



Note From the President:

Hope you have all had a successful year and took a break during the Thanksgiving holidays. This time-of-year can be stressful as well as enjoyable: there are the challenges of completing projects, emails, meetings, training, studying, finals, reviews, data summaries, dissertation submissions, defenses, parties, shopping, travel, and planning to do similar activities better in 2022. If your school was good enough, you might even be planning for a bowl trip. Whatever is keeping you busy, please take the time to attend the SWSS 2022 annual meeting and discuss your old and new ideas among friends. Our Local Arrangements has picked Austin's "Top Golf" to start off the meeting on Sunday evening Jan. 23, 2022. I hope you can come in on Sunday evening, have fun at Top Golf and stay for the society awards on Wednesday night.



If you haven't heard by now, the 2022 SWSS 75th (Diamond Jubilee) annual meeting is in Austin, TX at the AT&T Exec. Education Conf. Center (877-744-8822), next to the Univ. of Texas campus. Please complete your reservations before the deadline, pay your SWSS membership fees online, and get those travel arrangements made. I see that Matthew Wiggins has emailed everyone requesting volunteer judges for the student contest. If you lost that email, look it up again and help judge the student contest posters or presentations on Tuesday Jan. 25th. Darrin Dodds has released the meeting agenda so see that for all the rooms, presenters, committees, and other details. For those attending past meetings, this one will be similar, where committees meet on Monday morning, the business session is on Monday afternoon, followed by a few papers. Please don't miss the keynote speaker after lunch on Monday, Ms. Julie Borlaug, President of the Borlaug Foundation, a well-known speaker supporting feeding the hungry. Also on Monday night is the highly requested Quiz Bowl, so come prepared for some off the wall questions. Tuesday is the student contest and Wed. is the student luncheon and society awards dinner.

If you are at the meeting and need help, Luke Etheridge (audio visual & rooms), Ben McKnight (registration, equipment, storage and security), and Greg Steele (signs, exhibits and poster setup) will likely have an answer for you. These three have spent many hours preparing for the annual meeting and working with Darrin on selecting rooms for presentations, posters, banquet, meals, and committee breakouts.

This is my last Newsletter as President, and it was an honor serving you and I look forward to serving after the meeting as Past President. You can see there is more than this one page in the Newsletter, so I only contribute a small part, there are many people and volunteers that make this society successful. As always, if you would like to volunteer for a committee, please contact me, Darrin Dodds, the committee chairperson, or another board member, as we welcome everyone's advice and support.

Thanks, Clete Youmans, President

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2022 SWSS Annual Meeting

January 24-27, 2022
AT&T Executive Education and
Conference Center
Austin, TX

More details here: [http://
www.swss.ws/annual-meeting/](http://www.swss.ws/annual-meeting/)

Annual Meeting Program Update - “Continued Resilience”

Tentative Meeting Agenda

SWSS Board of Directors Meeting – Jan. 23rd 3:30 pm – 5:30 PM

Graduate student mixer and social at Top Golf – January 23rd 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Committee Meetings – January 24th 8 am – 12:00 pm

Committee Reports due February 4th

Oral Presentations – January 24th – January 26th

Posters viewable January 24th – 26th

Reminder: **All abstracts are due January 14th, 2022**, and can be submitted here: <http://weedscimeetingabstracts.com>.

The program for the 2022 Southern Weed Science Society has literally been months in the making. As of this writing we are planning on meeting face to face in Austin, TX from January 23rd – January 26th. However, we are carefully monitoring the current status of the pandemic and remain hopeful that we can continue as planned. Our theme for the 2022 annual meeting is “Continued Resilience”. Given the events of the past two years, resilience has been required of us all in both our personal and professional lives. We hope you enjoy the 2022 annual meeting and we (hopefully) look forward to seeing you in Austin.

Thank you to everyone for submitting an oral presentation or poster title for the 2022 SWSS Annual Meeting. We have nearly 120 poster presentations and approximately 145 oral presentations. Of those presentations, over 40 posters and 60 oral presentations are in the student contest. A Sunday afternoon and Thursday morning Executive Board meeting will be held at the AT&T Hotel and Conference Center and the Endowment Foundation is sponsoring a graduate student social and mixer at Top Golf in Austin. This event is also open to non-graduate students. For students or others who would like to attend, the cost for the mixer and social at Top Golf is \$25 per person.

The program for the 2022 SWSS Annual Meeting will kick off with the general session at 1 pm in the Zlotnik Ballroom. We are scheduled to have Ms. Julie Borlaug, granddaughter of Dr. Norman Borlaug and President of the Borlaug Foundation speak to our group. Additional presentations from Dr. Cletus Youmans, SWSS President and from recipients of the SWSS Endowment Enrichment Scholarships will also be given.

ORAL PRESENTATION CONTEST

The graduate student oral presentation contest will be the focus of our meeting program on the morning of Tuesday, January 25th. Four concurrent sessions will feature presentations from over 60 graduate student members of our society. The student contest will kick off at 7:30 am on the 25th and will conclude on or shortly after 12:00 pm. All presentations should be uploaded to the website prior to the meeting. No changes will be allowed at the podium prior to presentations.

POSTER CONTEST & NON-CONTEST POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Posters will be on display in the Zlotnik Ballroom from Monday, January 24th through Wednesday, January 26th. Students are not required to be at their poster for judging. All posters should be removed on the afternoon of Wednesday, January 26th.

STUDENT CONTEST (General)

The past presentation formats will be followed closely for the 2022 meeting. Students are to use the SWSS website to submit abstracts in .pdf format as well as oral presentations prior to the meeting. If you have additional questions about the contest or rules, please contact Dr. Tommy Butts, Student Contest Chair (tbutts@uada.edu).

If you have questions about the program, please see the SWSS website or contact Darrin Dodds, Program Chair (dmd76@msstate.edu or 662-418-1024).

BUSINESS MEETINGS

The business meeting will be held Monday, January 24th, 2022, from 5:00 to 6:00pm and will include Committee Reports.

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

The SWSS society awards will be presented over lunch on Wednesday, January 26th. Other awards including student contest awards and awards from the summer weed contest will be presented at an awards reception and mixer on Wednesday, January 26th beginning at 5:00 pm.

OTHER BUSINESS

Committees: SWSS committee meetings will be held as outlined in the SWSS Annual Meeting program. Chairpersons of each committee are responsible for conducting their meetings and providing reports back to the SWSS Board of Directors.

Lunch: There are not a large of number of restaurants close to the AT&T Hotel and Convention Center. In order to allow annual meeting attendees adequate to have lunch and renew old acquaintances, we have allotted additional time for lunch on each day of the annual meeting.

Call for Judges for Annual Meeting

The SWSS Annual Meeting in Austin, TX is quickly approaching, and it is time to start lining up volunteer judges for the student contests. Once again, we are anticipating excellent participation out of our student members so we will need a large number of volunteer judges to make the contest a success. Thank you to those who have already volunteered!

If you haven't volunteered yet, and are willing to judge a paper or poster section, please email Matthew Wiggins (matthew.wiggins@fmc.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.

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

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

Incoming SWSS Board Members

Endowment Foundation Board



Lauren Lazaro

Member at Large (Academia)



Michael Flessner

Member at Large (Industry)



Pete Eure

Vice President



Todd Baughman

Member Spotlight

SWSS Members Come Together to Evaluate Novel Integrated Weed Management Tools to Address Herbicide Resistance

Southern Weed Science Society members Drs. Muthukumar Bagavathiannan (Texas A&M University), Nick Basinger (University of Georgia), Mandy Bish (University of Missouri), Kevin Bradley (University of Missouri), Wesley Everman (North Carolina State University), Michael Flessner (Virginia Tech), Lauren Lazaro (Louisiana State University AgCenter), and Vijay Singh (Virginia Tech) are working together with a national team known as GROW (Getting Rid Of Weeds) to combat herbicide-resistant weeds through integrated weed management (IWM) solutions that are practical and adoptable. GROW is a publicly led network coordinating research and outreach, providing science-based information and decision support tools to make agriculture more sustainable and precise.



GROW has three research initiatives: harvest weed seed control through seed impact mills and chaff lining, cover crops for weed suppression, and digital solutions for weed identification, mapping, and precision management. Each research area has robust outreach and technology transfer activities, notably through growiwm.org and leading social media platforms.

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GROW is excited to be among the first to bring novel IWM technologies like seed impact mills (Redekop's Seed Control Unit and the Integrated Harrington Seed Destructor) and chaff-lining (Westoz Boilermaking Chaff Lining Kits) to the region in a multi-state, on-farm, collaborative approach. If you'd like to add your voice to GROW, please don't hesitate to contact anyone mentioned above.



Redekop Seed Control Unit in operation during soybean harvest in Virginia.

Photo: Michael Flessner

Update Corner

Job Posting

Position

Assistant, Associate or Full Professor – Weed Science Pastures and Non-Crop Areas.
University of Tennessee (100% Extension) full time tenure-track position

Location

The University of Tennessee, Institute of Agriculture, Department of Plant Sciences, Knoxville, TN

Salary and Benefits

Salary is commensurate with training and experience. The University of Tennessee offers a comprehensive benefits package to all regular employees, including health and dental insurance; life insurance; multiple retirement plans; holiday, annual, and sick leave time; longevity pay; and reimbursement for official travel.

Job Description

- Provide leadership for planning, implementing and evaluating educational programs regarding weed control in pastures and non-crop areas (including rights of way, ponds) in Tennessee
- Develop partnerships with county, district, and multi-state Extension faculty; industry representatives; Tennessee Department of Agriculture and Experiment Station personnel to develop systems-based education and research programs
- Develop timely educational materials and programs for county Extension staff, producers, agribusiness firms and other agencies
- Work closely with producer groups and industry representatives to promote practices for program support
- Development of a strong extension and applied research program is expected.
- Provide leadership for a program of activities that meets the needs of eligible clientele regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or veteran status

Requirements

- Earned doctorate in Agronomy, Crop Science or a closely related discipline
- Experience in weed science principles and practices
- Excellent written and oral communication skills to interact effectively in English with faculty, producers, and non-farm clientele
- Ability to secure extramural funding to support the development of effective Extension and Research programs involving faculty, staff, producers, and non-farm clientele across Tennessee.
- Must be willing to travel as this program involves state educational responsibilities
- Presentation of research results to stakeholder groups and at professional meetings (such as Tennessee Forage and Grasslands Council, Tennessee Vegetation Management Association, Southern Weed Science Society)
- Ability to conduct field/greenhouse/laboratory research at the whole plant level
- Ability to work in a multidisciplinary, collaborative team environment
- Ability to publish research results in peer-reviewed journals, present at professional society meetings, disseminate research results at field day events, state and regional conferences, as well as technical articles, popular press and various web sites. Recruiting and advising graduate students and supervising technical staff are expected

Appropriate criteria for appointment to the rank of Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor will apply.

For further information regarding this position, please visit: <https://plantsciences.tennessee.edu/>

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Department of Plant Sciences fosters a diverse and inclusive environment, and all qualified candidates are encouraged to apply. Applicants should submit (i) letter of application summarizing the applicant's qualifications and vision for this position; (ii) complete curriculum vitae; (iii) names, addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of at least five professional references that the Search Committee may contact; and (iv) copy of transcripts showing degree(s) conferred through <http://apply.interfolio.com/99160>.

You can find the posting here at this link: <http://apply.interfolio.com/99160>.

Questions regarding the position should be directed to Dr. Thomas C Mueller, Search Committee co-Chair, at tmueller@utk.edu; Department of Plant Sciences, 2505 EJ Chapman Dr, Knoxville, TN 37996; phone: 865-974-8805; or Dr. Larry Steckel at lsteckel@utk.edu or 731-425-4705.

The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services.

Washington Report

November 29, 2021

Lee Van Wychen

Infrastructure Bill Authorizes \$250 Million for DOT Invasive Plant Elimination Program

President Biden signed the infrastructure bill into public law (P.L. No. 117-58) on Nov. 15, also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), [H.R. 3684](#). The House of Representatives passed the bill on a 228-206 vote on Nov. 5, while the Senate passed it on Aug. 10 with a 69-30 vote. The act allocates an estimated \$1.2 trillion in total funding over ten years, including \$550 billion in new spending during the next five years, divided between improving the surface-transportation network (\$284 billion) and society's core infrastructure (\$266 billion).

Several notable provisions for invasive plant and invasive species management are included in the new law, including:

SEC. 11522. Invasive Plant Elimination Program. Federal-Aid Highways. **\$250 million** total, \$50 million per year for FY 2022 thru FY 2026. The Secretary of the Department of Transportation (DOT), through the Federal Highway Administration: *"shall carry out a program to provide grants to States to eliminate or control existing invasive plants or prevent introduction of or encroachment by new invasive plants along and in areas adjacent to transportation corridor rights-of-way"*.

The term "invasive plant" means a nonnative plant, tree, grass, or weed species, including, at a minimum: **cheatgrass, Ventenata dubia, medusahead, bulbous bluegrass, Japanese brome, rattail fescue, Japanese honeysuckle, phragmites, autumn olive, Bradford pear, wild parsnip, sericea lespedeza, spotted knapweed, garlic mustard, and palmer amaranth.**

SEC. 40804. Ecosystem Restoration. Through the US Forest Service, **\$200 million** total for the fiscal years 2022 through 2026shall be made available for *invasive species detection, prevention, and eradication, including conducting research* and providing resources to facilitate detection of invasive species at points of entry and awarding grants for eradication of invasive species on non-Federal land and on Federal land.

SEC. 40907. Multi-Benefit Project To Improve Watershed Health. Through the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the BOR Commissioner, in consultation with the heads of relevant agencies, shall establish a competitive grant program to award grants to eligible applicants for the design, implementation, and monitoring of conservation outcomes of habitat restoration projects that improve watershed health in a river basin that is adversely impacted by a BOR water project by accomplishing 1 or more of the following:

- (1) Ecosystem benefits.
- (2) Restoration of native species.
- (3) Mitigation against the impacts of climate change to fish and wildlife habitats.
- (4) Protection against invasive species.**
- (5) Restoration of aspects of the natural ecosystem.
- (6) Enhancement of commercial, recreational, subsistence, or Tribal ceremonial fishing.
- (7) Enhancement of river-based recreation.

Still No Agreement on "Budget Reconciliation" Bill

On Nov. 19, the House of Representatives passed a \$1.75 trillion social and climate spending budget reconciliation bill, known as the Build Back Better Act. The bill is being debated in the Senate, where its passage faces significant obstacles.

While it is uncertain whether the Senate will pass it (and, if so, in what form), the [National and Regional Weed Science Societies are continuing to engage in the ag research and infrastructure provisions](#) in the bill. The Nov. 19 House passed version of the bill contains \$2 billion designated for ag research and infrastructure, which includes \$210 million for the USDA AFRI competitive grants program and \$120 million for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program.

A Continuing Resolution for All of FY 2022 Appearing More Likely

Congress passed a continuing resolution on Oct. 12 that funds the government at FY 2021 levels until Dec. 3, 2021. As I write this a few days before the Dec. 3 deadline, Congress will likely pass another short-term continuing resolution funding the federal government up to Christmas. However, recent chatter from Capitol Hill indicates that a continuing resolution funding the government at FY 2021 levels for the entire 2022 fiscal year is an increasing possibility, especially if Congress passes the Budget Reconciliation bill on a Democratic party-line vote.



Bonnie Confirmed as USDA Undersecretary for Farm Production and Conservation

On Nov. 16, the Senate voted 76 – 19 to confirm Robert Bonnie as the USDA Undersecretary for Farm Production and Conservation. In this role, he is now charged with the oversight of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

Bonnie, who has served as Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack's deputy chief of staff and senior climate adviser, is expected to play a key role in USDA's climate initiatives. Bonnie also served as the USDA Undersecretary for natural resources and environment in the Obama administration. In his work, Bonnie has written reports on climate change that included proposing the use of the Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA's line of credit at the Treasury, to address climate change problems.

Bonnie has also worked at the Environmental Defense Fund for 14 years and holds a master's degree in forestry and environmental management from Duke University, and a bachelor's from Harvard College.



Connor Confirmed for Top Army Civil Works Post

Michael Connor, former commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, was confirmed on Nov. 4, by a 92 – 5 vote in the Senate, to be the next **Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, which oversees** all civilian work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Connor held the number-two position at Interior from 2014 to 2017 during the Obama administration. Before that, he was commissioner of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, from 2009 to 2014. Connor was a partner in the law firm Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP prior to his nomination. He also worked on Capitol Hill from 2001 to 2009, as counsel to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.



Stone-Manning Confirmed as BLM Director

On Sep. 30, 2021, Tracy Stone-Manning was confirmed by a Senate vote of 50-45 to be the next Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Her nomination proved controversial because a friend of hers, in 1989, was involved in tree spiking in Idaho's Clearwater National Forest. At the friend's behest, Stone-Manning wrote an anonymous letter to federal officials, informing them of the tree spiking and warning that "a lot of people could get hurt" if logging were to continue. In a 1993 federal court testimony, Stone-Manning admitted that she had retyped, edited, and mailed the letter. She received prosecutorial immunity in order to testify against her friend, who was found guilty and sentenced to 17 months in prison.

Stone-Manning was born in VA and earned a B.A. in radio, television, and film from the University of Maryland and a M.S. in environmental studies from the University of Montana. From 1999 to 2006, she was the director of the Clark Fork Coalition in Missoula, MT and then worked for Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) from 2007 to 2012. Stone-Manning served as the director of the MT Department of Environmental Quality and then as chief of staff for MT Governor Steve Bullock between 2013 and 2017. Since 2017, she has worked for the National Wildlife Federation before being nominated by the Biden administration to serve as BLM Director.

BLM manages over 244 million acres, mostly in the western U.S., and is the largest federal land management agency. Unfortunately, over 79 million acres of BLM land is infested with noxious and invasive weeds, yet BLM only spends \$15 million per year to manage invasive species, which equates to a paltry 6 cents per acre! Let's hope the new BLM Director can direct a little more of the agency's \$1.3 billion towards a pro-active integrated weed management plan.

Paraquat Decision Drops: EPA Finalizes Paraquat Registration, OKs Aerial Applications for Now

By Emily Unglesbee, DTN Staff Reporter. Published 8/2/2021. Republished with permission. <https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/crops/article/2021/08/02/epa-finalizes-paraquat-registration>

EPA finalized its interim registration decision for paraquat on Aug. 1, reversing its proposal last year to ban most aerial applications.

Instead, the agency will permit aerial applications of the Group 22 herbicide in crops, with expanded buffer requirements and acreage limits designed to protect applicators. Aerial use of paraquat is most common in cotton, where it is used as a plant desiccant to prepare for harvest.

Though finalized, EPA's conclusion here remains an "interim" registration decision. The agency will not have a complete registration decision for paraquat until it conducts its endangered species assessment and an endocrine screening for the chemical.

The agency first put out a draft interim decision for paraquat back in October 2020, wherein it proposed banning all aerial applications except for cotton desiccation, in addition to banning handgun and backpack sprayer application methods. See more on that draft decision [HERE](#). In its new decision, the EPA noted that, outside cotton desiccation, "aerial application of paraquat is likely minimal or sporadic."

Some of the changes EPA made between that draft and the new finalized decision are the result of new data from a consortium of chemical companies called the Agricultural Handler Exposure Task Force. See more [HERE](#).

Ultimately, the finalized decision has these changes:

- Aerial applications are permitted but limited to a maximum of 350 acres per applicator within a 24-hour period for all uses except cotton desiccation, where no acreage limitations will be required.
- A 50- to 75-foot residential buffer requirement now applies to all aerial uses of paraquat.
- The use of human flaggers during paraquat applications is prohibited.
- Enclosed cabs are required for applications made to more than 80 acres in a 24-hour period, to limit inhalation risks.
- For smaller applications to 80 acres or fewer in a 24-hour-period, PF10 respirators can be used, or enclosed cabs.
- Applications with mechanically pressurized handguns and backpack sprayers are prohibited.
- Applicators must follow a 48-hour restricted entry interval for all crop uses except for cotton desiccation, which requires a seven-day restricted entry interval.
- Labels will include new language designed to limit spray drift, as well as new units of measurement.

To see the full decision, visit the EPA docket [HERE](#).

Use of paraquat, which is sold under brand names such as Gramaxone, Firestorm and Parazone, has increased steadily in the U.S. in the past decade, in response to the development of herbicide-resistant weeds. Applications rose from under 5 million pounds a year before 2013 to as high as 12 million pounds per year in 2017. Based on survey data from a research company called Kynetec USA, the highest use by acreage is in soybeans, cotton and corn, but producers also lean heavily on paraquat in grapes, pistachios and peanuts.

However, the chemical has also been the target of lawsuits and controversy, given its high toxicity, its role in poisoning accidents and research suggesting it might be linked to Parkinson's disease. Most recently, paraquat registrant Syngenta and a past manufacturer of the chemical, Chevron USA, are facing class-action lawsuits alleging that its use has caused Parkinson's disease in farmers. See more [HERE](#).

The herbicide is undergoing EPA's routine 15-year re-registration review, which the agency began back in 2012. In 2016, the agency instituted new rules on labeling, packaging and handling requirements aimed at reducing accidental poisonings. See more [HERE](#).

Environmental groups reacted with concern to EPA's finalized interim decision permitting aerial applications.

"It's extremely disappointing that the Biden EPA is reapproving this dangerous pesticide, which is outlawed across a lot of the world," Nathan Donley, environmental health science director at the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a news release. "Instead of banning a weed-killer linked to Parkinson's disease in farmworkers, reproductive harm in small mammals and increased death rates for birds, this administration is bowing to the wishes of the chemical industry and allowing it to be sprayed on crops from the air."

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Follow her on Twitter [@Emily_Unglesbee](#)

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Lee Van Wyche NOTE 1: The cancellation of backpack sprayers and mechanically pressurized handguns **does NOT have an impact on the experimental use of paraquat** under an Experimental Use Permit or the 40 CFR 172.3(b) exemption. Labels for unregistered products distributed solely for experimental use and research purposes do not need EPA approval and can differ from registered products as appropriate for the experimental use.

Lee Van Wyche NOTE 2: After a thorough review of the best available science, **EPA has NOT found a clear link between paraquat exposure from labeled uses and adverse health outcomes such as Parkinson's disease and cancer.** EPA has evaluated hundreds of studies, including published toxicity and epidemiology literature on paraquat exposure and adverse health outcomes, including Parkinson's Disease. There are many studies on paraquat and Parkinson's Disease that range in quality and provide conflicting results. Following EPA's 2019 literature [review](#), a [2020 update](#) from the large and comprehensive Agricultural Health Study (AHS) was published that **reported NO association between paraquat exposure and Parkinson's Disease.** The AHS is considered the "Gold Standard" and has been tracking the health of tens of thousands of agricultural workers, farmers and their families in Iowa and North Carolina. Notably, the updated AHS did not replicate [earlier 2011 findings from AHS](#) that were considered by EPA and suggested a potential association may exist.

Manage Weeds on Your Farm – A Guide to Ecological Strategies – FREE Online

Dr. Antonio DiTommaso, Cornell, recently announced the publication of a very useful USDA SARE-sponsored book “Manage Weeds on Your Farm – A Guide to Ecological Strategies” by the late Chuck Mohler, John Teasdale, and Antonio DiTommaso.

The book is freely available for download from the SARE website link below. A print version of the book will not be available until February 2022.

<https://www.sare.org/resources/manage-weeds-on-your-farm/>

2021 Science Policy Fellows: Rebecca Champagne and Devon Carroll

The Weed Science Policy Fellowship program is a unique opportunity for graduate students to assist me in my role as Executive Director of Science Policy for WSSA while gaining experience dealing with a broad array of weed science policy issues. This year’s Science Policy Fellows are Rebecca Champagne at the University of Maine and Devon Carroll at the University of Tennessee.

Rebecca is a third year Ph.D. candidate at the University of Maine working with Dr. Eric Gallandt. Her research primarily focuses on physical and cultural weed management in organic vegetable systems, mainly for small-scale, diversified operations. Prior to her Ph.D. work, she received a B.S. in Sustainable Agriculture from the University of Maine and an M.S. in Agronomy from Penn State. She also worked as a research analyst for an agricultural software startup in New York City. Rebecca’s past involvement in the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Congressional Visit Days piqued her interest in science policy work, where she saw an opportunity to apply her research and critical thinking skills to affect positive changes for U.S. agriculture. She is passionate about helping small-scale farmers and underrepresented groups through policy and is excited for the opportunities the WSSA policy fellowship will bring.



Devon is a third year Ph.D. candidate at the University of Tennessee studying Turfgrass Weed Science under the direction of Dr. Jim Brosnan. Her dissertation research is focused on understanding how environmental factors affect the length of life of the species *Poa annua* L. Devon earned a B.S. in Turfgrass Science and M.S. in Agronomy focused in turfgrass both from Penn State. She also holds a second M.S. in Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communications from the University of Tennessee. Devon is passionate about communication and has sought opportunities to expand her skills in this area. Most notably, she conducted sociological research aiming to understand barriers and opportunities for women in the turfgrass industry and was selected to participate in the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Congressional Visits Day. Devon is interested in engaging with stakeholders across the weed science discipline to learn more about how scientific communication shapes policy.



U.S. Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (US-RIIS) Now Available

See: <https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/6144f1ccd34e0df5fb95b5cb>

Abstract: Introduced (non-native) species that become established may eventually become invasive, so tracking introduced species provides a baseline for effective modeling of species trends and interactions, geospatially and temporally. The United States Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (US-RIIS) is comprised of three lists, one each for Alaska (AK, with 532 records), Hawaii (HI, with 6,075 records), and the conterminous United States (L48, with 8,657 records). Each list includes introduced (non-native), established (reproducing) taxa that: are, or may become, invasive (harmful) in the locality; are not known to be harmful there; and/or have been used for biological control in the locality.

To be included in the US-RIIS, a taxon must be non-native everywhere in the locality and established (reproducing) anywhere in the locality. Native pest species are not included. Each record has information on taxonomy, dates of introduction (where available; currently for 38%), invasion status (invasive or introduced), and citations for the authoritative sources from which this information is drawn. The US-RIIS builds on a previous dataset, A Comprehensive List of Non-Native Species Established in Three Major Regions of the U.S.: Version 3.0 (Simpson et al., 2020, <https://doi.org/10.5066/p9e5k160>).

There are 15,264 records in the master list and 12,981 unique scientific names. The list is derived from 5,951 authoritative sources, was reviewed by or based on input from 30 invasive species scientists, and continues to be updated. Publication of version 2.0 of the US-RIIS is anticipated (but not guaranteed) in approximately 12 months.

Citation: Simpson, A., Turner, R., Blake, R., Liebhold, A., and Dorado, M., 2021, *United States Register of Introduced and Invasive Species: U.S. Geological Survey data release*, <https://doi.org/10.5066/P95XL09Q>

NISAW is February 28 – March 4, 2022

The next National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) will be February 28 – March 4, 2022 and will return to a single weeklong event and “fly-in” to Washington DC. If you have topics or issues of concern, or would like to help plan next year’s NISAW, please let me know.

Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D.

Executive Director of Science Policy

National and Regional Weed Science Societies

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202-746-4686

December Newsletter Funny



What kinds of pigs know karate?

Pork chops!
