

# NEWSS News

Northeastern Weed Science Society  
November 2014



[WWW.NEWSS.ORG](http://WWW.NEWSS.ORG)

## COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Gregory Armel

In less than two months, we will come together once again for our 69th NEWSS Annual Meeting. This event will be held January 5 - 8, 2015 at the Williamsburg Lodge in Williamsburg, VA (this is one week later than our usual date due to New Year's Day falling mid-week). The Williamsburg Lodge is nicely located in the historic district of Williamsburg, with easy access off I-64. Plan to take some time to enjoy all the Revolutionary City has to offer. In addition to rich history and museums, you can also enjoy gourmet cuisine and shopping for all tastes. Our hotel rate is \$125/night, with free self-parking and free guest room and meeting room wi-fi. To reserve rooms directly, go to <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/31137>. It has been quite some time since we have been at this venue, but it has undergone some nice renovations that I think you will enjoy.

Our cutoff date for reservations at the Williamsburg Lodge is December 12, 2014, but don't wait too long to reserve rooms given the location they may go fast. The hotel actually has two other smaller groups that will be meeting there that week.

## IMPORTANT DATES

December 12, 2014: Last day to reserve a room at Williamsburg Lodge – *and* ...  
Deadline to register on-line for Annual Meeting

January 5, 2015 (8 PM): Deadline to upload presentations via WSSA website

January 5-8, 2015: NEWSS Annual Meeting  
Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, VA

Rakesh Chandran is working on the overall program, the General Session and a symposium. The theme of the meeting is "Bridging the Gap." Rakesh has assembled some great internal speakers for a symposium to discuss where we have been as a society and where we might be going in the future. In addition to this general session and our normal breakouts, we will host a workshop on resistance management in turf. We hope this new workshop will allow for some outside participants to take advantage of this unique opportunity. The program is full and nearly every minute accounted for throughout the event. Please see the President Elect's article for more details about the program.



Williamsburg Lodge – Williamsburg, Virginia

**Special Note:** As I have mentioned previously, the theme of our meeting is “Bridging the Gap”. Much of what you will hear in our meeting from my Presidential Address, to the symposium, to the business meeting will support this theme. Things are changing fast and the society must make many decisions in the near and long-term future to remain viable and strong. The Executive Committee has taken several steps recently to solidify our future; one of those being the initiation of an Education Fund that we hope will start supporting student programs in a limited capacity in the near future. Please consider a donation to this fund to help educate our student members.

A second strategy has involved getting commitments from four other Northeastern regional societies to have a joint meeting next year in Philadelphia. This meeting will be dubbed the Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference and will draw at least 600 members, and should reduce overall costs while improving the diversity of our program and scientific interactions. A thorough walk-through of the proposed joint meeting will be explained at our business meeting in January.

Finally, a third much more recent strategy was unanimously approved by the Executive Committee at our last meeting, and we are requesting the membership to vote on this measure at our January meeting. We have decided to remove the board positions of CAST Representative, Research and Education Chair, Sustaining Membership Chair, and Public Relations Chair. Many of the responsibilities of these positions will be delegated to other Executive Committee members requiring changes in our MOPs. Some responsibilities such as serving and supporting CAST will be terminated outright. Much thought has gone into this recommendation, and most of it revolved around resources both in regards to financial and membership commitment. Finding members that can commit to ALL the responsibilities of a board position is getting harder every year.

In addition, our numbers have declined in recent years making the percentage of members on the board rather high in comparison to the size of our overall membership. Furthermore, there is the question of financially supporting

and sending members to participate in a larger organization like CAST when our own finances continue to shrink annually. When we have to make tough cuts to balance our budget, cuts that impact how we support our own annual meeting and graduate contest, then it becomes clear that we must make difficult decisions. Therefore, the board will be recommending to the membership that you support these measures going forward, and in addition offer up any suggestions for improvements in the society as things continue to change.

As we work toward this recommended re-shaping of the board, it is anticipated that the Executive Committee will need to rely on the membership more than ever to execute our plans. Therefore, committee members, section chairs, judges, and students will be relied on to handle much greater responsibilities. I would ask that each of you consider how you can help support these endeavors, and at the meeting the Executive Committee will be tapping many of you to increase your level of service. Given what I know about our membership, I know we will have many willing to do their part. This society has a proud heritage and tradition that is second to none in agriculture. Let us all work together to make sure the NEWSS has at least another 69 years of supporting Weed Science education in the Northeastern region.

Finally, I encourage each of you to study this newsletter carefully as it contains critical information. Your Executive Committee has done an outstanding job getting things ready for your arrival at our meeting in January. I have been honored to be able to serve as your President the last year, and I am thankful for the outstanding contributions by our Executive Committee and members like you. Remember that you are the NEWSS, and we ask you to think of ways you can strengthen your commitment to our future successes. I look forward to seeing everyone in Williamsburg in January!

*Greg Armel*  
*NEWSS President*

## **Hotel and Travel Information**

### **Williamsburg Lodge**

310 South England Street, Williamsburg, VA

Phone: 757-220-7646

<http://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com/stay/williamsburg-lodge>

**RESERVE ROOMS BEFORE DECEMBER 12, 2014.**

**While making reservations, refer to  
booking ID #31137 or NEWSS**

### **Nearby Airports<sup>1</sup>**

Newport News/Williamsburg International  
Airport

Norfolk International Airport  
Richmond International Airport

### **Train Station**

Williamsburg Amtrak train station is located 2  
miles from the hotel. Contact hotel front desk  
for complimentary shuttle service.

### **Driving Directions**

From the North (Washington, D.C./Richmond):  
Take Interstate 95 South to Richmond, Virginia.  
Take left exit off 95 South to 295 South toward  
Norfolk and Williamsburg. Follow signs to I-64  
East toward Norfolk and Williamsburg.

From the South: Take Interstate 95 North to  
Richmond, Virginia. Take right exit off 95 North  
to 295 North toward Norfolk and Williamsburg.  
Follow signs to I-64 East toward Norfolk and  
Williamsburg. From I-64, take Exit 238 (Camp  
Peary/Colonial Williamsburg). Turn at the stop  
sign onto Route 143. Go through the first  
stoplight and turn right at the second stoplight  
onto Route 132 (becomes Henry Street).

<sup>1</sup> Distance from Newport News airport to the hotel ~ 20 miles; other  
two airports ~ 45 miles.

From Virginia Beach/Norfolk/Newport News:  
Follow I-64 West. Take Exit 242A (Route 199)  
toward Busch Gardens. Follow Route 199 to the  
right exit marked Busch Gardens and Route 60.  
At the bottom of the exit, turn left at the stop sign  
onto Route 60. Remain on Route 60 to the first  
stoplight and turn left onto Francis Street  
(grazing pasture for horses on your left).

## **PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REPORT**



Rakesh Chandran

After putting together the program for our  
69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, I feel that we are about to  
partake in another successful meeting with a  
wealth of new and useful information, ideas and  
thoughts to share. We have roughly 110 titles  
submitted in this year's program. As usual we  
will also have social events to visit and meet as  
the cordial group we have always been. I hope to  
share with you an electronic version of the  
program before Thanksgiving.

Program details are outlined in the table  
below. The General Session will feature the  
welcome address by Virginia Commissioner of  
Agriculture Ms. Sandra Adams, followed by  
Awards Ceremony and Presidential Address.  
The much anticipated symposium "Bridging the  
Gap" led by Dr. James Parochetti will follow  
lunch break on Tuesday. It will feature well-  
respected speakers from our own society to  
discuss the history of NEWSS or "*how we got  
here?*" followed by an engaging discussion of our  
future or "*where do we go from here?*". What can  
we do to capture the interests of future weed  
scientists? How can we reinvent ourselves while  
addressing the current concerns and position  
ourselves as a dynamic organization for the  
future?

As pointed out by our President Dr. Greg  
Armel, we need to keep pace with, and respond  
to, the changes happening within and around us.  
To this end, we are hoping have a society-wide

discussion on the current makeup of our Executive Committee and other matters following the afternoon break. Please come prepared to share your thoughts for this important discussion. Tuesday evening will feature our cordial social mixer/society reception.

Apart from Graduate Student paper presentations and a few concurrent sessions on Wednesday, there will also be a symposium to highlight "Herbicide-Resistant Weeds in Turf" led by Dr. Shawn Askew. Following the breakout sessions, the Annual Business meeting will be held. Our industry-sponsored Nightcap and Dessert Social will provide us with a relaxing end to this otherwise busy day! Apart from remaining concurrent sessions on Thursday morning, a special workshop focusing on emerging technologies in spraying systems will be led by Mr. Brian Fowler of TeeJet Company.

Plans for the 2016 Joint Meeting are also under way. It will be hosted at the Philadelphia Society Hill Sheraton, January 3-7. This meeting will be kicked off by an outreach event on Sunday geared to attract families in the local area. This is an event that the Eastern Branch of the Entomological Society organizes every year but we are welcome to join this effort. It would involve exhibits and clinics of public interest (think Weed ID, homeowner clinics etc.). It would be a good way to enhance our visibility as a society and what we do for the general public. Representatives from the participating societies are working collaboratively to make this meeting a grand success. Please share any thoughts or ideas you may have.

On behalf of NEWSS, I would like to acknowledge all those who sent in titles or plan to present talks at the symposia or the workshop. This meeting could not be successful without your active participation! I look forward to seeing you in Williamsburg in 2015.

*Rakesh Chandran*  
*President-Elect*

## Condensed Annual Meeting Program

### **MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2015**

1:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Committee Meetings
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	Drop off photos for photo contest at Registration Desk
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Posters Set-Up
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Graduate Student Mixer
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Presidential Reception

### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2015**

7:00 am - 6:00 pm	Speaker's Preparation Room
7:45 am - 9:45 am	Posters (Authors present) & Commercial Displays
8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Job Positions at Registration
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	General Session and Awards Presentation
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch break
1:30 pm - 3:15 pm	"Bridging the Gap" - Symposium - Part 1
3:45 pm - 5:30 pm	"Bridging the Gap" - Symposium - Part 2
1:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Posters (Authors not present) & Commercial Displays
6:15 pm - 7:45 pm	Social Mixer

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2015**

7:00 am - 8:15 am	Past-Presidents' Breakfast and meeting
7:30 am - 5:00 pm	Speaker's Preparation Room
8:00 am - 3:00 pm	Job Positions at Registration
8:00 am - 4:30 pm	Posters (Authors not present) & Commercial Displays
8:30 am - 11:45 am	Graduate Student Contest
11:45 am - 1:15 pm	Lunch break
1:15 pm - 3:00 pm	Graduate Student Contest
3:30 pm - 4:45 pm	Agronomy
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Fruits and Vegetables
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Weed Biology & Ecology
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	"Herbicide Resistant Weeds in Turf"

5:15 pm – 6:30 pm      NEWSS Annual Business Meeting  
By 7:00 pm              Remove posters  
9:00 pm – 11:00 pm    Industry Dessert Social and Nightcap

### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2015**

6:30 am - 8:00 am      Executive Committee  
                                  (Old & New) Breakfast & Meeting  
7:00 am – 12:00 pm    Speaker's Preparation  
8:30 am – 11:30 am    Ornamentals  
8:00 am – 10:45 am    Agronomy  
8:30 am – 11:45 am    Turfgrass and Plant Growth Regulators  
8:30 am – 11:30 am    Vegetation Management and Restoration  
10:45 am – 11:30 am    Spraying Systems Workshop  
11:30 am – 12:00 pm    Spraying Systems Workshop (Cont'd)  
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm      Committee Meeting

**Please note that the deadline for uploading presentations to the WSSA website (<https://wssaabstracts.com/>) is 8:00 pm EST, Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> 2015. Students participating in the contest who have not uploaded their presentations by then will be assessed a minimum 10-point penalty.**

### **2015 NEWSS Meeting**

Rakesh Chandran - Program Chair  
Shawn Askew - Program Vice-Chair

### **Agronomy**

Bryan Dillehay -Chair  
Wes Everman - Chair-Elect

### **Vegetation Management and Restoration**

Javier Vargas - Chair  
Brett Hartis - Chair-Elect

### **Ornamentals**

Andy Senesac - Chair  
Todd Mervosh - Chair-Elect

### **Poster**

Aman Rana - Chair  
Barbara Scott - Chair-Elect

### **Turfgrass and Plant Growth Regulators**

Matt Elmore - Chair  
Katelyn Venner - Chair-Elect

### **Vegetables and Fruit**

Jennifer D'Appollonio-Cote - Chair  
Katherine Ghantous - Chair-Elect

### **Weed Biology and Ecology**

Katherine Ghantous - Chair  
Daniel Tekiela - Chair-Elect



## NEWSS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2014

### OFFICERS

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## TREASURER'S REPORT



Erin Hitchner

Welcome 2015 Northeastern Weed Science Society members and conference attendees. This year, we will continue using PayPal to facilitate our online membership dues, meeting registration fees as well as Proceedings orders. You can use a PayPal account to make these purchases or any major credit card. Proceedings ordered via PayPal will be available for pick-up at the meeting. Please visit the NEWSS website (<http://www.newss.org/annualmeeting.php>) to access the PayPal link and other relevant meeting information. We will also have the means to process credit card payments at the meeting for the convenience of our membership. If you prefer to pay for any of these items via mail, please see the mail-in registration form also listed on the NEWSS website.

Please note, the registration deadline is December 12, 2014. Any registration received after this date will incur a \$30 late fee.

Lastly, Proceedings from the 2014 Annual Meeting which took place in Philadelphia are also still available for purchase (\$35) and will be available at the meeting. For questions, please contact me at [erin.hitchner@syngenta.com](mailto:erin.hitchner@syngenta.com)

*Erin Hitchner*  
*Treasurer*

## UPDATE FROM THE EDITOR



Art Gover

Thanks to everyone who is presenting at this year's meeting. The WSSA submission site functioned well, and I am in the process of poring through the abstracts. I will grace your inbox with a note if some minor repairs are needed. On that note about notes, I will endeavor to modify the submission instructions for next year so that the NEWSS Style Guidelines are unavoidable as you develop your titles and abstracts. As we get further from the days when we all submitted formatted abstracts, folks are forgetting or are unaware (Youth!) of some of our long-held style guidelines, and our current submission process has evolved so that our old Manual of Operating Procedures guidelines are easy to miss. Scientific names in titles was probably our winner this year for editorial faux pas.

**NOTE:** As stated elsewhere in this newsletter, you will need to upload your presentation to the WSSA submission website this year, just as you would for the WSSA or SWSS meeting. To do so, log into [wssaabstracts.com](http://wssaabstracts.com), select "My Titles and Abstracts", and you will note that there is a "Slides" button by each of your entries. Click that button, then click "Choose File" to browse and select the Powerpoint file. Size limit is 50 MB. If you have issues with this process, contact me at [aeg2@psu.edu](mailto:aeg2@psu.edu).

## MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



Keith Burnell

**Membership and contact information:** If anyone is not getting or knows of anyone not getting the newsletter or emails due to not being on the email list, incorrect email address, email address has changed, or any other reason, please notify me [keith.burnell@syngenta.com](mailto:keith.burnell@syngenta.com) to have this corrected. In addition, if you are a member and any of your contact information has changed or needs updating, please send it to me.

**Website needs and comments:** As you visit the NEWSS Website, please let me know of any updates or things we might be able to add or change to make it better.

**Necrology report:** If you have names of any members that need to be included in the necrology report, please notify me. Thanks. The following are the names I have so far: Dr. John Arthur Meade, Dr. Philip C. Kearney, Dr. Harry H. Witkze, Dr. Dean L. Linscott, James Riggleman, Dr. Steve Hart, and Dr. Robert Sweet. Please let me know if I've missed anyone, and if possible send obituary information for updating.

**Registration desk assistance:** If any student is interested, please contact me at [keith.burnell@syngenta.com](mailto:keith.burnell@syngenta.com) for information. For helping we can help offset your registration cost. Duties will include making name badges if needed, handing out registration packages, programs, talking registration information for walk-in people, helping get rooms ready with projector, pointers, print of other documents, answer overall questions about meeting organization and schedule. I would like people for Tuesday and Wednesday, morning and/or afternoon sessions, but I am flexible depending on talks and other obligations.

## GRADUATE STUDENT UPDATE



John Orłowski

Dearest Graduate Students,

I hope that you are all having a good fall and harvest is almost finished up. I also hope that everyone is getting excited for the 2015 NEWSS meetings in Williamsburg, Virginia this January 5-8. The Williamsburg Lodge is an extremely nice venue and once again the Executive Committee has put together a great meeting. We have 10 entries in the Graduate Student Poster Contest and 18 contestants in the Graduate Student Paper Contest. The graduate student contests are usually some of the most attended sessions, so make sure to do an extra good job on your posters and talks.

Like usual, we will be having our graduate student mixer on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, the first night of the meetings. We will have soft drinks and pizza for everyone and some adult beverages available for those who wish to partake. I haven't decided on whom to invite to talk to us at the mixer, so if you have a person or topic that you think would be appropriate please let me know ([john.orłowski@uky.edu](mailto:john.orłowski@uky.edu)).

At this meeting we will be electing the next NEWSS Graduate Student Representative. The responsibilities of the position include representing graduate student interests on the Executive Committee and planning programming for graduate students at the Annual Meeting and Summer Weed Contest. The Graduate Student Representative is a two-year position. I can honestly say that being the Graduate Student Representative has been a great experience. It is a great opportunity to work with NEWSS leadership and be involved in important decisions that affect the society. Please get ahold of me if you would like to run for the position or if you would like to nominate another student for the position.

At the Executive Committee meeting in October the EC reaffirmed the commitment of NEWSS to its graduate students. The EC also expressed a desire that graduate students be more involved in the society. Currently, graduate students who participate in the Graduate Student Contests receive a partial reimbursement to defray the cost of attendance. However, it looks like in the future that graduate student support from the society is going to be increasingly based on service to the society, especially at the Annual Meeting. At the 2015 meeting there is going to be the opportunity for graduate students to help at the meeting registration desk. In return students who participate will be rewarded with reduced registration costs. If you would like help at the meeting, please get ahold of me or Membership Chair, Keith Burnell ([keith.burnell@syngenta.com](mailto:keith.burnell@syngenta.com)) as soon as possible.

See you in January,

*John Orłowski*  
*Graduate Student Rep*

## SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP REPORT



John O'Barr

### **Commercial Displays**

All 2015 Sustaining Members of the NEWSS are eligible and encouraged to participate in the Commercial Display Session at the Annual Meeting in Williamsburg. This session is held in conjunction with the Poster Session and is an excellent opportunity to inform the attendees of your services and products. Table space for displays can be reserved by contacting the Sustaining Member Chairperson: John O'Barr, 717-386-8259, [john.obarr@basf.com](mailto:john.obarr@basf.com).

### **Sustaining Membership Report**

On behalf of the NEWSS, I would like to personally thank our 2014 Sustaining Members

listed below for their support this year. The contributions that the Sustaining Members make are critical to the financial health of the society. During the months of October and November I have been working to recruit sustaining members for the 2015 year. I invite all companies and organizations to consider becoming a 2015 sustaining member today!

All membership levels receive a copy of the proceedings and an exhibit table and recognition at the Annual Meeting and in 4 quarterly Newsletters. The tiered fee structure provides benefits such as complementary conference registration(s), company link on the NEWSS website, etc., depending on the level of support.

Platinum and Gold Sustaining members automatically make a contribution to the collegiate weed contest. Silver and Bronze members are encouraged to make a separate donation for the collegiate weed competition. If you are interested in becoming a sustaining member or would like to contribute to the 2015 weed contest, please contact John O'Barr ([john.obarr@basf.com](mailto:john.obarr@basf.com), 717-386-8259).

Level	Contribution	2015 Conference Registrations	2015 Weed Competition
Platinum	\$2,000	2	\$1,000
Gold	\$1,000	1	\$500
Silver	\$500	none	none
Bronze	\$250	none	none

## CANDIDATE FOR NEWSS VICE PRESIDENT



Randall Prostack

Randy Prostack is a New Jersey native. As the grandson of a dairyman, he fell in love with agriculture at a young age. As the son of a Rutgers entomologist, he is a Rutgers man from birth. Randy earned a bachelors degree in plant science - agronomy, a minor in meteorology and oceanography and, subsequently, a M.S. in weed science and turfgrass science. In 1994, Randy joined the University of Massachusetts and in 2000 he became an extension educator / extension weed specialist. He is a member of the UMass Extension landscape nursery urban forestry team and is an active contributor to the turf, crop dairy livestock equine, and pesticide education extension teams.

In 1990, Randy attended his first Northeastern Weed Science Society meeting in Baltimore as an undergraduate. He has served as chair for the ornamental and vegetation management & restoration sections at annual meetings. Randy is currently in his second term as our society's representative to the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology. Randy is the 2013 recipient of the NEWSS Outstanding Educator Award.

### 2014 NEWSS Sustaining Members

Organization	2014 Level
BASF Corporation	Platinum
Syngenta	Platinum
Dow AgroSciences, LLC	Gold
FMC Corporation	Gold
Bayer CropScience	Gold
Monsanto	Gold
Valent	Gold
PBI Gordon	Silver
OHP	Silver
BAAR Scientific	Silver
United Phosphorus, Inc.	Silver
DuPont	Silver
Gowan	Silver
Gylling Data Management	Bronze
TeeJet® Technologies	Bronze
Crop Management Strategies (CMS)	Bronze
LABServices	Bronze
Weeds, Inc.	Bronze

Randy has a passion for teaching, whether teaching students and agricultural professionals about weed management or introducing a friend to his favorite pastime activity, fly fishing. Each year, the outreach component of his position includes many invited presentations throughout New England, extension workshops, twilight meetings and instruction in several certification programs. In addition to programs, Randy reaches his extension audience via his weed identification website, newsletters, web-based e-newsletters and educational videos.

## WSSA REPRESENTATIVE



Prasanta Bhowmik

**The 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America** will be held in Lexington, KY in February 9-12, 2015. All Abstract Titles and Author Information have been submitted. Abstract texts must be submitted by January 15, 2015. For more information, visit [www.wssa.net](http://www.wssa.net).

There are two outstanding symposia scheduled for the 2015 meeting. The first is a summary of the Herbicide Resistance Summit II entitled "Are We Going to Do the Same Thing and Expect a Different Outcome". The second one is "Integration of Omics' Approaches in Weed Science Research" that will reflect a future look at molecular research in Weed Science. The graduate students have organized a workshop entitled "Preparing Students for Work after Graduate School". The grad students have also organized a lunch discussion with three Editors of the WSSA journals. The Editors will discuss what it takes to publish in our journals, and also discuss on important considerations for peer-reviewing other manuscripts. In addition, for the first time, there will be a Graduate Student Poster Contest.

### **WSSA Undergraduate Research Award – 2015**

The Weed Science Society of America has developed an Undergraduate Student Research Grant program designed to encourage and involve exceptional undergraduates in agricultural research. Any faculty member who is actively engaged in Weed Science research is qualified to be a sponsor. Awards (up to \$2,000) may be used as a stipend, for research budget expenses (travel, supplies, etc.), to defer fees, to defray living expenses for summer research, or any combination of these items. **There is still time for proposal submission.** Interested faculty members are encouraged to identify potential award candidates and discuss the

## NEWSS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2014



Front row (L to R): Shawn Askew, Rakesh Chandran, Greg Armel, Dwight Lingenfelter.

Back row (L to R): John Orłowski, John O'Barr, Bryan Dillehay, Keith Burnell, Art Gover, Erin Hitchner, Prasanta Bhowmik, Randy Prostack, Todd Mervosh.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Greg Armel	President
Rakesh Chandran	President Elect
Shawn Askew	Vice President
Erin Hitchner	Treasurer
Dwight Lingenfelter	Past President
Keith Burnell	Membership Chair
Art Gover	Editor
John Orłowski	Graduate Student Rep.
Bryan Dillehay	Research & Education
John O'Barr	Sustaining Membership
Todd Mervosh	Public Relations Rep.
Prasanta Bhowmik	WSSA Representative
Randy Prostack	CAST Representative
Lee Van Wychem	Science Policy Director

possibility of sponsoring a research project. The completed proposal, academic transcripts, cover letter and faculty letter of support should be sent to: Dr. Stephen Enloe, 263 Funchess Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849; E-mail: [sfe0001@auburn.edu](mailto:sfe0001@auburn.edu). Proposals may be submitted via snail mail or electronically as a single pdf package. The deadline for submission is December 1, 2014.

### **New WSSA Fact Sheet**

WSSA issued a new [fact sheet](#) to uproot common misconceptions about “Superweeds” – a catchall term used by many to describe weeds resistant to herbicides. The paper explores the truth behind two widespread fallacies as i) Superweeds are a product of rampant gene transfer from genetically modified field crops, and ii) Superweeds have supercharged abilities to muscle out competing plants in new and more aggressive ways. The full WSSA paper on Superweeds is posted online at <http://wssa.net/weed/wssa-fact-sheets>.

The same website contains a variety of best management practices recommended by WSSA to combat herbicide resistance – from proactive steps to reduce the number of weed seeds in the soil to the use of well-established cultural practices to suppress weeds through crop competition.

### **Herbicide Resistance Summit II**

The Herbicide Resistance Summit II was held on September 10, 2014 in Washington DC. The event was hosted by the National Research Council at the Auditorium in the National Academy of Sciences Building on Constitution Avenue. Slides and a webcast recording of the day-long summit are available on line at <http://wssa.net/weedresistance-summit-ii>.

### **WSSA Academic Subject Matter Expert**

Our NEWSS members may know that the WSSA Board of Directors created the position of Academic Subject Matter Expert (SME) in May, 2007. This liaison position is a partnership between WSSA and the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP). The first two Subject Matter Experts were Dr. Steve Dewey, Utah State University and Dr. Jill Schroeder, New Mexico

State University. Currently, Dr. Michael Barrett, University of Kentucky, was appointed as the EPA-SME in June 2013. The vision for this position is to develop a liaison between the academic Weed Science community and the EPA in order to assist the Agency in addressing crop and noncrop weed control issues that directly impact the weed management practitioner. The EPA-SME also arranges weed science educational activities, such as seminars and field tours, for the EPA-OPP employees.

### **Fifty-Year Anniversary of the Pesticide Safety Education Program (PESP)**

The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) joined with the American Phytopathological Society (APS) and the Entomological Society of America (ESA) to recognize the 50-year anniversary of the national Land-Grant University Pesticide Safety Education Program. The Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) had its genesis in 1964 to enhance pesticide label compliance and to develop the first training manuals. In the early years, the program was under the direction of each Land-Grant University’s Cooperative Extension Program and was supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In 1970, USDA passed the safe-use education torch to the newly created U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which concentrated especially on safety issues on the farm and in other occupations. Although the program has evolved over the past 50 years, it remains the focal point for pesticide safety education throughout the United States.

### **New Herbicide Handbook**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Herbicide Handbook is now available. This version is completely revised and updated – over 500 pages. It is easy to find herbicides as it has been formatted in alphabetical order. The handbook contains detailed information on more than 230 herbicides currently available in commercial production. Price: \$95.00. For purchasing information, visit [www.wssa.net](http://www.wssa.net).

## **Invasive Plant Science and Management (IPSM) Journal**

IPSM is a broad-based journal that focuses not only on fundamental and applied research on invasive plant biology, ecology, management, and restoration of invades non-crop areas, but also on the many other aspects relevant to invasive species, including educational activities, policy issues, and case study reports. The WSSA Board has decided to appoint Dr. Antonio DiTommaso, Cornell University as the New Editor-IPSM journal in 2015.

Congratulations to Dr. DiTommaso.

## **CAST REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**



Randy Prostack

### **2014 CAST Annual Board Meeting**

The Annual Board Meeting was held October 29-30 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The meeting was very productive with a few proposals from the Plant Work Group being moved forward and approved by the Board of Directors. The CAST board members were addressed by five guest speakers during the meeting. Excellent presentations were given by Ted McKinney (Director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture), Scott Hutchins (Global R&D Leader for Dow AgroSciences), Jeff Simmons (President, Elanco Animal Health), Mike McCarty (Food Industry & Consumer Affairs, Elanco Animal Health) and Doug Miller, Global Scientific Affairs, Elanco Animal Health.

The presidential gavel was passed to David Songstad, Director of Research/Cell Biology at Cibus LLC. During the general session, Songstad presented his vision as incoming president and recognized Dr. Mark Armfelt as the new President-elect of CAST. Using visual imagery, Dr. Songstad spoke about the importance of convergence, describing this as factors coming together on an important issue so that the central overlapping area—the region of

convergence—becomes the vitally important space. Using the CAST organization as a primary example, he suggested that the Animal, Food, and Plant Work Groups converge to identify topics for new publications and the Boards of Directors, Representatives, and Trustees converge to accomplish the mission of CAST.

### **Executive Vice President retiring**

On November 5, 2014, it was announced that Ms. Linda M. Chimenti, who has served as the Executive Vice President of the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) since February 2013, will be retiring effective May 31, 2015 to pursue other interests and spend more time with family. By that time, Ms. Chimenti will have served CAST with distinction for 14.5 years, in a succession of roles with increasing responsibility including Managing Scientific Editor and Chief Operating Officer. During her time with CAST, Ms. Chimenti has overseen the publication of 85 scientific publications as well as numerous annual reports, an expanding collection of Spanish translations, and two special history documents.

During her tenure as Executive Vice President, Ms. Chimenti initiated the development of a new publication series, Ag QuickCASTs, to provide easy online access to CAST documents. These publications have received enthusiastic support from CAST stakeholders and legislative staffers in D.C. who need accurate information quickly. She worked with the CAST staff to enhance the impact tracking for new CAST publications through more-detailed reports and online metrics. And she worked in partnership with the CAST Board of Directors to establish new committees responsible for Governance, Membership, and Investment Management.

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NEWSS NEWS was compiled by Todd Mervosh, Public Relations Representative. Please contact him at [tmervosh@att.net](mailto:tmervosh@att.net) or 860-502-7765 with any corrections, suggestions, or items to include in the next newsletter (Spring 2015 issue).

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# WASHINGTON REPORT

Science Policy Director

November 7, 2014



Lee Van Wychen

## New Chairs Expected for House and Senate Ag Committees

With the November 4 elections in the rearview mirror, a new campaign will begin on Capitol Hill for committee leadership assignments in the next session of Congress. Due to a 20 year old self-imposed House GOP rule that limits its committee chairs to three terms, nearly half of the current chairs in the House will have to step aside, including Ag Committee Chair Frank Lucas of Oklahoma. The odds on favorite to replace Lucas is Michael Conaway of Texas (photo below). Conaway isn't the most senior member on the House Ag Committee, but he's a team player and has the backing of Speaker Boehner after quietly campaigning for the Ag Committee chairmanship over this past year.



Conaway grew up in Odessa, TX and was a member of Odessa Permian High School football team that won a state championship in 1966. He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting from Texas A & M University-Commerce in 1970. After serving in the Army at Fort Hood, he returned to the Permian Basin with Price Waterhouse and settled in Midland, TX, later working with George W. Bush as the chief financial officer for Bush Exploration. An ordained deacon in the Baptist church, Congressman Conaway and his wife, Suzanne, live in Midland and have four children and seven grandchildren.

In the Senate, it is highly likely that Sen. Thad Cochran of Mississippi, the current Ranking Member of the Senate Ag Committee, will be named as the new incoming Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, a position he occupied from 2005-2007. It is also highly likely that Sen. Pat Roberts of Kansas (photo below) will be named as the new incoming Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee. As House Ag Committee Chair in the 1990's, Roberts was a driving force behind the "freedom to farm" commodity policy in the 1996 Farm Bill.



Sen. Roberts is a fourth generation Kansan, born in Topeka, KS. He earned a journalism degree from Kansas State University and served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1980 and then to the Senate in 1996 where he has served since. Senator Roberts has been a proponent of research and technology and had led efforts in promoting food safety and biosecurity. Senator Roberts lives in Dodge City, KS with his wife Franki, and has three children and seven grandchildren.

## Dispelling Common Misconceptions About "Superweeds"

The WSSA Public Awareness Committee, along with input and review from several other committees and the Board of Directors developed the following [WSSA Fact Sheet](#) about superweed myths:

Use of the term superweed has exploded in recent years and is frequently featured in news reports about herbicide-resistant weeds choking out crops. A few recent headline examples:

**Superweeds Choke Farms** (*Des Moines Register*, June 22, 2014)

**The Rise of the Super Weed Around the World** (*Wall Street Journal*, June 23, 2014)

**U.S. Midwestern Farmers Fighting Explosion of "Superweeds"** (*Reuters*, July 23, 2014)

## **Superweed Spreading through Wall, Texas**

*(KLST-TV, July 29, 2014)*

## **Super Weed Spreads Closer to Quad Cities**

*(WQAD TV, August 4, 2014)*

While there is no science-based definition for superweed, the term is often used to describe weeds believed to have special capabilities that are helping them outcompete other plants in ways never experienced before. Many associate superweed with glyphosate-tolerant crops and the suspected transfer of resistance genes from these crops to weeds. [The Oxford Dictionary](#), for example, is one of many online resources to define superweed as “a weed which is extremely resistant to herbicides, especially one created by the transfer of genes from genetically modified crops into wild plants.”

But is that the truth? Are today’s weeds “supercharged” in some way? And if so, why is that the case? As a nonprofit organization that promotes science-based information about weeds, their impact on the environment and how they can be managed, WSSA has compiled the information below to clarify two common misconceptions about superweeds.

**Misconception 1: Rampant gene transfer between genetically modified crops and weeds is creating weeds able to resist treatment by herbicides.**

**Reality: There is no evidence that gene transfer is a major factor in the development of herbicide resistance. Instead, overreliance on herbicides with a single mechanism of action to control certain weeds has led to the selection of weeds resistant to that mechanism of action.**

The transfer of resistance traits from genetically modified crops to weeds growing in the field is rare, and the occurrences observed and reported to date have had minimal impact. The only currently known mechanism for any crop trait to move into weeds (or vice versa) is through cross pollination – a sexual crossing between the crop and the weed. Gene flow is more likely to happen if the crop and weed are sexually compatible, near relatives. Gene flow among more distantly related plant species is

rare because they do not cross as readily. There are often physiological barriers, including pollen incompatibility, varying numbers of chromosomes and other factors that serve as impediments.

Even among sexually compatible crops and weeds, the opportunity for crop-weed gene flow depends on proximity of the crop plant to its wild weedy relatives. For example, there have been no reports of gene transfer in the more than 160 million annually planted acres of genetically modified corn, cotton and soybean crops where herbicide resistance weeds are such a significant issue today. Since these crops don’t have sexually compatible, near relatives in the U.S. and Canada, the risk of gene flow to other plants in the region is extremely low. Crops like sunflower, wheat and canola do have compatible weed relatives in their major production areas (e.g. wild sunflower, jointed goatgrass, and wild relatives of canola, respectively). As a result, the risk of gene flow between those crops and wild plants is greater. Where gene flow has occurred, the resulting plants are no more weedy than their parent plants.

**Misconception 2: Herbicide use is creating a new breed of herbicide-resistant superweeds unlike anything we’ve ever seen before.**

**Reality: The costly issue of herbicide resistance isn’t new – and neither are the competitive characteristics of weeds. Although the number of acres affected by resistant weeds has increased over the last decade as more growers have come to rely solely on herbicides with a single mechanism of action for weed control, weeds have exhibited resistance to many types of herbicides over the past 40 years. Many weed populations have even evolved resistance to multiple herbicide mechanisms of action.**

Herbicide resistance is an important, costly and escalating issue, especially as growers have come to rely more than ever on a single class of herbicides that targets weeds in the same way. It is more critical than ever for a variety of carefully integrated weed management strategies to be used so weeds resistant to one

method can be controlled in other ways before they have an opportunity to spread. This includes nonchemical means of weed control, such as crop rotation, tillage, cultivation, hand hoeing, seed capture, etc. The WSSA has created a variety of free educational materials and recommendations concerning resistance and how to avoid it, available online at <http://wssa.net/weed/resistance>.

As to those super powers that many individuals ascribe to herbicide-resistant weeds? Under herbicide-free conditions, resistant weeds are no more competitive or ecologically fit than their susceptible partners. Both can crowd out crops and other desirable plants by outcompeting them for water, nutrients, sunlight and space. They grow incessantly and can be prolific seed producers. A single Palmer amaranth plant, for example, can produce hundreds of thousands of seeds, regardless of whether it is herbicide resistant or not.

Weeds can be economically devastating if allowed to grow unchecked. As a result, we need to monitor vigilantly and use a variety of herbicide and non-herbicide strategies to control weed populations before they get out of hand.

#### **Note:**

WSSA thanks the following scientists for their special contributions to this document:

- **Brad Hanson**, Ph.D., Cooperative Extension Weed Specialist in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of California - Davis.
- **Andrew Kniss**, Ph.D., Associate Professor in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Wyoming and a WSSA board member.

#### **Herbicide Resistance Summit II – A Call To Action**

The 2nd National Summit on Strategies to Manage Herbicide-Resistant Weeds was held September 10, 2014 in Washington DC. The Summit was very well organized and attended by over 300 people online and in person. The Summit planning committee, chaired by David Shaw, volunteered an incredible amount of their time and effort in planning and orchestrating this very successful event. Members of the Herbicide Resistance Summit Planning were:

**David Shaw**, Vice President for Research and Economic Development, Mississippi State University

**Amy Asmus**, Certified Crop Advisor, Asmus Farm Supply, Rake, Iowa

**Mike Barrett**, Professor of Weed Science, University of Kentucky, WSSA-EPA Liaison

**Harold Coble**, USDA Office of Pest Management Policy – retired, Weed Scientist, and Farmer

**David Ervin**, Professor of Environmental Management and Economics, Portland State University

**George Frisvold**, Professor of Agriculture and Resource Economics, University of Arizona

**Les Glasgow**, Syngenta, Herbicide Resistance Action Committee

**Terry Hurley**, Professor, Dept. of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota

**Ray Jussaume**, Professor and Chair, Dept. of Sociology, Michigan State University

**Kara Laney**, Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources, National Academy of Sciences

**Mike Owen**, Professor and Extension Weed Specialist, Iowa State University

**Jill Schroeder**, USDA Office of Pest Management Policy Weed Scientist

**John Soteris** (retired)/**Michael Horak**, Monsanto, Herbicide Resistance Action Committee

**Blaine Viator**, Weed Scientist, Independent Crop Consultant, Labadieville, Louisiana

All the presentations throughout the day were excellent! Both the slides and the webcasts of each of the presentations plus questions and answers are on the WSSA website at:

<http://wssa.net/weed/resistance-summit-ii/>.

In addition to the planning committee members listed above, we also heard from USDA's Chief Scientist and Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, Dr. Cathy Wotecki, EPA's Director of Pesticide Programs, Jack Housenger, and the Director of the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative, Dr.

Stephen Powles. There were so many great messages throughout the day, something for everyone. I really do encourage you to peruse the archived information if you have not had a chance yet.

Dr. Harold Coble served as Master of Ceremonies and kept everyone on track. Harold humbly refers to himself as “an old broken down weed scientist from North Carolina”, but don’t be fooled! He delivered the concluding “Call to Action” remarks to all the various stakeholders and really did an excellent job tying it all together with his 60 plus years of weed management experiences.

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## **2014 NEWSS COLLEGIATE WEED SCIENCE CONTEST**

### **AWARDS DINNER - STATE COLLEGE, PA**

*(Photos taken by Todd Mervosh)*

See September 2014 Newsletter for photos of the Weed Contest at Penn State’s Research Farm



Dwight Lingenfelter, Weed Contest Coordinator and NEWSS Past President, presiding at the awards dinner with NEWSS President Greg Armel applauding in the foreground.



1<sup>st</sup> Place Graduate Team: Virginia Tech (Team 1)  
Sandeep Rana, Daniel Tekiela, Katelyn Venner



1<sup>st</sup> Place Graduate Individual:  
John Brewer, Virginia Tech



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Graduate Team: NC State Univ. (Team 3)  
Sam McGowen, Logan Grier, Shawn Beam



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Graduate Individual:  
Kristy Perano, Cornell Univ.



3<sup>rd</sup> Place Graduate Team: Cornell University  
Vinay Bhaskar, Courtney Stokes, Kristy Perano



3<sup>rd</sup> Place Graduate Individual:  
Daniel Tekiela, Virginia Tech



1<sup>st</sup> Place Undergrad Team: Univ. of Guelph (Team 2)  
Chris Budd, Johanna Burrows, Tom Heeman,  
Stephen Boersma



1<sup>st</sup> Place Undergraduate Individual:  
Stephen Boersma, Univ. of Guelph



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Undergrad Team: Univ. of Guelph (Team 1)  
Matt Underwood, Josh Burrows, Jordan Eyamie,  
Jacob Nederend



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Undergraduate Individual:  
Chris Budd, Univ. of Guelph



3<sup>rd</sup> Place Undergrad Team: Univ. of Guelph (Team 3)  
Alex Vanhie, Andrea Smith, David Jefferson, Dylan  
Magnus with NEWSS President Greg Armel



3<sup>rd</sup> Place Undergraduate Individual:  
Johanna Burrows, Univ. of Guelph

**Photos from the Social Hour at the Ramada Inn of State College, PA  
prior to the Weed Contest Awards Dinner**







# NORTHEASTERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY

## 2014 Sustaining Members

### Platinum



### Gold



Dow AgroSciences



Bayer CropScience

MONSANTO  
imagine™



### Silver



BAAR Scientific LLC



### Bronze

Crop Management Strategies  
Gylling Data Management  
LABServices

TeeJet® Technologies  
Weeds, Inc.