



WSSA

WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Volume 41, No. 4
October, 2013

Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall has arrived and another growing season is rapidly coming to an end. Before long it will be February and time to travel to Vancouver, BC for the fifty-fourth meeting of the Weed Science Society of America. This meeting is special since it will be a joint meeting with the Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS).

Program Chairs Joe DiTomaso (WSSA) and Hugh Beckie (CWSS) have been working hard to assure a very productive meeting. The venue is ideal for this meeting and I encourage you to attend.

I would like to encourage all WSSA members attending the 2014 Annual Meeting to participate in the Take-a-Student event. This is a great opportunity to connect with current students in the society. Students benefit from the opportunity to learn more about the profession and the career paths taken by established weed scientists. Sign-up is easy. Just go to the WSSA abstract submission site and sign in, then follow the prompts in the lower left navigation bar under Take-a-Student. Alternatively, meeting attendees can sign up on-site at the meeting registration desk.

On September 26, I attended the Herbicide Resistance Planning Workshop, held at the National Academy of Science in Washington, DC. This workshop was proposed by and organized by the WSSA Herbicide Resistance Education Committee, under the leadership of David Shaw. WSSA and the regional weed science societies (NEWSS, NCWSS, SWSS, and WSWs) financially supported the event, which attracted over 40 people representing a wide range of stakeholders from producers, industry, government, academia, and other interests. The full-day session was filled with thoughtful and productive discussions about economic and sociological aspects of the adoption of herbicide resistance management. The planning committee met after the workshop and has developed a list of action items for next steps. Action plans will be developed for each of the action items. Stay tuned for more information on this very productive workshop and plans for future events.

CONTINUED on pg 2 >>

**2014 MEETING
ABSTRACT SITE OPEN**
(details inside on page 3)

IN THIS ISSUE

Turf Training Modules	2	Invasive Plants Field Course	6	Position Announcements	17
Abstract Site Open	3	Washington Report	10	Important Addresses	18
Grad Student Travel Award	4	Proposal Tips	13	Calendar of Events	19
Undergrad Research Award	5	Necrology	15		

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED from pg 1

On the topic of herbicide resistance, I would like to make you aware of a new set of educational modules that are now available on herbicide resistance management in turf. These modules were developed by a team of WSSA members led by Dr. Ramon Leon of the University of Florida. They are available on the WSSA web site at the following address: <http://wssa.net/weed/resistance/>. More details on these modules are available in an announcement by David Shaw elsewhere in this newsletter.

I'm pleased to announce that the Weed Science Society of America and the Southern Weed Science Society have agreed to a joint meeting in 2016 in Puerto Rico. The joint meeting will be held February 8-11, 2016 in San Juan. This should be a great location for a joint meeting between these two societies.

Another change that I need to announce is that Kate Counter has moved on to another position and is no longer employed by Allen Press, and therefore is no longer our Meeting Manager. Allen Press has contracted with Kansas State University Division of Continuing Education (DCE) to provide our meeting management services. The individual who will serve as our Meeting Manager is Tony Ballard. Joyce Lancaster will be working closely with Tony to assure that our 2014 Annual Meeting in Vancouver runs smoothly. While this is a somewhat different arrangement than we have had in the past, we are comfortable that it has the potential to work very well for our society and does not pose any significant risk. We wish Kate well in her new career endeavor.

Jim Kells
President, WSSA

Herbicide Resistance Education Training Modules – Turf

WSSA Members,

The Herbicide Resistance Education Committee is pleased to announce that a new series of training modules on herbicide resistance management have been developed specifically for turf. A team of WSSA members, led by Dr. Ramon Leon of the University of Florida, has done a magnificent job of creating these Power-Point files that can be downloaded in native format directly from the WSSA website. They can be found at: <http://wssa.net/weed/resistance/>

Note that we have other teams working on modules for aquatics and non-crop situations – stay tuned for these to be posted.

The society is deeply appreciative of the work that Dr. Leon and the team did on these. Please take the first opportunity to view, download, and use these files for education on herbicide resistance management.

Best Regards,
David Shaw, Chair
WSSA Herbicide Resistance Education Committee

WSSA FUTURE MEETING SITES AND DATES

2014

Vancouver, BC, Canada

February 3–6, 2014

Hyatt Regency

Joint meeting of WSSA and
Canadian Weed Science Society

2015

Lexington, Kentucky

2016

San Juan, Puerto Rico

2017

Tucson, Arizona

**WSSA HOME PAGE
ACCESSED AT:**

www.wssa.net

THINK NEWSLETTER

**Deadline for January issue
December 1, 2013**

WSSA NEWSLETTER

VOL. 41, NO. 4

OCTOBER, 2013

Published quarterly by the Weed Science Society of America. Subscription included in the annual dues paid by members of the Society. Address correspondence and information to:

**Dr. Clifford Koger (Trey), Editor
WSSA NEWSLETTER
112 Meadowlark Lane
Indianola, MS 38751
trey.koger@syngenta.com
(662) 207-1604 Cell**

WSSA/CWSS 2014 Annual Meeting Abstract Site Now Open

The abstract submission site for the 2014 Joint Annual Meeting of the WSSA and CWSS to be held February 3–6, 2014 in Vancouver, BC, Canada is now open.

Abstracts for all poster presentations, oral presentations, symposia presentations, the NIFA Supported Research section, and the CWSS Graduate Student Contest must be submitted.

First – the deadlines:

- Title/ Author information is due by October 2, 2013.
- Abstract Text is due by January 15, 2014.
- Deadline for Uploading slides for oral/symposia presentations is January 27, 2014.

How to Submit: This is the fourth year of using the new WSSA abstract submission system, developed for us by our webmaster David Krueger. There are slightly separate directions for individuals who are submitting into this system for the first time as opposed to those who have previously submitted an abstract for either the WSSA annual meeting last year or any of the regional meetings that use this system.

Submitting Titles: Please do not submit your title in bold typeface or all caps. Just capitalize the major words in the Title as per the instructions.

If you are a first time submitter:

The first thing you will need to do is create an account. Once you have created an account, you will be sent an email confirmation. The email will give you directions on setting up your password. Then you can log-in with your User Name (email address) and Password. Some of the regional weed science meetings are using this system as well, so to submit into the WSSA meeting you will need to “Join” the Joint WSSA/CWSS Annual Meeting.

If you are a previous submitter:

If you have already used this system, for either a previous year’s annual meeting or one of the regional meetings using this system, your information has been retained and you can log-in as usual and proceed directly to submitting your abstract title/author information/text. Just be sure you have “joined” the Joint WSSA/CWSS Annual Meeting and are submitting into the Joint WSSA/CWSS Annual Meeting.

In submitting author information, if your authors are already in the system, you will be able to select them from a drop down selection box. If they are not already in the system, you can “add an author” as you are submitting your title/author information.

Choosing a Section:

There are the thirteen traditional WSSA oral presentation sections, the thirteen traditional WSSA poster presentation sections, four symposia, the NIFA Supported Research Section, and the CWSS Graduate Student Contest section. The CWSS Graduate Student contest is open only to CWSS student members. Those CWSS students wanting to participate in the oral presentation contest need to submit into that section. There will not be topic selections to choose from in that section.

If you are an invited symposium speaker, please submit into that particular symposium. The symposia are for invited speaker submissions only.

If you have questions along the way, please feel free to give me a call or send me an email. The URL for the abstract submission site is: <http://wssaabstracts.com>

Regards,
Joyce Lancaster
Phone: 785-865-9250
jlancaster@allenpress.com

WSSA Graduate Student Travel Award 2014

The Weed Science Society of America is offering up to six (6) Annual Meeting Grants to qualifying graduate student members for their first attendance at the WSSA annual meeting. These grants will provide for annual meeting registration fees as well as up to four nights' lodging while at the meeting. Students and/or their graduate advisor are responsible for all remaining costs incurred to attend the WSSA annual meeting, including travel and meals.

This travel grant program is intended to encourage graduate student involvement in the WSSA annual meeting while students are in their early portion of their graduate program. Therefore, this grant is limited to students who have not yet attended a WSSA annual meeting. Students not in traditional weed science graduate programs are encouraged to apply for these travel grants. The WSSA professional Development Committee will screen applicants based on a written application, details listed below. Names of awardees will be announced at the WSSA awards ceremony.

Application Requirements:

1. Applicant must be a graduate student in good standing from an accredited institution with an interest in weed science and a desire to become a contributing member of the WSSA and the WSSA annual meeting.
2. Applicants must have written support from a faculty member at their current university.
3. The applicant must be willing to work at the 2014 WSSA annual meeting in a responsible and professional manner as directed in a designated area and/or with a designated responsibility for a portion of the WSSA annual meeting. Work responsibilities may include

assisting with session operations, supporting the registration desk, poster session set-up or teardown, or other related duties involved in the operations of the WSSA annual meeting.

Application Materials: PDF files or Word files only

1. Name
2. Address and full name of the institution of graduate studies.
3. Beginning date of the student's current graduate degree program
4. A brief description of the student's current research activities
5. Current GPA
6. Anticipated date of graduation and degree to be conferred
7. Provide the title and abstract for any presentations planned for WSSA, 2014.
8. Applicant's objectives from attending WSSA, 2014, 300 words or less
9. Letter of support from the applicant's supporting faculty member. The letter should address the applicant's reason for participation in the WSSA, 2014 annual meeting and the likelihood that the applicant's goals while at the 2014 WSSA annual meeting can be met. The letter of support should be no more than 300 words.

Application should be submitted by the graduate student as an email attachment. **PDF files or Word files only** via email to Chad Brommer (chad.brommer@basf.com) by October 31, 2013.

THINK NEWSLETTER

Deadline for January issue
December 1, 2013

SEND NEWSLETTER MATERIAL TO:

Dr. Clifford Koger (Trey)
Editor, WSSA Newsletter

112 Meadowlark Lane
Indianola, MS 38751

trey.koger@syngenta.com

(662) 207-1604 Cell

WSSA UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD – 2014

The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) has developed an Undergraduate Student Research Grant program designed to encourage and involve exceptional undergraduates in agricultural research. Interested faculty members are encouraged to identify potential award candidates and discuss the possibility of sponsoring a research project. Awards may be used as a stipend, for research budget expenses (travel, supplies, etc.), to defer fees, to defray living expenses for summer research, or any combination of these items.

AWARD: Up to \$2,000 for support of undergraduate research to be conducted over a minimum of one quarter/semester during 2014. Support of a faculty sponsor is required. Awards will be made to the student, to be administered by the faculty sponsor's department.

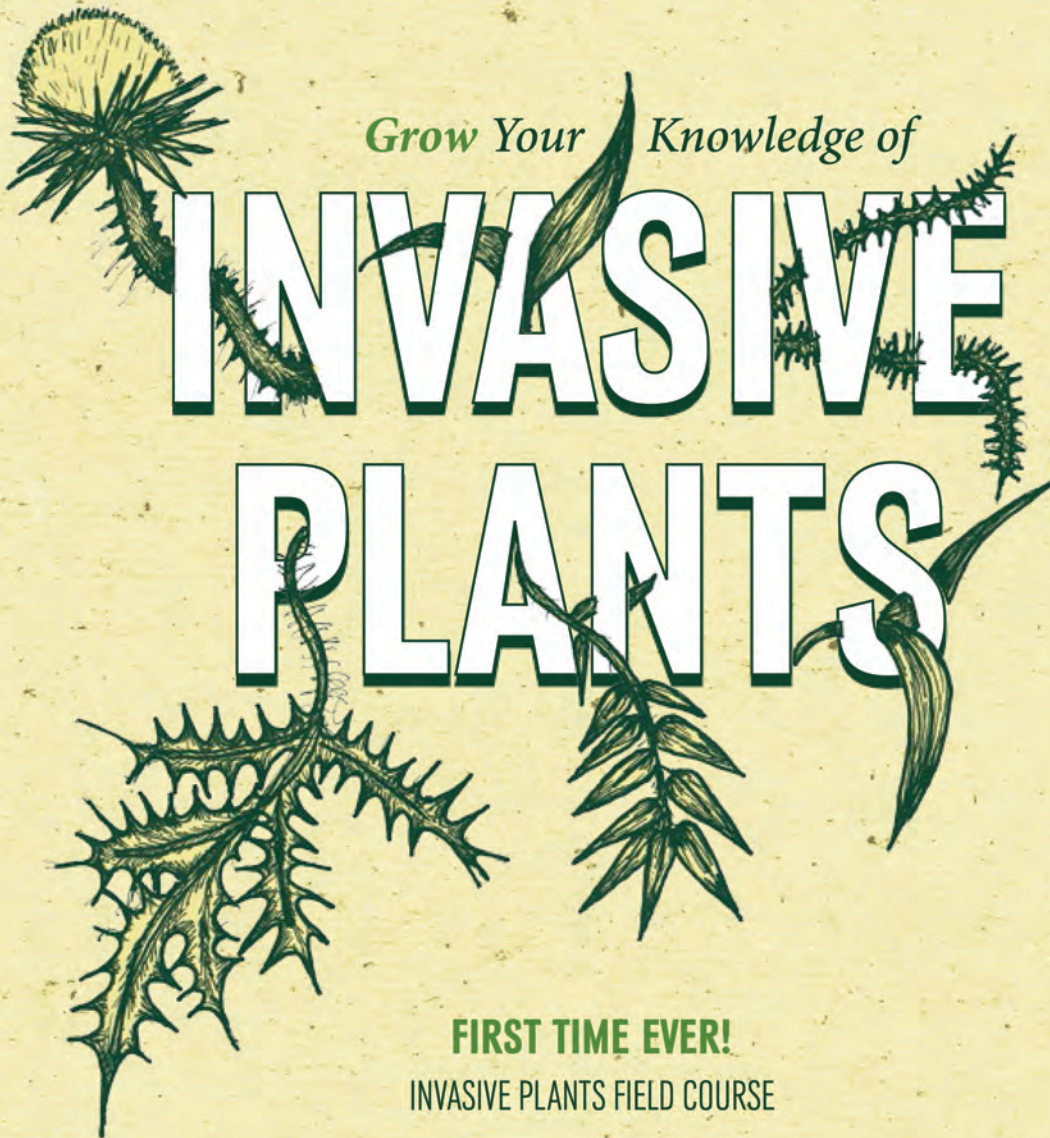
APPLICANT: The applicant is an enrolled undergraduate student with a strong interest in Weed Science. Students majoring in all related disciplines may apply.

TO APPLY: Applicants should prepare a 2–3 page research proposal including name, address, phone number, E-mail address, title, objective, experimental approach, discussion, budget and references. The discussion section of the proposal should describe the expected results and their possible significance to Weed Science. The student should provide a cover letter in which general academic and career goals are discussed. A copy of the student's academic transcripts must also be provided.

FACULTY SPONSOR: Any faculty member who is actively engaged in Weed Science research is qualified to be a sponsor. The faculty sponsor should review the research proposal with special attention to the budget; the distribution of funds should be approved by both the student and sponsor. In addition, the sponsor should provide a letter of reference including a statement of his/her willingness to supervise the proposed research and to provide any needed space, equipment and supplies above those requested in the proposal. The sponsor is encouraged to assist the student in presenting his/her results at a regional Weed Science Meeting.

HOW TO APPLY: The completed proposal, academic transcripts, cover letter and faculty letter of support should be sent to: Dr. Stephen Enloe, 119 Extension Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849; Phone 334-844-8928; E-mail: sfe0001@auburn.edu. Proposals should be received no later than November 15, 2013. Funding decisions will be made by January 24, 2014, and presented at the 2014 WSSA National Meeting Awards Ceremony.

Know how. **Know now.**



Grow Your Knowledge of

INVASIVE PLANTS

FIRST TIME EVER!

INVASIVE PLANTS FIELD COURSE

ONLINE

January 22–23, 2014



<http://ipscourse.unl.edu>

CONTINUED on pg 7 >>>

COURSE OVERVIEW

For the first time, a “field course” on invasive plants is being offered online. A computer and Internet connection are all you’ll need to participate.

The NAIPSC Web Course is a two-day course that will provide in-depth learning about the topics you’d expect in a traditional invasive plants field course. You’ll hear from top instructors and have the opportunity to communicate with them and other participants in real-time using a reliable interface supported by the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

Whether you have limited or in-depth understanding of invasive plants, you will gain new knowledge for immediate application to your particular situation.



COURSE CONTENT

Similar to the NAIPSC Field Course, this course will cover:

- the principles of integrated weed management
- herbicide modes of action
- mapping and spatial distribution analysis of invasive plant species population
- restoration, and much more.

Through greenhouse and lab demonstrations, you’ll learn how to identify plants and see firsthand some experiments on plant stress and their relationship to effective restoration approaches. You’ll hear from experts in the field on what to do about invasive plants from a practical and big-picture approach.

CONTINUED on pg 8 >>

The course material will reinforce proven methods and present relevant hypotheses and practices related to invasive plant ecology.

This approach will:

- stimulate thoughtful discussion
- provide problem-solving applications, and
- encourage retention of the main themes presented throughout the course.

The NAIPSC Web Course is for anyone working on invasive plants or addressing issues related to invasive plants both large and small scale or basic to applied.

DAILY SCHEDULE

DAY 1: WHAT ARE INVASIVE PLANTS?

AM: Topics: integrated management, plant identification

PM: Topics: mapping and data management

DAY 2: WHAT TO DO ABOUT INVASIVE PLANTS

AM: Topics: restoration, eradication, chemical control

PM: Topics: stressing invasive plants; early detection, rapid response

A live question-and-answer session will follow the last topic.

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Continuing education units will be available from the Society for Range Management and other supporting organizations. In addition, participants such as graduate students can earn up to two academic credits by completing online assignments following this course. Each participant will be automatically registered for the NAIPSC Online Community (<http://passel.unl.edu/communities/naipsc>), which will offer support and information throughout the year.

THE NAIPSC WEB COURSE IS FOR EVERYONE!

COURSE INSTRUCTORS

Stephen Enloe, Auburn University

John Kartesz, BONAP

Lisa Rew, Montana State University

Chuck Bargeron, University of Georgia

Jane Mangold, Montana State University

Roger Becker, University of Minnesota

Steve Young, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

COURSE LOCATION & COST

Location: Your office, home, or local coffee shop — your choice

Registration fee: \$350, which includes instruction, materials, and access to instructors

Lodging and meals: Virtually free!

REGISTRATION

Online through UNL Event & Conference Planning

Website: <http://go.unl.edu/growonline>

Email: eventplanning@unl.edu

Phone: 402-472-1772

Toll-free: 800-328-2851

International toll-free: 800-1100-9900

For more information about the course, contact Steve Young:

Email: steve.young@unl.edu

Phone: 308-696-6712

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.

WASHINGTON REPORT

by Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

FARM BILL “DO-SI-DO”

The extension of the 2008 Farm Bill expired Sept. 30, but lawmakers have said the real deadline is Jan. 1, 2014, when permanent 1938 and 1949 agriculture laws take effect, triggering higher crop and dairy supports. We were in this same scenario a year ago, just change the dates and add some political “do-si-do.” The Senate has already passed their second version of a new Farm Bill in June, while the House failed on their first attempt. After that, the House split their Farm Bill legislation into two separate bills. The first piece, H.R. 2642, contains 11 of the 12 Titles of the original farm bill, but only accounts for 20 percent of the annual spending. That bill was passed 216–208 on July 11 without a single democratic vote. The other bill, H.R. 3102, contains only the Nutrition Title, but accounts for 80 percent of Farm Bill spending. H.R. 3102 contains a variety of wide reaching policy changes regarding SNAP recipient eligibility restrictions, as well as permanently removing the Nutrition Title from the Farm Bill and putting it on a three year approval cycle. The food stamp related cuts in H.R. 3102 are 10 times the level of cuts approved in the Senate. On Sept. 19, the House passed H.R. 3102 by a 217–210 vote, again without a single democratic vote. However, the House still couldn’t formally move to conference committee with the Senate until a third piece of parliamentary legislation, H.Res. 361, was passed that joined the two separate House bills on Sept. 28. While this last step was hidden in the House vs. Senate game of government-shut-down-chicken, it was a critical next step in this two year (and counting) journey to reauthorize farm and nutrition programs.

The House continues to slow walk progress on a Farm Bill conference with the Senate and will likely not ap-

point conferees until the end of October. Prior to the August recess, the Senate appointed the following 12 members: Democrats Stabenow (MI), Leahy (VT), Harkin (IA), Baucus (MT), Brown (OH), Klobuchar (MN), and Bennet (CO), and Republicans Cochran (MS), Roberts (KS), Chambliss (GA), Boozman (AR), and Hoeven (ND). Given what the Senate passed in their version of the Farm Bill and what the House passed in their two separate bills, it might take another game of government-shut-down-chicken to reach a Farm Bill compromise that could be signed into law.

EPA APPROVES ARUNDO AND NAPIERGRASS FOR RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD

On June 28, EPA approved a supplementary final rule which would allow for biofuels made from two known invasive weeds, giant reed (*Arundo donax*) and Napiergrass (*Pennisetum purpureum*), to qualify for credits under the Federal Renewable Fuels Standard. EPA had originally withheld these two species from a final rule approved in March due to objections raised by the National and Regional Weed Science Societies and many other invasive species, conservation, and wildlife groups. Both these species are known invaders and the March final rule that was approved by EPA lacked risk mitigation measures to prevent these species from spreading.

In the supplementary final rule released at the end of June, EPA adopted additional registration, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements based on the Invasive Species Advisory Committee’s (ISAC) recommendations in their 2009 whitepaper titled “**Biofuels: Cultivating Energy, not Invasive Species.**” For example, EPA is requiring that renewable fuel producers demonstrate that the growth of giant

reed or Napiergrass will not pose a significant likelihood of spreading beyond the planting area or that such a risk will be minimized through an EPA approved Risk Mitigation Plan (RMP). The RMP will include plans for early detection and rapid response to potential spread, best management practices as modeled by existing state and federal invasive species management programs, continuous monitoring and reporting of site conditions, a plan for site closure and post-closure monitoring, and identification of a third party auditor who will evaluate the performance of the RMP on an ongoing annual basis.

The EPA supplementary final rule from June can be found at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-07-11/pdf/2013-16488.pdf>

WSSA RECOGNIZED FOR PESTICIDE STEWARDSHIP OUTREACH

At their annual meeting in August, the American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators (AAPSE) passed two resolutions recognizing the work of WSSA and its members on pesticide stewardship outreach issues. The **first AAPSE resolution** recognized the various stewardship activities that the WSSA has undertaken over the past few years. These activities include trying to find stable federal funding for the **Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP)**, the Public Awareness committee’s 11 part **pesticide stewardship series**, and the Herbicide Resistant Plants and Herbicide Resistance Education Committee’s development of the online **Lesson Modules for Herbicide Resistant Weeds**. A new lesson module for **turf crops** was just released, and there are upcoming modules being developed for aquatics and non-crop land weeds. The **second AAPSE resolution** recognized the

CONTINUED on pg 11 ►►

work of the 41 member National Stakeholder Team for PSEP funding. The WSSA is a member of this diverse team of representatives from government, industry, and academia, plus WSSA member Carol Somody has helped lead the stakeholder team as co-chair over the past couple years.

AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL RESEARCH PROGRAM UPDATE

The Army Corp of Engineers finally received appropriations for its Aquatic Plant Control Research Program (APCRP) for FY 2013, about three quarters of the way through the fiscal year. Better late than never. We are now all painfully aware that the federal government began the 2014 fiscal year on October 1 with no Congressional approved spending. Whenever the shutdown ends, APCRP will find itself in the same situation as what has occurred over the past three years – no funding requested from the Administration or the House in FY 2014, but with funding support in the Senate to the tune of \$4 million. The National and Regional Weed Science Societies continues to educate Congress about the critical mission of APCRP and would like to see the program fully funded at its authorized amount of \$12 million.

McCARTHY FINALLY CONFIRMED BY SENATE TO LEAD EPA

The Senate confirmed Gina McCarthy to lead the EPA on July 18, ending a four-month battle with Senate Republicans. McCarthy was approved 59-40, with six Republicans joining all but one Democrat, Joe Manchin of



**EPA Administrator
Gina McCarthy**

West Virginia, in supporting her. Manchin said the EPA has engaged in an “over-regulatory rampage” against the coal industry, which is a pillar of West

Virginia’s economy. McCarthy served as EPA’s assistant administrator for air and radiation since 2009 and was nominated to take over as head of EPA for the departing Lisa Jackson. The delay wasn’t so much a disapproval with McCarthy, who has a good reputation for working with both sides of the aisle, but was more of protest against the Obama administration plans for first-time limits on carbon dioxide emissions from both new and existing fossil fuel-fired power plants, as well as anticipated regulations related to ozone air quality standards, guidance related to hydraulic fracturing, and more stringent standards limiting vehicle emissions and the sulfur content of gasoline, among other rules.

HARDEN CONFIRMED AS USDA DEPUTY SECRETARY



**USDA Deputy Secretary
Krysta Harden**

strong bipartisan support from the Senate Ag Committee members and was introduced and endorsed by two of her home state Congressman from Georgia – Sen. Saxby Chambliss and Rep. Sanford Bishop. Prior to her nomination as USDA Deputy Secretary, Harden was the USDA Chief of Staff and the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations. She also spent five years as the CEO of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). Krysta got her start in Washington, DC in 1981 with Rep. Charles Hatcher where she worked as Press Secretary, Legislative Director, and Chief of Staff. She also was the Staff Director for the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Peanuts and Tobacco. Krysta has an excellent understanding of agricultural issues and often mentions her parents’

Krysta L. Harden was confirmed by the Senate in July to succeed Kathleen Merrigan as the number two in charge at USDA behind Secretary Vilsack.

Krysta received

farm in Camilla, Georgia. She is acutely aware of the herbicide resistant palmer amaranth in her home state and pledged USDA’s help in addressing the problem when she spoke at a herbicide resistance stakeholder workshop on Sept. 26 in Washington, DC that was organized by members of the National and Regional Weed Science Societies.

KNIPLING RETIRES FROM USDA-ARS

Dr. Edward B. Knipling has retired from USDA-ARS after 46 years of service, which included the last nine years as the agency’s Administrator. He joined ARS in 1968 as a research plant physiologist in Gainesville, Florida, followed by work in Stoneville, Mississippi, Fresno, California, and finally Beltsville, Maryland, where he was appointed associate administrator in 1997, and finally as administrator in July 2004. Dr. Knipling is a native of Texas, but grew up primarily in the Washington, D.C. area. His father was Edward F Knipling, who also worked for the USDA-ARS and was well known for his work developing the Sterile Insect Technique. Dr. Knipling earned a B.S. in forestry in 1961 from Virginia Tech University and received his M.A. in 1963 and Ph.D. in 1966 in plant physiology from Duke University.

PLANT SCIENCE SUMMIT ISSUES DECADAL VISION REPORT

On July 25 the Plant Science Research Summit released *Unleashing a Decade of Innovation in Plant Science: A Vision for 2015–2025* (PDF), a call to action for the U.S. to address research priorities in plant science that could address major challenges including health, energy, food, and environmental sustainability. The report, supported by the American Society of Plant Biologists, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department

CONTINUED on pg 12 ➤➤

WASHINGTON REPORT CONTINUED from pg 11

of Energy, provides recommendations regarding future budgets and investments at the state and federal levels.

CONGRESSIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES CAUCUS FOUNDED

On July 10, Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-5) and Rep. Dan Benishek (MI-1) founded the bipartisan Congressional Invasive Species Caucus. The Caucus will serve to raise awareness about invasive species, support local communities who are bearing the brunt of this problem, and promote efforts to prevent and control the spread of invasive species. The Caucus will provide opportunities for Members of Congress to meet with other policy makers, organizations and industry leaders that are working to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Rep. Thompson is a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee and Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. He represents some of the wine country area north of San Francisco and is a small vineyard owner. He is a co-author of H.R. 1823, Protecting Lakes Against Quagga Act, that would add quagga mussels to the national invasive species list.

Dr. Benishek, a surgeon representing Michigan's Upper Peninsula in his second term, serves on the House Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Veteran's Affairs Committees and is an avid hunter and fisherman. He has supported several pieces of legislation that would help curtail invasive species, including the Asian Carp Prevention Act of 2012, and is a member of the Great Lakes Task Force.

PLEASE CONSIDER SIGNING PETITION OPPOSING VANDALISM OF FIELD TRIALS

On August 8, vandals in the Philippines destroyed government field trials of golden rice. The global scientific community is reaching out to us to condemn these acts. For more information, please go to: <http://www.change.org/en-CA/petitions/global-scientific-community-condemns-the-recent-destruction-of-field-trials-of-golden-rice-in-the-philippines>

Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D.
Science Policy Director
National and Regional Weed Science Societies
5720 Glenmullen Place
Alexandria, VA 22303
Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net
cell: 202-746-4686
www.wssa.net

Send Newsletter material to:
DR. CLIFFORD KOGER (Trey)
WSSA Newsletter Editor
112 Meadowlark Lane
Indianola, MS 38751
Cell (662) 207-1604
Email: trey.koger@syngenta.com

Proposal Tips from a Recent Grant Panel

Adam S. Davis · asdavis1@illinois.edu

USDA-ARS Global Change and Photosynthesis Research Unit · Urbana, IL

Recently, I had the pleasure of serving as panel manager for the USDA NIFA AFRI 'Controlling Weedy and Invasive Plants' competitive grants program. The panel was comprised of top scientists at various career stages, with balanced institutional, geographic and gender representation. We were able to recommend some very good and innovative research proposals for funding. However, we also reviewed some proposals that contained interesting ideas but had serious limitations that eliminated them from further consideration. I thought it might be useful to share the insights that we gained with those wishing to hone proposals for submission to future competitions. Although this advice is motivated by this particular program, it is broadly relevant to all proposal development. We hope you find it helpful.

1. Be responsive to the RFA. Competitive grant programs exist to help funding agencies accomplish their mission. When reading the request for application (RFA), pay close attention to the funding body's goals and the criteria for relevance. For example, the very short description for the FY 2013 AFRI Weedy and Invasive Plants program reads:

'This priority area supports projects that focus on compelling scientific questions underlying current issues in weed and invasive plant management in crops, managed forests and rangeland including:

- Ecological processes related to integrated pest management;
- The evolution, spread and mitigation of herbicide resistance based on an understanding of ecological fitness and gene flow; or
- Other ecological or evolutionary studies that would inform weed management strategies, including links between agronomic practices and weed problems.'

The core message is that this program supports projects that advance the scientific basis for management of weedy and invasive plants. Proposals should feature compelling science, current and/or emerging issues, and strong links to weedy and invasive plant management in arable, forested, rangeland and wildland systems. The suggested research areas are intentionally broad and inclusive, but there are limits. Your proposal may be brilliant, but if it does not fit the program it will not be funded. If you have questions about an RFA, call the program leader well in advance of submitting a pre-proposal. Clarifying the RFA is an important part of a program leader's responsibilities.

Having a letter of intent accepted doesn't guarantee that your project will be a perfect fit with the RFA. It is up to you to remain aware of this when writing the full proposal, and to explain clearly how your research will advance the program goals.

2. State your hypotheses and objectives. Your proposal should be built on clearly articulated hypotheses to be tested or questions to be asked, and these should be stated early in the narrative. 'Fishing expeditions' in which data will be collected without a clear, compelling hypothesis guiding the work will provoke negative reactions in reviewers. For example, a proposal asking for support for a massive sequencing effort of a particular weed species, with no justification for what the team is looking for or how the results will be used, is unlikely to succeed. Explain how different experiments are linked to each other and to the overarching research question or hypothesis, and don't tack on an unrelated research activity simply because it is currently fashionable or is a pet project of one of the investigators.

Avoid contingent hypotheses and experiments, in which the latter in a series become irrelevant or unattainable if the first or second are falsified as the project proceeds. We all know that experiments don't always turn out as we expect them to. For this reason too, a well-written 'Pitfalls and Limitations' section helps satisfy reviewers that you know your system: acknowledge what can go wrong, discuss the limitations for inferences made from the data, and develop credible, well-supported contingency plans for responding to such issues.

3. Support your claims. The various sections of a proposal consist of series of assertions. Some of these claims relate to current knowledge gaps and are stated as hypotheses, whereas others are statements of why the project is needed (rationale) or what you intend to do (approach). In each case, your claims need to be supported by the best available information. This can take the form of a concise but thorough review of the literature establishing the scientific context for the problem. Make sure that the problem is novel and that your research questions have not already been addressed by other groups. Preliminary data collected by the proposal authors that point to the need for the project will greatly strengthen your proposal. Such preliminary results are best presented as tables or figures, although a brief statement of the key results is acceptable if you cite work that has already been published. Avoid citing papers 'in prep' or 'in review' – the reviewer has no way of accessing these to confirm your results, or even the existence of the paper – and remember that unsubstantiated or exaggerated claims (aka 'baloney') will rapidly undermine your proposal and reduce the credibility of its authors in the minds of the reviewers.

CONTINUED on pg 14 >>>

4. Choose the right tools for the job and explain them fully. Many proposals don't achieve their full potential due to inappropriate, or more often inadequately explained, experimental methods. When selecting a particular experimental approach to address an objective, three important considerations are scale, precision and feasibility of measurements. Natural phenomena occur at many levels of scale along different dimensions, such as space, time and taxonomy. Tools should be chosen that have adequate precision at the required scale. For example, using genetic markers that only provide taxonomic resolution at the family or genus level, while attempting to address an objective aimed at the intraspecific level, simply won't work. If you claim that a particular tool will do the job, support this claim with appropriate references, and provide sufficient detail when describing your methods that the panel can assess their validity. Don't forget this also applies to your proposed statistical analyses, which should be clearly explained and justified. If you are unsure whether a tool or approach is appropriate, seek input from an outside expert, either as an advisor or as a collaborator.

Reviewers will also assess whether your experimental approach is feasible within your specified time frame and budget. Don't be tempted to propose huge multifactorial designs that defy meaningful analysis or experiments with so many replicates that data collection would be impossible with the available resources. Equally, it may be ideal to perform an experiment at different scales, but the cost or logistics may be prohibitive. If you plan a scaled-back version, it can be beneficial to explain your rationale for doing so.

5. Make it easy for reviewers. Grant proposal reviewers are your peers, but not all those who read your proposal are experts in your particular sub-field. Reviewers are also volunteering their time on top of their regular jobs. They get tired and cranky after reading several lengthy proposals late at night, so make it as easy as possible for them to understand and like your proposal. An effective way to do this is to remember that a research proposal (or a scientific paper, for that matter) is simply telling a story with data. The best stories keep the reviewer nodding appreciatively from the first line all the way to the end. There should be a strong narrative flow through the proposal, starting with an informative title and a gripping (but not exaggerated) summary section. To make these first sections compelling, it is critical to spend time honing your sales pitch. Can you explain to a colleague in your department who is not a specialist in your field, in no more than two minutes, why your project is exciting? If you can't, reconsider what is the core of your project, and refocus around this until you can. The remaining sections of the proposal need to flow in a clear, organized way from the pitch that is made on the first

page of the introduction. This pitch should contain a clear central question supported by a strong rationale and tightly linked to three to four main objectives. Use figures when appropriate to illustrate your main points, and make it easy for reviewers to identify these points through judicious use of formatting (e.g. italicizing a key phrase). Sometimes a photo of your system could be useful – remember that the panel comes from all over the US but may not have visited or have a full appreciation of all other regions and systems. Preferences for organizational structure vary among writers, but many of the reviewers on my panel preferred to see proposals organized by objective, so that all the related information (experimental design and methods, statistical analyses, anticipated results etc.) was close by and easy to find.

An important point that is often overlooked: take time to proof-read your proposal carefully. Typos may be good for a laugh (e.g. 'flatuation' instead of fluctuation), however they will not do your proposal any favors. Errors in spelling and grammar, incorrectly cited references, or missing proposal sections make you look unprofessional and raise doubts among the reviewers as to whether your research is equally sloppy.

6. Be persistent and hone your proposal writing skills. Think ahead, and build a strong case over time for testing a particular hypothesis by collecting preliminary data and assembling a fact-pattern that points to your proposed work as the next step. Test out your big picture ideas on colleagues and graduate students as part of local group meetings. If you submit a proposal that is not funded, don't give up. Read reviewer comments carefully to determine where the problem lies, and address their suggestions for improvement in a new submission.

Another good way to become familiar with the criteria for success in a given program is to ask colleagues who have been recently successful to let you read their funded proposals. Finally, you might consider volunteering as a panel member so that you'll have the opportunity to review proposals. Participants in the panel that I managed, especially early-career scientists, found it a useful, informative and fun experience that greatly increased their understanding of what it takes to get a proposal funded by this program.



NECROLOGY

THOMAS J. (Jack) SHEETS **December 11, 1926 – July 6, 2013**



Thomas J. (Jack) Sheets, 86, a resident of Springmoor Life Care Retirement Community in Raleigh, North Carolina, died July 5, 2013. He was a native of Fairview, Buncombe County, North Carolina and a longtime resident of Raleigh. He was the son of the late Oliver D. and Sue P. Sheets of Fairview.

Jack served with the U. S. Army from late 1944 to 1946. He graduated from North Carolina State College with a Bachelor's Degree in 1951 and Master's Degree from that institution in 1954. He earned a Doctorate from the University of California (Davis) in 1959. He worked for several years with the U. S. Department of Agriculture and was a member of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Faculty, North Carolina State University, for 27 years before retirement in 1992. His research on pesticide residues in plants, soil, and water was widely recognized. He served as a member and as chair on the North Carolina Pesticide Advisory Committee from its beginning in 1972 until his retirement.

Jack was a member of Benson Memorial United Methodist Church and a member of several honorary, scientific, and fraternal organizations. He was a loyal member and past president of the Raleigh Host Lions Club and participated in many of the club's charitable activities.

He is survived by Marie, his faithful, loving wife of 61 years; two daughters Susan Baker and husband, Leonard, of Wake County, NC and Nancy Thomas and husband, Scott, of Burlington; grandchildren, Jeff Wilson and wife, Kate, and Benjamin, Elizabeth, and Rebecca Thomas; a great grandson, Jackson Wilson; brother Bob Sheets and wife, Bonnie, of Old Fort; sister Jean Fink and husband, Mike, of Fairview; and brothers-in-law, Joe Middleton, of Linville Falls and David Bartlett, of Asheville. He was preceded in death by a brother, Oliver D. Sheets, Jr.; sisters Frances Hull and husband, Bob, Patsy Bartlett, Shirley Middleton, and Sudie Wheeler and husband, Claude.

A Memorial Service was held on Wednesday, July 10, 2013 in the auditorium at Springmoor Life Care Retirement Community, 1500 Sawmill Road, Raleigh, NC with the Reverend Phyllis Mayo officiating. The family greeted friends following the service. Interment was at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday at Raleigh Memorial Park, 7501 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh.



Read more here: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/newsobserver/obituary.aspx?n=thomas-j-sheets-jack&pid=165749857&fhid=11314#fbLoggedOut#storylink-cpy>



NECROLOGY

EDWARD FRANCIS SULLIVAN, JR. **September 16, 1920 – August 7, 2013**

Dr. Edward F. Sullivan, Jr. of Clemmons passed away on August 7, 2013 at the age of 93. He was the son of the late Edward and Thelma Sullivan.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 65 years, Madeline. Also surviving are his loving children, Edward Sullivan III and wife Joan McKenna; Hannah Sullivan; Anne Parra and husband Alvaro "Al" Gonzalez; Matthew Sullivan and wife Mary; three grandchildren, Madeline, Caroline, and Matthew; and one great grandchild, Quinn.

Born 1920 in Scarborough, Maine, Dr. Sullivan grew up on his family's farm. He graduated from the CAA Civilian Pilot Training Program and served in the Army Air Corps as a ground-school instructor during World War II. He received a B.S. Degree in Agronomy from the University of Maine, and M.S. and Ph.D. Degrees in Agriculture and Forage Crops from Cornell University.

Dr. Sullivan was a Professor of Agronomy at Southern Illinois University and Pennsylvania State University before becoming Manager of Crop Protection at the Great Western Sugar Company in Longmont, Colorado. After retiring in 1984, he and his wife relocated to North Carolina to be closer to family.

Considered one of the world's foremost authorities on crop protection and soil erosion, Dr. Sullivan authored numerous scientific articles and contributed to several agricultural patents. He was elected to the International Institution for Sugar Beet Research in Brussels, Belgium; and received the Meritorious Service Award from the American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists. His professional memberships included the American Society of Agronomy, Weed Science Society of America, and the International Institute for Sugar Beet Research. He was also a founding member of the Plant Growth Regulator Society of America.

A private memorial mass, officiated by Reverend Brian Cook, was held at Holy Family Catholic Church in Clemmons on August 24, 2013.



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND EXTENSION WEED CONTROL SPECIALIST UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Title: Assistant Professor and
Extension Weed Control Specialist –
50/50 split of Extension and Research

Category Status: 12 Month Tenure-
Track Position

Unit: AGNR-Plant Science and
Landscape Architecture

Position #: 103680

Campus/College Information:

Founded in 1856, University of Maryland, College Park is the flagship institution in the University System of Maryland. Our 1,250-acre College Park campus is just minutes away from Washington, D.C., and the nexus of the nation's legislative, executive, and judicial centers of power. This unique proximity to business and technology leaders, federal departments and agencies, and a myriad of research entities, embassies, think tanks, cultural centers, and non-profit organizations is simply unparalleled. Synergistic opportunities for our faculty and students abound and are virtually limitless in the nation's capital and surrounding areas. The University is committed to attracting and retaining outstanding and diverse faculty and staff that will enhance our stature of preeminence in our three missions of teaching, scholarship, and full engagement in our community, the state of Maryland, and in the world.

Position Summary/Purpose of Position Research:

The applicant is expected to develop an extramurally-funded research program focused on identification of biochemical and/or genetic mechanisms underlying proliferation of invasive plant species and resistance to herbicides. Preference will be given to applicants who plan to integrate "next generation" genetics technologies to weed science problems. Research should be integrated with analyses of cultural practices used in weed management programs of agronomic crops

that are widely grown throughout the state. Applied aspects of the research program can include, but are not limited to, the following: surveys of herbicide-resistant weeds, newly introduced weed species and invasive plants; application of cultural/weed control systems to problems identified in the above mentioned survey data; impact studies of crop rotation on weed seed longevity; impacts of the introduction of herbicide-resistant crops; efficacy of non-chemical weed management programs; evaluation of new herbicide application technologies. Support for the program is available through numerous commodity groups. Excellent farm, greenhouse, and laboratory facilities are available for carrying out the research program.

Extension:

Extension duties will include but not be limited to the following: contributing to the development of state and regional weed control recommendations for agronomic and vegetable crops; presenting information at research and educational meetings; working with UMD Extension to develop statewide and regional news releases, extension brochures, website materials, and media presentations; contributing to weed control demonstrations at university research stations; developing training materials for pesticide recertification and the Certified Crops Advisor program; and conducting annual/semiannual in-service training for Extension personnel. The individual will work with research personnel, state and regional Extension specialists, county agricultural educators, industry representatives, state and federal regulatory personnel, and agricultural leaders in carrying out the Land-Grant mission.

Qualifications:

A Ph.D. degree in the life sciences will be required. Preferred applicants will have education and training in weed management, and will have training in plant physiology, taxonomy, chemistry, statistics, agricultural technology, horticulture, and related

subjects. The applicant should have good writing and speaking skills, and demonstrate a working knowledge of conducting an effective Extension and research program in weed science.

Application Process:

All candidates must apply online at <https://ejobs.umd.edu>. When applying, please submit cover letter, resume, copy of transcripts and name, email address of 3 professional references.

Closing Date:

Open Until Filled. Review of applications will begin September 1, 2013. Apply by September 1, 2013 for best consideration.



The University of Maryland, College Park, actively subscribes to a policy of equal employment opportunity, and will not discriminate against any employee or applicant because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry or national origin, marital status, genetic information, or political affiliation, or gender identity and expression. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply.



NATIONAL PROGRAM LEADER USDA-ARS

The USDA-ARS announced that they will be hiring a new National Program Leader for weed science to replace the tragic loss of Dr. John Lydon. The position announcement is at: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/347109200>

Job Title: National Program Leader
(Invasive Crop Pests)

Department: Department of
Agriculture

Agency: Agricultural Research Service

Job Announcement Number:
ARS-X13N-0052

Salary Range: \$105,211 to \$155,500/yr.

Open Period: July 15– Aug. 12, 2013

Series and Grade: GS-0401/0414/
0435/0471-14/15

Position Information: Full Time -
Permanent

IMPORTANT ADDRESSES

PRESIDENT

Jim Kells
Telephone: (517) 355-0271, ext. 1103
e-mail: kells@msu.edu

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Joe DiTomaso
Telephone: (530) 754-8715
e-mail: jmditomaso@ucdavis.edu

VICE-PRESIDENT

Dallas Peterson
Telephone: (785) 532-0405
e-mail: dpeterso@ksu.edu

PAST-PRESIDENT

Rod Lym
North Dakota State University
Loftsgard Hall 474D
P. O. Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-6050
Telephone: (701) 231-8996
Fax: (701) 231-8474
e-mail: rod.lym@ndsu.edu

CONSTITUTION/MOPS

Peter Porpiglia
Telephone: (949) 221-6116
e-mail: peterp@amvac-chemical.com

SECRETARY

John Madsen
Mississippi State University
Mailstop 9627
2 Research Blvd.
Mississippi State, MS 39762
Telephone: (662) 325-2428
e-mail: jmadsen@agri.msstate.edu

TREASURER

Ian Burke
Washington State University
Telephone: (509) 335-2858
e-mail: icburke@wsu.edu

DIRECTOR OF PUBLICATIONS

James V. Anderson
USDA-ARS, PSR
1605 Albrecht Blvd.
Fargo, ND 58105-5674
Telephone: (701) 239-1263
Fax: (701) 239-1252
e-mail: james.anderson@ars.usda.gov

DIRECTOR OF SCIENCE POLICY

Lee Van Wychen
5720 Glenmullen Place
Alexandria, VA 22303
Telephone: (202) 746-4686
e-mail: Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Joyce Lancaster
P. O. Box 1897
Lawrence, KS 66044
Telephone: (785) 843-1235, ext. 250
Fax: (785) 843-1274
e-mail: jlancaster@allenpress.com

IWSS

Albert J. Fischer
Vegetable Crops Dept
University of California
One Shields Ave.
Davis, CA 95616
Telephone: (530) 752-7386
Fax: (530) 752-4604
e-mail: ajfischer@ucdavis.edu

CAST

Jeff Derr
Virginia Tech
Telephone: (757) 363-3912
Fax: (757) 363-3950
e-mail: jderr@vt.edu

AIBS (Our Representative)

Lee Van Wychen
5720 Glenmullen Place
Alexandria, VA 22303
Telephone: (202) 746-4686
e-mail: Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net

GRAD STUDENT REP

Alexandra Knight
Telephone: (740) 491-0367
e-mail: amknigh4@ncsu.edu

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

WSSA

Clifford (Trey) Koger
Syngenta
112 Meadowlark Lane
Indianola, MS 38751
Cell: (662) 207-1604
e-mail: trey.koger@syngenta.com

Aquatic Plant Mgmt. Society (APMS)

Cody Gray
Telephone: (719) 886-4708
e-mail: cody.gray@uniphos.com

NEWSS

Jacob Barney
Telephone: (814) 865-2242
e-mail: jnbarney@vt.edu

NCWSS

Mark Bernards
Telephone: (309) 298-1569
e-mail: ml-bernards@wiu.edu

SWSS

Darrin Dodds
Telephone: (662) 325-4072
e-mail: dmd76@pss.msstate.edu

WSWS

Pat Clay
Telephone: (602) 206-9261
e-mail: Pat.Clay@valent.com

CWSS-SCM

Peter Sikkema
Telephone: (519) 674-1500, ext.63603
e-mail: psikkema@ridgetownnc.uoguelph.ca

IWSS

Dr. Samunder Singh
Department of Agronomy
CCS Haryana Agricultural University
Hisar 125 004, India
Voice: 91 94160 07242
e-mail: sam4884@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
July 14–17, 2013	Aquatic Plant Management Society Annual Meeting	San Antonio, Texas	www.apms.org
July 24–25, 2013	Collegiate Weed Science Contest (Joint event between NEWSS and NCWSS)	Monsanto Research Farm near Monmouth, Illinois	
December 9–12, 2013	North Central Weed Science Society Annual Meeting	Columbus, Ohio	www.ncwss.org
January 6–9, 2014	68th Annual Meeting of Northeastern Weed Science Society	Sheraton Society Hill Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	www.newss.org
January 22–23, 2014	NAIPSC Web Course		http://ipscourse.unl.edu
January 27–29, 2014	Southern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting	Birmingham, Alabama	www.swss.ws
February 3–6, 2014	Joint WSSA and Canadian Weed Science Society Annual Meeting	Vancouver, Canada	www.wssa.net
March 10–13, 2014	Western Society of Weed Science Annual Meeting	Colorado Springs, Colorado	www.wsweedscience.org
July 13–16, 2014	Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) Annual Meeting	Savannah, Georgia	www.apms.org
February, 2015	Weed Science Society of America Annual Meeting	Lexington, Kentucky	www.wssa.net
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

Send Newsletter material to:
DR. CLIFFORD KOGER (Trey)
WSSA Newsletter Editor
112 Meadowlark Lane
Indianola, MS 38751
Cell (662) 207-1604
Email: trey.koger@syngenta.com