

NEWSS Update – February 2021

The 75th Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Weed Science Society (6th Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference or NEPPSC) was held Jan 4-6 as a virtual meeting through the platform “**Pathable**”. The meeting theme “**Opportunities for Mutual Learning: Pests and Pandemics**”. The regional ASHS (NR-ASHS) and the Tri-Society (NEB-SCA) participated this year along with NEWSS. Dr. Laura Meyerson, Univ. Rhode Island provided the keynote address on ‘**Invasion Biology and Restoration**’. The virtual platform made it possible to bring in speakers from UK and the California. Past-President Dr. Dan Kunkel provided presentation which encapsulated the **75-year History** of NEWSS at the meeting.

A total of 124 titles were submitted (compared to 126 in 2020) broken down as 19 Non-student and 4 Student Lightning Talks (comparable to 31 posters in 2020); Agronomic Crops - 27 (2020: 20); Fruit, Vegetable and Tree Crops - 24 (2020: 11); Turf & Ornamentals - 17 (2020: 22); and Veg Management and Restoration – 2. A total of 21 NEWSS Oral presentation were given at the Student Competition; NR-ASHS Oral Student Competition: 4; NE-SCA Oral Student Competition: 1 (2020- All societies:20). All presentations were recorded and will be made available to the meeting registrants through the conference website for a period of 1 year.

A total of 151 (161 in 2020) attendees registered for the conference generating a profit of \$10,000 for the conference. This included 116 NEWSS members.

The 2021 in-person Student Weed Contest has been cancelled; an alternative virtual format is currently being explored by the Executive Committee. In 2022, the society will meet at the Wyndham Gettysburg, in January 10-13. The NEWSS is working with WSSA to meet jointly at Arlington in 2023. Dr. Jacob Barney will serve as the Program Chair for NEWSS at that meeting.

The NEWSS will be launching a new initiative to support the development of effective writing skills for its member Graduate Students ‘**NEWSS Graduate Student Writing Contest**’ in 2021. The goals of this initiative are to encourage and recognize writing skills among graduate students. Selected entries will also be used to populate the NEWSS website. The contest will be funded through the NEWSS Endowment Fund with cash awards for 1st and 2nd place winners in PhD and MS categories, respectively. The Awards Committee will be appointed by the President; contest submission deadline is set for November 1, with awards announced at the following annual meeting in January. Submissions will be judged based on writing skill, originality/creativity, technical accuracy, thoroughness of the topic, and relevance to the Northeast.

NEWSS Executive Committee – 2021-‘22

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Wes Everman – Vice-President

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Rakesh Chandran – WSSA Representative

Respectfully submitted,
Rakesh Chandran, WSSA Representative