



Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write, we are drawing to a close of what has been a very eventful year. I hope y'all have weathered it well and that you are taking some time to decompress and celebrate the holidays with family and friends.

Our meeting plans for the 60th Annual WSSA meeting in Maui, Hawaii are coming together. The meeting will be held March 2–5, 2020 at the Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa. Bill Curran, our program chair, is working on a great program that will run the gamut of extension, research, and education activities in weed science. Dr. Curran is working closely with Eric Gustafson, our Executive Secretary, to finalize activities and events. They have numerous events and tours available to enjoy the island, and we look forward to what Maui has to offer. Symposia are going to be plentiful once again this year, and the topics include:

- 2020 vision for Hawaiian Invasive Plant Management
- The role of intelligent machines in weed management
- Genomics of weedy and invasive species – 2025 and Beyond
- The ecological and biodiversity impact of invasive grass species and their management
- Toxicology and weed science

Quite a few changes in the society have recently occurred or will take place in the next few months. After a stellar tenure as our Director of Publications, Sarah Ward will be rotating off in 2020 and Chris Willenborg will be taking the reins of this very important position. Dr. Willenborg brings a good deal of relevant experience to this role as he has been both an Associate Editor and later the Editor of the Canadian Journal of Plant Science. A big thanks to Sarah for her great leadership as our Director of Publications and we look forward to working with Chris. John Lindquist will be filling the upcoming opening for our Constitution and Operating Procedures Chair. Many thanks to Mark Benards for steering this position so well the past several years. Jim Kells has begun his work as NIFA Fellow. Jim has made a good number of contacts despite the big hurdle in 2019

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SEE YOU IN
MAUI, HAWAII
MARCH 2–5, 2020

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of the government shutdown. Jill Schroeder has stepped in as our new CAST representative as Dallas Peterson has rotated off. Our Science Policy Committee changed leadership this past February and Janis McFarland has done an excellent job chairing that important committee. We also welcome our newly elected members who will be joining the WSSA Board after the business meeting during our annual meeting. Congratulations to Stanley Culpepper who has been elected Vice President and Lynn Sosnoskie as the new Member-at-Large.

Several societies or associations have reached out to us recently and asked for input concerning some of their weed related issues. The American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) has asked for representation from the WSSA in their Noxious Weed Seed Group. A big thank you to Carroll Moseley and Dawn Refsell for volunteering to represent the WSSA on ASTA's Noxious Weed Seed committee. The Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO) has also asked for folks from the WSSA to participate in their annual meeting.

Last year, our Finance Committee Chair and Treasurer, Phil Banks, reported that WSSA is in sound fiscal shape and is well positioned for continued success to accomplish its mission. Phil has done some excellent work in concert with our executive secretary, Eric Gustafson, to put our organization in a strong financial position for the future. I have been truly inspired by all that the society membership continues to do through their sense of volunteerism. As president, I have been able to witness firsthand the type of commitment that many of you continue to provide. In particular, the WSSA Board of Directors has had an active year and you folks have been great to work with. Once again, our Executive Director of Science Policy, Lee Van Wychen, has had a tremendous responsibility this past year with all of the activities attached to his role and the ever-changing political landscape. Our past president, Scott Senseman, has been very busy as Past President. He did an awesome job getting some very talented folks from our society to volunteer for many of the openings in the society this past year. Thanks, Scott, for your friendship and service. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve as the President of the WSSA this past year. I will soon be passing the gavel to our President-Elect, Bill Curran, who has been a tireless advocate for weed science and I am certain that he will lead us in the most positive and productive ways in 2020. I look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting in Maui and I wish you a healthy and successful New Year!

Larry Steckel
President, WSSA

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WSSA FUTURE MEETING SITES AND DATES

March 2-5, 2020
60th Annual Meeting WSSA
73rd Annual Meeting WSWS
Hyatt Regency Resort and Spa
Maui, Hawaii
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THINK NEWSLETTER
Deadline for April issue
March 1, 2020

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MATERIAL TO:
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WSSA NEWSLETTER

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HERBICIDE RESISTANCE WORKSHOP

After decades of efforts, herbicide resistance is still a major challenge facing U.S. agriculture. The Weed Science Society of America created the Herbicide Resistance Education Committee in 2010 to address the need for more herbicide resistance education. Through two national summits, training modules, and most recently seven regional listening sessions, the committee has been a tremendous resource for information on how to address this complex, “wicked” problem. However, resistance continues to spread and grow and we seem to be, at times, losing the battle.

Past WSSA symposia explored in depth the nature of resistance problems. Now, the critical questions are: what can be done and what is being done about it? The committee is placing more emphasis on catalyzing resilient community formation to achieve sustainable weed management. This involves providing resources, guidance, and support to help individual communities navigate their unique socio-economic complexities toward this goal.

Several localized community efforts to deal with herbicide resistance, all quite different, have already begun. At the 2020 annual meetings in Maui, Hawaii we will be conducting a workshop “Building a Community to Battle the Wicked Problem of Herbicide Resistance” that will highlight progress in these community programs and will spur thought on future undertakings. Format will be an active dialog on what has worked and what has not, and we will be seeking workshop participant interaction throughout. Examples will be given from weed science efforts in several parts of the country, as well as successful entomology programs from which we can learn.

This workshop will be held at the end of the conference, on Thursday, March 5th in the afternoon from 1:00–3:00. Thus, when you make your travel plans, be sure and include participation in this workshop in your planning!

David R. Shaw
Herbicide Resistance Education
Committee, Chair
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WSSA PUBLICATIONS NEWS

I will step down as WSSA Director of Publications in March 2020. During my 6 years in this position there have been many changes, most notably the transfer of *Weed Science*, *Weed Technology* and *IPSM* to Cambridge University Press. This greatly improved WSSA’s publishing income, and allowed transition of the journals to online-only with more frequent issues and new layouts with unlimited color. I also worked with Cambridge to preserve all published WSSA journal articles dating back to 1951 as a searchable high-resolution online archive. Other events of the past 6 years include publication of a new edition of the *Herbicide Handbook*; the welcome return of Tracy Candelaria as journals Managing Editor; appointment of Toni DiTommaso as Editor-in-Chief of *IPSM*; and Carl Libbey taking over as *WSSA Newsletter* Editor. Throughout this period of change, William Vencill and Jason Norsworthy have continued their sterling work as Editors-in-Chief of *Weed Science* and *Weed Technology*.

Serving as WSSA Director of Publications at a time when the publishing landscape is undergoing rapid evolution is often demanding but never dull. I am delighted to announce that the new Director of Publications will be Christian Willenborg of the University of Saskatchewan. Chris is a weed scientist with considerable publishing and professional society experience, including serving as Editor-in-Chief of the *Canadian Journal of Plant Science* and as board member and research director for the *Canadian Weed Science Society*. I will be working with Chris over the next few months to ensure a smooth transition, and I know that future WSSA publishing activities will be in capable hands.

Sarah Ward
Director of Publications

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WASHINGTON REPORT

by Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY COMMENT ON EPA'S INTERIM PROCESS FOR EVALUATING POTENTIAL SYNERGISTIC EFFECTS OF PESTICIDES DURING THE REGISTRATION PROCESS

Since 2015, EPA has used an interim process to evaluate the potential synergistic effects of 24 new active ingredient registrations due to patent office claims by registrants. None of these reviews have ultimately impacted an existing EPA ecological risk assessment. The results from the analysis of the first 24 active ingredients reflects that there is a low probability that claims asserting greater than additive (GTA) effects will impact ecological risk assessments for pesticide active ingredients. Therefore, the National and Regional Weed Science Societies support EPA's plans to evaluate the results of the interim process, and once a sufficient number of reviews are completed, to decide whether continuing the process has utility in evaluating ecological risk associated with product use. If the outcome of EPA's future evaluation demonstrates that the interim process does not have utility in evaluating ecological risk associated with product use, our societies agree that EPA and registrants should not exhaust additional time and resources in this endeavor and suspend evaluations. [The National and Regional Weed Science Society comments are available here.](#)

WSSA COMMENTS ON PARAQUAT

The WSSA provided comments on the value and uniqueness of paraquat for weed management. We strongly support further education and aware-

ness activities both on the label and through training. [Read the full comment on 'Registration review; Availability: Paraquat Dichloride Draft Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments'.](#)

CONGRESS REACHES FY 2020 BUDGET DEAL

After months of delay, Congress passed a much-anticipated deal to fund the government through the end of FY 2020, which runs through September 30, 2020. The \$1.4 trillion package of discretionary spending bills, which was divided up into two "minibuses," was finally delivered just before the holiday break after months of rigorous debate. The first minibus (H.R. 1865) included eight of the twelve appropriations bills, all covering domestic policy. The second minibus (H.R. 1158) was a four bill package focused on national security. The first minibus includes funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

2015 WOTUS RULE REPEALED

On September 12, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works R. D. James announced the repeal of the Obama administration's Clean Water Rule, better known as the Waters of the United States rule, or WOTUS. The 2015 rule has never fully taken effect because there have been multiple court challenges. The repeal formally restores the previous regulatory regime nationwide until the Trump administration releases its own rule to deal with the issue of conflicting Supreme Court rulings on WOTUS.

In December 2018, EPA and the Army Corp proposed a new definition that would clearly define where federal jurisdiction begins and ends in accordance with the Clean Water Act and Supreme Court precedent. After a public comment period this spring, the proposed new WOTUS definitions are expected to be finalized this winter.

USDA-NIFA APPOINTS SIX NATIONAL SCIENCE LIAISONS

The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) program portfolio and contact with their stakeholders, partners, and collaborators in Washington, DC will continue, uninterrupted with the creation of six National Science Liaisons (NSLs). These six NSLs have already been selected and will support NIFA's national research, education, and extension portfolio; advance NIFA programs; and serve as expert resources. They are:

- Mathieu (Mat) Ngouajio, Ph.D. – plant production and protection, organic farming
- Eric Norland, Ph.D. – natural resources and environment
- Bradley K. Rein P.E. – sustainable agricultural systems, technology, economics and social sciences
- Caroline E. Crocoll, Ph.D., CFCS – human sciences and 4H
- Mark Miranda, Ph.D. – animal health and production
- Mervalin Morant, Ph.D. – food safety, nutrition and minority serving institutions

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WEED BINGO NOW AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!

WEED BINGO is a fun game that blends a bit of science with interesting and unusual facts about some of North America's most common and troublesome weeds. Each of the 42 weed cards included in the game includes the common and scientific name of a weed, a photo and a brief description.

WEED BINGO would make a great holiday gift! The games are a fun educational tool that will help raise aware-

ness about weeds and invasive plants in managed and natural ecosystems.

WEED BINGO is produced by the Weed Science Society of America, with support from the Aquatic Plant Management Society, North Central Weed Science Society, Northeastern Weed Science Society, Southern Weed Science Society and Western Society of Weed Science. Each game is \$14.95 + \$5 shipping and handling for domestic shipping.

To purchase a game, please go to: <https://wssa.memberclicks.net/books>

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Deadline for April issue
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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
January 26–30, 2020	Southern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting (SWSS)	Beau Rivage Biloxi, Mississippi	www.swss.ws
March 2–5, 2020	Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) and the Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) Joint Annual Meeting	Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa Maui, Hawaii	www.wssa.net and www.wsweedsociety.org
November 23–26, 2020	Canadian Weed Science Society Annual Meeting (CWSS)	Gatineau, Quebec	www.weedscience.ca
November 30–December 2, 2020	North Central Weed Science Society Annual Meeting (NCWSS)	Minneapolis, Minnesota	www.ncwss.org

Additional Weed Science Meetings and Events can be found at <http://wssa.net/meeting/calendar-of-meetings/>

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