Comments from the President

David Mayonado, NEWSS President

I hope all of you enjoyed the 56th NEWSS annual meeting in Philadelphia. Scott Glenn did a wonderful job as Program Chair and Jeff Derr’s hotel selection was excellent as well. Our numbers remain strong (nearly 200 in attendance), and I was very pleased with overall participation. With a group our size, active participation by all is essential for the meeting to be most effective. Again, we were privileged to be joined by the Northeast Region of the American Society of Horticultural Science. This was our fourth joint meeting and each has become more seamless than the last. Their presence improves the quality of our meeting by bringing in scientists involved in research that is often similar to ours. Their additional numbers also help us negotiate better hotel contracts for future meetings.

The meeting in Philadelphia was our first attempt at utilizing computer projection technology for using PowerPoint presentations in place of slides. With very few exceptions, this was a big success. Thanks go to the section chairs for coordinating this effort and ensuring computer/projector compatibility. Over the next several meetings, it is clear that this will become the standard means of paper presentation.

I’d like to thank Carrie Judge (NEWSS Graduate Student Representative) for organizing the professional development workshop at DuPont’s Stine-Haskell research facility in Newark, DE. We also need to thank the folks at DuPont who gave their time and effort to support this activity. With the difficult job market students face now, it is helpful to have a better insight as to what skills industry is looking for in new professionals.

Graduate and undergraduate students also have the NEWSS Collegiate Weed Contest to look forward to in a few months. Grant Jordan at ACDS Research will host the contest on August 6, 2002 in North Rose, NY. A committee led by Todd Mervosh just completed their revision of the contest rules and will be mailed to team coaches. For more information on the contest, see the NEWSS website:

http://www.ppws.vt.edu/newss/newss.htm

Speaking of the website, thanks to Shawn Askew for assuming the responsibilities as our new Webmaster. Ivan Morozov built us a wonderful website a couple of years ago and it takes many hours of dedicated service to keep the website current.

Next year’s meeting may seem a long way off, but as you’re conducting research this year, think about what research you could present at the 2003 meeting in Baltimore. Take plenty of pictures to show your results. One of those photos might be a winner at the NEWSS photo contest. If you have any questions about the photo contest or another matter concerning NEWSS, the names and addresses of the 2002 officers and executive committee members are listed on the back cover of this newsletter.

Visit the NEWSS website for the latest Society news and activities, and for links to many other weed science sites.

http://www.ppws.vt.edu/newss/newss.htm
2002 NEWSS Executive Committee

President:  David J. Mayonado
Monsanto Company
6075 Westbrooke Drive, Salisbury, MD 21801
Phone: 410-546-4622 / Fax: 410-219-3202
E-mail: david.j.mayonado@monsanto.com

President-Elect:  D. Scott Glenn
University of Maryland, Dept. of Natural Resources
0115 H. J. Patterson Hall, College Park, MD 20742
Phone: 301-405-1331 / Fax: 301-314-9041
E-mail: dg11@umail.umd.edu

Vice-President:  Robin R. Bellinder
Cornell University, Dept. of Fruit & Vegetable Science
164 Plant Science Bldg., Ithaca, NY 14853
Phone: 607-255-7890 / Fax: 607-255-0599
E-mail: rrb3@cornell.edu

Past President:  Jeffrey F. Derr
Virginia Tech, Hampton Roads Research Center
1444 Diamond Springs Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23455
Phone: 757-363-3912 / Fax: 757-363-3950
E-mail: jderr@vt.edu

Secretary/Treasurer:  David E. Yarborough
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Phone: 207-581-2923 / Fax: 207-581-2941
E-mail: davidy@maine.edu

Editor:  Mark J. VanGessel
University of Delaware, Research & Education Center
RD 6, Box 48, Georgetown, DE 19947
Phone: 302-856-7303 / Fax: 302-856-1845
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Legislative Committee Chair:  Jerry J. Baron
Cook College / New Jersey Agricultural Expt. Stn.
88 Lipman Drive
Rutgers University, North Brunswick, NJ 08902-3390
Phone: 732-932-9000 x 501 / Fax: 732-932-8481
E-mail: jbaron@aesop.rutgers.edu

Public Relations Representative:  Todd L. Mervosh
Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
153 Cook Hill Rd., P.O. Box 248, Windsor, CT 06095
Phone: 860-683-4984 / Fax: 860-683-4987
E-mail: tmervosh@caes.state.ct.us

Research & Education Coordinator:  Arthur E. Gover
Penn State Univ., Landscape Mgmt. Research Center
Orchard Road, University Park, PA 16802
Phone: 814-863-1184 / Fax: 814-863-1184
E-mail: aeg2@psu.edu

Sustaining Membership Chair:  Ted G. Bean
Valent USA Corporation
P.O. Box 309, Franklin, PA 16323
Phone: 814-432-2349 / Fax: 814-432-0714
E-mail: ted.bean@valent.com

CAST Representative:  Robert D. Sweet
Cornell University, Dept. of Fruit & Vegetable Sciences
167 Plant Sciences Bldg., Ithaca, NY 14853
Phone: 607-255-5428 / Fax: 607-255-0599
E-mail: sdt1@cornell.edu

WSSA Representative:  Timothy E. Dutt
Monsanto Company
8482 Redhaven Street, Fogelsville, PA 18051
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E-mail: timothy.e.dutt@monsanto.com

Graduate Student Representative:  Caren A. Judge
North Carolina State Univ., Dept. of Horticultural Sci.
Box 7609, Raleigh, NC 27695-7609
Phone: 919-515-3178 / 919-515-7747
E-mail: caschmid@unity.ncsu.edu

The 2002 NEWSS Executive Committee: (front row, L to R) Bob Sweet, Jeff Derr, Dave Mayonado, Scott Glenn, Robin Bellinder, Dave Yarborough; (back row, L to R) Art Gover, Todd Mervosh, Mark VanGessel, Ted Bean, Carrie Judge, Tim Dutt, Jerry Baron.

Awards Presented at 56th Annual Meeting
(See photos on last several pages of newsletter)

Distinguished Member Award:
Bradley A. Majek, Rutgers University
Thomas L. Watschke, Penn State University

Award of Merit:
M. Garry Schnappinger, Syngenta Crop Protection

Outstanding Educator:
E. Scott Hagood, Virginia Tech

Outstanding Researcher:
Jerry J. Baron, IR-4 Project & Rutgers Univ.
Student Paper Presentations:

1st Place: G. Michael Elston and Prasanta C. Bhowmik (Univ. of Massachusetts). Biological activity of Xanthomonas campestris pv Poaannua as influenced by commonly used turfgrass products.

2nd Place: Caren A. Judge and Joseph C. Neal (North Carolina State Univ.). Concentration and dose-response of common nursery weeds to isoxaben, oryzalin, and trifluralin.

Poster Presentations:

1st Place: John Jemison, Jr. and A. Nejako (Univ. of Maine). The effect of mesotrione on weed control in sweet corn.


Photo Contest:

1st Place: Antonio DiTommaso, Cornell Univ. Fall panicum seed head

2nd Place: Shawn Askew, Virginia Tech. Seedling redroot pigweed

3rd Place: Joe Neal, North Carolina State Univ. Burcucumber seed & flower

2002 NEWSS Committees

Awards Committee: Jeff Derr (Chair), Brian Olson, Rich Bonanno, Dave Vitolo, Joe Neal.

Nominating Committee: David Spak (Chair), Betty Marose, Kevin Bradley.

Resolutions Committee: John Jemison (Chair), Sujatha Sankula.

NEWSS Committee on Change: Joe Neal (Chair), Robin Bellinder, Rich Bonanno, Nancy Cain, Tracey Harpster, Garry Schnappinger.

Other Committee Chairs:

Past Presidents Committee: Jim Parochetti
Student Paper Contest Committee: Brian Olson
Poster Judging Committee: Paul Stachowski
Photo Contest Committee: Grant Jordan
Collegiate Weed Contest host: Grant Jordan

Awards Chairman Calls for Nominees

This announcement serves as the first call for nominations for the following Society awards:

- Distinguished Member Award
- Award of Merit
- Outstanding Educator
- Outstanding Researcher

Nominations are due in September 2002, so this is a good time to consider nominees for these awards. Please refer to the nomination form enclosed in this newsletter for the awards criteria. Completed forms should be sent to Jeff Derr, Awards Committee Chairman.

Call for Vice President Nominations

The Executive Committee is requesting suggestions from the membership for nominations to the office of NEWSS Vice President. The Vice President serves as chairperson of the program committee and automatically succeeds to the office of President Elect. By general rule, the person elected Vice President at the 2002 meeting should be selected from members who are employed in the private sector (industry, consulting firm, etc). Nominations should be sent to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee:

David Spak, Aventis Environmental Science
113 Willow Ridge, New Holland, PA 17557
Phone: 717-355-2822 / Fax: 717-355-0990
Email: david.spak@aventis.com

Procedures for the NEWSS Archives

The Past President of the society will compile information from the previous year for the NEWSS archives. If you have articles, pictures, or other items for the NEWSS archives, send them to Jeff Derr, Hampton Roads Research Center, 1444 Diamond Springs Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23455. Robin Bellinder is maintaining the archives at Cornell University.

Articles for NEWSS NEWS

Please email articles or notices for the NEWSS newsletter to Todd Mervosh, Public Relations Representative (tmervosh@caes.state.ct.us). Otherwise, send a hard copy, plus the file stored on diskette to:

Todd Mervosh, Conn. Agric. Exp. Stn., 153 Cook Hill Road, P.O. Box 248, Windsor, CT 06095.

The deadline for inclusion in the August newsletter is July 22, 2002.
**Sustaining Membership**

Approximately 25 companies provide financial support to NEWSS in the form of sustaining memberships. The most current list of Sustaining Members can be found in the back of the 2002 Annual Meeting Program and in the front of the NEWSS Proceedings, Vol. 56. The Society wishes to thank these companies for their continued efforts. These funds are utilized for many different NEWSS activities. Any company that would like information on becoming a Sustaining Member should contact Ted Bean (see p. 2 for contact information).

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**2002 Weed Science Field Days**

The current schedule of field day tours as compiled by Art Gover, Research & Education Coordinator. Contact the person listed to check details or for possible changes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/15</td>
<td>Raleigh, NC</td>
<td>Turf/Ornamental</td>
<td>Fred Yelverton (<a href="mailto:fred_yelverton@ncsu.edu">fred_yelverton@ncsu.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/15</td>
<td>Painter, VA</td>
<td>Agronomic/Vegetable</td>
<td>Henry Wilson (<a href="mailto:hwilson@vt.edu">hwilson@vt.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/26 AM</td>
<td>Georgetown, DE</td>
<td>Agronomic</td>
<td>Mark VanGessel (<a href="mailto:mjv@udel.edu">mjv@udel.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/26 PM</td>
<td>Salisbury, MD</td>
<td>Vegetable</td>
<td>Ed Beste (<a href="mailto:cb20@umail.umd.edu">cb20@umail.umd.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/27 AM</td>
<td>Wye, MD</td>
<td>Agronomic</td>
<td>Ron Ritter (<a href="mailto:rr24@umail.umd.edu">rr24@umail.umd.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/27 PM</td>
<td>Beltsville, MD</td>
<td>Agronomic</td>
<td>Ron Ritter (<a href="mailto:rr24@umail.umd.edu">rr24@umail.umd.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/2 AM</td>
<td>Valatie, NY</td>
<td>Agronomic</td>
<td>Russ Hahn (<a href="mailto:rrh4@cornell.edu">rrh4@cornell.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/10</td>
<td>Landisville, PA</td>
<td>Pest Management</td>
<td>Bill Curran (<a href="mailto:wsc2@psu.edu">wsc2@psu.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
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<td>7/11</td>
<td>Rock Springs, PA</td>
<td>Agronomic</td>
<td>Bill Curran (<a href="mailto:wsc2@psu.edu">wsc2@psu.edu</a>)</td>
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<td>7/12</td>
<td>Bridgeton, NJ</td>
<td>Agronomic/Vegetable</td>
<td>Brad Majek (<a href="mailto:majek@aesop.rutgers.edu">majek@aesop.rutgers.edu</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/16 PM</td>
<td>Aurora, NY</td>
<td>Agronomic</td>
<td>Russ Hahn (<a href="mailto:rrh4@cornell.edu">rrh4@cornell.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/17 AM</td>
<td>Freeville, NY</td>
<td>Vegetable</td>
<td>Robin Bellinder (<a href="mailto:rrb3@cornell.edu">rrb3@cornell.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/18</td>
<td>Altoona, PA</td>
<td>Roadside Vegetation</td>
<td>Art Gover (<a href="mailto:aeg2@psu.edu">aeg2@psu.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/31</td>
<td>Blackburg, VA</td>
<td>Turfgrass</td>
<td>Shawn Askew (<a href="mailto:saskew@vt.edu">saskew@vt.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/14-15</td>
<td>Univ. Park, PA</td>
<td>Turfgrass</td>
<td>Tom Watschke (<a href="mailto:tlw3@psu.edu">tlw3@psu.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/5-7</td>
<td>Blackburg, VA</td>
<td>Farm/Family Showcase</td>
<td><a href="http://www.farmandfamily.vt.edu/">www.farmandfamily.vt.edu/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>Virginia Beach, VA</td>
<td>Turf/Ornamental</td>
<td>Jeff Derr <a href="mailto:jderr@vt.edu">jderr@vt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**2002 NEWSS Collegiate Weed Contest**

The 2002 NEWSS Collegiate Weed Contest will be held at the farm of ACDS Research, Inc., 9813 Glenmark Road, North Rose, New York. The contest date will be **Tuesday, August 6**. An orientation will be held on the afternoon of Monday, August 5 for volunteers, and a meal will be provided for all participants that evening.

The Contest is open to all undergraduate and graduate students. Please contact Grant Jordan as soon as possible to enter a team in the contest, or if you are willing to assist as a volunteer. Contest rules and procedures have recently been mailed to team coaches.

Grant L. Jordan  
A.C.D.S. Research, Inc.  
9813 Glenmark Road, North Rose, NY 14516  
Tel: 315-587-2140 / Cell: 315-945-1430  
Fax: 315-587-2145  
Email: acdsgj@computer-connection.net

Lodging: Quality Inn  
125 North Main Street, Newark, NY 14513  
Tel: (315) 331-9500  
40 Rooms Reserved at $80/Night  
**Call before end of June for Reservations**

Directions from New York State Thruway (Interstate 90) to Quality Inn:

- West from Syracuse to Exit 42 / East from Rochester to Exit 42. North on State Route 14 (8 miles - Lyons, NY) to SR 31. West SR 31 (6 miles) to SR 88 (Newark, NY). North on SR 88 (1/4 mile) to the Quality Inn (west side of SR 88).

Directions from Quality Inn to ACDS farm:

- Take SR 88 North (14 miles) to SR 104 East. SR 104 (10 miles) to SR 414 South. SR 414 (1.2 miles) to Glenmark Road - first right going into North Rose West on Glenmark Road - 1.5 miles  
  - ~ 1 mile & turn right a 1st T-intersection  
  - ~ 1/4 mile & turn left at the 2nd T-intersection  
  - ~ 1/4 mile - Large green, pole barn building on right

Quality Inn: Rooms with two double beds  
Data port phones, indoor heated pool, fitness center, on-site and local restaurants. No parking fee.  
**Important: Make Motel Reservation by June 30.**  
Contact: Dawn McDonald  
Tel: (315) 331-9500 / Fax: (315) 331-5264

New York State Farm Show also that week:  
August 6-8, Seneca Falls, New York  
About 40 miles from Quality Inn  
Largest Equipment Show in the Northeast
2003 Annual Meeting Program

Listed below are the section chairs and chair-elects for the 57th Annual Meeting of NEWSS to be held January 6-9, 2003 at the Hyatt Regency in Baltimore, MD. You will receive more information, including the call for titles, in the August issue of the newsletter.

Program Chair
Robin Bellinder
Phone: 607-255-7890
Email: rrb3@cornell.edu

Agronomy Section
Chair: Mark Isaacs
Phone: 302-856-1997
Email: isaacs@udel.edu
Chair-elect: Brian Manley

Biologically-Based Weed Control
Chair: Antonio DiTommaso
Phone: 607-254-4702
Email: ad97@cornell.edu
Chair-elect: none

Conservation, Forestry, and Industry
Chair: Stratford Kay
Phone: 919-515-5645
Email: stratford_kay@ncsu.edu
Chair-elect: Tracey Harpster

Ornamentals
Chair: Hannah Mathers
Phone: 614-247-6195
Email: mathers.7@osu.edu
Chair-elect: Kathy Kalmowitz

Poster Section
Chair: Tracey Harpster
Phone: 814-865-3190
Email: tlh8@psu.edu
Chair-elect: Tim Hess

Turfgrass and Plant Growth Regulators
Chair: John Isgrigg
Phone: 804-796-5982
Email: trey.isgrigg.b@bayer.com
Chair-elect: Shawn Askew

Vegetables and Fruit
Chair: Hilary Sandler
Phone: 508-295-2212
Email: hsandler@umext.umass.edu
Chair-elect: Bill Sciarappa

People in the News

Brad Majek (Rutgers University) is the current President of the Weed Science Society of America.

Congratulations to the NEWSS members who were honored at the 2002 WSSA annual meeting in Reno, NV:

Shawn Askew (former graduate student at North Carolina State Univ., now faculty member at Virginia Tech) received the Outstanding Graduate Student award.

Dave Mortensen (Penn State) received the Outstanding Teacher award.

David Yarborough (University of Maine) was recently promoted to Extension Professor and Professor of Horticulture.

New Book Announcements

Haworth Press, Inc., USA has published a book entitled "Allelopathy in Agroecosystems" which has been published simultaneously as a monograph of the Journal of Crop Production (vol. 4, no.2, 2001). The book has a foreword written by Professor George Waller, Founder President of the International Allelopathy Society. It has 20 chapters on various aspects of allelopathic interactions in agroecosystems including weed and crop allelopathy, beneficial aspects of crop allelopathy, weed control, crop rotation, improving pastures, sustainable management of agroecosystems, etc.

Allelopathy in Agroecosystems

Eds. R.K. Kohli, H.P. Singh and D.R. Batish
Publishers: The Haworth Press, Inc., USA
Publication date 2001.
Pages 447 pp. with index
Prices:
Hard cover: US $ 74.95 (In UK £51.70);
ISBN 1-56022-090-2
Soft cover: US $ 54.95 (In UK £37.90);
ISBN 1-56022-091-0

Please contact Jonathan Gressel for more information about his new book that he describes below:

This is just a short note to tell you that the book I have recently completed: "Molecular Biology of Weed Control" is soon to be released. Information about it appears in the attached information flyer and order form from the publisher. Should you be interested, I have negotiated with the publisher that colleagues can receive the book with a 20% pre-publication discount.

The book contains a summary of the area and a synthesis of some of the concepts that I have developed that include critical discussions of herbicide resistance and transgenic herbicide resistant crops, but also extend way beyond it to areas that now may seem to be science fiction.

If you need any more information about the book, or if you have trouble opening the attached pdf files, please feel free to contact me.

With best personal regards,

Jonny Gressel
Prof. Jonathan Gressel
Plant Sciences=20 Weizmann Institute of Science
Rehovot IL76100, Israel
phone:+972-8-934-3481; fax:+972-8-934-4181
email: Jonathan.Gressel@weizmann.ac.il

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**2002 WSSA Meeting Report**

*Tim Dutt, WSSA Representative for NEWSS*

The 42nd annual meeting of the Weed Science Society of America was held February 10-13, 2002 in Reno, NV. Attendance at the meeting was 640, which was up slightly from the 2001 meeting in Greensboro, NC. Society membership was reported to be remaining steady at about 1,500 members. A total of about 250 posters and papers were presented at the annual meeting. Symposia and special sessions were held on weed ecology in long-term experiments, new developments in industry, vegetable roundtable discussion, weed science research funding, metabolic mechanisms conferring resistance to herbicides, and an invasive plant species workshop.

A new program format was implemented which included the General Session and award presentations to kick-off the meeting followed by an awardees reception and member social on Sunday evening. The meeting ended with a reception and social mixer replacing the traditional banquet on Wednesday evening. Paper submissions were on-line via the web site, and LCD projectors were used in all paper sessions. With all the new changes implemented, the meeting was a great success. Starting in 2003, the annual meeting will move to a Monday-Thursday format with committee meetings likely to occur throughout the meeting week. Brad Majek is currently serving as President of the society.

Congratulations go to NEWSS member awardees at the WSSA meeting. Dave Mortensen of Penn State received the Outstanding Teacher Award, and Shawn Askew of Virginia Tech received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award.

Following are dates of upcoming WSSA meetings:
- 2003 – February 10-13 in Jacksonville, FL
- 2004 – February 9-12 in Kansas City, MO
- 2005 – February 7-10 in Honolulu, HI
- 2006 – 50th anniversary meeting to be held somewhere in the Northeast

The summer WSSA Board of Directors meeting will be held July 20-21 at the Adams Mark Hotel in Jacksonville, FL.

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**CAST Report, March 2002**

*Bob Sweet, CAST Representative for NEWSS*

The spring Board meeting of CAST was held March 14, 15, 16 in D.C. Our time was about equally divided between hearing reports as to current happenings in D.C. and tending to CAST business. Two aspects about D.C. impressed me. One is the depth of differences between House and Senate versions of a new multiyear farm bill, e.g., staffers report 800 points of disagreement. A second area is that that almost everyone is unhappy with the long-standing policy of price supports for major crops and dairy. A new buzzword seems to be "Urban Agriculture". Its principle crops are fruits and vegetables. These have fairly high value per acre, utilize a lot of labor, and help the local economy. If these two situations eventually translate into policy changes, it bodes well for us in the Northeast.

Considerable time was spent fine-tuning CAST operations. Several circumstances made this important. Change in EVP and other key personnel; establishing a D.C. office as well as maintaining a principal operations
office in Ames; loss of company financial support due to mergers has resulted in red ink. All staff are now recording hours spent on various activities. This will provide a base on which CAST can evaluate cost/benefit information and make better decisions on activities. Of particular interest to NEWSS is that a symposium on managing pest resistance is being planned, probably to take place 18-24 months from now. It would include weeds, insects, and diseases and be International in scope.

The merger with ARI has taken a strange turn. Evidently the organization has disintegrated to such a low point that CAST is finding it difficult to find people who could sign papers making a merger legal. However, CAST's "legal experts" are exploring some promising courses of action.

CAST's “legal experts” are exploring some promising courses of action.

**Washington Report, March 2002**

**Rob Hedberg, Director of Science Policy**

The reserved pace that dominated Washington following September 11 disappeared with the New Year. It is a critical election year with the balance of congressional power hanging on a one-vote Democratic margin in the Senate and five-vote Republican margin in the House of Representatives. Don’t hold your breath waiting for strong bipartisan cooperation to dominate because both parties will try to differentiate themselves by extolling their virtues and the other’s flaws. Many decisions will be made for their policy value rather than their policy value. A brisk flow of capital from the Capitol may also result because the arbitrary budget caps Congress imposed on itself in the mid 90’s have now been broken. Although several voices are pleading for fiscal restraint, events are converging to make that unlikely and it will be hard for Congress to avoid a spending binge.

**Farm Bill**

The Farm bill has overshadowed nearly all other activity on the agricultural front. Although the Senate was unable to reach agreement to proceed with the legislation before the holiday recess, they took it up in earnest when they returned and passed their version of a farm bill on February 13, by a vote of 58-40. With heavy pressure from the House, the Senate was compelled to act quickly in order to protect the $73.5 billion allocated for agriculture over the next 10 years by last year’s budget agreement. The consensus view has been that Agriculture will get less money to work with if the farm bill is not completed before a new budget resolution for the coming year is reached in April or May.

At this moment a conference committee is meeting to resolve differences between the House and Senate bills and they hope to complete their work before Easter. Republican conference committee members from the House are Larry Combest, (TX) Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, John Boehner (OH), Bob Goodlatte (VA), Richard Pombo (CA), Jerry Moran (KS), Terry Everett (AL), Frank Lucas (OK) and Saxby Chambliss (GA). Democratic members from the House are Charles Stenholm (TX) Ranking Member of the Agriculture Committee, Gary Condit (CA), Collin Peterson (MN), Calvin Dooley (CA), Eva Clayton (NC) and Tim Holden (PA). The Senate Democratic Representatives are Tom Harkin (IA), Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (SD), Patrick Leahy (VT), and Kent Conrad (ND). Republicans members are Richard Lugar (IN), Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Jesse Helms (NC) and Thad Cochran (MS).

There are many differences in a large bill such as this that are driven by strong regional and farm type bias. One key difference is the length of the farm bill, 10 years in the House bill and five years in the Senate. Payment limitations are another controversial difference. The House bill allows payments to farmers of up to $550,000 and each individual may participate in up to three farm entities. The Senate bill is much more restrictive on this issue and limits payments to $275,000 for each farm couple. The estimated $1.3 billion dollar savings in the Senate bill would be used instead for agricultural research, food stamps and a beginning farmer program. Another issue to be resolved is how much of the $73.5 billion set aside for the next ten years will be used in the first five years. Currently the Senate bill calls for spending approximately $44 billion in the first five years but the Administration is sending a strong message that the total amount should be spent more evenly over the entire ten-year budget.

President’s Budget

On February 4 the White House released its proposed budget for FY 2003 that will begin on October 1, 2002 and thereby opened the Congressional budget season. This budget will be the subject of numerous hearings by the many appropriations subcommittees in the coming months as they work to complete their work by the October 1 deadline and thereby avoid a series of “continuing resolutions” to keep the government running.

The incumbents' need to be home to campaign for November elections will be one of the most compelling reasons for early action on the spending bills. The President’s proposed budget can be found at http://w3.access.gpo.gov/usbudget/fy2003/budget.html.
One highlight of the budget is its elimination of funding for over 400 congressional earmarks for agricultural research because they “can hinder the ability to focus funding on priority research” by responding to “special interest pressure to end run the competitive selection of proposals through scientific peer review.” The budget document pointed out that between FY2001 and 2002 earmarks grew 39%, from $228 million to $317 million. Although the budget makes a very important point about an alarming trend, congressional appropriators are reluctant to cede the “power of the purse” to the President and many of the cuts will be restored if they have a vocal constituency. Secondly, these programs will likely be restored at the expense of other elements in the President’s budget, especially those that have received significant increases.

The language used in the budget points out a mindset that raises some concerns. The concept that competitive research is better than other research is being strongly promoted by some individuals and groups and it is gaining currency here in Washington. Although there is great merit in competitive agricultural research it should not come at the expense of geographically dispersed research, education and extension such as supported by formula funds. The value of geographically distributed expertise is well illustrated as we begin to grapple with concerns about biosecurity and invasive species. It will be important for agricultural scientists to continually stress that many challenges and opportunities are very closely tied to geography and agricultural research and education cannot be consolidated in centers of excellence as easily as some medical and physical sciences.

National Invasive Weed Awareness Week, NIWAW III

The Third National Invasive Weed Awareness Week (NIWAW III) was held in Washington from February 25 to March 1 and all indications are that it was a great and growing success. This year the Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) and the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) both held their winter board meetings in Washington that week so that members could participate in the activities. The Intermountain Weed Awareness Coalition (INWAC) brought approximately 20 members to town (many of these are WSSA and/or WSWS members) and Jeff Derr from the NEWSS and John Byrd from SWSS attended to help round out geographical representation. Other groups participating in the week included the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, The Nature Conservancy, The Ecological Society of America, the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation, Responsible Industry for a Sustainable Environment (RISE), the Union of Concerned Scientists and several federal agencies.

Some highlights of the week were exhibits and a reception at the newly reopened Botanical Garden Conservatory. The exhibits received great attention form thousands of visitors to the gardens during the week. At the reception we were very fortunate to have Ketzel Levine, the garden commentator for National Public Radio speak with the audience that included several key members of Garden Clubs of America and the horticultural industry. She also participated along with Lori Williams, Executive Director for the National Invasive Species Council in an interview on one of the regions most widely heard talk radio programs.

The week also included a series of briefings with the administrators for the key agencies within both USDA and the Department of the Interior. The participants were very well received by the agencies and there was frank discussion of many of the broad concerns associated with the different agency’s weed management programs. In addition to these large briefings many of the constituents had smaller follow up meetings on very specific issues and most participants also met with their congressional delegation while they were in town.

The overall success of the week can be marked on several fronts. Through the exhibits at the Botanical Garden and the radio broadcast we accomplished a great deal to raise general public awareness about invasive weed issues. Through the meetings with administration officials we were able demonstrate a large and diverse constituency that will help focus their attention on weed issues in both broad and specific terms. Through visits with congressional offices, the attendees indicated that this is an issue worthy of their legislators’ attention. Ultimately, the week also provided a unique opportunity by bringing together many different groups and individuals that are working on weed issues from different perspectives. Hopefully this interaction will create new synergies and enhance further cooperation.

The Harmful Non-Native Weed Control Act, HR 1462

As I write preparations are underway for “markup” of The Harmful Nonnative Weed Control Act, HR 1462 by the House Resources Committee, National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands Subcommittee. Congressman Hefley (R-CO), chairman of the subcommittee introduced this bill that is the House version of the Senate bill, S198, introduced by Senators Craig (R-ID) and Daschle (D-SD). Markup is the process in which committee or sub-committee members make final adjustments to a bill before passing it to the full committee or the full chamber for further action. Unless a compromise is reached this bill will likely face another step at the full committee level because Congressman
Rahall (D-WV) who is Ranking Member of the full House Resources Committee has introduced a bill that deals with parallel issues. Rep. Rahall’s bill is H.R.3558, the Species Protection and Conservation of the Environment Act. Ultimately it is hoped that elements of the three bills will be combined in a fashion that can pass in both the House and the Senate. This would eliminate the need for a House and Senate Conference and thereby speed the process of getting the bill passed before congress adjourns.

**CARAT Committee Meeting**

The Committee to Advise on Reassessment and Transition (CARAT) is a 25-member committee to advise USDA and EPA on implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA). Its membership is broadly representative of Agricultural, Environmental, Social, Academic and Industry interests relative to FQPA. On February 27 and 28 the full CARAT committee met for first time since the new administration took office. At the last CARAT meeting in October 2000 two workgroups were formed; one was to work on “transition” issues and the other was to work on application of the FQPA “cumulative toxicity” requirement to organophosphate insecticides. In the interim since October 2000 there have been six meetings of the “cumulative” work group but no meetings of the “transition” work group. This has been frustrating CARAT members such as myself who signed up to be part of the transition work group because of its focus on research, risk mitigation and education. At the full CARAT meeting this sentiment was widely expressed and it appears the transition work group will be convened sometime in the near future. When this happens there will be a unique opportunity to unify industry, environmental, consumer, grower and academic interests behind a prioritized pest management research and education agenda. Although it will be challenging to bring such a group to consensus it will also present an exciting possibility that is well worth pursuing.


- View of the Philadelphia skyline from the 31st floor of the Loews Hotel.
- Nighttime photo in 31st floor suite at the Loews Hotel.
- The illuminated dome of Philadelphia’s City Hall is visible in the window.
- David Yarborough, NEWSS Secretary-Treasurer, taking care of business at the registration desk.
President-elect David Mayonado presided over the General Session on Tuesday morning.

Scott Guiser, Penn State Cooperative Extension, presented an introduction to Pennsylvania agriculture.

Garry Schnappinger (left) was presented with the Award of Merit by Past President Brian Olson.

Scenes from the Poster Session on Tuesday morning.
Brian Olson presented Brad Majek (left) with the NEWSS Distinguished Member award.

Jerry Baron received the Outstanding Researcher award.

Brian Olson presented Tom Watschke (left) with the NEWSS Distinguished Member award.

NEWSS President Jeff Derr presented the Presidential Address on the problem of understaffing of weed scientists at northeastern universities.

Albert Kausch of Hybrigene LLC presented the Keynote Address at the General Session: "Agricultural Biotechnology - The Future is Now."

Scott Hagood received the Outstanding Educator award.
Scott Glenn, Vice President and Program Chair, organized and moderated the General Symposium on Biotechnology on Wednesday afternoon.

The following four scientists spoke at the symposium, entitled "Biotechnology: The Next Generation."

Thomas Vrabel

Mark VanGessel

Albert Kausch

David Heering

The symposium speakers participated in a discussion and question & answer session following their presentations.
Art Gover was the organizer, moderator, and a speaker at the Invasive Plants Symposium on Tuesday afternoon.

Other speakers at the Invasive Plants Symposium included Sarah Webb (top) of Drew University, Madison, NJ, and Margot Bram of the Academy of Natural Resource Sciences, Philadelphia, PA.

Awards Presented at the NEWSS Annual Business Meeting on Wednesday afternoon:

Michael Elston (left) received the 1st place award in the student paper contest from Chris Becker of BASF.

Carrie Judge received the 2nd place award in the student paper contest from Chris Becker of BASF.

Research poster award winners were Andy Bailey (left, 2nd place) and John Jemison (1st place).
Photo contest award winners were (top to bottom): Antonio DiTommaso (1st), Shawn Askew (2nd), and Joe Neal (3rd).

NEWSS President Jeff Derr presented a gift to Steve King, graduate student at Virginia Tech, for Steve's contribution in maintaining the NEWSS web site in 2001.

David Mayonado (left) became NEWSS President at the Annual Business Meeting on Wednesday afternoon. Dave presented outgoing President Jeff Derr with a gavel plaque in recognition of his service to NEWSS.

Statue of William Penn atop the dome of Philadelphia's City Hall.
The Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS) held its 56th annual meeting January 7-10, 2002 at the Loews Hotel in Philadelphia, PA. Nearly 200 people attended, and more than 100 research papers and posters were presented. The conference theme was “Biotechnology: The Next Generation.” David Mayonado presided over the General Session, and Scott Guiser provided an introduction to Pennsylvania agriculture. Jeffrey Derr gave the Presidential Address, and Albert Kausch, Hybrigene LLC, presented the keynote address entitled “Agricultural Biotechnology: The Future is Now.” The following people spoke at the General Symposium, organized and moderated by Scott Glenn: Thomas Vrabel (Slater Center for Environmental Biotechnology, RI), Mark VanGessel (Univ. of Delaware), David Heering (Monsanto Co.), and Albert Kausch. NEWSS again held its annual meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Northeastern Branch of the American Society for Horticultural Science (NE-ASHS). Joint events included a behind-the-scenes tour and dinner at Longwood Gardens organized by NE-ASHS, an invasive plant symposium with the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council (MA-EPPC), and a social mixer with these societies.

The NEWSS Distinguished Member Award was presented to Bradley Majek (Rutgers Univ.) and to Thomas Watschke (Penn State). The Award of Merit recipient was Garry Schnappinger (Syngenta Crop Protection, retired). Other award winners were Scott Hagood (Virginia Tech), Outstanding Educator, and Jerry Baron (IR-4 Project / Rutgers Univ.), Outstanding Researcher. In the student paper contest, 1st place was awarded to Michael Elston (with P. Bhowmik), Univ. of Massachusetts, and 2nd place was awarded to Caren Judge (with J. Neal), North Carolina State Univ. Poster session winners were John Jemison and A. Nejako, Univ. of Maine (1st); and W. Andy Bailey, H. Wilson and T. Hines (2nd), Virginia Tech. Winners in the photo contest were Antonio DiTommaso, Cornell Univ. (1st); Shawn Askew, Virginia Tech (2nd); Joseph Neal, North Carolina State Univ. (3rd). Steve King, graduate student at Virginia Tech, was presented with a special award and gift for his contributions in maintaining the NEWSS web site during 2001.

Members of the 2002 NEWSS Executive Committee are: David Mayonado, President; Scott Glenn, President-Elect; Robin Bellinder, Vice President; Jeffrey Derr, Past President; David Yarborough, Secretary-Treasurer; Mark VanGessel, Editor; Jerry Baron, Legislative Chair; Todd Mervosh, Public Relations Chair; Art Gover, Research/Education Coordinator; Ted Bean, Sustaining Membership Chair; Robert Sweet, CAST Representative; Timothy Dutt, WSSA Representative; and Carrie Judge, Graduate Student Representative.

The NEWSS Collegiate Weed Contest will be held on August 6, 2002 in North Rose, NY. Contact Grant Jordan, A.C.D.S. Research, Inc., for information (Tel. 315-587-2140; Fax 315-587-2145; email: acdsgrj@computer-connection.net).

The 57th NEWSS Annual Meeting will be held January 6-9, 2003 at the Hyatt Regency in Baltimore, MD.
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NORTHEASTERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY - 57th ANNUAL MEETING
January 6-9, 2003 – Hyatt Regency, Baltimore, MD

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