



Northeastern Weed Science
Society

NEWSletter

Spring 2022



Jacob Barney

Comments from the President **Jacob Barney**

I very much wish I could reflect on the 2022 annual meeting having just seen all of you, but alas the pandemic continues to interfere with a litany of usual activities. While disappointed, I am confident we made the right decision at the time to ensure the safety and health of our membership. Despite not meeting I want to send a heartfelt thank you to the Program Committee—Wes Everman, Maria Gannett, and Eric Jones (NEWSS), Rebecca Brown (NR-ASHS) and Karen Gartley (NEB-CSA)—for all their work developing the program. I also want to send a personal shout out to (Past President) Caren Schmidt. She bore the brunt of an unusually challenging two consecutive meetings that required an enormous amount of work, that I think most may not be aware of unless you have served in the presidential rotation. Not only did she have to organize, and perfectly execute, the first ever virtual meeting of NEPPSC, she then had to

negotiate working with the hotel under tenuous conditions of whether we may make a last-minute decision, which obviously we ultimately did. We only incurred a nominal \$350 fee for cancelling last minute—that is no small feat. So a big thank you to my friend Caren for all of the work you did behind the scenes!

Despite not meeting in person, we did have several important society activities that were observed, and hopefully some more forthcoming (see below). One of our many important functions as a society is to recognize the scholarship, education, outreach, and contributions to the field of weed science in our region. I was delighted that we could still recognize a number of our members: Rakesh Chandran (Fellow), Jerry Baron (Award of Merit), Matthew Elmore (Outstanding Researcher), Michael Flessner (Outstanding Educator), Brandon McNally (Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Graduate Student Award – MS), Vasilii Lakoba (Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Graduate Student Award – PhD), and Baylee Carr (M. Garry Schnappinger Service Recognition Award). Also a congrats to winners of the new Graduate Student Writing Contest! A heartfelt congratulations to all of the deserving award winners!

I also want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of a number of members rotating off the board and welcome their replacements. Board members who rotated off include Art Gover (Past President), Thierry Besançon (Membership Chair), Hilary Sandler (CAST rep), Rakesh Chandran (WSSA liaison), Matt Cutulle (Research and Education Chair), and Maria Gannett (Gradu-

ate Student Rep)—thank you for all of your work! I would like to welcome new board members Erin Hitchner (Vice President), Matthew Elmore (Membership Chair), Carolyn Lowry (Research and Education), Steve Pyle (WSSA liaison), Anthony Witcher (CAST rep), and Eric Jones (Graduate Student Rep) [and Katherine Diehl as GSR Rep Elect]. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year(s).

Finally I want to thank our Sustaining Members who continue to support our society during these uncertain, and constantly changing, times!

What to expect in 2022 and 2023:

The 2021 and 2022 Boards met before and after, respectively, the Business/Awards virtual session and I wanted to share a few important items. First, we have every intention of holding the weed contest this summer. We all agreed that we can hold a safe and meaningful contest and are in active discussions to ensure that happens. The 2022 NEWSS Weed contest will be held on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 at the Honeywood Research Facility in Plattsville, Ontario, Canada. The contest is being sponsored by Syngenta Canada, Inc. in collaboration with the University of Guelph. We hope you can all attend as a student contestant, coach, or volunteer. It will be a great way to see your colleagues again in person. Start working on investigating travel requirements to enter Canada, which the pandemic continues to change. Given that we did not have any talks this year, the EC is discussing the possibility of holding an alternative event sometime this year to give students who missed their chance in January to present their research and network. Stay tuned for updated information as details emerge.

Second, Art Gover commissioned an updated Futures Committee to provide a comprehensive review of the society and its activities. The committee provided a report in 2021 and the EC discussed a number of their recommendations. The Committee met again earlier this year and is drafting additional recommendations, which comprise both short and longterm suggestions. One recommendation we are working on immediately is updating our Weed Contest Committee. Wes Everman and Art Gover are currently developing a proposal for discussion at the spring board meeting. We will share more details in future NEWSSletters but we hope this revision will empower the committee and provide a streamlined structure.

Lastly, we will be meeting jointly with WSSA in 2022 in Arlington, VA. Watch this space for additional details, and let's all cross our fingers the world is in a better place then! Wishing you a safe, healthy, and productive 2022!

NEWS Executive Committee 2022 Officers



Caren Schmidt
Past-President
BASF
Ph. (517) 282-8935
caren.schmidt@basf.com



Jacob Barney
President
Virginia Tech
Ph. (540) 231-6323
jnbarney@vt.edu



Wes Everman
Vice President
NC State University
Ph. (919) 515-0488
wes_everman@ncsu.edu



Larissa Smith
Treasurer
Syngenta
Ph. (607) 220-8795
Larissa.smith@syngenta.com



Erin Hitchner
Vice President Elect
Syngenta



Caren A. Schmidt

Past President's Report **Caren A. Schmidt**

It is difficult to know where to start this report, having missed the opportunity to be together for our annual meeting. However, I'm grateful, nonetheless, for the NEWSS and all of you. We had planned all year for an in-person meeting, with the caveat of cancelling only if "sh*t" hit the fan with Covid. In our minds it did, so here we are.

Regardless, I would like to thank the program committee and the many others who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to prepare for the 2022 meeting. Thanks to all of you that participated in the virtual session to allow for a successful business meeting and the opportunity to recognize our very deserving award recipients. Jacob laid out several of the contingency plans and changes that we will be working on this year. We look forward to meeting jointly with the WSSA in 2023 in Arlington, VA.

As part of my Past President responsibilities, I will be reviewing and updating the MOP. This will require some effort given the proposed changes by the Futures Committee to continue to improve the society. More to come on that subject as the year progresses. I will also be stewarding the Society Awards for the 2023 meeting. Please be thinking of worthy candidates to nominate later this year.

In 2022, I will lead the Endowment Committee. I must say I was thrilled to see the student writing contest come to fruition this year and see the excellent participation. Congratulations to the winners. And thanks to the committee members that put the contest together and/or judged the contest. This was an excellent use of the Endowment funding. As we stated previously, we will continue to increase energy towards raising awareness and contributions to the Endowment, such that we can have additional opportunities to support our students.

Finally, in 2023, I will begin my five-year stretch as a judge for the student presentation contest at the annual meeting. Just writing this makes me nostalgic, because I remember my first contest fairly vividly as an MS student more than 20 years ago. The judges, leadership and society members were literally my idols. It's so gratifying to come full circle to serve this amazing society that has been so supportive of me.

Thank you for the opportunity to lead in 2021. I am humbled and grateful. Best wishes for a successful 2022. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Collegiate Weeds Contest.



Erin Hitchner

Vice President's Report

Erin Hitchner

As I'm writing this, it appears that we are in for another six weeks of frigid, snowy weather. It's hard to imagine warm sunny days ahead, but the thought of convening in person at the NEWSS Collegiate Weed Contest in Canada this summer helps warm my days.

I am enthusiastic to be back on the NEWSS EC and look forward to serving the Society for the next few years. It was certainly disappointing starting this position without the ability to celebrate in person, but I'm optimistic that we will be able to do so again soon.

As we look forward to our next Annual Meeting, please note that we will be meeting jointly with the WSSA in Alexandria, VA, January 30th to February 2nd. This will be an excellent opportunity for a change in meeting location and co-mingling with weed scientists and students from outside of the Northeast. More details to come in future newsletters.

One of my first responsibilities as Vice President is to identify General Symposium ideas for our 2023 meeting. Jacob had the brilliant idea to explore the theme of science communication which we have not been able to utilize due to meeting cancellations. As scientists, being able to effectively communicate our research to the public is extremely important, so I look forward to utilizing this theme for our 2023 meeting. The Director of the Center for Communicating Science at Virginia Tech, Patty Raun, will be our keynote speaker. Patty is a professor of performance and voice and her research focuses on the use of the tools of the theatre to develop communication skills in science and technology professionals. I'm looking forward to this sure to be engaging keynote speaker!

Another task for my role as Vice President is identifying Section Chairs. Due to our meeting cancellation, we have confirmed that the assigned Section Chairs designated for our 2022 meeting will remain in place for our 2023 meeting. Thank you everyone for your willingness to serve in this position for our next meeting.

Stay warm and looking forward to seeing everyone this summer!



Larissa Smith

Treasurer's Report **Larissa Smith**

All refunds for the 2022 NEPPSC should now be processed. If you did not receive a registration refund, and should have, please contact me (larissa.smith@syngenta.com) at your earliest convenience. Thank you, to everyone who donated 2022 Meeting Registration Fees to support NEWSS operating costs. As a reminder, all registrants will receive a complimentary 2022 NEWSS Membership.

Mailing Address:
NEWSS Treasurer
P.O. Box 303
King Ferry, NY 13081

NEWSS Education Fund Account Balance

Endowment 2021 Contributions	\$5,630.00
Endowment 2022 Contributions to date	\$6,700.00
Disbursements	\$600.00
Fund Balance	\$48,931.92

NEWSS Account Balances as of February 1, 2022

Checking	\$66,789.79
Savings	\$31,872.87
12 Month CD (Renewed)	\$50,403.79
Endowment Fund	\$48,931.92
Total Net Assets	\$197,998.37
Total Income to Date	\$29,603.94
Total Expenses to Date	\$12,421.26
2021-2022 Fiscal Year Net Gain	\$17,182.68

Editor's Report

Lane Heimer

Due to the cancelation the 2022 NEPPSC/NEWSS annual meeting, the Proceedings will not be completed until after the July 2022 NEWSS Weed Contest. The Board is looking into the possibility of an alternative event at that time for presentations.

Proceedings will continue to be published in electronic format only for ease of access and practicality and will be available on the society websites. The searchable NEWSS Proceedings are in process.

Title and abstract submission will open October 17, 2022 for the 2023 Meeting using the WSSA abstracts submission website.

Submit an abstract: <https://www.weedscimeetingabstracts.com/>

Mark Your Calendars: 2023 NEWSS/ WSSA /NEPPSC Meeting

Title deadline: November 15, 2022

Abstract deadline: January 31, 2023

Slides deadline: February 7, 2023

**Please Note: The dates supplied are tentative until established by
WSSA**

NEPPSC Meeting Report

Matthew Elmore

Current membership is 82 regular members, 25 student, and 9 sustaining companies. This is less than 92 regular, 29 student, and 10 sustaining company members recorded in 2021. There are 191 members-at-large who attended an NEPPSC annual meeting in 2020, 2021 or 2022 (registered).

A total of 116 people were registered for the 2022 NEPPSC meeting. Since the 2022 Annual Meeting was cancelled, registration fees for the 2022 NEPPSC meeting were reimbursed in full. Those registered for the 2022 NEPPSC meeting with NEWSS affiliation are considered 2022 members. A very big thank you to those who requested to not have their registration fees reimbursed. These funds were donated to the NEWSS. If you are still expecting registration fee reimbursement, please contact our Treasurer Larissa Smith (larissa.smith@syngenta.com).

Thank you in advance for keeping your contact information with NEWSS current. Please indicate any mail or any email address changes by sending an email to matthew.elmore@rutgers.edu.

Graduate Student Report

Maria Gannett and Eric Jones

Unfortunately, the global pandemic reared its ugly head and caused a last-minute cancellation of the meeting. While I have missed seeing everyone in person, the board of directors had to make the difficult yet appropriate decision. Since many students have missed the opportunity for in-person meetings, there is a possibility of holding an alternative event sometime this year to give students an opportunity to present their research and network with members of the society.

I'd like to highlight a new student opportunity that has made its debut at the 2022 "meeting", the graduate student writing competition. Students can submit weed science-related writing, targeted at practitioners such as Master Gardeners, extension agents, land managers, and turf professionals. Winning entries will be awarded with a monetary prize and their work will be posted on the NEWSS website as a peer-reviewed outreach publication. We also have a Twitter account, [@NE_WeedSci](#), where we'd love to highlight your stories, publications and other accomplishments! Follow us and send us good news you'd like us to share!

Currently, we are working to have an in-person weeds contest with a location to be determined (traveling to Canada may not be feasible). The location and date will be sent soon so start preparing! In addition, there is a possibility of holding an alternative event sometime this year to give students who missed their chance in January to present their research and network. Stay tuned for updated information as details emerge. Now, let's welcome our new grad-student-representative-elect: Katherine Diehl!

Sustaining Membership Report

John Wallace

As always, we are grateful for Sustaining Membership support for the 2022 NEWSS meeting and would like to take the opportunity to recognize their contributions. Our Platinum Sustaining members include BASF, Bayer, Syngenta and Corteva. Our Silver Sustaining members include FMC, Gowan, AMVAC and GDM Solutions. And our Bronze Sustaining Members include NuFarm and LABS. Sustaining Memberships support NEWSS operating costs, website maintenance, the Director of Science policy, CAST membership and the Collegiate Weed Science contest. If you would like to contribute in the future, please reach out to me. Thank you all and be well.

Research and Education Committee

Carolyn Lowry

Greetings! For those of you who do not know me yet, I am an Assistant Professor of Weed Ecology and Management at Penn State. First, I want to thank the NEWSS board for nominating me as your next chair of the Research and Education Committee, and I am greatly looking forward to all the important work that I, along with the rest of the NEWSS executive board, will accomplish over the course of the next few years. Second, I want to thank the outgoing chair, Matthew Cutulle, for all his great work over the past three years.

One of my priorities for this coming year is to update the NEWSS website, and while the board has some priorities and ideas of much needed updates, we really want to hear from you!

**Do you have suggestions for updates to the NEWSS website?
Email me because I want to hear them: carolyn.lowry@psu.edu.**

CAST Annual Report

Hilary A. Sandler, CAST Representative

New Commentary Released on Climate Change. On June 28, 2021, CAST released “The role of Agricultural Science and Technology in Climate 21 Project Implementation” (QTA2021-1). A webinar was presented on June 29, 2021. The report summarized each of the key recommendation and priorities where current agricultural science and technology for plant and animal production can be applied and where new investments should be made. The 28-page report can be found on the CAST website (<https://www.cast-science.org/>).

In October 2021, the **2021 Borlaug CAST Communication** Award was presented to Dr. Sarah Evanega, Professor at the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research. She is also a Founding Director for the Cornell Alliance for Science.

New CAST President is Dr. Sally Fils. She is the Sustainable Ag Manager with Nutrien Ag Solutions. She has been on the board since 2018 and has been the lead on three CAST publications. In 2022-23, she will be the 50th CAST president.

Plant Working Group Update. The WG meets monthly to check status of current projects and to vet new ideas and proposals. There are approximately 15 active proposals (in varying states of readiness) under consideration by the WG. Four are far enough along to have been ranked with respect to priority to send to the CAST board for their approval. These proposed publications include: Precision irrigation management, Harmful algal blooms (HAB), RNAi technology, and Intensification of agriculture.

Webinars replace face-to-face rollouts. To help contribute to a safe and healthy environment during COVID-19, CAST continued to use free online webinars to disseminate its new publications, rather than face-to-face rollouts in Washington, D.C. If you join the mailing list, you will receive notifications of these free webinars.

Recent Publications include:

- [Gains Foregone by Going GMO Free: Potential Impacts on Consumers, the Environment, and Agricultural Producers](#)
- [Celebrating 50 Years as the Trusted Source for Agricultural Science and Technology](#)
- [The Role of Agricultural Science and Technology in Climate 21 Project Implementation](#)

- [Agriculture and the Microbiome](#)
- [Ground and Aerial Robots for Agricultural Production: Opportunities and Challenges](#)

2021 Annual Board Meeting. The annual board meeting was held in person October 26-28, 2021 in Columbus, OH. Highlights of the meeting included tours on The Ohio State University campus, a USDA update from Dr. Jacobs-Young, Juan Moreno presenting on sustainability, a panel discussion on One Health, and meeting the eight [CAST Science Communication Scholarship](#) recipients. You can find coverage of the annual meeting on the [CAST Board Member Information OneNote](#) (tab labeled “2021 Annual Meeting”) that contains the officer reports, speaker presentation videos, etc. Lastly, the CAST staff is planning to issue a third [Summary of Activities](#) by the end of 2021 that will cover year-end activities including the board meeting. The 2022 Annual Meeting will be October 25-27 in Iowa.

Annual Report. The CAST 2020 Annual Report was also released in April and can be found on the website at: <https://www.cast-science.org/about/annual-reports/>.

Anthony Witcher (awitcher@tnstate.edu) will be your new CAST representative (2022-2025). Please reach out to him with your ideas and questions.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent NEWSS at CAST.

Washington Report

Lee Van Wychen

New Infrastructure Law Authorizes \$250 Million for DOT Invasive Plant Elimination Program

President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act into public law ([P.L. No. 117-58](#)) on Nov. 15. The House of Representatives passed the bill on a 228-206 vote on Nov. 5, while the Senate passed it on Aug. 10 with a 69-30 vote. The act allocates an estimated \$1.2 trillion in total funding over ten years, including \$550 billion in new spending during the next five years, divided between improving the surface-transportation network (\$284 billion) and society's core infrastructure (\$266 billion).

Several notable provisions for invasive plant and invasive species management are included in the new law, including:

- **SEC. 11522.** Invasive Plant Elimination Program. Federal-Aid Highways. \$250 million total, \$50 million per year for FY 2022 thru FY 2026. The Secretary of the Department of Transportation (DOT), through the Federal Highway Administration: “shall carry out a program to provide grants to States to eliminate or control existing invasive plants or prevent introduction of or encroachment by new invasive plants along and in areas adjacent to transportation corridor rights-of-way”.

The term “invasive plant” means a nonnative plant, tree, grass, or weed species, including, at a minimum: cheatgrass, *Ventana dubia*, medusahead, bulbous bluegrass, Japanese brome, rattail fescue, Japanese honeysuckle, phragmites, autumn olive, Bradford pear, wild parsnip, sericea lespedeza, spotted knapweed, garlic mustard, and palmer amaranth.

- **SEC. 40804.** Ecosystem Restoration. Through the US Forest Service, \$200 million total for the fiscal years 2022 through 2026 shall be made available for invasive species detection, prevention, and eradication, including conducting research and providing resources to facilitate detection of invasive species at points of entry and awarding grants for eradication of invasive species on non-Federal land and on Federal land.

- **SEC. 40907.** Multi-Benefit Project To Improve Watershed Health. Through the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the BOR Commissioner, in consultation with the heads of relevant agencies, shall establish a competitive grant program to award grants to eligible applicants for the design, implementation, and monitoring of conservation outcomes of habitat restoration projects that improve watershed health in a river basin that is adversely impacted by a BOR water project by accomplishing 1 or more of the following:

1. **Ecosystem benefits.**
2. **Restoration of native species.**
3. **Mitigation against the impacts of climate change to fish and wildlife habitats.**
4. **Protection against invasive species.**
5. **Restoration of aspects of the natural ecosystem.**
6. **Enhancement of commercial, recreational, subsistence, or Tribal ceremonial fishing.**
7. **Enhancement of river-based recreation.**

Budget Reconciliation Bill Stalled in Senate

On Nov. 19, the House of Representatives passed a \$1.75 trillion social and climate spending budget reconciliation bill, also known as the Build Back Better Act (H.R. 5376). However, the bill failed to advance in the Senate prior to the holiday break after Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) announced that he would not support the bill.

While it is uncertain whether the Senate will pass it (and, if so, in what form), the [National and Regional Weed Science Societies are continuing to engage in the ag research and infrastructure provisions in the bill](#). The Nov. 19 House passed version of the bill contains \$2 billion designated for ag research and infrastructure, which includes \$210 million for the USDA AFRI competitive grants program and \$120 million for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program.

House Passes CR to Fund Government Through March 11

More than four months into FY 2022, Congress has passed two continuing resolutions (CRs) to avert government shutdowns, but this stopgap approach expires on February 18, 2022.

On February 8, 2022, the U.S. House of Representatives passed another CR to keep the government operational at FY 2021 spending levels until March 11, 2022. The Senate is expected to pass the stopgap measure before the current CR expires. Meanwhile, appropriators have reached a bicameral, bipartisan agreement on the framework for the FY 2022 omnibus spending package, the specifics for which have not yet been released. The latest CR will provide lawmakers three more weeks to hash out the details and pass a spending package that would total roughly \$1.5 trillion.

EPA Announces Endangered Species Act Protection Policy for New Pesticides

On January 11, 2022, the EPA announced that, effective immediately, the Agency's review of applications for new pesticide active ingredients (AI) pursuant to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) will uniformly incorporate analysis under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) with the intention of prioritizing protection for listed species as much as possible. The new policy applies to AI applications already submitted for

consideration as well as incoming applications. [EPA press release](#).

Prior to this policy change, EPA has not uniformly required ESA analysis for all applications for new AIs, which often resulted in litigation against EPA. EPA expects the new policy to reduce litigation in general and improve the overall legal defensibility of new AI registrations.

EPA has explained that it intends to provide several mitigation options to allow the greatest flexibility for pesticide users while still ensuring protections for listed species. Mitigation efforts often include measures intended to avoid or minimize exposure routes between where pesticides are used and where the species live, restrict the geographic or temporal scope of pesticide applications, and reduce the number of pesticide applications allowed on a treated site.

To learn more about EPA's Endangered Species Act Protection Policy for New Pesticides, read the [Q&A document](#).

Vilsack Announces 10-Year Strategy to Confront Wildfire Crisis

In response to the nation's growing wildfire crisis, USDA Secretary Vilsack and Forest Service Chief Moore have launched a strategy to address the threat to millions of acres and communities across the nation. The strategy will first target areas defined as being at the highest risk based on community exposure, including the Pacific Northwest, the Sierra Nevada Range in California, the front range of Colorado, and the Southwest. The plan highlights the importance of collaboration with the Department of Interior, Tribes, states, local communities, and private landowners to effectively address the crisis. For more information, click [here](#).

Wilkes Confirmed as USDA Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment



Homer Wilkes

Homer Wilkes was sworn in on Feb. 11, 2022 to serve as Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment at USDA. His nomination was confirmed by the Senate on Feb. 8, 2022 by a voice vote. Wilkes is expected to work closely between USDA NRCS and the Forest Service on land restoration projects, including the 10-year wildfire mitigation plan.

Wilkes is a native of Port Gibson, Mississippi. He earned a B.S. in business finance, an M.B.A. and Ph.D. in urban higher education from Jackson State University. From 1984 to 2007, Wilkes served as a supply officer in the United States Navy Reserve. During his career, Wilkes has served within the NRCS as acting CFO, acting associate agency chief, and as Mississippi’s state conservationist. Since 2013, Wilkes has worked as the director of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force.

Bonnie Confirmed as USDA Undersecretary for Farm Production and Conservation

On Nov. 16, the Senate voted 76 – 19 to confirm Robert Bonnie as the USDA Undersecretary for Farm Production and Conservation. In this role, he is now charged with the oversight of USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Risk Management Agency (RMA).



Robert Bonnie

Bonnie, who has served as Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack’s deputy chief of staff and senior climate adviser, is expected to play a key role in USDA’s climate initiatives. Bonnie also served as the USDA Undersecretary for natural resources and environment in the Obama administration. In his work, Bonnie has written reports on climate change that included proposing the use of the Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA’s line of credit at the Treasury, to address climate change problems.

Bonnie has also worked at the Environmental Defense Fund for 14 years and holds a master’s degree in forestry and environmental management from Duke University, and a bachelor’s from Harvard College.

Connor Confirmed for Top Army Corps of Engineers Post

Michael Connor, former commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, was confirmed on Nov.

4, by a 92 – 5 vote in the Senate, to be the next Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, which oversees all civilian work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Connor held the number-two position at Interior from 2014 to 2017 during the Obama administration. Before that, he was commissioner of Interior’s Bureau of Reclamation, from 2009 to 2014. Connor was a partner in the law firm Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP prior to his nomination. He also worked on Capitol Hill from 2001 to 2009, as counsel to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources



Michael Connor

Committee.

Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young Senate Nomination Moves to a Vote

On January 12, the Senate Agriculture Committee advanced the nomination of Chavonda Jacobs-Young to be USDA's Undersecretary for Research, Education, and Economics. Dr. Jacobs-Young's nomination will now head to the Senate floor for a full-Senate vote. For more on Dr. Jacobs-Young, read the White House's [press release](#).

U.S. Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (US-RIIS) Now Available

See: <https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/6144f1ccd-34e0df5fb95b5cb>

Abstract: Introduced (non-native) species that become established may eventually become invasive, so tracking introduced species provides a baseline for effective modeling of species trends and interactions, geospatially and temporally. The United States Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (US-RIIS) is comprised of three lists, one each for Alaska (AK, with 532 records), Hawaii (HI, with 6,075 records), and the conterminous United States (L48, with 8,657 records). Each list includes introduced (non-native), established (reproducing) taxa that: are, or may become, invasive (harmful) in the locality; are not known to be harmful there; and/or have been used for biological control in the locality.

To be included in the US-RIIS, a taxon must be non-native everywhere in the locality and established (reproducing) anywhere in the locality. Native pest species are not included. Each record has information on taxonomy, dates of introduction (where available; currently for 38%), invasion status (invasive or introduced), and citations for the authoritative sources from which this information

is drawn. The US-RIIS builds on a previous dataset, A Comprehensive List of Non-Native Species Established in Three Major Regions of the U.S.: Version 3.0 (Simpson et al., 2020, <https://doi.org/10.5066/p9e5k160>).

There are 15,264 records in the master list and 12,981 unique scientific names. The list is derived from 5,951 authoritative sources, was reviewed by or based on input from 30 invasive species scientists, and continues to be updated. Publication of version 2.0 of the US-RIIS is anticipated (but not guaranteed) in approximately 12 months.

Citation: Simpson, A., Turner, R., Blake, R., Liebhold, A., and Dorado, M., 2021, United States Register of Introduced and Invasive Species: U.S. Geological Survey data release, <https://doi.org/10.5066/P95XL09Q>

Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D.
Executive Director of Science Policy
National and Regional Weed Science Societies
Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net
202-746-4686



Steve Pyle

WSSA Report Steve Pyle, WSSA Representative

The 62nd Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America was scheduled as an in-person meeting for February 21-24, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, jointly with the Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS). Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and subsequent travel restrictions related to COVID have since necessitated the transition to a virtual format. The WSSA Board decided to focus the live stream presentations on students, the general session, the WSSA business meeting and WSSA/CWSS awards. All other presentations will be placed on the virtual platform for one year and available to registered meeting attendees for viewing. To register and view presentations and posters on the virtual platform, Click here. The 63rd WSSA Annual Meeting will be held jointly with NEWSS in Arlington, Virginia in 2023, and the 2024 Annual Meeting will be held

jointly with the Southern Weed Science Society in San Antonio, Texas.

The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) Research Priorities Committee is asking for your input on a survey to identify critical research priorities for advancing weed science in the next 5-10 years. You will be asked to: 1) provide general information on your background; 2) rank nine broad areas of weed science research; and 3) prioritize research sub-categories within broad areas of your choice. The survey should take 5-15 min., depending upon how many items are prioritized.

Please follow this link to the survey: https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_25I55Z3zm70jNs2

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dan Brainard, chair, WSSA Research Priorities Committee at brainar9@msu.edu

The 2023 WSSA Annual meeting will be held jointly with NEWSS in Arlington, Virginia, and 2024 Annual Meeting will be held jointly with the Southern Weed Science Society in San Antonio, Texas.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Pyle, WSSA Representative**



Dr. Rakesh S. Chandran

NEWSS Fellow Award Dr. Rakesh S. Chandran

Extension Specialist and Professor, West Virginia University (1999-present)

B.S., Agriculture, Kerala Agricultural University, 1988
International Gardener Diploma, Longwood Gardens, 1990
M.S., Horticulture, University of Florida, 1993
Ph.D., Weed Science, Virginia Tech, 1997

NEWSS President, 2015-2016
NEWSS WSSA Representative, 2018-2021
NEWSS Research and Education Chair, 2008-2011
M. Garry Schnappinger Distinguished Service Award, 2020

From the Nominators:

Rakesh is truly devoted to our society and has contributed enormously to it including serving as President in 2015-16 and currently as our WSSA representative. He brings honesty, clarity, and compassion to everything he does, and he gives freely of his time to help the Society regardless of the time commitment. Rakesh's calm demeanor and sense of purpose were put to the test in helping to organize the first Northeastern Plant Pest and Soil Conference (NEPPSC) in 2016 when numerous challenges had to be overcome to bring several of the regional pest management scientific organizations to agree to the conference format and other related issues. Not an easy challenge for anyone, but Rakesh and the program committee were able to move the first such conference forward and make it a successful event. Because of Rakesh's efforts, our society was viewed as a positive, inclusive, and unifying force that valued multi-disciplinarity and different perspectives related to pest management.

I can tell you from firsthand experience that he is always willing to pitch in and do his part plus more. I especially recall all the negotiations, details, and issues he personally resolved in making the NEPPSC meeting in 2016 a success. Moreover, he does all these things without seeking recognition or offering up complaint. He does these things because he truly cares about the NEWSS and its members. Dr. Chandran is a truly selfless individual who is kind, caring, compassionate, and considerate to all. His personality and the way he works with others to solve problems, makes him a shining example of what is best about the NEWSS.



Dr. Jerry J. Baron

NEWSS Award of Merit Dr. Jerry J. Baron

Executive Director, IR-4 Project (2006-present)

B.S., Ohio State University
M.S., Ohio State University
Ph.D., Horticulture, North Carolina State University

NEWSS President, 2008-2009
NEWSS Legislative Representative, 1996-2003
NEWSS Fellow, 2015
NEWSS Outstanding Researcher, 2002

IR-4 Director of Weed Research, 1986-2000
Associate Executive Dean, Cook College, Rutgers University, 2000-2002
IR-4 Associate Director, 2002-2006

From the Nominators:

The IR-4 Project is national in scope and it conducts research at 28 field research farms and 5 analytical laboratories to facilitate the registration of conventional chemical pesticides and biopesticides on specialty crops and specialty uses. As Executive Director, Dr. Baron is responsible for the day to day operations of the IR-4 Project with an operation budget of approximately \$18 million US dollars and 125 full time scientists.

With regard to Jerry's work at IR-4 (a program that generates regulatory data to support minor uses) he has submitted more than 70 pesticide tolerance petitions to the EPA. Many of these submissions support hundreds of herbicide registrations that benefit growers in the Northeast, and across the country as a whole. The IR-4 program also provides other pest control tools to growers (both conventional and organic) as well, which is of considerable benefit to agriculture as a whole. Most recently Jerry lead the monumental task of moving the IR-4 Headquarters from its home of nearly 60 years at Rutgers University to North Carolina State University.



Matthew Elmore

Outstanding Researcher Award Matthew Elmore

Assistant Extension Specialist in Weed Science, 2016-present

B.S., Turfgrass Science, Penn State University, 2009

M.S., Plant Sciences, University of Tennessee, 2011

Ph.D., Plants, Soils, and Insects; University of Tennessee, 2014

From the Nominators:

You would not expect to have someone so young in their career to have over 40 refereed journal articles, much less highlighting research efforts with such high impact and such a broad array of research interests. Dr. Elmore has produced interesting and practical evaluations of novel herbicides, plant growth regulators, safeners, and endophytic microbes in the fields of weed management and turfgrass production. His work is not only recognized in his home state of New Jersey and the Northeast region, but is valued globally.

In order to explore the physiological effects of the safeners he was researching, Matt used his industry contacts to obtain internships with BASF and the USDA. These experiences allowed Matt to further develop his skillset of novel, interdisciplinary approaches for researching weed management problems and produce three more peer-reviewed journal articles during his graduate career.



Michael Flessner

Outstanding Educator Award **Michael Flessner**

Associate Professor, 2014-present

B.S., Plant Sciences, University of Tennessee, 2008

M.S., Agronomy and Soils, Auburn University, 2010

Ph.D., Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences; University of Auburn, 2014

NEWSS Outstanding Researcher, 2019

NEWSS Editor, 2016-2020

From the Nominators:

As noted, his extension program is multi-dimensional. He has conducted over 200 presentations at grower meetings and field days; produced bulletins and manuals (also providing them as online resources); developed wall charts for herbicide management for easy reference for herbicides and integrated weed management; filmed videos to share experiences from farmers he is working with on various projects; twitter to engage farmers and ag-industry with current topics; websites with GROWiwm and Virginia Tech's Weed Identification; and is developing a phone app for growers and applications to quickly check if their herbicide program adequately address herbicide resistance.

Specifically related to his teaching efforts, he has a great track record of producing exceptional grad students that go on to become effective contributors to the weed science industry or in academia. He is involved in both informal and classroom (guest lectures, team taught, etc.) training of students. Every year he and his VT colleagues have a very well-prepared weed science team that competes in the Collegiate Weed Science Contests. Much to my chagrin, it is difficult for other teams to win when they dominate each year. That fact in and of itself shows his students are being well educated and prepared for the next professional level.



Brandon McNally

Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Graduate Student – M.S. Brandon McNally

Research Assistant, Turfgrass Weed Management, Purdue University, 2022-

B.S., Plant Sciences, Purdue University, 2017

M.S., Turfgrass and Soil Science, Rutgers University, 2022

From the Nominators:

As noted, his extension program is multi-dimensional. He has conducted over 200 pre-Brandon's thesis topic – soil phosphate effect on annual bluegrass competitiveness – required him to gain a sufficient understanding of the complex chemistry involved in soil phosphate availability to be able to successfully conduct experiments. I have been impressed by his fortitude in working through this challenging topic and achieving a greater level of success than is typical for a M.S. student. Brandon's accomplishments with this research were recently recognized at the national 2021 Crop Science Society of America meetings where my peers awarded him second place in the oral graduate competition that included both M.S. and Ph.D. students.

Brandon has taken the opportunity to convert his research into Extension outreach. He's given multiple presentations at turfgrass field days and regional presentations including the Mid-Atlantic Turfgrass Expo. He's also presented to national audiences, sharing his work with the Irrigation Association of America, and recently was invited to speak at the 2022 Sports Turf Managers Association Conference in Georgia. Brandon has developed into an excellent speaker both to other scientists and stakeholders.



Vasily Lakoba

**Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Graduate Student – Ph.D.
Vasily Lakoba**

Director of Research, The American Chestnut Foundation, 2021-

B.S., Architecture, Syracuse University, 2011

M.S., Landscape Architecture, Penn State, 2017

Ph.D., Weed Ecology, Virginia Tech, 2021

From the Nominators:

His passion for the natural world developed into a profound interest in invasive plant ecology, and additional graduate training. Vasily's varied training, background, work ethic, interests, knowledge, and experience are important assets that made him a strong PhD student in a world that is becoming increasingly transdisciplinary.

He has published all three of his chapters as peer reviewed publications in Global Ecology and Conservation, AoB Plants, and Neo-biota – all top journals in his field. He has also published four other papers from side projects he worked on during his time at VT: a meta-analysis published in Global Change Biology, an education paper in Environmental Education Research, a grad student group project in ACS ES&T Water, and an analysis of noxious weed regulations in BioScience! That is incredible productivity for anyone, let alone a PhD student.

Every one of us has the highest respect and gratitude for Dr. Lakoba's contributions in building the Invasive Species Working Group, as well as to the community and issue of invasive species in so many different ways. What is remarkable is that he went above and beyond as a true peer while navigating classes, research, prelims, and writing a dissertation. He most certainly exemplifies the type of person that the Robert D. Sweet Graduate Student Award is meant to recognize.



Baylee L. Carr

M. Garry Schnappinger Service Recognition Award **Baylee L. Carr**

Rutgers University, Field Researcher IV, 2017-present

B.S., Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Rutgers University, 2017

Plant Pathology Seasonal Research Assistant, Rutgers University, 2012-2016

From the Nominators:

Baylee has contributed well beyond her description of duties for Rutgers by not only mastering the traditional technician role of getting experiments on the ground and collecting data, but taking on the responsibility of training and supervising the annual summer-crew of undergraduates, taking lead roles in projects and summarizing and presenting data and end-user summaries at regional conferences and Extension workshops, and co-authoring three recent peer-reviewed publications. In addition to seeking responsibilities beyond her assigned role at Rutgers, Baylee has provided critical service during NEWSS annual meetings beginning in 2019, when Thierry Besançon assumed the role of Membership Chair. Baylee assisted in the organization of registration materials for the conference, and provided countless hours of support at the registration desk at each meeting, while also supporting her Rutgers colleagues in the graduate competitions and presenting information from the lab's research in the Fruit, Vegetable, and Tree Crop Section and roundtable sessions.

Baylee represents the classic example of the highly-devoted technician that works beyond pay-grade and job description, supporting their program as much as possible. In our case, not only has Dr. Besançon's program benefitted, but so has the NEWSS through the enhanced participation of Thierry's lab group and also by Baylee's tireless hands-on service to the Society during the annual conference.

Committee List

Name	Title	Email	Term Expires
Officers (Executive Committee)			
Jacob Barney	President	jnbarney@vt.edu	
Wes Everman	President Elect	wesley_everman@ncsu.edu	
Erin Hitchner	Vice President		
Larissa Smith	Treasurer	larissa.smith@syngenta.com	
Caren Schmidt	Past President	caren.schmidt@basf.com	
Committee Chairs			
Matt Elmore	Membership Chair	matthew.elmore@rutgers.edu	2025
Lane Heimer	Editor	lane.heimer@maryland.gov	2023
Eric Jones	Graduate Student Rep.	eajone22@ncsu.edu	
Katie Diehl	Graduate Student Rep. Elect		
Carolyn Lowry	Research & Education		
John Wallace	Sustaining Membership	jmw309@psu.edu	2024
John Kaminski	Public Relations	kaminski@psu.edu	2024

Committee List Continued

Steve Pyle	WSSA Representative		
Anthony Witcher	CAST Representative		
Lee VanWychen	Science Policy Director	Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net	NA
Program Committee for 2023 Meeting			
Wes Everman	President Elect	wes_everman@ncsu.edu	
Erin Hitchner	Vice President		
Eric Jones	Graduate Student Representative	eajone22@ncsu.edu	
Katie Diehl	Graduate Student Representative Elect		
Agronomic Crops			
Vijay Singh	Chair	v.singh@vt.edu	2022
Ramon Leon	Chair-Elect	rleon@ncsu.edu	2023
Turf, Ornamental and Non-Crop			
Matt Elmore	Chair	matthew.elmore@rutgers.edu	2022
David Hillger	Chair-Elect	david.hillger@corteva.com	2023
Fruit, Vegetable and Tree Crops			

Committee List Continued

Kurt Vollmer	Chair	kvollmer@umd.edu	2022
Roger Batts	Chair-Elect	rbbatts@ncsu.edu	2023
Student Oral Papers			
Art Gover	Chair, 2nd Past President	aeg2@psu.edu	
Poster Section			
Kate Venner	Chair	katelyn.venner@basf.com	2022
Anthony Witcher	Chair-Elect		
Site Selection Committee for 2024 (2023 Joint with WSSA - Arlington, VA)			
Wes Everman	President Elect	wesley_everman@ncsu.edu	2022
Erin Hitchner	Vice-President		
Larissa Smith	Treasurer	larissa.smith@syngenta.com	2025
Awards Committee			
Caren Schmidt	Chair, Past President	caren.schmidt@basf.com	
Art Gover	2nd Past President	aeg2@psu.edu	2026
Dan Kunkel	3rd Past President	DanielK@amvac.com	2025

Committee List Continued

Carroll Moseley	4th Past President	carroll.moseley@syngenta.com	2024
Randy Prostack	5th Past President	rprostack@umext.umass.edu	2023
Nomination Committee			
Matt Elmore	Chair, Appointed by President	matthew.elmore@rutgers.edu	
Vijay Singh	Appointed by President	v.singh@vt.edu	
Thierry Besançon	Nominated from the floor	thierry.besancon@rutgers.edu	
Art Gover	Nominated from the floor	aeg2@psu.edu	
Shawn Beam	Nominated from the floor		
Resolutions Committee			
Dan Kunkel	Chair, Appointed by President	DanielK@amvac.com	
Dwight Lingenfelter	Appointed by President	DXL18@psu.edu	
Randy Prostack	Appointed by President	rprostack@umext.umass.edu	

Committee List Continued

Collegiate Weed Contest Committee		
Wes Everman	Chair, President Elect	wesley_everman@ncsu.edu
Jacob Barney	President, Host	jnbarney@vt.edu
Karrie Boucher	Host to Be 2022	karrie.boucher@syngenta.com
Francois Tardif	Host to Be 2022	ftardif@uoguelph.ca
Caren Schmidt	Host in 2018	carenschmidt@basf.com
Dwight Lingenfelter	Host in 2014	DXL18@psu.edu
Eric Jones	Graduate Student Rep.	eajone22@ncsu.edu
John Wallace	Sustaining Membership Chair	jmw309@psu.edu
Audit Committee		
Larissa Smith	Treasurer	larissa.smith@syngenta.com
Kurt Vollmer	Selected	
Erin Hitchner	Selected	
Archives Committee		
Art Gover	Chair	aeg2@psu.edu

Committee List Continued

Caren Schmidt	Past President	caren.schmidt@basf.com
Photo Award Committee		
Hilary Sandler	Chair	hsandler@umass.edu
Erin Hitchner		erin.hitcher@syngenta.com
Art Gover		aeg2@psu.edu
Shawn Askew		saskew@vt.edu
Rakesh Chandran		rschandran@mail.wvu.edu
Thierry Besancon		thierry.besancon@rutgers.edu
Student Paper Awards Committee		
Art Gover	Chair, 2nd Past President	aeg2@psu.edu
Caren Schmidt	Past President	caren.schmidt@basf.com
Dan Kunkel	3rd Past President	DanielK@amvac.com
Carroll Moseley	4th Past President	carroll.moseley@syngenta.com
Randy Prostack	5th Past President	rprostack@umext.umass.edu
Poster Award Committee		

Committee List Continued

Anthony Witcher	Chair	awitcher@tnstate.edu
Kate Venner	Volunteer	katelyn.venner@basf.com
Matt Elmore	Volunteer	matthew.elmore@rutgers.edu
Chris Leon	Volunteer	chris.leon@fmc.com
Past President's Committee		
Caren Schmidt	Chair, Past President	carenschmidt@basf.com
Art Gover	2nd Past President	aeg2@psu.edu
Dan Kunkel	3rd Past President	DanielK@amvac.com
Endowment Committee		
Caren Schmidt	Chair, Past President	carenschmidt@basf.com
Art Gover	2nd Past President	aeg2@psu.edu
Renee Keese	Appointed by President	renee.keese@basf.com
Larissa Smith	Treasurer	larissa.smith@syngenta.com
Matt Elmore	Membership Chair	matthew.elmore@rutgers.edu
Dan Kunkel	3rd Past President	DanielK@amvac.com

Committee List Continued

Carroll Moseley	4th Past President	carroll.moseley@syngenta.com
Randy Prostek	5th Past President	rprostak@umext.umass.edu
Rakesh Chandran	Volunteer	rschandran@mail.wvu.edu
Mark VanGessel	Volunteer	mjb@udel.edu
Jeff Derr	Volunteer	jderr@vt.edu
Hilary Sandler	Volunteer	hsandler@umass.edu
Student Paper Writing Contest - Judging Committee		
TBD	Chair	
TBD	Volunteer	

