



## President's Message

As we're nearing the end of the production season, I trust everyone has had a productive year in their business and research trials. As I've watched the weather throughout the course of the spring and early summer I've noticed it's been challenging at best. It leaves me wondering when we're going to have a "normal" weather pattern.



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[www.swss.ws](http://www.swss.ws)



Believe it or not, preparations are underway for the annual meeting in Birmingham, AL at the Hyatt Regency January 27<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>. Local arrangement co-chairs Joyce Tredaway Ducar and Scott McElroy have an excellent site to work with and will have another outstanding venue in the works. This is a very central location for a lot of our membership so please plan to attend. Program Chair Scott Senseman has been busy putting together what is promising to be another great program. The Call for Papers is also being announced in this issue of the newsletter. We'll be using the same submission method as last year with a few changes that will be transparent to the authors but will hopefully help the Program Chair and Graduate Student Contest Chair in their scheduling. So, please be mindful of that when registering and completely fill in the information that is asked. Scott will also let us know about presentation submission in the call for papers as well. Last year saw a 90%+ online submission rate for presentations. With the exception of a few glitches, I considered this a success for the first time using this process.

There is also the possibility of another golf tournament to benefit the Endowment Foundation. The initial leg work is underway so stay tuned for more developments. For those that play golf this is an opportunity to multitask: play golf and support our Endowment Foundation activities. If you don't play golf, be sure to donate at the meeting.

As I mentioned in the May newsletter, our prior webmaster, Tony White has stepped down. The Board accepted bids to redesign and host the website and chose Apex WebStudio, LLC as our new website host. They will be responsible for a complete site re-work and it should be online by mid September if not a little sooner. This is the same company that hosts the WSSA, NEWSS, and several other professional societies. They also designed and support the online title and presentation submission site that we currently use. So, this should be a seamless integration of the two sites. We look forward the unveiling of the new site soon.

Past President Tom Mueller has also been hard at work streamlining the award nomination procedures which are also published in this newsletter. This new procedure will make the process much less time consuming and will hopefully result in more nominations being received in the future. We all know someone that is deserving of one of these awards so we hope this will aid in those individuals getting the recognition they deserve. The Board also decided to

make a change in one of our most prestigious awards that we hope will be well received and supported by the membership. This is also detailed in the Call for Awards Nominations.

Our new Constitution and Bylaws Chair, Carroll Johnson, has also been working to revise the MOPs where changes in our new website provider dictate. There are also a couple of changes that will need to be voted on by the membership at the annual meeting so please be familiar with those and cast your vote during the business meeting in January. These changes are also published in this newsletter. Updating and modifying the MOPs has turned out to be a work in progress. What Past President Tom Holt started several years ago has evolved into a yearly exercise that has resulted in a society that is running much smoother and more efficiently.

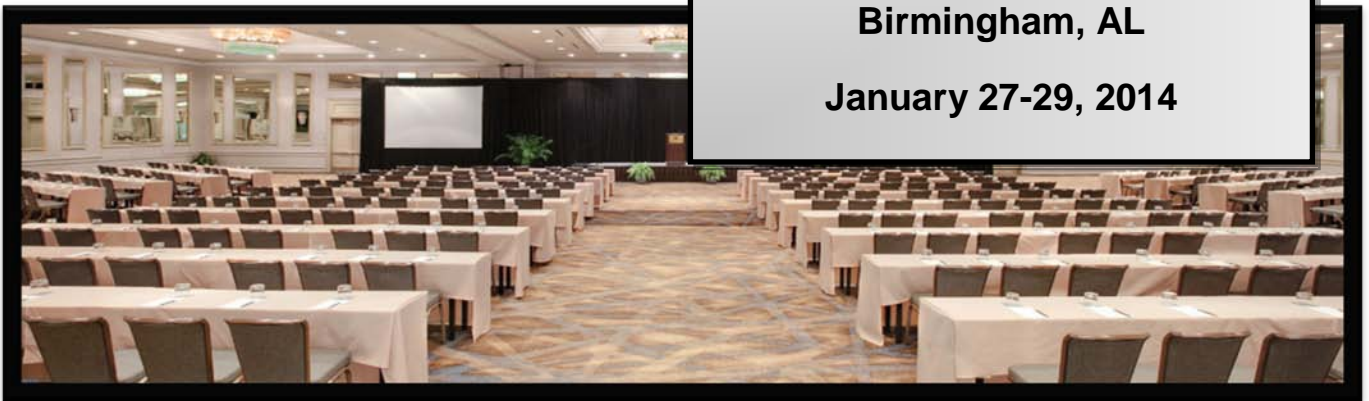
The society can't function and improve without input from its membership. If you have ideas to improve the meeting or ways to enhance the society's value to its membership, please contact me, a Board member, or a committee chair. They'll be more than happy to listen.

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Kelly  
President, SWSS

**Join us for the  
2014 SWSS Annual Conference  
At the Hyatt Regency in  
Birmingham, AL  
January 27-29, 2014**



Instructions for joining the 2014 SWSS Annual Conference:

Go to [wssaabstracts.com](http://wssaabstracts.com)

If you've previously used the WSSA abstract system, enter you login name and password. The login name is your email address. If you've forgotten your password, click the 'Reset password' link on the right sidebar.

- If this is your first time using the system, then you'll need to create an account. On the right side click "Setup New Account". Fill in your contact information and click "Submit". You'll receive an email with a link to set your password. You will then be prompted to enter/change your password. Once successful, you'll automatically be logged into the site.
2. From this initial page, click "Join a Conference".
  3. Choose "2014 Southern Weed Science Society" from the dropdown menu and click "Add".
  4. At this point you have joined the 2014 SWSS Conference as a participant.

## Call for Paper and Poster Titles

The deadline for title submission this year will be September 27, 2013. We will again be using the same software package to handle title submission, abstract collection, and PowerPoint files as the WSSA. This process was extremely successful for the 2013 title submission process and we will continue this method. If at any time you have issues, please email me and I will assist you in the process (ssensema@utk.edu).

You are invited to submit titles for papers and posters to be presented at the 2014 annual meeting of the *Southern Weed Science Society*. The meeting will be held January 27-29, 2014 at the Wynfrey Hyatt Hotel in Birmingham, Alabama. Papers and posters may be submitted to one of the following sections:

- Graduate Student Oral Contest papers
- Weed Management in Agronomic Crops
- Weed Management in Turf
- Weed Management in Ornamentals
- Weed Management in Pasture and Rangeland
- Weed Management in Horticultural Crops
- Vegetation Management in Utilities, Railroads & Highway Rights of Way; Industrial Sites
- Weed Management in Forestry
- Physiological & Biological Aspects of Weed Management
- Educational Aspects of Weed Science
- Regulatory Aspects related to Weed Science
- Soil & Environmental Aspects of Weed Management
- Invasive Plant Species
- Weed Management in Aquatics
- Weed Management in Organic Production Systems
- Posters
- Graduate Student Symposium (Titles input by Scott Senseman)

Paper sessions will consist of 15-minute presentations which includes time for questions. Workshop/Symposia presentations are by invitation and may be longer than 15 minutes allotted for volunteer papers. Periods for discussion will be interspersed in the sessions. Section Chairs are:

Graduate Student contest -----	Hunter Perry
Graduate student symposium -----	Trevor Israel (Grad student rep)
Weed Management in Agronomic Crops -----	Darrin Dodds
Weed Management in Turf -----	Ramone Leon
Weed Management in Ornamentals -----	Steve Myers
Weed Management in Pasture and Rangeland -----	Brent Sellers
Weed Management in Horticultural Crops -----	Steve Myers
Vegetation Management in Utilities, Railroads & ----- Highway Rights of Way, Industrial Sites	Vernon Langston
Weed Management in Forestry -----	Andy Ezzel
Physiological & Biological Aspects of Weed Management-----	Chad Brommer
Educational Aspects of Weed Science -----	Eric Webster
Soil and Environmental Aspects ----- of Weed Management	Tim Grey
Regulatory Aspects -----	Ralph Lassiter
Weed Management in Aquatics -----	TBA
Weed Management in Organic Production -----	TBA
Posters -----	Bob Scott

## Submission of Titles

Title submission process for the 2014 meeting is the same as last year. We will be using the WSSA submission system, which is accessible from the SWSS website (<http://www.swss.ws>) by clicking the "Submit Title/Abstract" link on the homepage. Alternatively you can go directly to the submission website (<http://www.wssaabstracts.com>). See the instructions below for using the system.

**Titles are due no later than September 27, 2013.** Program and instructions for abstracts will be sent later to the presenter. Abstracts will be due no later than January 17, 2014.

Authors are encouraged to submit their best research and other results for presentation at the SWSS meeting. **Each author is assured of one senior-author presentation**, but multiple senior-author submissions will be accepted only as space and time is available. If you have several papers or posters you wish to present, please indicate which is highest priority by adding a note in the comments section on the title submission form, or emailing Scott Senseman at [ssensema@utk.edu](mailto:ssensema@utk.edu).

**Graduate students:** If you intend to participate in the Grad Student paper or poster contest, select "Yes" from the dropdown menu next to "To be judged in the Student Contest" on the bottom portion of the title submission form. Regardless of your participation in the contest, please denote that you are a student when completing or updating your profile when you log in or when setting up your account.

Participation in Symposia/Workshops will be by invitation and titles will be submitted separately from the other sections.

## Title and Abstract System

On the WSSAAbstracts.com homepage, follow these steps:

Login

- If you've previously used the WSSA abstract system, then enter you login name and password. The login name is your email address. If you've forgotten your password, click the 'Reset password' link on the right sidebar.
  - If this is your first time using the system, then you'll need to create an account. On the right side click "Setup New Account". Fill in your contact information and click "Submit". You'll receive an email with a link to set your password.
- 1) After logging in, on the right sidebar click "Join a Conference". A dropdown box will appear in the middle of the screen. In the dropdown list, select 2014 Southern Weed Science Society. You only have to perform this step one time.
  - 2) Click the "Enter" button next to 'Southern Weed Science Society'.
  - 3) On the next page, click 'My Titles and Abstracts'. Click the 'Add New Title/Abstract' button, and then enter your title, section, authors and keywords.

## Paper Presentations

***Only LCD Presentations will be used at the 2014 SWSS Meeting.***

**NEW FOR THE 2014 MEETING:** All presentations must be submitted via the website before the meeting. This is to avoid last minute changes and on-site loading that could potentially disrupt the program. To ensure quality presentations and a smooth transition from presentation to

presentation all presenters will be required to follow directions provided on the website. Further instructions will be provided in the December newsletter.

All presentations will be in **PowerPoint 2007 for MS Windows** (PC compatible). ***Other formats such as Macintosh/Apple will not be supported.***

Presentation size should be no larger than 100 MB. Use the "Compress" function from the "Picture Toolbar" in PowerPoint to reduce size of a file with pictures. Audio clips or sound are not allowed. Fonts used in the presentation are limited to basic ones such as Arial, Courier, or similar equivalents. Not all computers used at the meeting will support all fonts.

Animation is very strongly discouraged. Permission to use video must be prearranged. Contact the section chair before the meeting if you plan to use video clips. SWSS cannot guarantee proper functioning of the video.

Presenters will NOT be allowed to use their own computers during the sessions. More details will be provided in the December Newsletter for submitting presentations.

### **Poster Presentations**

No substantive changes have been made in the rules for poster presentation at the 2014 conference. More information will be provided in the next newsletter.

### **Student Information**

During the 2012 and 2013 submission process, some students failed to completely fill out the submission form that caused them to not be entered into the desired contest. This caused numerous program changes after printing and some confusion at the meeting. Please be certain to fill out the submission form completely and accurately.

Rules for the Student Contest are presented in Manual of Operating Procedures (MOP) on the SWSS website.

Students are eligible to participate in both the Student Paper Contest and the Student Poster Contest multiple times during a M.S. program and a Ph.D. program. However, a student cannot participate in both contests concurrently. A student can only win 1<sup>st</sup> place in the paper and poster contest once per degree program. All students presenting a paper or poster are eligible for any available student benefits whether or not they enter the contest.

Specific questions pertaining to the Student Contest should be directed to Chair of the Student Contest: Hunter Perry (dhperry@dow.com).

If you have any questions about submitting a title for the 2014 meeting contact:

Scott Senseman, 2014 Program Chair  
University of Tennessee  
2431 Joe Johnson Drive  
252 Ellington Plant Sciences Building  
Knoxville, TN 37996-4561  
Tel: 865-974-8033  
e-mail: [ssensema@utk.edu](mailto:ssensema@utk.edu)

## Nominations for SWSS Awards

Please see the listings below describing our revised awards nomination procedures. Most packages will be much shorter and will include a nomination letter and 2 support letters. For some awards, a short summary document such as a resume or CV may be attached.

Besides the shortened nomination forms, the SWSS also has a new award. The SWSS board of directors decided to start naming SWSS Fellows. Please see the description below for details. The SWSS Board also discontinued the awarding of the Weed Scientist of the Year. This information will also appear in the August 2013 SWSS Newsletter.

## The deadline for nominations is September 15, 2013

Please send your nominations to the appropriate contact person for each award:

Award	Contact	Email
Fellow	Randy Ratliff	randy.ratliff@syngenta.com
Distinguished Service*	Brad Minton	brad.minton@syngenta.com
Outstanding Young Weed Scientist*	Jason Bond	jbond@drec.msstate.edu
Outstanding Educator	Jay Ferrell	jferrell@ufl.edu
Outstanding Graduate Student**	Daniel Stephenson	DStephenson@agcenter.lsu.edu

\*- denotes 2 awards, one for industry and one for academia

\*\* - denotes 2 awards, one for MS student and one for PhD student

I very strongly encourage you to nominate others for our awards. Please contact me with comments, concerns or questions at [tmueller@utk.edu](mailto:tmueller@utk.edu)

Respectfully submitted,



Tomas C. Mueller

### Award Category Descriptions:

The **SWSS Fellow award** is the highest honor the Society presents. The purpose of this award is to recognize those members who have made significant contributions to the Southern Weed Science Society.

To be eligible for the SWSS Fellow award, the potential recipient must:

1. Have been an active member of the SWSS for >20 years
2. Be at least 50 years of age at the time of the annual meeting

3. Have made significant contributions of service to the SWSS (including but not limited to: serving on committees or being an officer, hosting SWSS contests, judging at the paper/poster contest, etc..)
4. Contributed substantially to the success of his/her company, university, and/or government agency and to advance the discipline of Weed Science in the SWSS region.
- A. The nomination must be by letter and 2 supporting letters are required. (All sent in a single pdf file to the appropriate person listed on the SWSS website, at [www.swss.ws](http://www.swss.ws) ).
- B. The nominating letter should explain in general and specific terms the outstanding contributions of the nominee. The nominating letter should contain a listing of the various contributions to the SWSS, but is limited to 2 pages in total length. The 2 supporting letters are also limited to 2 pages in length for each letter. A summary document describing the nominee (such as a CV) may be added but is limited to a total of 3 pages in length.
- C. The contributions must be in regards to SWSS and weed science in the SWSS region.
- D. Awards Committee members are not eligible during their time of service on the awards committee.
- E. Award is limited to a maximum of 0.4% of total SWSS membership each year (rounding up from the calculated percentage)
- F. The Award recipient(s) receive a plaque at the annual meeting, and each subsequent year all winners get a Fellows ribbon to wear at the annual meeting.

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The SWSS **Distinguished Service Award (DSA)** recognizes members who have made significant contributions to the Southern Weed Science Society. One award each year from the categories of industry and academia.

To be eligible for the DSA, the potential recipient must:

1. Must be a voting member of the Southern Weed Science Society for at least five (5) of the last ten (10) years and must be a voting member of the Society in the year the person is nominated for the award. Exceptions may be considered if terminal illness prevented active membership in the final years.
2. Must have made outstanding contributions to the Southern Weed Science Society through committee work, elective offices held, initiation of programs, or other contributions that have benefitted the Society.
- A. The nomination must be by letter and 2 supporting letters are required. (All sent in a single pdf file to the appropriate person listed on the SWSS website, at [www.swss.ws](http://www.swss.ws) ).

- B. The nominating letter should explain in general and specific terms the outstanding contributions of the nominee. The nominating letter should contain a listing of the various contributions to the SWSS, but is limited to 2 pages in total length.

The 2 supporting letters are also limited to 2 pages in length for each letter.

- C. Awards Committee members are not eligible during their time of service on the awards committee.
- D. Award is limited to two awards each year, one from industry member and one from academic member.
- E. The Award recipient(s) receive a plaque at the annual meeting and a \$500 cash award.

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The SWSS **Outstanding Educator Award (OEA)** is presented annually to a weed scientist in recognition of outstanding contributions to the Society and Weed Science through education. The Award is to be given in recognition of a broad range of activities including formal classroom teaching, outreach and public service or extension including workshops, seminars, short courses, or other means of communication, and mentoring undergraduate and graduate students.

To be eligible for the OEA award, the potential recipient must:

1. Must be a voting member of SWSS in the year of nomination
  2. Must be an active member of SWSS during the last five (5) years.
- A. The nomination must be by letter and 2 supporting letters are required. (All sent in a single pdf file to the appropriate person listed on the SWSS website, at [www.swss.ws](http://www.swss.ws) ).
  - B. The nominating letter should explain in general and specific terms the outstanding educational contributions of the nominee. The nominating letter should contain a listing of the various educational contributions, but is limited to 2 pages in total length.

The 2 supporting letters are also limited to 2 pages in length for each letter.

A summary document describing the nominee (such as a CV) may be added but is limited to a total of 3 pages in length. Possible information includes classes taught, number of graduate students advised, etc.

- C. Awards Committee members are not eligible during their time of service on the awards committee.
- D. Award is limited to one award per year.
- E. The Award recipient receives a plaque at the annual meeting and a \$1,000 cash award presented at the annual meeting.



The SWSS **Outstanding Young Weed Scientist Award (OYWSA)** is presented annually to a young weed scientist; one from academia (teaching, research, extension) to be sponsored by BASF and one from Industry to be sponsored by the SWSS in recognition of outstanding service to weed science.

To be eligible for the OYWSA, the potential recipient must:

1. Have been a voting member of the Society for the last five (5) years.
  2. Be 40 years of age or younger on January 31 of the year she or he receives the award.
  3. Must have completed at least five (5) years' work in weed science other than that related to academic studies. (5 full years post-graduation).
- A. The nomination must be by letter and 2 supporting letters are required. (All sent in a single pdf file to the appropriate person listed on the SWSS website, at [www.swss.ws](http://www.swss.ws) ).
- B. The nominating letter should explain in general and specific terms the outstanding contributions of the nominee. The nominating letter should contain a listing of the various contributions to the SWSS and to the discipline of weed science, but is limited to 2 pages in total length.

The 2 supporting letters are also limited to 2 pages in length for each letter.

A summary document describing the nominee (such as a CV) may be added but is limited to a total of 3 pages in length.

- C. The contributions must be in regards to SWSS and weed science in the SWSS region.
- D. Awards Committee members are not eligible during their time of service on the awards committee.
- E. Award is limited to two awards each year, one from industry member and one from academic member.
- F. The Award recipient(s) receive a plaque at the annual meeting, and a \$1,000 cash award.

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The SWSS **Outstanding Graduate Student Award (OGSA)** (one each for students at the MS level and the PhD level) - These awards are sponsored by the SWSS Endowment Foundation and consist of a \$100 cash award and a plaque for MS level and \$200 cash award and plaque for PhD level. The awards are given annually to a graduate student (one at the MS level and one at the PhD level) who has demonstrated outstanding performance in graduate studies and related weed science activities.

To be eligible for the OGSA, the potential recipient must:

1. Must be enrolled as a graduate student in the degree program for which she/he is nominated within the calendar year prior to the SWSS annual meeting in January.
  2. Have actively participated in SWSS sponsored activities such as the annual meeting, weed contest, student paper contest, or committee work.
  2. Must have been a member of SWSS during their time as a student at a SWSS member institution.
- A. The nomination packet includes a nomination letter, 2 supporting letters, 1-3 page CV, and unofficial copy of the students transcripts are required. (All sent in a single pdf file to the appropriate person listed on the SWSS website, at [www.swss.ws](http://www.swss.ws) ).

- B. The nominating letter should explain in general and specific terms the outstanding contributions of the nominee. The nominating letter should contain a listing of the various contributions to the SWSS, but is limited to 2 pages in total length.

The 2 supporting letters are also limited to 1 page in length for each letter.

One of the letters (nomination or supporting) must be from the student=s advisor at the time of the nomination.

A summary document describing the nominee (such as a CV) should be limited to a total of 3 pages in length.

Transcripts of the student, including a listing of courses taken and grades earned should be included with the packet. Unofficial copies are acceptable, but the advisor agrees that the transcript represents the actual course of study of that student.

- C. Students of Awards Committee members are not eligible during their time of service on the awards committee.
- D. Award is limited to two awards each year, one for MS student and one for PhD student.
- E. The Award recipient(s) receive a plaque at the annual meeting and a cash award.  
SWSS candidates for 2014 elections

## **2014 SWSS Golf Tournament**

There will again be a SWSS Golf Tournament as part of the 2014 SWSS Meeting. All proceeds generated will go to the SWSS Endowment Fund; therefore a high level of participation is encouraged. This year the event will be held on January 26 at FarmLinks Golf Club at Pursell Farms near Sylacauga, AL. Hunter Perry is working to make this a successful outing. More information will be made available to the SWSS membership as we approach the 2014 SWSS Annual Meeting. Additional golf course information can be found at: <http://www.farmlinks.org/golf/>

WSSA has two position announcements that were referenced in the July newsletter. Please note the deadline for each position is August 31st.

- There is a position announcement for the Director of Publications, effective February 2014. The announcement includes information about the position responsibilities. Applications should be submitted to James Kells, President of WSSA by August 31st, 2013.
- There is a position announcement for the Newsletter Editor, effective February 2014. Applications are due to James Anderson, Director of Publications by August 31st, 2013.

## SWSS Committee Restructuring Proposal

The leadership of the Southern Weed Science Society is in the process of studying the standing committee structure to ensure that management efficiency of the organization is improved and critical issues of the weed science discipline are being adequately addressed.

1. It is proposed that the Herbicide Resistant Weeds Committee be renamed to **Weed Resistance and Technology Stewardship Committee** and granted full standing in the Southern Weed Science Society. Presently, this is an ad-hoc committee, temporarily serving at the request of the SWSS Board of Directors. Due to the complexity and importance of weed resistance to commonly used herbicides and the need to protect herbicide effectiveness, full standing of this committee will allow for critical information sharing and collaboration among weed scientists in the southern region.
2. It is proposed that the Southern Weed Science Society Weed Identification Committee be inactivated. One of the functions of this committee was to monitor and guide SWSS response to herbicide resistant weeds. That function will be addressed by the new Weed Resistance and Technology Stewardship Committee. Another function of the Weed Identification Committee was to manage the Weed Survey, which was redundant with a defined duty of the Research Committee. The Weed Survey will remain a duty of the Research Committee. Additional functions of the Weed Identification Committee were to ensure accurate/standardized weed identification and develop weed identification guides for the southern region. If questions arise regarding weed taxonomy/systematics or weed identification publications need revision, the Weed Identification Committee can be reactivated or serve in an ad-hoc capacity.

These proposals are being presented for information and will be subjects of open discussion and vote by the general membership at the January 2014 SWSS Business Meeting in Birmingham.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carroll Johnson  
Constitution and Operations Committee Chairman

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To all SWSS Members:

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

Regards,

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## SWSS Candidates for 2013 Elections

### Peter Dotray is running for Vice President



Peter Dotray is a Professor and Extension Weed Specialist with Texas Tech University, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service - Lubbock. He is a native of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and received his B.S. degree in Agronomy from the University of Minnesota at St. Paul and his M.S. degree in Agronomy from Washington State University at Pullman. He received a Ph.D. in Agronomy from the University of Minnesota and started his three-way appointment in Lubbock in 1993. Peter conducts weed control research in several crops including cotton, peanut, grain sorghum, corn, and sesame. In addition to weed control responsibilities, Peter has responsibilities in teaching and as an Extension Weed Specialist in District 2, which contains 20 counties on the Texas Southern High Plains. Peter has served as the major advisor or co-advisor of 33 graduate students, has served 29 graduate committees, and has six graduate students in progress. He has authored or coauthored 327 abstracts and proceedings, 60 journal articles, 174 technical publications and popular articles, seven book chapters, and has given 84 presentations at professional meetings and over 615 seminars and presentations at grower meetings.

Peter has been very active in the Southern Weed Science Society. He has served on the Board of Directors on three occasions: Proceedings Editor (2003-05), CAST Representative (2006-08), and as Member At-Large - Academia (2012-present). He has served on the Display Committee (1998-00, Chair in 2000), Placement Committee, Program Committee (3X, Chair of Posters in 2006), Site Selection Committee, Section Moderator (4X), Terminology Committee, and several Awards Subcommittees (Distinguished Service Award Subcommittee (4X), Outstanding Graduate Student Award Subcommittee, Outstanding Educator Award Subcommittee (Chair in 2011), and Weed Scientist of the Year Award Subcommittee).



### Bob Scott is running for Vice President

Bob Scott has been a member of the SWSS since 1992. He was active as a student at Oklahoma State and Mississippi State where he participated in the weed contest and the paper and Poster contests. While working on his PhD at Mississippi State he served as an organizer for the graduate student organization and attended board meetings as the first (non-voted in) student representative to the SWSS Board of Directors. In 1998 he co-hosted the weed contest while working for American Cyanamid Company. He was Co-chair and Chair of the Student Paper/Poster contests in 2000-01. He served as Industry Representative on the Board of Directors during 2000 and 2001, before accepting a job in 2002 with the University of Arkansas as Extension Weed Specialist, where he has been for 11 years and is now a Professor of Weed Science and Director of the Extension Ag Research Centers at Lonoke and Newport, AR. Bob again hosted the Weed Contest in 2006 and Co-hosted in 2012. He served on the Board of Directors from 2007 to 2009 as At-large Representative for Academia. He has served on numerous committees including the Outstanding Young Weed Scientist Award, which he received in 2010. He currently serves as SWSS Newsletter editor (2010-present).



### **Cheryl Dunne is running for Board Member at Large - Industry**

Cheryl Dunne, a native of Nova Scotia, Canada, began her career with Ciba-Geigy in 1988 at the Vero Beach Research Center where she was responsible for several greenhouse research projects in corn, soybeans, and turf. While working, Cheryl earned her B.S. and M.S. degrees in the Environmental Sciences with the University of Florida. Cheryl has held various positions within the company and was promoted to R&D Group Leader R&D in 2012. She is currently responsible for leading a diverse group of Scientists who conduct research on key herbicide development projects from early herbicide discovery to commercial product support. Her research over the years has included biological testing of experimental herbicides, herbicide formulation, safener, and soil dissipation work, adjuvants and water quality, synergy studies, weed resistance monitoring, and carryover potential of herbicides. Cheryl has also been involved with sales support and training on herbicide technologies, and has been granted several patents for various research projects supporting intellectual property protection for Syngenta. Cheryl has supported SWSS since 2010, the Florida Weed Science Society since 1989, and the North Central Weed Science Society since 1995 which she is currently the Chair of the Resident Education Committee.



### **Vernon Langston is running for Board Member at Large- Industry**

Vernon B. Langston has been a member of the SWSS since 1982 when a student at Louisiana State University. Since then, he has served on numerous committees such as the Southern Weed Contest, the Herbicide Resistant Weed Committee and the Outstanding Graduate Student Committee. He co-hosted the Weed Contest at the Dow Mid-South Research Farm in 1988 and has assisted with the contest over a number of years. He has served on the local arrangements committee when the meeting was held in Houston, TX in 2003 and 2013. He has served as Section chair for the Weed Management - Utility, Railroads, Right-of-Ways for the past three years and for the other sections when needed. He has been with Dow AgroSciences for 28+ years as a Research Scientist for MS, LA, NC, SC, VA, MD, DE, OK, AR, NM and TX over the years.



**Scott McElroy is running for Board Member at Large - Academia**

Scott McElroy is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agronomy and Soils at Auburn University. He received his MS from the Auburn University in Agronomy and Soils and his PhD from the NC State University in Crop Science with a minor in Plant Ecology. Dr. McElroy was previously employed as an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in Turfgrass and Weed Science at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee. Dr. McElroy now holds a joint appointment at Auburn University with the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station and the College of Agriculture. His primary research areas are on methods for weed management in turfgrass systems, and physiology and molecular biology of herbicide resistant weed species. He is an associate editor for the Weed Science Society of America Journal, Weed Technology, and also serves as a reviewer for Weed Science, Agronomy Journal, Crop Science, HortScience, and HortTechnology. Dr. McElroy teaches two classes, Principles of Weed Science (AGRN 3120) and Applied Weed Science Technology (AGRN 5200/6200). Dr. McElroy maintains an active international research and teaching presence. He is currently an elected board member of the European Turfgrass Society and an associate editor for International Turfgrass Society. He regularly hosts visiting scholars from China, Brazil, and Italy, as well as numerous unofficial visits from individuals around the world that wish to visit his research program in Auburn. He is an often-invited international and national speaker on the topic of weed management in turfgrass. Dr. McElroy was awarded the Director's Research Award from the College of Agriculture at Auburn in 2009, the Outstanding Young Weed Scientist Award in 2011 from the Southern Weed Science Society, and the 2013 Early Career Weed Scientist Award from the Weed Science Society of America. Dr. McElroy currently serves as local arrangements co-chair for the SWSS 2013 annual meeting in Birmingham, AL. He has also served on the SWSS nomination committee, graduate student paper contest committee, program chair for turfgrass weed management, and symposium organizer while program chair.



**Tom Barber is running for Board Member at Large - Academia**

Tom received his B.S. degree in Agronomy from the University of Arkansas in 1998. He continued his education at the University of Arkansas, where he received a M.S. degree in Weed Science in 2000 and a Ph.D. in Weed Science from Mississippi State University in 2004. In 2004 he accepted a position as Assistant Professor Extension Cotton Specialist for Mississippi State University Extension Service. In 2007 he moved back to his home state of Arkansas and held an Associate Professor Cotton Agronomist position with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture until 2012. He recently changed roles and now serves as Associate Professor and Weed Scientist with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture; there he has a split appointment, 75% extension and 25% research. Tom focuses on weed control and resistance management outreach in

several crops including corn, cotton grain sorghum, rice and soybean.

Tom has been an active member of SWSS since 1998. He has served as vice president and president of the graduate student organization, and held a position as graduate student representative to the board of directors. Tom has also served on the Sales Coordination Committee, Local Arrangements Committee and Program Committee as well as serving as a judge numerous years for graduate student paper and poster contests. Tom has also been active in other organizations such as the Beltwide Cotton Conference, where has served on the Steering Committee for 5 years and the Physiology Conference Chairman for 2 years. He has been a member of numerous other professional organizations such as WSSA, American Society of Agronomy, Arkansas Crop Protection Association and Arkansas Association of County Agriculture Agents.



### **Daniel Stephenson is running for Secretary/Treasurer**

Daniel was raised on a peanut, cotton, and cattle farm in southeast Alabama. He received his B.S. in Agronomy and M.S. in Weed Science from Auburn University in 1998 and 2000, respectively, and his Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas in Weed Science in 2004. After earning his Ph.D., Daniel accepted a post-doctoral research associate position with the University of Florida focusing on weed control programs in peanut, cotton, soybean, and turfgrass. In 2005, he accepted a position with the University of Arkansas as the cropping systems agronomist located at the Northeast Research and Extension Center in Keiser in 2005. In 2008, Daniel accepted a position with the LSU AgCenter as a weed scientist/specialist. Daniel's program focuses on development of weed management systems in corn, cotton, grain sorghum, soybean, and wheat and herbicide-resistant weed management. Daniel has been a member of the Southern Weed Science Society since 2000. During that time, he has served the Southern Weed Science Society as the chairman or co-chairman of the Student Contest Subcommittee from 2007-2010, chairman of the Outstanding Graduate Student Award Subcommittee from 2011-present, secretary and chairman of the Weed Resistance ad hoc Committee in 2012 and 2013, respectively.



### **Andrew Price is running for Secretary/Treasurer**

Dr. Andrew Price, Weed Scientist, USDA-ARS National Soil Dynamics Laboratory and Affiliate Associate Professor, Agronomy and Soils Dept., Auburn University. Andrew has been a member of the Southern Weed Science Society since 2001 and has served the society most recently on both outstanding graduate and educator of the year award selection committees and on the herbicide resistant weed committee. Andrew also served as the weed contest committee chairperson from 2009 until 2011 and has served numerous occasions as a student paper or poster competition judge. Andrew is a native of East Tennessee and received both B.S. and M.S. degrees from The University of Tennessee and Ph.D. from North Carolina State University under the direction of the late Dr. John Wilcut. Andrew's primary responsibilities in the Conservation Systems Research group in Auburn are to conduct research addressing the impact of integrated weed management strategies on weed populations/competitiveness in conservation systems as well as development of weed management systems integrating conservation tillage, crop rotations, cover crops and weed management systems. Additional scholarly accomplishments can be found at: <http://www.ag.auburn.edu/agrn/faculty/Price/index.php>



**Ramon Leon is running for WSSA representative.**

Dr. Leon is a Weed Science-Assistant Professor at the West Florida Research and Education Center of the University of Florida with a 60% research and 40% extension appointment. Previously, he was Research Coordinator and Weed Science Professor at EARTH University in Costa Rica. Before his career at EARTH University, he was an Assistant Professor of Weed Science in the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science at the California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, CA.

He received a M.Sc. (2003) and a Ph.D. (2005) in Crop Production and Physiology with emphasis in Weed Science and Seed Science from Iowa State University and a Ph.D. (2005) in Genetics from the same institution. Previously, he obtained a B.S. (2000) in

Plant Production from the University of Costa Rica.

Dr. Leon's research focuses on the development of integrated strategies for weed management in turfgrass and row crops. His current research includes the characterization of peanut, zoysiagrass and St. Augustinegrass germplasm for herbicide tolerance and weed suppression, management of emerging weed-related issues in biofuel crop production, and the impact of weed management on seed bank dynamics in cropping systems including cotton-peanut rotations.

Dr. Leon has authored and co-authored 18 refereed articles, 27 abstracts and presentations, and 22 extension and popular press publications. He serves as associate editor for Weed Technology and as reviewer for multiple refereed journals including Weed Science, Weed Research, and Agronomy Journal. He was recognized with the Outstanding Reviewer Award 2013 by the WSSA. He is part of the Herbicide Resistant Weed Committee of the SWSS, and he is coordinating the development of the Herbicide Resistant Training Modules for Turfgrass for the WSSA website.

In his free time, Dr. Leon enjoys going with his wife to watch their sons Ignacio (11) and Tomas (5) play baseball in the little league in Pace, FL where they live.



**Eric Palmer is running for WSSA Representative.**

Eric Palmer was born in Memphis, TN and grew up on a grain and cattle farm near Mount Pleasant, MS. He received his B.S. in Agricultural Pest Management (1995) and M.S. in Weed Science (1998) from Mississippi State University under the direction of Dr. David Shaw. He went on to complete his Ph.D in Crop Science at Oklahoma State University under the direction of Dr. Don Murray in 2001.

Eric began his professional career as an R&D Scientist with Syngenta Crop Protection at the Eastern Region Technical Center near Hudson, NY in 2001. In 2004, he was transferred back to MS where he worked on the Southern Region Technical Center near Leland, MS for two years before becoming the R&D Field Development rep for Mississippi. In 2008, Eric became an R&D Group Leader for the Weed Control Group at Syngenta's Vero Beach Research Center near Vero Beach, FL where he coordinated Stage 1 herbicide testing for the U.S. and managed four full-time Scientists who conducted a diverse herbicide research program. In 2012, Eric moved to the North American headquarters in Greensboro, NC as the Herbicide Product Biology Lead.

Eric has been involved with the SWSS by serving as the Graduate Student representative while at OSU, been a judge for the Graduate Student paper contest on several occasions, and most recently served on the Board as a Member At-Large from Industry.





**Darrin Dodds is running for Endowment Trustee.**

Darrin received a B.S. degree in Agriculture from Western Illinois University and a M.S. in Botany and Plant Pathology with a concentration in Weed Science from Purdue University. He received a Ph.D. in Agronomy with a concentration in Weed Science from Mississippi State University in 2007 and is currently an Associate Extension Professor at Mississippi State University. He serves as the major advisor for four M.S. students at Mississippi State and serves on advisory committees for seven additional students.

Darrin has been active in Weed Science activities with the Southern Weed Science Society, the Beltwide Cotton Conferences and the Weed Science Society of America. He chaired the Weed Science Technical Conference at the Beltwide Cotton Conference in 2010 and 2013. Service to the Weed Science Society of America has included numerous committees and well as being a current member of the Board of Directors. In addition, he has served as co-chair and chair for the Integrated Weed Management and Extension sections at the WSSA annual meeting.

Darrin has been an active member of the Southern Weed Science Society since 2003 and has served the SWSS in several capacities. As a graduate student he served as the graduate student representative to the Endowment Foundation. In addition, he served as vice-president and president of the SWSS Graduate Student Organization. Since joining the faculty at Mississippi State, Darrin has annually served as a judge for the graduate student competition at the SWSS annual meeting and chaired the graduate student contest in 2011. He chaired the Agronomic Crops section in 2010 and 2012 and currently serves on the SWSS Board of Directors as the SWSS representative to the Weed Science Society of America.



**Trey Koger is running for Endowment Trustee.**

Trey Koger was born in Oklahoma City, OK and grew up around wheat/cotton/cattle farms in Tuttle, OK. He received his B.S. in Agronomy (1996) and M.S. in Weed Science (1998) from Oklahoma State University under the direction of Dr. Jim Stritzke. He went on to complete his Ph.D in Weed Science at Mississippi State University under the direction of Dr. David Shaw in 2001.

Trey began his professional career as a Research Weed Scientist with the USDA-ARS in Stoneville, MS from 2002 thru 2006. He focused on weed management systems in corn, cotton, and soybean. In 2007 he began conducting weed control and agronomic research in cotton with Mississippi State University at the Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville, MS. He was the Soybean Extension Specialist with Mississippi State University from 2008 thru November 2010. In 2011 Trey was employed by Syngenta as an Agronomic Service Rep in Mississippi and north Alabama.

Trey has served the SWSS in numerous capacities since becoming a member of the SWSS in 2005. He has served as a judge for several poster and oral graduate student contests, has served on numerous committees, and chaired five symposiums or program sections at the annual meeting. For four years, he served as the chair of the SWSS Weed Contest Committee.



**Tom Mueller is running for Proceedings Editor.**

Thomas C. Mueller is a Professor in the Department of Plant Sciences. Dr. Mueller was reared on a small diversified grain farm in southern Illinois. He received his BS from the University of Illinois in Agronomy, his MS from the University of Kentucky in Crop Science, and his PhD from the University of Georgia in Crop Science. His primary research area is the environmental fate of pesticides (especially herbicides) in soils, water systems, and in the air (via drift). His main commodities of focus are corn, wheat and soybeans, although he has conducted research in canola, cotton, rice, pastures, turf, native areas (national parks) and various other areas. Dr. Mueller has served on an EPA Scientific Advisory Board, has served as an associate editor for Weed Science and Weed Technology, has served on the executive board for the Weed Science Society of America as Secretary, and is active in various state, regional, and national programs. Dr. Mueller has instructed > 1000 undergraduate students in a variety of classes, including Weed Management, Agricultural Pesticides, Integrated Pest Management, Pesticide Fate in Soils, Herbicide Physiology, and HPLC Methods and Applications. He has advised 19 graduate students with a 100% placement rate.

Tom Mueller has made outstanding contributions to the Southern Weed Science Society in several ways. He has served on numerous committees, including the graduate program as a judge for many years. He has served a three year term as secretary-treasurer, local arrangements chair for the annual meeting in Nashville and two (2) three-year terms as SWSS newsletter editor. He initiated a novel, exciting program into the SWSS in 2006, the Weeds Quiz Bowl. At the request of the program chair, he also coordinated several special symposiums to focus on current topics of broad interest to the members of the society. He has also supported the annual SWSS weeds contest by bringing students from several universities, including Tennessee, Missouri, and Georgia. He has also hosted the annual Weed contest twice (1997 and 2003). He has served as vice-president, program chair, president, and past-president of the SWSS. He is married to the love of his life, Sara Mueller and they have 3 children; Rachel (24), John (21), and Rebecca (18).



**Nilda Burgos is running for Proceedings Editor.**

Dr. Burgos holds a BS Agronomy- Soil Fertility degree from the Visayas State College of Agriculture, Philippines and obtained her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Agronomy-Weed Science from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, USA. She worked as Field Research Biologist for Zeneca Ag Products in 1997-1998 before accepting a faculty position at the University of Arkansas. She teaches Weed Science courses and is involved in Study Abroad Programs. Her research program include basic and applied research on weed physiology, molecular biology, and management; specifically, herbicide-resistant weeds; gene flow; evolution of weedy traits; weed population genetics; and weed management options for specialty crops. She is a member and has served as the Secretary and Chair of the SWSS Herbicide Resistance Committee across several years; member and secretary of the SWSS Foundation; member, Outstanding Young Scientist Award Committee; served as judge in poster and oral research presentation contests; and member of the SWSS Weed Contest Committee across several years. Together with other UA Weed Science faculty (Dr. Dick Oliver, now retired, and Dr. Jason Norsworthy), Dr. Burgos has helped coach the UA Weed Team from 2009 to the present, steadfastly supporting this student activity. She has served as Associate Editor of the Weed Science journal and other committees of the WSSA. She was elected as the Secretary-Treasurer of the International Weed Science Society (2008-2012) and elected as Vice-President of IWSS for 2012-2016.

## Weed Contest Results

The 34<sup>th</sup> annual Southern Weed Science Society Contest was held August 7, 2013 at BASF Research Farm in Holly Springs, NC. Each of the events, including weed identification, herbicide symptomology, field problem solving, written and sprayer calibration, were well thought out and challenging. The mystery event included a “turf” problem of propelling a small, dimpled, white ball across a body of water with a strange looking farm implement called a “club” to a small patch of grass positioned strategically on the other side. Most of the contestants chose instead to see how many times they could skip the aforementioned ball across the top of the water.

A total of 54 students (46 graduate and 8 undergraduate) participated in this year’s contest. Universities participating included Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi State, North Carolina State, Tennessee, Virginia Tech and Tennessee (Martin). Ten teams competed in the contest with Virginia Tech, North Carolina State and Florida bringing two teams each.

Winning teams and individuals are as follows:

### Team Awards:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – University of Arkansas
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Virginia Tech (Team A)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Mississippi State University

### Individual Awards:

#### Graduate

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Chris Meyer – Arkansas
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Reiofeli Salas – Arkansas
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Trevor Israel – Tennessee
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place – Holden Bell – Arkansas
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place – Blake Edwards – Mississippi St
- 6<sup>th</sup> Place – Chris Rouse – Florida
- 7<sup>th</sup> Place – Peter Eure – Georgia
- 8<sup>th</sup> Place – Charlie Cahoon – North Carolina St
- 9<sup>th</sup> Place – Michael Cox – Virginia Tech
- 10<sup>th</sup> Place – Zachary Hill – Arkansas

### Undergraduate

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Austin Scott – Tennessee Martin
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – John Brewer – Tennessee Martin
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Melanie Aiosa – Tennessee Martin

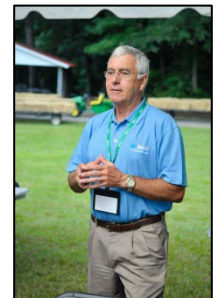
### Top Individual Event:

- Herbicide Symptomology – Pete Eure – Georgia
- Weed Identification – Reiofeli Salas – Arkansas
- Field Problem Solving – Chase Samples – Mississippi St
- Written Calibration – Reiofeli Salas – Arkansas
- Team Calibration – Arkansas

Winning individuals and teams were recognized at the awards banquet and plaques were presented to each winner. The traveling “Broken Hoe” trophy was presented to the University of Arkansas for their display throughout the next year. Monetary awards associated with each event will be mailed to the team coaches.



*At left members of the University of AR First Place team*



On behalf of the Southern Weed Science Society and the Contest Committee we would like to extend our greatest appreciation to BASF, and especially Tom Holt and his great team, for putting together a first class contest.



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Friends of SWSS Weed Contest,

The 2013 contest, hosted by BASF in Holly Springs, NC, was a huge success. We had 54 students compete in this year's event which is outstanding. These young people are the future of our industry. As both a contestant and now Chair of the SWSS Weed Contest Committee I can attest to the irreplaceable experiences of the contest. The friendships that were developed with my teammates, other competitors as well as the judges/volunteers are among my fondest memories of the contest. The Weed Contest is a very unique opportunity where we can all put aside our differences, collegiate preferences, take off our competitive industry hats and stand as a unified group, weed scientists educating young people.

As the rules of the Weed Contest clearly state:

*The purpose of the Southern Weed Contest is to provide an educational experience from which undergraduate and graduate students in Southern Universities can broaden their applied skills in Weed Science. The contest provides an opportunity for Weed Science students be exposed to weed scientists from other universities and industry, apply what they have learned using a contest to measure their capabilities, as well as to socialize. It is hopeful that the contest will increase the visibility of Weed Science and intensify the interest level of those participating in the discipline of Weed Science.*

While the Weed Contest has no doubt touched our lives at some point in our careers it is important that we continue this great tradition for future generations. With that being said we need your help. The 2014 contest will be hosted by Agricenter International in Memphis, TN. As most of you are aware the Agricenter is a non-

profit, demonstration center and the financial burden of hosting the contest is something they will not be able to bear on their own.

Please consider setting up a line item in your 2014 budgets to support this most important and influential event. Contact Phil Banks ([swss@marathonag.com](mailto:swss@marathonag.com)) if you need an invoice.

Sincerely,  
Tom Eubank  
Chair of the SWSS Weed Contest

## Washington Report

August 21, 2013

### **Another Farm Bill Extension Likely**

After passing a "Farm Bill only, Farm Bill", H.R. 2642 in July, the House is putting together a package of \$40 billion in cuts to the Nutrition Title, which is dominated by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Those cuts are double the level of cuts passed by the House Agriculture Committee and 10 times the level of cuts approved by the Senate. In addition to the cuts, the House will likely include a variety of wide reaching policy changes, including mandatory drug testing, a prohibition on participation by former convicts, and an incentive to states to adopt workfare requirements for SNAP recipients.

This stand-alone nutrition bill is expected to be brought to the floor of the House sometime in September. The only way this bill would pass the House is by a party line vote from Republicans. The House would then appoint conferees for a Farm Bill conference with the Senate. Before the August Congressional recess, the Senate had already appointed 11 conferees: Democrat's, Stabenow (MI), Leahy (VT), Harkin (IA), Brown (OH), Klobuchar (MN), and Bennet (CO), and Republican's Cochran (MS), Roberts (KS), Chambliss (GA), Boozman (AR), and Hoeven (ND). Given what the Senate passed and what the House has and will pass, I do not see a plausible scenario where the conference committee could draft a compromise piece of legislation that could be passed by both the House and Senate and signed into law.

The current extension of the 2008 farm bill expires Sept. 30, but farmers would not start to feel the effects until December, giving Congress time to either produce a new farm bill or extend the 2008 law. SNAP, which is permanently appropriated under separate legislation, could continue without a farm bill. The federally subsidized crop insurance program also would continue without a farm bill or extension.

### **EPA Approves Arundo and Napiergrass for Renewable Fuel Standard**

On June 28, EPA approved a supplementary final rule which would allow for biofuels made from two known invasive weeds, giant reed (*Arundo donax*) and Napiergrass (*Pennisetum purpureum*), to qualify for credits under the Federal Renewable Fuels Standard. EPA had originally withheld these two species from a final rule approved in March due to objections raised by the National and Regional Weed Science Societies and many other invasive species, conservation, and wildlife groups. Both these species are known invaders and the March final rule that was approved by EPA lacked risk mitigation measures to prevent these species from spreading.

In the supplementary final rule released at the end of June, EPA adopted additional registration, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements based on the Invasive Species Advisory Committee's (ISAC) recommendations in their 2009 whitepaper titled "[Biofuels: Cultivating Energy, not Invasive Species](#)". For example, EPA is requiring that renewable fuel producers demonstrate that the growth of giant reed or Napiergrass will not pose a significant likelihood of spreading beyond the planting area or that such a risk will

be minimized through an EPA approved Risk Mitigation Plan (RMP). The RMP will include plans for early detection and rapid response to potential spread, best management practices as modeled by existing state and federal invasive species management programs, continuous monitoring and reporting of site conditions, a plan for site closure and post-closure monitoring, and identification of a third party auditor who will evaluate the performance of the RMP on an ongoing annual basis.

The EPA supplementary final rule from June can be found at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-07-11/pdf/2013-16488.pdf>

## **McCarthy Finally Confirmed by Senate to Lead EPA**



Gina McCarthy

The Senate confirmed Gina McCarthy to lead the EPA on July 18, ending a four-month battle with Senate Republicans. McCarthy was approved 59-40, with six Republicans joining all but one Democrat, Joe Manchin of West Virginia, in supporting her. Manchin said the EPA has engaged in an "over-regulatory rampage" against the coal industry, which is a pillar of West Virginia's economy. McCarthy served as EPA's assistant administrator for air and radiation since 2009 and was nominated to take over as head of EPA for the departing Lisa Jackson. The delay wasn't so much a disapproval with McCarthy, who has a good reputation for working with both sides of the aisle, but was more of protest against the Obama administration plans for first-time limits on carbon dioxide emissions from both new and existing fossil fuel-fired power plants, as well as anticipated regulations related to ozone air quality standards, guidance related to hydraulic fracturing, and more stringent standards limiting vehicle emissions and the sulfur content of gasoline, among other rules.

## **Plant Science Summit Issues Decadal Vision Report**

On July 25 the Plant Science Research Summit released [\*Unleashing a Decade of Innovation in Plant Science: A Vision for 2015-2025\*](#) (PDF), a call to action for the U.S. to address research priorities in plant science that could address major challenges including health, energy, food, and environmental sustainability. The report, supported by the American Society of Plant Biologists, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of Energy, provides recommendations regarding future budgets and investments at the state and federal levels.

## **Congressional Invasive Species Caucus Founded**

On July 10, Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-5) and Rep. Dan Benishek (MI-1) founded the bipartisan Congressional Invasive Species Caucus. The Caucus will serve to raise awareness about invasive species, support local communities who are bearing the brunt of this problem, and promote efforts to prevent and control the spread of invasive species. The Caucus will provide opportunities for Members of Congress to meet with other policy makers, organizations and industry leaders that are working to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Rep. Thompson is a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee and Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. He represents some of the wine country area north of San Francisco and is a small vineyard owner. He is a co-author of H.R. 1823, Protecting Lakes Against Quagga Act, that would add quagga mussels to the national invasive species list.

Dr. Benishek, a surgeon representing Michigan's Upper Peninsula in his 2<sup>nd</sup> term, serves on the House Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Veteran's Affairs Committees and is avid hunter and fisherman. He has

supported several pieces of legislation that would help curtail invasive species, including the Asian Carp Prevention Act of 2012, and is a member of the Great Lakes Task Force.

### **Please Consider Signing Petition Opposing Vandalism of Field Trials**

Recently, vandals in the Philippines destroyed government field trials of golden rice. The global scientific community is reaching out to us to condemn these acts. For more information, please go to: <http://www.change.org/en-CA/petitions/global-scientific-community-condemns-the-recent-destruction-of-field-trials-of-golden-rice-in-the-philippines>

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## **December Newsletter**

**Deadline for the December Newsletter is  
November 15, 2013**

**Please submit your articles to Newsletter  
Editor Bob Scott at [bscott@uaex.edu](mailto:bscott@uaex.edu)**