



Western Society of Weed Science Newsletter

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SPRING 2018

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President's Report - by Andrew Kniss

Phil Banks told me recently that the WSWs annual meeting is a lot like a large boulder at the top of a hill – once it gets started, it just goes! As the program chair for our meeting in Garden Grove, I wasn't sure that was an entirely comforting thought, as I had no idea which direction to push the boulder. But in spite of my worries, the meeting seemed to run fairly smoothly, with just a few relatively minor glitches here and there. I want to thank all of the members and volunteers who made the meeting roll, including the Board of Directors, Project Chairs, Moderators, and Committees. It is really impressive to see all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes. In particular, I want to say thank you to Travis Bean, Brad Hanson, and Dirk Baker, helping with A/V setup, and just being available when needed to keep things moving. I'd also like to thank Tara Steinke for all her help with the program and registration, and of course Monte Anderson for all his help keeping me headed in the right direction.

For many of us in the Western states, the WSWs annual meeting happens at a time of transition during the year. Extension and planning meetings are wrapping up. Funding decisions have been made. The weather is changing and the weeds are going to be ready for spring (whether or not we are). For some of us, it also means leaving the warm weather at the meeting to go back home to somewhere that's less warm (shout out to my NDSU friends!). This year, our society will add one more transition - Tara Steinke has decided to leave IMI Group to spend more time with her family. Tara has been great to work with, and made the transition from Phil Banks to IMI for the Business Manager position very smooth. I'm disappointed to see Tara go, but Kala Travis (also with IMI) will be stepping into that role, and we're looking forward to getting to know her and welcome her into the society. Kala has been with IMI since 2015, and has experience with many of the tasks we expect of our Business Manager. Email to info@wsweedscience.org will now go to Kala automatically.

One notable change that we made to the program this year was the recognition of retirees at the Wednesday Awards Luncheon instead of the Monday welcome reception. We heard uniformly positive comments about this change, and so the tentative plan is to continue this. Thinking forward, if you know of any members who are planning to retire before next year's meeting, please let Monte Anderson know so that we may continue to recognize this valued group

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WSWS Annual Meeting March 11-14, 2019 Denver, Colorado

President's Report – CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of weed scientists and managers. Five retirees were recognized at the 2018 meeting: Jeff Tichota (Monsanto), Charlotte Eberlein (University of Idaho), Rick Boydston (USDA-ARS), Curtis Thompson (Kansas State University), and Rod Lym (North Dakota State University). By my quick count, these five well-regarded members brought with them over 180 years of combined experience!

The general session included some familiar faces, including an excellent address from President Monte Anderson and an informative update on DC goings-on from Director of Science Policy Lee Van Wychen. We also heard a thought provoking talk about Contemporary Native issues in science and land management, and finally had an enjoyable history of Disneyland tailored for a group of science people.

The number of presentations was lower than we've seen, which is continuing a downward trend over at least the last decade. On the bright side, this meant we were able to run three concurrent sessions from start to finish, and I think this had a positive impact on attendance in the sessions. I tried to sit in on each session a few times throughout the meeting, and I saw good attendance at each one, including all of the discussions sections. More oral presentations (as we typically have had in the past), requires a fourth concurrent session - this year's meeting was about as many as we could fit into 3 rooms.

The student contest was a success, and I want to recognize Ryan Edwards and his committee and judges for making everything run smoothly. After the contest, we were made aware of a few issues regarding student participation in the contest that we hope to address before next year's meeting. One relates to entry into the contest not being as clear as it could be, and we're going to work with the WSSA abstracts system we use to improve that process. Another issue was brought to my attention regarding abstract length requirements – not all word processors count words the same, and the WSSA abstract system counts words differently than most word processors. This is something we're going to consider and provide clear instructions to the participating students so there is no confusion on this point in the future.

I'm hoping to finalize committee appointments soon, and I have a long list of interested members for those committees, so I want to thank everyone for their willingness to serve. I'm sure having a Hawai'i meeting 2 years from now (when new appointees will typically be committee chairs) has nothing to do with the interest in service to the society this year. 😊

Next year's annual meeting will be in Denver, but not at the hotel that I listed in the program – it will be in the 'other' Hyatt located in downtown Denver. This is a regular source of confusion, with 2 large Hyatt hotels in close proximity. Just a couple years ago I tried to check into the wrong Hyatt when my family went to a Rockies game, so this is the second time I've made this exact mistake. Be sure to watch the newsletters and website for booking information later this year.

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Student Liaison Report - Clint Beiermann

Greetings Students,

I hope that everyone had a great experience at this year's society meeting. As a student group, we can be very proud of the quality posters and presentations from this year's meeting. Please remember to thank Bayer and Syngenta representatives for sponsoring the student luncheon and student reception. We are very fortunate to be part of a society that fosters so much student engagement, but also that these two companies sponsor student events each year where we can conduct business and interact socially.

Please talk to your advisors and lab members about considering attending the 2018 North Central Weed Science Society student weed contest. It will take place July 26, 2018, in Gothenburg Nebraska. This contest is an excellent opportunity to compete, learn, and network, even if you are not familiar with corn and soybean systems. The contest rules and study material can be found at www.ncwss.org.

I would like to congratulate the recipients of the Elena Sanchez Memorial Outstanding Student Scholarship. We had a significant number of applicants this year which is very encouraging and shows active student participation. Let's work to keep the application numbers up to show the board that we as a student group are taking advantage of this great opportunity. Please keep applying and encourage other students to do so as well.

This year's student silent auction was a success, and we were able to raise \$2,484.00. A big thank you to our generous donors who help us raise money each year to fund our student scholarship program. I would also like to thank anyone who purchased items in the silent auction or made a monetary donation. It is our goal to raise \$3,000.00 each year to fund the scholarship program fully. We have plenty of money from last year's silent auction, but let's try and reach our goal at the auction next year. If anyone knows of potential donors or items that a weed scientist couldn't resist bidding on, please let Lucas or I know.

I would like to thank Caio Brunharo for his service to the society as the student liaison. He did a great job representing the student group and helping prepare me to fulfill the role. Congratulations to Lucas Kopecky Bobadilla for being the new student liaison elect and Larissa Larocca de Souza for stepping up to the position of student representative to the judging committee, both from Oregon State University. Being the student liaison is an excellent opportunity to be involved and learn how the society functions, this position is a two-year commitment. If you are looking for a way to be involved with a shorter time commitment, please consider the judging committee student representative role, or volunteer to serve on a WSWS committee that is of interest to you.

Please take the time to do the student survey that I will be sending out soon. It is especially important because the board is discussing how the student contest will be conducted at the 2020 WSSA and WSWS joint meeting in Hawaii. Please communicate with Lucas or myself any concerns that you have before the summer board meeting, taking place at the end of July 2018.

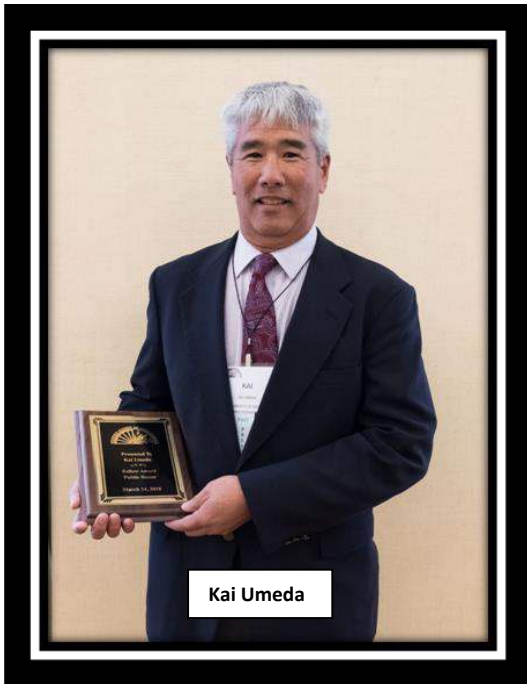
Best regards,

Clint Beiermann, Student Chair
clint.beiermann@huskers.unl.edu

Lucas K. Bobadilla, Student Chair (elect)
lucas.kopecky-bobadilla@oregonstate.edu

WSWS 2018 Fellow Awards – by William Cobb, chair

The WSWS Fellows and Honorary Member Committee is pleased to announce the Fellow Awards for 2018 were presented to Dr. Kai Umeda and Dr. Philip Munger.



The 2018 committee members were Bill Cobb (Chair), Joan Campbell, and Kassim Al-Khatib. Joan Campbell will assume the role of committee chair for 2019. Please submit nominations for Fellow and Honorary member Awards for 2019 to Ms. Campbell by December 1, 2018 (see future newsletter announcements).

Retirements in the Society - Kirk Howatt

We received notice that five members of the society retired since the 2017 Annual Meeting or will retire later this year. We are grateful to these individuals for many years of service to the society and professional leadership in their respective positions. Listed chronologically by retirement date.

- Jeff Tichota, Monsanto Company, retired spring 2017
- Charlotte Eberlein, University of Idaho, retired June 2017
- Rick Boydston, USDA-ARS, retired April 30, 2018
- Curt Thompson, Kansas State University, retiring July 18, 2018
- Rod Lym, North Dakota State University, retiring December 31, 2018

Congratulations and best wishes to all in their future endeavors.

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WSWS ONLINE EDUCATION

<http://passel.unl.edu/pages/index2col.php?category=weedscience#>

WSSA Journals Website Online
www.WSSAJournals.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aquatic Plant Management Society Annual Meeting

July 15-18, 2018
Buffalo, New York
www.apms.org

21st Australasian Weed Conference

Sep. 9-12, 2018
Sydney, Australia
www.21awc.org.au

72nd Annual Meeting of the Canadian Weed Science Society

Nov. 19-22, 2018
Niagara Falls, Ontario
www.weedscience.ca

North Central Weed Science Society Annual Meeting

Dec. 3-6, 2018
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
www.ncwss.org

Southern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting

Feb. 3-7, 2019
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
www.swss.ws

Weed Science Society of America Annual Meeting

Feb. 11-14, 2019
New Orleans, Louisiana
www.wssa.net

Western Society of Weed Science Annual Meeting

March 12-15, 2018
Denver, Colorado
www.wsweedscience.org

Elena Sanchez Memorial Scholarship - Roger Gast

The awards committee received a record twelve applications for the Elena Sanchez Memorial WWSWS Scholarship. Three of the applicants were undergraduates, so we dedicated one award for that category. All three winners this year were outstanding and were supported by impressive research papers presented at the Garden Grove meeting. The recipients of the Elena Sanchez Memorial Scholarship were Charlemagne Lim (grad student, MSU-Bozeman), Grace Ogden (undergrad, OSU-Stillwater), and Clint Beiermann (grad student, UN-Lincoln). A big thanks to their advisors for bringing along such great promising talent for the future of weed science.



Awards Committee Report – by Roger Gast, Prashant Jha and Gustavo Sbatella (in memorial)

We received nominations for both public “Outstanding Weed Scientist” award categories. All nominations were very impressive. The Outstanding Weed Scientist – Early Career award was granted to Dr. Brian Schutte, Assistant Professor at New Mexico State University. The Outstanding Weed Scientist – Public award was granted to Dr. Rick Boydston (USDA-ARS, Prosser, WA). The awards committee encourages all society members to consider nominating worthy candidates for all distinguished achievement award categories now or anytime later this year.



Brian Schutte



Rick Boydston & Roger Gast

The WWSWS would like to thank **Lucas Bobadilla**-M.S. student from Oregon State University who graciously volunteered his time and talents to furnish the photographs included in this newsletter.

2018 Presidential Award of Merit

Roger Gast received the WSWS Presidential Award of Merit from Monte Anderson at the 2018 annual meeting in Garden Grove, California.



Roger Gast & Monte Anderson

A Note from the Business Office -Tara Steinke

The 2018 WSWS Annual Meeting in Orange County, CA was a success thanks to the hard work and dedication of many Society members and the Board of Directors. Stay tuned as the 2019 meeting will be held in Denver, CO.

If you were not able to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting, it is time to renew your WSWS membership. To pay by credit card, simply log in to the Members Only Section on the www.wsweedscience.org website. If you have forgotten your username and/or password, please give us a call at the IMI office 303-327-8016 or drop us an email at info@wsweedscience.org. To send a check, simply fill out the Membership Form at the end of the newsletter and send that in with the check for 30.00

Kala Travis will be the contact at IMI for the Western Society of Weed Science moving forward. She has several years of Association Management experience and will be a great asset to WSWS. She can be reached at the phone number and email address above.

WSWS Looks to Form A Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Lynn M. Sosnoskie - University of California Cooperative Extension

As the recently appointed Member-at-Large, I was asked by the current WSWS President, Dr. Andrew Kniss, to help establish an ad hoc committee that would be charged with addressing the issues of diversity and inclusivity in our society. While the number of people actively engaged in scientific research in the United States (US) is increasing, data suggests that the demographics of the larger US population are not represented in math, science, and engineering fields. There are actions that can be taken within universities, industries, and professional societies to increase hospitality, facilitate engagement, and support retention of talented, under-represented members. The development of a diversity committee is a step towards encouraging inclusivity within our society with respect to race, gender, physical ability, and sexual orientation. If you are interested in learning more about the proposed plans for the committee, please e-mail me (imsosnoskie@ucanr.edu) or Andrew Kniss (AKniss@uwyo.edu) for more information.

2018 Student Paper and Poster Awards by Ryan Edwards

The 2018 WSWS Student Paper and Poster contest included 10 graduate and 2 undergraduate poster presentations and 16 oral presentations. To all students who participated in the contest, congratulations on your excellent presentations this year. In this year's contest, according to the rules established in the WSWS operating guide, the number of winning places in different sections varied depending on the number of students who participated in each section.

The Undergraduate Poster Contest was made up of two students with only 1st place awarded. The 1st place winner was Abigail Friesen from Kansas State University. The winning poster title was "Confirmation of ALS-Inhibitor Resistance in Wild Buckwheat (*Polygonum convolvulus* L. Polco) from Kansas".

The Graduate Poster Contest was made up of 10 students, with 1st, 2nd and 3rd places awarded. The 1st place winner was Nami Wada from Oregon State University. The winning poster title was "Comparison of Solarization and Biosolarization for Weed Control in a Tree Seedling Nursery in Western Oregon". The 2nd place winner was Lucas Bobadilla from Oregon State University. His poster title was "Effects of Synthetic Auxin Herbicides on Seed Production and Seed Viability of Herbicide Resistant Populations of Italian Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne* ssp. *multiflorum*) in Western Oregon". And the 3rd place winner was Ramawater Yadav from Montana State University with "Management of Glyphosate and Dicamba - Resistant Kochia (*Kochia scoparia*) in Roundup Ready® Xtend Soybean".



Students in the oral contest were divided into two sections. The first section had 7 papers all in the Basic Biology and Ecology section with 1st and 2nd places awarded. The 1st place winner was Albert Adjesiwor from the University of Wyoming. The winning paper title was "Shade Avoidance in Sugarbeet: Tragedy of the Commons?". The 2nd place winner was Hudson Takano from Colorado State University with "Why is Inhibition of Glutamine Synthetase Toxic to Plants?". The second section had 9 papers across the Agronomy, Horticulture and Range sections with 1st and 2nd places awarded. The 1st place winner was Gabriel Flick from Oregon State University. The winning paper title was "Brassicaceae Seed Persistence Under Different Tillage Regimes in The Willamette Valley". The 2nd place winner was Clint Beierman from the University of Nebraska. His winning paper title was

“Integrating Crop Rotation and Herbicide Programs to Improve Control of Problematic Weed Species in Sugarbeet?”.

Basic Biology and Ecology of Weeds



1st - Albert Adjesiwor, University of Wyoming
2nd - Hudson Takano, Colorado State University

Weeds of Agronomy, Horticulture and Range



2nd - Clint Beierman, University of Nebraska
1st - Gabriel Flick, Oregon State University

Finally, a huge thank you to all the judges who contributed their time and energy for this year's contests.

2018-2019 WSWS Officers and Executive Committee



Seated: Tim Miller, Lynn Sosnoskie, Andrew Kniss, Monte Anderson, Chad Cummings
Standing: Lucas Bobadilla, Joel Felix, Pat Clay, Brian Schutte, Brad Hanson, Clint Beiermann, Marty Schraer

The WSWS Rita Beard Endowment Foundation Announces Scholarship Recipients

The Rita Beard Endowment Foundation Board of Trustees have announced the two travel scholarship recipients for 2018. They are Shannon Clark, a Ph.D. candidate at Colorado State University and Clay Wood, an M.S. graduate student at the University of Wyoming. The Rita Beard Endowment Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit that was created from a generous donation from Rita Beard's family and friends to support students and early career invasive species managers with educational opportunities by providing registration and travel to professional meetings including: Society for Range Management, Western Society of Weed Science, Western Aquatic Plant Management Society and the North American Invasive Species Management Association. Both of this year's winners will be attending the Western Society of Weed Science annual meeting in March. To read more about the Foundation, learn how to apply for the 2019 scholarships, or make a donation go to: <http://www.wsweedscience.org/rita-beard-endowment-foundation/>.

Shannon Clark



My interest in invasive species management in natural areas started when I was hired to manage the weeds on a non-profit, educational ranch in a conservation easement from Rocky Mountain National Park. Faced with 1,000's of acres of downy brome to manage, I quickly realized the challenge faced by land managers. This led to my interest in doing a PhD focused on downy brome research. The emphasis of my PhD research consists of invasive winter annual grass (IWAG) control and restoration of desirable species on natural areas properties. More in-depth, my research looks at a new potential herbicide for IWAG control in natural areas and the release of desirable species after treatment, tolerance of native species to herbicides used in natural areas, and the impact of IWAG thatch layer to herbicide effectiveness and reinvasion of weeds. With over 50 million acres in the US infested with downy brome (*Bromus tectorum*) alone, I believe my research in management options for IWAG will contribute valuable information to natural areas managers. My ideal career and future contributions to weed science would involve continued invasive species research with a strong emphasis in communication to these managers.

Clay Wood



Upon graduation with a master's degree I would like to pursue a career in cooperative extension, weed and pest, or a similar organization to assist landowners and producers in solving problems and developing management techniques that are practical and achievable at any scale. My research is a landscape scale cheatgrass project and intended to develop strategic management strategies that will aid land managers in making better informed cheatgrass management decisions. In the scientific literature for rangeland systems there are multiple discussions about the concept of ecological thresholds, but, there are very few applied examples and established thresholds. Cropping systems use thresholds as a decision tool for weed management and my intent is to apply these principles to cheatgrass invaded rangelands to determine infestation levels where effects of cheatgrass control are positive for desirable vegetation.

WASHINGTON REPORT

March 23, 2018
Lee Van Wychen

Congress Avoids Sequestration with 2-Year Budget Agreement

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

Congress Approves FY 2018 Omnibus Appropriations

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

The omnibus appropriations legislation provides either increased or level spending for most of the science agencies. Agricultural research programs, including the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), will receive \$3.03 billion, an increase of \$138 million over FY 2017 and rejects the Administration's proposal to close 17 ARS locations. The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) is funded at \$400 million, \$25 million over FY 2017 and the Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education (SARE) program is funded at \$35 million, an increase of \$8 million over FY 2017. The Hatch Act

(\$243M), Smith Lever b & c (\$300M), IR-4 (\$11.9M) and Crop Protection and Pest Management (\$20M) programs are all level funded compared to FY 2017.

Wildfire Funding Fix in FY 2018 Omnibus

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

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

provide rural counties approximately \$200 million more per year. It also provides Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act Reauthorization. The legislation also includes seven important forest management reforms, including:

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

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

PRIA Authorization Extended to Sept. 30.

The FY 2018 Omnibus spending bill temporarily extended the authorization for the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) to Sep. 30, 2018. PRIA sets a fee schedule for registrants (~\$46 million in FY 2017) in exchange for specified time frames for regulatory decisions on low risk products and increased funds for pesticide education and training. PRIA reauthorization was easily expected in 2017, but environmentalists have

blocked its passage to protest other unrelated regulatory decisions by EPA. The registrant fees provided under PRIA support approximately 200 positions in the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs, which is just over 1/3 their workforce.

Northey Confirmed to Lead USDA Farm Production and Conservation Programs

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



Northey is a corn and soybean farmer from Spirit Lake, Iowa. He is a 1981 graduate of Iowa State University with a degree in agricultural business and also received an M.B.A. from Southwest Minnesota State University in 2004. Northey served as president of the National Corn Growers Association from 1995-96 and was co-founder and president of Innovative Growers, LLC, a farmer-owned and managed group designed to capitalize on demand for the production of specialty grain products. Northey had served as Iowa's Secretary of Agriculture since 2006, having won races in 2006, 2010 and 2014. He will have a key role in shaping the 2018 Farm Bill, which Congress will start to move forward on shortly.

Many Federal Agency Leadership Positions Still Vacant

Over a year into the Trump Administration, many federal agency leadership positions remain unfilled for a variety of reasons. Of the 642 key positions requiring Senate confirmation, 293 have been confirmed by the Senate as of March 23. Just under half of the key leadership positions at USDA, DOI and EPA have Senate confirmed appointments. The Washington Post and Partnership for Public Service are **tracking roughly 600 key executive branch nominations** through the confirmation process.

IR-4 Project Contributes \$9.4 Billion to GDP

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



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

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

Comment Period Open on Glyphosate Draft Risk Assessments

On Feb. 27, EPA officially opened a 60 day comment period on both its human health and ecological draft risk assessments for glyphosate. Comments are due **April 30, 2018**. Details are at: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0361>

California Judge Strikes Prop 65 Labeling Requirement for Glyphosate

On February. 27, a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction prohibiting California from implementing its Proposition 65 labeling requirement for glyphosate. This injunction was sought out by more than a dozen agricultural groups, including commodity organizations, industry representatives and eleven attorneys general across the U.S. The National Association of Wheat Growers was the lead plaintiff in the case. The decision will halt California's labeling requirement until a final ruling is issued later in court.

The judge stated that given the heavy weight of evidence in the record that glyphosate is not in fact known to cause cancer; the required warning is factually inaccurate and controversial. California initiated the Prop 65 labeling requirement based on the IARC finding in March 2015, which we now know edited out non-carcinogenic findings and was a case of gross scientific negligence. "It is inherently misleading for a warning to state that a chemical is known to the state of California to cause cancer based on the finding of one organization" said the judge, "when apparently all other regulatory and governmental bodies have found the opposite, including the EPA, which is one of the bodies California law expressly relies on in determining whether a chemical causes cancer".

EPA Being FOIA'd and Sued at Record Pace

From January. 20 to December. 31, 2017, EPA received 11,431 FOIA requests, up about 17

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

Hurricanes Hammer Monarchs But Conservation Efforts Continue

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

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

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

Despite foundational contributions requiring considerable public resource commitments for genetically engineered (GE) crop innovation and development, academic

institutions and small private entities have been almost entirely excluded from the agricultural biotechnology market.

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

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

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

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



February 26 – March 2, 2018

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

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

Next year will be the 20th NISAW! If you are interested in getting involved with NISAW or would like to sponsor events during the week, please contact me at

Lee.VanWyche@wssa.net or Rick Otis with the Reduce Risks from Invasive Species Coalition (RRISC) at rick.otis@rrisc.org.

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

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

2018 Survey of the Most Common and Troublesome Weeds Now Available

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

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

The 2018 survey focuses on weeds in the following areas:

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

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www.wssa.net

A Multistate Approach to Implementing a New Biological Control Program for Russian Knapweed

Russian knapweed (*Rhaponticum repens*) biological control has recently been the focus of an interstate approach to evaluate the impact on a new system of biological control. *Jaapiella ivannikovi*, a gall midge, and *Aulacidea acroptilonica*, a gall wasp, have had releases conducted throughout most of the infested range of Russian knapweed. With one or both of these biological control agents established in California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon and Wyoming, the future control of Russian knapweed looks promising. Working strategically, biological control practitioners in western states gathered baseline Standardized Impact Monitoring Protocol (SIMP; <http://invasivespecies.idaho.gov/bio-control-monitoring>) data on Russian knapweed and the associated plant community prior to releasing biological control agents and will gather SIMP data post release annually to quantify changes in the Russian knapweed and the associated plant community through time. In a number of areas SIMP plots were established not only at a Russian knapweed biological control agent release site, but also at a nearby control site where biological control agents were not released. By collecting SIMP data in control as well as release sites, researchers will be able to assess the impact of biological control and develop best management practices for integrating biological control with existing efforts to achieve weed management objectives.

To meet the demands of practitioners requesting these biological control agents, there are insectaries established in Colorado, Idaho, and Montana. *J. ivannikovi* is fairly easy to propagate in greenhouse/quarantine conditions and field collections are now occurring as well in states like Washington where the midge is well established. *A. acroptilonica* are harder to come by, but they are also available for those looking to initiate releases of the wasp.

Multistate approaches such as this allow practitioners and researchers to coordinate efforts and determine what factors play important roles in establishment and how effective these new biological control agents can be once they are established. By pooling resources and continuing to coordinate efforts, this approach will be invaluable as new biological control agents are approved going forward. For more information contact Joseph Milan, jmilan@blm.gov.

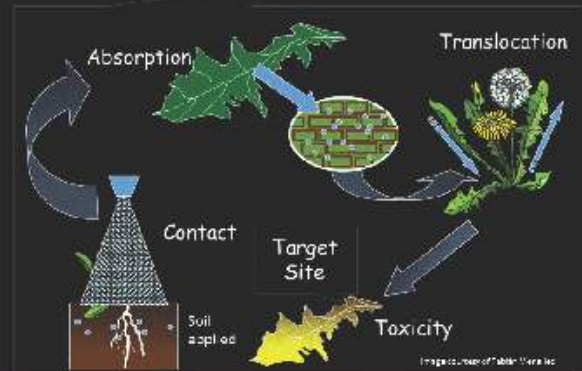
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2018 Membership Renewal Form for the Western Society of Weed Science

(To pay by credit card, please go to www.wsweedscience.org and login to your account)

IF YOU DID NOT ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING BUT WANT TO REMAIN A MEMBER, FILL IN THE INFORMATION BELOW AND SEND \$ 30.00 FOR DUES TO THE ADDRESS GIVEN.

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All publications can be ordered online at www.wsweedscience.org (click on **WEED BOOKS**)

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WSWS Objectives

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



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