

Western Society of Weed Science

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January 2007

President's Report

I hope you all have a good start to the year and wish you a successful and prosperous 2007. Our 60th Annual Meeting of the Western Society of Weed Science to be held in Portland is going to be a great event due to the hard work of Ron Crockett and his program committee. The local arrangements chair, Carol Mallory-Smith and her committee members have been busy working with the Portland hotel and with various committees to ensure a smooth and a successful meeting. There will be a full and busy program, including many posters and papers as well as several symposia. In addition, there will be a special symposium on 'Knotweed' where several well known invited speakers will present research results on the subject. Ron Crockett will have more details for the meeting program in this newsletter. Please pre-register for the meeting as it will not only save you money but will also help the society to better plan and determine the meeting needs. The pre-registration will be open until February 15.

I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to

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Program Update:

Annual meeting will be in Portland,
OR March 13 – 16, 2007
Portland Hilton and Executive Tower

With the generous help of the WSWS staff's energy, talents, and time, the program is taking shape and should be heading off to the printers soon, leaving plenty of time for members to begin deciding on their battle plan for attending all of the great talks and viewing the interesting poster sessions. In association with celebrating this year's 60th annual meeting of the WSWS, we will enjoy a Sprayer Technology symposium hosted by Dr. Robert Wolf, highlighted by a spray deposition display. Dr. Tim Miller and his committee has gathered many of the top researchers in the region plus several international experts on Japanese Knotweed to join him on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning in a special symposium to discuss topics surrounding this invasive weed.

If you want to attend the Knotweed symposium, there is a block of rooms still available for Thursday night. Simply call the Portland Hilton and Executive Tower Hotel to extend your stay (503-226-1611).

We will be receiving an update from Washington by Lee Van Wychen, our representative in D.C., along with updates from the Oregon State Directors of the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management in our opening conference session, focusing their discussion around control efforts of invasive weed problems in Oregon.

While there is still a little snow on the ground here in Portland today, the weather in March should be

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serve you as WSWS President and for the support you have given me over the year. One of our greatest strengths is the willingness of WSWS members to contribute outstanding talent and valuable time to the society. I hope you will offer Ron Crockett a similar support. I also would like to thank all committees for their efforts and commitments to serve WSWS. Please join me sending special thanks to Phil Banks, the Business Manager, who helped smoothly conduct the business of the society.

If you have any suggestions for the WSWS Board to consider, please send them to me at khatib@ksu.edu. WSWS Board of Directors will meet all day Monday, March 12 before the Welcome and Retirees Reception event, which you all are encourage to attend.

I look forward to seeing you in Portland.

Kassim Al-Khatib
WSWS President

Important Dates

- * **Pre-registration ends: 2/15/07**
- * **Late Registration fees increase by \$50.**
- * **Deadline for Abstract Submission: February 1, 2007**
- * **Deadline for Hotel Reservations to receive the WSWS room rate: February 17, 2007 Make reservations by calling 1-800-445-8667 (be sure to mention WSWS) or go online (log into your account at our website and click on the link at the bottom of the page.**

Getting Around Portland

Driving Directions

From the Airport, take I-205 South and exit onto I-84 West. At the end of I-84 west, you will reach the junction of I-5 North & South. Head South toward Salem (to your left) on I-5. Follow the signs onto I-405. Take the 6th Ave exit off of I-405. Follow 6th Ave for 13 blocks and main building will be on your left. The Hilton Portland (main building) is located on SW 6th Ave between SW Salmon & SW Taylor. Executive Tower's main entrance is located on 545 SW Taylor between 6th Ave and 5th Ave.

From the North (Southbound) on I-5, take Exit 302A. The exit will say Rose Quarter/City Center. Follow the City Center signs, which take you across the Broadway Bridge & put you directly on Broadway Ave. Take Broadway 19 blocks & turn Left onto SW Salmon Street. Take Salmon 1 block & turn Left onto SW 6th Ave. Our front doors (main building) will be on your left-hand side. Front doors for the Executive Tower are located on 545 SW Taylor.

From the South (Northbound) on I-5. Take I-405, Exit 299B, on the left toward City/Center/US26W. Take Exit 1A on the left toward Naito/Pkwy. Stay straight on SW Harbor Dr. and turn right on SW Naito Pkwy. Turn left onto SW Taylor St. The Hilton Portland (main building) is located on SW 6th Ave between SW Salmon & SW Taylor.

Light Rail. The PDX light rail station is located adjacent to the south baggage claim area under a weather-protective canopy. Ticket machines are located near the baggage claim on the lower level; cost of a one-way ticket is less than \$2 per person and requires an All-Zone fare. [Airport MAX](#)'s low-floor trains allows luggage to roll on and off the cars (no stairs). Downtown-to-airport travel time is approximately 38 minutes. Exit at Pioneer Courthouse Square and walk 2 blocks on 6th Avenue to the hotel. Hotel is on the right.

Approx. cost one way for a shuttle is \$15 (taxi is \$25).

Parking Hotel self parking is available for \$18 a day. Valet parking is \$23 a day. Less expensive parking lots are in the area. Check with the concierge at check-in for directions or check on line for Smart Park.

**Carol-Mallory Smith,
Local Arrangements**

NOTE FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE

THE REGISTRATION DESK WILL BE FROM 4:00 TO 6:00 PM ON MONDAY (GRAND BALLROOM FOYER) AND WILL BE OPEN EVERY DAY THROUGHOUT THE MEETING. PICK UP YOUR REGISTRATION PACKET IF YOU PRE-REGISTERED OR YOU MAY REGISTER AT THE DOOR. REGISTRATION RATES ARE GIVEN AT THE WEBSITE. WE WILL BE ABLE TO ACCEPT CHECKS, CASH, OR CREDIT CARDS.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2008 WSWs MEETING

**ANAHEIM, CA
MARCH 11-14, 2008
Hyatt Regency**

2009 WSWs MEETING

**ALBUQUERQUE, NM
MARCH 9-12, 2009
Embassy Suites Hotel**

WSWS NOXIOUS WEED SHORTCOURSE

**CHICO HOT SPRINGS RESORTS, PRAY, MT
April 23-26, 2007**



delightful with sunny skies, mixed with rain, often at the same time. Portland offers visitors a friendly place to relax and enjoy. There is plenty of great downtown restaurants serving some of the finest seafood found anywhere, and several within a short walk of the hotel. I welcome you to Portland, and hope you will enjoy your stay in the great Northwest.

Dr. Ron P. Crockett

The Western Society of Weed Science is sponsoring a Knotweed Symposium to be held in conjunction with the 2007 Annual Meeting in Portland. The four primary invasive knotweed species in the Pacific Northwest, Japanese (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), giant or Sakhalin (*P. sachalinense*), Himalayan (*P. polystachyum*), and Bohemian (*P. x bohemicum*, a hybrid of Japanese and giant). All are very aggressive and capable of forming dense stands that inhibit growth of other vegetation and prevent regeneration of native plants. They are considered a significant threat to riparian habitats since they can survive severe floods and rapidly colonize scoured shores and islands. These species spread primarily along river banks, but also grow in wetlands, waste places, along roadways, and in other disturbed areas. Control of these species is a prerequisite for successful re-vegetation of salmon-bearing streams in the western US and Canada with native woody species.

The Symposium features presentations by John Bailey of the University of Leicester, UK, on knotweed genetics, Petr Pysek of the Academy of Sciences at Pruhonice, Czech Republic on invasion dynamics of knotweeds in Europe, and John Brock, Arizona State University Polytechnic on the vegetative reproductive ability of these species. Local speakers will discuss control and biology and ecology of these species in Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia. The symposium will begin during the WSWs annual meeting and will continue through the remainder of Thursday, March 15 and will adjourn at noon on Friday, March 16. The cost is \$50 if already attending the WSWs annual meeting or \$75 if attending only the Knotweed Symposium; student cost is \$25 and \$50, respectively. Check out the WSWs website for more information.

Tim Miller, Knotweed Symposium Chairman
WSU Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
(360) 848-6138 twmiller@wsu.edu

New Books Available on WSWS

Website

The WSWS is now proud to offer *Aquatic and Riparian Weeds of the West* and *Weeds of California and Other Western States* at our online store: (www.wsweedscience.org) These books were both written by Joseph M. DiTomaso and Evelyn A. Healy from the University of California. The combination of color photos, text descriptions, keys, tables, and a glossary will increase the accuracy and speed of weed identification when using these books as a reference. Of course, our own *Weeds of the West* is also available as well as some past issues of our Proceedings and Research Progress Reports. Additional items will be added in the near future. Copies of all books offered at the website will be on display at the Portland meeting.

Preview of Project 1 – Weeds of Range and Forest Discussion to be held at the Portland Meeting.

Restoration for Weed Control and Weed Control for Restoration

Wednesday, 9:30 – 11:30 am, Galleria North

The purpose of the discussion will be to address invasive plant and weed issues in the context of ecosystem and plant community restoration.

Restoration 101 – Definition of Terms (Cynthia Brown, Ph.D., Colorado State University)

Restoring Critical Ecosystem Process (Vic Claassen, Ph.D., University of California, Davis)

Restoring Plant Communities (Val Anderson, Ph.D. Brigham Young University)

Approaches to Restoration Challenges (Mark Stannard, M.S., U.S.D.A. Plant Materials Center, Pullman, WA)

Other Resources of Interest

A new resource for invasive plant managers has been published: *Inventory and Survey Methods for Nonindigenous Plant Species*, a 75-page compilation of techniques written by 20 scientists and practitioners from academia and land management agencies in the West. Edited by Lisa J. Rew and Monica L. Pokorny of Montana State University, the book advocates choosing appropriate inventory and survey methods according to land management objectives. Emphasis is on practical applications. Topics include inventory and surveying fundamentals, data management, landscape-scale wildland inventories, digital aerial sketch-mapping, tiered sampling methods, stratified random sampling, adaptive sampling design, remote sensing, coarse-scale mapping, and risk assessment.

The book is co-published by Montana State University Extension and the Center for Invasive Plant Management and includes color photos, maps, and diagrams. Books are available for \$20 each, including postage and handling; bulk discounts are available. See http://www.weedcenter.org/products_pub/prod_pub_new.html#pub for more information.

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The Role of Wildfire in the Establishment and Range Expansion of Nonnative Plant Species into Natural Areas, a review and synopsis of current literature, is available for free download from http://www.weedcenter.org/products_pub/prod_pub_new.html#res. The 80-page review is written by Mara Johnson, Lisa Rew, and Bruce Maxwell of Montana State University, and Steve Sutherland of the USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station. This publication is a companion to the previously published literature review by Peter Rice, University of Montana, that focused on prescribed burning and invasive plants, which also may be downloaded from this site. Both documents were produced through grants from the Center for Invasive Plant Management.

Washington Update: Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

PRESIDENT BUSH SIGNS SALT CEDAR AND RUSSIAN OLIVE CONTROL BILL IN TO LAW

On October 11, 2006, President Bush signed the Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act (**SCROCDA**) into law. Since we are short on acronyms here in DC, **SCROCDA** should be a worthwhile acronym for those of you west of the Mississippi River to get to know. The bill (**SCROCDA**) directs Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation and the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey to disburse \$80 million over 5 years (FY 2006-2010) to carry out a salt cedar (*Tamarix spp*) and Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) assessment and demonstration program. Since FY 2006 is already gone and FY 2007 appropriations should have been approved by Oct. 1, 2006, only 3 fiscal years of this bill remain in play for all practical purposes. Under **SCROCDA**, FY 2008-2010 are authorized at \$15 million per year.

This legislation has three major components: (1) assess the current extent of the infestation by salt cedar and Russian olive trees in the western United States; (2) demonstrate strategic solutions for the long-term management of such trees and the reestablishment of native vegetation; and (3) assess economic means to dispose of biomass created as a result of removal of tamarisk and Russian olive trees. A majority of the authorized appropriations will be designated for Phase 2, the demonstration and long term management and research projects. This legislation has many proponents and more details will be forthcoming. The National and Regional Weed Science Societies will be circulating a letter of support for **SCROCDA** appropriations in the near future.

WSSA SUBMITS COMMENTS ON MSMA REREGISTRATION BY EPA

In August 2006, the EPA said it would not reregister the organic arsenical herbicides, in particular MSMA. Many WSSA members feel that MSMA is a critical weed management tool in cotton, turf, roadside weed, and herbicide resistance management, especially in southern cropping systems. The EPA offered a public comment period for concerns and objections that ended on November 11, 2006 and the WSSA submitted the following selected comments:

“The registration of MSMA is critical to maintaining safe and economically viable weed management options in cotton and turf production systems. A variety of treatments or techniques must be available for management of weeds in these systems. By eliminating MSMA as a weed management control option, the economic integrity of these production and management situations will be severely degraded. MSMA needs to remain as a critical weed resistance management option, plus it is the only control option for several widespread and problematic grass weeds in turf..... The EPA’s primary concern with using organic arsenical herbicides is the potential for applied organic arsenical products to transform to a more toxic inorganic form of arsenic in soil with subsequent transport to drinking water. Yet, the EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water states that arsenic occurs naturally in rocks and soil, water, air, and plants and animals. It can be further released into the environment through natural activities such as volcanic action, erosion of rocks and forest fires, or through human actions. Approximately 90 percent of industrial arsenic in the U.S. is currently used as a wood preservative, but arsenic is also used in paints, dyes, metals, drugs, soaps and semi-conductors. High arsenic levels can also come from certain fertilizers and animal feeding operations. The WSSA is not aware of the increased exposure of arsenic to the U.S. population from MSMA derivatives. If EPA has conclusive data indicating otherwise, the WSSA would be very appreciative in learning this..... Given the depth of expertise available with the WSSA, we believe we can help the EPA with all manner of questions relative to assessment of the reregistration of MSMA. This expertise includes understanding the scope of data included in the reregistration packages submitted to EPA, herbicide modes of action, environmental mobility, non-target risks, use limitations, potential persistence and selectivity, and comparative efficacy. Given this expertise we would like to participate in any efforts to develop such a protocol for re-evaluating the reregistration of MSMA.

VAN WYCHEN ATTENDS 2006 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) annual meeting was held September 17-22 Aspen, CO. AFWA represents all of North America’s fish and wildlife agencies - promoting sound management and conservation, speaking with a unified voice on important fish and wildlife issues. My primary goal was to establish and build relationships and identify areas of common interest shared by WSSA and AFWA on invasive plant issues. AFWA considers invasive plants as one of the greatest challenges to wildlife and fisheries management in the 21st century.

In 2005, AFWA established an Invasive Species Committee to provide a national forum for coordinated action among state and federal agencies, and provide a foundation for development of a strategic AFWA invasive species plan. Federal land management agencies commit millions of dollars to fighting invasive species challenges, and strategic coordination among state and federal agencies is critical to the conservation and expansion of existing wildlife and fisheries habitat. The WSSA plans to continue this initiative during National Invasive Weed Awareness Week by helping coordinate a joint session between the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds and AFWA. For more information about the AFWA Invasives Species Committee or to become a member, please contact Amber Pairis at 202-624-7890 or apairis@fishwildlife.org.

GLYPHOSATE-RESISTANT MARESTAIL CONFIRMED IN NEBRASKA

WSSA members Alex Martin and Stevan Knezevic with the University of Nebraska confirmed the first glyphosate-resistant weed species in Nebraska - marestail, also known as horseweed. They first suspected resistance had developed almost a year ago, but it took tests and growing plants from last year's seeds to confirm it. Prior to the introduction of glyphosate-tolerant crops only a few weed species (e.g. ryegrass and goosegrass) had developed resistance to glyphosate worldwide. However, the number of glyphosate-resistant weeds tripled in just over eight years of repeated glyphosate use over a large land area (over 50 million acres). Current examples of glyphosate-resistant weeds in the U.S. include waterhemp, lambsquarters, giant ragweed, common ragweed, palmer amaranth and marestail (horseweed).

EPA ISSUES FINAL RULE ON AQUATIC PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS

On November 21, 2006, the EPA issued a final rule clarifying two specific circumstances in which a Clean Water Act (CWA) permit is not required before pesticides are applied. This rule represents efforts by EPA over the past five years through consultations with numerous stakeholders and two public comment periods. The final rule states that CWA permits are not required to apply pesticides directly to water to control pests, including mosquito larvae, aquatic weeds and other pests in the water nor when pesticides are applied to control pests that are present over or near water where a portion of the pesticide will unavoidably be deposited to the water in order to target the pests effectively. The rule reinforces and clarifies the authority set forth in the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Before a herbicide is registered, it must undergo extensive study and review to help ensure that it does not cause unreasonable adverse effects on human health and the environment, which includes herbicide applications directly to or near a body of water. The final rule will become effective on January 26, 2007. However, the implications of the rule on pending Region IX circuit court cases are unknown at this time. For more information: http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=41#water_transfer

GUIDANCE ON PESTICIDE PRODUCT WARRANTY STATEMENTS AVAILABLE

Most, if not all, pesticide labels contain some type of warranty disclaimer language. EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) has posted on its Web site a document that provides a discussion and examples of warranty statements for pesticide products that the agency considers either acceptable or unacceptable. OPP is aware that some warranty disclaimer statements may contain potentially false or misleading language, or words and phrases that are in some way objectionable. Additionally, OPP is frequently asked by applicants/registrants about warranty disclaimer language they wish to place on pesticide labels. Therefore, OPP is posting on its web site the agency's guidance on warranty statements.

There are four types of label language associated with warranty disclaimers, and statements of limitations of liability that the Agency has found to be unacceptable under statutory and regulatory standards. It is important to recognize that these statements must be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Following are examples of statements that have been found unacceptable:

- Overly broad statements negating or detracting from the Directions for Use or other label language (including precautionary statements and directions for use). For instance, the warranty statement that the product may not work would negate Directions for Use that explained how the product was to be used.
- Label language asserting that the buyer has accepted the manufacturer's statement of his/her respective rights (e.g., manufacturer states buyer's rights are extremely limited or require a specific process to be realized). Because these statements are almost always incomplete (in terms of fully explaining a buyer's rights in the jurisdiction (state) of purchaser and because they can mislead buyers into thinking that they have no legal remedy, they may constitute "misbranding" under FIFRA.
- Overly broad language implying the buyer has no legal right to recover damages from manufacturer (e.g., "all such risks shall be assumed by the buyer").
- Because Experimental Use Permit (EUP) labels must be used in strict accordance with the EUP program, the warranty on EUP labels may not disclaim control over use.

For more information: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/labels/warranty.pdf>

USDA-APHIS LISTS SOUTH AFRICAN RAGWORT AND MADAGASCAR RAGWORT AS NOXIOUS WEEDS

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has amended the noxious weed and imported seed regulations by adding South African ragwort (*Senecio inaequidens* DC.) and Madagascar ragwort (*Senecio madagascariensis* Poir.) to the list of terrestrial noxious weeds and to the list of seeds with no tolerances applicable to their introduction. The final rule was adopted on October 5, 2006 and was necessary to prevent the artificial spread of these noxious weeds into the U.S. For more information, contact WSSA member Dr. Al Tasker, Noxious Weeds Program Coordinator, Invasive Species and Pest Management, at 301-734-5225.

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New Handbook on Targeted Grazing as a Tool for Weed Management Now Available On-line.

The application of livestock grazing to suppress unwanted plants has been around for centuries. Today, targeted grazing by livestock is being rediscovered and honed as an amiable and effective tool to address contemporary vegetation management challenges, like controlling invasive exotic weeds, reducing fire risk in the wildland-urban interface, and finding chemical-free ways to control weeds in organic agriculture. A new handbook was released in December that outlines the basics of applying targeted grazing for vegetation management.

This handbook includes 18 chapters and represents a compilation of the latest research on harnessing livestock to graze targeted vegetation in ways that improve the function and appearance of a wide variety of landscapes. The handbook was created through funding from the National Sheep Industry Association and the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI).

The handbook is available on-line at: <http://www.cnr.uidaho.edu/rx-grazing/Handbook.htm>. Printed copies of the handbook will be available through ASI (info@sheepusa.org) for \$25 in March 2007.



WSWS REGISTRATION FORM
60th ANNUAL WESTERN SOCIETY OF WEED SCIENCE MEETING
HILTON PORTLAND & EXECUTIVE TOWER, PORTLAND, OR
MARCH 13, 14 & 15, 2007

Deadline: Mail-in registration must be postmarked by February 15, 2007. PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION-NO EXCEPTIONS. Check or Money Order (U.S. Dollars) Only. Credit Card Payments may be made with online registration. Visit: www.wsweedscience.org

<u>Registration</u>	<u>Mail by 2/15/07</u>	<u>After 2/15</u>	<u>Total</u>
_____ Regular meeting only	\$ 150.00	\$ 200.00	_____
_____ Regular meeting plus Symposium	\$ 200.00	\$ 250.00	_____
_____ Symposium only	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	_____
_____ Student/Regular meeting only	\$ 25.00	\$ 40.00	_____
_____ Student/Reg. meeting + Symposium	\$ 50.00	\$ 65.00	_____
_____ Student/Symposium only	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	_____
_____ Spouse	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	_____

Publications

_____ 2007 Proceedings	\$ 20.00	_____
_____ 2007 Research Progress Report	\$ 20.00	_____

Total Remittance \$ _____

Note: Registration is available at the meeting for \$ 200.00 (plus Symposium \$250.00) {Students- \$ 40.00 (plus Symposium \$ 65.00)}

IF YOU DO NOT PLAN TO ATTEND BUT WANT TO REMAIN A MEMBER, FILL IN THE INFORMATION BELOW AND SEND \$ 25.00 FOR DUES \$ _____

Last name	First name	Affiliation
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Mailing address	City	State	Zip code
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Phone # w/area code	e-mail address
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Name Desired on Badge	Spouse name (if registering)
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Classification: Student ___ University ___ Federal Agency ___ State Agency ___
Private Industry (manufacturing and sales) ___ Private Industry (consulting) ___
Unemployed ___ Retired ___ Other (specify) _____

Send to: WSWS/Phil Banks
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Las Cruces, NM 88005