

NEWSS News

Northeastern Weed Science Society
November 2015



WWW.NEWSS.ORG

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Rakesh Chandran

The year 2015 has been a bittersweet year for the Northeastern Weed Science Society. Sadly we lost three of our past-presidents this year. Dr. James R. Hansen passed away on May 11, Dr. Edward R. Higgins passed away on August 12, and Dr. Robin R. Bellinder passed away on November 13. Let us pause for a moment and pay tribute to their beloved souls and thank them for the service and vision they shared with us. Great people, such as Ralph, Ed, and Robin have helped build the strong society we are today.

Our society continues to be a trendsetter in addressing emergent needs by fostering new partnerships and collaborations. The adage “A rolling stone gathers no moss” is once again apt, as our society is poised to take leadership role by hosting the first Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference ([NEPPSC 2016](#)), from January 3 to 7, 2016 at the Sheraton Philadelphia Society Hill. As you know, this conference joins us with five of our regional, peer societies. The partnership is somewhat unprecedented and is

IMPORTANT DATES

December 14, 2015: Deadlines for

- Pre-registration for Conference
- Hotel room reservations

January 3-7, 2016: The Northeast Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference (NEPPSC 2016) - Sheraton Society Hill Hotel, Philadelphia, PA (joint meeting hosted by NEWSS)

expected to have long-lasting impacts. In one of the earlier communications, past-president Dr. Greg Armel challenged the NEWSS Executive Committee to display our “top-game” in order to host this ambitious conference successfully! I would like to remind our membership of this message as we work as a team to make this a memorable and successful first effort. This conference will also mark the 70th Annual Meeting of our society. Please try to register early, by Monday, December 14 to help us adequately prepare and to avoid a late fee.

During the planning and organizational stages, I was energized and motivated by the positive response from all the entities and individuals who felt very strongly about organizing a joint-meeting. It made perfect sense from all angles and is expected to pave a way in discussing problems we all face in our respective disciplines, while coming up with viable solutions collectively. We were able to attract new partners from industry, academia, and government agencies. Current indications

are we should continue to build on this format every year. However in doing so, questions we need to address arise. Will the identity of our society and all the meaningful comradery that is formed during our traditional annual meetings be at peril? Should we continue to meet as a society but reconvene every so often for a joint-meeting? Could we utilize other events, such as the weed contest, to get together as a discipline in addition to having formal joint-meetings every year? We need to make sound decisions on this in the near future and your input is valuable.

Incoming President Dr. Shawn Askew, along with his counterparts from other societies, are planning a debriefing meeting shortly after [NEPPSC 2016](#). Please be sure to convey your thoughts to Shawn or any of the NEWSS officers.

Shawn took the lead in putting together an ambitious program, which was a huge undertaking. I hope you are able to participate and benefit from a great conference, the effort of endless hours of planning by members of the planning and organizing committees. Apart from the multi-disciplinary nature of the conference, one of the key differences is the fast pace of concurrent sessions due to the 12-minute time limit for oral presentations.

Our hosts at the [Sheraton Philadelphia Society Hill](#) have been very receptive in catering to our needs for this large meeting. Most of us are familiar with this facility after meeting there initially under the presidency of Dr. Renee Keese in 2008. This hotel is conveniently located near the Penn's Landing in Central Philadelphia. The negotiated rate of \$124 per night plus taxes with valet parking available at \$25 per day will expire on Dec. 14 as well. There is no self-parking available in the Sheraton Society Hill.

Conference attendees will have complimentary Internet access from guest rooms and the hotel lobby. In the event of a room shortage, overflow accommodation plans will be announced on the NEPPSC website. Also, take advantage of Sheraton's [Green-Choice](#) Program to enjoy a free cup of coffee! As the host society, please make our colleagues from other societies feel at home.

It has been a pleasure to work with my colleagues on the NEWSS board. Once again, I would like to thank Dr. John O'Barr, Mr. John Brewer, Dr. Bryan Dillehay, Dr. Todd Mervosh, and Dr. Randall Prostack who have all provided

dedicated service to our society and will be rotating off from their respective positions in 2016. Of course, Randy will resume as the President-Elect at that point. Each and every board member has earned my praise and admiration for putting in their very best effort during this trying year. I have great confidence in the morale and trustworthiness of our society board for years to come. Getting involved with the society was a great way to experience this remarkable group, and I urge every member to discover it for themselves!

Finally, I would like to thank the society membership for providing me with an opportunity to serve as your president. I look forward to seeing you in Philadelphia in early 2016, with best wishes for a safe and enjoyable holiday season in between.



Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference (www.neppsc.org)

Refer to NEPPSC website for conference information, including the final version of the meeting program.

SHERATON SOCIETY HILL
1 DOCK STREET
(2ND & WALNUT STREETS)
PHILADELPHIA, PA

GET HERE FROM ANYWHERE

Philadelphia International Airport - 9 miles from the hotel

There are 25 airlines that fly into PHL. Driving directions from the airport are listed below

Amtrak - 2.6 miles from the hotel

Station Building
2955 Market Street
30th Street Station
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Greyhound - 1.2 miles from the hotel

1001 Filbert St
Philadelphia, PA 19107

* Several popular Chinatown bus routes also connect Philadelphia with Boston, New York and Washington, D.C. for extremely wallet-friendly prices. (Not associated with Greyhound.)

Driving Directions

From Philadelphia International Airport

Take Interstate 95 North to Exit 20 (Columbus Boulevard). Turn left at the traffic light onto Columbus. Turn left turn at the sixth light, for Dock Street. Turn right at the stop sign. The hotel is on the right-hand side.

From East

Take Ben Franklin Bridge from Camden, stay in the right lane. Take the first right off of bridge to Sixth Street then follow Sixth Street to Market Street and turn left. Follow Market to Second Street and turn right. Follow Second Street to Dock Street and the hotel is on the left.

From North

Take Interstate 95 South to Exit 20 (Columbus Boulevard). At the bottom of the ramp, turn left onto Columbus Boulevard. Follow for 3 traffic lights to Dock Street and turn left. Continue to a dead end and turn right. The hotel will be on the right.

From West

Take Pennsylvania Turnpike to 76 East (Exit 326 - Valley Forge). Follow 76 East to 676 East (Exit 344 - Central Philadelphia). Continue on 676 East to Interstate 95 South. Take I-95 South to Penn's Landing (Exit 20). At the bottom of the ramp, turn left onto Columbus Boulevard. Follow to Dock Street and turn left. Continue to the dead end and turn right. The hotel is on the right.

TREASURER'S REPORT



Erin Hitchner

Welcome 2016 Northeastern Weed Science Society members to the first Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soil Conference (NEPPSC). To simplify registration for this meeting, there is a Regular Registration (\$200), One Day Registration (\$100) as well as Student Registration (\$50) available for purchase. Members also have the option to bring a guest for an additional \$25. Please note that NEWSS membership dues are included with your meeting registration fee, so there is no need to pay dues separately.

Also, as in years past, we will continue using PayPal to facilitate our online meeting registration fees. You can use a PayPal account to make this purchase or any major credit card. To access meeting registration as well as other relevant meeting information, please visit the NEPPSC website (<http://www.neppsc.org/>). If you prefer to mail-in your registration, please send me a note at the e-mail address listed below and I will provide the necessary forms to complete registration via this route.

As previously communicated, hard copies of NEWSS Proceedings will no longer be available for purchase due to low order volume as well as the expense associated with printing this publication. Instead, this publication will be made available as a free downloadable electronic document on the NEWSS website.

Lastly, Proceedings from the 2015 Annual Meeting which took place in Philadelphia are still available for purchase (\$35) and will be available at the meeting. For questions, please contact erin.hitchner@syngenta.com



NEWSS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2015



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

Back row (L to R): Keith Burnell, Prasanta Bhowmik, Todd Mervosh, John O'Barr, John Brewer, Erin Hitchner, Bryan Dillehay (not in photo: Art Gover, Quintin Johnson, Sudeep Mathew, Lee Van Wychen).

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Randy Prostak	Vice President
Erin Hitchner	Treasurer
Greg Armel	Past President
Keith Burnell / Sudeep Mathew	Membership Chair
Art Gover	Editor
Todd Mervosh	Public Relations Rep.
John O'Barr	Sustaining Membership
Bryan Dillehay / Quintin Johnson	Research & Education
John Brewer	Graduate Student Rep.
Prasanta Bhowmik	WSSA Representative
Randy Prostak	CAST Representative
Lee Van Wychen	Science Policy Director

NEWSS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2015

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EDITOR'S REPORT



Art Gover

GRADUATE STUDENT UPDATE



John Brewer

Abstracts are due Friday, November 27, 2015. Submit via wssaabstracts.com. For those new to this, login as you did to submit your title, and enter the record for your title. There is a field for you to compose or paste your abstract text. **DO NOT ENTER THE TITLE.** It's already in the system and will be magically united with your text when the proceedings are generated. Remember to save - don't just exit the window.

Please follow the Instructions for Authors (<https://www.signup4.net/public/ap.aspx?EID=NPPS16E&OID=147>) when composing your abstract.

Reminder - we will be reinstating the supplement section in the 2016 Proceedings, to include content from the previous meeting. Rakesh Chandran was very diligent and has collected materials from our invited speakers at the 2015 meeting. In addition, this provides any of you who did not submit an abstract for the 2015 Proceedings an opportunity to sneak it into the 2016 Supplement and get that additional citation with your name. Email supplemental material directly to me at aeg2@psu.edu.

Dear Graduate Students,

I hope you all are having a great fall, and that your classes and research are still going well. I also hope that you are excited for the 2016 NEPPSC meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on January 3-7. I urge you all to attend this meeting even if you are not presenting talks or posters. It will be a great time to connect with other students, professors, and industry representatives across multiple disciplines. The meeting is located at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel. It is going to be an outstanding venue for our first interdisciplinary meeting, and the Executive Committee has worked tirelessly to put together a great program. We have over 300 titles submitted for the meeting, in which 51 are in the student oral paper contest and 35 in the student poster contest. I expect this year's contests to be exciting, so good luck to all the contestants. The NEPPSC block of rooms at the Sheraton hotel are over 75% full, so you may need to reserve your rooms as soon as possible if you have not done so already. I would like to reiterate once again that this will be a "one of a kind" meeting, so please attend!

On Monday (January 4th) of the conference there will be two graduate student activities. These events will be the Graduate Student Career Training Workshop and the Interdisciplinary Quiz Bowl, which will take the place of our typical graduate student mixer. The workshop will begin at 11:45 am and last until 1:00 pm. It will be focused on how to prepare a job application packet to give you a competitive edge over other applicants. There will be an approximately 45 minute 'lecture' on preparing application packets for academic, industry, and federal government positions. A hard copy of the slides and an electronic version will be provided

Candidate for NEWSS Vice President

to each participant. In the second half of the workshop, participants will be asked to switch into three groups, based on whether they are most interested in pursuing a career in industry, academia, or the federal government. A job description and 'application packets' (fictional cover letters and CVs) will then be distributed to each group. The two application packets are generally similar, with both individuals having identical qualifications, but having subtle differences intended to make one applicant stand out more than the other. The students then will present their selection to the whole class with justifications, while the instructor contributes their experience in the decision making process. Lunch will also be provided during the workshop. This will be a great opportunity for all students at every stage of their education, so please plan on attending this session.

The Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Quiz Bowl will start at 6:30 pm in the Society Hill Ballroom. It will be right after the social mixer that starts at 5:30 pm. This will allow you to bring drinks with you to the Quiz Bowl, but please do not bring any food. The Quiz Bowl is going to be fun and exciting, so if you are attending the meeting please assemble a team and come compete in the trivia contest. It will only be exciting if we have as many schools and disciplines involved as possible. Remember that each school can have as many teams and students as you would like (as long as they fit around a table), and the team members can be from all five of the attending societies. I recommend getting to know the students from your school that are from the other four societies, so you can start recruiting teams in advance. Signing up teams will occur right before the Quiz Bowl, so do not worry about preregistration.

This will be a fun-filled night full of adult beverages, trivia questions, and great comradery between schools and students, so please participate in the Quiz Bowl! I hope to see you all in January,

John Brewer
Graduate Student Rep



Carroll Moseley grew up in Southside Virginia working on diversified farms including tobacco, dairy cattle, beef cattle, hogs, corn, soybeans, peanuts, and cotton. Carroll attended Virginia Tech, graduating with a double major in Agronomy and Animal Science in 1981. He worked for the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service and later went back to Virginia Tech as a PhD student in Weed Science. After receiving his doctorate, Carroll moved to Ohio to work for Syngenta as a Field Research Rep in 1990.

For the past 25 years Carroll has worked in various positions related to R&D, marketing, post patent, business development, and industry relations functions. He managed the Callisto Plant Technology® brands before serving as Industry Relations Lead to Corn and Soybean groups. In his current position as Senior Environmental Stewardship and Policy Manager, he is instrumental in developing conservation, resistance management, and stewardship policies across the Syngenta portfolio.

Carroll has four children and two grandchildren. He participated in his first Triathlon last year and has now completed six. He enjoys cycling, swimming, golfing, and hanging out with his grandkids!

WSSA REPRESENTATIVE



Prasanta Bhowmik

NEWSS News, November 2015

The 2016 WSSA/SWSS Joint Annual Meeting will be held in February 8-11, 2016, Monday to Thursday at the Sheraton Puerto Rico Hotel, 200 Convention Boulevard, San Juan, Puerto Rico. The hotel facilities are very good and all meeting rooms will be at the same floor.

There are 284 oral paper presentations (not including the symposia) and 252 posters. The program will also include four diverse symposia. The first symposium will focus on “21st Century Challenges in Aquatic Weed Management”, organized by John Madsen. The second symposium is titled “The Intersection of Agricultural and Wild Areas: Management of the Non-Crop Vegetation as Habitat for Pollinator, Beneficial and Iconic Species” coordinated by Michael Horak. The third symposium is on “Use of Endemic Plant Diseases and Insect Pests for Biologic Control of Invasive Weeds”, organized by William Bruckart. The final symposium will be on “Weed Control in 2050: Imagining Future Strategies and the Knowledge Needed to Achieve Them”, spearheaded by James Westwood. As usual, there will also be a graduate student symposium/workshop. **Abstract texts must be submitted by January 15, 2016.**

Title/Abstract/Presentation Submission Details

To submit a title/abstract/presentation, please visit the [WSSA Abstract Submission System](#). If you have never submitted an abstract into a WSSA or regional meeting using this system, you will need to “create an account”, and follow the directions for establishing a log-in, prior to “joining” the 2016 WSSA meeting, and clicking “Enter.” Individuals who already have an account need to log-in, join the 2016 WSSA meeting, and “enter” the meeting. Please check

the information in your Profile to make sure that your current affiliation, city/state is listed, then click on the “My Titles and Abstracts” in the left navbar to begin the process of submitting your title and author information.

Information for Students Submitting Abstracts

Students may choose to submit an abstract as a poster or oral presentation without entering a student contest. If you are a student submitting an abstract but do not wish to participate in a contest, then click “yes” for student, and then click “no” for Contest. Select the type (poster or oral) and then select your top three choices for the section in which you wish your title to be placed.

2016 WSSA Student Poster Contest: A joint WSSA/SWSS poster contest will be held at the 2016 meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico. There are 252 posters submitted for the contest.

Students wishing to participate in the contest will have several options:

WSSA students may submit into a PhD or MS poster contest. If you are a WSSA student member, click “yes” for student, click “yes” for contest; select the appropriate WSSA PhD or WSSA MS option; and then select your top three choices for the section in which you wish your poster to be placed.

SWSS students may enter the SWSS PhD or SWSS MS Poster Contest. Click on “yes” for student; “yes” for enter contest; then click on either SWSS PhD or SWSS MS contest; your appropriate section will then appear as the only option for the section selection.

Similarly, SWSS students may enter the oral presentation contest; select “yes” for student; “yes” for contest; and then either SWSS PhD Oral or SWSS MS Oral Contest; the appropriate section will appear as the only option for the section selection. More information, visit <http://www.wssa.net>

WSSA Undergraduate Research Award

The WSSA Undergraduate Research Award is now entering its 24rd year of operation and has proved to be an effective method of recruiting new students into the discipline of Weed Science.

This would be a perfect time to invite students to consider conducting an undergraduate research project through this award.

This grant provides **up to \$2000** for support of undergraduate research to be conducted over a minimum of one quarter/semester during 2016 and may be used to defray the cost of research supplies or as a stipend. Any faculty member who is actively engaged in Weed Science research is qualified to be a sponsor. The faculty sponsor should review the research proposal with special attention to the budget. The distribution of funds should be approved by both the student and sponsor. **Proposals should be received no later than December 18, 2015.**

Funding decisions will be made by January 31, 2016 and presented at the 2016 WSSA National Meeting Awards Ceremony. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Stephen Enloe by email (sfenloe@ufl.edu) or by phone at (352)-339-1319. More information can be found [here](#).

WSSA Photo Contest is Open

This contest is open only to members of the WSSA and the subject of the photo must be related to weed science. There are three divisions: 1) Flowers and other reproductive structures 2) Vegetative growth and structures and 3) Weeds in the Landscape. Judges consider factors such as subject, composition, technical aspects, and overall appeal. Please read the rules regarding photo contest entries and evaluations as listed on the website, <http://www.wssa.net>

The deadline for photo contest is **January 29, 2016**. Subcommittee Chair: Michael DeFelice (michael.defelice@pioneer.com), 7100 NW 62nd Ave., Johnston, IA 50131-1150; Ph: (515)-535-6705

International Weed Science Society (IWSS): Seventh International Weed Science Congress will be held at Clarion Congress Hotel Prague, Prague, Czech Republic from June 19-25, 2016. Currently, the number of submitted abstracts already exceeded 500 from 56 countries, including almost 100 contributions from USA and Canada. **However, the deadline for abstract submission has been extended until November 15, 2015.** For more information, visit www.iwsc2016.org

2016 IWSS Graduate Students Travel Grants and Award: The IWSS has decided to continue with its tradition to facilitate participation of graduate (M.Sc. and Ph.D.) students in International Weed Science Congress. A limited number of travel grants will cover part of expenses such as registration fee, accommodation and travel costs. The most outstanding paper as determined by the Graduate Students Award Committee will receive the "IWSS Larry Burrill Graduate Student Travel Award", which covers all expenses to attend the Congress. If you plan to participate in the 2016 IWSS conference in Prague, graduate students are encouraged to apply for potential awards. **The deadline for submission is January 1, 2016.** All material should be sent via e-mail, no later than January 1, 2016 to the three members of the Graduate Students Award Committee. The IWSS Student Award Committee consists of three members: Prof. Dr. Baruch Rubin, IWSS Past-President; Prof. Prasanta C. Bhowmik, representing WSSA; and Dr. Paolo Barberi, EWRS Past-President. Follow this link for instructions: [IWSS Instructions Graduate Students Award](#)

The 2017 WSSA Annual Meeting is slated for February 6-9, 2017 at the Hilton Tucson El Conquistador, Tucson, Arizona.

In Memoriam

Dr. Robin Bellinder

First Woman to serve as President of the Northeastern Weed Science Society: 2004-05

Honored as NEWSS Fellow (Distinguished Member): 2011

From Cornell University:

Robin Bellinder, leader in weed management, dies



Robin Bellinder, professor of plant science and a national and international leader in weed management, died Nov. 13 in Ithaca, New York, at age 70.

She joined the Cornell University Horticulture Department in 1984 as assistant professor, with a program focused on weed management for vegetable crops. She was appointed professor in 1997.

Bellinder led the effort at Cornell to provide fresh vegetables from plots at the Homer C. Thompson Vegetable Research Farm to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. Since 2004, Cornell has donated more than 1 million pounds of produce from the Thompson farm.

Bellinder was a “tireless fighter” for New York vegetable growers, always looking for new tools to manage weeds, according to Steve Reiners, chair

of the Horticulture Section of Cornell’s School of Integrative Plant Science. She was past president of the Northeastern Weed Science Society and in 2005 was named the recipient of Cornell’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences award for Outstanding Accomplishments in Applied Research.

Her research included all aspects of weed management, from traditional herbicides to cultural and chemical alternatives. She pioneered research in the weed suppressive ability of cover crops. A sabbatical leave to Sweden in 1991 introduced Bellinder to new and innovative European cultivation equipment that she brought back to New York.

She mentored and advised many graduate and undergraduate students and co-taught the course Commercial Vegetable Production.

Bellinder traveled throughout Central America and Asia, and after a visit to India pioneered the use of backpack sprayers for small growers. “Anyone who thinks farmers in India should control weeds without herbicides should spend an afternoon in a field there with a hoe,” she once said. She was elected a fellow of the Indian Weed Science Society for her contributions to Indian agriculture.

Bellinder was the author of more than 80 research publications and more than 200 publications focused on growers. She received her bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University and her master’s and Ph.D. from Virginia Tech.

Bellinder is survived by her daughter, Jessica, and a granddaughter. Viewing hours are 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, at Wagner Funeral Home, 110 S. Geneva St., Ithaca, followed by a service. The family requests gifts be made in Bellinder’s name to the [Food Bank of the Southern Tier](#).

Robin Redfern Bellinder, of Ithaca, a professor of horticulture at Cornell University for 31 years and an international expert in weed control in vegetable crops, died unexpectedly on Nov. 13, 2015. She was 70 years old. Robin died of a pulmonary embolism after a brief hospitalization and stay in a physical rehabilitation clinic for an unrelated spinal injury.

Robin was born in Astoria, Ore., on Aug. 7, 1945, the first child of Capt. Richard "Dick" Dunning Redfern and Dorothy A. Warren. The family was on the West Coast for her father's deployment with the U.S. Coastal Artillery during World War II. They returned to Michigan after the war and settled in the northern village of Bellaire, where she and her younger brother Tod spent much of their youth. The family moved to Traverse City, Mich., and then Lansing, where she graduated from Lansing Eastern High School in 1963.

Robin took a serpentine path to her Cornell professorship. She began studying at the University of Michigan in 1963. When she expressed interest in a degree in the sciences, her advisor told her that, based on her math and science test scores, she should instead get a degree in English. She left school shortly after to explore the world, hitchhiking through much of the U.S. and Europe and ending up in Uppsala, Sweden, in 1966. She returned to her studies in 1968 but took another break in 1969 to travel for a year overland from Sweden to India, Singapore and back. She had her daughter, Jessica, in 1971, and as a single parent resumed her studies and earned a degree in English from Uppsala University in 1972. She returned to the U.S. in 1974 and, after several years working in the hospitality industry in northern Michigan, she returned to college and completed her bachelor's degree in science at Michigan State University in 1979. She went on to get her M.S. and, in 1984, Ph.D. from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Va. In the same year, before her graduation ceremony, she began working as an assistant professor of horticulture at Cornell.

Robin balanced her obligations as a graduate student and professor with her role as a single parent in an era and professional arena where this was uncommon. Although money was tight when she was a student, she maintained an unwavering commitment to nurturing her daughter. During the relocation from East Lansing to Blacksburg in December 1979, she loaded a Michigan Christmas tree on top of everything in the U-Haul to make sure

the family would have a real Christmas celebration when they arrived.

At Cornell, Robin's research program focused on weed management for vegetable crops. One of few women in her field at that time, she became a national and international leader. She published research results widely in peer-reviewed publications, as well as publications that advised growers about her work's practical applications. She served as president of the Northeastern Weed Science Society and, in 2005 was named the recipient of Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences award for outstanding accomplishments in applied research. She will be remembered as a weed scientist who ardently and tirelessly supported New York vegetable growers.

Robin had a deep concern for people, whether farmers in South Asia, for whom she championed the introduction of more efficient weed control practices, or hungry families in New York's southern tier. She initiated Cornell's efforts to provide fresh fruits and vegetables from the Homer C. Thompson Research Farm to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. She realized that rather than composting the farm's edible produce, they could feed hungry area families. Since 2004, as a result of her initiative, Cornell has donated more than 1 million pounds of produce from Thompson farm.

Robin will be remembered as an intense, thoughtful, loyal, generous, creative and loving person who tenaciously advocated for the things she believed were important. She will be greatly missed. Robin is survived by her daughter, Jessica Bellinder, son-in-law, Brian Arthur, and granddaughter, Fiona Claire Bellinder, of New York; her brother, Tod Willis-Redfern, of Eaton Rapids, Mich. her half-sister, Susan Fujii, of Mountain View, Calif. and her nieces, Alexis Willis-Redfern and Keilani and Malia Fujii. A memorial in her honor will be held at Herson Wagner Funeral at 110 Geneva St. in Ithaca at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21. Visiting hours with the family will begin at 2 p.m., and afterward the family will host an open house at Robin's home. She will be buried next summer at a family plot in Lakeview Cemetery in Bellaire, Mich. A memorial for family and friends will be held in Bellaire at that time. As an alternative to flowers, the family suggests that donations be made in Robin's honor to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier at 388 Upper Oakwood Ave., Elmira, NY 14903 (fbst@feedingamerica.org).

WASHINGTON DC REPORT

Lee Van Wychen
Science Policy Director

October 15, 2015



Lee Van Wychen

Court Stops Nationwide Implementation of WOTUS Expansion Rule

An Ohio federal appeals court ordered a nationwide hold on the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule on October 9, amid disparate rulings by courts around the country on the EPA's ability to define which waters fall under the Clean Water Act.

The stay was granted so the court may determine jurisdiction on the several pending WOTUS lawsuits challenging the rule, and sort out confusion about its requirements. A North Dakota federal district court had blocked enforcement of the rule in 13 states in August. The EPA said after the August ruling that it would still enforce the rule in the rest of the nation even though numerous lawsuits to overturn it were still pending in other federal courts.

The EPA and Army Corps of Engineers first proposed the WOTUS rule in April 2014 and finalized it in May 2015. The rule has been controversial from the start because it greatly expands the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act by adding some two million acres of streams and 20 million acres of wetlands.

The Ohio federal appeals court decision, [available here](#), was agreed upon 2 – 1 by the three-judge panel. “A stay allows for a more deliberate determination whether this exercise of executive power, enabled by Congress and

explicated by the Supreme Court, is proper under the dictates of federal law. A stay temporarily silences the whirlwind of confusion that springs from uncertainty about the requirements of the new rule and whether they will survive legal testing,” the opinion states. “A stay honors the policy of cooperative federalism that informs the Clean Water Act and must attend the shared responsibility for safeguarding the nation’s waters.”

The stay in implementation will only last until the judges determine whether the law gives them authority over the measure or the case must be remanded to a district court. Whatever the court decides will have to be in line with a ruling from the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which is considering the same issue. If the circuit courts don't agree, the jurisdictional issue will have to be decided by the Supreme Court, which could take several years.

A better fix to all of this would be for Congress to pass the bipartisan Federal Water Quality Protection Act (H.R. 1732, S. 1140). This legislation would repeal the WOTUS rule and require the administration to develop an alternative rule in consultation with state and local governments. In May, the House voted 261-155 to pass H.R. 1732. In the Senate, S. 1140 was passed by the Environment and Public Works Committee in June, but is awaiting a vote from the full Senate. The Administration said it would likely veto the House and Senate bills, so a two-thirds majority would be needed in both chambers.

Weed Science Societies Comment on EPA Milkweed and Monarch Plan

Earlier this year, the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy issued the [Pollinator Research Action Plan](#). The plan focuses on increasing honeybee and monarch butterfly numbers through the creation and maintenance of pollinator habitat.

Following that, EPA published a white paper for comment titled “**Risk Management Approach to Identifying Options for Protecting the Monarch Butterfly**”. The National and Regional

Weed Science Societies (WSSA, APMS, NCWSS, NEWSS, SWSS, and WWS) submitted the following comments:

Our scientific societies are nonprofit professional associations of academic research, extension, government, and industry scientists committed to improving the knowledge and management of weeds in managed and natural ecosystems. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on EPA's white paper titled "Risk Management Approach to Identifying Options for Protecting the Monarch Butterfly."

As stated in the white paper, this is the start of a process of stakeholder input and collaboration that will balance weed management needs with the conservation of milkweed for protecting the monarch butterfly. We are happy to be part of that process and would like to emphasize the following points:

- 1. More research is needed on milkweed species (*Asclepias* spp.).*
- 2. Consideration for the management of herbicide resistant weeds.*
- 3. Utilizing noncropped areas for milkweed habitat.*
- 4. A complex issue without a "one size fits all" answer.*

More research is needed on milkweed species (*Asclepias* spp.)

*There are 100 plus species of *Asclepias* across the United States. While some research has been done on common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), there is a paucity of scientific information on the *Asclepiadaceae* family, whose members are the main food source for monarch butterfly larvae. Because common milkweed typically does not drive weed management decisions, there has been little public or private investment on researching this perennial weed's long term growth and reproduction, population dynamics,*

response to herbicides, impact on crop yield, and distribution. We agree with the white paper that this type of scientific information will be crucial in developing options to conserve monarch butterfly habitat.

Consideration for the management of herbicide resistant weeds

We believe it is critical for the Agency to balance weed management needs, especially the management of herbicide resistant weeds, with efforts to assist the monarch butterfly. [Programs for herbicide-resistance management should employ the following best management practices:](#)

- 1. Understand the biology of the weeds present.*
- 2. Use a diversified approach toward weed management focused on preventing weed seed production and reducing the number of weed seed in the soil seedbank.*
- 3. Plant into weed-free fields and then keep fields as weed free as possible.*
- 4. Plant weed-free crop seed.*
- 5. Scout fields routinely.*
- 6. Use multiple herbicide mechanisms of action (MOAs) that are effective against the most troublesome weeds or those most prone to herbicide resistance.*
- 7. Apply the labeled herbicide rate at recommended weed sizes.*
- 8. Emphasize cultural practices that suppress weeds by using crop competitiveness.*
- 9. Use mechanical and biological management practices where appropriate.*

10. Prevent field-to-field and within-field movement of weed seed or vegetative propagules.
11. Manage weed seed at harvest and after harvest to prevent a buildup of the weed seedbank.
12. Prevent an influx of weeds into the field by managing field borders.

Some of the above best management practices counter what is outlined in the white paper's "Analysis and Actions" section that discusses the possibility of lowering herbicide rates, modifying application timing, or establishing field buffers. These are all critical areas of concern to agricultural producers and should not be considered without a thorough discussion with producers and registrants to gauge their impact.

Utilizing noncropped areas for milkweed habitat

The utilization of noncropped lands to develop perennial milkweed habitat makes good biological sense. In general, higher infestations of perennial plants are expected in undisturbed areas. In addition, transportation rights-of-ways and utility corridors are uniformly distributed across the landscape which may aid monarch butterfly migration.

Weed scientists can advocate steps to promote habitats where pollinators and other iconic insects such as the monarch butterfly can flourish, beginning with the adoption of a prudent approach to weed management. While it is crucial that we control invasive, noxious, and herbicide-resistant weeds that can overtake crops and native plants, other weeds such as common milkweed might be left to grow in areas where it is likely to do no harm. The key is to exercise good judgment about which weeds to control, when and where.

A complex issue without a "one size fits all" answer

Initiatives like the [Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund](#), the [Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium](#), and other science-based conservation initiatives will allow private and public landowners to develop local knowledge of milkweed species for their area. Milkweed conservation efforts will vary according to the management of other weed species present in their area and there will not be a "one size fits all" solution. For example, recommending reduced mowing or herbicide use on weeds in ditches where kochia (i.e. tumbleweed) is prevalent could create a public safety hazard due to the buildup of kochia carcasses.

We hope that EPA's actions are consistent with the Interagency Pollinator Health Task Force Report that recognized the importance of evidence-based decision making, collaborative public private partnerships, and expanded research that will balance local weed management needs with the conservation of the monarch butterfly.

We appreciate this opportunity to make initial comments on the white paper "Risk Management Approach to Identifying Options for Protecting the Monarch Butterfly" and look forward to working with the Agency on this important topic.

Congress Passes a Continuing Resolution Funding Government Through Dec. 11

On Sept. 30, both the House and Senate passed a continuing resolution (CR) funding the federal government at FY 2015 levels through Dec. 11. It was a "clean" CR in that it contained no policy riders, but it did include \$700 million in emergency funding to fight wildfires in the West. Since 1977, there have been only four Congresses that have not needed a CR – the most recent was almost two decades ago, in 1997 – and lawmakers have sent the president an

average of six CRs per year to avoid shutdowns. Before Congress can decide on how to fund the remainder of FY 2016, they need to pass a federal highway bill that expires on Oct. 29 (it has already received 34 short-term extensions over the past six years) and pass a debt limit increase so the U.S. doesn't default on its \$18.1 trillion debt in early November.

Weed Risk Assessment Models Prove Unreliable at Predicting Which Biofuel Crops Are Likely to Become Invasive Weeds

The following WSSA press release highlighted a paper published in the latest issue of *Invasive Plant Science and Management* by L. Smith, D. Tekiela, and J. Barney titled: "[Predicting Biofuel Invasiveness: A Relative Comparison to Crops and Weeds](#)". I am redistributing this release because this paper represents a shift in policy on how we might "weed out" biofuel candidate species. Past biofuel policy recommendations have relied heavily on the outcomes of [weed risk assessments conducted by APHIS](#).

WSSA Press Release: Several of the plants grown as biofuel crops have proved to be invaders in some environments – spreading rapidly and overwhelming surrounding natural ecosystems. Concerns about these weedy tendencies have led many to contend that risk assessments should be conducted before any bioenergy crop becomes widely cultivated. A new study featured in the journal *Invasive Plant Science and Management*, though, shows that current "gold-standard" weed risk assessment techniques simply aren't up to the task.

Scientists at Virginia Tech used two of the best-respected and most widely used weed risk assessment models to develop invasive species risk scores for three categories of plants. They assessed 16 bioenergy crops, 14 agronomic crops and 10 known invasive weeds introduced for agronomic purposes.

Both models failed to reliably distinguish weeds from crops. For example, cereal rye received a higher risk score than kudzu, which is a widespread and damaging invader across the Southeast.

"We found the majority of all the species we evaluated had high weed risk assessment scores, including crops that we predicted would score low," said Jacob Barney Ph.D., assistant professor of Invasive Plant Ecology at Virginia Tech. "It is clear we should be cautious about using current risk assessment models in setting biofuels policy."

In the absence of effective risk models, the Virginia Tech research team stressed the importance of field evaluations to determine whether crops are escaping field borders.

NAS GE Crops Study to be Released in Spring of 2016

Many people around the world have a wide range of questions and opinions about the agronomic, environmental, socioeconomic, and health impacts of genetically engineered (GE) crops, and claims and research that extol both the benefits and the risks of these crops have created a confusing landscape for the public and for policy makers.

An ongoing study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS) seeks to address the confusion. The goal is to bring an independent, objective voice to the sometimes contentious debate around genetic engineering of crop plants. The study is reviewing current understanding of the socioeconomic, agronomic, environmental, and health effects of GE crops. In addition to assessing whether initial concerns and promises have been realized since the introduction of GE crops, it is also focused on the opportunities and challenges related to genetic-engineering technologies coming down the pike such as RNA-interference (RNAi) technology. WSSA member Carol Mallory-Smith from Oregon State is one of the twenty [scientists serving on the committee](#) that is conducting the study. The committee plans to complete the study and publish its report in the spring of 2016.



Committee chair Fred Gould, Professor of Entomology at North Carolina State University, outlines the study's objectives in this short video. <http://nas-sites.org/ge-crops/2015/02/19/study-objectives-video/>

Since the launch of the study last year, the committee has heard from 80 presenters at a series of public meetings and webinars on a wide range of topics. All the presentations were recorded. Weed scientists may be particularly interested in: 1) [Pest Management Practices Workshop](#), which included a panel on Contemporary Practices for Suppressing Weeds; 2) a webinar on [US Agricultural Extension](#), which included a presentation by Dallas Peterson, Professor and Extension Weed Specialist, Kansas State University; 3) a presentation by Andreas Weber, Head of the Institute of Plant Biochemistry, University of Dusseldorf, [on converting C3 plants to C4 plants](#); and 4) an [introduction to RNAi technology](#) and a discussion of strategies for using plant mediated RNAi in crop protection.

More about the NAS study, including all the meeting and webinar recordings, can be found at the study website, <http://nas-sites.org/ge-crops>. If you have comments for the committee, they can be sent through the website, and you can stay informed about the study by [subscribing to the email newsletter](#) or following the study on Twitter, [@NASciences Ag](#), #GECropStudy.

The Next Great GMO Debate – RNAi?

A good article in the *MIT Technology Review* on the various issues surrounding the advancement of RNA interference technology for pest

management:

<http://www.technologyreview.com/featuredstory/540136/the-next-great-gmo-debate/>

Update on *Bromus tectorum* Biocontrol Agent

Management of *Bromus tectorum* (downy brome, cheatgrass) remains a hot topic on several fronts as it fuels wildfires in the West and destroys sage grouse habitat. The New York Times recently published the following article: "[Researcher Finds Way to Fight Cheatgrass, a Western Scourge](#)". The article provides a nice update on the progress being made for a couple strains of *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, a native soil bacterium that inhibits root growth in *Bromus tectorum*, *Taeniatherum caput-medusae*, and *Aegilops cylindrica*. EPA approved the use of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* strain D7 as a biopesticide in August 2014. Dr. Ann Kennedy with USDA-ARS discovered and developed an application method for the bacterial strains. While the bacterium isn't a silver bullet for eradicating cheatgrass, the biocontrol agent can be a critical component in an area-wide cheatgrass management program that should be modeled after the successful [TEAM Leafy Spurge](#) area wide management program.

Sage Grouse Not to be Listed as Endangered Species

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) announced on Sept. 22, that it would not list the greater sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act. This decision represents a change of direction for FWS, which announced in 2010 that the grouse was "warranted for listing", but now says that new information about the status of the species, potential threats, regulatory mechanisms, and conservation efforts by Federal, State, and private landowners indicate that listing is not warranted.

There is no shortage of controversy on either side of this decision. A *Washington Post* article by Darryl Fears titled "[Decision not to list sage grouse as endangered is called life saver by some, death knell by others](#)" does a good job of capturing this debate and providing an overall "big picture" in this precedent setting conservation effort. No matter your political persuasion, there is still much research that

needs to be done on restoring the sage brush habitat of the sage grouse and more importantly, on developing and establishing an area wide weed management program for *Bromus tectorum*. These sentiments are captured in an excellent commentary by Steve Williams, former Director of FWS from 2002-2005 and now president of the Wildlife Management Institute (WMI). His commentary "[Sage Grouse Listing Decision is Huge Accomplishment, But Not the Finish Line](#)" is published in WMI's Outdoor News Bulletin.

EPA Proposes Changes to Certification and Training Requirements for Pesticide Applicators

On August 24, EPA proposed changes to the existing regulations concerning the certification and training standards that have been implemented by individual states for the past 40 years. The proposed changes are intended to improve the competency of certified applicators of restricted use pesticides (RUPs), increase protection for noncertified applicators of RUPs operating under the direct supervision of a certified applicator through enhanced pesticide safety training and standards for supervision of noncertified applicators, and establish a minimum age requirement for certified and noncertified applicators. The proposed rule will have significant impacts on state lead agencies, university extension programs, and the applicators subject to regulatory certification. The proposed rule is complex. It includes numerous new, revised, and deleted definitions, and would change the way both state lead agencies and university extension programs do business with the public.

Chart - [Comparisons of the major new proposed protections to the existing protections](#)

Full Rule Proposal - [Pesticides: Certification of Pesticide Applicators](#)

EPA is accepting comments on the proposal until **November 23, 2015**. However, due to the complexity of the rule, many stakeholder groups are asking EPA for an additional 60 days.

To comment, please see docket number [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0183](#) at [regulations.gov](#)

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ISAA 2016 symposium details:

Title: 11th International Symposium on
Adjuvants for Agrochemicals (ISAA 2016)
Hyperlink: www.isaa2016.org
Dates: June 13 - 17, 2016
Organizer: International Society for
Agrochemical Adjuvants (ISAA Society)
Country: USA
City: Monterey
Venue: Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel and Spa
on Del Monte Golf Course

NEWSS NEWS was compiled by Todd Mervosh,
Public Relations Representative. Please contact
him at tmervosh@att.net with any corrections,
suggestions, or items to include in the next
newsletter (April 2016 issue).



Weed Olympics 2015

The Ohio State University research farm in South Charleston, OH

July 21, 2015

Participating Universities from NEWSS, NCWSS, SWSS, WSWSS

25 schools, 65 teams, 140 Grad students, 73 Undergrad students (213 total students)

Photos taken by Randy Prostak





NEWSS 1st Place Graduate Team: Virginia Tech
John Brewer, Daniel Tekiela, Sandeep Rana,
Morgan Franke



John Brewer: 1st Place Graduate Individual
John also had 2nd Highest Score among all
graduate students in the Weed Olympics.



2nd Place Graduate Team: North Carolina State
Drake Copeland, Thierry Besancon, Brandon
Schrage, Liam Vincent



Daniel Tekiela: 2nd Place Graduate Individual



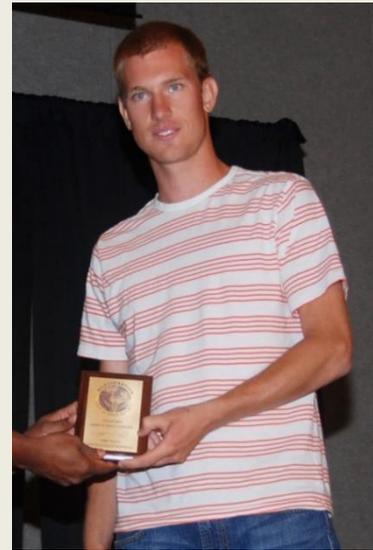
3rd Place Graduate Team: University of Guelph
Allison Taziar, Mike Schryver, Jordan Eyamie,
Chris Budd



Sandeep Rana: 3rd Place Graduate Individual



NEWSS 1st Place Undergraduate Team:
University of Guelph - Jacob Nederend, Joshua
Burrows, Alex Vanhie, Stephen Boersma
(2nd Highest Score among all undergrad teams)



Stephen Boersma: 1st Place Undergraduate
Stephen also had 2nd Highest Score among all
undergraduate students in the Weed Olympics.



2nd Place Undergrad Team: University of Guelph
Justin McNally, Dylan Magnus,
Johanna Burrows, Lauren Benoit
(3rd Highest Score among all undergrad teams)



Lauren Benoit: 2nd Place Undergrad



3rd Place Undergrad Team: Penn State Univ.
Casey Shawver, Kelsea Dresch, Jake Hawkins,
Kevin Jamison



Johanna Burrows: 3rd Place Undergrad



NORTHEASTERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY

2015 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.