prosper in the adjacent field. However, the application of such buffers to rangeland weed control will likely have the opposite effect. An unsprayed buffer in rangeland is likely to be little more than a refuge for invasive species and a source of seed for reinfestation of the treated area.

The WSSA would again like to thank the PMRA for seeking our input on this important rangeland management question.

Pesticide Product Information is Now Available for 90,000 Products in an Online Searchable Data Base

The Pesticide Product Database includes the name of the product, the registration number of the product, company number and name, registration date, cancellation date and reason (if canceled) and product manager name and phone number. The Pesticide Product Database is a component of the National

Pesticide Information Retrieval System (NPIRS) through the Purdue University Center for Environmental Regulatory Information Services (CERIS) at <http://ppis.ceris.purdue.edu/> - Questions may be directed to the NPIRS staff at 765-494-6561; e-mail: staff@npirs.ceris.purdue.edu

Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D.
Director of Science Policy
The National and Regional Weed Science Societies

Necrology Committee

While we hope a necrology report will not be necessary this year, if you do know of any of our colleagues who have passed away during this year, please forward their names and any additional information so we can recognize their contributions and accomplishments. You can send any information to:

Amber Vallotton (Necrology Committee Chair),
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Western Society of Weeds Science
P.O. Box 963
Newark, CA 94560
510-790-1252

Hours of Operation:
9:00am to 5:00pm Pacific Time

Visit the web site at
www.wswedscience.org

WSWS Objectives

- To foster and encourage education and research in weed science.
- To foster cooperation among state, federal and private agencies in matters of weed science.
- To aid and support commercial, private and public agencies in the solution of weed problems.
- To support legislation governing weed control programs and weed research and education programs.
- To support the Weed Science Society of America and foster state and regional organizations and agencies interested in weed control.

NEW INVASIVE PLANTS IMPACTS PUBLICATION FROM WSSA

A Critical Planning Tool For Natural Resource Managers and Policy Makers

Professionals in natural resource management, planning, research, or conservation disciplines who want to strengthen environmental documents, validate project proposals, develop stewardship or management policies, prioritize research efforts, or develop management plans will want to order this valuable resource today! Invasive plants are of major economic and ecological importance on range and wild lands of the United States. However, few studies have assessed the economic or environmental losses caused by invasive plants on these lands. *Invasive Plants of Range and Wildlands...* is the only comprehensive literature review focusing extensively on damages caused by invasive plants. This resource will be critical to prioritizing management programs, and will provide a basis for consistent and rational management decisions. The book provides quick reference to over 750 credible citations documenting impacts associated with 16 important invasive plants in the United States. Each chapter contains information on distribution and rate of spread, eight categories of environmental and economic impacts, and perceived value and use of each plant species.

Edited by: Celestine A. Duncan and Janet K. Clark.

Authors: Melissa L. Brown, Joseph M. DiTomaso, Celestine A. Duncan, Rodney G. Lym, Kirk C. McDaniel, Mark J. Renz, Peter M. Rice.

Steering Committee: John Jachetta, Vanelle Carrithers, Mike Foley, Rob Hedberg, Janet Clark.

Sponsors: Weed Science Society of America, Dow AgroSciences, Center for Invasive Plant Management.

For ordering information visit www.wssa.net

Calendar of Events

February 13-17, 2006
WSSA Annual Meeting, New York

February 15, 2006
WSWS Annual Meeting Pre-Registration Deadline

February 26-March 3, 2006
National Invasive Weed Awareness Week (NIWAW)
For more information please visit NAWMA's web site at http://www.nawma.org/niwaw/niwaw_index.htm

March 14-16, 2006
WSWS Annual Meeting, Reno/Sparks NV.

May 25-28, 2006
Weeds Across Borders 2006 Conference, Hermosillo, Mexico
For more info. Visit:
www.desertmuseum.org/borderweeds/