



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this, the Southeastern US has had one of its mildest winters in a long time and I'm not sure where we are in the overall "cycle." However, except for a short cold snap in December the previous 6 months have been extremely mild. How will that change pestilence (including weeds, diseases, and insects) in 2023? Time will tell! Interesting weather in North America throughout fall and winter including November blizzards, atmospheric rivers, February cold wave in the north, and a March nor'easter. Ontario experienced the "darkest" winter in 80+ years and Ottawa has been warmer and snowier than in most winter seasons. These observations are especially interesting after our "Crop-Weed Management in a Rising CO2 World" symposium. All of this year's symposia were extremely pertinent to weed control objectives into the future.

We are coming out of our first IN-PERSON meeting since getting together in Hawaii in 2020. This joint meeting with the Northeastern Weed Science Society had lots of energy in all the sessions and especially the receptions. Wes Everman (Program Co-Chair, NEWSS) and Jacob Barney (President, NEWSS) worked closely with us to help manage the success of the joint meeting. In all joint meeting situations, it is important for WSSA to engage ideas while allowing the adjoining Society to maintain their own identity. The coordination effort that Eric Gustafson put into this meeting was greatly appreciated. Make sure you look at the pictures on our web page. We had 550 attendees register for the meeting and it was great to see many faces that I had not run across in a very long time. As Program Co-Chair for the Arlington meeting, I found it hard to participate in many of the sessions. However, I understand that the symposia were well attended and went over extremely well. Before the meeting began, thanks to Sudeep Mathew and Bill Chism, we had two great tours including the US Botanical Gardens and the Smithsonian Gardens — both behind the scenes with information on what they do to maintain plant populations in place during the heavy tourist season at their many facilities. We have added a couple of committees in the past few months — in addition to the 45+ that we already have in place. We look for some

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**CALL FOR SYMPOSIA**  
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great ideas out of the Endangered Species and New Technology committees that have been created. Obviously, a lot of activity going on in those areas.

Our keynote speaker, Jake Li, brought us to the realities of what needs to be done to coordinate the use of weed technologies with the delicate balance of protecting endangered species. Also, a shout out to our graduate students as they continue to excel and prepare to take on leadership positions now and in the future. We had 130 total graduate student presentations at the conference, including all paper, rapid talks, and posters from both Societies. Darrin Dodds' and Marty Schraer's coordination of these activities was greatly appreciated. I also want to recognize Mandy Bish for coordinating the awards and the support cast that help put the awards "production" on.

Our liaisons, Jim Kells, Jill Schroeder, and Mark Van Gessel, are busy working with USDA-NIFA, CAST, and EPA respectively. Projects include the USDA symposium held at the meeting, a CAST paper on "Preventing the next invasive plant: Opportunities and Challenges," the Endangered Species committee, and a summer EPA tour with Mark Van Gessel. These folks work tirelessly to promote weed science and sustainable agriculture. If you are not abreast of all the activities that our Executive Director of Science Policy is involved in, make sure you read his section of this newsletter. Lee Van Wychen resides in Alexandria, Virginia, and spends a considerable amount of time engaging committees, agencies, and others in weed related activities and policy in Washington, DC.

We now have several new members on the board including:

Hilary Sandler, Vice-President

Pamela Carvalho Moore, Graduate Student Representative

Peter Dotray, SWSS Representative

Ben Sperry, APMS Representative

A big thanks to Anita Dille as she rotates off the board. Anita has been a great source of insight and guidance as it relates to Society activities. We would also like to recognize contributions from Rob Richardson (APMS rep), Sarah Kezar (Grad Student rep), and John Byrd (SWSS rep) as they rotate off the board.

We look forward to everyone's participation in the National Weed Science Contest in Union City, Tennessee, in late July. Thanks to Bayer CropScience for taking on this rather large task at their farm — coordinated once every four years. Thanks individually to Mathew Wiggins, Garret Montgomery, and Joey Williams for "running" the contest. The actual event will take place on July 26th.

As you know, Greg Dahl is actively working on next year's program. The call for symposia has already gone out. We are excited to plan for this joint activity with the SWSS come January 22–25, 2024. The WSSA functions because of many volunteers across North America (and the world, in some instances). If you would like to participate on a specific committee, please let me know. I look forward to seeing a large contingency in Union City this summer!

Sincerely,  
Carroll Moseley  
WSSA President

## WSSA FUTURE MEETING SITES AND DATES

Jan. 22–25, 2024

WSSA-SWSS Joint Meeting

San Antonio, Texas

[www.wssa.net](http://www.wssa.net) and

[www.newss.org](http://www.newss.org)

WSSA HOME PAGE  
ACCESSED AT:

[www.wssa.net](http://www.wssa.net)

## THINK NEWSLETTER

Deadline for July issue

June 1, 2023

## SEND NEWSLETTER

MATERIAL TO:

Carl Libbey

225 S. 10th Street

Mount Vernon, WA 98274

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Phone: (360) 708-5543

## WSSA NEWSLETTER

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# CALL FOR SYMPOSIA

## 2024 Annual Meeting of WSSA

**The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA)  
meeting jointly with the Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS)  
Hyatt Regency San Antonio • San Antonio, TX • January 22–25, 2024**

We are thrilled to offer a joint WSSA/SWSS annual meeting to be held at the Hyatt Regency San Antonio in San Antonio, TX on January 22 to 25, 2024.

WSSA/SWSS members are invited to submit proposals for symposia at our annual meeting. **The proposal deadline is June 12, 2023.** Members of each board will evaluate the proposed symposia based on the justification, the target audience, publication plans, and the completeness of the proposal agenda and budget. Symposia organizers are strongly urged to consider publication of the symposium papers in one of the WSSA's journals and publication will be one of the factors considered in selecting symposia for the meeting.

Please see the guidelines below for symposia funding from the WSSA. Requests for travel support can be made for non-members only.

Symposium proposals should be emailed directly to the WSSA President Elect and Program Chair Gregory Dahl ([gkdahl@landolakes.com](mailto:gkdahl@landolakes.com)) and copied to the SWSS President Elect and Program Chair Todd Baughman ([todd.baughman@okstate.edu](mailto:todd.baughman@okstate.edu)) by **June 12, 2023**. *You will receive an email confirmation that your proposal has been received.* If you have any questions, feel free to email Greg and/or Todd.

### SYMPOSIUM PROPOSAL FORM

**2024 Annual WSSA/SWSS Meeting, San Antonio, TX**

Title:

Organizers:

Contact Person:

Phone:

Email:

Justification and Objectives (approximately 300 words):

Target Audience:

Publication or Outreach Plans associated with symposium presentations:

Associated Section(s):

Length of Proposed Program:

Proposed Titles and Speakers:

Budget Requested: **(Please specify the expenditure of the funds as opposed to submitting an overall amount. The more detailed the budget, the better the WSSA/SWSS Boards 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 intent of these funds is to support travel of non-member speakers.

The following guidelines are intended to help the symposia organizers and the Program Committee in allocating available funds. For a half-day symposium, the maximum allowable budget will be \$5,000 of which up to \$2,000 can be used for symposium publication costs. For full day symposia, the maximum allowable budget will be \$6,000 of which up to \$2,000 can be used for symposium publication costs. The funds will be allocated as necessary to partially cover non-member speaker travel expenses.

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 the 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 based on need, availability of funds, and the value of the speakers to the program.

Single or Double room rates at the Hyatt Regency San Antonio for the 2024 meeting will be \$225 per night.

If less than the maximum allowable funds (\$5,000 for the half-day; \$6,000 for a full day) are used for speaker travel expenses, the difference cannot be used for other purposes. Chairs should contact their intended speakers and determine their financial needs for participation. This information should be incorporated into the detailed budget for the proposed symposium.

Symposium proposals should be emailed directly to the WSSA President Elect and Program Chair Gregory Dahl ([gkdahl@landolakes.com](mailto:gkdahl@landolakes.com)) and copied to the SWSS President Elect and Program Chair Todd Baughman ([todd.baughman@okstate.edu](mailto:todd.baughman@okstate.edu)) by **June 12, 2023**. *You will re-*

CONTINUED on pg 4 >>>

## CALL FOR SYMPOSIA CONTINUED from pg 3

ceive an email confirmation that your proposal has been received. If you have questions, feel free to email Greg Dahl or Todd Baughman.

The WSSA 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 funding commitments exceeding those approved by the board. Symposium organizers are free to seek additional or alternate funding sources if symposia budget limits are insufficient to cover travel expenses for non-member speakers. Symposium organizers should strongly consider publication of symposia papers in *Weed*

*Science, Weed Technology or Invasive Plant Science Management.*

Gregory Dahl, 2024 WSSA Program Chair  
Todd Baughman, 2024 SWSS Program Chair



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# WSSA 2023 Student Contest Awards

## WSSA Single Slide Talk (SST) M.S. Contest

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### Winners

1st Place: Amber Pelon, Colorado State University

2nd Place: 2-way tie:

- Aleah Butler-Jones, Cornell University
- Laura Pineada-Bermudez, Cornell University

## WSSA SST Ph.D. Contest

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### Finalists

- Sachin Dhanda, Kansas State University
- Maria Gannett, Cornell University
- Emma Kubinski, Montana State University
- Albert Kwarteng, University of Idaho
- Alex Rodriguez, University of Florida
- Eli Russell, Virginia Tech.
- Nicholas Shay, University of Georgia
- Cynthia Sias, Virginia Tech.

### Winners

1st Place: Albert Kwarteng, University of Idaho

2nd Place: Eli Russell, Virginia Tech.

## M.S. Poster Contest Winners – Sections 1, 2, 3, 4

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### Section 1

1st Place: Claudia Walz, Michigan State University

2nd Place: Akhilesh Sharma, Kansas State University

### Section 2

1st Place: Dhiraj Srivastava, Virginia Tech.

2nd Place: Stephen Ippolito, North Carolina State University

### Section 3

1st Place: Lily Woitaszewski, Kansas State University

2nd Place: Mikerly Joseph, Auburn University

### Section 4

1st Place: Gustavo Camargo Silva, Texas A&M University

2nd Place: Navjot Singh, University of Minnesota

## Ph.D. Poster Contest Winners – Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

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### Section 1

1st Place: Het Desai, Montana State University

2nd Place: 3-way tie

- Livia Pereira, Auburn University
- Jake Patterson, Mississippi State University
- Eric Yu, University of Minnesota

### Section 2

1st Place: Andrew Osburn, Texas A&M University

2nd Place: Kyle Russell, Texas Tech. University

### Section 3

1st Place: Sarah Kezar, Texas A&M University

2nd Place: Jose Nunes, University of Wisconsin – Madison

### Section 4

1st Place: Pamela Carvalho-Moore, University of Arkansas

2nd Place: 2-way tie

- Crystal Sparks, Colorado State University
- Marcello Zimmer, Perdue University

### Section 5

1st Place: Venkatanaga Chiruvelli, University of Minnesota

2nd Place: Sarah Chu, Texas A&M University



# 2023 WSSA AWARDS



**Antonio DiTommaso, Ph.D.**  
WSSA Fellow Award



**Peter Porgiglia, Ph.D.**  
WSSA Fellow Award



**John Lindquist, Ph.D.**  
Outstanding Research Award



**Vipin Kumar, Ph.D.**  
Outstanding Early Career  
Weed Scientist



**Taylor Randell-Singleton,  
Ph.D. candidate**  
Outstanding  
Graduate Student Award



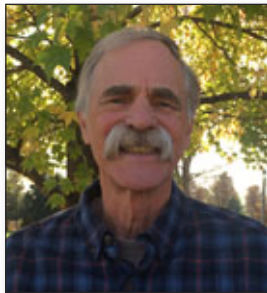
**Brad Haire**  
Excellence in Journalism  
Award



**Dean Riechers, Ph.D.**  
Outstanding Teacher Award



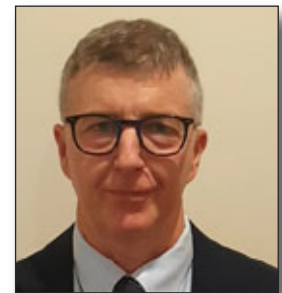
**Sandeep Rana, Ph.D.**  
Outstanding Industry Award



**Bill Chism, Ph.D.**  
Public Service Award



**Amit Jhala, Ph.D.**  
US-HRAC Herbicide Resistance  
Management Award



**Michael Walsh, Ph.D.**  
Honorary  
WSSA Member Award



**Pete Eure, Ph.D.**



**Erik Lehnoff, Ph.D.**



**Thierry Besançon, Ph.D.**

----- Outstanding Reviewer Awards -----

# OUTSTANDING PAPER AWARDS

**Outstanding Paper: Invasive Plant Science and Management**  
*Assessing the performance and accuracy of invasive plant habitat suitability models in detecting new observations in Wisconsin*

Authors:

Mark Renz, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Niels Jorgensen, Ph.D., Opterrix

**Outstanding Paper: Weed Science**  
*Quantifying seed and establishment limitation to seedling recruitment of arable weeds: an example of barnyardgrass (*Echinochloa crus-galli*)*

Authors:

Friederike de Mol, Ph.D., University of Rostock (Germany)  
Christian Selig, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Rostock  
Bärbel Gerowitt, Ph.D., University of Rostock

**Outstanding Paper: Weed Technology**  
*The Impact of Electrocutation Treatments on Weed Control and Weed Seed Viability in Soybean*

Authors:

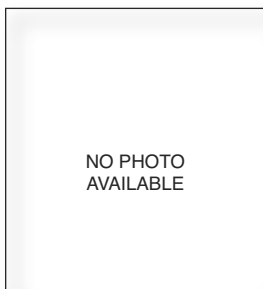
Kevin Bradley, Ph.D., University of Missouri  
Haylee Schreier, M.S., University of Missouri  
Mandy Bish, Ph.D., University of Missouri



Mark Renz, Ph.D.



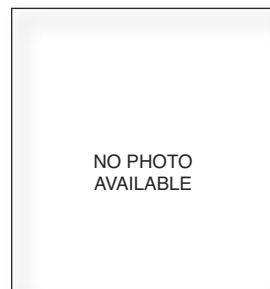
Niels Jorgensen, Ph.D.



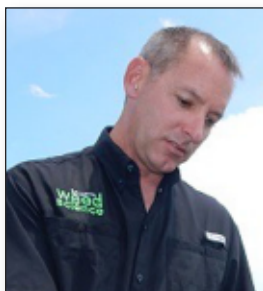
Friederike de Mol, Ph.D.



Christian Selig, Ph.D. candidate



Bärbel Gerowitt, Ph.D.



Kevin Bradley, Ph.D.



Haylee Schreier, M.S.



Mandy Bish, Ph.D.

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National & Regional Weed Science Societies  
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# CAST Announces Dr. Chris Boomsma as Next EVP/CEO



The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST), a nonprofit organization that specializes in assembling and communicating science-based agricultural information to a broad audience, announces the appointment of its next Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer (EVP/CEO),

Dr. Chris Boomsma. Kent Schescke, the current EVP/CEO, will retire at the end of August after eight successful years with CAST.

Dr. Boomsma is currently serving as the Director of Education for the American Society of Agronomy, the Crop Science Society of America, and the Soil Science Society of America (ACSESS). In addition, he is the Director of Science and Strategy for Decode 6 educational platform. Prior to joining ACSESS, he worked as a research director for Purdue University and a strategist and scientist at Dow AgroSciences (now Corteva).

Dr. Sally Flis, CAST President, welcomes Dr. Boomsma to the organization on behalf of the CAST Board of Directors, Board of Trustees, and Board of Representatives. “We are very excited that Dr. Boomsma has accepted the offer to be the next EVP/CEO of our organization. Kent Schescke has led our organization through some challenging years in his tenure and we are excited for Kent and Chris to work together in this transition time to ensure a strong organiza-

tion. Chris will build on the great work of CAST and bring new ideas and perspectives to the organization.”

Says Schescke, “I am pleased that Chris will be joining CAST and assuming the role of EVP/CEO. I have had the pleasure of working with him for several years in his role with ACSESS as we worked to strengthen the connectivity and engagement of our members. He brings an impressive background in both science and nonprofit management that will help take CAST to the next level of excellence in communicating the science, technology, and innovation so important to the future of food, agriculture, and the environment.”

Schescke will continue in his current role for the next several months and work with Dr. Boomsma to help facilitate a smooth, seamless transition. Dr. Boomsma will assume the role of EVP/CEO effective August 1, 2023.

“I am honored to have been selected to serve as the next EVP/CEO of CAST and to continue the organization’s important work in advancing science-based knowledge in agriculture,” said Dr. Boomsma. “I look forward to working with the talented team at CAST to promote evidence-based solutions and support science’s critical role in agriculture. I am humbled to follow Kent in this role and I am eager to build on the excellent work he and the rest of the CAST team have done to communicate credible, science-based information during a time when it’s often hard to discern accurate from inaccurate information.”

## PUBLISHING OPEN ACCESS IN WSSA JOURNALS

Did you know that many WSSA members can publish open access without charge in WSSA journals? Our publishing partner Cambridge University Press has “Read and Publish” agreements with a fast-growing number of universities and other institutions, allowing authors to publish open access research articles at no cost. To find out if your institution is part of this program, go to <https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/open-access-policies/waivers-discounts>.

All three WSSA journals currently offer open access as well as traditional publication of articles behind a sub-

scription paywall. Authors selecting the open access option pay a one-time processing charge (\$2000 for WSSA members, but see above — it could be \$0), no additional fees, and on publication their articles are immediately and permanently accessible to all. **We are exploring transitioning *Weed Science* and *Weed Technology* to full open access**, which will expand our audience and better position our journals in the fast-evolving academic publishing market. Stay tuned!

As the publishing scene is busier than ever, Sarah Ward (WSSA Director of Publications 2014–2020) has joined

Chris Willenborg to share the load as co-Director. Contact either of us with questions or suggestions about WSSA publications.

[chris.willenborg@usask.ca](mailto:chris.willenborg@usask.ca)  
[sarah.ward@colostate.edu](mailto:sarah.ward@colostate.edu)

**THINK NEWSLETTER**

**Deadline for July issue  
June 1, 2023**



# WASHINGTON REPORT

by Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

## WEED SCIENCE POLICY COMMITTEE: PAST AND PRESENT

Two Directors of Science Policy and two of the three chairs of the Science Policy Committee (formerly known as the Washington Liaison Committee) pose for a picture after the general session at the WSSA/NEWSS 2023 annual meeting in Arlington, Virginia. Their leadership of the Science Policy Committee extends from 1990 to present. The only Science Policy Committee chair missing is Donn Shilling, Georgia, who chaired the committee from 2010 to 2018 (*photo bottom left*).

## WSSA RESEARCH PRIORITIES SYMPOSIUM HOSTS 13 FEDERAL AGENCY REPS

Thirteen federal agencies participated in a symposium held during the WSSA/NEWSS 2023 annual meeting that focused on identifying research gaps and weed management needs in both managed and natural ecosystems. The symposium was co-organized by Steve Young, USDA-ARS National Program Leader for Weeds



**Federal agency reps participating in the WSSA research priorities symposium** (Pictured, first row: L to R) Paul Heimowitz, Department of the Interior (DOI) – US Geological Survey (USGS); Scott Pfister, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS); Steve Young, USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS); Jessica L. Burnett, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); Seth Flanagan, DOI – Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and FICMNEW Co-chair; Doug Burkett, Department of Defense (DOD) Armed Forces Pest Management Board (AFPMB). (Second Row) Jim Kells, WSSA-NIFA Fellow; Mike Ielmini, USDA Forest Service (USFS); Jeremy Crossland, DOD – Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE); Vijay Nandula, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA); Cameron Douglass, USDA Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP); Eric Bradley, Department of Energy, Office of Sustainable Environmental Stewardship (DOE – EHSS-21); Chris Taliga, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and FICMNEW Co-chair; Terri Hogan, DOI – National Park Service (NPS); Lee Van Wychen, WSSA Executive Director of Science Policy.

and Invasive Pests, and Jim Kells, WSSA NIFA Fellow. Dan Brainerd, Michigan State University and Chair of the Research Priorities Committee,

shared insights from the 2022 research priorities survey to facilitate a discussion on the future of weed science in terms of research needs, program support, and national initiatives (*photo above*).



Pictured (L to R): **Lee Van Wychen**, WSSA Executive Director of Science Policy: 2005 – present; **Rich Bonanno**, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Director, North Carolina State Extension, and Chair, WSSA Washington Liaison/Science Policy Committee: 1990 – 2010; **Janis McFarland**, retired Syngenta, Chair, WSSA Science Policy Committee: 2018 – present; and **Rob Hedberg**, retired USDA-NIFA, WSSA Congressional Fellow 1995–1996 and Director of Science Policy, Washington Liaison/Science Policy Committee 1999 – 2005.

## WHAT IS FICMNEW?

Since 12 of the current 20 FICMNEW agency members were present at the symposium, let's talk about my most favorite acronym in all of Washington, DC (Note: NASA was represented at symposium, but is not a FICMNEW member agency at present.). FICMNEW is the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW). It meets regularly (quarterly or monthly) and represents a formal partnership between federal agencies with direct invasive plant management and regulatory responsibilities

CONTINUED on pg 9 >>>



spanning across the United States and territories. These agencies support weed science research or invasive plant management, or both, through grant funding, technical assistance, and scientific studies. The remaining eight federal agency members and their principals not in the photo above are:

- USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA – AMS) Ernest Allen
- DOI Bureau of Indian Affairs (DOI – BIA) Thomas Mendez
- DOI Bureau of Reclamation (DOI – BOR) Jolene Trujillo
- Department of Transportation (DOT) Rhonda Solomon
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Gisele Nighswander
- Farm Service Agency (USDA – FSA) open
- Federal Highway Administration (DOT – FHWA) Richard Darden
- US Fish & Wildlife Service (DOI – FWS) Xiomara Labiosa

While the FICMNEW federal agency meetings among the principals are closed, there is an open-to-the-public meeting typically following their closed meeting. The next open meeting is:

- FICMNEW Open Meeting: **April 26, 2023, 1:00 pm EST/11:00 am MDT**
- Presentation: Efforts to Control European Frogbit
- Presenters: Thomas Alwin and Sarah Lesage from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)
- FICMNEW Call-in information: The public meeting will be held virtually. Call in instructions will be sent via email. Please email Seth Flanigan, [sflanigan@blm.gov](mailto:sflanigan@blm.gov), if you are not on the FICMNEW electronic list and would like to receive a meeting invitation.

### IR-4 PROJECT COMMEMORATES 60 YEARS OF IMPACT

This year, the IR-4 Project commemorates 60 years of operation. Since its



### Weed Scientists attending the 60 year Celebration of the IR-4 Project on March 7 in Washington, DC.

Pictured (L to R): **Rob Hedberg**, retired USDA-NIFA, former WSSA Director of Science Policy; **Lee Van Wychen**, WSSA Executive Director of Science Policy; **Ray McAllister**, Senior Director, Regulatory Policy at CropLife America; **Dirk Drost**, retired Syngenta, Minor Use Foundation chairman; **Doug Buhler**, Assistant Vice President of Research and Innovation at Michigan State University; **Dan Kunkel**, former IR-4 Project manager, Northeast Field Product Development Director at AMVAC Chemical Corporation; **Jerry Baron**, Executive Director of the IR-4 Project; **Janis McFarland**, retired Syngenta, WSSA Science Policy Committee chair.

establishment by land grant universities and the USDA in 1963, IR-4 has championed specialty crop growers by facilitating the registration of safe, effective pest management solutions to meet their unique needs.

Specialty crops, which include fruits, vegetables, nuts, herbs, and horticulture crops, are not typically served by agrochemical companies' registration efforts. Larger acreage, "major crops" (like corn and soybeans) typically yield higher returns on investment. This "minor use problem" spurred the founding of IR-4.

IR-4 upholds specialty crops as essential components of a healthy diet, a thriving landscape, and a robust U.S. economy. Since its founding, IR-4 has secured over 23,000 pest management product registrations through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for food crops (and countless others for ornamental crops). IR-4 evaluates a range of tools — including reduced-risk chemical and bio-based pesticides, as well as emerging technologies and integrated solutions. According to an economic impact study by Michigan State University in 2022, IR-4 con-

tributes \$8.97 billion annually to the gross domestic product. [More info about the IR-Project.](#)

### XOCHITL TORRES SMALL NOMINATED FOR #2 POST AT USDA



On February 16, Xochitl Torres Small was nominated to be Deputy Secretary for USDA Under Secretary Tom Vilsack. The former New Mexico congresswoman (2019 – 2021) is currently serving as the USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development since 2021.

Torres graduated from Mayfield High School in Las Cruces, New Mexico in absentia while she earned her International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma from Waterford Kamhlaba United World College in Mbabane, Swaziland. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service degree from Georgetown University in 2008 and her Juris Doctor degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law.

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Torres Small worked as a field representative for U.S. Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) from 2009 to 2012. She served as a federal law clerk in the New Mexico District from 2015 to 2016. She also worked as a water attorney with the Kemp Smith law firm.

Kevin Shea, APHIS Administrator, has been serving as Acting Deputy Secretary since March 3 when former Deputy Secretary Jewel Bronaugh retired.

## **WEED SCIENCE SOCIETIES COMMENT ON EPA'S ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT WORKPLAN**

On February 14, the WSSA, along with APMS, NCWSS, NEWSS, SWSS and WSWS [submitted comments](#) in response to EPA's request for information on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Workplan Update. This is a major step for EPA to harmonize its obligations under the ESA and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

The draft ESA Workplan Update provides more details about how EPA plans to impose various mitigation measures that will be required on pesticide labels to meet its ESA obligations when registering a pesticide. There are concerns about some of the mitigation options such as "buffers to reduce pesticide drift and water runoff" or "do not use when rain is expected in the next 48 hours" — which raises other issues such as what or how compliance might be proven or enforced.

The ESA Workplan Update also describes initiatives that, according to EPA, will help it and other federal agencies improve approaches to mitigation under the ESA and improve the interagency consultation process outlined in the ESA Workplan. These initiatives include EPA's work to identify ESA mitigation measures for pilot species, incorporate early ESA mitigation measures for groups of pesticides (e.g., broadleaf herbicides), and develop region-specific ESA mitigations.

## **Press Release**

The WSSA has also issued a press release on April 4 "[WSSA Encourages Growers to Act Now to Understand the Impact of EPA's Endangered Species Act Compliance Initiatives](#)" trying to raise awareness of the coming changes. **The bottom line — farmers and land owners need to become familiar with the EPA's updated workplan and how to access site specific application instructions online through EPA's [Bulletins Live! Two](#).** As we found out in January 2022 on the revised ESA-compliant Enlist One and Enlist Duo labels, applications might be prohibited in entire counties.

## **EPA ISSUES ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTIONS FOR THREE HERBICIDES AND A SOIL FUMIGANT**

On February 1, the EPA implemented measures to protect 28 federally endangered and threatened Pacific salmon and steelhead species and their designated critical habitat from the effects of **bromoxynil, prometryn, metolachlor, and 1,3-D** (also known as telone).

## **Biological Opinions**

In June 2021, after receiving public comments, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued final biological opinions for bromoxynil, prometryn, metolachlor, and 1,3-D. NMFS's biological opinions found that registered uses of these pesticides do not jeopardize listed salmon and steelhead species or adversely modify their critical habitats. **Because use of these pesticides may result in "take"** of individuals of listed salmon and steelhead species, the biological opinions also describe **measures to minimize the potential for take and any impacts of take.** "Take" includes (among other things) unintentionally harming or killing an individual of a listed species.

## **Implementation**

EPA has implemented these biological opinions by issuing [Endangered](#)

[Species Protection Bulletins](#), available on the [Bulletins Live! Two](#) website, and approving label amendments to protect listed species, thereby fulfilling its obligations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for these pesticides for the listed salmon and steelhead species and their critical habitat.

The [Endangered Species Protection Bulletins](#) for the four pesticides describe geographically specific use limitations to protect listed salmon and steelhead species and critical habitat. The Bulletins include mitigation measures such as no-spray buffers, retention ponds, and vegetated ditches to minimize potential take.

The amended labeling for bromoxynil, prometryn, metolachlor, and 1,3-D products includes instructions for pesticide users to obtain Bulletins and follow their required mitigation measures. The labeling also includes guidance on how to report ecological incidents associated with pesticide applications, should users observe any. This work aligns with the goals outlined in EPA's April 2022 ESA Workplan and its November 2022 ESA Workplan Update to provide practical, timely protections for listed species from pesticides.

## **EPA AIMS TO REINSTATE 2015 WORKER PROTECTIONS FROM PESTICIDES**

The EPA is requesting public comment on a proposed rule that would retain various pesticide Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ) requirements under the 2015 Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS) that were not implemented as part of a previous agency final rule currently under a court-ordered stay.

Unveiled February 16, the pre-proposal seeks to "improve and modernize" protections under the agency's 2015 standard on agricultural worker protection. EPA classifies the application exclusion zone as "the area sur-

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rounding the application that must be free of all persons, other than appropriately trained and equipped handlers, during pesticide applications.”

Under the proposal, EPA would reinstate provisions including:

- Applying the AEZ beyond an establishment’s boundaries and when workers are within easements, such as for utility workers to access telephone lines.
- Establishing AEZ distances for ground-based spray applications of 25 feet for medium or larger sprays when sprayed from a height greater than 12 inches from the soil surface or planting medium, and 100 feet for fine sprays.

EPA issued a final rule in October 2020 revising the AEZ requirement. However, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York last year extended its stay of the rule, which initially was granted on Dec. 28, 2020 — the day before the final rule was to have taken effect.

The prepublication version of the proposal states that “since the 2020 AEZ rule has not been implemented due to the court-ordered stay,” the 2015 WPS “continues to provide the operative regulatory language for the AEZ requirements during the current stay and any future extensions of the stay.”

Still, the agency proposes to keep elements of the 2020 rule, including:

- Exempting farm owners’ immediate family members from the requirement.
- Establishing clarifying language stating that pesticide applications suspended as a result of individuals entering an exclusion zone may be resumed after the individuals have left the area.

EPA officially issued the proposed rule titled “Pesticides: Agricultural Worker Protection Standard; Reconsideration of the Application Exclusion Zone Amendments” on March 13, 2023.

The proposed rule is available at [EPA-HQ-OPP-2022-0133-0002](https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/pesticides-agricultural-worker-protection-standard-reconsideration-of-the-application-exclusion-zone-amendments). **Comments are due on or before May 12, 2023.**

### **2023 NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK (NISAW) RECAP**

NISAW was held virtually from February 20–26 and organized by the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA). Sponsors included the WSSA, Wyoming Weed and Pest Council, Washington Invasive Species Council, SePRO, UPL, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and Bayer. NISAW included:

- 5 Webinars
- 36 webinar presenters
- 65 events on the NISAW calendar
- 759 attendees
- 1,045 advocacy letters sent to members of Congress
- 11,000+ people reached via email marketing

NISAW 2024 is scheduled for **February 26 – March 3, 2024** in Washington, DC. This will be the 25th anniversary and planning is already under way. My hope is that all the invasive species stakeholder groups traveling to Washington, DC will make **establishing an invasive species management fund** their #1 priority.

### **ESTABLISHING AN INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT FUND**

A common theme during the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) meeting held virtually on March 6 – 8, and the first ISAC meeting since 2019, is that we need a consolidated all-purpose **source of funding for invasive species prevention, research, and management**.

Global trade provides many benefits to us as consumers, but there is no question that one of the indirect costs is the importation of invasive species. I have begun work on Capitol Hill discussing legislation similar to what Hawaii passed into law in 2008 ([HB2843](https://www.hawaii.gov/dhs/2008/03/2008-hb2843/)) where an inspection, quarantine, and eradication service fee was assessed on the net weight of freight, computed on the basis of **50 cents for every 1,000 pounds of freight** brought

into the state.

As an example, there would be a \$3 fee assessed for a 6,000 pound SUV imported into the U.S. A rough estimate of U.S. import data suggests that this inspection, quarantine, and eradication service fee would generate about \$1 billion per year for a federal invasive species management fund. Please email me with any thoughts, concerns or suggestions.

### **CHINA BATTLES SMOOTH CORDGRASS (*Spartina alterniflora*) AT UNPRECEDENTED SCALE**

*Science*. 8 MAR 2023. By Erik Stokstad.

Along its 18,000 kilometers of coastline, China has been taken over by a green invader. Smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) grows tall and thick across tidal mudflats, depriving endangered migratory birds of habitat, clogging shipping channels, and ruining clam farms. Now, China aims to beat back 90% of the weed by 2025. “This is a mammoth undertaking,” says Steven Pennings, a coastal ecologist at the University of Houston. “It’s audacious.”

*Spartina*, native to eastern North America, was brought to China starting in 1979 to stabilize tidal mudflats and turn them into land for agriculture or development. The plan worked, but the *Spartina* kept spreading and now covers about 68,000 hectares, about the area of New York City. The government has realized, says Yihui Zhang, a wetland ecologist at Xiamen University, that “the harm of *Spartina alterniflora* outweighs its benefits.” It dominates native salt marshes, outcompeting native plants that provide food for indigenous species such as the reed parrotbill, which has declined as a result. [Continue reading in Science](#).

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# The 28th Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society Conference (APWSS 2023)

The 28th Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society Conference (APWSS 2023) will be held from 27 to 29 November 2023 at Phuket, Thailand. The theme will be "WEED SCIENCE SOLUTIONS FOR GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY." This will be a significant event to all the researchers, practitioners and consumers to meet and discuss the development and challenges in weed management. This conference is jointly organized by APWSS and Weed Science Society of Thailand.

We are confident that you will enjoy the conference in Phuket, Thailand's beautiful province, and discuss new developments and future directions of weed management with Weed Scientists from around the world. Other details about the APWSS 2023 conference may be obtained from:

<https://apwss.org.in/> or  
[www.apwss2023-phuket.com](http://www.apwss2023-phuket.com)

The conference will cover a wide range of topics regarding weeds, invasive weeds and their management, weeds ecology, biology, physiology, integrated weed management in cropped areas, non-cropped areas and aquatic systems, herbicide tolerant crops, herbicide resistant weeds, allelopathy, biological weed control, impact of climate change on weeds and weed management, herbicide behaviour on soil and water, education and extension in weed science, herbicide formulations and application technology, novel herbicides and their mode of action, utilization of weeds, precision and advanced weed management technologies.

The International Weed Science Society (IWSS) is offering a travel grant of \$500 per student for three outstanding M.Sc. and Ph. D. students, from developing countries, to present

their research (oral or poster) at the 28th Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society Conference (APWSS 2023) (<https://www.apwss2023-phuket.com/scholarship/>).

The abstracts of papers may be submitted online until 31 May 2023 at <https://www.apwss2023-phuket.com/abstract-submission/>

A.N. Rao  
General Secretary, APWSS  
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**THINK NEWSLETTER**  
**Deadline for July issue**  
**June 1, 2023**

## Weed Science and Related Links

### Weed Science Research News and Highlights: USDA ARS

Since 1972, the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) has provided credible, unbiased, science-based information about food and agriculture to policymakers, the media, the private sector, and the public: <https://www.cast-science.org/>

**Plant Health Cases** is a curated, peer-reviewed collection of real-life examples of plant health in practice. It is an invaluable resource for students, lecturers, researchers, and research-led practitioners.

On their podcast Sarah, Joe, and Mandy are three Extension weed scientists on a mission to help their audience understand what it takes for farmers to fight the war against weeds:  
<https://waragainstweeds.libsyn.com/>

Check out more links on the WSSA website: <https://wssa.net/links/>

Send your link to the WSSA Editor to be included.



# NECROLOGY

## DR. WILLIAM L. “Bill” BRUCKART, III



It is with deep sorrow that I inform you of the passing of William Lee (Bill) Bruckart, III on January 27, 2023. Bill was born August 9, 1947, in Stanford, Kentucky, the son of the late William Lee Bruckart, Jr. and Jessie Francis (Bruckart) Hay. He lived briefly in Columbus, OH, before his family moved to Pittsburgh, PA. He graduated from Mt. Lebanon High in 1965 before attending Ashland College in Ohio. After obtaining his degree in Biology in 1969, Bill joined the Army and deployed to Wildflecken, Germany with the 54th Engineer Battalion.

Bill earned his Ph.D. degree in Plant Pathology from Cornell University in 1980. After working a year as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate at Cornell, he joined the USDA, ARS, Foreign Disease-Weed Science Research Unit in Ft. Detrick, Maryland, in 1981. Throughout his career, he was an international expert in the foreign exploration, collection, and evaluation of beneficial plant pathogens for the biological control of invasive U.S. weeds. His research resulted in the successful release of rust fungi for biological control of the invasive weeds skeleton weed, musk thistle and yellowstar thistle. Accomplishing these releases required completing a very conservative and lengthy national regulatory process to demonstrate the safety of the biological control agent, and he worked with regulatory agencies throughout his career to improve and streamline the process.

Bill was a prodigious international explorer and discovered numerous new pathogens of weeds with the help of a large cadre of foreign collaborators. Bill published over 80 scientific papers over his career and organized numerous international symposia on Biological Control at U.S. and overseas meetings. He was a dedicated mentor to many high school, college and graduate students throughout his career, inspiring them to careers in plant science. Bill officially retired from USDA in 2016, but remained active as a formal collaborator at the Ft. Detrick lab. Over the past few years, he worked with FDWSRU staff scientists to cap off his stellar career with the approval of a fungal pathogen to control the invasive weed common crupina, adding to his legacy in the field of biological control.



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# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
July 24–27, 2023	Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) Annual Meeting	Indianapolis, Indiana	www.apms.org
November 19–23, 2023	Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS) Annual Meeting	Winnipeg, Manitoba	www.weedscience.ca
December 11–14, 2023	North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS) Annual Meeting	Minneapolis, Minnesota	www.ncwss.org
January 8–11, 2024	Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS) Annual Meeting	Gettysburg, Pennsylvania	www.news.org
January 22–25, 2024	Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) and Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS) Joint Annual Meeting	San Antonio, Texas	www.wssa.net and www.swss.ws
March 4–7, 2024	Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) Annual Meeting	Denver, Colorado	www.wsweedscience.org

Additional Weed Science Meetings and Events can be found at <http://wssa.net/meeting/calendar-of-meetings/>

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