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WSWS Newsletter

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April 2009

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Contact US

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Report from the President by Jesse Richardson

The 62nd annual meeting of the Western Society of Weed Science in Albuquerque provided a wonderful opportunity to hear informative oral presentations, view poster displays, interact with peers and old friends, and establish new acquaintances. The program flowed smoothly, thanks to the combined efforts of many dedicated members of our society who worked behind the scenes to ensure that things went well. In particular, the local arrangements committee, chaired by Keith Duncan, had things well in hand. The various committee chairs carried out their responsibilities with kind of skilled leadership that we have grown to expect. The section chairs did an admirable job in keeping the oral presentation sessions on time, and led discussion sessions that were thought-provoking and interesting. Without the leadership and hard work of the volunteers who make up our board of directors, committees, section chairs, and symposium organizers, our annual meetings would be impossible to organize and carry out. Along the margins of this newsletter are the names of some of those who make these things happen. When you get an opportunity to rub shoulders with them, please let them know that you appreciate their service to the society.

The Jointed Goatgrass and Biological Control Symposia were well-attended and well-organized. Alex Ogg and Roland Schirman had things well-in-hand with the oral presentations, posters and reception that made up the Jointed Goatgrass Symposium. That project certainly serves as a template for what can be accomplished on a national basis when dedicated scientists cooperate in reaching a common goal. April Fletcher and David Thompson organized and carried out an interesting and well-organized symposium on biological control of invasive plants. The many attendees enjoyed thought-provoking and lively discussions regarding this interesting facet of weed science. Bill Cobb, Education and Regulatory chair, moderated a fascinating session on digital photography. Each speaker was an expert in the field and provided a forum that was very well attended and was followed by an extended question-and-answer session. Kirk Howatt, Research Section chair, worked with all the section chairs to insure that things went off without a hitch. The overall WSWS Annual Meeting, including the two symposia, consisted of 109 oral and 67 poster presentations. Included in the program was the annual student paper competition that consisted of 18 student posters and 18 student oral presentations. Thanks to Jim Harbour, the student paper judging committee, and to the judges who took the time to evaluate the papers and posters.

For me, one of the highlights of the meeting was the general session. Simply stated, each speaker did a remarkable job. We were fortunate to have Mayor Martin Chavez welcome us to Albuquerque. He was very much at ease with his audience, and quite engaging. Our esteemed leader, President Dan Ball, gave one of the best presidential addresses in recent memory. Lee Van Wyche apprised us of pending regulations and political actions affecting our discipline. Steve Dewey described his experience as EPA subject matter expert, and chronicled his evolution in perception regarding that influential organization. It is an understatement to say that our keynote speaker, Lowell Catlett, thinks "outside the box." He was extremely entertaining, while leaving us with the sense that we may be only scratching the surface as it relates to our discipline, and particularly within the broad category of agricultural science.

In other news, the Range & Forestry and Wetlands & Wildlands sections met together for their discussion session on Wednesday, March 11. The section chairs, Michael Moechnig and Jim Harbour, polled the attendees, who voted overwhelmingly to combine these two sections into one section for future meetings. The precise name for the new section has yet to be determined -- but this group will function as one section for the 2010 meeting.

The contributions of Phil Banks and his staff cannot be overemphasized. They handle the day-to-day activities of our society, keep their finger on the pulse of our organization in a way that no one else can, and provide crucial institutional memory.

I look forward to serving as your president this coming year. Please mark March 8-11, 2010 on your calendar, and set your sights on Waikoloa, Hawaii for the 63rd annual meeting. See you then!

AWARDS



Kassim Al-Khatib, Fellow



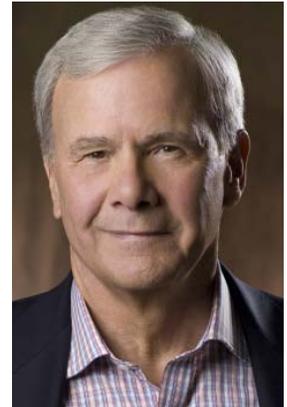
Dr. Scott J. Nissen, Fellow



Mike Edwards
Presidential Award of Merit

2009 Honorary Membership Award Presented to Tom Brokaw by Dan Ball

This past year, while serving as WSWs president, I received an email from fellow member, Steve Dewey, regarding a presentation to the Western Governors Association conference made by TV news personality, Tom Brokaw. In his presentation, Mr. Brokaw made reference to our WSWs published book, Weeds of the West, indicating that it is one of his favorite books. In recognition of this endorsement, the WSWs Board of Directors voted to offer Mr. Brokaw with an honorary membership to WSWs. You can find a link to the audio transcript of this address at: <http://www.westgov.org/wga/meetings/am2008/index.htm>.



At the direction of the Board, I wrote to Mr. Brokaw with the offer of an honorary membership to WSWs, which he accepted. At the WSWs Awards luncheon held this past month in Albuquerque, a prearranged telephone call was made to Mr. Brokaw, where he was presented with the WSWs honorary member award. The call was broadcast over the luncheon hall PA system for listening by members in attendance.

In the brief, but entertaining conversation with Mr. Brokaw, he shared some of his experiences in dealing with invasive weeds on his ranch in Montana. It was interesting to hear about, and relate to, Mr. Brokaw's challenges with weeds; the reason, I suspect he became familiar with our book, Weeds of the West. We welcome Mr. Brokaw as a new WSWs Honorary Member.

In addition, in response to Mr. Brokaw's mention of Weeds of the West to the western governors, I sent a letter and complimentary copy of the book to all the western governors.

I received notes of thanks from many of these western governors indicating their understanding about the importance of weeds in our managed and natural ecosystems. These gestures should increase awareness about weeds and their importance in policy-making decisions.

Student Contest Winners by Jim Harbor

Graduate Student Poster Contest

First Place: Impact of immersion time and water temperatures on germination of creeping bentgrass seed. Maria Zapiola, Oregon State University

Second Place Assessing plant community and Environmental covariates on non-indigenous plant aspects. Tanya Skurski, Montana State University

Third Place: Target-site mutations and cross-resistance to Acetolactate synthase inhibiting herbicides in mayweed chamomile. Suphannika Intanon, Oregon State University



Maria Zapiola, Tanya Skurski and Suphannika Intanon



Carol Mallory-Smith,
Outstanding Weed Scientist,
Public Sector



Peter C. Forster
Outstand Weed Scientist
Private Sector



April Fletcher
Outstanding Weed Manager

Paper Contest Agronomic Crops and Basic Science

First Place: Sunflower desiccation with saflufenacil. Jordan Hoefing, North Dakota State University.

Second Place: Effect of imazamox on feral rye at different physiological stages. Melissa Bridges, Colorado State University.

Third Place: Saflufenacil and 2,4-D amine dose response of winter wheat and annual broadleaf weeds. John Frihauf, Kansas State University



John Frihauf



Jordan Hoefing and Melissa Bridges

Paper Contest Range and Forestry, Wetlands and Wild lands

First Place: Selected invasive species control using aminocyclopyrachlor. Brad Lindenmayer, Colorado State University.

Second Place: Integrating chemical control and restoration of sites invaded by Japanese knotweed. Melody Rudenko, Oregon State University.



Brad Lindenmayer and Melody Rudenko

Undergraduate Student Poster Contest

First Place: Feral rye response to imazamox with and without MCPA and nitrogen. Jared Unverzagt, University of Wyoming

Second Place: Does varying nitrogen alter Swainsonine levels in a toxic rangeland weed? Carol Lange, New Mexico State University



Jared Unverzagt and Carol Lange

2009 – 2010 WSWs Board of Directors



Alan L. Helm
Outstanding Early Career
Weed Scientist



Gary P. Willoughby,
Outstanding Professional
Staff



Front row (left to right) Vanelle Peterson, Research Section Chair-Elect; Edward Peachy, Research Section Chair; Jesse Richardson, President; Dan Ball, Immediate Past-President; Melisa Bridges, 2008 Student Liaison; Tony White, Web Editor; Phil Banks, Treasurer-Business Manager
Back Row (left to right): Tanya Skurski, Student Liaison; Ryan Edwards, Student Liaison; Tim Miller, WSSA Representative; Joe DiTomaso, President Elect; Pat Clay, Education & Regulatory Section Chair; Kai Umeda, Constitution & Operating Procedures Representative; Carol Mallory-Smith, Member-At-Large, Public Sector; Phil Stahlman, CAST Representative



Notes from the Business Office by Phil Banks

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It was good to see everyone at the Albuquerque meeting. It was probably one of the best WSWs meetings I've attended. I want to thank Keith Duncan, Local Arrangements Chair, the rest of the local arrangements committee, and Amber Groves and Garrett Moser of my office for the fine work they did before and during the meeting. If you did not order a Research Progress Report or Proceedings and want to, you can order these from the online store at the website (www.wsweedscience.org). For those of you that did not attend and want to remain a member, you can pay the \$ 25.00 yearly dues by login to your account and scrolling to the bottom of the page. The yearly Financial Statement (different from the one posted before the meeting) will be available after March 31, 2009 (the end of our fiscal year) and will be published in the Proceedings. One final request, if your contact information changes during the year, please login to your account and update your profile so we can keep in contact with everyone. If you need to contact the office, please give us a call at 575-527-1888 or e-mail at wsws@marathonag.com

WSWS Officers and Board of Directors

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twmiller@wsu.edu
360-848-6138

Student Fund Raiser Collage Winner

Tracy Sterling wins bidding for Collage

A heated bidding war for the collage donated by April Fletcher was won by Dr. Tracy Sterling of New Mexico State University. Tracy's winning bid of \$ 300.00, made at the end of the Business Breakfast on Thursday, will be matched by WSWS with the total to be used to support future student travel and other activities. WSWS is grateful to April for donating the work of art and to everyone that made a bid. If you are interested in the art work, you can view it by going to the Newsletter Archive (November 2008) file on the website

REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS: WESTERN SOCIETY OF WEED SCIENCE FELLOW AND HONORARY MEMBER

WSWS Guidelines for Nominating Fellows

Fellows of the society are members who have given meritorious service to the Western Society of Weed Science.

The nominator must contact the member to be nominated and request them to prepare a concise [2-3 page] resume.

- a. The nominee must be involved in the process. The most pertinent information about the nominee can only be obtained from the nominee.
- b. The nominee's resume should be based on the WSWS guidelines approved by the Board of Directors (see below).
- c. Information from the resume will be used by the nominator in writing the letter of nomination.
- d. The nominator also is responsible for soliciting two letters of support for the nominee. The letters should be sent to the nominator and included in the nomination package sent to the committee.
- e. The nomination package should include the nominee's vita, the nominator's letter of nomination, and two support letters.

SERVICE TO WSWS – Please address the following points in the resume:

1. **Officer:** President; Vice-President; Secretary, Research Section Chair; Education & Regulatory Section Chair; Editor; Other.
2. **Committees:** Standing; Special; Ad Hoc.
3. **Presentations and Publications:** WSWS – Papers, Proceedings, Research Progress Report Articles.
4. **Service to other Weed Science Societies:** Weed Science Society of America; State Organizations.
5. **Academic Weed Science Endeavors:** Teacher; Graduate Students; Refereed Publications; Extension Publications, Books; Popular Publications; Academic Weed Science Pursuits; Other.
6. **Industry Weed Science Endeavors:** Sales and Marketing; Research and Development; Regional Manager; Product Manager.
7. **Other Meritorious Weed Science Service**

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS PACKAGES BY DECEMBER 1, 2009 TO: Bill Cobb, Cobb Consulting Services
815 S Kellogg, Kennewick, WA 99336-
509-783-3429 wtcobb42@aol.com

Research Tour Dates

University of Idaho Snake River Weed Research Tour at Aberdeen, June 16, 8:30 am to noon. Contact Pamela Hutchinson at 208.397-4181 for more information

University of Idaho Snake River Weed Research Tour at Kimberly, June 17, 8:30 am to noon. Contact Don Morishita at 208.736.3610 for more information

Calendar

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

May 2009

9 Bridger Creek Watershed Festival and What's In Your World? Youth Naturalist -- Weed Scientist Education - Bridger Creek Fish Technology Center - Bozeman, MT - Contact Montana Outdoor Science School

22 United Nations International Day for Biological Diversity 2009 - "Biodiversity and Invasive Alien Species"

30 June 5 2009 Joint Conference 26th Annual Meeting of American Society of Mining and Reclamation and 11th Billings Land Reclamation Symposium - Billings, MT - Theme: Revitalizing the Environment: Proven Solutions and Innovative Approaches

Request for Nominations for Candidates to the WSWs Board of Directors by Don Morishita

The Nominating Committee is soliciting nominations of candidates to stand for election to positions on the Board of Directors. The nominating committee is charged with identifying a talented, diverse pool of candidates for WSWs offices. Please help us identify candidates for office who can help realize the great potential of this organization. We are soliciting nominations of candidates to the following offices:

President-elect (three year term of office) – The candidate elected serves three-one year terms as President-elect and Program Chair, President, and Past President.

Research Section Chair-elect (two year term) – the candidate elected serves a two year term, one as chair-elect and one as chair.

Education and Regulatory Chair-elect (two year term) – the candidate elected serves a two year term, one as chair-elect and one as chair.

Secretary (two year term)- the candidate elected serves a two year term.

The members elected to these offices will begin their duties at the close of the Annual Business meeting at the Waikoloa, HI meeting in March 2010.

We ask you to provide us with the following information about the candidates you recommend for office:

1. Candidates name, contact information, and the board position you are nominating them to.
2. Statement of candidates willingness to stand for election (please make sure that the individual is willing to allow you to nominate them)
3. Brief statement of support for the candidate

Please respond to this request by May 1, 2009 by sending your nominations to:

Don Morishita, don@uidaho.edu, 208.736.3616

Thank you for your help with this very important activity of our society!

WSWS Nominations Committee: Don Morishita, Chair

Jill Schroeder, Ralph Whitesides, Dan Ball

Student Liaison Report by Ryan Edwards

It was great to see everyone at the 2009 WSWs meeting in Albuquerque. I would like to thank Melissa Bridges for her service to the WSWs as the 2008-2009 student liaison chair and wish her well as she continues her studies at Montana State University. I would also like to congratulate and welcome Tanya Skurski, from Montana State University, as the new student liaison chair-elect for 2009-2010.

For the 2009 Albuquerque meeting, the industry-sponsored student breakfasts were changed to a student luncheon, sponsored by Bayer CropScience, and a student reception, sponsored by Syngenta Crop Protection. Substantial increases in student attendance at both events have prompted our industry sponsors to consider these activities at future WSWs meetings. Student participation in the Student Night Out program was also high, and Melissa, Tanya, and I would like to thank those individuals who volunteered to take students out to dinner and spend time with them.

We also wanted to congratulate the student winners of the paper and poster contests and are proud of student participation and the quality of research presented at this year's WSWs meeting.

We offer many thanks to Tony White, WSWs Webmaster, for his outstanding work managing the WSWs website and creating the new student webpage (www.wsweedscience.org/Students/Student_Portal.asp). We would also like to thank Bayer CropScience, Syngenta Crop Protection, Keith Duncan and the 2009 local arrangements committee, Lisa Boggs, Steve Dewey, Mike Edwards and April Fletcher for their many contributions to student-related issues and activities at the 2009 WSWs meetings.

In the coming months, Tanya and I will be working with Tony White to implement an online voting system for the 2010-2011 student liaison chair-elect position. In addition, the student website will continue to be updated with announcements of upcoming events related to weed science and next year's meeting in Hawaii. A student survey will also be e-mailed in the coming weeks to gain feedback from the students on the 2009 Albuquerque meeting.

The student liaisons are the student voice to the WSWs Executive Board. Please help us to improve the content of the student webpage and keep us aware of student issues that should be of concern to the WSWs by sending comments and suggestions via email to either me (redwards155@hotmail.com) or Tanya (tskurski@gmail.com)

July 2009

12-15 Aquatic Plant Management Society Annual Meeting - Milwaukee, NW

28-31 What's In Your World? Youth Naturalist -- Weed Scientist Training Workshop for U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff and Refuge conservation educators - Bear River Wildlife Refuge - Contact Carla Hoopes at choopes@montana.edu

August 2009

2-7 94th Ecological Society of American Annual Meeting - Albuquerque, NM

29 Cabinet Noxon Shoreline Homeowners Association tentative board meeting and ANS workshop - date and agenda

Society for Range Management 63rd Annual Meeting and the 50th Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America CALL FOR PAPER AND POSTER ABSTRACTS

Sheraton Denver Hotel

Denver, Colorado

February 7-11, 2010

This is the first announcement and call for papers and posters for the joint meeting of the Society for Range Management and the Weed Science Society of America, 7-11 February 2010 in Denver, Colorado. The theme of the meeting is "Working Landscapes". Technical and poster sessions will present timely information concerning the diversity of disciplines and issues represented by both societies. Papers will address these issues from both science and management perspectives. We welcome submission of papers and posters applicable at all levels, from local to international.

DEADLINE - Abstracts for volunteer oral and poster papers, organized oral sessions, and symposia are to be electronically submitted no later than **1 September 2009** via www.rangelands.org/denver2010/. This site can be accessed through the WSSA webpage.

Detailed criteria and instructions for submitting abstracts and their presentation are found on the web site.

PAPER PRESENTATION INFORMATION - Volunteer papers will be presented within a 20-minute schedule; to allow for questions, you should plan to present your paper in 15 minutes. Concurrent sessions dictate that the time schedule be strictly followed. Papers and posters report the results of completed research or other substantive information. Technical sessions to which abstracts shall be submitted are posted on www.rangelands.org/denver2010/. PowerPoint will be used exclusively to project visual aids for all oral presentations. A Windows PC laptop computer and projector will be provided for each session. Presentations may be forwarded the Section Chair prior to the meeting for preloading or directly uploaded from a memory stick in the hour prior to the Section itself.

SYMPOSIA, WORKSHOPS AND ORGANIZED ORAL SESSIONS - Symposia, workshops, and organized oral sessions are by invitation (see www.rangelands.org/denver2010/). Deadlines and procedures for preparing and submitting abstracts are the same as for volunteer papers.

POSTERS - One board 48 x 48 inches will be provided for each poster paper, one board per paper. Because of cost and logistics, it will not be possible to provide electrical connections, telephone lines for computer connections, or video equipment for posters.

For questions please contact Dennis Child (970-491-3316) dennis.child@colostate.edu, or Wun Chao (701-239-1256) wun.chao@ars.usda.gov, Abstract Committee Co-chairs.

New Weed Scientist: Dr. Jon-Joseph Q. (Joe) Armstrong

The Department of Plant and Soil Sciences at Oklahoma State University is pleased to announce that Joe Armstrong will join the department as an Assistant Professor – Weed Science Extension Specialist effective April 30, 2009. Joe received his B.S. in Agronomy from Kansas State University (2004), M.S. in Botany and Plant Pathology – Weed Science from Purdue University (2006), and Ph.D. in Crop and Soil Sciences – Weed Science from Michigan State University (2009).

Contact information:

Dr. Jon-Joseph Q. (Joe) Armstrong, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences

368 Agricultural Hall, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078-6028 Phone: 405-744-6130 Fax: 405-744-0354 E-mail: armst200@msu.edu



CAST – Communicating Science for Sound Policy

by Phil Stahlman, WSWS Representative on the CAST Board of Directors

CAST's mission has remained the same since it was established in 1972, that is, to assemble, interpret, and communicate credible, science-based information regionally, nationally, and internationally to legislators, regulators, policymakers, the media, the private sector, and the public. CAST accomplishes its mission by publishing task force reports, commentary papers and issue papers written by scientists from many disciplines on topics decided by work groups and committees. Distribution of CAST publications to nonscientists enhances the education and understanding of policymakers and the general public.

The need for clear and concise consensus science-based reports on critical issues in the public consciousness is no less great today than it was four decades ago. In fact, the need is even greater because of gross lack of understanding and appreciation of agriculture in Washington D.C. According to Mr. Mark Halverson, Majority Staff Director of the Senate Agriculture Committee, an understanding of biotechnology is particularly lagging in Washington. As Dr. Norman Borlaug stated in the January 9, 2009 issue of "Friday Notes", "CAST has both a tremendous responsibility and opportunity to present unbiased, scientific data so that wise policy and legislation will be enacted".

Highlights from 2008. By most measures CAST's intellectual model is working well. Through the efforts of dedicated authors and CAST Staff, a record number of publications were produced in 2008 (listed below). Each publication was introduced with Rollout presentations at one or more appropriate venues, often in Washington D.C. These publications represent a cross-section of agricultural and environmental issues. While not every publication may be of interest to everyone, each of the issues addressed affects everyone in one way or another. Publication topics are chosen carefully. Attempts are made to anticipate emerging issues and to time publication release before they become critical issues. Lunch-N-Learn seminars in Washington D.C. are popular and have proven to an effective way to educate legislative staff and media personnel on current scientific issues.

- *Water Quality and Quantity Issues for Turfgrasses in Urban Landscapes*. (Special Publication)
- *Vaccine Development Using Recombinant DNA Technology* (Issue Paper)
- *Swine Carcass Disposal Options for Routine and Catastrophic Mortality* (Issue Paper)
- *Pasteurellosis Transmission Risks between Domestic and Wild Sheep* (CAST Commentary)
- *Gene Flow in Alfalfa: Biology, Mitigation, and Potential Impact on Production* (Special Publication)
- *Poultry Carcass Disposal Options for Routine and Catastrophic Mortality* (Issue Paper)
- *Convergence of Agriculture and Energy: III. Considerations in Biodiesel Production* (Issue Paper)
- *Fate and Transport of Zoonotic Bacterial, Viral, and Parasitic Pathogens during Sine Manure Treatment, Storage, and Land Applications* (Special Publication)

"Friday Notes" e-newsletter is published 48 weeks per year and contains brief summaries and links to current articles from a variety of sources on subjects corresponding to CAST work groups, and also includes updates from Washington D.C. "Friday Notes" is distributed to individual members including faculty, staff, and graduate students at member Educational Institutions. If your university is not an Educational Institution member, please encourage the Dean of your College to become a member.

National Ag Day. CAST sponsors the National Ag Day Essay Contest. The theme in 2008 was "Agriculture – Bigger than You Think", and was open to students in grades 7-12. Entries were received from 31 states. Katlin West, an 8th grader from Lykens, Pennsylvania was the national winner. She received recognition at the Celebration of Agriculture dinner in Washington D.C. and presented her winning essay at the CAST 2008 Spring Board of Directors Meeting.

Challenging Times. Though CAST's intellectual model continues to work well, the current economic climate has exposed a business model that is not appropriate for the times we're in. Because of current economic constraints and declining membership, bold and fundamental changes are needed in the way CAST operates. The Board of Directors began discussing the need for structural changes at the Fall 2008 Board Meeting and spent considerable time on strategic planning recently during the Spring 2009 Board Meeting. In a two-day retreat immediately preceding the Board Meeting, the Executive Committee developed several concepts for the Board of Directors to consider and sought additional ideas and suggestions.

Spring 2009 Board Meeting. The CAST Board of Directors met for 2-1/2 days in Washington D.C. on March 18-20, 2009. Board members participated in general sessions and committee and work group breakout sessions to consider regular business and to deliberate the proposed concepts mentioned above from the Executive Committee for refining CAST's Strategic Plan and Business Model. Several guest speakers also addressed the Board. Key points made by Dr. Fran Boyd, Senior Vice-President of Meyers & Associates include:

- The importance and role of CAST in Washington D.C. is critical.
- CAST publications must be fast and timely because of very short attention span in Washington D.C. They need the information now.
- CAST must forecast and address issues before they become issues.
- CAST is most valuable to the legislative branch, especially House of Representatives; least important to the administration.
- Agriculture is at the bottom of most House members' interest list; must reach their staff.
- Communication must be electronic. It takes 3-4 weeks for mail to reach the addressee.
- CAST publications are recognized in Washington as consensus documents; thus credible.

- CAST should never resort to having an agenda.
- Hot topics into the foreseeable future include: food safety; renewable energy; climate change; water issues; and animal welfare.

Several of the points above were reinforced by guest speaker Mark Halverson, Senior Staff Member of Sen. Harkins Office and Majority Staff Director of the Senate Agricultural Committee. He emphasized that CAST must maintain objectivity in order to have impact.

David Schmidt, President and CEO of the International Food Information Council (IFIC) and Eric Mittenhahl, IFIC's Director of Media Relations addressed the Board on ways to improve communication and achieve better message penetration. Not surprising, many of their ideas involved social networking sites such as Facebook, You Tube, and Twitter.

Significant Changes. The Board voted to implement several changes to CAST structure and its business model designed to improve financial stability. Some of the more significant and visible changes among others include: (1) eliminating the face-to-face Spring Board of Directors meeting and conducting business periodically throughout the year via audio/video conference calls and email; (2) future proposals for publications must include external funding source(s); and (3) society membership dues will remain the same but CAST will no longer pay any travel for a society's representative to attend Board of Directors meetings. This change will not affect several societies, including WSWS, who already cover representative travel to Board meetings.

Revenue-generating ideas being considered include partnering with a publisher to bind selected existing publications into book form for sale by the publisher and to work with partners to conduct high-level, sound science conferences or workshops with peer-reviewed proceedings for sale. Stay tuned for further developments.

Position Announcements

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

POSITION: Weed Ecologist, Assistant Professor, 12-month, tenure-leading position with 50% extension responsibilities and 50% research assignment in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture. The position is located at the West Central Research and Extension Center (WCREC) at North Platte, Nebraska.

POSITION: Weed Ecologist, Assistant Professor, 12-month, tenure-leading position with 50% extension responsibilities and 50% research assignment in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture. The position is located at the West Central Research and Extension Center (WCREC) at North Platte, Nebraska.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The successful candidate will lead a research and extension program to develop practices to manage and control invasive species that negatively impact surface water flow and the ecology of Nebraska's surface water systems, and investigations of weed management practices in cropping systems with limited water. GIS and other geo-spatial technologies are expected to be an important component of this work. Extension educational programs will serve diverse clientele groups that include Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Ground Water Foundation, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Weed Districts, crop producers, crop consultants, Natural Resource Districts, municipal electric utilities and herbicide applicators. Leadership in updating and developing management and control practices for invasive species in surface waterways and in rainfed and irrigated cropping systems with limited water will be key components of the extension effort. Contributions to extension team efforts in Integrated Crop Management and Natural Resources and Environmental Management is also expected. The use of multimedia tools and distance education is expected to complement conventional outreach approaches. Expected scholarship includes communication of research in peer-reviewed journals, presentations at scientific conferences, supervision of graduate student research, publication of extension bulletins/circulars, and development of educational programs that effectively convey research findings to clientele. Integration with multidisciplinary research and extension teams and partnerships with other UNL faculty and regional/national scientists is expected. Proactive efforts to obtain grant funding and graduate student are also expectations.

QUALIFICATIONS: A Ph.D. degree, or Ph.D. in place by date of hire, in weed science, agronomy, or a closely related discipline is required. A demonstrated ability to publish original research in peer-reviewed journals, and research experience and expertise in weed management are required. Background in geospatial data analysis is desirable. Ability to work effectively as a member of an interdisciplinary team, and strong written and verbal communication skills are also requirements. Relevant experience in grant writing capability is desired for this position.

SALARY/BENEFITS: Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience. UNL provides life, health, disability insurance and family coverage programs at minimal cost to the employee. TIAA/CREF and/or Fidelity Investment Fund are offered as retirement plans. Excellent vacation and sick leave plans are in place.

APPLICATION: Go to <http://employment.unl.edu> and search for requisition #090106 and complete the Faculty Academic Administrative Information Form. Attach a letter of application and curriculum vitae, and arrange for 3 letters of reference to be emailed by May 15, 2009 to: cwendt1@unl.edu

Review of applications will begin on May 15, 2009 and continue until a suitable candidate is identified.

The University of Nebraska has an active national Science Foundation ADVANCE gender equity program, and is committed to a pluralistic campus community through affirmative action, equal opportunity, work-life balance, and dual careers.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The successful candidate will lead a research and extension program to develop practices to manage and control invasive species that negatively impact surface water flow and the ecology of Nebraska's surface water systems, and investigations of weed management practices in cropping systems with limited water. GIS and other geo-spatial technologies are expected to be an important component of this work. Extension educational programs will serve diverse clientele groups that include Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Ground Water Foundation, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Weed Districts, crop producers, crop consultants, Natural Resource Districts, municipal electric utilities and herbicide applicators. Leadership in updating and developing management and control practices for invasive species in surface waterways and in rainfed and irrigated cropping systems with limited water will be key components of the extension effort. Contributions to extension team efforts in Integrated Crop Management and Natural Resources and Environmental Management is also expected. The use of multimedia tools and distance education is expected to complement conventional outreach approaches. Expected scholarship includes communication of research in peer-reviewed journals, presentations at scientific conferences, supervision of graduate student research, publication of extension bulletins/circulars, and development of educational programs that effectively convey research findings to clientele. Integration with multidisciplinary research and extension teams and partnerships with other UNL faculty and regional/national scientists is expected. Proactive efforts to obtain grant funding and graduate student are also expectations.

QUALIFICATIONS: A Ph.D. degree, or Ph.D. in place by date of hire, in weed science, agronomy, or a closely related discipline is required. A demonstrated ability to publish original research in peer-reviewed journals, and research experience and expertise in weed management are required. Background in geospatial data analysis is desirable. Ability to work effectively as a member of an interdisciplinary team, and strong written and verbal communication skills are also requirements. Relevant experience in grant writing capability is desired for this position.

SALARY/BENEFITS: Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience. UNL provides life, health, disability insurance and family coverage programs at minimal cost to the employee. TIAA/CREF and/or Fidelity Investment Fund are offered as retirement plans. Excellent vacation and sick leave plans are in place.

APPLICATION: Go to <http://employment.unl.edu> and search for requisition #090106 and complete the Faculty Academic Administrative Information Form. Attach a letter of application and curriculum vitae, and arrange for 3 letters of reference to be emailed by May 15, 2009 to: cwendt1@unl.edu

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Mississippi State University (Starkville, Mississippi)

Title: Professor and Head, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences

(12 month tenure track position)

Applications accepted until: May 30, 2009, or until the position is filled

The University/Department:

Mississippi State University (MSU) is a comprehensive land-grant institution with the largest on campus enrollment in the state. All the components of the University have a strong commitment to teaching, research and service and have brought national and international recognition to the university.

The department has approximately 56 faculty and a large support staff engaged in teaching, research and extension. Faculty may carry joint appointments in two or more of these functional areas. The department offers Bachelor of Science degrees in Plant and Soil Science with emphasis in golf and turf sports management, soil and environmental science, horticulture, integrated crop management, floriculture and ornamental horticulture and retail floristry management. The department has approximately 90 undergraduate majors and approximately 50 graduate students are enrolled in the Master's and Doctoral programs.

Duties, Responsibilities and Relationships:

The Head of the Plant and Soil Sciences Department is responsible to the Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Director, Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station; and the Director, Mississippi State University Extension Service. The Head provides leadership and administration of statewide teaching, research and extension programs in Plant & Soil Sciences; has responsibility for coordination of budget and personnel management functions; and is expected to establish and maintain

Duties, Responsibilities and Relationships:

The Head of the Plant and Soil Sciences Department is responsible to the Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Director, Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station; and the Director, Mississippi State University Extension Service. The Head provides leadership and administration of statewide teaching, research and extension programs in Plant & Soil Sciences; has responsibility for coordination of budget and personnel management functions; and is expected to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other units in the university, agricultural clientele groups, the agribusiness community, government agencies, and professional societies.

Qualifications:

Ph.D. in Agronomy, Horticulture, Soil Science, Weed Science, or a closely allied field. Demonstrated professional record and reputation in Plant and Soil Sciences or closely allied field. Qualify for tenure at the rank of Professor within the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences.

Candidates should have demonstrated potential and/or experience in planning, developing, coordinating and evaluating teaching, research and extension programs; grantsmanship and administering resources; and providing leadership for faculty, staff, and students. The candidate should have interpersonal communication skills to coordinate interdisciplinary programs with other departments, government agencies, land-grant universities, clientele groups, the agribusiness community, and professional/commodity organizations.

Salary and Benefits:

Salary commensurate with training and experience; competitive benefits.

Applications:

Send a letter of application including qualifications and administrative philosophy and how these relate to the department head's position, vitae, and the names, addresses (including email) and telephone numbers of at least 5 professional references. Application may be made online at <https://www.jobs.msstate.edu/> or submitted to: Dr. Steven C. Turner

Washington Report by Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D.

Director of Science Policy

The National and Regional Weed Science Societies

900 2nd St. NE, Suite 205, Washington, DC 20002

Lee.VanWychen@WSSA.net Phone: 202-746-4686

Weed Science Society Presidents Ask EPA to Pursue Rehearing

On March 30, 2009, the presidents of the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA), the Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) and the four regional weed science societies (NCWSS, NEWSS, SWSS, WSWSS) asked EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson that her agency request a rehearing of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals decision that invalidated EPA's 2006 Final Rule that held that National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits from the Clean Water Act (CWA) were **not** required as long as pesticides were **sprayed in compliance** with the **Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)**. The WSSA ardently supported this rule. The following is selected text from the weed science society presidents to EPA (the letter is available at <http://www.wssa.net/>)

Our science societies fully support government regulation of pesticide use. In fact, we believe FIFRA represents a significant government success story. Thanks to the extensive research and risk assessments that FIFRA requires, we've been able to safely improve crop yields, hold down food costs, reduce tillage and erosion, protect natural habitats and keep our drinking water safe.

If the Court of Appeals ruling stands, though, we run the risk of unraveling the more than 60 years of progress we've made under FIFRA. Here are a few points we ask you to consider:

- *Any pesticide marketed in the U.S. has undergone an extensive, science-based risk assessment and carries a very specific label governing its safe and effective use.*
- *A new permitting system would impact tens of thousands of growers and gardeners and leave them open to legal action – without offering any additional protective value.*
- *A new permit system will be an unfunded mandate that places an unfair and costly burden on the states further eroding our economy at a time when they can least afford it.*
- *The new permits could delay effective treatment times and allow invasive plants to spread like a biological wildfire that could reduce crop yields, clog irrigation ditches, overrun bodies of water and impact millions of acres of federally managed natural habitats that have been protected for future generations.*

Ultimately, we believe this new process holds the potential to derail our longstanding, science-based successes in weed and invasive plant management – negatively impacting U.S. agriculture, our food and water supply and our nation's economy. We strongly urge you to file a petition for rehearing before the April 9 deadline.

The WSSA, the USDA (Secretary Vilsack), the Senate Agriculture Committee (Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Chambliss), the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) and many other groups strongly advised that EPA request a rehearing of the Sixth Circuit Court decision by the April 9, 2009 deadline. Unfortunately, EPA, through the Department of Justice, did not petition for a rehearing.

Instead, EPA has submitted a request to the court for a 24 month stay in the court's decision to vacate the 2006 EPA rule. EPA estimates that it needs until **April 9, 2011** before the rule is vacated to develop, propose, and take final action to issue an NPDES general permit that would be consistent with and satisfy the CWA requirements. The following information was presented to the Sixth Circuit Court on April 8, 2009 in a statement to "stay the mandate" by James Hanlon, Director of the Office of Wastewater Management in EPA's Office of Water:

*EPA has determined that the Court's decision clearly impacts the following point source discharges to, over or near waters of the United States: discharges of chemical pesticides that leave a residual or excess and discharges of all biological pesticides. My staff has also worked with the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) to clarify what pesticide use patterns **will trigger a requirement** to obtain an NPDES permit. **At least** the following large categories are covered when sprayed to, over, or near waters of the United States:*

- *Mosquito larvicides*
- *Mosquito adulticides*
- *Herbicides used to control weeds in lakes and ponds*
- *Herbicides used to control weeds in irrigation systems and other waterways*
- *Herbicides used to control weeds along ditch banks in agricultural drainage systems*
- *Insecticides used in wide-area insect suppression programs*
- *Herbicides used in wide-area control programs directed at aquatic invasive plant species*
- *Herbicides, insecticides and other pesticides used in forestry programs when applied over waters of the United States.*

Using available information sources, EPA OPP estimated the number of pesticide applicators and applications for the identified use patterns identified above. OPP estimates that these categories represent approximately 365,000 applicators and 5.6 million applications a year.

Again, the above statements by EPA were some of the reasons EPA gave to support its request for a 2 year delay in the court's decision to provide enough time for the Agency to write and publish a rule under the Clean Water Act for a national general permit by regulation addressing aquatic applications or applications of pesticides made on/over/near water.

At the same time on April 9, 2009, CropLife America, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Cotton Council, and other groups filed a petition for a rehearing before the entire 24-member U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. The petitioners challenged that the 3-judge panel's interpretation of the Clean Water Act statutes and that the court misconstrued the reach of the NPDES program and "could impose permitting on virtually any nozzle, tailpipe, or garden hose."

What does all of this mean?

I've received panicked calls from a number of weed managers across the country. The Sixth Circuit Court arguably broadened the scope of the Clean Water Act to include virtually all pesticide applications. The WSSA wants to ensure that FIFRA remains the **preeminent federal law for pesticide regulation that protects both people and the environment**. The extensive research and science-based risk assessments required by FIFRA should not be jeopardized by politics or "environmentalist" lawyers who don't know the difference between hand-weeding and horseweed.

As of mid-April, 2009, **EPA's 2006 Final Rule will stand as is** until such time as all appeals/ stays/re-hearings are settled. Again, that rule says that NPDES permits are not required for pesticides sprayed to, over, or near waters of the United States as long as those pesticides are sprayed in compliance with FIFRA. In other words, we are a long way from the end of this.

USDA-ARS National Program Leader for Weed Science

The USDA is re-advertising the position for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) National Program Leader for Weed Science because the applicant pool was "not sufficiently diverse". This is very disheartening since we have been working with the USDA-ARS leadership for over a year to get this extraordinarily important position for our discipline filled. Details are as follows:

SALARY RANGE: 102,721.00 - 153,200.00 USD per year

OPEN PERIOD: Monday, March 23, 2009 to Tuesday, May 26, 2009

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

POSITION INFORMATION: Full-Time Permanent

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: GS-15

DUTY LOCATIONS: vacancy(s) in one of the following locations: 1 vacancy - Throughout Maryland

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. This is a re-advertisement of announcement number ARS-X8E-0027. Candidates who have applied under the previous announcement do not need to reapply.

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.

2009 Omnibus Public Land Management Act Becomes Law

On April 2, 2009, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act became Public Law 111-11. The law extends wilderness protections to 2.1 million acres of federal lands and elevates dozens of additional natural areas to new prominence within the public lands sphere.

The bill established the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS), a 26-million-acre patchwork of ecologically and historically valuable lands owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The omnibus also authorizes 15 new or expanded wilderness areas, constituting the largest expansion of the National Wilderness Preservation System since 1994.

In Title IV of the lands bill, language from Sen. Bingaman and former Sen. Pete Domenici establishes a "forest landscape restoration program" to prioritize and fund fire-suppression and other beneficial ecological treatments for forests under the jurisdiction of the BLM and Forest Service. Federal land managers would work with state and local authorities to identify parcels of at least 50,000 acres of mainly National Forest System lands needing active ecosystem restoration and authorizes \$40 million in funds to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack Lists Top Six Priorities

* Combating childhood obesity and enhancing health and nutrition, indicating that the Department should play a key role in the public health debate and that nutrition programs should be seen as an opportunity to both alleviate hunger and prevent health care problems.



* Advancing research and development and pursuing opportunities to support the development of biofuels, wind power, and other renewable energy sources, saying that USDA needs to make sure that the biofuels industry has the necessary support to survive recent market challenges while promoting policies that will accelerate the development of next-generation biofuels that have the potential to significantly improve our energy independence.

* Making progress on major environmental challenges, including climate change. Vilsack said it's important that farmers and ranchers play a role with USDA in efforts to promote incentives for management practices that provide clean air, clean water, and wildlife habitat, and help farmers participate in markets that reward them for sequestering carbon and limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

* Supporting the profitability of farmers and ranchers by providing a safety net that works for all of agriculture, including independent producers and local and organic agriculture, and enforcing the Packers and Stockyards Act.

* Quickly implementing the 2008 Farm Bill; modernizing the food safety system; and investing in programs that alleviate hunger and suffering overseas and support long-term agriculture development.

* Restoring the mission of the Forest Service as a protector of clean air, clean water, and wildlife habitat; a provider of recreation opportunities; a key player in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration. Vilsack indicated that it is important that we appropriately budget for wildfires so that the Forest Service has the resources it needs for both wildfires and its other missions.

USDA Unveils Updated Research, Education and Economics Information System

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack unveiled an updated version of USDA's Research, Education and Economics Information System (REEIS), which allows the public to measure the impact and effectiveness of USDA's research, education and extension programs. The latest version adds additional data sources, opens data to Google Search and provides for extended data analysis.

REEIS version 5.0 includes the following new features:

- Project information will now include data from 2007 Accomplishment Reports from the Plan of Work System, and active and recently completed projects in the Current Research Information System (CRIS) database;
- More than 40,000 new and recently completed research projects and more than 1,000 planned programs are now easily accessible through Google Search; and
- Extended data analytics provide new reports and charts that focus on formula grant rankings and project trends by state, region, institution and knowledge area.

Since its initial development in 2002, REEIS has grown and expanded its data repository. REEIS currently houses information from several government agencies, including the Agricultural Research Service, CSREES, Economic Research Service, National Agricultural Statistics Service and U.S. Forest Service.

REEIS offers information ranging from agricultural and forestry research projects, to state accomplishment reports, statistics on funding, publications, institutions, faculties and students. For more information on REEIS, visit www.reeis.usda.gov

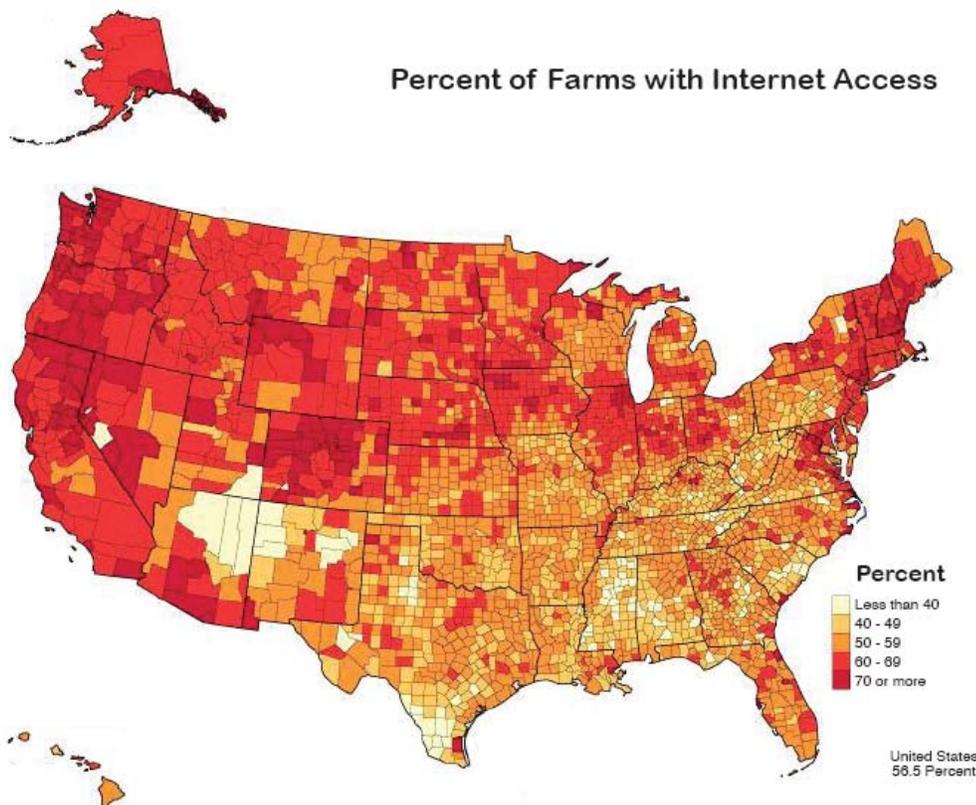
NSF Stimulus Money Will Be Used to Increase Grant Success Rate

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is using its \$2 billion windfall from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to fund more proposals already in the pipeline. NSF Director Arden Bement said that Congress asked the NSF to boost success rates with the overall goal to create or preserve jobs. Currently, about one in four grant proposals are funded. With the stringent tracking requirements attached to the stimulus money, this approach will definitely get the money out the door quickest and reduce the necessary paperwork.

The majority of proposals eligible for the \$2 billion Recovery Act funding include those that are already in-house at NSF and will be reviewed and/or awarded prior to **September 30, 2009**. NSF also will consider proposals declined on or after October 1, 2008.

USDA 2007 Census of Agriculture Is Available

USDA released the entire 2007 Census of Agriculture data on February 9, 2009. The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) counted 2,204,792 farms in the US in 2007. The larger farms, over \$500,000 in sales increased in number as did the small farms, less than \$2,500 in sales. The farms in between declined in number. There are some excellent farm demographics throughout the report. For example, the 2007 Census shows both internet access and high-speed internet access at the county level for the first time. The 2007 Census of Agriculture is available at www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/index.asp Enjoy!



Publication Order Form (visit our online store www.wsweedsociety.org to order and learn more about each publication or contact WSWS at 575-527-1888 or wsws@marathonag.com or complete this form and mail it with payment to: WSWS, 205 W. Boutz, Bldg. 4, Ste 5, Las Cruces, NM 88005). Other publications are available at the online store.

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<u>Aquatic and Riparian Weeds of the West</u>	\$ 40.00	_____	_____
<u>Weeds of California and Other Western States</u>	\$ 80.00	_____	_____
<u>Broadleaf and Grass Weeds of the West</u> (a two CD combination, interactive program)	\$ 50.00	_____	_____
<u>Invasive Plants of Range & Wildlands and Their Environmental, Economic and Societal Impacts</u>	\$ 25.00	_____	_____
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