**WSSA Excellence in Journalism Award**

**Deadline: October 31**

**Subcommittee Chair:**

Caren Schmidt

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**Description and Proposed Eligibility**

* Awarded annually to an individual(s) for excellence in journalistic coverage that increases public understanding of science-based information related to weeds and fosters awareness of weeds and their impacts on managed and natural ecosystems.
* The purpose is to honor a journalist(s) who has distinguished themselves in coverage of a weed science topic during the year. Journalistic coverage is defined as researching, writing and/or editing a science-based news story, investigative report, review, column and/or feature for print, broadcast or electronic media.
* The topic of the coverage might include (but is not limited to) scientific principles, assessments, impacts of weeds on the environment, how they are regulated, controlled and/or managed, and/or the responsible and integrated use of chemical, biological, mechanical and cultural methods of weed management.
* While the emphasis will be on independent journalistic coverage, a candidate would NOT be excluded because the coverage was initiated as a request from any reputable organization, including the WSSA, regional weed science societies, industry, commodity groups, universities, government agencies, etc.
* An individual WOULD be excluded from consideration, though, if their journalistic coverage is clearly focused on promotion of a specific product or company (i.e. advertising agency).
* Neither the nominator nor the nominee is required to be a member of WSSA.
* Any individual receiving this award is not eligible to receive it again for the subsequent three years.
* An awards subcommittee will select the winning nominee(s) based on scientific accuracy, initiative, originality, clarity of interpretation, objectivity and value of the journalism coverage (as recognized in the nomination form).
* The award would include a plaque, complimentary meeting registration and up to $1,000 reimbursement for travel and hotel expenses if the winning journalist(s) is able to attend the awards ceremony (if reimbursement is allowed by their employer).

**Nomination Procedure**

The nomination package should be emailed to the subcommittee chair and must be complete and formatted as a single pdf file. A complete package consists of a nomination statement, supporting information in the format described below, including three (3) letters of support. A resume from the nominee may be used in lieu of the supporting document if it contains all of the necessary information and is accompanied by a narrative supporting the nomination (1000 words or less) and the supporting letters. Additional supporting letters should be no longer than two pages.

## Nomination Form

Email complete package to the subcommittee chair as a single pdf file.

Nominee

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email Address:

Nominator

Name:

Telephone:

Email Address:

## Nominees Qualifications/Work Experience

See the award information for details. For work experience, include brief job history (years and title). Resume may be attached in lieu of detail.

## News Outlet and Scope

Name of the print, broadcast or electronic news outlet the journalist currently works for and the audience/reach of the publication, including typical readership/viewership and circulation.

Additionally, detail the journalist’s typical coverage area (such as regulatory affairs, science, environment, agriculture, horticulture, weed science, etc.)

## Justification for Nomination

Briefly summarize why you think the journalist is deserving of the award.

## Examples of Nominees work

Provide hyperlink or PDF/transcript of news coverage to support your nomination and show why the journalist is deserving of recognition by WSSA.

## Additional Information

Please provide any additional pertinent information the committee should consider.