

# NEWSSletter

## Northeastern Weed Science Society Fall 2019

### Comments from the President



**Dan Kunkel**

It is already the end of October and it seems the 2019 seasons have flown by. They say that time seems to go faster the older you are; I think it maybe just be because you don't remember as well as you used to 😊. I do remember the heavy rains in the spring and even more rain than we needed into most of the summer but now it seems dry, at least August and September were very dry. Some of the leaves on the trees even senesced early here in New Jersey. Nevertheless, I do hope that many of you are completing a successful research season this year.

The highlight of the summer for me was attending the North American Weed Contest in Seymour, Illinois. It was wonderful to see about 250 excited students tackle the challenges of the contest on a beautiful day in July. The NE representation was excellent, and we did well, especially with Virginia Tech taking top graduate honors and Cornell with top undergraduate

### **Important Information**

**Sept 20, 2019:** Title submission deadline - PASSED

**Dec 16, 2019:** Deadline for conference room rate

**Jan 3, 2020:** Deadline to upload abstracts

**Jan 5, 2020:** Deadline to upload presentations

**Jan 6-9, 2020:** NEPPSC meeting at the Hilton  
Penns Landing, Philadelphia, PA

individual, see details below. We have confirmed the location for the NEWSS 2020 Weed contest for Guelph Canada, more details will follow in Carroll's article below. We do thank Syngenta Canada and the University of Guelph for sponsoring the 2020 contest!

I do want to share some of the updates since our meeting in January. The WSSA BOD sought to upgrade the existing WSSA ABSTRACTS system and make it more functional. These upgrades have been made, as you may have noticed some of the changes as you submitted your title for the 2020 NEPPSC meeting. In addition to working out some of the "bugs", it will give us much better search capabilities, that allows searches to go back to 2007 papers. These upgrades will not only be available for the WSSA abstracts but for all the NEWSS papers as well. We are still looking into expanding these searches to all the weed science abstracts "in existence", but that would be considered another phase. These files (papers) will be maintained and available for searching and retrieval indefinitely. The upload sizes has also been increased, and we will be able to store slide presentations on the site as well.

During the summer board meeting, a proposal to move to two NEWSS newsletters a year was discussed. The idea is to publish a

newsletter shortly after the annual meeting in late January or early February to provide a summary of the annual meeting, award announcements, and information regarding the weed contest. Then the second newsletter would issue in October and would provide outcomes from the summer weed contest and provide critical information regarding the annual meeting.

The board has also been working to add more sustaining members to the NEWSS. Over the years the contributions have decreased, likely due to consolidations and/or tight budgets. Wes Everman and I have been actively seeking new members and are hoping that these efforts will result in a more robust membership. The idea is to add not only more chemical companies, but also other industries such as more private contractors, sprayer technology companies, golf clubs and associations, and so on that have benefited from the NEWSS activities. Please contact us know if you know of potential new members to join the NEWSS. Regarding new members, we are always seeking to increase membership. Therefore, I was very pleased to see several NEPPSC attendees from Delaware Valley University. It would be wonderful to add more members from other universities such as DelVal, Delaware State University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Guelph and so on. If you have the opportunity, please reach out to members of the many other public (and private) universities and invite them to our NEPPSC meeting.

To close on the recent board and committee activities, I wanted to give one more shout out to the Endowment Committee for their work over the past year to amend the NEWSS bylaws, so we can now disburse funds to students and to further support student activities. Please use this as a reminder to contribute to the Endowment fund, it will provide much-needed support for our up and coming young weed scientist.

Preparations for the 74th Northeastern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting (NEWSS) and 5th annual Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference (NEPPSC, Jan 6-9, 2019) are

progressing well. The meeting will take place at the beautiful Penn's landing in Philadelphia. NEWSS President elect Art Gover and his team are hard at work on the 2020 program. The Northeast Branch of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, the Soil Science Society of America (NE ASACSAA-SSSA) and the American Society of Horticultural Science - Northeast Region (NE-ASHS) continue in their commitment to participate at the NEPPSC by joining in planning the meeting and bringing their members to the meeting. Please see Art's article for more details regarding plans for the 2020 the annual meeting.

We look forward to seeing you at the NEPPSC meeting. We have already received a greater number of paper titles compared to last year; it should prove to be yet another successful meeting! Wishing all of you and your families a wonderful holiday season!!! See you at Penn's Landing in January!!!

### **President-Elect's Report**



**Art Gover**

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the 2020 NEPPSC in Philadelphia, January 6 to 9. You've all stepped up and contributed mightily to what looks like a fine program. We had 116 titles, categorized as follows: Student Poster Contest – 22; Student Oral Presentations – 20; Research Poster – 25; Agronomic Crops – 19;

Fruit, Vegetable, Herb, and Tree Crops – 10; and Turf, Ornamental, and Non-crop – 20. I am pleased to see significant student participation from all three member societies – Northeast Branch Crop, Soils, and Agronomy; American Society of Horticultural Science – Northeast Region; and Northeastern Weed Science Society. I wish to thank the NEPPSC program committee for their input and diligence – Caren Schmidt and Theresa Piskackova, NEWSS; Sasha Eisenman and Adrienne Kleintop, NE-ASHS, and Karen Gartley, NEBCSA. There was minimal bush-beating and rock-turning this year.

We are returning to the Pre-2016 meeting format, and will start Monday afternoon and conclude Thursday at lunchtime. The coarse outline is listed below.

As detailed elsewhere in this missive by Caren Schmidt and Theresa Piskackova, the program will feature two symposia. Our Theme Symposia is *Inclusion in Science*, features as Keynote Dr. Elizabeth Mosqueda, of California State University – Monterey Bay. Theresa and the Graduate Students have assembled a program that will feature insights on career and life management, relying on the infinitely deep talent pool of our own Societies.

**Monday, January 6, 2020**

1:00 PM to 6:00 PM	Board and Committee meetings
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Welcome and Poster Slam Social

**Tuesday, January 7, 2020**

8:00 AM to 10:00 AM	Posters, including judging of student posters
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	Joint Societies Welcome, Presidential Addresses; Keynote Speaker
11:00 AM to 12:00 PM	NEWSS Awards Ceremony
1:30 PM to 3:30 PM	Symposium: Inclusion in Science
4:00 PM to 6:00 PM	Section breakouts and roundtables
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM	NEPPSC Social

**Wednesday, January 8, 2020**

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Student Oral Presentations
1:30 PM to 3:00 PM	Student Oral Presentations
3:30 PM to 4:30 PM	Graduate Student and Section Breakouts
4:30 PM to 5:30 PM	Symposium: Overcommitted and Overstressed: A Primer to Our Future Careers
5:45 PM to 7:00 PM	Society Business Meetings
9:00 PM to 11:00 PM	Dessert Social, featuring graduate student “One Line Interview (AKA Speed Dating)”

**Thursday, January 9, 2020**

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Section Breakouts, then adjourn
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The full-draft program will be in your inbox by November 1. The NEPPSC program committee is working on the last few TBA and TBDs.

My trepidation is holding at moderate as the prospect of rotating to President looms. As President, I will need to find some Society members to step up to some Board positions. If you find yourself saying “I would really like to be the NEWSS Editor, or Treasurer”, you may need to seek professional help, but not until you’ve contacted me. Kidding. Mostly. About the help. Definitely contact me. In earnest, Michael Flessner has already served an extra year as Editor, and Kurt Vollmer is transitioning into the Mentor Year of his Treasurer tenure, and needs a Padawan to train in the ways. I look forward to hearing from you.

## Vice President's Report



**Caren Schmidt**

It's Fall y'all. Greetings once again from the southern end of the NEWSS region. The annual meeting is approaching fast. As Vice-President, there are two major items on my list relative to the annual meeting.

### **General Symposium**

Please join us for a dynamic and interactive session on "Inclusion in Science," Tuesday, Jan 7 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. What drives innovation? Is it everyone with the same background thinking about a problem in a similar way? Or, is there value in different perspectives and different approaches? How do we leverage and maximize those various backgrounds and perspectives to drive innovation?

Join us with open minds and hearts and prepare to be inspired and moved to action. We will welcome our keynote speaker, Dr. Elizabeth Mosqueda, the Bob & Sue Johnson Assistant Professor of Crop Management, Department of Biology and Chemistry, California State University Monterey Bay. She will share her experience with the Western Society of Weed Science and the outreach efforts they undertook to cast their membership net to a more diverse audience with the intention of having the WSWS more resemble the society that we are living in.

Key learning objectives for the symposium will include:

1. Identifying instances where your own differences have impacted your life,
2. Define diversity, list the benefits of inclusion, and describe what an inclusive environment should look like,
3. Identify the ways in which implicit bias has impacted your work life and
4. Develop cues and reminders that will help you to increase self-awareness.

The call to action will be two-fold, to identify the ways that you can become more inclusive in your daily life and to assemble a group of champions for a new ad-hoc committee to explore this topic as it pertains to NEWSS.

If you think this symposium isn't for you, it precisely is. It is for everyone. It's up to all of us to drive Inclusion and leverage diversity with the goal of innovation.

### **Endowment Committee**

As the lead of the endowment committee, I'm pleased to announce our first foray into the purpose of the NEWSS endowment fund (NEWSSEF), which "shall be to provide a permanent source of supplemental funding for undergraduate and graduate education in the weed science field and to support the educational activities of the NEWSS. NEWSSEF shall be used for the support and enhancement of education within the weed science field, including support for contests, educational seminars, professional development symposia, student travel, scholarships, publications and presentations."

At the annual meeting, we will announce details of the inaugural Student Technical Writing Award competition. Per Rakesh Chandran, "The society has been actively engaged in training students with various technical skills including oral presentations. However, no specific mechanism is in place to encourage technical writing skills, which is a dying art. Technical writing skills are paramount to relay scientific information related to our discipline in a readily comprehensible and

accurate manner to the public in the future.” The purpose of this new initiative will be to address this gap in the society.

Please consider contributing to the endowment fund with your annual meeting registration. Further, we will hold another 50/50 raffle at the annual meeting to raise additional funds. If you have other disbursement ideas for the fund, be sure to share them with me or other members of the endowment committee.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Philadelphia in January, where it’s always sunny...

Canada on July 29, 2020. Please make plans well ahead of time to get across the border. It may take extra time if you are not a US citizen, so please pay close attention to this! Look for more details later from the Collegiate Weed Contest committee.

As I move towards rolling off of the NEWSS Board, I can honestly say that I have enjoyed being a member and participating in this organization as much as any professional work that I have done. I started my time with the NEWSS at the Williamsburg meeting in the late 1980’s. It has been a great ride that I plan on continuing!

### **Past-President’s Report**



**Carroll Moseley**

Don’t delay getting your nominations in for 2020 NEWSS Awards. Check the October 4<sup>th</sup> e-mail from Thierry Besancon or contact [carroll.moseley@syngenta.com](mailto:carroll.moseley@syngenta.com) for information including Award descriptions and past winners. Our Society provides 6 different awards: Fellow Award, Award of Merit, Outstanding Educator Award, Outstanding Researcher Award, and Robert D. Sweet – Outstanding Graduate Student Award (Master’s and Ph.D) and the M. Garry Schnappinger – Service Recognition Award. We have many deserving folks out there – please point them out!!

Plans are being made for the 2020 NEWSS Collegiate Contest to be held at the Syngenta Research Farm near Guelph, ON,

## Treasurer's Report



**Kurt Vollmer**

[members.](#)

For questions, please contact me at [kvollmer@umd.edu](mailto:kvollmer@umd.edu)

The mailing address for the society has changed.

Please address all NEWSS correspondence to:

**Kurt Vollmer, NEWSS Treasurer**

**P.O. Box 169**

**Queenstown, MD 21658**

<b><i>2019 Financial Report as of March 20, 2019</i></b>	
Savings Balance	\$31,863.08
Checking Balance	\$67,188.02
Endowment Fund	\$34,580.77
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$133,631.87</b>

I look forward to seeing everyone at the fifth Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference (NEPPSC). Meeting registration will open on November 1<sup>st</sup> and can be completed at <http://neppsc.org/register>. Regular registration is \$275, one-day registration is \$110, and Student Registration is \$50. Members also have the option to bring guests for an additional \$50 per person. A \$50 late fee will be assessed to regular registration after December 16. Sponsorship of NEPPSC events and donations to the endowment fund can also be included with registration. If you prefer to mail-in your registration, a form is available at the NEPPSC website. Please note that NEWSS membership dues are included with your meeting registration fee. Those unable to attend the meeting can renew their memberships at <http://www.newss.org/membership/sign-up-or-renew-membership> and sustaining memberships can be renewed at <http://www.newss.org/about/sustaining->

## NEWSS Executive Committee 2019

### Officers

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**Caren Schmidt** VICE PRESIDENT  
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## Committee Chairs and Representatives 2019

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**Lee Van Wychen** SCIENCE POLICY DIRECTOR  
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**Executive Committee, Chairs and  
Representatives**

Dan Kunkel	President
Art Gover	President-Elect
Caren Schmidt	Vice-President
Carroll Moseley	Past President
Kurt Vollmer	Treasurer
Thierry Besançon	Membership Chair
Michael Flessner	Editor
Katelyn Venner	Public Relations Rep.
Wesley Everman	Sustaining Membership
Matthew Cutulle	Research & Education
Theresa R. Piskáčková	Graduate Student Rep.
Rakesh Chandran	WSSA Representative
Hilary Sandler	CAST Representative
Lee Van Wychen	Science Policy Director

**Committee Members  
Chairs and Chair-Elects**

**2020 NEWSS Annual Meeting**

Art Gover – Program Chair  
Caren Schmidt

**Poster Session:**

Katelyn Venner – Chair

**Agronomic Crops:**

John Wallace – Chair

**Turfgrass and Ornamentals:**

Jatinder Aulakh – Chair  
Anthony Witcher– Chair-Elect

**Fruit, Vegetables, and Herb Crops:**

Rebecca Brown – Chair  
Emmalea Ernest – Chair-elect

**Program Committees for the 2020  
NEWSS Meeting**

**Program Committee**

Art Gover	President-Elect
Caren Schmidt	Vice President

**Site Selection Committee for 2021**

Caren Schmidt	Vice-President
Art Gover	President-Elect
Kurt Vollmer	Treasurer

**Awards Committee**

Carroll Moseley	Chair
Randy Prostag	
Shawn Askew	
Rakesh Chandran	
Greg Armel	

**Nomination Committee**

Carroll Moseley	Past President
Toni DiTommaso	Appointed by President
Sudeep Mathew	Selected at business mtg.
Matt Elmore	Selected at business mtg.
VACANT	Selected at business mtg.

**Resolutions Committee**

Mark VanGessel	Chair, Appointed by Pres
Renee Keese	Appointed by President
John Wallace	Appointed by President

**Collegiate Weed Contest Committee**

Art Gover	President-Elect
Dan Kunkel	President
Katelyn Venner	Host in 2018
Stacey Pickard	Host in 2017
Jacob Barney	Host in 2016
Dwight Lingenfelter	Host in 2014
Larissa Smith	
Theresa R. Piskáčková	Grad Student Rep.
Wes Everman	Sustaining Membership

**Audit Committee**

Kurt Vollmer	Treasurer
Barbara Scott	
Quintin Johnson	

**Archives Committee**

Dan Kunkel	Chair
Randy Prostag	Past-President

### **Photo Award Committee**

Hilary Sandler                      Chair  
Erin Hitchner  
Rakesh Chandran  
Art Gover  
Shawn Askew

### **Student Paper Awards Committee**

Carroll Moseley                      Past President  
Randy Prostack  
Shawn Askew  
Rakesh Chandran  
Greg Armel

### **Poster Award Committee**

Anthony Witcher                      Chair  
John Wallace                      Co-Chair

### **Weed Science Field Days Committee**

Quintin Johnson                      Appointed by Pres-Elect

### **Past President's Committee**

Carroll Moseley                      Past President  
Randy Prostack  
Shawn Askew

### **Herbicide Resistance Plant Committee**

Mark VanGessel                      Chair  
Dan Kunkel  
Dave Mayonado

### **Endowment Committee**

Caren Schmidt                      Vice President  
Art Gover                      Chair  
Renee Keese                      Appointed by President  
Kurt Vollmer                      Treasurer  
Thierry Besançon                      Membership Chair  
Randy Prostack                      Past-President  
Shawn Askew                      Past President  
Rakesh Chandran                      Past President  
Mark VanGessel                      Volunteer  
Jeff Derr                      Volunteer  
Hilary Sandler                      Volunteer

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NEWSS News was compiled by Katelyn Venner, Public Relations Representative. Please contact her at [katelyn.venner@basf.com](mailto:katelyn.venner@basf.com) with any corrections, suggestions, or items to be included in the next newsletter (February 2020).

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## Editor's Report



**Michael Flessner**

**Abstracts are due Friday, January 3, 2020** for the annual meeting. You must have submitted a title to submit an abstract. Submit via [wssaabstracts.com/](https://wssaabstracts.com/). Instructions for submission can be found here: <https://neppsc.org/submissions/>. When writing the abstract, please follow formatting guidelines, which can be found at: [https://neppsc.org/wp-content/uploads/Author Instructions NEPPSC.pdf](https://neppsc.org/wp-content/uploads/Author_Instructions_NEPPSC.pdf). Please limit abstracts to one page. When entering the abstract text in wssaabstracts.com, there is a field for you to compose or paste your abstract text. **DO NOT ENTER THE TITLE or AUTHORS** into this field. Remember to save prior to exiting the window. Your cooperation and attention to detail are greatly appreciated. For those presenting oral papers, please remember to upload your PowerPoint slides to [wssaabstracts.com/](https://wssaabstracts.com/) by January 5, 11:59 PM EST.

**Searchable NEWSS Proceedings coming soon!** WSSA abstracts is transitioning to a new and improved website. Along with this will be a new tool to search proceedings. Initially, the search will be from 2007 to present, but after the initial launch I will be working toward uploading all proceedings into this system from NEWSS, dating back to 1948. The system will also include other regional and the national weed science societies. I hope this resource will be useful for all within this society and beyond.

## Graduate Student Update



**Theresa Reinhardt Piskáčková**

There is a lot for graduate students to look forward to at the annual NEPPSC meeting this year from symposia, socials, and new professional development events! The conference DOES have a little bit different organization of events this year, so read the program carefully when it comes out. I would like to highlight a few items for graduate students to watch for.

In the past, students have worked hard on outstanding posters but only get to speak to a few people at the poster session. In effort to bring more visibility to the posters and a warm-up for the students participating in the contest, we will be holding a Poster Slam at the first night social. This will be an opportunity for students to deliver the essence of their poster in 2 minutes to a larger audience.

The Society Symposium is always a great event confronting relevant issues in our discipline with riveting talks and discussions. Past topics have been science communication, new technologies, and developing sound arguments, but this year will be a very engaging and pertinent workshop on Diversity and Inclusion. For more information, I invite you to read the Vice President's report.

Last year, we lead the first Graduate Student Symposium on the use of participatory research in weed science programs. This year our symposium "Overcommitted and overstressed:

a primer to our future careers” will focus on the challenges of time management and facilitate a discussion between students and experienced society members to recognize struggles and identify potential solutions.

The graduate students have organized to meet at Yards Brewery on Wednesday night to unwind after the student contest events have all been finished. Later at the dessert social, we have planned a new mixer/ professional development event to practice One-Line Interviews between students and the other society members. Information on how to prepare for this will be coming soon. Good luck to everyone in your preparation for the meeting and I am very excited to see you all in January!

### **WSSA Representative**



**Rakesh Chandran**

The Summer Board Meeting of the WSSA was held at Blackhawk (Denver), Colorado, August 5-6, 2019. It was formally decided during this meeting that the WSSA Meeting at Arlington in 2023 will be joint with NEWSS. As of now other regional societies have no plans to join. It is expected that WSSA will make arrangements for our one-day meeting room needs for NEPPSC, and reduced 1-day registration costs for our partners.

The WSSA Abstracts fee for regional

society breakdown was determined be \$2000, with all regional societies including the APMS deciding to participate. The Joint Weed Contest in 2019 was considered to be a success by the student community. A concern was expressed by the organizers about the financial aspects of the contest to make it more sustainable.

The WSSA is working on a Code of Conduct for meeting attendees. This code of conduct may be adopted by the regional societies to be incorporated into their respective MOP's so that it is consistent across societies.

At the Hawaii meeting in 2020, the regular grad student oral presentation contest will be replaced by an Elevator Speech contest. During this and subsequent annual meetings, WSSA plans to enforce penalties for author no-show for titles and abstracts submitted (removing them from programs and abstracts and banning the corresponding author at the following year meeting).

The financial status of WSSA is healthy. The WSSA is considering to initiate a competitive grants program (“Innovative Projects”) to fund up to five \$100K projects annually with a panel and RFA in place. Details and program initiation dates are yet to be finalized.

The Student Travel program is a success. Out of the seven funded one was from NEWSS (only one applicant from our region). NEWSS student members are encouraged to send in more applications in future years.

The WSSA is currently working with the Herbicide Resistance Action Committee (HRAC) on the new herbicide Mode of Action classification to harmonize herbicide MOA codes between HRAC and WSSA.

## Director of Science Policy Report



Lee Van Wychen

### Brosnan Presents Capitol Hill Seminar on Managing Herbicide Resistance in Turf

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, Dr. James T. Brosnan, Professor in the Plant Sciences Department at the University of Tennessee (UT) and Director of the UT Weed Diagnostics Center presented a seminar to House and Senate staffers titled “*More Than Just the Mall: Turfgrass is a Modern Crop*”.

**ABSTRACT:** Turfgrass is now the predominant crop that Americans interact with daily. Found in lawns, parks, and all areas of urban green-space, turfgrass improves our climate, public health, and economy. Whether improving atmospheric conditions, filtering pollutants from ground water, or reducing graffiti and overall violence in urban settings, the benefits of turfgrass are abundant. Weeds of turfgrass threaten these benefits and must be controlled. Research supporting integrated approaches for controlling turfgrass weeds has been limited when compared to traditional crops such as corn and soybean, resulting in an over-reliance on herbicides to control weeds. Recently, the United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA) supported research on integrated approaches for controlling a single weed species of turfgrass, annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*). Our project will provide solutions for controlling this one species with fewer chemicals. However,

other species also pose problems and resources will be needed to inform citizens how to best control them in turfgrass, a crop Americans in every Congressional district interact with daily.

*Photo (from left to right): Lee Van Wychen and Haleigh Summers, WSSA; James Brosnan, University of Tennessee;*



*and Julie McClure and Karl Anderson, ASA-CSSA-SSSA.*

### Congress and White House Agree on 2-Yr Budget Deal; Fund Government Through Nov. 21.

In August, Congressional and White House leadership reached a budget deal that will lift budget caps that were set to take effect this fall and raise the debt ceiling until July 2021. It provides nearly equal increases for defense and domestic programs, raising federal spending by a total of \$320 billion. Without a budget deal, defense spending would have been cut by \$71 billion and nondefense spending – which includes most research funding programs – would have been cut by \$55 billion in FY 2020 alone.

Despite not knowing what the FY 2020

budget allocation, the House passed 10 of 12 of their FY 2020 spending bills this summer while the Senate decided to wait. Based on the budget agreement numbers and committee allocations, the House will have to trim about \$895 million from its \$24.3 billion agricultural appropriations bill it passed in June.

The Senate has been busy since returning from the August recess and has passed 10 out of 12 bills out of committee, but has not yet passed any bills through the full Senate. With FY 2020 spending beginning on Oct. 1, Congress sent a temporary government-wide funding bill to the President on Sep. 26. The bill extends funding at FY 2019 levels through Nov. 21 and will buy lawmakers additional time to work out spending differences between the House and Senate appropriations bills.

### **America Grows Act Would Boost Federal Ag Research Funding**

The National and Regional Weed Science Societies [have supported](#) legislation introduced by Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) that would authorize a 5% inflation-adjusted annual increase for the next 5 years for agricultural research at USDA-ARS, NIFA, ERS, and NASS. The America Grows Act (S. 2458) is modeled after the 21st Century Cures Act passed in 2016, which spurred additional funding for NIH. The America Grows Act would provide critical investments in research to address production, nutrition, food security, and other major challenges across the U.S. food and agricultural sector.

### **Weed Science Societies Comment on Glyphosate Proposed Interim Registration Review Decision**

The National and Regional Weed Science Societies submitted comments on EPA's proposal to mitigate potential risks with glyphosate use while noting its importance in the management of invasive and noxious weeds in agricultural and non-agricultural settings. Scientific literature has clearly shown that the benefits of glyphosate outweigh any potential ecological risks. Improvements to labels that are consistent across all glyphosate products will

help to further mitigate these risks. Final comments:

[http://wssa.net/wp-content/uploads/Weed-Science-Societies-Comments-on-Glyphosate-PID\\_final.pdf](http://wssa.net/wp-content/uploads/Weed-Science-Societies-Comments-on-Glyphosate-PID_final.pdf)

### **WSSA Position Statement on Glyphosate**

In 2015, glyphosate was classified as a "probable carcinogen" by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). IARC has applied the same classification to red meat, hot beverages, and emissions from high-temperature frying, as well as to more than 70 other chemicals. This designation has caused widespread public concern about the safety of glyphosate while being the recent focus of multiple lawsuits. WSSA has developed this document to inform the membership and general public of its position on this topic. <http://wssa.net/wp-content/uploads/WSSA-glyphosate-position-8-9-19-FINAL.docx>

### **2019 Science Policy Fellows: John Schramski and Haleigh Summers**

The Science Policy Fellow (SPF) is a new position supported by WSSA that is designed to assist me as Executive Director of Science Policy while providing the SPF with a short-term, robust experience in dealing with a broad array of weed science policy issues. The SPF's receive a stipend to help them cover their time and travel to Washington DC and the WSSA annual meeting. This year's SPF's are John Schramski and Haleigh Summers.



John is a second year master's student at Michigan State University working with Dr.

Christy Sprague. He worked as a crop consultant after receiving a bachelor's degree in Crop and Soil Science from Michigan State in 2013. While working with growers, he became interested in weed science and managing herbicide-resistant weeds. His current research is focused on integrating fall-seeded cereal cover crops with herbicide programs to manage glyphosate-resistant horseweed in no-till soybean and understanding the different growth habits of fall and spring emerged horseweed. John is interested in how policy can shape the development of new weed management strategies to help growers.

Haleigh is a second-year master's student at Penn State with Dr. Heather Karsten. Her thesis projects include analyzing long-term data on reducing herbicides in a no-till dairy cropping system, looking at cultural and mechanical management options for glyphosate-resistant pigweed species, and studying early and late-season control of glyphosate-resistant horseweed (marestail). She received her bachelor's in Agronomy and Seed Science at Iowa State University. She is passionate about helping farmers become more environmentally friendly while still being profitable and believes policy will play a key role in this in the future.

#### **IR-4 Will Move from Rutgers to NC State**

On July 10, the IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) considered a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) drafted by North Carolina State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (NC State). This MOA presented an opportunity for IR-4 Headquarters to relocate its operations from the long-term host institution, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station/Rutgers University, to NC State. After significant discussion, the PMC unanimously agreed to advance the agreement to Rutgers legal counsel for concurrence.

The PMC based its decision on the 10-year commitment by NC State to host IR-4 Headquarters as well as the vision of the leadership of the NC State's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences on the many ways

that IR-4 fits into the strategic direction of the college. While New Jersey Agricultural Experimental Station continues to value the IR-4 Project, Rutgers could not make a long-term commitment to continue as the host institution. The relocation, once approved by Rutgers, will transition over the next two years, with scheduled completion by September 30, 2021. The long transition will allow IR-4 Headquarters to remain operational with minimal interruptions and lessen the impact of the move on current employees at IR-4 Headquarters. Rutgers administrators are committed to working closely with NC State to ensure a smooth transition.

The IR-4 Project provides safe and effective pest management solutions to specialty crop growers. It is funded through federal funds administered by USDA-NIFA, Agriculture Research Service and Foreign Agriculture Service with significant direct and in-kind funds from the land-grant university system, specialty crop commodity associations and the crop protection industry. Field research farms, analytical laboratories and coordination offices are located in over 20 states to facilitate national registrations of needed chemical and bio-based pesticides. Since 1963, IR-4's national headquarters has been hosted by Rutgers. Rutgers will continue to participate in IR-4 with activities at two of its research farms in New Jersey.

#### **2015 WOTUS Rule Repealed**

On September 12, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works R.D. James announced the repeal of the Obama administration's Clean Water Rule, better known as the Waters of the United States rule, or WOTUS. The 2015 rule has never fully taken effect because there have been multiple court challenges. The repeal formally restores the previous regulatory regime nationwide until the Trump administration releases its own rule to deal with the issue of conflicting Supreme Court rulings on WOTUS. In December 2018, EPA and the Army Corp proposed a new definition that would clearly

define where federal jurisdiction begins and ends in accordance with the Clean Water Act and Supreme Court precedent. After a public comment period this spring, the proposed new WOTUS definitions are expected to be finalized this winter.

### **Public Lands and Water Management Bill Becomes Law**

This spring, the “John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019” became law (P.L. 116-9). It’s the first major public lands and water management bill passed since 2009 and contains over 100 pieces of legislation that are laid out in nine titles. In Title VII, “Wildlife Habitat and Conservation”, the new law amends the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act to protect federal “water, oceans, coasts, and wildlife **from invasive species**”. The new law defines a number of terms, including “invasive species” and directs the head of each federal Agency (specifically Army Corp of Engineers, Agriculture and Interior) to plan and carry out activities on land directly managed by the Agency to protect water and wildlife by controlling and managing invasive species: (1) to inhibit or reduce the populations of invasive species; and (2) to effectuate restoration or reclamation efforts.

While the new law does not authorize any additional appropriations, it directs the Agency heads to allocate their existing invasive species funding in the following manner:

- **use not less than 75 percent for on-the-ground control and management of invasive species**, which may include: (1) the purchase of necessary products, equipment, or services to conduct that control and management; (2) the use of integrated pest management options, including options that use pesticides; (3) the use of biological control agents; (4) the use of revegetation or cultural restoration methods; (5) the use of monitoring and detection activities for invasive species, including equipment, detection dogs, and mechanical devices; (6) the use of appropriate methods to

remove invasive species from a vehicle or vessel capable of conveyance; or (7) the use of other effective mechanical or manual control methods.

- **use not more than 15 percent for investigations, development activities, and outreach and public awareness efforts** to address invasive species control and management needs.

- **not more than 10 percent may be used for administrative costs** incurred to carry out those programs, including costs relating to oversight and management of the programs, recordkeeping, and implementation of a strategic plan.

### **Weed Scientists Needed at USDA-NIFA**

Intensive hiring efforts are currently underway at USDA-NIFA to recruit highly qualified candidates for vacant positions that need to be filled at their new location in Kansas City. Please go their careers page for a condensed list of current and upcoming job announcements at:

<https://nifa.usda.gov/career-opportunities>

## **Research and Education Report**



**Matthew Cutulle**

I hope all your summer field projects yielded useful data and that the initiation of any fall research and extension projects went smoothly.

For those of you (or technicians in your lab) needing pesticide credits the NEWSS meeting offers those during many of the sessions. Last year pesticide credits were obtained by applicators from Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Hopefully, we will be able to award pesticide credits to individuals from New Jersey, North Carolina and South Carolina as well this year. CCA credits were also awarded last year. Some exciting sessions will be held this year at the annual meeting in Philadelphia with a symposium on inclusion and diversity in science and a graduate student program focused on career management and trajectory in addition to the traditional student contest and crop sessions. If you need any extension material for an upcoming presentation, check out the weed identification links on the top tab of the society website, which includes the newly renovated Clemson Vegetable Weed Management website (Shameless plug-  
<https://www.clemson.edu/cafls/research/weed/s/index.html>).

I hope to see you in Philadelphia.

## **CAST Representative Report**



**Hilary Sandler**

The CAST meeting will occur in the coming weeks, and we will have an update in the next newsletter.

## **2019 North American Weed Science Contest** **The “Weed Olympics”**

**BASF Midwest Research Farm, Midwest Ag Research Center of Valent, and  
Klein Farms near Seymour, IL**  
**Hosted by: BASF, Valent, Corteva and Bayer**



The 2019 North American Weed Science Contest, affectionately known as the “Weed Olympics”, was hosted at the BASF Midwest Research Farm, Midwest Ag Research Center of Valent, and Klein Farms near Seymour, IL on July 25, 2019. Since the “Weed Olympics” is a national event, students from The Northeastern Weed Science Society, Southern Weed Science Society, North-Central Weed Science Society, and Western Weed Science Society participated in the contest. A total of 63 teams representing 26 graduate programs and 8 undergraduate programs competed in this rigorous contest. The day of the contest was sunny, beautiful, and ripe for competition. The contest concluded with the awards ceremony at the University of Illinois Memorial Stadium, where students were treated to a fantastic view of the stadium facility. The contest was quite competitive, Virginia Tech Graduate Team 1 won the overall graduate student division and took first place in the NEWSS section of the contest. Virginia Tech Graduate Team 2 took third place in the NEWSS section of the contest. University of Guelph Graduate Team took second place in the NEWSS section, and their Undergraduate Teams took first and third place in the NEWSS undergraduate division. The hosts and sponsors of this years “Weed Olympics” put on a fantastic contest, and the students and coaches probably can’t wait for the next one!

## Workin' Hard on the Written Exam



## What's the Farmer's Problem?



## The Medal Ceremony

### Overall North American Weed Science Contest Awards (as they pertain to NEWSS)

#### **Overall Winner – Individual (Graduate)**

Eric Scruggs  
Virginia Tech



#### **Overall Winner – Individual (Undergraduate)**

Matt Spoth  
Cornell

#### **Unknown Herbicide (Graduate)**

Eric Scruggs  
Virginia Tech



**Weed Identification (Graduate)**

John Brewer  
Virginia Tech



**Problem Solving  
(Undergraduate)**

Kurtis Pilkington  
Guelph

## Overall Contest Winners



Virginia Tech Graduate Team 1 took home the “gold” at the North American Weed Science Contest.

Left to right: Wykle Green, Eric Scruggs, John Brewer, Shawn Beam

**NEWSS Undergraduate Team Awards**



**First Place Undergraduate**

Guelph Undergraduate Team

Matt Fletcher, Aleksander Kus, Hannah Symington, Kurtis Pilkington

**Second Place Undergraduate**

Cornell Undergraduate Team

Aleah Butler-Jones, Emma Kubinski, Matt Spoth



**Third Place Undergraduate**

Guelph Undergraduate Team

Emily Duenk, Bryce Ribey, Alan Abdulkader, Elaine Jeffs



**Awards...cont'd**  
**Undergraduate Individual Awards**



**First Place Undergraduate**

Matt Spoth  
Cornell



**Second Place Undergraduate**

Kurtis Pilkington  
Guelph



**Third Place Undergraduate**

Bernard Wierenga  
Guelph

**Awards...cont'd**  
**Graduate Student Team Awards**



**First Place Graduate Team**

Virginia Tech Graduate Team

John Brewer, Shawn Beam, Wykle  
Greene, Eric Scruggs

**Second Place Graduate Team**

Guelph Graduate Team

Alex Sanders, Brett Hilker, Allison Bailey,  
Bernard Wierenga



**Third Place Graduate Team**

Virginia Tech Graduate Team

Gourav Sharma, Jordan Craft, Spencer  
Michael, Caleb Henderson



**Awards...cont'd**  
**Graduate Individual Awards**



**First Place Graduate Student**

Eric Scruggs  
Virginia Tech



**Second Place Graduate Student**

Shawn Beam  
Virginia Tech



**Third Place Graduate Student**

John Brewer  
Virginia Tech