



# Western Society of Weed Science Newsletter

12110 N Pecos Street, Ste. 220, Westminster, CO 80234

(303) 327-8016

info@wsweedscience.org

## SPRING 2025

### IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Report

Student Liaison Report

2025 Fellows

President's Award of Merit

Roland Schirman Memorial  
Travel Award Recipient

2025-2026 Officers and  
Executive Committee

Elena Sanchez Scholarships  
Recipients

2025 Professional Awards

2025 Student Poster and  
Paper Awards

2026 Call for Symposia

Washington Report

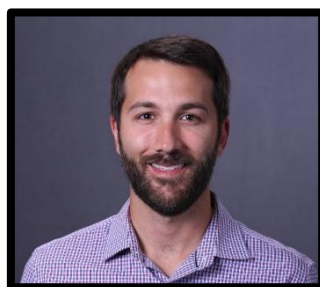
Publication Available

Membership Renewal Form

### Sidebar highlights:

- [Contact Us](#)
- [Officers & Executive Committees](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)

## President's Report



We had a successful meeting in Seattle, and I've received a lot of positive feedback on the interactions that were enabled by our gathering as a society. I find myself both energized and humbled by the impactful work the society is engaged in, and it is an honor and privilege to serve as the 2025-2026 WSWS president. Despite the challenging political environment, it was great to see the membership rally around support for people and programs affected by the turmoil. We are

still seeing the impacts of these funding cuts play out in real time and it is a rapidly evolving situation. Where appropriate, the WSWS will be signing on to letters of support for critical funding programs and will align with WSSA and other regional societies. I am looking forward to the society presidents D.C. fly-in as this is a particularly important year to be a part of the conversation.

It is amazing to see the work that goes on in the background to ensure a successful meeting and I want to thank all the members and volunteers who are critical to making the meeting happen. Specifically, I want to thank Dirk Baker for his commitment as research section chair and Albert Adjesiwor who organized a symposium on approaches for weed science education and communication. Thanks also to Rui Liu for her dependable work as local arrangements committee chair and for the flexibility she exhibited during the meeting. Thanks also to Eric Gustafson who is so critical to the function of our society in ways both seen and unseen!

As I highlighted at the meeting, there were significant challenges with the 2025 program and submission software. The WSWS is exploring alternative options in collaboration with WSSA and other regional societies and we believe we've identified a lead candidate that will be voted on by the board. The hope would be that the alternative option will have an improved user experience for those submitting titles as well as for the program chair. Stay tuned for updates on this!

I expect to finalize committee appointments soon, and I have a solid list of interested members, so I want to thank you for your willingness to volunteer. If you're interested in joining a committee, please let me know directly asap if you haven't already. The 2026 meeting will be in Tucson, Arizona, which will be a welcome escape from cold temperatures in March (although it will make for an extra hot board summer board meeting). Be sure to watch the newsletters for additional information on the upcoming meeting.

I wish you all a safe and fruitful field season!

Carl Coburn, WSWS President

**WSWS Annual Meeting March 2 – 5, 2026, Tucson, Arizona**

# Student Liaison Report – Weston Maughan

I'd like to start by thanking all the students who attended and contributed to the annual meeting in Seattle, Washington, through their attendance, posters, and presentations. We had a great turnout from the students this year and I hope all were able to make use of the opportunities to learn and network.

At the WSWs Student Business Luncheon, we elected Olanrewaju Adeyemi from Utah State University as the Student Liaison Chair-elect. Olanrewaju will be working with me this year to learn the role of student liaison and take over the position at the end of next year's meeting. I'd like to congratulate him on this role, and I look forward to the insights he will bring to the organization as he represents the students.

Every year, a silent auction is held to contribute to the Elena Sanchez Memorial WSWs Outstanding Student Scholarship. This year, the auction raised \$2185. Thank you to everyone who contributed items and/or donated to the scholarship.

I'd also like to express my gratitude to the sponsors, mentors, and those of the board of directors who participated and facilitated the student activities, namely the Student Business Luncheon, the Student Reception, and the Student Night Out. Each of these activities serve as opportunities for the student to connect with representatives of industry and academia, as well as with each other. As someone whose career path was greatly shaped by networking at WSWs, I can't stress the value of these activities. I invite any student who did not participate this year to please do so next year. I also invite anyone who would like to be a mentor to please sign up to do so next year.

Finally, I'd like to thank Kenzie Barth for her diligence this past year as the Student Liaison Chair and wish her the best in her career.

As always, please feel free to reach out with ideas to improve the student experience in the Western Society of Weed Science.

Sincerely,

Weston Maughan, Student Liaison  
[peter.maughan@wsu.edu](mailto:peter.maughan@wsu.edu)

Ola Adeyemi, Student Chair-elect  
[olanrewaju.adeyemi@usu.edu](mailto:olanrewaju.adeyemi@usu.edu)

WSWS would like to thank **André Lucas Simões Araujo**, PhD Student at Colorado State University who graciously volunteered his time and talents to furnish the Award photographs included in this newsletter from the Seattle Meeting.

## Contact Us

### Newsletter Editor

**Carl Libbey**

[wswsnewslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:wswsnewslettereditor@gmail.com)

## WSWS Officers and Executive Committees

### President

**Carl Coburn**

Bayer Cropscience

[carl.coburn@bayer.com](mailto:carl.coburn@bayer.com)

Awards, Site Selection

### President-Elect

**Nevin Lawrence**

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

[nlawrence2@unl.edu](mailto:nlawrence2@unl.edu)

Program, Poster, Publications,  
Student Paper Judging, Local  
Arrangements

### Immediate Past President

**Timothy Prather**

University of Idaho

[tprather@uidaho.edu](mailto:tprather@uidaho.edu)

Fellows & Honorary Members,  
Sustaining Members,  
Nominations

### Secretary

**Brad Hanson**

UC Davis

[bhanson@uscDavis.edu](mailto:bhanson@uscDavis.edu)

Necrology

### Treasurer

**Ryan Rapp**

Bayer Cropscience

[ryan.rapp@bayer.com](mailto:ryan.rapp@bayer.com)

### WSSA Representative

**Alan Helm**

Gowan Inc

[ahelm@gowanco.com](mailto:ahelm@gowanco.com)

Legislative

### **CAST Representative**

**Gregory Dahl**

Retired-WSSA Past President  
gkdahl19@gmail.com

### **Member-At-Large - Public Sector**

**Breanne Tidemann**

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Breanne.tidemann@agr.gc.ca  
**Finance**

### **Member-At-Large - Private Sector**

**Derek Sebastian**

Envu  
derek.seastian@envu.com  
**Herbicide Resistant Plants**

### **Research Section Chair**

**Beth Fowers**

University of Wyoming  
bfowers@uwyo.edu

### **Research Section Chair-Elect**

**Mirella Ortiz**

Utah State University  
mirella.ortiz@usu.edu

### **Education & Regulatory Section Chair**

**Lovreet Shergill**

Montana State University  
lovreet.shergill@montana.edu  
**Public Relations**

### **Education & Regulatory Section Chair-Elect**

**Elizabeth Mosqueda**

Madera Community College  
elizabeth.mosqueda@madercollege.edu

## **2025 Fellows — Carol Mallory-Smith**

The WSSWS Fellows and Honorary Member Committee is pleased to announce the Fellow Awards for 2025 were presented to Pat Clay, Valent and Stephen Marty Schraer, Syngenta Crop Protection. The 2025 committee members were Carol Mallory-Smith (Chair), Andrew Kniss, and Rich Zollinger. Andrew will assume the role of committee chair for 2026.



**Pat Clay**



**Marty Schraer**

## **Presidential Award of Merit**

**André Lucas Simões Araujo** received the **Presidential Award of Merit** from Tim Prather. He is a PhD Student at Colorado State University, whose major advisor is Todd Gaines. André has demonstrated an enthusiasm to contribute through service to WSSWS. He has served the society through his photography service at the annual meetings. Recognizing and valuing our young scientists for their efforts in service presents a model for involvement in the society.



## **Roland Schirman Memorial Travel Fund**



The Roland Schirman Memorial Travel Grant promotes greater participation by county extension agents and county weed district personnel to attend the WSSWS annual meeting and encourages additional weed science education and research efforts. One travel grant is awarded annually to an outstanding county extension agent or county weed district supervisor to be used towards travel-related expenses to attend the annual WSSWS meeting. The 2025 recipient was **Aaron Esser**, Regional Extension Agronomist, Washington State University, in Ritzville, Washington (left) receives his award from President Tim Prather (right).

# 2025-2026 WSWs Officers and Executive Committee



The 2025-2026 WSWs Board of Directors are: (back row, left to right) **Lovreet Shergill**-Education and Regulatory Section Chair, **Erik Lehnoff**-Immediate Past Member-At-Large (Public), **Ola Adeyemi**-Student Liaison Chair Elect, **Gregory Dahl**-CAST Representative, **Ryan Rapp**-Treasurer, **Alan Helm**-WSSA Liaison, **Brad Hanson**-Secretary, **Weston Maughan**-Student Liaison Chair (front row, left to right) **Beth Fowers** -Research Section Chair, **Nevin Lawrence**-President Elect, **Timothy Prater**-Immediate Past President, **Carl Coburn**-President, **Sandra McDonald**-Constitution and Operating Procedures. Not Pictured: **Lee Van Wychen**-Executive Director of Science Policy, **Elizabeth Mosqueda**-Education and Regulatory Section Chair Elect, **Mirella Ortiz**-Research Section Chair Elect, **Breanne Tidemann**-Member-At-Large (Public Sector), **Derek Sebastian**-Member-At-Large (Private Sector), and **Eric Gustafson**-Business Manager. Their contact information can be found in the sidebar sections of the newsletter.

## Elena Sanchez Memorial Scholarship

The Elena Sanchez Memorial Outstanding Student Scholarship promotes greater student participation at the WSWs annual meeting and encourages new weed science research and future weed science careers. Scholarships are awarded to three outstanding undergraduate and/or graduate WSWs student members who will attend and present at the WSWs annual meeting. The winners of the 2025 scholarships were:

**Andre Lucas Simoes Araujo**, Ph.D. candidate, Colorado State University,  
Dr. Todd Gaines advisor.

**Luisa Carolina Baccin**, Ph.D. candidate, Oregon State University,  
Dr. Marcelo Moretti advisor.

**Het Samir Desai**, Ph.D. candidate, Montana State University,  
Drs. Lovreet Shergill and Fabian Menalled advisors.

### Business Manager

**Eric Gustafson**

IMI

12110 Pecos St, Suite 220

Westminster, CO 80234

[info@wsweedscience.org](mailto:info@wsweedscience.org)

### Constitution & Operating Procedures Representative

**Sandra McDonald**

Mountain West Pest

[sandra@mountainwestPEST.com](mailto:sandra@mountainwestPEST.com)

### Webmaster & Web Editor

**David Krueger**

Apex WebStudio LLC

[david@apexwebstudio.com](mailto:david@apexwebstudio.com)

### Student Liaison

**Weston Maughan**

Washington State University

[peter.maughan@wsu.edu](mailto:peter.maughan@wsu.edu)

### Student Liaison Chair-elect

**Ola Adeyemi**

Utah State University

[olanrewaju.adeyemi@usu.edu](mailto:olanrewaju.adeyemi@usu.edu)

### Executive Director of Science Policy

**Lee Van Wychen**

National and Regional Weed Science Societies

5720 Glenmullen Place

Alexandria, VA 22303

(202) 746-4686

[Lee.VanWychen@WSSA.net](mailto:Lee.VanWychen@WSSA.net)

### Publications

**WSWS ONLINE EDUCATION**

**WSSA Journals Website Online**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Aquatic Plant Management  
Society Annual Meeting**  
Jul. 14 - 17, 2025  
Providence, Rhode Island  
[www.apms.org](http://www.apms.org)

**International Weed Science  
Congress**  
Oct. 19 - 24, 2025  
Nanjing, China  
[www.iwss.info](http://www.iwss.info)

**Canadian Weed Science  
Society Annual Meeting**  
Nov. 2 - 7, 2025  
Gatineau, Quebec  
[www.weedscience.ca](http://www.weedscience.ca)

**North Central Weed  
Science Society Annual  
Meeting**  
Dec. 15 - 18, 2025  
Grand Rapids, Michigan  
[www.ncwss.org](http://www.ncwss.org)

**Northeastern Weed  
Science Society Annual  
Meeting**  
Jan. 5 - 9, 2026  
Hershey, Pennsylvania  
[www.newss.org](http://www.newss.org)

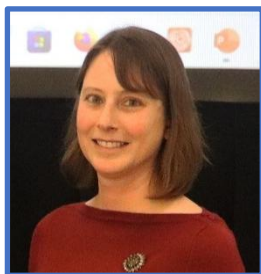
**Southern Weed Science  
Society Annual Meeting**  
Jan. 26 - 29, 2026  
Nashville, Tennessee  
[www.swss.ws](http://www.swss.ws)

**Weed Science Society of  
America Annual Meeting**  
Feb. 9 - 27, 2025  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
[www.wssa.net](http://www.wssa.net)

**Western Society of Weed  
Science Annual Meeting**  
Mar. 2 - 5, 2026  
Tucson, Arizona  
[www.wsweedscience.org](http://www.wsweedscience.org)

## WSWS 2025 Professional Awards

The **Outstanding Weed Manager** award was granted to **Seth Flanigan**, Senior Natural Resource Specialist for Invasive Species, BLM National Invasive Species Program, Boise, Idaho.



The **Outstanding Professional Staff** award was granted to **Lisa Jones**, Research Associate, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.



The **Outstanding Weed Scientist – Early Career Public Sector** award was granted to **Dr. Marcelo Moretti**, Associate Professor, Horticultural Weed Specialist, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon.



The **Outstanding Weed Scientist – Early Career Private Sector** award was granted to **Kyle Roerig**, Research Agronomist, Pratum Co-op, Salem, Oregon.



The **Outstanding Weed Scientist – Public Sector** award was granted to **Dr. Ian Burke**, R.J. Cook Endowed Chair of Wheat Research and Professor, Weed Science, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington.



The **Outstanding Weed Scientist – Private Sector** award was granted to **Will Hatler**, Field Scientist, Corteva Agriscience, Meridian, Idaho.

# 2025 Student Paper and Poster Contest

2025 Paper judging committee: Alix Whitener, Jake Courcamp, Judit Barroso, and Tong Zhen

In total, there were 41 entries in the 2025 WSWS Annual Meeting student competition. These entries included 23 posters and 18 oral presentations. Due to low numbers of entries in some sections, the weeds of horticultural crops and weeds of range, forestry and natural areas poster sections were combined, and the teaching and outreach and weeds of range, forestry, and natural areas oral sections were combined. The winners of the student competition were as follows:

## **Poster - Weeds of Agronomic Crops (14 entries)**

First - Newman Teye-Doku, *University of Wyoming*

Second - Olanrewaju Adeyemi, *Utah State University*

Third - Abraham Akuoko, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

## **Poster - Basic Biology, Ecology and Technology (6 entries)**

First - Andre Araujo, *Colorado State University*

Second - Jonah Ziyaaba, *University of Wyoming*

## **Poster - Weeds of Horticultural Crops and Teaching & Outreach (combined; 3 total entries)**

First - Tia Lawrence, *Utah State University*

## **Oral - Weeds of Agronomic Crops (4 entries)**

First - Abraham Akuoko, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

## **Oral - Basic Biology, Ecology and Technology (4 entries)**

First - Hayden Lee, *North Dakota State University*

## **Oral - Weeds of Horticultural Crops (6 entries)**

First - Waqas Ahmad, *North Dakota State University*

Second - Sophia Lattes, *Montana State University*

## **Oral - Weeds of Range, Forestry and Natural Areas and Teaching & Outreach (combined; 4 total entries)**

First - Erin Teichroew, *Montana State University*

# Call for Symposium Proposals:

## 2026 Annual Meeting in Tucson, Arizona

### Nevin Lawrence – President-Elect

With the 2025 Annual Meeting still fresh in our minds, now is the perfect time to start thinking about potential symposium ideas for the 2026 meeting in Tucson, Arizona.

The 2025 symposium, *Innovative Approaches for Weed Science Education and Communication*, continued our tradition of exploring timely and impactful topics. In 2024, we hosted two symposia: *ESA—How We Got Here and Potential Implications* and *Palmer Amaranth in the West*. The 2023 meeting featured *Water in the West: Implications for Weed Management*.

We encourage you to submit creative and relevant symposium proposals for 2026. The submission deadline is **July 31st**. Proposals typically include:

- A brief justification and clearly defined objectives
- Target audience
- Suggested length and structure
- Any special needs (e.g., AV, materials)
- Proposed titles and potential speakers
- A tentative itemized budget

If you have questions or would like to discuss an idea, please feel free to contact me at [nlawrence2@unl.edu](mailto:nlawrence2@unl.edu), or reach out to **Lovereet Shergill** or **Beth Fowers**.

We look forward to your innovative ideas.



# WASHINGTON REPORT

April 30, 2025

Lee Van Wychen

## WRDA 2024 Signed Into Law

The bipartisan Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) was signed into law on January 4, 2025, a month after the leaders of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee announced a final agreement. Congress has passed WRDA legislation on a biennial basis since 2014. WRDA 2024 maintains the regular consideration of this infrastructure legislation, and it provides Congress the opportunity for input into the projects undertaken by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE).

Section 104 of the River and Harbor Act of 1958 (33 U.S.C. 610) directs the Secretary of the Army to enter into partnerships with applicable States and other Federal agencies to carry out actions to prevent the introduction of, control, or eradicate, to the maximum extent practicable, invasive species that adversely impact water quantity, water quality, or ecosystems in the Platte River Basin, the Upper Colorado River Basin, the Upper Snake River Basin, the Lake Erie Basin, the Ohio River Basin, and the Upper Missouri River Basin. The Secretary of the Army shall give priority to projects that are intended to control or eradicate Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), or saltcedar (of the genus *Tamarix*).

WRDA 2024 directs the Secretary of the Army to include the Connecticut River Basin to its list of priority areas to carry out actions to prevent the introduction of, control, and eradication of hydrilla.

## Brooke Rollins Confirmed as USDA Secretary



On February 13, Brooke Rollins was **confirmed as the 33<sup>rd</sup> Secretary of Agriculture** by 78-22 vote in the Senate. She is the second female to hold that position. Brooke is originally from Glen Rose, Texas. Most recently, Rollins served as the Founder, President, and Chief Executive Officer of the America First Policy Institute (AFPI). During President Trump's first administration, she was the Director of the Domestic Policy Council and Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives in the White House. She also previously served as Director of the Office of American Innovation.

Rollins graduated with honors from Texas A&M University with a degree in agricultural development and was the first female to be elected student body president. After earning her Juris Doctor with honors at the University of Texas School of Law, she served as Governor Rick Perry's policy director before running the Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF) for 15 years. At TPPF, Rollins elevated a small policy organization to a national force and redefined the possibilities for a state-based think tank — setting the model and aspiration for AFPI. Rollins and her husband, Mark, call Fort Worth, Texas home, and spend a large majority of their free time taxiing their four very active children to baseball games, cattle shows, piano lessons, and Aggie football games.



### **Scott Hutchins Nominated to Lead USDA REE Mission Area**



Scott Hutchins has been nominated to serve as the Deputy Undersecretary for the USDA Research, Education and Economics (REE) mission area, which includes the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Economic Research Service (ERS), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and Office of the Chief Scientist. He previously served in this role from January 2019 to January 2021.

Hutchins, an entomologist, has been an adjunct professor of entomology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln since 1997. He served as a research and development leader at Dow Agrosiences (later Corteva Agriscience) from 1987 to 2018. A date for his nomination hearing in front of the Senate Agriculture Committee has not been set yet.

### **Ricki Schroder Appointed as Chief of Staff for Research, Education, and Economics**



Ricki Schroeder serves as Chief of Staff for Research, Education, and Economics. Ricki previously served as Professional Staff covering ag research and pesticide policy, among other areas, on the House Ag Committee since 2017 until heading over to USDA. Ricki is a 2017 graduate of Oklahoma State University where he studied agricultural sciences and natural resources.

### **Doug Burgum Confirmed as Secretary of the Interior**



On January 30, the Senate **confirmed Doug Burgum as the 55<sup>th</sup> Secretary of the Interior Department** with a 79-18 vote.

Raised in Arthur, North Dakota, Burgum worked as a chimney sweep to help pay his way through North Dakota State University before earning an MBA from Stanford University. In 1983, Doug literally “bet the farm” to provide seed capital for a software startup called Great Plains.

Doug led Great Plains through a successful IPO and grew the company to over 2,000 employees before its acquisition by Microsoft. Burgum remained with Microsoft for six years as the Senior Vice President of Business Solutions.

In 2016, Burgum was elected to serve as North Dakota’s 33rd Governor. In 2020, he was re-elected in a landslide. Under his leadership, North Dakota passed the largest tax cut in state history and dramatically reduced red tape. Forbes named him “America’s Best Entrepreneurial Governor.” During his tenure, North Dakota experienced the highest growth in real GDP and had the lowest unemployment rate in the country.

Burgum has three adult children. He is married to Kathryn Burgum, a nationally recognized advocate for addiction recovery.

### **Lee Zeldin Confirmed as EPA Administrator**



On January 29, 2025, **Lee Zeldin was sworn in as the 17th**

**Administrator** of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Administrator Zeldin will work closely with the dedicated career officials at the agency to fulfill the agency's mission to protect human health and the environment.

Zeldin is currently in his 22nd year in the United States military, having deployed to Iraq in 2006 with the Army's Elite 82nd Airborne Division and continues to serve as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve. He served in the New York State Senate from 2011-2014 and later

represented New York's First Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives from 2015-2023.

During his eight years in Congress, Zeldin worked across party lines to preserve the Long Island Sound and Plum Island. He supported key legislation that became historic, bipartisan success stories like the Great American Outdoors Act and Save our Seas Act to clean up plastics from our oceans. He also led the fight for Sea Grant, combated per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water, voted for the Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act, and supported clean energy projects on Long Island.

At just 23, Lee became the youngest attorney in New York State at the time. Born and raised in Suffolk County, New York, Lee and his wife Diana are proud parents to their twin daughters, Mikayla and Arianna.

### **Hamby Appointed as Director of National Institute of Food and Agriculture**



Dr. Jaye L. Hamby was appointed to serve as the Director of USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) on March 20, 2025. Prior to joining USDA NIFA, Dr. Hamby led and directed proprietary research efforts. Over the course of his career, he has directed hundreds of research efforts specializing in concept testing, product marketing, value driver analysis, and following market trends and strategies to support agricultural producers.

Dr. Hamby grew up on his family's cow-calf operation in west Tennessee and developed a deep connection to agriculture through 4-H and FFA, eventually serving as a national FFA officer. He graduated from the University of Tennessee's College of Agriculture with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Education and earned master's and doctoral degrees in Agricultural Education with a specialization in Agricultural Economics from Oklahoma State University.

### **Jacob Barney Appointed to federal Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC)**



***Virginia Tech ecologist appointed to prestigious national Invasive Species Advisory Committee.***

Jacob Barney, professor of invasive plant ecology in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech, has been appointed by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of the Secretary to serve a two-year term on the Invasive Species Advisory Committee.

### **Tom Schultz Nominated to Run U.S. Forest Service**



On February 27, 2025, Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins named Tom Schultz as the next leader of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The agency is tasked with overseeing 193 million acres of national forests and public lands, including 36.6 million acres of wilderness. Schultz will be the 21<sup>st</sup> Chief of the USFS and the first ever to not have worked in any part of the agency prior to becoming chief.

**<https://www.fs.usda.gov/inside-fs/leadership/meet-tom-schultz-21st-chief-forest-service>**

Schultz previously served as vice president of resources and government affairs at Idaho Forest Group, where he led timber procurement operations and managed relationships with government officials at all levels. A former U.S. Air Force officer, Schultz also served as director of the Idaho Department of Lands, overseeing the management of several million surface acres of endowment lands and minerals. He held leadership roles in Montana's Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, managing the Trust Lands and Water Resources Divisions.

Schultz holds a bachelor's degree in government from the University of Virginia, a master's degree in political science from the University of Wyoming, and a master's degree in forestry from the University of Montana.

### **Joint Statement of Cooperation Between EPA and FWS to Protect ESA Species**

On January 14, 2025, the EPA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) signed a Joint Statement of Cooperation to enhance endangered species protections while supporting sustainable agriculture. This agreement streamlines consultations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), helping ensure compliance while giving farmers more flexibility to use pest management tools like pesticides.

Key actions include improving efficiency in pesticide-related consultations, advancing species conservation under ESA section 7(a)(1), and implementing multi-chemical approaches like the Herbicide Strategy to minimize impacts on endangered species. Improving consultation efficiency increases flexibility for the agricultural community and keeps pest management tools in farmers' hands, while protecting endangered species.

The Joint Statement of Cooperation was co-signed by Ed Messina, EPA's Director of the Office of Pesticide Programs and Jake Li, Assistant Director of Ecological Services for USFWS.

**Read the EPA's section 7(a)(1)/7(a)(2) Plan (pdf)** (596.23 KB)

**Read the Joint Statement of Cooperation (pdf)** (407.53 KB)

### **USFWS Lists Petitions to Add 7 New Species and Remove 1 Species From ESA List**

On January 19, 2025, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced 90-day findings on seven petitions to add species to, and one petition to remove a species from the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Based on USFWS's review, they petition to list the Amargosa toad (*Anaxyrus nelsoni*), Carson Valley monkeyflower (*Erythranthe carsonensis*), large marble butterfly (*Euchloe ausonides*) (including the large marble butterfly type subspecies (*Euchloe ausonides ausonides*), Mohave ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*), Morrison bumble bee (*Bombus morrisoni*), Oasis Valley population of Amargosa speckled dace (*Rhinichthys nevadensis nevadensis*);,

Tennessee bottlebrush crayfish (*Barbicambarus simmonsii*), and one petition to delist the golden-cheeked warbler (*Setophaga chrysoparia*).

If you have new scientific or commercial data or other information concerning the status of, or threats to these species, please contact the USFWS

Common name	Location	Docket#
Amargosa toad .....	Southern Nevada	FWS-R8-ES-2024-0176
Carson Valley monkeyflower .....	Reno, NV	FWS-R8-ES-2024-0100
Large marble butterfly .....	Sacramento, CA	FWS-R8-ES-2024-0097
Mohave ground squirrel .....	Carlsbad, NM	FWS-R8-ES-2024-0098
Morrison bumble bee .....	New Mexico	FWS-R2-ES-2024-0099
Oasis Valley speckled dace .....	Southern Nevada	FWS-R8-ES-2024-0177
Tennessee bottlebrush crayfish .....	Alabama	FWS-R4-ES-2024-0101
Golden-cheeked warbler .....	Austin, TX (delist)	FWS-R2-ES-2024-0179

### **CAST and SoAR Combine**

**The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)** and the **Supporters of Agricultural Research (SoAR) Foundation** have merged. Both organizations have focused on advancing agricultural science and innovation.

CAST, which produces reports and conducts webinars on agricultural science and innovation topics, will acquire SoAR's resources and mission. This includes taking possession of several reports published by SoAR. Since its founding by the late Dr. William Danforth, the SoAR Foundation has driven impactful campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of agricultural research funding, securing significant funding boosts for USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).

CAST was established in 1972 as a result of a 1970 meeting sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council. CAST is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization with a membership composed of scientific and professional societies, universities, companies, nonprofits, libraries, and individuals. CAST's Board is composed of representatives of the scientific societies, commercial companies, nonprofit or trade organizations, universities, and a Board of Directors. All six of the national and regional weed science societies are members of CAST. Our CAST Representatives include:

WSSA- Jill Schroeder	NEWSS- Randy Prostack
APMS- Gray Turnage	SWSS- Todd Baughman
NCWSS- Tom Peters	WSWS- Greg Dahl

CAST's primary work is the publication of task force reports, commentaries, special publications, and issue papers written by volunteer experts—economists, legal experts and scientists from many disciplines. These documents cover issues related to:

- Food sciences
- Agricultural technology
- Animal sciences
- Plant and soil sciences

### **11 State Attorney Generals Petition EPA on Rule Regarding Misbranded Pesticides**

The EPA received a petition from the Attorneys General of the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Carolina, and South Dakota requesting that EPA initiate rulemaking to amend the existing regulations under FIFRA.

The Attorneys General believe that EPA should modify its requirements such that any state labeling requirements which are inconsistent with EPA's findings and conclusions from its human health risk assessments would constitute misbranding. Details at:

**<https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2024-0562-0001>**

As an example, in 2017, California decided to require a Prop 65 label on glyphosate sold in their state, despite EPA repeatedly finding that glyphosate is unlikely to be a human carcinogen and that there are no risks of concern to human health when glyphosate is used in accordance with its label.

### **Thematic Assessment of Invasive Alien Species and their Control**

The IPBES Thematic Assessment of Invasive Alien Species and their Control was accepted and its summary for policymakers was approved in 2023. The Thematic Assessment of Invasive Alien Species and their Control is the result of four years of work by 86 experts from 49 countries, and synthesizes information from over 13,000 references into a comprehensive scientific assessment and concise summary document for policy makers. The complete assessment, comprised of six chapters, and its summary for policymakers are at **<https://www.ipbes.net/ias>**

Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D.

Executive Director of Science Policy

Weed Science Society of America

5720 Glenmullen Pl,

Alexandria, VA 22303

Cell: 202-746-4686

## **Publications Available from the WSWs**

The following books or DVDs can be purchased from the WSWs:

- Aquatic and Riparian Weeds of the West
- Weeds of California and Other Western States
- Interactive Encyclopedia of North American Weeds DVD
- Weed Bingo

All publications can be ordered online at

**<https://wsweedscience.org/store/#!/form/Store>**. Contact the Business Manager (Eric Gustafson) at (303) 327-8016 for bulk order prices.



## 2025 Membership Renewal Form

To pay by credit card, please login to your account at [www.wsweedsociety.org](http://www.wsweedsociety.org)

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING BUT WANT TO REMAIN A MEMBER, FILL IN THE INFORMATION BELOW AND SEND \$30.00 FOR DUES TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED.

Last name	First name	Affiliation	
Mailing address	City	State	Zip code
Phone # w/area code	e-mail address		

**Classification:** Student \_\_\_ University \_\_\_ Federal Agency \_\_\_ State Agency \_\_\_  
Private Industry (manufacturing and sales) \_\_\_ Private Industry (consulting) \_\_\_  
Unemployed \_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_ other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: WSWS/IMI,  
12110 Pecos St., Ste 220,  
Westminster, CO 80234

Questions? [info@wsweedsociety.org](mailto:info@wsweedsociety.org) or (303) 327-8016

## Western Society of Weed Science Objectives

- ❖ To foster and encourage education and research in weed science.
- ❖ To foster cooperation among state, federal and private agencies in matters of weed science.
- ❖ To aid and support commercial, private and public agencies in the solution of weed problems.
- ❖ To support legislation governing weed control programs and weed research and education programs.
- ❖ To support the Weed Science Society of America and foster state and regional organizations and agencies interested in weed control.