



WSWS Newsletter

205 W. Boutz, Bldg. 4, Ste. 5, Las Cruces, NM 88005

(575) 527-1888

wsws@marathonag.com

September 2008

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Report from the President

by Dan Ball, OSU COLUMBIA AG RES, P O 370,
PENDLETON, OR 97801 541-278-4394

Here in eastern Oregon and in much of the dryland Pacific Northwest, we're in full swing with wheat harvest and other summer field activities. Our weeds seem to be in full swing, too. I am sure all of you are equally busy covering whatever seasonal chores and opportunities present themselves this time of year. In between the busy seasonal schedule, your WSWS Board of Directors took time June 25-26 for their summer meeting in Albuquerque, NM, the site of our 2009 Annual Conference. I appreciated the thoughtful discussions and dedication of all the Board members attending. I am pleased to report that our WSWS society is functioning well and remains in very good financial standing. As part of the Board meeting, we toured the Embassy Suites Hotel convention site. It should be a great location for the Annual Conference with excellent facilities and a number of interesting possibilities for excursions or adventures around the area. I would like to extend a special thanks to Keith Duncan and his local arrangements committee for working out the details for the Albuquerque conference. Jesse Richardson and his program committee are already hard at work putting together a program schedule including a couple of special symposia on jointed goatgrass and biological control of weeds. It's time to mark your calendars for March 10-12, 2009 for this worthwhile meeting in Albuquerque.

Other items discussed by your Board of Directors included an approval to reprint Weeds of the West. Several nomenclature changes have occurred since the last printing, so these were corrected with the help of Melody Rudenko and Ian Burke. Also, our webmaster, Tony White, has set up the WSWS website to handle electronic voting over the internet. This method of voting was approved by the Board and will be in place for voting in the upcoming election of WSWS officers. If you don't do computers, we will be mailing out paper ballots to those with no email address on file. Tony has also been working on updates to the website to facilitate on-line payment of WSWS publications ordered through the website. As a point of interest, the Board of Directors voted to present TV news personality, Tom Brokaw with an honorary membership to WSWS. I invite you to listen to an interesting keynote address at the Western Governors Conference by Mr. Brokaw. In that presentation, he makes reference to our book "Weeds of the West" and indicates it's one of his favorite. You can find a link to the audio transcript at:

www.westgov.org/wga/meetings/am2008/index.htm.

Please note that the 2010 meeting is being planned for the Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort, Waikoloa, Hawaii (the Big Island). Finally, please consider nominating a deserving person for one of the available awards. Contact Phil Westra, Chair of the Awards Committee, about nominations. As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me (541-278-4394 or daniel.ball@oregonstate.edu). Have a great fall!

Contact US

Newsletter Editor
Cheryl Fiore
Skeen Hall Room N141,
EPPWS, New Mexico State
Univ. Las Cruces, NM
88003
Office: (575) 646-1627
cfiore@nmsu.edu

WSWS Officers and Executive Committee Committee Chair Contacts

President
Dan Ball
Awards, Site Selection
OSU COLUMBIA AG RES, P O
370, PENDLETON, OR
97801 541-278-4394
daniel.ball@oregonstate.edu

President-Elect
Jesse Richardson
**Program, Poster,
Publications, Student Paper
Judging, Local Arrangements**
DOW AGROSCIENCES
9330 10TH AVE
HESPERIA, CA 92345
jmrichardson@dow.com

Immediate Past President
Ron Crockett
**Fellows and Honorary
Members, Sustaining
Members, Nominations**
CLARK CO WEED
MANAGEMENT
17004 NE 37TH CIRCLE
VANCOUVER, WA 98682
8616
Ron.Crockett@clark.wa.gov

Secretary
Ian Burke
Necrology
WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY
201 JOHNSON HALL
PULLMAN, WA 99164
icburke@wsu.edu

Notes from the Business Office by Phil Banks



Treasurer-Business Manager,
MARATHON-Agric. & Environ. Consulting, Inc.
205 W. Boutz, Bldg. 4, Ste. 5 Las Cruces, NM 88005
Ph: 575-527-8853 Fax: 575-527-8853
wsws@marathonag.com

We recently mailed out the Proceedings from our March meeting in Anaheim. If you did not order one, you can still do so by visiting our website www.wswsedsience.org and clicking on the Online Store. We have about 20 still available. You can also order any other back issues of the Proceedings or Research Progress Reports that we still have in inventory or any of the many books listed there. You may also renew your membership if you did not attend the annual meeting. We are getting close to having all past Proceedings scanned and hope to have them up and available on the website later in the fall. Feel free to give us a call if you have any questions about your membership or any other WSWs questions (575-527-1888). Please note that our area code has changed to 575.

2009 WSSA UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD

The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) has developed an Undergraduate Student Research Grant designed to encourage and involve exceptional undergraduates in agricultural research. Interested faculty members are encouraged to identify potential award candidates and discuss the possibility of sponsoring a research project. Awards may be used as a stipend, for research budget expenses (travel, supplies, etc.), to defer fees, to defray living expenses for summer research, or any combination of these items.

AWARD: Up to \$1000 for support of undergraduate research to be conducted over a minimum of one quarter/semester during 2009. This award may be used to defray the cost of research supplies or as a stipend. Support of a faculty sponsor is required. Awards will be made to the student, to be administered by the faculty sponsor's department.

APPLICANT: The applicant is an undergraduate student with a strong interest in Weed Science. Students majoring in all related disciplines may apply.

TO APPLY: Applicants should prepare a 2-3 page research proposal including name, address, phone number, E-mail address, title, objective, experimental approach, discussion, budget and references. The discussion section of the proposal should describe the expected results and their possible significance to Weed Science. The student should provide a cover letter in which general academic and career goals are discussed. A copy of the student's academic transcripts must also be provided.

FACULTY SPONSOR: Any faculty member who is actively engaged in Weed Science research is qualified to be a sponsor. The faculty sponsor should review the research proposal with special attention to the budget; the distribution of funds should be approved by both the student and sponsor. In addition, the sponsor should provide a letter of reference including a statement of his/her willingness to supervise the proposed research and to provide needed space, equipment and supplies above those requested in the proposal. The sponsor is encouraged to assist the student in presenting his/her results at a regional Weed Science Meeting.

WSSA Representative
Vanelle Peterson
Legislative
Dow AgroSciences
28884 S. Marshall Road
Mulino, OR 97042
Ph: 503-829-4933
Fax: 503-829-6577
vfpeterson@dow.com

**WSWS Officers and
Executive Committee
Committee Chair Contacts**

Research Section
Kirk Howatt
Membership
North Dakota State Univ.
470 F Loftsgard Hall
Fargo, ND 58105
701-231-7209
Kirk.Howatt@ndsu.edu

Education Section Chair Bill
Cobb
Public Relations Education
Cobb Consulting Services
815 S Kellogg
Kennewick, WA 99336
509-783-3429
Wtcobb42@aol.com

Member-At-Large
Public Sector
Carol Mallory-Smith
Finance
Oregon State University
Dept of Crop & Soil Science
Corvallis, OR 97331
541-737-5883
carol.mallory-smith@oregonstate.edu

Member-At-Large
Private Sector
Phil Munger
Herbicide Resistant Plants
BASF CORPORATION
27448 RD 140 K
VISALIA, CA 93292
philip.munger@basf.com

**HOW TO
APPLY:**

The completed proposal, academic transcripts, cover letter and faculty letter of support should be forwarded to: Dr. John Jachetta, Dow AgroSciences, 9330 Zionsville Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268-1054; Phone: (317) 337-4686, Fax (317) 337-4649, E-mail: jjjachetta@dow.com. Proposals should be received no later than November 14, 2008. Funding decisions will be made by January 26, 2009 and presented at the 2009 WSSA National Meeting General Session.

WESTERN SOCIETY OF WEED SCIENCE CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Rob Wilson
707 Nevada Street, Susanville, CA 96130
Email: rgwilson@ucdavis.edu Phone: 530-251-8132

Everyone knows of some skilled and outstanding weed scientists in the western region who have contributed a great deal over the years and deserve our recognition and appreciation. One way to recognize such persons is to nominate them for a WSWS award. Please take the time and nominate an individual for one of awards listed below.

CRITERIA USED FOR EVALUATING NOMINATIONS

Awards are based on merit and impact on weed science and weed management practices. Applicants MUST BE a member of WSWS. Professional achievements and their impacts are the principal criteria for receiving these awards. There is no requirement that an award be given in any or every category. Past winners are not eligible again in the same category. An award may be given each year in both the private and public sectors for Outstanding Weed Scientist and Outstanding Weed Scientist – Early Career. Only one award may be given each year for Weed Manager and Professional Staff. Within the guidelines for each category, there is flexibility to fit the nominee.

I. OUTSTANDING WEED SCIENTIST

This award recognizes outstanding achievements in weed science from individuals in both the public and private sectors. Principle criteria for this award includes innovative or unique approaches that result in learning, ability to clearly communicate ideas, motivation of the intended audience, demonstrate excellence and creativity in research accomplishments, applying results to solve problems in weed science, the impact on weed management practices and principals of weed science, and recognition of accomplishments by peers and intended audiences.

II. OUTSTANDING WEED SCIENTIST – EARLY CAREER

This award is to be given to members in the private and public sectors with no more than 10 years after completion of their terminal degree. This award recognizes outstanding achievements in weed science early in the individual career with the same criteria as the outstanding weed scientist above.

III. WEED MANAGER

This award recognizes outstanding and sustained contributions in support of weed science activities. This award is intended for those paid by taxpayers and are working in the public sector, such as employees of state departments of agriculture, weed boards, public land managers, and vegetation management personnel. The nominee must have been involved in the WSWS and weed science for at least five years at the time of nomination. IV.

IV. PROFESSIONAL STAFF

This award recognizes outstanding and sustained contributions in support of weed science activities. Nominees will be restricted to individuals that work under the direction of university, federal, or industry scientists. These individuals may have titles such as researcher, research

Research Section
Chair-Elect
Ed Peachy
Oregon State Univ.
Hort Dept ALS4017
Corvallis, OR 97331
peacheye@hort.oregonst
ate.edu

Education Section
Chair Elect
Pat Clay
Valent USA
37860 Smith-Enke Rd
Maricopa, AZ 85239
Pat.Clay@valent.com

CAST Representative
Phillip Stahlman
Kansas State University
Agric. Research Center
1232 240th Ave.,
Hays, KS 67601
785-625-3425
stahlman@ksu.edu

Constitution & Operating
Procedures Representative
Kai Umeda
Area Extension Agent,
Turfgrass Science
The University of Arizona
Maricopa County
Cooperative Extension
4341 East Broadway Road
Phoenix, AZ 85040
602-470-8086 x-314 office
<http://turf.arizona.edu>

Webmaster & Web Editor
Tony White
Monsanto Company
Hannibal, MO
webmaster@wsweedscience.org
573-248-2909 (office)
www.wsweedscience.org

Student Liaisons
Melissa Bridges
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO
Melissa.bridges@colostate.edu

Ryan Edwards
University of Northern
Colorado
Broomfield, CO
Redwards155@hotmail.com

associate, technician, support scientist, or specialist. The nominee must have been involved in the WSWs and weed science research, extension, or resident education for at least five years at the time of nomination.

NOMINATION DEADLINE:

Nomination must be received by December 1, 2008.

NOMINATOR'S RESPONSIBILITY:

The nominator will submit a nomination document following the "Instructions for Nomination" guideline. The nominator is responsible for obtaining three letters of support and including them with the nomination package. Unsuccessful nominations will remain active for three years; however, an updated nomination packet of holdover candidates is encouraged.

THREE COPIES of the nomination package and supporting letters should be sent to the Awards Committee Chairperson by December 1, 2008.

NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS WESTERN SOCIETY OF WEED SCIENCE

1. **NOMINATION AWARD:** Name of award the Nominee is nominated for.
2. **NOMINEE:** Provide name, title, complete mailing address, telephone number.
3. **PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SECTOR NOMINEE:** Indicate the appropriate sector.
4. **SUPPORT STATEMENT BY NOMINATOR:** A concise summary and accomplishments of the nominee.
5. **EDUCATION AND WORK EXPERIENCE:** Degrees, institutions, dates, and positions held.
6. **PARTICIPATION IN AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WESTERN SOCIETY OF WEED SCIENCE:** Offices held, committees, papers presented, honors, awards.
7. **PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC AFFILIATIONS OTHER THAN IN THE WSWs:** Memberships, offices held, committee activities, papers presented, honors, awards, state, regional and national organizations.
8. **PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS:** Provide pertinent information relative to the award sought. This may include but not limited to books written or edited, referred journal articles, technical information, research reports, extension material, products developed, patents, agronomic practices researched, innovations, creativity enhancement. List and explain the contributions made to the weed science profession by the nominee.
9. **LETTERS OF SUPPORT:** Obtain three (maximum) supporting letters for the nominee. Preferably these letters should not exceed one page in length. The nominator should obtain supporting letters from the different disciplines, i.e.: faculty member or co-worker, individual not employed at same location, industry representative, university, government, or regulatory individual. Members of the Awards Committee are not eligible to write supporting letters.
10. **NOMINATOR:** Provide name, title, complete address, telephone number.

WSWS
2008-2009 Standing and
Ad Hoc Committees

Awards

Robert Wilson, Chair
Roland Schirmann
Frank Young

**Fellows and Honorary
Members**

Phil Westra, Chair
Rod Lym
Bill Cobb

Finance

John Fenderson, chair
Phil Munger
Leo Charvat

Herbicide Resistant Plants

Steve King, Chair
Craig Alford
Ian Burke
Joel Felix
Earl Creech

Program

Jessie Richardson, Chair
Kirk Howatt
Bill Cobb

Publications

Jesse Richardson, Chair
Joan Campbell, Proceedings
Traci Rauch, Research
Program
Cheryl Fiore, Newsletter
Tony White, Web site

Legislative

Dana Coggon, Chair
Pam Hutchinson
Case Medlin
Lee Van Wychen, *Ex-officio*

Local Arrangements

Keith Duncan, Chair
Tracy Sterling
April Fletcher
Nelroy Jackson
Jeremy Gooding

WSWS FELLOW NOMINATIONS

by Dr. Philip Westra

112 Weed Lab, CSU, Campus Delivery 1179, Ft. Collins, CO 80523-1179

E-Mail: pwestra@lamar.colostate.edu

Phone: 970-218-2344

The WSWS committee for WSWS fellows requests nominations for fellows for recognition at the 2009 WSWS meeting. Fellows are WSWS members who have given meritorious service in weed science and who are approved by a two-thirds majority of the board. Up to 2 fellows can be selected in a given year. Please consider nominating your colleague, friend, or good acquaintance for this WSWS award. Please submit a current CV of the candidate and a supporting cover letter by Oct. 20, 2008. Electronic materials are preferred. Send to pwestra@lamar.colostate.edu or send paper to copies to Dr. Philip Westra at Ft. Collins, CO address Call Dr. Phil Westra with any questions.

RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORTS

by Traci Rauch and Joan Campbell

Please consider submitting preliminary results from ongoing laboratory, physiological, and other research in the WSWS Research Progress Report. It is a good opportunity for staff and graduate students to initiate the process for journal submission and improve their technical writing skills. Also, consider publishing results that will not be submitted for journal publication.

For instructions, see the Call for Research Progress Reports attached to the newsletter and also located on the website <http://www.wsweedscience.org>. Reports must be postmarked by December 1, 2008.

WSWS CALL FOR PAPERS

The 62nd annual conference of the Western Society of Weed Science will be held March 9-12, 2009, at the Embassy Suites in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We encourage all members to participate in the program. Members may present a paper as an oral presentation or in a poster session. Instructions for submitting oral and poster presentations are attached to the newsletter and located on the website <http://www.wsweedscience.org>.

TRIBUTE TO Larry C. Burrill



Larry C. Burrill died at his home in Coos Bay, Oregon, on August 2, 2008, following a long struggle with multiple systems atrophy and chronic leukemia. He was 72. He was born in Los Olives, CA on January 10, 1936, and was raised in western Oregon. He received the BS degree from Oregon State in 1959 and the MS in 1973.

Larry joined Oregon State University in 1963 and soon became a Faculty Research Assistant on the weed project. In 1969, the weed project divided into the international and domestic divisions and Larry chose to be involved with the International Plant Protection Institute with Dr. Bill Furtick. Over the years, he became widely known and respected as an international weed scientist. He was an early founder of the International Weed Science Society, served for several years as Secretary-Treasurer, and taught short-courses in many countries. In 1992, he was awarded IWSS's highest honor, the Outstanding International Achievement Award.

In about 1975, he joined Arnold Appleby in teaching the large weed control course. He was a demanding instructor, but the students enjoyed his dry wit and respected his knowledge gained from his travels around the world. They voted him Teacher of the Year in the Crop Science Department.

Necrology
Laurel Baldwin, Chair
Brad Hanson
Corey Ransom
Tom Whitson
(Advisory/Historian)

Nominations
Jill Schroeder, Chair
Vint Hicks
Don Morishita
Ron Crockett, *Past-President*

Poster
Charles Hicks, Chair
Robert Finley
David Belles
Carl Libbey

Public Relations
Brad Hanson, Chair
Brian Olson
Mark Ferrell
Bill Cobb
Erin Taylor
Dennis Scott
Deb Shatley

Education-Ad Hoc
Distance Education
Tracy Sterling, Chair
Carol Mallor-Smith
Scott Nissen
Bill Dyer
Kassim al-Khatib

Noxious Weed Short Course
Celestine Duncan

Site Selection
Bill Kral, Chair
Brian Olson
Steve Wright

Sustaining Membership
Pete Forster, Chair
Jeff Tichota
Jeff Koscelny

Student Paper Judging
Paul Figueroa, Chair
Jim Harbour
Andy Hulting

In the early 1970s, he became interested in photography, was only average in the beginning, but persisted until he became expert. He won several photo awards at WSSA meetings and was once named Photographer of the Year. His wall-mounted photographs and his beautiful greeting cards became widely admired.

He served as President of WSSWS in 1980 and was elected Fellow in 1984. He was named Fellow of WSSA in 1986. In 1994, he received the Outstanding Weed Scientist Award from WSSWS.

In the mid-1980s, he became the Weed Control Extension Specialist in Crop Science, and he immediately became popular with the extension agents and growers. In 1993, he was named the Outstanding Extension Weed Scientist by WSSA. He retired as Full Professor at the end of 1994.

Larry Burrill strove toward and achieved excellence in everything he did—international work, teaching, photography, extension work, etc. He was well-liked and admired by colleagues, students, and friends. A great many people from around the globe can attest to the fact that the world is a better place for him having been among us. He will be sorely missed.

Larry Burrill Scholarship Fund Established

A fund for the Larry Burrill Scholarship is being established at Oregon State University to honor Larry's memory and to recognize his passion for educating young people. Funds would establish an endowment, the interest from which would finance an annual scholarship to an OSU student. If you are inclined to participate, please make out any checks to OSU Foundation with CSS Burrill Fund in the memo line and send to Dr. Russ Karow, Crop Science, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331.

COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

PSPP 546-01: Herbicide Physiology
Online September 4-December 7, 2008
3 graduate credits

Course Description:

Instructors: Profs. William Dyer, Plant Sciences & Plant Pathology, Montana State University; Tracy Sterling, Entomology, Plant Pathology, and Weed Science, New Mexico State University; Scott Nissen, Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management, Colorado State University

Cost: Tuition is \$729.15. This should be paid to the Burns Technology Center at Montana State University at the time of registration.

Prerequisites: BCHM 340 General Biochemistry (or equivalent) and PS 450 Plant Physiology (or equivalent) or instructor consent.

Time Commitment: 10 to 15 hours per week over 10 weeks. If you are unfamiliar with this field of study and/or with telecommunications, this course may require more of your time.

Target Audience: Graduate and advanced undergraduate students in Weed Science, Plant Physiology, Plant Biology, Land Reclamation, Ecology, Range Science, Agronomy, Integrated Pest Management, Conservation Biology, and related fields. Also, land managers, agriculture industry employees, and state and federal employees desiring in-depth knowledge of herbicides and herbicide physiology may be interested.

Course Materials: This course has no textbook as all readings and activities take place online.

For More Information:

Please see <http://btc.montana.edu/courses.aspx/descrip3.aspx?TheID=104> or contact Dr. William E. Dyer at wdyer@montana.edu.

Note: This course will be delivered using WebCT. WebCT is an online course delivery tool. You will receive more information about how to login closer to the course start date.

Membership Ad-Hoc
Phil Stahlman, Chair
Lisa Bogg
Phil Banks, ad hoc
Vanelle Peterson
Jeff Koscelny
John L. Baker
Brenda Waters
Ralph Whitesides
Steve Fennimore
Randy Smith
Dirk Baker
James Olivarez
Eric Coombs
Kai Umeda
Dudley Smith

2008 Calendar

For more information on these and other events:
www.wsweedscience.org

5th World Congress on Allelopathy
Saratoga Springs, New York
Sept. 21-25, 2008

Sessions on all aspects of allelopathy, including allelopathy in agriculture and the role of allelopathy in invasive species success. For further information go to the website (www.iascongress5.org) to download the meeting brochure.

Joint WSSA/Society of Range Management Meeting
February 7-12, 2010 in Denver (John Jachetta, WSSA program chair)

Joint WSSA/SWSS Meeting
February 9-12, 2009 in Orlando, FL at the Hilton Disney Resort (David Shaw, Program chair)

6th International IPM Symposium
Transcending Boundaries
March 24-26, 2009
Portland Oregon
For more information go to:
<http://www.ipmcenters.org/ipmsymposium09/>

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

WSSA Seeking Next Liaison with EPA for 2009

The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) is seeking a qualified individual to interact with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and serve as a liaison between WSSA members and EPA employees. Dr. Steve Dewey from Utah State University has served in this role over the past 18-months and will be making his 12th and final liaison trip to EPA during the week of December 8, 2008.

Ideally, this individual will travel to Arlington, VA for one week per month for the first six months and then approximately a week every two months to work in EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP). This individual will interact with EPA employees and provide input on a wide range of topics such as the utility of label mitigations for herbicide use, spray drift management, invasive plant management near endangered species, and the role of weed control in land management.

This individual should be willing to learn the registration and reregistration processes for herbicides, become familiar with the EPA scientific committees and how they operate, and develop a basic understanding of how EPA OPP risk assessments are conducted.

This individual must be a member of the WSSA, and prepare a quarterly report for the WSSA Newsletter and a semi-annual report to WSSA Board of Directors.

The WSSA will help reimburse this individual for travel and per diem expenses while working at EPA up to a predetermined limit, while the applicant continues to receive a salary through their employer.

The application period will end on September 30, 2008. Ideally, the individual selected would be able to make their first week-long visit to EPA in January of 2009, but start time is negotiable.

Please send a letter of intent and resume by email to: Lee Van Wychen at Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net. If you have questions, please contact me or WSSA President Jeff Derr at jderr@vt.edu

National Program Leader (Weed Science) Interdisciplinary

SALARY RANGE: 98,033.00 - 149,000.00 USD per year

OPEN PERIOD: Wednesday, July 16, 2008 to Monday, October 20, 2008

SERIES & GRADE: GS-0408,0430,0401-14/15

POSITION INFORMATION: Full-Time Permanent

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: GS-15

DUTY LOCATIONS: 1 vacancy - Beltsville, MD

WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED: Applications will be accepted from United States citizens and nationals.

JOB SUMMARY: Find Solutions to Agricultural Problems that Affect Americans Every Day, From Field to Table

The Agricultural Research Services, National Program Staff, Crop Production and Protection Unit is seeking a highly qualified individual to serve as a national authority and expert in the programmatic area of weed science research.

MAJOR DUTIES: The incumbent serves as a National Program Leader, and as such is responsible for leading and coordinating the Agency's agricultural research programs relating to integrated weed management. The incumbent is responsible for program planning and implementation activities. For a full description of the job duties, please go to: <http://www.usajobs.gov/> and enter "73922246" in the "Search Jobs" box where it says "What: (Job title, keywords)".

Invasive Plant Science and Management IPSM will now accept brief articles about new invasive plants called "Invasion Alert". The purpose of these articles is to quickly distribute information to document new invasive plant introductions, significant range extensions, or new relevant taxonomic information. These Alerts will consist of significant populations or plants with potentially high impact.

Washington Report by Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D.,

Science Policy Director, National and Regional Weed Science Societies
900 2nd St. NE, Suite 205
Washington, DC 20002
Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net
cell: 202-746-4686
www.wssa.net

2008 Farm Bill Finally Becomes Law: After more than two years of hearings and negotiations, the House and Senate have passed the 2008 Farm Bill. Knowing that the Administration would likely veto the bill, the Farm Bill conference committee members had to make some hard compromises to arrive at a version that would guarantee the two-thirds majority vote needed to override a veto. The 2008 Farm Bill contains 15 Titles, many of which have provisions with relevance to the WSSA. I'll try and highlight some of these.

In the **Commodity Programs** Title, it is important to remember that before farmers can receive direct payments, counter-cyclical payments, or average crop revenue election payments, they must agree to "**effectively control noxious weeds**" during the crop year for which the payments are made and in exchange for the payments. In other words, all federally listed noxious weeds must be controlled on any land enrolled in the USDA Commodity Programs. That's an important point to emphasize over and over again, especially from our university Extension personnel.

A new provision in the **Conservation** Title involves the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Now producers are allowed to do **routine grazing or prescribed grazing for the control of invasive species** without penalty or loss of their CRP contract. The producers, in coordination with their State technical committee must develop appropriate vegetation management requirements and stocking rates for the land that are suitable for continued routine grazing and must establish the frequency during which routine grazing may be conducted, taking into consideration regional differences such as climate, soil type, and natural resources.

The purpose of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (**EQIP**) is to provide technical, educational and financial help to eligible farmers and landowners for conservation practices that address soil, water and related natural resource concerns on their farmland in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. Landowners could receive grants under the program of up to \$300,000 over any 6 year period. USDA will select projects based on environmental value, with greater significance given to practices that specifically promote: residue management; nutrient management; air quality management; **invasive species management**; pollinator habitat; animal carcass management technology; or **pest management**.

The **Research Title** has some considerable changes in the organization and structure of USDA's Research Education and Economics mission area that are designed to enhance and streamline multi-agency collaboration. You'll need to get your acronym list out and cross a few off (CSREES, NRI, IFAFS) and add some new ones (NIFA, REEO, AFRI). In addition, we should commend Dr. Gale Buchanan and his staff for their guidance and leadership in shepherding in \$500 million in **new mandatory research** funds over the next five years in areas such as specialty crops, organic agriculture, and biofuels.

The first new acronym you should add to your list is **NIFA, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture**. All of the authorities under the existing Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (**CSREES**) are transferred to NIFA (i.e. cross CSREES off the list). NIFA will be headed by a Director who is a distinguished scientist and is appointed by the President. The NIFA Director shall report to the Secretary of Agriculture or the designee of the Secretary and will serve a 6-year term, subject to reappointment for an additional 6-year term. NIFA should give USDA's grant-making research agency additional visibility, independence, and scientific credibility similar to that of the NIH or NSF.

NIFA will be responsible for administering the **Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)** grants, which combines the money and authorities from the National Research Initiative (**NRI**) and Initiative for Future Agricultural and Food Systems (**IFAFS**) grants. Thus, you can cross off NRI and IFAFS and add AFRI in their place as the main competitive grants program at USDA. Discretionary funding for AFRI is set at \$700 million per year from 2008-2012 with 60% designated for basic research and 40% to applied. At least 30% of AFRI funds must go to integrated projects that include teaching and extension components as well.

The USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics, currently Dr. Gale Buchanan, will become USDA's chief scientist and retain jurisdiction over the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the Economic Research Service (ERS) and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). To ensure greater collaboration among these agencies and NIFA, the Under Secretary will have an expanded staff to be housed within a new **Research, Extension and Education Office (REEO)**. The Under Secretary will be charged with preparing an annual "road map" to guide all of the USDA science agencies. The REEO will have six divisions, each led by a qualified division chief reporting to the Under Secretary in the following areas:

- * Renewable Energy, Natural Resources and Environment.
- * Food Safety, Nutrition and Health.
- * Plant Health and Production.
- * Animal Health and Production and Animal Products.
- * Agriculture Systems and Technology.
- * Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities.

As mentioned above, there is \$500 million in **new mandatory research** funds over the next five years in areas such as specialty crops, organic agriculture, and biofuels. The funds in these targeted research areas will be administered by NIFA and distributed through peer-reviewed, competitively awarded grants.

Of the \$500 million in new mandatory funds over the next 5 years, the new **Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI)** will receive \$230 million for developing and disseminating science-based tools to address needs of specific crops and their regions in five legislatively mandated focus areas:

1. Research in plant breeding, genetics, and genomics to improve crop characteristics;
2. Efforts to identify and address threats from pests and diseases, including threats to specialty crop pollinators;
3. New innovations and technology, including improved mechanization and technologies that delay or inhibit ripening;
4. Efforts to improve production efficiency, productivity, and profitability over the long term (including specialty crop policy and marketing); and
5. Methods to prevent, detect, monitor, control, and respond to potential food safety hazards in the production and processing of specialty crops, including fresh produce.

As part of this initiative, approximately **\$27 million in grants will be awarded in Fiscal Year 2008** on a competitive basis for research projects that address the five focus areas above. Priority will be given to projects that are multi-state, multi-institutional, or multidisciplinary; and include explicit mechanisms to communicate results to producers and the public.

Eligible applicants include federal agencies, national laboratories, colleges and universities, research institutions and organizations, private organizations or corporations, state agricultural experiment stations, individuals, or groups consisting of two or more of these entities.

It is anticipated that the **SCRI Request for Applications will be released in July 2008** with a 30-day open period. All applicants are required to provide funds or in-kind support from non-federal sources in an amount that is at least equal to the federal funds requested.

The 2008 Farm Bill will provide \$78 million in mandatory funds over the next five years for the **Organic Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)**, a five-fold increase from the \$15 million allocated in the expiring 2002 legislation. The OREI will facilitate research on the unique challenges of organic production and enhance the ability of organic producers and processors to grow and market organic food, feed, and fiber. The average cost of weed control in organic systems is about \$1000 per acre. In 3 national surveys, organic farmers ranked weed control as their number one priority among 30 different research areas.

The **Biomass Research and Development program** is the main biomass energy research program and is administered jointly with the Department of Energy. The 2008 Farm Bill continues this program and provides \$118 million in mandatory funding over Fiscal Years 2008-2012, which more than doubles current funding. There is an additional \$35 million per year authorized as discretionary funding.

In the Horticulture and Organic Agriculture Title, the 2008 Farm Bill allocates \$377 million for a new **Pest and Disease Program focused on combating invasive pests** and diseases. This program will be a collaborative effort between the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) and state departments of agriculture.

WSSA Members Give Input to USDA-ARS Review of Crop Protection and Quarantine Program

Approximately 20 members of the National and Regional Weed Science Societies traveled to Miami, FL during May 20-23 to participate in the USDA Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) Customer Workshop on Crop Protection and Quarantine (NP 304). While the ARS is an intramural research agency within USDA, they are required to review, identify, and prioritize critical issues from stakeholders and end users to develop and guide future research. The USDA-ARS National Program for Crop Protection and Quarantine (NP 304) is the second largest national program area among the 22 national program areas within ARS with a budget of \$102.8 million in FY2007. The mission of the Crop Protection and Quarantine Program in USDA is "to provide technology to manage pest populations below economic damage thresholds by the integration of environmentally compatible strategies that are based on increased understanding of the biology and ecology of insect, mite, and weed pests.

The weed science community had a broad range of expertise present at the customer review workshop and we would like to recognize them below. We are especially grateful for those not employed by USDA who traveled on their own funds.

Michael Barrett, University of Kentucky; Bill Bruckart, USDA-ARS Fort Detrick, MD; Rakesh Chandran, West Virginia University; Caleb Daley, USDA-ARS Houma, LA; Jeff Derr, Virginia Tech; Don Doggett, Lee County Hyacinth Control, FL; Derrill Fick, North Dakota Weed Control Association; Mike Foley, USDA-ARS, Fargo, ND; David Gealy, USDA-ARS, Stuttgart, AR; Jerry Green, Pioneer Hi Bred, Newark, DE; Brad Hanson, USDA-ARS Parlier, CA; Carroll Johnson, USDA-ARS, Tifton, GA; Bruce Maxwell, Montana State, University; Bob Nichols, Cotton Incorporated, Cary, NC; Jill Schroeder, New Mexico State University; Dale Shaner, USDA-ARS, Ft. Collins, CO; Lee Van Wychen, WSSA, Washington, DC; Lori Wiles, USDA-ARS, Ft. Collins, CO

Research priorities that were identified in this workshop will be incorporated along with priorities from other customers and stakeholders, and through additional input into a 5-year Action Plan for National Program 305 Crop Protection and Quarantine (NP 304). ARS scientists are currently beginning the process of writing the first drafts of this Plan, which will be sent out for review around September. This Action Plan, once finalized, will be available on the ARS homepage at http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/programs/programs.htm?NP_CODE=304. Any input that is outside the scope of NP 304 will be forwarded to the National Program Leaders of the appropriate National Programs for consideration as part of their respective Action Plans. The NP 304 Action Plan will include concerns or issues that are within the mission and/or activities of the Agricultural Research Service, but not those that are addressed by other federal agencies.

Les Mehrhoff Attends CoFARM/BESC Congressional Visits Day in DC.

On April 8-9, Dr. Les Mehrhoff, Director of the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE), located in the Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at the University of Connecticut traveled to Washington DC for the Coalition on Funding Agricultural Research Missions (CoFARM) and Biological and Ecological Sciences Coalition (BESC) Congressional Visits Day (CVD). Since 2003, CoFARM and BESC have teamed up to organize a CVD in the spring to support funding for USDA and NSF research programs.

During the first day, CVD participants were briefed on aspects of the USDA and NSF research budgets by the following speakers: Whitney Tull, American Society for Microbiology & CoFARM Chair; Robert Sterner, Director of the NSF Division of Environmental Biology; Deborah Sheely, Interim Deputy Administrator, USDA Competitive Programs; and Jean Fruci, Staff Director for House Subcommittee on Energy & Environment. Following the briefings, we held a reception on Capitol Hill honoring the support and contributions of Reps. Brian Bilbray (R-50th CA) and Brian Baird (D-3rd WA). Both Congressmen are members of the House Science Committee and have been very supportive of NSF funding.

On April 9, Les and I began our day with a CoFARM sponsored breakfast in the Secretary's Dining Room at the USDA Whitten Building where Steve Dewey joined us since he was in DC for the week on his WSSA-EPA liaison assignment.

Following breakfast, we headed to Capitol Hill to begin our Congressional Visits. We met with staff members from most of the Connecticut congressional delegation including Senators Lieberman and Dodd and House Agricultural Appropriations Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro. Overall, the CoFARM/BESC Congressional Visits Day was a big success.

APHIS Issues Federal Import Quarantine Order on Old World Climbing Fern

Effective immediately, USDA-APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine is issuing a Federal Import Quarantine Order restricting the importation of *Lygodium microphyllum* (Old World climbing fern) and *Lygodium flexuosum* (maidenhair creeper). The restrictions apply to any parts capable of propagation, including spores and leaves (fronds) of these climbing fern species.

Lygodium microphyllum occurs in Florida where it is damaging habitats for federally-listed threatened and endangered species in the Everglades National Park, National Wildlife Refuges, and other conservation areas. Native to Asia and Australia, Old World climbing fern climbs into trees and shades out native vegetation in hundreds of acres in east-central Florida. Dense growth of the plant can also be a fire hazard, frequently enabling small ground fires to reach into tree canopies where it can kill growing branches. *L. microphyllum* is a Florida State noxious weed, subject to control. Areas of the United States at risk from infestation by *L. microphyllum* include the uninfested areas of Florida, and **coastal regions of Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi.**

Lygodium flexuosum is a weed in rice, plantation crops, and natural lowland vegetation areas in eastern Asia, BUT is not known to occur in the United States. This robust species spreads by rhizomes and by climbing over other vegetation. Like *L. microphyllum*, it has the potential to cause serious environmental and economic damage in the southernmost areas of the United States.

For additional information regarding this Federal Order, you may contact Ms. Polly Lehtonen at (301) 734-

4394 or polly.p.lehtonen@aphis.usda.gov

NASS Pesticide Reporting Program Too Expensive for USDA

In May, the USDA announced the planned shutdown of a pesticide reporting program, despite protests from scientists, agricultural chemical companies, commodity organizations, federal and state regulatory agencies, and advocacy groups who wanted the effort retained.

The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) maintains that it was simply a matter of budget priorities. NASS officials regret having to cut the program but said that they can no longer dedicate the resources required to run the program, which costs \$8 million of the service's \$160 million annual budget. Since 1990, scientists have relied on the program's data to monitor pesticide uses and trends in order to conduct research, write grants, and adjust their Extension and outreach activities. The NASS pesticide use survey data was the only publicly available and most statistically reliable source for this data.

First Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) Conference a Success

"People-Powered Projects: The National Cooperative Weed Management Area Conference" was held April 15-17, 2008 in Reno, NV. The conference focused on CWMA funding and logistics, working with volunteers, Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR), awareness and outreach, approaches to mapping, and state and national initiatives, and concluded with an all-day field trip to restoration sites in the Reno area.

PowerPoint presentations with audio can now be viewed at:

http://www.weedcenter.org/CWMAconf/CWMA_conf_home.html (click on "Presentations"). In addition to enjoying 27 talks by speakers from across the U.S., attendees from 37 states provided glimpses of cooperative weed management activities in their own states. Their two-minute presentations are compiled into a slideshow at http://www.weedcenter.org/CWMAconf/CWMA_conf_home.html (click on "Slideshow"), which offers a great snapshot of people-powered projects across the nation.

The conference was organized by the Center for Invasive Plant Management and co-hosted by a broad coalition of organizations: Alaska Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plant Management, California Invasive Plant Council, Invasive Plant Atlas of New England, Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council, Midwest Invasive Plant Network, National Park Service, Nevada Department of Agriculture, and the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council.

National Invasive Species Council Meeting Report

by Nelroy E. Jackson

NISC, the National Invasive Species Council, met on Friday, August 1 at the Department of Interior in Washington DC, and took two actions – approving the 2008 -2012 NISC National Invasive Species Management Plan, and appointing the fifth ISAC (Invasive Species Advisory Committee). Congratulations to Dr. Joe DiTomaso of UC, Davis who is included in the class of 31 members. He joins Jennifer Vollmer and Jeff Schardt who were nominated previously by WSSA . The other new members whose names I recognized are Leslie Cahill of ASTA, Susan Ellis of California's Department of Fish and Game, and Damon Waitt of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. I attended the meeting as a guest of NISC.



Western Society of Weed Science
205 W. Boutz, Bldg. 4, Ste. 5
Las Cruces, NM 88005