

APEX WEBSTUDIO - 2020 REPORT TO THE WSSA BOARD

WEED SCIENCE MEETING TITLE AND ABSTRACT SUBMISSION SYSTEM

The new abstract submission system is online and has been used for the SWSS and WSSA/WSWS annual meetings. We are currently working with APMS to update the system to meet their requests. Later this summer and into the fall we'll work with NCWSS and NEWSS to update the system for their needs.

Some advantages of the new system over the old wssaabstracts system:

- **More easily tailored for each society.** We now have the ability to customize the system to meet the needs of each society. In the old system, the code base was too downlevel to permit most enhancements.
- **Ability to upload larger PowerPoint files.** The new limit is 200MB. Previously the file size limit was 50MB.
- **Viewable on any device size.** This enables the author to submit their entries from smartphones, tablets, or desktop computers. Previously the website didn't resize to fit the device screen, limiting its use to larger screens such as laptops and desktop computers.
- **Streamlined process for selecting conferences.** Now an author can submit a title for any of the open conferences from the same page. In the old system, the author would have to 'join' each conference, and then 'enter' each conference individually in order to submit a title.
- **Ability to specify a co-submitter.** The submitter can enter the email address of a co-submitter, which will give editing access to this person when they log in. Previously, if someone entered a title on behalf of someone else, only the submitter had the ability to enter the abstract.
- **Reset password emails are not being caught by spam filters.** In the old system, the reset password emails were being sent via an older email submission system. In the new system, a more reliable email distribution system is being used that has a higher 'trust' rating, and therefore reset password emails are not as likely to be blocked.
- **More Tools for the Program Chair.** The new system has a separate desktop app that has more features and tools than the old system when creating the schedule and generating the Program, such as the ability to apply 'Title Case' to titles that have been entered in all caps, standardized the fonttype and fontsize for all titles and abstracts regardless of what the author used, and an author editor tool.

To be completed:

- There are still some outstanding requests from SWSS and WSSA/WSWS, based on their feedback after using the system.
- Implement any updates that will be requested by APMS, NCWSS, and NEWSS
- Create the searchable database and user interface. This was put on hold while we fine-tuned the system and database for SWSS and WSSA, and while NCWSS and NEWSS were using the old system. We can now proceed with moving all submissions from the old wssaabstracts system into the new system, and build the user interface to search across societies and years.

I'd like to thank the WSSA Board for the opportunity to create this new system. We look forward to continuing to work with the WSSA and each regional society to fine-tune the system.

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