

WSWS Newsletter



MAY 2005

Report from the President

I hope all of you that attended our recent meeting in Vancouver had a safe trip home and the year has started off well. Many have commented positively about the meeting, both the accommodations as well as the content. Many thanks go to Tim Miller, the rest of the Local Arrangements committee, Mike Edwards, the Program Committee, and Business Manager Wanda Graves for a job well done. Everyone should start planning now on attending the next meeting in Reno. President-Elect Kassim Al-Khatib has already started working on the program and has requested those of you with symposia ideas to contact him. As always, your input as members is what makes our meetings successful. The member survey we conducted in 2004 was instrumental in pointing out our strengths as well as where we need to improve. During the General Session, Past-President Phil Stahlman and Vanelle Carrihers did an excellent job of reviewing the results of the survey and actions have been taken to implement as many of the findings as possible. You can read their remarks in the Proceedings that Editor Joan Campbell will be sending you soon. I also want to thank everyone that volunteered to take a student out for dinner. This has really been appreciated by the students and I know that I've been able to meet and have a better opportunity to get to know several students over the past few years because of it. Our students have are exploring the idea of creating a more formal student organization in the future. Dirk Baker was chosen

by the students to represent them to the Board and to interact with the WSSA Graduate Student Organization. Any students wanting to work with Dirk should contact him.

The new committee list is now on the website and those of you that are committee chairs have received the updated operating guide to help you in your activities. Thanks to Jill Schroeder and Roland Schirman for reviewing and implementing the revisions. Kai Umada is the new Constitution and Operating Guide Representative and suggestions for changes to either should be forwarded to him. A few other actions that were approved during the meeting were: 1. Amended the Constitution to allow the President-Elect to select a Board Member-at-Large to serve for two years; 2. We will start accepting credit card charges beginning prior to the next meeting; 3. Approved continuing support for the Director of Science Policy; 4. Selected the Orange County Hyatt Regency in Anaheim, CA for our meeting site in 2008; 5. Decided to ask the membership to eliminate the Placement Committee at the next meeting (more on this to come in the next issue); and probably some more that I've forgotten.

As for the upcoming year, an ad hoc Membership Development committee has been formed with Lisa Boggs agreeing to serve as chairperson. This committee will be determining how to better serve members and groups or organizations that are currently either not participating in our meeting

or attending only occasionally. The Finance Committee has also been asked to review our dues and meeting registration fees in order that WSWS remain financially sound in the future. A joint effort by the Finance committee and the Publications committee headed by Board Member-at-Large Janet Clark will be reviewing our policy on Weeds of the West.

One of the most important actions that the Board will be responsible for in the coming year is to find a new Business Manager. As many of you are aware, Wanda Graves has decided to serve through the upcoming Reno meeting and then let someone else put up with us. Wanda has generously served WSWS for over 15 years and we are certainly grateful and a better organization because of her efforts. During the summer Board meeting in Reno, we will be deciding on a job description and forming a search committee with the intent to have someone hired prior to the Reno meeting.

I am looking forward to serving WSWS as President and want any of you that have suggestions, comments, or just want to talk to feel free to contact me at any time. My e-mail address is marathonag@zianet.com and my telephone number is 505-527-8853.

Phil Banks, President

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Call for Symposia Topics	2
Thank You to Contest Judges	2
Restoration Workshop Planned	2
Washington Report	3
Necrology	4
News from Around the West	5
Calendar of Events	5

ATTCHMENTS TO THIS ISSUE

Nomination Request:

Fellows

Honorary Member

Call for Symposium Proposal for 2006 Annual Meeting

WSWS members are invited to submit proposals for symposia at the 2006 Annual Meeting on March 14-16 in Sparks (Reno), Nevada. Please indicate in your request the title of the symposia, name of the organizer, justification and length of the symposia,

and proposed speakers (if possible the topic of each speaker). Please send your proposal to Kassim Al-Khatib, President Elect, Agronomy Department, 2004A Throckmorton Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506, E-Mail:

khatib@ksu.edu. Deadline for submission is May 10, 2005.

Kassim Al-Khatib, President Elect

Thank You Judges

I am grateful for the efforts of the judges who volunteered time and talent at the meeting in Vancouver. The Student Contest is an important event for the young professionals in the society, and these volunteers make it possible. Please join me in thanking the following individuals when you see them.

Randy Anderson
Dan Beran

Steve Christy
Mary Corp
Mark Dahmer
Stephen Enloe
Jim Harbour
Pam Hutchinson
Brian Jenks
Kelly Luff
Drew Lyon
Alex Ogg
Brent Petersen

Mark Renz
Doug Ryerson
Fred Salzman
Scott Steinmaus
Curt Thompson
Joe Yenish

Kirk Howatt,
Student Paper and Poster Committee

Big Horn Basin Floodplain Restoration Workshop

Big Horn Basin Floodplain Restoration Workshop, July 19, 20 and 21, 2005 at Thermopolis, Wyoming

Workshop has four main features: presentations on saltcedar

(tamarisk) and Russian olive management, organized group discussions, a poster session highlighting current projects, and a field tour. Pre-registration is required. Contact Steve Christy at schristy@blm.gov or 307-347-

5148 to receive an informational brochure and registration form.

Alex Ogg

Washington Report

NIWAW VI

The sixth National Invasive Weed Awareness Week was held February 27 through March 4 in Washington, DC and judging by the comments received it was a real success. This year 160 people from 35 states and two countries registered for the event, keeping up the steady 20% growth in attendance we have seen every year. What was initiated in 2000 as a relatively small gathering of weed folks from across the country has now grown into a significant annual meeting on many people's calendars. In addition to providing attendees a great opportunity to meet with their congressional delegations and the leaders of many federal agencies, it has also turned into a great opportunity for interaction between a wide variety of public and private organizations that are concerned about weeds. I am certain that this interaction will be invaluable as we look for ways to improve communication, coordination, research and weed management. Now, after several years as the chair of the NIWAW organizing committee I am pleased to pass the helm to Dr. Nelroy Jackson who has been a stalwart contributor from the outset and will certainly do an excellent job leading this activity in further growth.

WSSA Publishes New Book on Weed Impacts

Copies of a new book published by WSSA, "Invasive Plants of Range and Wildlands and Their Environmental, Economic and Societal Impacts" rolled off the press just in time for the annual meeting in Honolulu. By design, and good fortune, the timing coincided perfectly with the symposium on Economic and Environmental Losses Due to Weeds that was held during the meetings. Together the book and symposium were developed to help document what we currently know about losses due to weeds and to set the stage for further work that will help improve weed management decisions and weed management policies. This information has been identified as a high priority need among many federal agencies working on weed issues.

Many people contributed to this book that was edited by Celestine L. Duncan and Janet K. Clark and supported with a generous grant by DowAgro Sciences and all deserve a warm thank you from the society for helping to produce and promote this timely new book. Copies of the book are \$20 each and can be ordered through the WSSA website: <http://www.wssa.net/>

NEWSS Symposia in Washington DC Draw Attendance

The Northeast Weed Science Society (NEWSS) held three symposia at their annual meeting in Washington DC that helped boost attendance significantly while shedding light on timely issues of national policy concern. NEWSS provided a service to all members of the discipline by holding these symposia just two blocks from the White House and opening the meeting to Washington agency and policy folks. The three symposia were on turf grass, herbicide resistant weeds and the impact of invasive species on endangered species. The Endangered and Invasive Species symposium has already had a noticeable impact on policy discussions at a critical time when amendment of the Endangered Species Act is under serious consideration.

Bentgrass Environmental Impact Statement. May 3, 2005 & May 18, 2005

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will host two public forums to accept public comments on a new variety of genetically engineered (GE) creeping bentgrass. The public forums will be held on May 3 at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center, Exhibition Hall, 7100 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase, Md., and on May 18 at the Oregon State University Conference Complex in Corvallis, Ore. Each public forum will be held from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., local time. APHIS' biotechnology and regulatory services (BRS) program is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) concerning a petition received from Monsanto Company and the Scott's Company to grant non-regulated status to a new variety GE herbicide-tolerant creeping bentgrass. If granted, the GE variety could be sold and grown in the U.S. without further BRS oversight. The open forums provide an avenue for public input on potential environmental impacts of herbicide-tolerant creeping bentgrass and on the scope of issues to be considered in the EIS. [Additional information \(complete press release\) on the APHIS website.](#)

Rob Hedberg, Director of Science Policy

Necrology Report

Elvin Kulp, 67, of Ephrata, WA, retired WSU-Cooperative Extension Agent in Grant/Adams area, passed away on August 21, 2004. Elvin's professional career began in 1961 in Grant County. His passion for farming and farming techniques never diminished in his over 40 years with the extension office. He retired from the extension service as county chair and agronomy agent in April 2002 and then returned and served as interim Southeast District Director from January 2003 to July 2004.

Gail Wicks, 72, of North Platte passed away peacefully on Monday, Feb. 21, 2005. He was born May 26, 1932, in Carpenter, S.D. He grew up on the family farm, attending a one-room schoolhouse where he was the only student in his grade. He received a Bachelor's degree from South Dakota State University and a Master's degree from Iowa State University. He served as a second lieutenant in the Army during the 1950s. He was a professor of agronomy for the University of Nebraska, working at the West Central Research and Extension Center for 47 years. On Aug. 19, 1956, he married Gloria Jean King. Gail will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandpa, researcher, and coach. Mr. Wicks was actively involved in many areas of his community. He was a member of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, serving in many capacities over the years. He and Gloria helped hundreds of girls grow to become successful women through the Belles softball teams for more than 35 years. He was inducted into the Nebraska Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame in 1993. He was longtime Rotarian. Survivors include children Cynthia Schuch of Belton, Mo., Nancy Oerter of Hastings, David Wicks of Seattle, Wash.; six grandchildren; and brother Jerry Wicks of Carpenter, S.D. He was preceded in death by his wife Gloria. Memorials are suggested to First Evangelical Lutheran Church of North Platte,

the Platte Valley Girls Softball Association, and the University of Nebraska West Central Research and Extension Center Foundation.

Rodney Kepner passed away July 19, 2004 in Fresno, CA. He was born on October 9, 1957 in Rochelle, IL. He was a Field Development Scientist for Gowan Company at the time of his death. He earned a B.S. in 1979 from Rockford College in IL and later a Master of Science and a PhD in Entomology from the University of Florida. Rodney worked on grasshopper control in South Dakota and the Sudan. He worked for American Cyanamid before going to work for Gowan Company in 1997. Rod is survived by his wife, Maria, and two children, Andi and Vinny; his mother, Leonce Carlson and sister, Denise McDermott of Rochelle, IL and his brother, Jeff Kepner of Milwaukee, WI..

Carol Mallory-Smith

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.wswscience.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.

News From Around the West

Retirement

After 38 years of faithful service at Colorado State University, Bob Zimdahl will retire next month. Please join us in celebrating Bob's many accomplishments.

Southwest Vegetation Management Association

Association will be holding 2005 Annual Meeting November 2-4, 2005 at the Four Points Sheraton in Phoenix. For more information contact Patti Fenner (602) 225-5386

Invasive Plants of Range and Wildlands and Their Environmental, Economic, and Societal Impacts

An invaluable reference for researchers, weed control specialists, and natural resource planners and policymakers, this book provides comprehensive references to scientific studies that quantify the impacts of sixteen invasive plants on our environment, economy, and society. Data also offer evidence of the extent of infestations in the continental United States and the historical spread rate of these species. Range and wildland species highlighted in this volume are Canada thistle, Dalmatian toadflax, diffuse knapweed, downy brome, hawkweed, leafy spurge, medusahead, musk thistle, perennial pepperweed, purple loosestrife, Russian knapweed, saltcedar, sericea lespedeza, spotted knapweed, tropical soda apple, and yellow starthistle. For each species, national databases and scientific literature collections of experts were consulted to uncover historical as well as the most up-to-date impact information. In some cases, a lack of scientific data points to research gaps that deserve immediate attention. Published by the Weed Science Society of America, this book provides readers succinct summaries and references that will be valuable to prioritizing management programs and formulating consistent and rational land management decisions.

Ordering Information Available at <http://www.wsss.net>

Calendar of Events

July 19-21, 2005

Big Horn Basin Floodplain Restoration Workshop, July 19, 20 and 21, 2005 at Thermopolis, Wyoming.
Contact Steve Christy at schristy@blm.gov or (307)-347-5148

October 2005

Online Pre-registration for WSWS Annual Meeting Opens

November 2-4, 2005

Southwest Vegetation Management Association Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ. Contact Patti Fenner (602) 255-5386

March 14-16, 2006

WSWS Annual Meeting, John Ascuaga Nugget Hotel Sparks (Reno), Nevada