



WSSA

WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Volume 42, No. 2
April, 2014

Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a winter we are all having! The Northcentral, Northeast and even the South are in a near constant arctic freeze, while the West is experiencing record drought. However, at the beginning of February this year it was quite nice in the beautiful Canadian city of Vancouver. A little rain, a little sun, and only a little cold. So, considering how things were going everywhere else, we couldn't complain. By all accounts, the meeting went as well as the weather there. Working with the Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS) was truly a pleasure, actually a guilty one as they did so much of the work. There were about 500 participants registered for the meeting with 393 total presentations submitted. Of these, 238 were oral and 125 were poster presentations. In addition to giving awards to worthy recipients at the General Session, we had two special speakers. With the help of Eric Johnson, Hugh Beckie, and David Clements from the CWSS, the group was given a welcome to both Canada and the meeting by the Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon of British Columbia. This was a more formal beginning to our General Session than is typical, with bagpipes leading the way through a standing audience. Much to the surprise of those living south of the border, the Lt. Governor is considered a representative of Her Majesty The Queen of England. She takes precedence over all persons in the province except the Queen herself and the Prime Minister, though her responsibilities are primarily ceremonial and social. Interestingly, she is a rancher and has fought invasive plants, particularly spotted knapweed, for years. If you had the chance to say hello to her at the reception, she was a lovely person and hung in there despite fighting a terrible cold. In her position, she is appointed for five years and her appointment is based on her exceptional contribution to public service. So I can tell you, she has earned her title. After her introductory welcome, we were treated to Dr. Sam Chan from Oregon State University who discussed the aftermath of the Japanese

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**CALL FOR SYMPOSIA
2015 GUIDELINES**
(details inside on pages 3-4)

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tsunami and the subsequent movement of so many different marine organisms to North American shores. This included algae, crustaceans, fish and many other marine groups. At the end, Sam also taught us that dynamite is not a good solution to moving a dead whale off the beach. You had to be there to get that one.

The conference itself went off without any serious technical problems and there were many outstanding presenters. There were also four excellent symposia, including Tuesday afternoon's symposium on "Turf wars and the emergence of pesticide bans in Canada and the US" chaired by Jenny Kao-Kniffin, and two Wednesday afternoon symposia, one on the "Vulnerability of the Pacific Northwest to plant invasions" chaired by David Clements and the other on "Bio-herbicides: current status and the future prospects" co-chaired by Steve Duke and Franck Dayan. The fourth symposium on "Addressing global herbicide resistance issues; industry perspectives and initiatives" was held on Thursday morning and chaired by Mark Peterson.

As is always the case, the success of this meeting was largely due to the many people that worked behind the scenes. The CWSS, including David Clements, Hugh Beckie, and particularly Victoria Brooks along with her local arrangements committee, did much of the work. Victoria also organized a great winery tour on Sunday. Tim Miller once again took care of all our AV needs. We may have to put him on a permanent committee to do that every year. Joyce Lancaster, our Executive Secretary, was stellar as usual and always makes sure the program chairs get more credit than they deserve. Our new meeting management association with Kansas State University and Tony Ballard worked out great, particularly since it was our first year.

Next year's meeting will be held in Lexington, Kentucky, and the program chair and President-Elect is Dallas Peterson. Unlike the past two years, this is not a joint meeting. See the announcement for symposia proposals that Dallas has written in this newsletter. Dallas also is looking into having an app for the meeting next year, which should be exciting for all us smart phone users. Kevin Bradley, the Vice-President, has sent out a survey and this will be used in future planning, as well as Board of Director actions on society directions with various technologies.

As seems to always be the case with the WSSA Board of Directors, there are many new things to discuss. First and most importantly, the society had a great year financially. We are in solid financial position, which allows us to continue to develop new initiatives and increase our visibility and influence. On the logistical changes, we have a new Newsletter Editor, Elizabeth Simpson, and in fact this is her first newsletter in this position. We also have a new Director of Publications in Sarah Ward. Jim Anderson was an outstanding Director and Sarah promises to also be a perfect fit for the position. As most of you know, Mike Barrett has taken over for the big shoes (figuratively speaking only) left by Jill Schroeder as the WSSA EPA subject matter expert. The Board also approved, through the leadership of Mike Barrett, a second expert to serve as a NIFA Fellow in Washington, DC. We are in the process of advertising for that position and it should be filled later this year.

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WSSA FUTURE MEETING SITES AND DATES

February 9–12, 2015
55th Annual Meeting
Hilton Lexington Downtown
and Lexington Convention
Center
Lexington, Kentucky
Dallas Peterson, Chair
Email: dpeterson@ksu.edu
Phone: 785-532-0405

2016
San Juan, Puerto Rico

2017
Tucson, Arizona

**WSSA HOME PAGE
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www.wssa.net

THINK NEWSLETTER

Deadline for July issue
June 1, 2014

WSSA NEWSLETTER

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CALL FOR SYMPOSIA

2015 Annual Meeting of the WSSA

55th Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America Hilton Lexington Downtown and Lexington Convention Center Lexington, Kentucky • February 9–12, 2015

WSSA members are invited to submit proposals for symposia at the 55th Annual Meeting to be held in Lexington, Kentucky on February 9–12, 2015. As you prepare your proposal, realize that the Board of Directors will have the difficult task of deciding which proposals to accept for the program. The WSSA board will evaluate the proposed symposia based on how well they are justified, the target audience, and the completeness of the proposal agenda and budget. For a half-day symposium, the maximum allowable budget will be \$5000, of which up to \$1000 can be used for symposium publication costs, provided they are published in a WSSA journal. For a full-day symposium, the maximum allowable budget will be \$6000, of which up to \$2000 can be used for symposium publication costs. Full day symposia may not be feasible depending on the number of oral papers and room limitations, so please also indicate how a full day symposium might be condensed into a half-day program. Symposia organizers are strongly urged to consider publication of the symposium papers in one of the WSSA's journals. Publication of the symposium will be one of the factors considered in selecting symposia for the meeting. Organizers should make it clear to invited speakers that a publication is required if that is the organizers' intent. Chairs should also determine which authors will receive page waivers. Typically, this is reserved for invitations to non-WSSA members. Make sure that all authors are aware of page fees.

Please see the guidelines listed below for symposia funding from WSSA. Requests for travel support can be made for non-members only. Room rates at the Hilton Lexington Downtown will be \$156 plus tax. Please estimate travel and lodging costs for invited speakers. **Symposium proposals can be e-mailed directly to Dallas Peterson (dpeterson@ksu.edu) and are due June 1, 2014. If you have any questions, feel free to email or give me a call (785-532-0405).**

SYMPOSIUM PROPOSAL

2015 Annual WSSA Meeting

Lexington, Kentucky

Outline of the Proposal:

Title:

Organizers:

Contact Person: Phone: Email:

Justification and Objectives (approximately 300 words):

Target Audience:

Associated Section(s):

Length of Proposed Program:

Proposed Titles and Speakers:

Budget Requested: (Please specify to the extent possible the expenditure of the funds as opposed to submitting an overall amount. The more detailed the budget, the better the WSSA Board of Directors can evaluate the proposal.)

GUIDELINES FOR DISPOSITION OF WSSA FUNDS FOR SYMPOSIA EXPENSES

Funds are available to support symposia approved by the WSSA Board of Directors for the upcoming meeting. These funds can be used by the symposium organizers, working in conjunction with the Program Chair, for expenses incurred in securing speakers. The following guidelines are intended to help the symposia organizers and the Program Chairs in allocating available funds. For a half-day symposium, the maximum allowable budget will be \$5000 of which up to \$1000 can be used for symposium publication costs (\$6000 with \$2000 for publication costs for full day symposium).

Although funds have been budgeted for the symposia, the goal is to spend the least amount necessary to obtain excellent symposia speakers. The funds will be allocated as necessary to partially cover travel expenses of speakers. Members of WSSA who agree to present symposium papers **will not** be offered travel funds except in dire emergencies to be determined by the Program Chairs. An example of such a circumstance would be a WSSA member who is a renowned expert in the field of the symposium topic but who has no source of funds to attend the annual meeting in question.

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CALL FOR SYMPOSIA CONTINUED from pg 3

No honoraria will be offered to any speaker. No more than three nights' lodging will be offered to non-member symposium speakers. All symposium speakers who are not members of WSSA will be offered free registration at the annual meeting and a free ticket to society events (other than tours) during that week. Funds for reimbursement of some, or all, travel expenses (travel, meals, and lodging) will be made available to non-member symposium speakers on the basis of need, availability of funds, and the value of the speakers to the program. Funds can only be used to pay for speaker travel expenses. If less than the maximum allowable funds (\$5000 and \$6000 for the half-day and full-day symposia, respectively) are used for speaker travel expenses, the difference cannot be used for other purposes.

Symposium organizers need to consider travel costs when considering invitations to speakers located far from the meeting site. Whereas international speakers who are experts in the field of the symposium topic might receive a higher priority for expenses than domestic speakers, the cost of travel and needs of the individuals should be more important considerations. For example, a Canadian speaker traveling from Ontario to New York might incur lower costs and have a lesser need for funding than a California speaker also traveling to New York. Because of the limited budget for symposia expenses and the high cost of travel for many

international speakers, symposium organizers should strongly weigh the value of international speakers unless other arrangements for funding their travel can be made.

Symposia chairs should contact their intended speakers and determine their financial needs for participation no later than May 1. This information should be incorporated into the budget for the proposed symposium. Symposium proposals must be submitted to the Program Chairs by June 1. The WSSA Board of Directors will evaluate the submitted proposals and decide which symposia will be approved and funded. The Program Chair will inform the organizers of the symposia selected for funding. Symposium organizers that receive funding can then proceed with offers of funding to non-member speakers. In no event should symposium organizers make commitments for more funding from WSSA than is approved by the board. Symposium organizers are free to seek additional or alternate funding sources if symposia budget limits are insufficient to cover all of the travel expenses for non-member speakers. Symposia organizers should seriously consider publication of symposium papers in *Weed Science*, *Weed Technology* or *Invasive Plant Science Management*.

Dallas Peterson, 2015 Program Co-Chair
WSSA President-Elect

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED from pg 2

Among the other new items of the society, the Board of WSSA and all the regional societies, as well as the Aquatic Plant Management Society, approved a letter that was sent to EPA outlining our recommendations on mode of action labeling for herbicides. In addition, all the societies approved and signed a letter sent to USDA ARS which emphasized the importance of weed science as they develop their five-year priority plan. We plan to visit the new Research Leader in April or May to discuss the issues related to Weed Science in the US. Thanks to the leadership of Dale Shaner, in 2014 the new *Herbicide Handbook* (10th edition) will be out in print. We expect that to

occur by summer. Eventually we will also have an electronic version available, but this will be a bit after the hard copies are printed. You should see an advertisement for the *Herbicide Handbook* in the next few months. The Board also approved of a new committee called the Past President's Corner that will document the experiences of past presidents and record in perpetuity their thoughts and issues that presented themselves during their terms. For the first time next year, in Lexington, there will be a graduate student poster contest. This is currently being organized by the students. And finally, we will be presenting one additional award at

future WSSA meetings starting next year. The Board approved of an award called the Weed Science Public Service award which will be presented to a member that goes above their responsibility to educate or reach out to regulators, legislators, government agencies, media, trade groups, or other non-traditional clientele. You will hear more about this later.

In parting, I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President. It is an honor and promises to be a very exciting year. Should you have any concerns or ideas, please do not hesitate to discuss them with me.

Joe DiTomaso
President, WSSA

Call for Program Proposals

8th INTERNATIONAL IPM SYMPOSIUM

“IPM — Solutions for a Changing World” is the theme of the **8th International IPM Symposium** to be held **March 23–26, 2015** in Salt Lake City, Utah USA at the Salt Palace Convention Center. You are invited to submit a proposal for a session describing your program, activity, or research that addresses effective and efficient pest management. The symposium sessions will be divided into tracks based on commodity or setting and will address various aspects of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) across disciplines and around the world.

<http://ipmcenters.org/ipmsymposium15>

Sessions will be organized by these tracks, although others will be considered.

- Fruit & Nut Crops
- Rangeland/Livestock/Pastures/Turf and Sod/Natural Landscapes/Forestry
- Row/Agronomic Crops/Field Crops
- Specialty Crops: Nursery, Greenhouse, Hydroponic, Ornamental
- Urban/Structural/Landscape/School/Public Health
- Vegetable Crops

Priority will be given to submissions that address these aspects of IPM within the six tracks, although others will be considered.

- Breakthroughs in new pesticides, biocontrol agents and biopesticides
- Decision-making technology
- Funding and policy issues
- IPM from a global perspective
- IPM challenges and successes
- IPM partnerships
- Leading through education and outreach
- New tools for the IPM toolbox
- Organic and sustainable pest management
- Invasive and new problem species (plants, insects, diseases, etc.)
- Regulatory updates
- Techniques to increase IPM adoption

Sessions will be organized in 1-hour time blocks. Organizers may submit sessions that take more than 1 hour, but must accommodate a 15-minute break after each 1 hour segment.

We are planning two types of session formats for the program.

- Mini-symposia should have a broad interest with estimated audiences of 75–100 people.
- Roundtable discussions/workshops will likely be topic specific, maybe involving hands-on activities, attracting 20–30 attendees.

Session abstracts should be limited to 250 words.

Session proposals must be submitted online by **April 25, 2014** for full consideration. Here is the online form: www.regonline.com/IPMproposals

The number of each type of session will be limited due to space and time constraints. The program planning committee will review all proposals and try to accommodate as many as possible.

As at past symposia, limited “Program Enhancement” funds for speaker support are anticipated. Preference will be given to speakers who would not normally attend the event. Details about requests for these funds will be made available after the proposals have been submitted.

This is a call for oral presentations; a call for poster submissions will be announced later this year.

Contact Elaine Wolff, wolff1@illinois.edu, to learn more about attending, exhibiting at or contributing to the Symposium.

<http://ipmcenters.org/ipmsymposium15>

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New Fellows

WSSA presented the Fellow award – its highest recognition – to:

James V. Anderson, Ph.D., a researcher with the USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS). Anderson is best known for developing genomics programs for perennial weeds. His research accomplishments have been documented in 90 published articles and 128 abstracts. At ARS, Anderson created guidelines for scientists working with invasive plants. He also developed an Interagency Research Coordination Workshop to address pest invasions, fire-prone environments and restoration. His long-standing involvement with WSSA includes serving on the executive committee.



Thomas C. Mueller, Ph.D., a professor of plant sciences at the University of Tennessee. Mueller is known for two primary research areas: the environmental fate of herbicides in soils and herbicide-resistant weeds. He has published more than 100 refereed articles and has served on an EPA Scientific Advisory Board. He is former president of the Southern Weed Science Society. Mueller has for *Weed Science* and *Weed Technology*.



Peter H. Sikkema, Ph.D., a professor at the University of Guelph. Sikkema focuses on weed management in field crops. He has published 182 peer-reviewed manuscripts and authored or coauthored 86 oral presentations



and 97 poster presentations for scientific conferences. He has served on the boards of WSSA, the Canadian Weed Science Society and the North Central Weed Science Society. He also has served as president of the Canadian Weed Science Society. Sikkema has received numerous awards for his contributions to teaching and to the field of weed science.



Outstanding Extension Award

WSSA honored **Russell R. Hahn, Ph.D.**, a member of the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at Cornell University. Hahn is responsible for field crop weed science extension and applied research in New York State. He has been recognized for his extension outreach efforts by the New York State Association of County Agricultural Agents. He also received the 2013 College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Research and Extension Award for Outstanding Accomplishments in Extension/Outreach. Hahn is a past president of the Northeast Weed Science Society and is a WSSA Fellow. (Not present for picture)



Outstanding Research Award

WSSA honored **K. Neil Harker, Ph.D.**, part of the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada team at Lacombe, AB. Harker has studied the impact of herbicides on weeds and crop yields, weed biology and the impact of adjuvants on herbicide activity. His current research focuses on integrated weed management, competitive crop stands, production and sustainability of canola and barley, weed interactions with insects, and cropping system impacts on soil microorganisms. Harker has published 166 refereed journal articles and 12 book chapters. He is a WSSA Fellow.



Outstanding Graduate Student Award

WSSA honored **Erin Haramoto**, a Ph.D. candidate at Michigan State University. Haramoto's research focuses on weed population dynamics, nitrogen loss and profitability in strip-tilled vegetable systems. She has authored or co-authored 10 publications in refereed journals and has presented her research at 10 conferences. She also has given many extension talks during field days and grower meetings. Haramoto has worked as a teaching assistant and as a guest lecturer on weed management. She now is helping to organize an annual Plant Science Graduate Student Research Symposium.



Outstanding Teacher Award

WSSA honored **Peter Dotray**, Ph.D., a professor and extension weed specialist with three organizations: Texas Tech University, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service – Lubbock. Dotray teaches graduate and undergraduate courses, conducts weed control research in crops and serves as an extension weed specialist for 20 counties on the Texas Southern High Plains. He also has served as an advisor for 33 graduate students. He has given 84 presentations at professional meetings and conducted 631 seminars and presentations at grower meetings. He also has authored or co-authored 573 abstracts and proceedings, articles and book chapters.



Outstanding Early Career Weed Scientist

WSSA honored **Bradley D. Hanson**, Ph.D., a cooperative extension specialist at the University of California at Davis. His statewide research and extension program focuses on weed management in orchards and vineyards, management and physiology of herbicide-resistant weeds, and methyl bromide alternative soil fumigants in nursery and orchard systems. While earning his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees, Hanson researched herbicidal weed control and crop safety in dryland cereal/legume farming systems and the risks of gene flow from herbicide-resistant wheat.



Outstanding Industry Award

WSSA honored **Carol Somody**, Ph.D., a pesticide stewardship and safety education manager at Syngenta. Somody is responsible for programs in pesticide stewardship and safety education, integrated pest management and resistance management. She has served on the WSSA Public Awareness Committee since its formation in 2007, most recently as committee chair. She currently co-leads the National Stakeholder Team for Pesticide Safety Education Program Funding. She also is industry coordinator of the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship (PES) website and serves on the Board of the Pesticide Safety Education Program Improvement and Modernization Initiative (PSEP IMI).

(Not present for picture)

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Outstanding Reviewer Awards

WSSA honored the following individuals for their review of scientific papers:

Prashant Jha, Ph.D., an assistant professor of weed science at Montana State University's Southern Agricultural Research Center. His research on Integrated Weed Management strategies for dryland and irrigated cropping systems emphasizes weed biology and ecophysiology, weed seed bank dynamics, molecular mechanisms of herbicide resistance in weeds, and development of alternative herbicide systems and integrated tools to combat herbicide resistance.



Dale Shaner, Ph.D., an industry consultant. Shaner previously worked for the USDA's Agricultural Research Service and in private industry. He was instrumental in discovering the mode of action of the imidazolinones. He has been an active voice in herbicide resistance management for ALS inhibitors and glyphosate – helping to establish the Herbicide Resistance Action Committee, which he also chaired. Shaner is a Fellow, former board member and former president of WSSA.

Honorary Member Award

WSSA honored **Per Kudsk**, Ph.D., of Aarhus University in Denmark – a professor, head of Crop Health and deputy head of the Department of Agroecology. Trained as a weed scientist, Kudsk is actively involved in both national and international research projects on integrated weed management. He represents Denmark on the European Plant Protection Council Working Party on Plant Protection Products and on the OECD Expert Group on integrated pest management. In 2012 he chaired the Scientific Committee of the International Weed Science Congress in China. He is a former president of the European Weed Research Society and a member of the editorial boards of the journals *Weed Research*, *Pest Management Science* and *Journal of Plant Protection Research*. He also is member of the Danish Strategic Research Council's Food, Health and Welfare program committee.



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WASHINGTON REPORT

by Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

2014 FARM BILL BECOMES LAW

After more than two years of negotiating and two extensions of the 2008 Farm Bill, the President signed a new Farm Bill into law on Feb. 7. Led by the “Four Principals” – Agriculture Committee Chairs Senator Debbie Stabenow (MI) and Congressman Frank Lucas (OK), and Ranking Members Senator Thad Cochran (MS) and Congressman Collin Peterson (MN), the new law is largely seen as a victory for research, education, and extension. Most notably, the Research Title of the Farm Bill creates a new nonprofit foundation, the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR), that is intended to complement—not replace—USDA’s research, education, extension, and economics activities conducted mainly by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and the Economic Research Service (ERS).

FFAR is modeled after existing Foundations that were established to leverage private funding such as the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. FFAR will have \$200 million in mandatory funding as a match to solicit private donations for additional research on plant health; animal health; food safety and nutrition; renewable energy, natural resources and environment; agricultural and food security; technology; and agricultural economics and rural communities. FFAR will be led by a Board of Directors comprised of 15 members, of which eight will be recommended by the National Science Foundation and seven by industry. All 15 members will be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture and four other ex-officio Agency scientists. This public-private partnership represented by FFAR could be very benefi-

cial for advancing weed management research and innovation.

Another highlight from the Research Title in the new farm bill is that it provides \$80 million per year for the Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) and \$20 million per year for the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI). These programs have been stranded without funding since 2012. The new funding levels are significant increases for both programs compared to the 2008 Farm Bill levels. In addition, the new funding that is authorized for SCRI is permanent funding.

Unfortunately, there were a couple issues that didn’t go quite the way we would have liked them, too. One was a House provision that will require non-governmental organizations and private research institutions to provide a 100% match on all competitive research grants. However, the land grant universities are exempt from this matching funds requirement.

The biggest disappointment is that Sen. Stabenow did not allow inclusion of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) fix language that was in the House version of the Farm Bill. There was strong bipartisan support for this language in both houses of Congress that would have clarified Congress’s intent for the regulation of pesticides applied to or near water. As you know, all pesticides are regulated through FIFRA, including sites to which pesticides can be applied. However, in 2009, a three judge U.S. Circuit Court panel ruled that pesticide applications to or near waters required additional processing under the Clean Water Act, NPDES permits. These permits impose additional resource and liability burdens on small businesses, farms, municipalities, state agencies, and federal agencies. The National and Regional

Weed Science Societies have supported a legislative fix for this issue since the Circuit Court ruling and will continue to support efforts to resolve this issue going forward.

Last, but not least, I wanted to put in a reminder about the noxious weed control provision in the Commodity Title that has been in effect since the 2002 Farm Bill. In order for farmers to receive payments under the Commodity Title, the farmers shall agree...“to effectively control noxious weeds and otherwise maintain the land in accordance with sound agricultural practices, as determined by the Secretary.” The provision is part of the “Producer Agreements” section that also discusses conservation compliance for Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have primary responsibility for enforcing these requirements. Having to “effectively control noxious weeds” and maintain conservation compliance is a pretty fair tradeoff, in my opinion, for the taxpayer subsidies that cover about 60 percent of the cost of each crop insurance premium.

JACOBS-YOUNG NAMED NEW ARS ADMINISTRATOR



On Feb. 24, Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young was named Administrator for the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) by USDA’s Chief Scientist, Dr. Cathy Woteki. Dr. Jacobs-Young recently served as ARS Associate Administrator for National Programs, where she led the Office of National Programs which manages the research objectives of the Agency.

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Prior to moving into her role at ARS, she served as the Director of the Office of the Chief Scientist at USDA as well serving as the Acting Director for USDA-NIFA.

Dr. Jacobs-Young is a native of Georgia. She holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Wood and Paper Science and a B.S. degree in Pulp and Paper Science and Technology from North Carolina State University. She also is a graduate of American University's Executive Leadership in Public Policy Implementation Program.

EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON DRAFT GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS FOR EVALUATING SPRAY DRIFT

EPA announced the availability of two draft guidance documents for public comment. These documents describe how off-site spray drift will be evaluated for ecological and human health risk assessments for pesticides. The January 29, 2014, Federal Register Notice specifically seeks public input on approaches that include:

- a policy for conducting human health risk assessments associated with the potential for exposure from off-site drift during pesticide applications and
- an updated method for estimating environmental exposures associated with spray drift.

The 60-day public comment period will close on March 31, 2014. For details and to submit comments, please go to:

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0676-0001>

EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON NEW WORKER PROTECTION STANDARDS

New proposed rules meant to safeguard farm workers from pesticide exposure were announced Feb. 20 by EPA. The proposed regulations are the first updating of its Worker Protection Standard (WPS) in 20 years. Proposed changes to the WPS include:

- Increased frequency of mandatory trainings (from once every five years to annually) to inform farm workers about the protections they are afforded under the law, including restrictions on entering pesticide-treated fields and surrounding areas, decontamination supplies, access to information and use of personal protective equipment. Expanded trainings will include instructions to reduce take-home exposure from pesticides on work clothing and other safety topics.
- Expanded mandatory posting of no-entry signs for the most hazardous pesticides; the signs prohibit entry into pesticide-treated fields until residues decline to a safe level.
- First time-ever minimum age requirement: Children under 16 will be prohibited from handling pesticides, with an exemption for family farms.
- No-entry buffer areas surrounding pesticide-treated fields will protect workers and others from exposure from pesticide overspray and fumes.
- Measures to improve the states' ability to enforce compliance including requiring employers to keep records of application-specific pesticide information as well as farm worker training and early-entry notification for two years.
- Personal Protection Equipment (respirator use) must be consistent with the Occupational Safety & Health Administration standards for ensuring respirators are providing protection, including fit test, medical evaluation, and training.
- Make available to farm workers or their advocates (including medical personnel) information specific to the pesticide application, including the pesticide label and Safety Data Sheets.
- Additional changes make the rule more practical and easier to comply with for farmers.
- Continues the exemptions for family farms.

For details and to submit comments, please go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/safety/workers/proposed/index.html>

DROUGHT FORECASTING PROGRAM REAUTHORIZED

The House and Senate expeditiously passed legislation and the President signed into law (P.L. 113-86) a measure that reauthorizes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's system for monitoring and forecasting droughts nationwide. P.L. 113-86 authorizes \$13.5 million for the National Integrated Drought Information System each year from fiscal 2014 through 2018. The program was authorized at \$16 million in fiscal 2012, which is when its funding expired. The measure specifies which agencies should be consulted for the National Integrated Drought Information System's forecasts. It also would require the system to monitor the effects of droughts, including on water supplies and soil moisture, and to coordinate federal, state, regional, public, private and academic early-warning research.

SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES SEVEN REGIONAL CLIMATE HUBS

On Feb. 5, USDA Secretary Vilsack announced the creation of the first ever Regional Hubs for Risk Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change at seven locations around the country. "Climate Hubs" will address increasing risks such as fires, invasive pests, devastating floods, and crippling droughts on a regional basis, aiming to translate science and research into information to farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners on ways to adapt and adjust their resource management. Vilsack said, "USDA's Climate Hubs are part of our broad commitment to developing the next generation of climate solutions, so that our agricultural leaders have the modern tech-

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nologies and tools they need to adapt and succeed in the face of a changing climate.”

The Hubs will provide outreach and information to producers on ways to mitigate risks; public education about the risks climate change poses to agriculture, rangelands and forests; regional climate risk and vulnerability assessments; and centers of climate forecast data and information. They will also link a broad network of partners participating in climate risk adaptation and mitigation, including universities; non-governmental organizations; federal agencies such as the Department of Interior and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Native Nations and organizations; state departments of environment and agriculture; research centers; farm groups and more.

The Hubs were chosen through a competitive process among USDA facilities. In addition to the seven Hubs, USDA is designating three Subsidiary Hubs (“Sub Hubs”) that will function within the Southeast, Midwest, and Southwest. The Sub Hubs will support the Hub within their

region and focus on a narrow and unique set of issues relative to what will be going on in the rest of the Hub. The Southwest Sub Hub, located in Davis, California, will focus on specialty crops and Southwest forests, the Southeast Sub Hub will address issues important to the Caribbean, and the Midwest Sub Hub will address climate change and Lake State forests.

The following locations have been selected to serve as their region’s center of climate change information and outreach to mitigate risks to the agricultural sector:

- **Midwest:** National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment, Agricultural Research Service, Ames, Iowa
- Midwest Sub-Hub in Houghton, Michigan
- **Northeast:** Northern Research Station, Forest Service, Durham, New Hampshire
- **Southeast:** Southern Research Station, Forest Service, Raleigh, North Carolina
- Southeast Sub-Hub in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico

- **Northern Plains:** National Resources Center, Agricultural Research Service, Fort Collins, Colorado
- **Southern Plains:** Grazinglands Research Lab, Agricultural Research Service, El Reno, Oklahoma
- **Pacific Northwest:** Pacific Northwest Research Station, Forest Service, Corvallis, Oregon
- **Southwest:** Rangeland Management Unit/Jornada Experimental Range, Agricultural Research Service, Las Cruces, New Mexico
- Southwest Sub-Hub in Davis, California

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Regarding: Society reimbursements, committee activities, membership reports, list rental requests

Tony Ballard, Meeting Manager

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Regarding: WSSA annual meeting

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Regarding: Reviewer questions

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Call for Applications for the WSSA Fellow Position

The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) is seeking a qualified individual to serve as a liaison between WSSA members and the [National Institute for Food and Agriculture](#) (NIFA), a science agency of the United States Department of Agriculture. The WSSA Fellow will serve as a weed science resource for NIFA on a wide range of topics such as current weed management practices, integrated pest management, herbicide resistance management, weed biology and ecology, invasive plants, and the role of weed control in land management. The Fellow will work collaboratively with technical staff located in NIFA's Institute of Bioenergy, Climate and Environment and Institute of Food Production and Sustainability. It is expected that the Fellow will become familiar with NIFA policies and procedures, and develop a basic understanding of how the agency establishes funding priorities.

Ideally, the WSSA Fellow will relocate to Washington, D.C., full-time for 6–12 months, but other arrangements will be considered. WSSA will provide a stipend of up to \$25,000 per year for travel and living expenses while working in Washington, D.C. The Fellow must be a member of WSSA and will be required to prepare a quarterly report for the WSSA Board of Directors and for posting on the society's website. Applicants are expected to work with their employer to obtain approval to serve in this volunteer capacity as part of their responsibilities or under other arrangements such as a sabbatical.

The application period will end on May 1, 2014. Ideally, the individual selected would be able to start July 1, 2014, but this is negotiable.

Please send a letter of intent and resume by email to: Lee Van Wychen at Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net. If you have questions, please contact Lee, WSSA President Joe Dito-maso at jmditomaso@ucdavis.edu or Mike Barrett at mbarrett@uky.edu.

THINK NEWSLETTER
Deadline for July issue
June 1, 2014

Northeastern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting Report

Todd Mervosh, NEWSS Public Relations Representative

The Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS) held its 68th Annual Meeting from January 6th to 9th, 2014 at the Sheraton Society Hill in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. About 170 people attended the conference. NEWSS Past President Antonio DiTommaso of Cornell University presided over the NEWSS Awards Program in which the following members were honored: Dr. Renee Keese (currently with BASF Corp.) was presented with the NEWSS Fellow Award; Dr. Russell Hahn (Cornell Univ.) received the Award of Merit; Dr. Charles Mohler (Cornell Univ.) was recipient of the Outstanding Researcher Award; Dr. David Mortensen (Penn State Univ.) received the Outstanding Educator Award; Barbara Scott (Univ. of Delaware) was presented with the M. Garry Schnappinger Service Recognition Award; and Katherine Ghantous (Univ. of Massachusetts) was honored as the Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Graduate Student at the Ph.D. level.

Twenty-two students presented talks on their research as part of the NEWSS Graduate Student Paper Contest. The following students were recognized for their outstanding oral presentations: 1st Place award to Matthew Elmore (Univ. of Tennessee), 2nd Place award to Clair Keene (Penn State), and Honorable Mention to Kelly Patches (Penn State). Fourteen students presented research posters in the NEWSS Student Poster Contest: Bryan Hicks (North Carolina State Univ.) was awarded 1st Place, and Michael Cox (Virginia Tech) and Zachary Taylor (North Carolina State) tied for 2nd Place for their posters. Photo Contest awards were presented to: Art Gover, 1st Place; Bill Curran, 2nd Place; and Jennifer Cote, 3rd Place.

At the NEWSS Business Meeting, President Dwight Lingenfelter of Penn State presented his Presidential Address "Has It Been 20 Years Already?" Later in the meeting, Dwight passed the gavel to incoming President Gregory Armel of BASF Corp. Rakesh Chandran (West Virginia Univ.) moved up to the President-Elect position, and Shawn Askew (Virginia Tech) was elected by the membership as the new Vice President. The NEWSS Collegiate Weed Science Contest in 2014 will be held at the Penn State research farm near State College, PA on July 28 and 29. Plans are being made for the 69th Annual Meeting of NEWSS to be held January 5–8, 2015, at the Williamsburg Lodge in Williamsburg, Virginia.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS



VICE PRESIDENT, PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

NewLeaf Symbiotics is seeking to hire a St. Louis-based senior level scientist to report directly to the CEO. The successful candidate will possess the following skills and background:

- PhD in an agricultural life science discipline such as Agronomy, Entomology, Plant Pathology, or similar is strongly preferred.
- Minimum of five years experience designing, managing and executing field research on broad acre crops, with a thorough knowledge of broad acre crop production systems. A concurrent experience with greenhouse vegetable production is a plus. Experience and knowledge developing agricultural microbial products will be highly valued.
- A working knowledge and experience in statistics and experimental design, and fluency in statistical packages such as SAS or JMP is a must, as is the ability to interpret and coherently summarize scientific and field data and information.
- Creative and a quick study, flexible, strong quantitative skill set, self-starter, takes initiative, results oriented, team player, outgoing with very strong people/interpersonal skills and ability to work in both commercial and academic settings. This is a “doer” job, rather than a “delegator”.
- Must be comfortable with heavy travel schedule and a high-energy, dynamic environment that characterizes a rapidly growing, entrepreneurial venture-backed company.

Job Description

This is a St. Louis-based senior level position reporting to the CEO and responsible to contribute to the for-

mation of, and execute, the strategic plan for the development and commercialization of products based upon PPFM technology for targeted launch milestones. This is a hands-on job encompassing all aspects of product development for seed treatments and foliar sprays containing living bio-active PPFM bacterial compounds. The position will work closely with all departments and levels of NewLeaf Symbiotics, as well as highly skilled business development, agronomic, legal, and regulatory consultants retained by the company. The ability to effectively collaborate and communicate in a dynamic environment is crucial to success in this job.

Responsibilities will include all aspects of greenhouse and field-testing with cooperators, including design, implementation, management, quality control, data collection and analysis, and the reporting and

effective communication of results. The company plans to introduce commercial products beginning in 2014–15. The successful candidate must have demonstrated experience leading research efforts with internal and external technical collaborators in the statistical design, implementation, and data analysis of both efficacy and regulatory field studies in targeted geographic areas. He or she will design and manage rigorous and statistically robust field efficacy programs to validate initial findings, and determine optimal rates, formulations, and application timings of best performing product candidates, within budgetary guidelines, and will also prepare written and verbal reports and scientific data summaries as needed.

Salary and Benefits

This position will include a competitive salary and performance bonuses, along with stock options and standard company benefits. A relocation package is included as appropriate.

About NewLeaf Symbiotics

NewLeaf is a venture-backed agricultural biotech company based in St. Louis, Missouri at the BRDG facility, co-located with the Donald Danforth Plant Sciences Center. The Company raised its \$7MM series A finance in January 2013 from three venture capital funds. It is commercializing a family of beneficial plant-associated bacteria and is a leading player in the rapidly growing biologicals space. At its lab in St. Louis, NewLeaf conducts basic research and product development on PPFM bacteria. In December 2013 it announced the acquisition of Intuitive Genomics, a leading creator of custom bioinformatics solutions for plant science. The Company plans initial product sales in late 2014. Visit NewLeaf Symbiotics at:

www.newleafsymbiotics.com

WSSA HOME PAGE
ACCESSED AT:
www.wssa.net

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Deadline for July issue
June 1, 2014



NECROLOGY

STEPHEN E. HART **1964 – 2014**

On February 18, Stephen E. Hart passed away suddenly at his home in East Brunswick, New Jersey. Born April 9, 1964, to Laurence and Clare (Dukehart) Hart in Baltimore, Maryland, Stephen graduated from Salesianum High School in Wilmington, Delaware. He went on to earn a Bachelors degree and a Masters degree in Agronomy from the University of Maryland and a Doctoral degree in Weed Science from Michigan State University, specializing in field crops. After graduation, Stephen worked as a Research Biologist in the Herbicide Discovery Group at FMC for several years before joining the faculty at the University of Illinois where he conducted research, taught graduate and undergraduate courses, and assisted farmers in the area of chemical and cultural weed management of agronomic crops. Stephen joined the faculty in the Dept. of Plant Biology and Pathology at Rutgers University in 1999 as an Extension Specialist in Turfgrass and Ornamental Weed Science. He was a mentor to many graduate students, all of whom are now in respected positions in academia and private industry, taught an undergraduate class in Principles of Weed Science for many years, and had extension responsibilities in turf and ornamentals in New Jersey as well as field crops in Delaware. Stephen was an avid follower of college football and loved to root for the Michigan State Spartans.

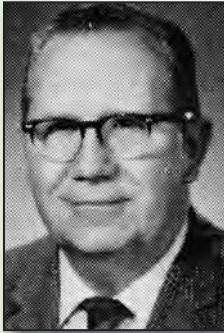
He is survived by two brothers, David of New Freedom, PA, and Richard of Fredericksburg, VA, two nieces Laura Hart and Kaitlyn Hart, and two nephews Alex Hart and Michael Hart. A brother Laurence Jr. passed away in 2012. A funeral mass will be held at St. Mary's of the Assumption Church, 5502 York Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21212 at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 28. Participants are invited to a reception following the service. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent to the Rutgers Foundation ("IMO Stephen Hart – Turf Weed Sci. Program" in the memo section of the check), c/o Dr. Bruce Clarke, Dept. of Plant Biology and Pathology, Rutgers University, 59 Dudley Road, Foran Hall, New Brunswick, NJ 08901.





NECROLOGY

ROBERT D. (Bob) SWEET **January 30, 2014**



Bob Sweet died Thursday night, January 30, 2014, at his residence in Jacksonville, NY. Bob and Virginia, his wife of 62 years, had resided on Slaterville Road for most of their 70 years in Ithaca. Bob touched the lives of many folks in the community. Bob was known for telling stories and having a sense of humor. His stories often began with his passion – sharing a lifetime of experiences growing vegetables in NYS. As an emeritus of Cornell Horticulture Department, Bob went to the office weekly. He looked forward to checking in with colleagues, and picking up professional journals and papers with new scientific information. In particular, Bob was enthusiastic about research to support sustainable agriculture. Bob pondered new ideas. He spent time reading about, listening to, and considering all sides of an issue before coming to any conclusions. He often expressed his understanding of the facts, as well as his concerns, in letters to the editor of the Ithaca Journal. Bob credits his lifelong learning and thoughtful approach to issues to his parents, who operated a farm in northern Ohio. As a member of the Kiwanis Club of Ithaca for over 50 years, Bob participated in fundraising projects to support the Kiwanis community projects. Bob's long tenure with the club provided a sense of local history as well as an incentive to keep current with local club goals and projects. Bob remained an active member of the St. Paul's Methodist Church congregation from the mid-thirties until now. He enjoyed arriving early and having some quiet time to pause and appreciate life. After Virginia died, he found the quarterly gathering of seniors for a luncheon was a welcome social event. Throughout Bob's life he has been an avid reader. Part of Bob's calendar included frequent visits to the Trumansburg and Ithaca Public Libraries. His morning read of the Ithaca Journal kept him current on community issues. Bob always had stories for his family. His daughters and grandchildren alike remember stories of Bob's and Virginia's fishing trips to Florida, and their visits to vegetable production regions of other countries. Often Bob would share details of his annual building projects at the Slaterville Road home. Bob enjoyed growing and sharing bouquets from his extensive gladiolus plantings. To the end, Bob remained fond of his homemade blackberry jam at breakfast while he watched the fields for animals and birds. He always read nature's morning edition before starting his day. Bob was loved by his daughters, Charlotte and Christina; his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He has left family and friends a treasure trove of memories.



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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
July 13–16, 2014	Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) Annual Meeting	Savannah, Georgia	www.apms.org
July 28–29, 2014	NEWSS Collegiate Weed Science Contest	Penn State Research Farm State College, Pennsylvania	www.newss.org
January 5–8, 2014	69th Annual Meeting of Northeastern Weed Science Society	Williamsburg Lodge Williamsburg, Virginia	www.newss.org
February 9–12, 2015	Weed Science Society of America Annual Meeting	Hilton Lexington Downtown and Lexington Convention Center Lexington, Kentucky	Dallas Peterson Email: dpeterson@ksu.edu Telephone: 785-532-0405
March 23–26, 2015	8th International IPM Symposium	Salt Palace Convention Center Salt Lake City, Utah	Elaine Wolff Email: wolff1@illinois.edu Telephone: 217-244-7670
February 8–11, 2016	Joint WSSA and Southern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting	San Juan, Puerto Rico	www.wssa.net
2017	Weed Science Society of America Annual Meeting	Tucson, Arizona	www.wssa.net

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