

NEWSletter

Northeastern Weed Science Society Spring 2018

Comments from the President



Carroll Moseley

As I write this, Punxsutawney Phil is still holding us hostage into April. We have seen snow flurries and a dusting of snow in Greensboro, NC a couple of times this month and spring seems to be weeks away. I hope the Penn State University students have a plan for Phil in subsequent years to cover his shadow.

The 72nd Northeastern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting (NEWSS) and 3rd annual Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference (NEPPSC) was held January 9-11, 2018 in Philadelphia, PA. The NEWSS served as the host society and was joined by the Northeast Branch of the Tri-Societies (NE ASA-CSAA-SSSA), and the American Society of Horticultural Science - Northeast Region (NE-ASHS). The NEPPSC as a combined entity continues to improve communications in order

Important Information

July 24, 2018: Northeastern Weed Science Contest hosted by BASF at the Pine Level Research Farm in Pine Level, NC.

Jan 8-10, 2019: NEPPSC meeting at Delta Hotels Baltimore Hunt Valley, 245 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, MD

to provide for more preparation for all of the Societies for the annual meeting (2019 Meeting in Baltimore – see above).

As president-elect in 2017 and program chair for our January 2018 meeting, I want to thank volunteers from across the Society for your help in not only putting on the annual meeting, but maintaining Society operations in general. Your work is greatly appreciated and critical for the success of our organization.

The NEWSS Executive Committee has many projects in process as we move toward our society's 73rd annual meeting and the 4th annual NEPPSC. The site selection committee has selected a hotel near Baltimore for the 2019 meeting and we are well on our way planning this event.

Grad Students – we have plans to continue the graduate student luncheon with all of the Societies combined again this year at the NEPPSC event. In addition, the Quiz Bowl went well in 2018 and we have continued plans for this event – again with teams and questions

mixed across Societies.

The Endowment Committee (Art Gover, et al.) has been actively planning more activities to increase funding to support more graduate student opportunities.

In July of this year, BASF will be hosting the Northeastern Weed Science Society Collegiate Weed Contest at the Pine Level Research Farm in Pine Level, NC. July 23rd will be travel and prep day for volunteers, July 24th contest day, and July 25th will be the Board meeting and travel home day. Please register in order to participate as a coach, student or volunteer at the 2018 contest at the link below: <https://events.basf.us/openreg.html?eventid=305>

This year's Survey of the Most Common and Troublesome Weeds in the U.S. and Canada is **NOW AVAILABLE** on line.

The link below takes you directly to the WSSA Weed Survey – Please represent the NEWSS by responding!!-

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018weedsurvey>

This survey is used by Weed Scientists, Economists, and others for publications, planning, grant applications, and other useful documentation. No one can answer this information better than our society for our Region. Please take a few moments to do it! This year's survey focuses on aquatics, forestry, natural areas, ornamentals, and right-of-ways.

In closing, I'm honored to serve as President of the NEWSS for 2018. We have a tremendous group of students, professors, and industry representatives. I can't wait to see participants at the Collegiate Weed Contest in Pine Level, NC. Please mark your calendars and volunteer for this event!

President-Elect's Report



Dan Kunkel

Thanks to BASF (Katelyn Venner and Caren Schmidt) for taking on the 2018 Summer Weed Science Contest. The contest will take place on Tuesday, July 24th at the BASF Pine Level Research Farm in Princeton, North Carolina. Look for the registration and hotel information that may have been sent to the society already. Make sure you complete and submit these items as soon as possible. We will need a large set of volunteers for this contest (40+), so please register at the site and let BASF know what job you would like to have to help prepare and conduct the contest. There will be a Weed Olympics in 2019. Details to follow but it will be just outside of the University of Illinois Campus, July 24 and 25, 2019.

I hope that you have received a survey for the 2020 NEPPSC location, we want to hear from you, please respond so we can begin to seek bids for the 2020 location.

Plans are underway for the 2019 Annual NEPPSC meeting the week of January 7th. We will be meeting at the Delta Hotels Baltimore Hunt Valley, 245 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland.

Key NEPPSC Dates to note:

Title Deadline: Monday, September 30, 2018

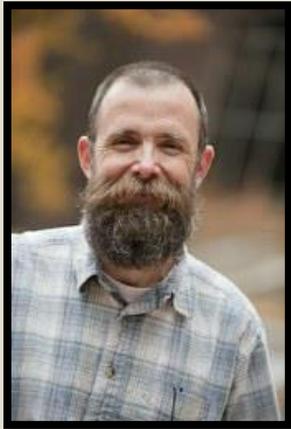
Hotel Reservation Deadline: Friday, December 7, 2018 (NOON!! A week earlier from previous years)

Abstract Deadline: Friday, January 4, 2019

Presentation Upload: Sunday, January 6, 2019

I hope to see many of you at the student contest this summer!

Vice President's Report



Art Gover

I will share with you some goings-on of the 2019 annual meeting program, and the NEWSS Endowment Fund. As reported elsewhere, our 2019 meeting venue and dates are set, as is title submission (September 30, 2018), so all we need now is a program. The Section chairs have been duly warned of their responsibilities, so for those of you trying to hide the light of your efforts under a bushel, expect communication come September. We know who you are, and we want you to present. If any Sections wish to develop symposia, please let me know and I will be happy to help make a space in the program for it. For example, the Vegetation Management and Restoration Section is endeavoring to create a symposium tackling the challenges of creating pollinator plantings.

As Assistant (to the) Program Chair, I will be responsible for developing the General Symposium and doing whatever unpleasant stuff Carroll made Dan do last year. I am still grappling with the symposium theme, but I want to engage the full academic-to-

commercial/industrial and basic-to-applied spectra that is inherent to our society while addressing a pressing issue. In less than three hours. Easy peasy. Please feel free to contact me with any themes that strike you as awesome.

As a society, we are engaged in trying to develop a NEPPSC sometime after 2020 that includes Eastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America (EBESA), as at least one addition to the current Gang of Three (NEWSS, NEASAH, NEBSA) - similar to 2016. We're still in the part of the process where we identify the areas of agreement before we get into the fun parts. Stay tuned.

As Vice President, I serve as Chair of the Endowment Committee. Through clever design and keen appointments, the current committee is Kurt Vollmer, Stacey Pickard, Randy Prostack, Shawn Askew, Rakesh Chandran, Renee Keese, Hilary Sandler, Jeff Derr, and Mark VanGessel. This robust group will be immune to any missteps I attempt to undertake. As of March 31, the Endowment was at \$30,591, and is now large enough to begin disbursing towards student competitions. Our goal this year will be to establish disbursement and fundraising processes.

Treasurer's Report



Kurt Vollmer

2018 Financial Report as of March 31, 2018	
Savings Balance	\$31,853.01
Checking Balance	\$72,664.52
Endowment Fund	\$30,591.42
Total Net Assets	\$135,108.95

**The mailing address for NEWSS has changed.
Please address all correspondence to:**

**Kurt Vollmer, NEWSS Treasurer
16483 County Seat Hwy
Georgetown, DE 19947**



NEWSS Board 2018

Front Row (L to R): Randy Prostack, Kurt Vollmer, Stacey Pickard, Carroll Moseley, Art Gover

Back Row (L to R): Rakesh Chandran, Quintin Johnson, Theresa Reinhardt Piskáčková, Michael Flessner, Katelyn Venner

Not Pictured: Dan Kunkel, Rob Richardson, Wes Everman, Lee VanWychen

Executive Committee, Chairs and Representatives

Carroll Moseley	President
Dan Kunkel	President-Elect
Art Gover	Vice-President
Randy Prostack	Past President
Kurt Vollmer	Treasurer
Vacant	Membership Chair
Michael Flessner	Editor
Katelyn Venner	Public Relations Rep.
Wesley Everman	Sustaining Membership
Quintin Johnson	Research & Education
Theresa R. Piskáčková	Graduate Student Rep.
Rakesh Chandran	WSSA Representative
Rob Richardson	CAST Representative
Lee Van Wychen	Science Policy Director

NEWSS Executive Committee 2016

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Committee Members

Listed below are the Chairs and Chair-Elects for the various sections in 2018.

2018 NEWSS Annual Meeting

Dan Kunkel – Program Chair

Poster Session:

Katelyn Venner – Chair

Agronomy:

Larissa Smith – Chair

Turfgrass and Ornamentals:

Matt Elmore – Chair

Jatinder Aulakh – Chair-Elect

Vegetables and Fruit:

Charlie Cahoon – Chair

Ramon Ancibia – Chair-elect

Vegetation Management and Restoration:

Lane Heimer – Chair

Art Gover – Chair-elect

Program Committees for the 2018

NEWSS Meeting

Program Committee

Dan Kunkel President-Elect

Art Gover Vice President

Site Selection Committee for 2020

Art Gover Vice-President

Dan Kunkel President-Elect

Kurt Vollmer Treasurer

Awards Committee

Randy Prostack Chair

Shawn Askew

Rakesh Chandran

Greg Armel

Dwight Lingenfelter

Nomination Committee

Randy Prostack Past President

Jeff Derr Appointed by President

Thierry Besancon

Selected at business mtg.

Sudeep Mathew

Selected at business mtg.

Shawn Askew

Selected at business mtg.

Resolutions Committee

Jerry Baron

Chair, Appointed by Pres

Matt Cuttelle

Appointed by President

Matthew Elmore

Appointed by President

Collegiate Weed Contest Committee

Dan Kunkel

President-Elect

Carroll Moseley

President

Katelyn Venner

Current Host

Caren Schmidt

Current Host

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 Prostack

Past-President

Photo Award Committee

Hillary Sandler

Chair

Erin Hitchner

Rakesh Chandran

Art Gover

Shawn Askew

Student Paper Awards Committee

Randy Prostack

Past President

Shawn Askew

Rakesh Chandran

Greg Armel

Dwight Lingenfelter

Poster Award Committee

Matt Elmore

Chair

Weed Science Field Days Committee

Quintin Johnson

Appointed by Pres-Elect

Past President's Committee

Randy Prostak Past President
Shawn Askew
Rakesh Chandran

Herbicide Resistance Plant Committee

Mark VanGessel Chair
Dan Kunkel
Dave Mayonado

Endowment Committee

Art Gover Chair
Renee Keese Appointed by President
Kurt Vollmer Treasurer
VACANT Membership Chair
Randy Prostak Past-President
Shawn Askew Past President
Rakesh Chandran Past President
Mark VanGessel Volunteer
Jeff Derr Volunteer
Hilary Sandler Volunteer

Editor's Report



Michael Flessner

The 2018 NEPPSC Proceedings are nearing completion and will be posted to the NEWSS website soon. I will also be producing a NEWSS Proceedings, separate from the NEPPSC Proceedings. Thanks to all who submitted titles and abstracts!

For the 2019 meeting, we will continue to use the WSSA Abstracts website for submission of titles and abstracts. Title and abstract submission opens September 1st. The abstract submission has been moved back by popular demand. We will continue to publish meeting Proceedings in electronic format only. Doing so reduces costs and reflects how proceedings are now accessed.

Mark your calendars: 2019 Annual Meeting

Title deadline: September 30, 2018.

Abstract deadline: January 4, 2019.

NEWSS News was compiled by Katelyn Venner, Public Relations Representative. Please contact her at katelyn.venner@basf.com with any corrections, suggestions, or items to be included in the next newsletter (August 2018).

Graduate Student Update



Theresa Reinhardt Piskáčková

Fellow NEWSS Graduate Students,

I am honored to be your student representative another year and so excited for future of NEWSS and NEPPSC. The third year of NEWSS meeting as part of NEPPSC, the executive board tried to have more integrated and inclusive events that would bring the three societies together and provide more diverse perspectives. We brought back the student quiz bowl and invited all NEPPSC students to participate in questions that ranged from history of agriculture to plant anatomy.

We also had a great turnout for the graduate student luncheon with representation from many schools and all three societies participating in NEPPSC. Because of the enthusiasm from the graduate students for NEPPSC and to find more multidiscipline activities, Eugene Law and Alex Mayberry volunteered to represent the graduate students from the NE-ASHS and the NE Tri-Societies, respectively. Together, we are planning other activities for graduate students for the next year. Please, feel free to contact us about any ideas that we might be able to incorporate into the next annual meeting.

Congratulations to all the winners of the student contest! We had competitions for Masters and PhD posters and oral presentations. I would like to thank everyone

who prepared an entry and helped to judge for all of your hard work and participation.

As a final note, I would like to again attribute the success of this past annual meeting to the enthusiasm from our members and students to be involved and active in the society. I hope we can continue this energy, as we invest in a society that will serve us as much as we are willing to give. We can get very absorbed in our own research, classes, and presentation preparation, but hopefully you remember to take a step back and recognize that you are contributing to a larger body of research, that compliments and sometimes challenges your own work. So, keep in touch with your society network. Reach out and get involved.

I hope to see you all again at the summer Weed Contest hosted by BASF this year in North Carolina!

WSSA Representative



Rakesh Chandran

WSSA Annual Meeting. The 58th Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America was held January 29th – February 1st, 2018 in Arlington, VA. Dr. Janis McFarland presided over the meeting and Dr. Scott Senseman served as the program chair. Local arrangements were carried out by Dr. Phil Banks and Dr. Lee Van Wychen. A total of 399 papers, including 124 posters were presented,

and the meeting was attended by 571 registrants and 29 additional guest-attendees. This included 63 1-day registrants and 95 students.

Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, USDA-ARS National Program Leader delivered the keynote address related to the agency's weed science current and future research initiatives. Sonny Perdue, Department of Agriculture Secretary, could not provide a guest address due to last minute changes in his schedule. Dr. Janis McFarland presented an insightful and inspiring presidential address to provide an overview of WSSA efforts and roles and activities of society leadership. The Awards Ceremony was chaired by Dwight Lingenfelter followed by an awards reception.

Six symposia related to emergent topics in Weed Science were organized as part of the meeting. They included Dicamba Technology; Herbicide Metabolism in Crops and Weeds; Herbicide Resistance Listening Sessions; Pesticide Registration in the U.S. and WSSA role; Fostering Sustainable Programs to Improve Pesticide Applications Manage Resistance; and The State of the Weed Control Industry in 2018. A teaching workshop was also conducted. Please refer to [2018 WSSA Meeting Program](#) for additional details.

Dr. William S. Curran was elected as Vice President, Dr. Phil Banks as Treasurer, and Dr. Darrin Dodds as the new Secretary. WSSA is seeking a new NIFA Fellow to replace Dr. Donn Shilling whose term ends in 2018. Applications are being accepted from interested candidates by WSSA. Please click [here](#) for more details about this Fellowship.

WSSA Membership. As of November 2017, a total of 903 out of 1254 (72%) members renewed. Student membership was at 68 as compared to 103 in 2016.

WSSA Financial Status. The net income for WSSA for FY 2017 was \$275,799.47. Income for the WSSA meeting in Arlington was \$73,067.55. The treasurer stated that the current financial status was very good. The General Fund Balance as of November 2017 was

\$1,133,096.11 and the Endowment Fund balance was \$481,696.56.

WSSA Publications. Sarah Ward is the Chair of WSSA Publications Board; Hilary Sandler is the Northeast Representative. 2017 was the first full year of publishing the WSSA journals with Cambridge University Press. All WSSA journal archive content, including *Weeds* (1951–1967) is now available as a high resolution database on [Cambridge Core](#) searchable by author or keyword. This archive is available to all current WSSA members.

Spanish language abstracts for Weed Technology articles were discontinued in March 2017, following the WSSA BOD decision not to fund translation. Manuscript submissions increased for Weed Science and Weed Technology in 2017. The number of issues for both journals increased from 4 to 6 for the 2017 volume year leading to a faster turnaround publication time. Invasive Plant Science and Management submission rates and number of articles published in 2017 was similar to 2016. A few key statistics are as follows for each journal (2016 numbers in parenthesis):

Weed Science Manuscripts submitted: 244 (205); Acceptance rate: 40.4% (49.7%)
Number published articles: 79 (94 including special issue)

Mean time from submission to first decision: 37 days (39 days)

Weed Technology Manuscripts submitted: 212 (189); Acceptance rate: 52% (46%)

Number published articles: 105 (106)

Mean time from submission to first decision: 40 days (46 days)

IPSM Manuscripts submitted: 72 (76);
Acceptance rate: 41% (46%)

Number published articles: 34 (32)

Mean time from submission to first decision: 41 days (41 days)

The WSSA Strategic Plan is in place to promote research, education, and extension outreach activities related to weeds and to provide science-based information to the public and policy makers and to foster awareness of weeds and their impacts on managed and natural ecosystems; and to facilitate

professional development of its members. Strategic goals of the society can also be found in this document.

Future Events:

The 2019 Weed Olympics/National Collegiate Weed Contest will be held on July 25th, 2019 at Seymour, IL. The contest will be co-hosted by Valent USA and BASF. Dawn Refsell (Dawn.Refsell@valent.com) is the contact person for the contest. Universities representing the NCWSS, NEWSS, SWSS and WSSWS are expected to in the contest.

The 2019 WSSA Annual Meeting will be in February 11-14, 2016 at the Sheraton New Orleans, New Orleans, LA. Symposia proposals are due on June 15, 2018.

The 2020 WSSA/WSWS Joint Meeting will be held during March 2-5 at Maui, Hawaii. The consensus between the two participating societies was that any profits will be split equally between the societies and any losses will be incurred by WSSA. There was a discussion of future joint meeting and NEWSS came up as a candidate. Weather related issues (winter in NE) and potential arrangements with regional societies (NEPPSC) were concerns that limited this conversation but WSSA will entertain proposals for a joint meeting.

Director of Science Policy Report



Lee Van Wychen

Congress Avoids Sequestration with 2-Year Budget Agreement

On February 9, Congress approved a budget blueprint for FY 2018 and FY 2019 that raised the sequestration caps on defense and nondefense discretionary spending by nearly \$300 billion over two years, with nondefense discretionary spending - the biggest source of research funding - getting a \$63 billion boost in FY 2018 and an additional \$68 billion in FY 2019. The agreement passed in the Senate (71-28) and House (240-186) and was signed into law by President Trump.

Congress Approves FY 2018 Omnibus Appropriations

After several weeks of negotiations following the 2-year budget agreement, the House voted 256-167 and the Senate voted 65-32 to approve the bill that distributes \$1.3 trillion in funding for the remainder of FY 2018. The President signed the bill on March 23. The federal government was operating under a Continuing Resolution since Oct. 1, 2017.

The omnibus appropriations legislation provides either increased or level spending for most of the science agencies. Agricultural research programs, including the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), will receive \$3.03 billion, an increase of \$138 million

over FY 2017 and rejects the Administration's proposal to close 17 ARS locations. The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) is funded at \$400 million, \$25 million over FY 2017 and the Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education (SARE) program is funded at \$35 million, an increase of \$8 million over FY 2017. The Hatch Act (\$243M), Smith Lever b & c (\$300M), IR-4 (\$11.9M) and Crop Protection and Pest Management (\$20M) programs are all level funded compared to FY 2017.

Wildfire Funding Fix in FY 2018 Omnibus

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue expressed his appreciation for the work of Congress to find a bipartisan fix for the way the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is funded for fighting wildfires. "The fire funding fix, which has been sought for decades, is an important inclusion in the omnibus spending bill and I commend Congress for addressing the issue," said Secretary Perdue. "Improving the way we fund wildfire suppression will help us better manage our forests. If we ensure that we have adequate resources for forest management, we can mitigate the frequency of wildfires and severity of future fire seasons. I thank Congressional leaders, with whom I've frequently discussed this issue."

The solution included in the omnibus provides a new funding structure from FY2020 through FY2027. Beginning in FY2020, \$2.25 billion of new budget authority is available to USDA and the Department of the Interior. The budget authority increases by \$100 million each year, ending at \$2.95 billion in new budget authority by FY2027. For the duration of the 8-year fix, the fire suppression account will be funded at the FY 2015 President's Budget request - \$1.011 billion. If funding in the cap is used, the Secretary of Agriculture must submit a report to Congress documenting aspects of fire season, such as decision-making and cost drivers, that led to the expenditures. The omnibus includes a 2-year extension of Secure Rural Schools, providing provide rural counties approximately \$200 million more per year. It also provides Federal Land Transaction

Facilitation Act Reauthorization. The legislation also includes seven important forest management reforms, including:

- Categorical Exclusion for Wildfire Resilience Projects
- Healthy Forest Restoration Act inclusion of Fire and Fuel Breaks
- 20-year Stewardship contracts
- Cottonwood Reform
- Fire Hazard Mapping Initiative
- Fuels Management for Protection of Electric Transmission Lines
- Good Neighbor Authority Road Amendment

Until the funding solution was achieved, the fire suppression portion of the USFS budget was funded at a rolling ten-year average of appropriations, while the overall USFS budget remained relatively flat. Because fire seasons are longer and conditions are worse, the ten-year rolling fire suppression budget average kept rising, consuming a greater percentage of the total Forest Service budget each year. This increase forced the agency to take funds from prevention programs, such as invasive species management, to cover fire suppression costs. In addition, hunting, fishing, and other recreational programs were cut to cover the costs of fire suppression.

PRIA Authorization Extended to Sept. 30.

The FY 2018 Omnibus spending bill temporarily extended the authorization for the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) to Sep. 30, 2018. PRIA sets a fee schedule for registrants (~\$46 million in FY 2017) in exchange for specified time frames for regulatory decisions on low risk products and increased funds for pesticide education and training. PRIA reauthorization was easily expected in 2017, but environmentalists have blocked its passage to protest other unrelated regulatory decisions by EPA. The registrant fees provided under PRIA support approximately 200 positions in the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs, which is just over 1/3 their workforce.

Northey Confirmed to Lead USDA Farm Production and Conservation Programs

The Senate confirmed Bill Northey to serve as USDA Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation on voice vote on Feb. 27 after Sen. Ted Cruz (TX) lifted his nearly 6 month hold on Northey's nomination. Unfortunately Northey was used a political football by Sen. Cruz and the oil industry in an on-going tiff over the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Under Secretary Perdue's reorganization plan for USDA, Northey will oversee the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Risk Management Agency (RMA).



Northey is a corn and soybean farmer from Spirit Lake, IA. He is a 1981 graduate of Iowa State University with a degree in agricultural business and also received an M.B.A. from Southwest Minnesota State University in 2004.

Northey served as president of the National Corn Growers Association from 1995-96 and was co-founder and president of Innovative Growers, LLC, a farmer-owned and managed group designed to capitalize on demand for the production of specialty grain products. Northey had served as Iowa's Secretary of Agriculture since 2006, having won races in 2006, 2010 and 2014. He will have a key role in shaping the 2018 Farm Bill, which Congress will start to move forward on shortly.

Many Federal Agency Leadership Positions Still Vacant

Over a year into the Trump Administration, many federal agency leadership positions remain unfilled for a variety of reasons. Of the 642 key positions requiring Senate confirmation, 293 have been confirmed by the Senate as of March 23. Just under half of the key leadership positions at USDA, DOI and EPA have Senate confirmed appointments. The Washington Post and Partnership for Public

Service are [tracking roughly 600 key executive branch nominations](#) through the confirmation process.

IR-4 Project Contributes \$9.4 Billion to GDP

Since 1963, the IR-4 Project has been the major resource for supplying pest management tools for specialty crop growers by



developing research data to support new EPA tolerances and labeled product uses. Since its inception, IR-4 Project data has supported the approval of nearly 50,000 conventional reduced risk pesticides and

biopesticides in fruits, vegetables, nuts, herbs, and ornamental crops. A recently [updated study](#) out of Michigan State University shows that the IR-4 Project supports over 95,000 U.S. jobs and contributes about \$9.4 billion to annual gross domestic product (GDP). Considering that the IR-4's core budget is only around \$15 million annually, this is an incredible return on taxpayer investment. **Dr. Jerry Baron** (photo), Executive Director of the IR-4 Project, recently presented a seminar on Capitol Hill titled "[Keeping the Good Food, Good](#)" where he discussed the role of the IR-4 Project in preventing pest damage and food waste in specialty crops.

Comment Period Open on Glyphosate Draft Risk Assessments

On Feb. 27, EPA officially opened a 60 day comment period on both its human health and ecological draft risk assessments for glyphosate. Comments were due April 30, 2018.

California Judge Strikes Prop 65 Labeling Requirement for Glyphosate

On Feb. 27, a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction prohibiting California from implementing its Proposition 65 labeling requirement for glyphosate. This injunction was sought out by more than a dozen agricultural

groups, including commodity organizations, industry representatives and eleven attorneys general across the U.S. The National Association of Wheat Growers was the lead plaintiff in the case. The decision will halt California's labeling requirement until a final ruling is issued later in court.

The judge stated that given the heavy weight of evidence in the record that glyphosate is not in fact known to cause cancer, the required warning is factually inaccurate and controversial. California initiated the Prop 69 labeling requirement based on the IARC finding in March 2015, which we now know edited out non-carcinogenic findings and was a case of gross scientific negligence. "It is inherently misleading for a warning to state that a chemical is known to the state of California to cause cancer based on the finding of one organization" said the judge, "when apparently all other regulatory and governmental bodies have found the opposite, including the EPA, which is one of the bodies California law expressly relies on in determining whether a chemical causes cancer".

EPA Being FOIA'd and Sued at Record Pace

From Jan. 20 to Dec. 31, 2017, EPA received 11,431 FOIA requests, up about 17 percent compared with an equivalent period during Obama's last year in office, according to an analysis by the Project on Government Oversight. Likewise, outside groups have filed 55 lawsuits against Trump's EPA for public records thus far. As a comparison, George W. Bush's EPA faced only 57 FOIA lawsuits during his entire 8-year presidency.

Hurricanes Hammer Monarchs But Conservation Efforts Continue

On March 5, the overwintering area for monarch butterflies in Mexico was reported as 2.48 ha, which is down for the second year in a row from the 4.01 ha occupied in 2015-16. By all accounts, there were some excellent monarch numbers reported in the upper Midwest last summer, but the occurrence of two tropical storms and three hurricanes during

the monarch fall migration was attributed to the decline.

On-going monarch conservation efforts such as the Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy continues with plans to establish 1.3 billion new milkweed stems over the next 20 years in the upper Midwest monarch breeding areas. In Iowa alone, the [Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium](#) seeks to establish approximately 480,000 to 830,000 acres of monarch habitat by 2038. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working to [assess the effectiveness these monarch conservation efforts](#) and has until June of 2019 to determine whether the monarch should be listed under the Endangered Species Act.

New CAST Issue Paper: Regulatory Barriers to the Development of Innovative Agricultural Biotechnology by Small Businesses and Universities

Despite foundational contributions requiring considerable public resource commitments for genetically engineered (GE) crop innovation and development, academic institutions and small private entities have been almost entirely excluded from the agricultural biotechnology market.

This issue paper explains the problem by examining several key topics:

- the history of GE or genetically modified development and regulations
- evidence that genetic engineering in plants is safe and beneficial
- the need for better record keeping and communication about management and practices
- the problem of inconsistent and costly regulations--by U.S. and international agencies
- poor regulatory practices that hinder production and commerce--and lead to trade disputes
- unfair labeling practices that influence consumer perceptions and negatively affect research and development--especially for academic institutions and small businesses

Unreasonable barriers result in biotech innovation projects that have been slowed down or shelved. Regulations need to align with the stated public policy goal of reasonably assuring safety--in a way that is commensurate with the degree of risk posed. Otherwise, public, academic, and small business entities will continue to be frustrated in using these safe and beneficial tools. The 35-year history of public and small private investment in agricultural biotechnology will continue to be squandered.

This [CAST Issue Paper \(IP59\)](#) and its [companion Ag quickCAST](#) are available online at the [CAST website](#), along with many of CAST's other scientific publications. CAST Issue Papers, Commentaries, and Ag quickCASTs are FREE.

February 26 – March 2, 2018



We had another successful NISAW that was held in conjunction with a [3 day meeting](#) of the federal Invasive Species Advisory Council (ISAC). Please visit www.nisaw.org to check out the activities that occurred during the week. One Capitol Hill seminar that I was particularly excited about was “*Gene Drives 101: Perspectives on Potential Invasive Species Management*” led by Heath Packard, Director of Government and Public Relations for Island Conservation. They are part of the Genetic Biocontrol of Invasive Rodents (GBIRd) program, an international partnership investigating both the suitability and feasibility of gene drives as a potential tool to safely achieve island invasive species eradications.

The ISAC meeting was also productive and there was good discussion on the priorities the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) should consider in drafting their 2019-2021 invasive species management plan.

Next year will be the 20th NISAW! If you are interested in getting involved with NISAW or would like to sponsor events during the week, please contact me at Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net or Rick Otis with the Reduce Risks from Invasive Species Coalition (RRISC) at rick.otis@rrisc.org.

Western Governors’ Association Lists “Top 50 Invasive Species in the West”

On March 15, the Western Governors Association (WGA) released its first ever list of their top 25 terrestrial and aquatic invasive species. Weeds dominated both the terrestrial (18 of 25) and aquatic (10 of 25) categories and included the #1 ranked invasive species on both land (*Tamarix spp.*, saltcedar) and water (*Myriophyllum spicatum*, Eurasian watermilfoil). [Download the complete list.](#)

2018 Survey of the Most Common and Troublesome Weeds Now Available

The National and Regional Weed Science Societies survey of the most common and troublesome weeds in the U.S. and Canada is now available at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018weed_survey

The 2018 survey focuses on weeds in the following areas:

- 1) Aquatic: irrigation & flood control
- 2) Aquatic: lakes, rivers, reservoirs
- 3) Aquatic: ponds
- 4) Forestry
- 5) Natural Areas: parks, wildlife refuges
- 6) Ornamentals: field nursery crops, outdoor containers, Christmas trees
- 7) Right-of-Ways: railways, roads, public utilities.

Meetings of the National and Regional Weed Science Societies

Jul. 15 - 18, 2018 Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS), Buffalo, NY www.apms.org

Dec. 3 - 6, 2018 North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS), Milwaukee,

WI www.ncwss.org

Jan. 7 - 10, 2019 Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS), Baltimore, MD

www.newss.org

Feb. 3 - 7, 2019 Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS), Oklahoma City, OK

www.swss.ws

Feb. 11 - 14, 2019 Weed Science Society of America (WSSA), New Orleans, LA

www.wssa.net

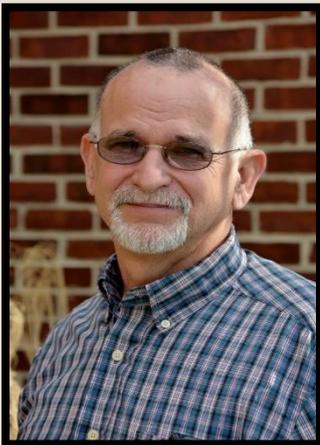
Mar. 11 - 14, 2019 Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS), Denver, CO

www.wsweedsociety.org

Crop Advisor (CCA) credits were awarded for this meeting. We were unable to offer CCA credits last year, 30 were awarded at NEPPSC16, and 8 and 11 were awarded the two years prior to that.

Weed tour dates and locations for several universities are included in this month's newsletter. Please refer to the listed contacts for more information for each event.

Research and Education Report



Quintin Johnson

Pesticide applicator recertification credits were offered at the 72nd Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Weed Science Society, which was the third joint meeting of the Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference (NEPPSC18) this past January in Philadelphia, PA. A total of **54** pesticide recertification credits were awarded across 9 sessions over the 3-day meeting. This represents an increase from last year's Annual Meeting (37), as well as the two years prior to NEPPSC (47 and 41), but fewer than NEPPSC16 (82). A total of **13** Certified

NEWSS Weed Science Field Day Tours Planned for 2018

University	Event	Location	Date	Time	Contact	Email
Virginia Tech	VT-Eastern Shore AREC Weed Tour	--	--	--	Thomas Hines	thhines@vt.edu
Virginia Tech	VT-Weed Mgmt. Field Day	Blackstone, VA	June 19	morning	Michael Flessner	flessner@vt.edu
Delaware	UD Weed Tour	Georgetown, DE	June 20	8:30 am	Mark VanGessel	mjv@udel.edu
Maryland	MD Weed Tour	--	-	--	--	--
Penn State	Penn State Abbreviated Weed Tour - Part of "Farming for Success" Field Day	Landisville, PA	June 21	TBD	Dwight Lingenfelter	dwright@psu.edu
Penn State	Penn State Morning Weed Tour	Rock Springs, PA	By appt. only	--	Dwight Lingenfelter	dwright@psu.edu
Cornell	Fresh Market Vegetable Field Day	--	--	--	Darcy Telenko	dep10@cornell.edu
Cornell	Vegetable Crops Weed Tour	--	--	--	Darcy Telenko	dep10@cornell.edu
Cornell	Field Crops Weed Tour	--	--	--	Richard Richtmyer	rjr39@cornell.edu
Rutgers	Weed Tour	--	--	--	Thierry Besancon	thierry.besancon@rutgers.edu

NEPPSC/NEWSS Meeting 2018
Philadelphia, PA



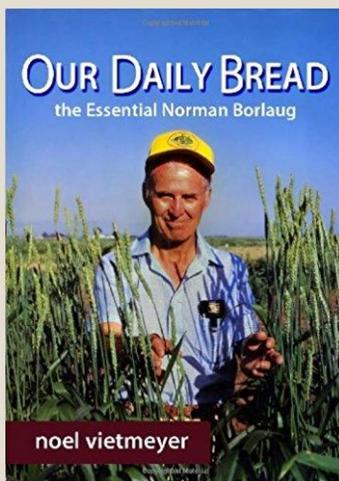
2017-2018 President, Randy Prostack (on right), opens the NEPPSC/NEWSS meeting at the start of the General Session and delivers his address.



Deputy Secretary Fred Strathmeyer, Jr., of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (at podium) speaks to the group during the General Session.



President-Elect, Carroll Moseley (left), presents Deputy Secretary Strathmeyer with a copy of Our Daily Bread, the Essential Norman Borlaug as a thank you for speaking to the group.



NEWSS Symposium



This year, the symposium focused on how professional societies, including NEPPSC can meet the needs of the evolving agricultural industries. Above is our panel, from left to right: Jerry Baron, Ph.D., Executive Director, IR-4 Project, Chip Bowling, previous president of the National Corn Growers Association, Nicole Juba, Ph.D., Syngenta Crop Protection, Norm Leppla, Ph.D., UF Professor and Program Director for IPM, Rob Hedberg, USDA-NIFA, National Director for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program and the National Program Leader for the Minor Use and Specialty Crop Pesticides Program (IR-4) and Carroll Moseley, Ph.D.



NEWSS Awards Ceremony

NEWSS Fellow Award – Dr. Mark VanGessel

Mark VanGessel (right) was recognized as a fellow by Past-President, Shawn Askew (left).



NEWSS Award of Merit - Dr. Renee Keese



Renee Keese (right) is presented her award by Past-President Shawn Askew (always on left).



NEWSS Outstanding Researcher Award - Dr. Antonio DiTommaso

Antonio DiTommaso (right), accepts his award from Shawn Askew.



NEWSS Outstanding Educator Award – Dr. Rob Richardson

Wes Everman (right) accepts Rob Richardson's award from Past President, Shawn Askew (left).



Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Graduate Student Award – Dr. Sandeep Rana (Ph.D.)

Sandeep Rana (right) accepts his award for the Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Ph.D. Graduate Student from Past-President, Shawn Askew (left).

M. Gary Schnappinger Service Recognition Award – Jose Javier Vargas (not pictured)

**NEWSS Oral Paper Contest – Elizabeth Buck (1st Place),
Brandon Schrage (2nd Place), J. Harrison Ferebee (3rd Place), Jordan Craft
(Honorable Mention)**

Caren Schmidt (right in both photos) presents Elizabeth Buck (1st) and Brandon Schrage (2nd) with their awards for outstanding student oral presentations.



Caren Schmidt (right in both photos) presents J. Harrison Ferebee (3rd) and Jordan Craft (honorable mention) with their awards for outstanding student oral presentations.



NEWSS Poster Contest – Eugene Law (1st), Brandon Schrage (2nd)

Eugene Law (1st) and Brandon Schrage (2nd) received awards for their outstanding posters at the 2018 meeting.



NEWSS Photography Contest – Thierry Besancon (1st)

Thierry Besancon (1st) (right) accepts his award from Art Gover (left).

NEWSS Business Meeting

The Passing of the Gavel



Randy Prostak (right) hands the gavel to the incoming president, Carroll Moseley (left).



Carroll Moseley (right) recognizes the incredible job of our outgoing President, Randy Prostak (left).



NEWSS Executive Board 2018

Front Row (L to R): Randy Prostak, Kurt Vollmer, Stacey Pickard, Carroll Moseley, Art Gover
Back Row (L to R): Rakesh Chandran, Quintin Johnson, Theresa Reinhardt Piskáčková, Michael Flessner,
Katelyn Venner
Not Pictured: Dan Kunkel, Rob Richardson, Wes Everman, Lee VanWychen

NEWSS Past Presidents at the 2018 Meeting

Front row (L to R): Dave Yarborough, Prasanta Bhowmik, Jim Parochetti, Renee Keese, Dave
Mayonado, Antonio DiTommaso, Joe Neal, Shawn Askew
Back row (L to R): Tim Dutt, Rakesh Chandran, Jeff Derr, Carroll Moseley, Jerry Baron, Dwight
Lingenfelter, Greg Armel, Mark VanGessel



NEPPSC Social Events

Graduate Student Quiz Bowl

