



President's Report  
James Holloway  
SWSS President

Things are shaping up for the upcoming annual meeting January 2020. As I write this, many are still harvesting plots for research as well as crops from production fields. Looks like things are still following the "A Typical Year Scenario".

Your 2020 Program Chair, Dr. Eric Webster, has put together a great program for the 2020 meeting. The 2020 SWSS Annual Meeting will be held at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino in Biloxi, MS on January 27 – 30. There will be a lot ongoing at this year's conference, with Graduate Student Functions including: the Sunday night educational function, Quiz Bowl, the Graduate Student Luncheon and officer elections for the Graduate Student Organization. Other events include the Endowment functions, such as, the golf tournament on Sunday (please sign up for this it's at a great venue (<http://preserveveg.com/>), the silent auction (ongoing all week please bring items), as well as a Symposium, lots of posters and papers to learn about and of course great fellowship! If you want to provide an item for the silent auction, please let your Endowment President Donnie Miller know – [dmiller@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:dmiller@agcenter.lsu.edu).



Your past president, Dr. Bob Scott lined up a great list of candidates for the open board seats going into 2020. Here are the results of your votes: Vice President, Darrin Dodds; Member at Large (Academia), Shawn Askew; Member at Large (Industry), Kelly Backscheider; Secretary, Paul Tseng; WSSA Representative, John Bryd; and Endowment Foundation Board, Jason Bond. See photos below.

I encourage each of you to get to know your Board of Directors, maybe volunteer for a committee, get in involved in YOUR organization. It is the people that make a Volunteer organization like the SWSS work. If you have any thoughts, ideas, or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of your SWSS Board of directors!

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**2020 Annual Meeting**  
**January 27-30, 2020**  
Beau Rivage  
Biloxi, MS  
*Look for more details at:*  
[www.swss.ws](http://www.swss.ws)

## 2020 In-Coming Officers



Vice President  
Darin Dodds



Secretary/Treasurer  
Hunter Perry



Member at-large (Industry)  
Kelly Backsheider



WSSA Representative  
John Byrd



Endowment Board Trustee  
Jason Bond



Proceedings Editor  
Paul Tseng (unopposed)

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### Register and Book Now for the SWSS 2020 Annual Meeting

We would like to invite you to register and book your room for the annual meeting. It's important to make your hotel reservation for a couple of reasons:

1. *Rates* go up after **January 6, 2020**, along with the hotel's guarantee of room availability.
2. Our hotel contract states that we need to have enough reservations by January 6 to meet our room block obligation. We could have to make some concessions to the hotel should we fail to do so.

To make your reservation, call 888-567-6667 and indicate that you are attending the SWSS Annual Meeting.

### Annual Conference Registration Fees for Retirees

The Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS) values our former members and their service to agriculture. By action of the Board of Directors in 2014, SWSS members who are retired and are also previous recipients of the SWSS Fellow, Distinguished Service, or Weed Scientist of the Year Awards will receive complimentary full-conference registration. If there are any questions when registering for the annual conference, contact the SWSS Business Manager Kelley Mazur ([kelley@imigroup.org](mailto:kelley@imigroup.org); 303-327-8016) for assistance.

## Program Chair Report

*Eric Webster*

I would like to thank everyone for their patients while entering titles on the new submission system. So far, the system has some very nice user-friendly options, especially if you are on my end. It should be easy to put the overall program together once a few bugs are worked out. The minor bugs were expected, so I haven't hit the panic button yet.

I think the program is coming together. The General Session will include several speakers. Dr. Steve Martin, Associate Director of the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service, will welcome the SWSS to Mississippi and give us an overview of agriculture in the state. Our three Endowment Scholarship winners, Kayla Eason, Gourav Sharma and Taylor Randell, will provide a synopsis of their visits. Our President James Holloway and Lee Van Wychen will provide updates concerning the Society and Weed Science and politics in Washington, DC.

Immediately following the General Session, we have a scheduled symposium entitled, The Collision between Wildlife Management and Weed Science: Challenges and Opportunities Abound. We have four scheduled speakers who I expect to be very informative. I want to thank Carroll Johnson for helping out with this portion of the meeting. He has been, and will continue to be, a great asset to the society even though he has moved on to the retirement side of life.

As far as presentations for 2020, the numbers are up slightly from last year. There were 241 presentations in 2019 and 266 scheduled for 2020. There will be 125 posters and 141 oral presentations in 2020. The student contest continues to be a big draw, with 30 poster entries and 60 oral presentation contestants.

I really enjoy the Beau Rivage as a meeting location. I think you will find the meeting rooms and accommodations to be excellent. I look forward to seeing everyone in January.

**Abstracts are due January 20, 2020**

**Oral Presentation PowerPoint Submissions: Friday, January 17, 2020**

### **SWSS Women in Weed Science**

In 2019, we had our first annual women in weed science event at the annual meeting in Oklahoma City. We would like to welcome all women in weed science to plan to attend the 2nd annual Women in Weed Science event on Wednesday afternoon during the SWSS meeting. This networking event is open to all attendees including spouses, graduate and undergraduate students, and academic/industry professionals. More details on location and time will be announced closer to the meeting date.



For more information contact Dr. Kelly Backscheider at [Kelly.a.barnett@corteva.com](mailto:Kelly.a.barnett@corteva.com).

## SWSS Annual Golf Tournament Sunday, January 26, 2020

The Preserve Golf Club, Vancleave, MS

The 2020 SWSS Golf Tournament will be held Sunday, January 26th at The Preserve Golf Club in Vancleave, MS. It is imperative you complete the registration form on the next page if you intend to participate. With industry support, we will be able to limit entry fees to \$25 for students and \$50 for non-students. Simply complete the registration form and follow



instructions on the next page. Some rental clubs will be available at The Preserve; however, sets are limited and golfers are encouraged to bring their own set or share with a team member.

Link to The Preserve: <http://preservegc.com/>

The tournament will be a 4-man scramble with mixed teams consisting of students, industry and university scientists. The purpose is to encourage networking between these groups. Teams will be randomly assembled unless an industry sponsor requests play with certain students. Sponsors will be listed at the registration table during the SWSS annual meeting. All proceeds minus certain expenses (e.g., team prizes and lunch) will go directly to the SWSS Endowment. If you are interested in becoming a team sponsor, please contact Kelley Mazur ([kelly@imigroup](mailto:kelly@imigroup)) or Hunter Perry ([hunter.perry@corteva.com](mailto:hunter.perry@corteva.com)).

Some SWSS Endowment Donations are handled at meeting registration, but feel free to earmark your donation for the tournament. The donation will go to the Endowment as a sponsorship for 2, 3 or 4 student golfers and exempt them from the tournament fee.

Team Sponsorships are structured as follows:

|          |                                |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| Silver   | 500.00 (sponsors two students) |
| Gold     | 750.00 (3 students)            |
| Platinum | \$1,000.00 (4 students)        |

**\*All proceeds minus certain expenses (e.g., team prizes, lunch) will go to the SWSS Endowment Fund.**

**Awards:**  
A small awards banquet and meal will be held directly following completion of golf play.

**Sign up for the Golf Tournament on the next page.....**



**SWSS Golf Tournament Registration – Sunday, January 26, 2020**

Applications will be accepted through January 6, 2020 or until 18 foursomes (72 golfers) have registered.

**Contact Information for team or individual:**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Name:</b>           |  |
| <b>Address:</b>        |  |
| <b>City:</b>           |  |
| <b>State:</b>          |  |
| <b>Zip Code:</b>       |  |
| <b>Cell phone:</b>     |  |
| <b>E-mail Address:</b> |  |

|  | <b>Player</b> | <b>Cost</b> | <b>Number of players</b> | <b>Total Cost</b> |
|--|---------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
|  | Student       | \$ 25       |                          |                   |
|  | Non- Students | \$ 50       |                          |                   |

**Payment Information:**

Send to Kelley Mazur by phone (303-327-8016) to pay by credit card or fill out below and scan and send through email ([kelley@imigroup.org](mailto:kelley@imigroup.org)).

Credit Card Payment:            AMEX \_\_\_            MasterCard \_\_\_            Visa \_\_\_

Credit Card number:            \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date:                            \_\_\_\_\_            Sec. code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card:                        \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address for card holder: \_\_\_\_\_

Hole sponsors contact Kelley or Hunter Perry for registration information.

**Player's names & Average Score / round**

| <b>Player</b> | <b>Name</b> | <b>Average Score</b> |
|---------------|-------------|----------------------|
| 1             |             |                      |
| 2             |             |                      |
| 3             |             |                      |
| 4             |             |                      |

**Rental Clubs**

|                              | <b>Player #1</b> | <b>Player #2</b> | <b>Player #3</b> | <b>Player#4</b> |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Need Clubs (Yes / No)</b> |                  |                  |                  |                 |
| <b>Right or Left</b>         |                  |                  |                  |                 |
| <b>Men's or Women's</b>      |                  |                  |                  |                 |

## Check the Website for New Content

Dr. Muthu Bagavathiannan has completed the 2019 Proceedings and they are now available. Here is the link: <http://www.swss.ws/publications/proceedings/>.

Dr. Carroll Johnson has completed the 2019 MOP it is now available on our website. <http://www.swss.ws>.

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From Dave Black:

As Chair of the Necrology Committee, I would like to ask for any names and a short biography about members that have died since our last meeting. Please forward any information to me at [david.black@syngenta.com](mailto:david.black@syngenta.com).

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## Support Your Society

Please consider bringing items for the silent auction to this year SWSS meeting. Proceeds help support the Endowment Fund and its efforts.

Donne Miller, Chair, SWWS Endowment Chair

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The SWSS Annual Meeting is quickly approaching and it is important that we line up volunteer judges for the student contest. There is a robust list of participants and titles this year, so a large number of volunteer judges will be needed to make the contest a success. Everyone who has been involved with the student contests will agree that volunteer judges are the foundation for a successful contest.

If you are willing to judge a paper or poster section, please email me ([pete.eure@syngenta.com](mailto:pete.eure@syngenta.com)) with your preferred section (paper or poster). As always, we will try to organize judges into the subject areas they feel most comfortable, but we cannot promise everyone will be placed in their top section choice. I will send more information as the meeting approaches.

The SWSS Annual Meeting is an excellent opportunity for graduate students to prepare and present technical information to their colleagues and peers. Volunteering your time and support helps ensure we are providing students every opportunity to excel in Weed Science.

Thank you for your past, present and future service to the contest!  
Pete Eure, PhD

## Graduate Students

The Sunday night event this year will be January 26th and will include a panel discussion about the interview process and job market. The panel will consist of recent graduates that currently have jobs in the industry and academia. This will be a great opportunity for graduate students to gain knowledge and wisdom from previous students that have recently gone through the interview and job searching process. All graduate students are also invited to attend and participate in the SWSS golf tournament on Sunday January 26th that will take place at the Preserve Golf Course. On Tuesday January 28th there will be a graduate student luncheon that all graduate students are invited to attend. Dana Ashford (National Nutrient Management Specialist at USDA-NRC NHQ) will be this year's speaker and she will speak about leadership styles and being an authentic leader. Following Mrs. Ashford talk we hold our yearly graduate student business meeting to elect new officers. I highly encourage all students to participate in the golf tournament, the Sunday night event, and graduate student luncheon. All of these events are great opportunities for graduate students to network within the society and to further their professional careers.

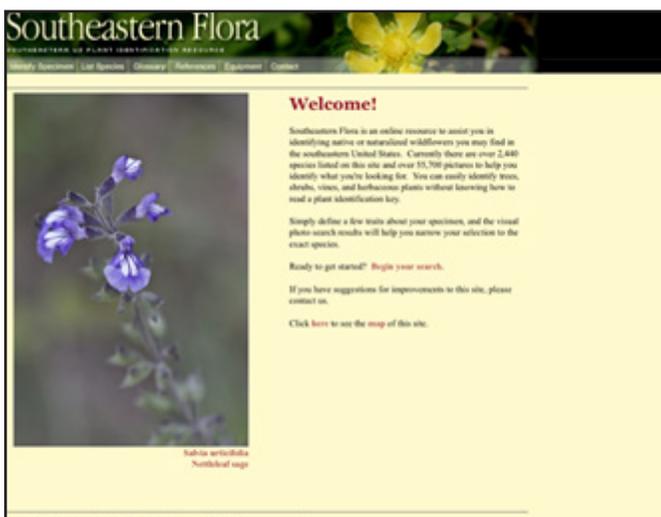
## Reference Material Available



As weed scientists, our occupation is to help manage plants that are out of place. But, how often do we wish we knew more about a particular species? How did it arrive in North America? Why did the early settlers bring it here? Does it have any redeeming value? Useful Wild Plants of Texas, the Southeastern and Southwestern United States, the Southern Plains, and Northern Mexico is an invaluable resource for those interested in learning potential economic uses of plants in that geographic region. Four volumes have been published thus far with the goal of documenting this information on 4000 species of native and naturalized plants. Volume 1 covers covers 267 species in 78 genera Abronia to Arundo; Volume 2 provides detailed information on 254 species in the 79 genera Asclepias to Canavalia; Volume 3 covers 129 species in the 23 genera Canna to Celtis; while Volume 4 covers 175 species in the 66 genera Cenchrus to Convolvulus. These clothbound editions contain not only written descriptions of species and common names, but color photographs, distribution maps, useful chemical compounds, and ethnobotanical uses. They can be ordered online at <https://www.usefulwildplants.org/encyclopedias> or contacting the Useful Wild Plants office in Austin, Texas at 512-928-4441.

## Online Resources

Do not read this unless you own at least one copy of Weeds of the South as well as Forest Plants of the Southeast and Their Wildlife Uses, both of which can be purchased from any number of online vendors and proceeds benefit SWSS. Combined, these two volumes will help you identify between 800 and 900 plants. Retired USDA scientist Charles Bryson and John Gwaltney (CEO of Forestry Suppliers) have developed an outstanding website [www.southeasternflora.com](http://www.southeasternflora.com) that covers many weeds not found in either of these publications. Charles handles the plant identification, while John photographs and organizes the images online and manages the website. As of November, 2019, Southeasternflora features 55,000 images of 2,440 plant species. Want to use one of his images for a video presentation? An email to John may take a few days (especially if the two of them are traveling with their spouses to distant states for more plant photographs) for a response, but he has always been agreeable with proper photo credit. If an image is needed for print media, he will email you a print quality file. While I've not successfully convinced Charles to rewrite the plant taxonomy key to start with "active growth in summer" or "active growth in winter", the website will allow users to input a limited number of plant characteristics such as flower color, leaf type, leaf arrangement and plant form to narrow the list down from 2,440. Common plant names are more likely to match common names you will find in the USDA Plants Database, rather than common names you may find in SWSS publications.



## WASHINGTON REPORT

November 22, 2019

Lee Van Wychen

### **Brosnan Presents Capitol Hill Seminar on Managing Herbicide Resistance in Turf**

On October 7th, Dr. James T. Brosnan, Professor in the Plant Sciences Department at the University of Tennessee (UT) and Director of the UT Weed Diagnostics Center presented a seminar to House and Senate staffers titled “*More Than Just the Mall: Turfgrass is a Modern Crop*”.



**ABSTRACT:** Turfgrass is now the predominant crop that Americans interact with daily. Found in lawns, parks, and all areas of urban green-space, turfgrass improves our climate, public health, and economy. Whether improving atmospheric conditions, filtering pollutants from ground water, or reducing graffiti and overall violence in urban settings, the benefits of turfgrass are abundant. Weeds of turfgrass threaten these benefits and must be controlled. Research supporting integrated approaches for controlling turfgrass weeds has been limited when compared to traditional crops such as corn and soybean, resulting in an over-reliance on herbicides to control weeds. Recently, the United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA) supported research on integrated approaches for controlling a single weed species of turfgrass, annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*). Our project will provide solutions for controlling this one species with fewer chemicals. However, other species also pose problems and resources will be needed to inform citizens how to best control them in turfgrass, a crop Americans in every Congressional district interact with daily.

*Photo (from left to right): Lee Van Wychen and Haleigh Summers, WSSA; James Brosnan, University of Tennessee; and Julie McClure and Karl Anderson, ASA-CSSA-SSSA.*

### **America Grows Act Would Boost Federal Ag Research Funding**

The National and Regional Weed Science Societies [have supported](#) legislation introduced by Senator Dick Durbin (IL) that would authorize a 5% inflation-adjusted annual increase for the next 5 years for agricultural research at USDA-ARS, NIFA, ERS, and NASS. The America Grows Act (S. 2458) is modeled after the 21st Century Cures Act passed in 2016, which spurred additional funding for NIH. The America Grows Act would provide critical investments in research to address production, nutrition, food security, and other major challenges across the U.S. food and agricultural sector. The companion bill in the House is H.R. 4714.

## 2019 Science Policy Fellows: John Schramski and Haleigh Summers

The Science Policy Fellow (SPF) is a new position supported by WSSA that is designed to assist me as Executive Director of Science Policy while providing the SPF with a short-term, robust experience in dealing with a broad array of weed science policy issues. The SPF's receive a stipend to help them cover their time and travel to Washington DC and the WSSA annual meeting. This year's SPF's are John Schramski and Haleigh Summers.

John is a second year master's student at Michigan State University working with Dr. Christy Sprague. He worked as a crop consultant after receiving a bachelor's degree in Crop and Soil Science from Michigan State in 2013. While working with growers, he became interested in weed science and managing herbicide-resistant weeds. His current research is focused on integrating fall-seeded cereal cover crops with herbicide programs to manage glyphosate-resistant horseweed in no-till soybean and understanding the different growth habits of fall and spring emerged horseweed. John is interested in how policy can shape the development of new weed management strategies to help growers.



Haleigh is a second-year master's student at Penn State with Dr. Heather Karsten. Her thesis projects include analyzing long-term data on reducing herbicides in a no-till dairy cropping system, looking at cultural and mechanical management options for glyphosate-resistant pigweed species, and studying early and late-season control of glyphosate-resistant horseweed (mar-estail). She received her bachelor's in Agronomy and Seed Science at Iowa State University. She is passionate about helping farmers become more environmentally friendly while still being profitable and believes policy will play a key role in this in the future.

## 2015 WOTUS Rule Repealed

On September 12, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works R.D. James announced the repeal of the Obama administration's Clean Water Rule, better known as the Waters of the United States rule, or WOTUS. The 2015 rule has never fully taken effect because there have been multiple court challenges. The repeal formally restores the previous regulatory regime nationwide until the Trump administration releases its own rule to deal with the issue of conflicting Supreme Court rulings on WOTUS.

In December 2018, EPA and the Army Corp proposed a new definition that would clearly define where federal jurisdiction begins and ends in accordance with the Clean Water Act and Supreme Court precedent. After a public comment period this spring, the proposed new WOTUS definitions are expected to be finalized this winter.

## **Interpreting Pesticide Residues in Food**

A new report from the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) aims to reduce consumers' worries by describing how information from complex risk assessments can be misinterpreted in news stories and by consumer advocacy groups. The innately complex findings from scientific publications can easily be shaped into unfavorable narratives that end up confusing grocery buyers more than aiding them.

The new CAST paper provides an overview of how pesticides are used in crop production and their benefits in the food production system. The authors also offer accurate evaluations of scientific sources commonly used by media outlets and advocacy groups to shape consumer advice. Download the [full paper](#).

## **Weed Science Societies Comment on EPA's Interim Process for Evaluating Potential Synergistic Effects of Pesticides during the Registration Process**

To date, EPA has used an interim process to evaluate 24 new active ingredient registrations. None of these reviews have ultimately impacted an existing EPA ecological risk assessment. The results from the analysis of the first 24 active ingredients reflects that there is a low probability that claims asserting greater than additive (GTA) effects will impact ecological risk assessments for pesticide active ingredients. Therefore, the National and Regional Weed Science Societies support EPA's plans to evaluate the results of the interim process, and once a sufficient number of reviews are completed, to decide whether continuing the process has utility in evaluating ecological risk associated with product use. If the outcome of EPA's future evaluation demonstrates that the interim process does not have utility in evaluating ecological risk associated with product use, our societies agree that EPA and registrants should not exhaust additional time and resources in this endeavor and suspend evaluations. The full comments are available [here](#).

## **USDA-NIFA Appoints 6 National Science Liaisons**

The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) program portfolio and contact with their stakeholders, partners, and collaborators will continue, uninterrupted, in Washington, DC. This will be led by six National Science Liaisons (NSLs), who will support the agency's national research, education, and extension portfolio; advance NIFA programs; and serve as expert resources. They are:

Mathieu (Mat) Ngouajio, Ph.D. – plant production and protection, organic farming

Eric Norland, Ph.D. – natural resources and environment

Bradley K. Rein P.E. – sustainable agricultural systems, technology, economics and social sciences

Caroline E. Crocoll, Ph.D., CFCS – human sciences and 4H

Mark Mirando, Ph.D. – animal health and production

Mervalin Morant, Ph.D. – food safety, nutrition and minority serving institutions

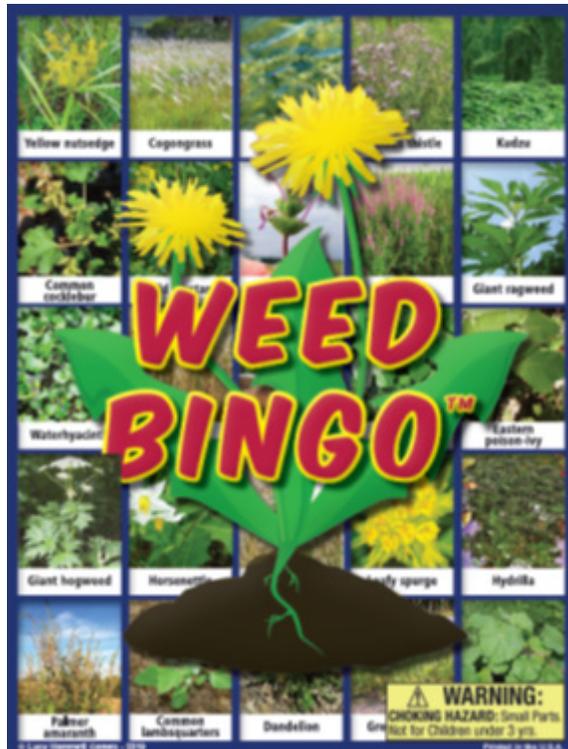
## **Weed Scientists Needed at USDA-NIFA**

Intensive hiring efforts are currently underway at USDA-NIFA to recruit highly qualified candidates for vacant positions that need to be filled at their new location in Kansas City. Please go their careers page for a condensed list of current and upcoming job announcements at: <https://nifa.usda.gov/career-opportunities>

## WEED BINGO Now Available for Purchase!

WEED BINGO is a fun game that blends a bit of science with interesting and unusual facts about some of North America's most common and troublesome weeds. Each of the 42 weed cards included in the game includes the common and scientific name of a weed, a photo and a brief description.

WEED BINGO would make a great holiday gift! The games are a fun educational tool that will help raise awareness about weeds and invasive plants in managed and natural ecosystems.



WEED BINGO is produced by the Weed Science Society of America, with support from the Aquatic Plant Management Society, North Central Weed Science Society, Northeastern Weed Science Society, Southern Weed Science Society and Western Society of Weed Science. Each game is \$14.95 + \$5 shipping and handling for domestic shipping.

To purchase a game, please go to: <https://wssa.memberclicks.net/books>

Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D.  
 Executive Director of Science Policy  
 National and Regional Weed Science Societies