

## SWSS Representative to WSSA Report

### 2023 Officers

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The 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southern Weed Science Society was held at the Renaissance Hotel in Baton Rouge, LA January 22-26, 2022. Two Hundred fifty-eight registrants attended the meeting, which includes 95 students. Two hundred twenty-eight presentations were made (133 oral and 95 posters). Dr. Steve Linscombe, Director of The Rice Foundation and Leadership Class Program and Professor Emeritus, Louisiana State University, gave the keynote address. Students that arrived in Baton Rouge on Sunday evening could register to participate and socialize at Topgolf prior to the Monday 1:00 pm meeting start. The board plans a similar social event for the joint SWSS/WSSA meeting in San Antonio in 2024.

Several members were recognized as award recipients: Larry Steckel at the University of Tennessee and Gary Schwarzlose with Bayer Crop Science were recognized as Fellows; Darrin Dodds from Mississippi State University received the Outstanding Educator Award; Charles Cahoon from North Carolina State University received the Outstanding Young Weed Scientist-Academia Award; Tristen Avent from the University of Arkansas received the Outstanding MS Graduate Student Award; Taylor Randell-Singleton from the University of Georgia received the Outstanding Ph.D. Graduate Student Award.

The meeting space at the hotel was a bit tight, but the staff was able to quickly turn rooms around to accommodate the needed room arrangement.

Three students were selected for the Enrichment Experience in 2022: Mason Castner, University of Arkansas spent a week touring Wyoming agriculture with Eric Webster, John Peppers, Virginia Tech, spent a week in Texas with John Everitt, Russ Perkins, and Gary Schwarzlose of Bayer Crop Science, and Eli Russell, Virginia Tech, spent a week in Florida with xxx touring aquatic weed management. Each of these students gave an overview of their experiences during the general session.

The 2022 SWSS Weed Contest was hosted by Bruce Kirksey at AgriCenter Intl. on August 2, 2022. Eleven universities sent 57 graduate student participants and 9 undergraduate students. Awards were given for high scoring individual for calibration (Tristan Avent, University of Arkansas), weed identification (Eli

Russel, Virginia Tech), farmer problem (Jose DeSanctis, NCSU), and herbicide symptomology (Tristan Avent, University of Arkansas).

The 2023 National Weed Science Contest will be held July 25-27, 2023 in Union City, TN. This event will be hosted by Bayer CropScience. The SWSS board approved financial support for the 2023 National Weed Science Contest and request other regional societies and the WSSA to do the same if needed.

Future annual meeting locations, hotels, dates:

2024, Hyatt Regency San Antonio Riverwalk joint with WSSA, January 22-25

2025, Charleston Marriott, Charleston, SC

2026, collecting bids from Nashville, Ashville, Lexington, and Chattanooga. Will make this decision at the upcoming summer board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter A. Dotray  
SWSS Representative