



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another year has come and gone. It's hard to believe that my term as President of WSSA is about to come to an end as well. The annual meeting is fast approaching and I look forward to ending my term on a high note at the meeting in San Juan. Program co-chairs Kevin Bradley and Peter Dotray have developed a full and exciting program and Joyce Lancaster, Tony Ballard, and Phil Banks have worked hard to take care of all the meeting arrangements for the joint WSSA/SWSS annual meeting. Based on the high number of paper and poster submissions, we anticipate having one of the largest meetings ever. The joint meeting program is posted at the WSSA website and a meeting app is available for downloading to help plan your meeting schedule.

Lee Van Wychen, Michael Barrett, and Donn Shilling continue to represent WSSA on science policy, EPA, and NIFA issues. Lee organized several congressional office visits for Donn Shilling and me while we were in DC in early December. Our primary points of discussion were support of increased USDA NIFA funding for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) in the FY 2016 budget, support of the Areawide Integrated Pest Management bill, and concerns about the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule. We were very pleased that congress eventually approved an increase in AFRI funding levels from the levels previously proposed by both the Senate and the House.

While we were in DC, Donn and I also were able to participate in a seminar presented by David Shaw on Herbicide Resistance as part of the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research Hill Seminar Series. The seminars are targeted at informing Capitol Hill staff and policy stakeholders about current agricultural issues and the value of public investment in food and agricultural research. The meeting room was filled to capacity and we had an excellent exchange of information with those in attendance.

The deadline has passed on the request for proposals for future executive secretary and business management services for WSSA and several affiliated

CONTINUED on pg 2 >>

SEE YOU IN  
SAN JUAN, PR  
FEBRUARY 8-11!

## IN THIS ISSUE

APMS Call for Papers . . . . .	3	Important Addresses . . . . .	7
Washington Report . . . . .	4	Calendar of Events . . . . .	8
Necrology . . . . .	6		

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** CONTINUED from pg 1

societies. The evaluation process of the proposals is underway as WSSA and the other societies decide the best course of action for each of the respective societies in the future. Kevin Bradley is leading this effort on our behalf in conjunction with representatives from each of the other participating societies.

I am pleased to announce the three newly elected members who will be joining the WSSA Board during the meetings in San Juan. Scott Senseman has been elected Vice-President, Brian Jenks as Secretary, and Bryan Young as the new Member-at Large. They will officially be installed as new members during the Business meeting.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as President of WSSA this past year. It has been a real learning experience for me to see how much we accomplish as a mostly volunteer organization. I would like to thank everyone who contributes to the success of our society, including the Board of Directors, Journal Editors and reviewers, Committee chairs and members, Director of Science Policy Lee VanWyche, EPA Subject Matter Expert Michael Barrett, NIFA Fellow Donn Shilling, and all other volunteers and supporters. I especially appreciate the assistance and support that Joyce Lancaster and Joe DiTomaso have provided me throughout the past year. Finally, I would like to recognize the outstanding service of Joe, Secretary Larry Steckel, and Member-at-Large Dan Kunkel as they retire from the WSSA board at the upcoming meeting. Best wishes to Kevin Bradley as he assumes the position of President for the coming year.

Thanks again for giving me the opportunity to serve as President of WSSA and I look forward to seeing everyone at the joint WSSA/SWSS meeting in San Juan.

Dallas Peterson  
WSSA President

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## **WSSA FUTURE MEETING SITES AND DATES**

**February 8-11, 2016**  
**56th Joint Annual Meeting**  
**SWSS and WSSA**  
**San Juan Sheraton**  
**San Juan, Puerto Rico**  
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**2017**  
**Tucson, Arizona**

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ACCESSED AT:  
[www.wssa.net](http://www.wssa.net)**

**THINK NEWSLETTER**  
**Deadline for April issue**  
**March 1, 2016**

### **WSSA NEWSLETTER**

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# Aquatic Plant Management Society Call for Papers

You are invited to submit a title and abstract for the 56th Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Plant Management Society to be held July 17–20, 2016, at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, MI. Both oral and poster presentations are solicited for original research on the biology or ecology of aquatic and wetland plants, control methods (biological, chemical, cultural, mechanical) for invasive, exotic or nuisance plant or alga species, and restoration projects involving wetland or aquatic plants and algae. Presentation of original research will be given preference, and should be indicated by including results in the abstract. This year's meeting is in the region of the Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society, so regional presenters are strongly encouraged to submit an abstract.

The Society also invites student abstracts for oral or poster presentations. This meeting presents an opportunity for students to network with key government, university and industry representatives, and peers with similar educational and professional interests. The society will provide all student presenters with room accommodations and complimentary registration. First, 2nd, and 3rd place prize money will be awarded in separate contests for both oral and poster presentations. In addition, all students are invited to attend a hands-on tour of local aquatic plant management sites immediately following the meeting and concluding Thursday, July 21. Students may contact the APMS Student Affairs Committee Chairs, Dr. Becca Haynie or Dr. Chris Mudge,

with any questions at [rebeccah@sepro.com](mailto:rebeccah@sepro.com) or [CMudge@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:CMudge@agcenter.lsu.edu).

Oral presentations will be allotted a total of 15 minutes with an additional 5 minutes for questions and discussion. Contributed oral presentations should be scientific or technical in nature, which will be determined from the submitted abstract. An LCD projector/computer and laser pointer will be available for oral presentations. Only PC-based PowerPoint presentations will be accepted. All presenters will be required to upload their final PowerPoint presentation to the abstract submission portal prior to the meeting. Note: All presentations that include externally run programs; models or special animation, must be reviewed and approved by the Program Chair prior to the meeting. You will not be allowed to set up a personal computer for your presentation. A poster session will also be scheduled. Free-standing display boards (4' x 4') will be provided for posters.

Please go to the WSSA Title and Abstract Submission System at <https://wssaabstracts.com/> to submit your information online. Log in and click "Join a Conference" to access the 2016 APMS meeting. Click "Enter" then "My Titles and Abstracts" to submit your information. Please limit abstracts to 300 words. You will receive a confirmation email to indicate your title and abstract have been received and uploaded. This does not mean that your presentation is accepted for the conference. Acceptance of contributed papers will not occur until after the abstract deadline, and will be confirmed by a separate e-mail. The title and abstract submission system is now active and will remain open until April 29, 2016. If you have any questions, please contact the APMS Program Chair, Dr. John Madsen at [jmadsen@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jmadsen@ucdavis.edu).

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**THINK NEWSLETTER**

**Deadline for April issue**

**March 1, 2016**

# WASHINGTON REPORT

by Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

## CONGRESS PASSES AN OMNIBUS FUNDING BILL FOR FY 2016

The omnibus spending bill passed by Congress in December includes full Appropriations legislation and funding for the 12 annual Appropriations bills through the end of the fiscal year, Sept. 30, 2016. The level reflects the increased domestic discretionary funding provided by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which was enacted on Nov. 2, 2015. Overall, the omnibus is good news for weed and invasive plant research. USDA-NIFA, -ARS, -APHIS, and -NRCS all got modest increases compared to last year. Funding for the Aquatic Plant Control Research Program doubled from \$4M to \$8M, however, half of that is slated for new watercraft inspection stations. The biggest winner was the Agricultural and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) which saw an increase from \$325M to \$350M. Earlier this year, the Senate proposed to flatline AFRI at \$325 million, while the House proposed just a \$10M increase over 2015. USDA funding remained constant to last year's levels for the Hatch Act (\$244M), Smith-Lever Act section b & c (\$300M), IR-4 (\$11.9M), and Crop Protection & Pest Management (\$17.2M), which includes funding for the Regional IPM Centers and Extension IPM.

## WSSA SUPPORTS AREAWIDE IPM BILL INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS

In November, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (HI) introduced the Areawide Integrated Pest Management (AIPM) Act of 2015 (H.R. 3893). The bill amends the Integrated Research, Education, and Extension competitive grants pro-



On December 4, Dr. David Shaw (standing) presented a seminar titled "Battling the Wicked Problem of Herbicide Resistance: The Human Dimensions of Herbicide Resistance Evolution" to Congressional staffers in the House Agriculture Committee in Washington, DC. Seated at the table next to Dr. Shaw (from right to left) are Dr. Donn Shilling, WSSA Science Policy Committee Chair, Dr. Dallas Peterson, WSSA President, and Dr. Lee Van Wychen WSSA Science Policy Director. Dr. Peterson provided closing remarks for the seminar.

gram by adding a focus on grants for Areawide IPM. The competitive grants would be awarded to colleges and universities for Integrated projects as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture in consultation with a nine member committee for AIPM "representing stakeholder groups with experience in areawide research programs carried out by Federal, State, or private entities." "Integrated" programs must include aspects of research, education and extension. Currently funded "Integrated" programs include Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM), Water Quality, Methyl Bromide Transitions, and Organic Transitions. Previous programs that received "Integrated" funding included Crops at Risk (CAR) and the Risk Avoidance and Mitigation Program (RAMP). WSSA is working with Rep. Gabbard and other groups to build support among stakeholders and find co-sponsors in the Senate. Ideally, we'd like to see this language included in the next Farm Bill. Rep. Gabbard's speech on the

House floor and press release introducing the AIPM bill can be found [HERE](#).

## EPA EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD FOR PESTICIDE APPLICATOR RULE

EPA extended the public comment period by one month to Jan. 23, 2016 regarding its proposed changes to the certification and training standards for pesticide applicators. The Science Policy Committee has been discussing these proposed changes, which will have significant costs and impacts on state lead agencies, university extension programs, and the applicators subject to regulatory certification. The proposed rule is complex and includes numerous new, revised, and deleted definitions. Our main concerns with the proposed revisions include:

1. Three-Year Frequency for Demonstrating Competency
2. Requirement for Earning Continuing Education Units (CEUs) every 18 months
3. Minimum Age

CONTINUED on pg 5 >>>

4. Private Applicator Competency Requirements
5. Impact on General Use Pesticide Applicators
6. Definition of "Use"
7. Definition of "Mishap"

Full Rule Proposal – **Pesticides:**

**Certification of Pesticide Applicators**

EPA is accepting comments on the proposal until January 23, 2016. To comment now, please go to:

[EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0183](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/OPP-2011-0183)

**WOTUS RULE FIX NOT INCLUDED IN OMNIBUS**

The EPA's and Army Corps of Engineer's Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule survived a proposed roll-back in the omnibus despite the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) finding that the EPA broke the law by violating publicity or propaganda and anti-lobbying provisions. See:

<http://www.gao.gov/products/B-326944>

By the time the GAO report was issued, lawmakers were already hashing out a deal to end the 40 year old oil export ban in exchange for the removal of environmental riders in the omnibus bill.

In November, Democrats filibustered a bill (S. 1140) from Sen. John Barrasso (WY) that would have forced the EPA to scrap the WOTUS rule and start over. Instead, senators passed a filibuster-proof resolution to block the rule, but lawmakers didn't have enough votes for a 2/3 majority to overcome an Obama veto.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit is currently weighing whether it, or the federal district courts, should have authority over the many challenges to the WOTUS rule, but has not yet issued a decision. The North Dakota district court suit, *State of North Dakota, et al., v. EPA, et al.* is continuing absent a 6th Circuit order.

Finally, the American Farm Bureau Federation is publicizing a California farmer's dispute with the Army Corps of Engineers as a cautionary tale for what could happen if the WOTUS rule is adopted. John Duarte, the California farmer, was issued a cease and desist order by the Army Corps of Engineers for basically plowing his field and planting wheat. The Army Corps of Engineers claimed that Duarte violated the Clean Water Act in discharging dredge-and-fill materials in a nearby creek without a permit. For details, see:

[http://www.fb.org/newsroom/news\\_article/383/](http://www.fb.org/newsroom/news_article/383/)

**2015 A RECORD-SETTING YEAR FOR FEDERAL REGULATIONS**

Speaking of federal rules — this year's Federal Register, which publishes federal agency rules, proposed rules, and notices as well as executive orders from the president, totaled 81,611 pages (with one day to go in 2015). That's an all time record, and is over 4,000 pages more than last year and surpasses the previous record set in 2010. They may have to rewrite the civics textbooks to include a 4th branch of government — "the regulators"! (That's an inside joke here in the nation's capitol among policy wonks.) In 2015, there were 3,378 final rules and regulations among the pages of the Federal Register, with another 2,334 proposed rules that are at various stages of consideration.

**EUROPEANS, CANADIANS CONCLUDE GLYPHOSATE 'UNLIKELY TO CAUSE CANCER IN HUMANS'**

In November, the very cautious European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) concluded that glyphosate is unlikely to cause cancer in humans. The Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) in April also con-

cluded that "the overall weight of evidence indicates that glyphosate is unlikely to pose a human cancer risk." EFSA stated glyphosate toxicity should be reduced by lessening its dose, but the substance is not likely to be genotoxic or damaging to DNA. "Glyphosate is not proposed to be classified as carcinogenic under the EU regulation for classification, labeling and packaging of chemical substances," EFSA says. "In particular, all the Member State experts but one agreed that neither the epidemiological data (i.e., on humans) nor the evidence from animal studies demonstrated causality between exposure to glyphosate and the development of cancer in humans."



**NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK: FEBRUARY 21-27, 2016**

SAVE THE DATE: Participate in events across the nation to raise awareness and identify solutions to invasive species issues at local, state, tribal, regional, international and national scales. Locate an invasive species event in your state or county. Plan your own event using the NISAW Toolkit – where and when it works for you! Plan to attend the NISAW 2016 reception and briefings on Capitol Hill! Check [www.nisaw.org](http://www.nisaw.org) for the NISAW Toolkit for planning local events and the NISAW Event Locator – as well as more specific dates, details, event schedules, complete lists of partners and further developments and other potential events in Washington, DC.

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# NECROLOGY

## **ROBIN R. BELLINDER** **NOVEMBER 13, 2015**

Dr. Robin R. Bellinder passed away on November 13, 2015. She will be remembered as a weed scientist who ardently and tirelessly supported the growers in her chosen area, namely weed management in horticultural crops. Robin was someone who embodied the mission of a Land Grant University to educate growers, and to equip them with the necessary tools to combat weeds while working closely with industry partners and governmental agencies such as IR-4 to carry out relevant research. Her research and service outcomes had touched the lives of farmers near and far; let alone impacted, albeit indirectly, the day-to-day lives of an average person in untold ways. She had received countless accolades that decorated a truly selfless and fulfilling career. Her research was disseminated through numerous extension publications, 60+ refereed journal articles, and five book chapters. She was someone who possessed the rare gift of integrating art with science. Robin had collaborated with scientists from within and outside the region, and from other countries in South America and Asia. As past-president of the Northeastern Weed Science Society, Dr. Bellinder will always be remembered as a committed and steadfast member who influenced the society and its future generations in compelling ways.

Robin, your stay in this world was short yet most meaningful. You made it a better place for us mortals. You were taken away from us for a nobler cause. We will miss you dearly, and will always remember you as a stalwart, a dutiful champion, and as a role model that we should all strive for. May your soul be blessed and may it rest in peace.

- Rakesh S. Chandran, NEWSS President



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## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
February 8–11, 2016	Joint WSSA and Southern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting	San Juan Sheraton San Juan, Puerto Rico	<a href="http://www.wssa.net">www.wssa.net</a>
March 7–10, 2016	WSWS Annual Meeting	Albuquerque, New Mexico	<a href="http://www.wsweedscience.org">www.wsweedscience.org</a>
June 19–25, 2016	7th IWSC Annual Conference	Prague, Czech Republic	
June 20–24, 2016	11th International Symposium on Adjuvants for Agrochemicals	Monterey, California	<a href="http://www.isaa2016.org">www.isaa2016.org</a>
July 17–20, 2016	Aquatic Plant Management Society Annual Meeting	Amway Grand Plaza Hotel Grand Rapids, Michigan	Dr. John Madsen, APMS Program Chair Email: <a href="mailto:jmadsen@ucdavis.edu">jmadsen@ucdavis.edu</a>
2017	Weed Science Society of America Annual Meeting	Tucson, Arizona	<a href="http://www.wssa.net">www.wssa.net</a>

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