



WSWS Newsletter

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Summer Newsletter
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Awards from the meeting

Presidential Award of Merit



Tim Miller

Report from the President by Ron Crockett

Over a month has passed since we met in Portland, OR to celebrate the 60th annual meeting of the WSWS. Many of you are diving into spring classes, while others are getting up-to-speed for spring and early-summer season field work. I'd like to invite you to take one last look over your shoulder at the meeting we had in Portland.

For me, it was a meeting with a wide variety of topics matched with a large number of high quality papers and posters. Both poster sessions had active discussions between graduate student authors and interested society members. In the paper presentations, excellent questions along with lively post-paper questions and answer discussions indicated the relevancy and quality of the presentations. The two special symposia were well-planned and well-attended. Robert Klein and Robert Wolf created 'standing room only' interest in their spray technology symposium. New advances in spray nozzle technologies were introduced, and then demonstrated using back-lit spray patterns. The Japanese Knotweed symposium spearheaded by Tim Miller and his committee members pulled-off a terrific two-day symposium highlighted by speakers from the cradle of Japanese Knotweed origins in central Europe.

Attendance at the Portland meeting was good and numbers were up slightly from meetings held the last couple of years. The interest of the symposia undoubtedly brought in new people, some of whom also enjoyed the papers and posters outside of the symposia. I am also encouraged by the willingness of members to offer their support by volunteering to help on committees. If you are interested in helping by serving on a committee, and haven't been contacted, please contact me (360-892-9884), or at ron.p.crockett@monsato.com.

One last comment; with all that is going on, please be careful and use sound safety principles in your travels. Buckle-up when driving and make sure your equipment is tied-down properly when towing, and finally watch your body mechanics and avoid hurting your back from improper lifting and twisting.

WSSA Announces New Journal

Invasive Plant Science and Management

The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) is pleased to announce that it is creating a new journal with the working title, Invasive Plant Science and Management.

Over the past year, the Weed Science Society of America directed an ad hoc committee to investigate the possibility of creating a new journal on the science and management of invasive plants.

An intensive survey was conducted in which over 790 people responded to the survey with overwhelming support for the concept for a new journal in this subject area.

At the annual meeting in February the WSSA Board voted to establish this new journal with a working title, Invasive Plant Science and Management (IPSM). The intent is to bring peer-reviewed research on invasive plants, including reviews centered on management, biology/ecology restoration, so that it is easily accessible to land management practitioners and scientists working on invasive plants. Articles will also include peer reviewed case studies of land management programs. The journal will be issued quarterly and is to be available in print and on-line versions. Please contact **Janet Clark, Project Manager, (406-994-6832)** if you are interested in contributing to this new journal, Invasive Plant Science and Management.

WSWS Honorary Member



Rod Hedberg

WSWS Fellow



Bill Cobb, Private

Sector



Phil Stahlman,

Public Sector



Rod Lym

Outstanding Weed Scientist,
Public Sector



John Fenderson,

Outstanding Weed Scientist,
Private Sector



Jim Freeman

Outstanding Weed Manager

Steve Miller Named Outstanding Alumnus

Dr. Stephen Miller, WSWS President from 1992 to 1993, was named the 2007 Outstanding Alum for the College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources, at North Dakota State University.

Steve is currently the Associate Dean and Director of the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station, Laramie, WY. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in agronomy from Colorado State University, in 1968. Steve continued his education at NDSU where he received a Master of Science degree in 1970 and a Doctorate in 1973, both in agronomy.

Miller previously was a Professor of Weed Science and Head of the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Wyoming and Assistant and Associate Professor in the Department of Plant Sciences at NDSU. He has received numerous awards, including Outstanding Weed Scientist in the WSWS, Innovator Award from the American Society of Agronomy, and the George Duke Humphrey Distinguished Faculty Award from the University of Wyoming. He was named Fellow of WSWS in 1995 and is also a Fellow in the North Central Weed Science Society, and the Weed Science Society of America. Steve received a meritorious service award from CAST and is well known for his compelling speeches to encourage WSWS members to join CAST.

Tribute to the Life of Ken Dunster

Ken Dunster was born on November 2, 1936 and died on January 18, 2007, at 70 years of age. He was one of the Giants of Weed Science in the Western United States.

Ken Dunster was at the forefront of research and development of crop protection chemicals since he first joined the agricultural industry in 1960. His work led to the registration and success of numerous products on a large diversity of crops over a wide geographical area. Among these were the successful development of bromoxynil for weed control in small grains and seedling alfalfa, additional development of several phenoxy formulations for perennial weed and brush control in rangeland, and the development of pyramin herbicide in sugarbeets. Later, his emphasis shifted more toward plant growth regulators, including the development of ethephon programs on tomatoes, grapes, walnuts, peppers, pineapple, sugarcane, and cotton. Ken worked in research and development in Montana, Colorado, California, Arizona, Nevada and Hawaii. Before retirement, he worked for Amchem, UnionCarbide and Rhone-Poulenc, during a succession or mergers and acquisitions.

Ken was a mainstay in WSWS since the beginning of his professional career. He served on numerous committees and in various offices, advancing through the President-Elect, President, and Past-President steps. He received the WSWS Fellow Award in 1978 and the Outstanding Weed Scientist Award for the Private Sector in 1992.

Besides his contributions to WSWS, Ken served as President of the Montana Weed Control Association, President of the California Weed Conference, and President of the Western Plant Growth Regulator Conference.

Ken Dunster served as an excellent example of what a good, private sector weed scientist should be. He had been not only highly competent in his professional career, but had been unusually willing to share his time and knowledge with others in many societies. He earned our respect and gratitude. Ken always had a smile, and a willingness to help and assist, to encourage young people to get and remain involved in the Weed Science Societies. Ken was responsible for persuading Wanda to become the Treasurer/Business Manager of the California Weed Conference and WSWS. A quote from Wanda Graves, who was his Administrative assistant for over 25 years, sums it up well - "I will always remember his love and concern for the WSWS over the years that I worked with him."

Cast Report by Phil Stahlman, Cast Representative

It was my pleasure to attend my first CAST Board of Directors meeting in Washington D.C., March 20-23, 2007. Following is my report of the meeting and a summary of recent and current CAST accomplishments and activities. But first, some background. [Continued on page 3](#)



Carl Libbey,
Outstanding Professional Staff

Graduate Paper Contest Weeds of Agronomic Crops



1st Michael Duff
Competitive Characteristics of
Protox-resistant Common
Waterhemp. M. Duff, K Al-Khatib,
and D. Peterson, Kansas State
University



**2nd Joanna
Sciegienka,** Canada Thistle Growth
and Physiological Response to a
Pathogen, Insect, and Herbicide. J.
Sciegienka, F. Menalled, P. Miller, N.
Zidack, and S. Blodgett, Montana
State University

Graduate Paper Contest Weeds of Horticultural Crops and Weeds of Range & Forest



1st Luke Samuel
Canada Thistle Control by
Aminopyralid and Recovery of
Native Plant Species in Theodore
Roosevelt National Park. L. Samuel
and R. Lym, North Dakota State
University

2nd Matt Williams (no
photo) Mesotrione
Impregnated Fertilizer for Weed
Control during Turfgrass
Establishment. M. Williams, W.
Johnston, C. Golob, and K. Pare,
Washington State University

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Many of you are familiar with CAST, while others are wondering, "What is CAST"? CAST is an acronym for Council for Agricultural Science and Technology. CAST is a nonprofit organization composed of scientific societies and many individual, student, company, nonprofit, and associate society members. CAST's Board of Directors is composed of representatives of member scientific societies, and an Executive Committee. CAST's mission is to assemble, interpret, and communicate credible, science-based information regionally, nationally, and internationally to legislators, regulators, policymakers, the media, the private sector, and the public. This is done primarily through press releases and issuance of high-quality publications on "hot topics" affecting agriculture and the environment. CAST currently produces four types of publications: (1) Commentaries (brief statements regarding topics of current interest); (2) Issue Papers (8- to 24-page papers narrowly focused on a topic); (3) Task Force Reports (comprehensive, in-depth treatments of broader topics); and (4) Special Publications (documents produced as follow-ups to workshops, symposia, etc.). Recent publication efforts have focused on the first two types because of the increasing need for rapid response. All publications are authored and peer-reviewed by panels of experts on the topic, who perform their roles without monetary compensation.

Weed Science is well represented on the CAST Board of Directors and Executive Committee. WWS Past-President Kassim Al-Khatib is the current President-Elect of CAST and each of the regional and the national Weed Science organizations are members of CAST. Other representatives of Weed Science organizations attending the Spring Board meeting were Karen Renner (NCWSS), Bob Sweet (NEWSS), Peter Dotray (SWSS), and Jeffrey Derr (WSSA). And Bob Wolfe, representing the American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators, also is a member of the WWS and NCWSS. I'm fairly sure this is the first multi-discipline meeting I've attended where weed scientist out-numbered entomologists and plant pathologists.

After a few recent "slow" years, CAST has regained momentum with renewed energy and is once-again recognized for its quality publications and activities. There is high media and policymaker usage of CAST publications and information, and evidence of greater visibility and reach to a more diversified audience, including international.

In response to demand and to broaden exposure, several CAST Commentary and Issue Papers have been translated into Spanish.

CAST broke a record in 2006 for the number of new publications, seven in all. See www.cast-science.org for a complete list of publications. Fifteen forthcoming publications are in various stages of development. Those of direct importance to weed science and plant production agriculture include:

- *Ethanol Production from Cellulosic and Hemicellulosic Sources: Status and Update* (CAST Commentary)
- *Post-commercialization Gene Flow from Biotechnology-Derived Crops: Policy and Research Considerations* (Issue Paper)
- *Water Quality and Quantity Issues for Turfgrasses in Urban Landscapes* (Special Publication)
- *Water, People, and the Future: Supply and Demand* (Issue Paper)
- *Nutrients, Food, and the Future* (Issue Paper)

Several guest speakers addressed the Board on a variety of topics of national interest. Former Congressman Charles Stenholm (now a lobbyist) and Dr. Gale Buchanan, Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics and Former CAST President both discussed aspects of the 2007 Farm Bill currently being written. The new Farm Bill will attempt to correct deficiencies of the past Farm Bill and likely will be known as the Energy Farm Bill. In Dr. Buchanan words, "The new paradigm for agriculture now encompasses food, feed, fiber, **and fuel.**" He emphasized that the three main funding areas addressed by Title 7 are 1) bio-energy and bio-based products, 2) specialty crops and organic agriculture, and 3) the proposed reorganization of CSREES and the ARS, and merger of national program staffs. Each of these was discussed in some detail. Reorganization of CSREES and ARS will be particularly challenging but is necessary to improve efficiencies, strengthen the relationship between federal and state agencies, and to highlight and strengthen research to meet future challenges.

David Schmidt, CEO and President of the International Food Information Council, spoke on "Communicating the Science of Food and Agriculture to the Public". IFIC's newsletter, Food Insight, has a circulation of 45,000. Consumer survey results indicate the greatest concern is with diseased and contaminated food (36%) and handling and processing (35%). In comparison, only 3% are concerned about biotechnology. Three main reasons why the science

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Undergraduate Student Poster Contest



1st Maria Lockard

Investigation into Prickly Lettuce Tolerance of 2-4,D and Glyphosate. M. Lockard, I. Burke, and J. Yenish, Washington State University

Graduate Student Poster Contest



1st Dirk Baker

Tumbling Dispersal of Diffuse Knapweed Seed. D. Baker and G. Beck, Colorado State University



2nd Maria Zapiola

Gene Escape from Glyphosate-Resistant Creeping Bentgrass Fields: Past, Present and Future. M. Zapiola, C. Mallory-Smith, J. Thompson, J. Rue, C. Campbell, and M. Butler, Oregon State University



3rd Seth Gersdorf

Dose Response of Italian Ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*) Biotypes to Flufenacet. S. Gersdorf, and D. Thill, University of Idaho

Contact Us

Visit WSWS website at: www.wsweedscience.org For website technical assistance contact Tony White at: webmaster@wsweedscience.org

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message doesn't reach the public: (1) failure of science to address the underlying concern, (2) bias and reputation of the information source - low credibility, and (3) lack of consensus among experts - consumers don't know what to believe.

The Plant Protection Sciences Work Group approved and forwarded to the Executive Committee a proposed commentary on "Biofuels: Balancing Energy Demands and Environmental Concerns", submitted by WSWS member Joe DiTomaso and other prominent scientists. This commentary will address the need to consider not only the economic and social benefits of exotic and non-native plant species being considered for use as biofuel crops, but also the potential risks associated with their introduction, propagation, and the potential to escape cultivation and invade natural ecosystems and threaten riparian areas, wetland, and endangered plant and animal species.

The National Concerns Committee engaged in lengthy discussion on ways to enhance CAST effectiveness and ensure future publications are more timely and relevant to societal interests. A focus only on "agriculture" does not resonate well with some stakeholders. Food safety, food wholesomeness, food production, and how these topics relate to the environment may be more relevant to the public today. Prioritizing and urgent addressing of topics in language appropriate for the targeted audience is necessary for publications to have high impact. A checklist of relevance criteria was drafted for use in considering future proposed publications. These criteria will be further debated and refined before being considered for adoption. However, those criteria were used in approving two proposed issue papers submitted by CAST Work Groups: (1) Water, People and the Future: Supply and Demand, and (2) Nutrients, Food and the Future. Another action was approval of a motion to give the Executive Committee authority to approve requests for desk-side briefing programs on hot topics for the media.

Online Herbicide Physiology Course

PSPP 546 Herbicide Physiology is a 3-credit, distance delivery graduate course to be offered in the Fall semester, 2007. The course is taught by Profs. William Dyer (Montana State University), Tracy Sterling (New Mexico State University), and Scott Nissen (Colorado State University). We will cover topics in herbicide classification, herbicide mode of action, resistance mechanisms, and practical diagnosis of field situations. Prerequisites include upper division courses in biochemistry and plant physiology, or consent of the instructors. The course is designed for students without traditional access to this course material, and is not designed to replace existing, on-campus courses at other institutions.

Please see <http://eu.montana.edu/credit/courses/pspp546.htm> or contact Dr. William E. Dyer at wdyer@montana.edu for more information.

Weed Science School 2007

The School is an intensive **2-1/2 day course** focusing on the mode and mechanism of herbicide activity in plants and the fate of herbicides in the environment. The course covers herbicide selectivity, resistance and additives. Weed biology, ecology and seed bank dynamics are also covered. These topics are presented in a lecture format. Laboratory activities focus on recognition of herbicide symptoms and broadleaf and grass weed identification. Participants will also tour the UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity (formerly known as the UC Davis Herbarium.)

The **course fee is \$550** (if received by 9/10/07) and \$575 (if received after 9/10/07) and includes all course materials and lunch each day. A comprehensive notebook will be provided with lecture summaries and additional information. Registration is accepted by postal mail, fax or online. Class size is limited, so early enrollment is suggested.

To register or for more information, visit <http://wric.ucdavis.edu> and click on "Weed Science School" or contact the UC Weed Research & Information Center at wric@ucdavis.edu or (530) 752-1748

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Weed Control Plot Tours

Weed control plot tours will be held on June 20 and 21 at Sidney and Scottsbluff, NE. The dryland weed control plot tour will commence at 1:30 PM on June 20 at the High Plains Ag Lab northwest of Sidney NE and will emphasize weed control in winter wheat. The irrigated weed control plot tour will begin at 8:30 AM on June 21 at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center in Scottsbluff and will emphasize weed control in corn, sugarbeets, and dry beans. Lunch will be served at the conclusion of the Scottsbluff tour. Contact Drew Lyon at **308-632-1266** or dlyon1@unl.edu for more information.

Thank you Contest Judges

The student paper judging committee would like to thank the following individuals for their efforts judging the student paper and poster competition:

Lars Baker, Oleg Daugovish, Patricia Dysart, Greg Endres, Joel Felix, Pat Geier, Jim Harbour, Jeff Herman, Kirk Howatt, Andy Hulting, Pam Hutchinson, Sandra McDonald, Drew Lyon, Tim Miller, Doug Ryerson, Marty Schraer, Lee Van Wychen, Sarah Ward, Brenda Waters, and Tony White.

Brad Ramsdale, Student Paper Judging Committee Chair

Calendar of Events

2007

April 23-27

WSWS Noxious Weed Short Course
Chico Hot Springs Resort, Pray, MT

June 20 & 21

Weed Control Plot Tours
Scottsbluff and Sidney, NE

July 15-18

47th Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Plant Management Society
Nashville, TN

August 6-9

8th International Symposium on Adjuvants for Agrochemicals
Columbus, OH

September 24-26

Weed Science School 2007
UC Davis, CA

2008

February 4-7

Weed Science Society of America Annual Meeting
Chicago, IL

March 11-14

WSWS Meeting Annual Meeting
Hyatt Regency, Anaheim, CA

June 23-27

International Weed Science Congress
Vancouver, Canada

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WSWS

2007-2008 Standing and Ad Hoc Committees Awards

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

Washington Report 2007

March

Things inside the DC Beltway have never been busier! The Farm Bill reauthorization for 2007 is in full swing... A new Congress has been dealing with a new FY2008 budget... The National and Regional Weed Science Societies have been working to advance their member's objectives and have conducted annual meetings in Milwaukee, Baltimore, Nashville, San Antonio and Portland... We have just completed another successful National Invasive Weed Awareness Week... and I have been very busy working on a number of exciting initiatives that are part of the WSSA's Long Term Strategic Plan.

USDA Under Secretary Buchanan Addresses WSSA in San Antonio

Many of you had a chance to attend the Monday general session during the WSSA annual meeting in San Antonio, TX. We were very fortunate to have Dr. Gale Buchanan, USDA Undersecretary for the Research, Education, and Economics (REE), present the Administration's 2007 Farm Bill proposal. Dr. Buchanan discussed the highlights of the Administration's Farm Bill proposal and provided excellent insight on Title VII of the Farm Bill on how the USDA is working to reorganize and revitalize their research, education, and economics mission and increase investment in high priority areas of research such as specialty crops, bio-energy, and bio-based products. The WSSA greatly appreciates Dr. Buchanan's support and time and is honored that he is a member of the WSSA.

The Administration is recommending several reforms and new initiatives for future agricultural research and the following is a list of the major components of the package.

- Consolidate USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) into a single agency named the Research, Education, and Extension Service (REES), which will coordinate both intramural and extramural research, extension, and education programs.
- Rename the Research, Education, and Economics (REE) mission area the Office of Science.
- Establish an annual \$50 million Agricultural Bio-Energy and Bio-Based Products Research Initiative to advance fundamental scientific knowledge for the improved production of renewable fuels and bio-based products.
- Establish an annual \$100 million Specialty Crop Research Initiative to provide science-based tools for the specialty crop industry.

Please visit www.usda.gov/documents/07finalfbp.pdf to view the USDA's full 2007 Farm Bill proposal.

WSSA Comments on Agriculture Research Title Proposals in 2007 Farm Bill

The Administration's 2007 Farm Bill proposal is mentioned above. The other two proposals that have various levels of support among different stakeholder groups are CREATE-21, which stand for Creating Research, Extension, and Teaching Excellence for the 21st Century (CREATE-21) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) proposal. The CREATE-21 proposal calls for the consolidation of elements currently within USDA's Research, Education, and Economics program area (and Forest Service R&D) within a new "National Institutes for Food and Agriculture" in order to enhance the integration, efficiency, and flexibility of programmatic efforts in research, extension, and education. While sustaining existing intramural and university capacity funding, the Institute will also provide substantial new funding for competitively-awarded research, extension, and education grants. Finally, the CREATE-21 proposal includes major elements of the Danforth proposal for the creation of a National Institute of Food and Agriculture to substantially increase fundamental research within USDA. For more information, please visit: www.create-21.org

On March 9, 2007 members of the WSSA Board of Directors, the WSSA Science Policy Committee, and the Regional Weed Science Society Presidents approved the following position statements regarding the various agricultural research title provisions in the 2007 Farm Bill. These position statements will help the National and Regional Weed Science Societies actively support legislation that meets these goals.

- **Reauthorize Strong Research Title.**
- **Commit to Double Funding in Next 5 Years.**
- **Authorize NIFA.**
- **Increase Funding for Existing Programs.**
- **Encourage Interagency Partnerships.**
- **Strengthen Stakeholder Participation.**
- **Debate Organizational Reform Proposals.**

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)

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)

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

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WSSA Biofuels and Invasive Plants white paper

In response to the major surge in renewable fuels initiatives going on at the Federal and State levels, the WSSA has formulated a white paper that addresses the concerns and issues occurring at the interface of invasive weeds and plants being grown for cellulosic biomass energy production. Special thanks to WSSA members Nelroy Jackson, Jodie Holt, and Joe DiTomaso for drafting these comments on a very short timeline.

Biofuels and Invasive Plant Species

A variety of plant species from a range of taxa, including crops and wild plants, are being considered for use as biofuels. It is important to consider not only the economic and social benefits of these species, but the potential risks associated with their introduction and propagation.

*Biofuel crops can have economic benefits, but in some cases can also have the potential to escape cultivation and become invasive in natural ecosystems. For example, of the many grasses being evaluated or considered as biofuels, most are rhizomatous perennials and a few have already been shown to be extremely invasive in many communities (e.g., giant reed [*Arundo donax*] and reed canarygrass [*Phalaris arundinacea*]). Similarly, woody species under consideration, such as Chinese tallowtree (*Sapium sebiferum*), are also very invasive in many southern states. These species threaten riparian areas and wetlands, alter fire cycles, and have a negative impact on wildlife habitat.*

Ideally, plants used as an economically efficient source of biofuel should be easily propagated in highly managed agricultural systems, but should not be capable of surviving outside of such cultivation. This is true for nearly all of the major crops currently grown in the US, including rice, wheat, corn, soybean, cotton, tomato and alfalfa. Similar expectations should apply to biofuel crops. Without this expectation, the benefits of crop-based biofuel production may be offset by far greater economic and ecological damage caused by their invasion into sensitive natural ecosystems, as well as drainage and irrigation canals.

Although introducing some plant species as biofuel sources may be safe and beneficial to society, the environmental and ecological risks associated with their potential escape and invasion into natural systems must be evaluated along with the agronomic or economic benefits. Similar evaluations and analyses are already mandatory for biological control agents and transgenic plants, and should be in place before decisions are made regarding the use of biofuel plants.

8th National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week (NIWAW 8) a Success

Despite Mother Nature's attempt to thwart us, we had 170 people participate for the 8th National Invasive Weed Awareness Week. I would like to personally thank the outstanding efforts by Nelroy Jackson for helping coordinate and plan NIWAW activities. Also, many thanks to Jill Schroeder and Jeff Derr for traveling to Washington DC to participate in the weeks events and helping out with all the planning. Jeff Derr submitted the following comments to the WSSA Board of Directors. I have modified them slightly for the newsletter, but felt they very accurately reflect NIWAW! Thanks Jeff!

I wanted to update you on our activities in Washington D.C. during the 8th National Invasive Weed Awareness Week (NIWAW). We accomplished a lot during our time there!

First of all, the participants: Jill Schroeder and I formally represented the WSSA board during the week. Linda Nelson, John Madsen, Kurt Getsinger, Janet Clark, Mike Chandler, Al Tasker, Jen Vollmer, and George Beck also participated. Nelroy Jackson chaired the Invasive Weed Awareness Coalition (IWAC) that organized NIWAW and Lee Van Wychen organized our visits during the week, as well as helping Nelroy with meeting planning.

I would like to thank Nelroy and Lee for all their hard work on NIWAW. They both did a tremendous amount to prepare for the week, as well as ensuring that all events went smoothly. They also made sure that Jill, I, and WSSA were formally recognized during the various events. WSSA was mentioned frequently during the week, which was nice to see.

I thought I would let you know about the events in which Jill and I participated. We had an orientation session Sunday evening. Lee, Nelroy and I met with the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) board. They, as well as others during the week, expressed keen interest in the new journal. [Continued on page 8](#)

May 2007

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)

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Rita Beard
Celestine Duncan

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May 2007

On Monday morning, we heard presentations from the Army Corps of Engineers, the Nature Conservancy, the Council of Environmental Quality, and EPA, among others. What was amazing to me was that the EPA official, Debbie Edwards, specifically mentioned WSSA in her talk. That afternoon, Jill, Lee, John Jachetta, and I met with 12 EPA officials, including Debbie Edwards, Don Stubbs, John Leahy, and Bill Chism, among others, in regards to us providing assistance to them through a liaison, plus other possibilities. We heard about EPA's timeline for herbicide reregistration and registration review assessments. This was a productive meeting and I am sure we will follow up with further dialogue with EPA.

On Tuesday morning, we heard presentations from a variety of USDA agencies involved in invasive plant management, including APHIS, ARS, CSREES, and NRCS, among others. We had an opportunity to interact with Del Delfosse and John Lydon, among others. John and I discussed the possibility of ARS having their stakeholder/ARS planning meeting at the 2008 WSSA meeting (I had discussed this with some of you in San Antonio). Tuesday afternoon, Lee, Jill and I met staffers for Senators Domenici, Bingaman, and Webb. We presented 3 position papers (National Parks Service agreements with landowners, Salt Cedar, and Noxious Weed Control bills), along with a white paper on biofuels and invasive plants that was developed by Joe DiTomaso, Jodie Holt, and Nelroy.

Wednesday morning we heard reports from various agencies in the Department of the Interior. Jill, Lee and I met with Colien Hefferan, Administrator for CSREES. Rob Hedberg set up this meeting and sat in. Hefferan was very interested in our white paper on the biofuels/invasive plant issue. We had hoped to discuss NRI funding but did not have time. Wednesday afternoon we listened to reports from various non-government agencies, including the Nature Conservancy, Wildlife forever, Union of Concerned Scientists, and the State Depts. of Agriculture, among others.

Wednesday evening we had a reception at the US Botanic Garden with yours truly as m.c. for the awards presentation (Jill had the honor last year). George Beck was one of the awardees. About 240 people attended the reception, including 3 congressional staffers and members from a range of government agencies. Excellent place for a reception with time for informal discussions.

Thursday morning we heard presentations from FICMNEW (Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds), including APHIS, USGS, and DOT/FHWA. For lunch, Nelroy arranged for Jill, Lee, and me to meet with the Garden Club of America board. They are a large group and thus it would be good to partner with them wherever possible. Thursday afternoon included a briefing from the National Invasive Species Council, and there was a debriefing meeting run by Nelroy.

I feel we made some excellent contacts during our week in DC. I am sure we will discuss during the summer board meetings some of the ideas we talked about at NIWAW. I feel it was very worthwhile for Jill and I to participate in NIWAW and I think the time Nelroy and Lee devoted to this activity was time well spent.

Jeff Derr

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BASIC QUALIFICATIONS:

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- Experience in Extension work and design and establishment of demonstration plots is desirable.
- Ability to interpret and make practical application of current weed science research findings with county extension agents, agricultural producers, agribusiness, homeowners, and the general public.
- Ability to effectively interact, communicate and relate to people of all ages, incomes, education levels and ethnic backgrounds and development of informal and formal educational programs to meet their needs.

REPLY TO: Natalie Goldberg, Extension Plant Sciences Dept, NMSU, Box 30003, MSC 3AE, Las Cruces, NM 88003.
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