



Note From the President:

I hope you are all doing well and enjoying the last month or so of summer weather, possibly you've enjoyed a summer break or vacation. I'm sure you've had many successes this summer, learned something, made a new friend, might be finalizing trials or completing trial summaries. For some, this is a time for cleaning up from the intense summer rush, making repairs, and getting ready for the fall. Students are likely back in class and settling down for studying (or football or other things) by the time you read this. I know of a couple of professors and students that have moved and are also going to have some exciting and challenging moments this fall. I am not in class, thank goodness, but I am preparing for my fall trials, the SWSS annual meeting, and letting my pigweed go to seed before bush-hogging and fall tillage, so I can make next year even better.



Annual Meeting: As a society we've come a long way this year, we are actually seven months past the 2021 annual meeting (hopefully the only 100% virtual annual meeting we will ever have), which means it's close to time for submitting titles for the 2022 SWSS 75th (Diamond Jubilee) meeting to be held at the AT&T Executive Education Conf. Center in Austin, TX. If not already, the website for title submissions will be open very soon. Yes, the "Delta" mutant of Covid is present, will likely get worse, but the experts are indicating that by early Nov. the outbreak will be significantly decreased. If you can find a news affiliate you can depend on, you know if the Pfizer vaccine is fully approved, more people (7% of U.S. population) are expected to be vaccinated which will help drive down the outbreak even quicker.

Darrin Dodds is running the 2022 annual meeting in Austin, beginning on Sunday afternoon Jan. 23, 2021. In July, the SWSS board was able to tour the AT&T Conf. Center, adjacent the Univ. of Texas, and a short Uber ride to downtown Austin. Luke Etheridge and Ben McKnight have spent many hours preparing for the annual meeting and working with Darrin on the rooms for presentations, posters, banquet, meals, and committee breakouts. We look forward to having a Sunday evening event to kick off the meeting, so keep opening the SWSS website as it will likely change every couple of weeks. Make sure to be checking your emails and responding quickly so not to forget title deadlines in the fall. Please submit your titles soon and make your hotel reservations before Dec. 1 to get the room you like. As for fees, due to last year's successful meeting we will be keeping registration fees the same.

Weed Contest: I thank Corteva for hosting the 2021 SWSS Weed Contest. The SWSS has spent up to \$18K for a single Weed Contest to be hosted and Corteva hosted the event with no expense to the SWSS. I'm not sure if you realize this, but it costs a lot more to host the event, well over \$18k, more like \$1000 per day for each employee working on the SWSS Weed Contest, so their expenses are deeply appreciated. Drew Ellis took on the responsibility of the contest and worked diligently (I am sure he put in more time than he wants me to speculate on) during a busy summer season to make sure the event proceeded as planned. Like we sometimes run into, such as replanting trials, Drew and the Corteva staff were also setting up many field scenarios just to come up with the two farmer situations in which the contestants participated. They had a couple of heavy rains to live with. I'm sure you thanked a Corteva rep at the

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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/)

Weed Contest but make a point and go out of your way and thank them again for the super event.

I am especially grateful for Corteva letting me assist at the field calibration event, being in the shady grove was wonderful. P.S. I learned a lot of new ways to calibrate, I'm not sure if the students learned those techniques in class or made them up on the fly, anyways hats off to all those creative people. Don't forget to bag your sprayer, and use shortcuts, 68.2/seconds/100ft will get you mph. □

Committees: Make sure to look at the SWSS website to see the committee membership list and look at the MOP for your committee's objectives and if there are deadlines. Committees will meet at some point in Austin on Monday Jan. 24 between 7:30am and lunch, but you likely need to meet virtually before that. There are several committees: Awards (such as Excellence in Regulatory Stewardship) which requires activity in Aug. to Oct., Historical, Computers, Sustaining Membership, and the Weed Contest. If you would like to volunteer for a committee, please contact me, the committee chairperson, or another board member, we definitely can use your expertise.

Thanks,

Clete Youmans, President

Call for 2022 SWSS Paper and Poster Titles

Letter from the Program Chair – August 2021 Darrin M. Dodds

The AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center in Austin, TX is the site of the 2022 Annual Conference, January 23 – 26. The SWSS Board of Directors is currently planning an outstanding face to face program for the meeting in Austin.

You are invited to submit titles for papers and posters to be presented at the 2022 SWSS Annual Meeting of the Southern Weed Science Society. Submission of title and author information will open on August 16, 2021. **Titles, abstracts, and presentations must be submitted through the following website: <https://weedscimeetingabstracts.com/> Title submissions will close on October 1, 2021.** No title additions, changes, edits, etc. will be possible after October 1, 2021. If you have any issues submitting titles and/or presentations, please email me and I will assist you in the process (dmd76@msstate.edu).

Papers and posters may be submitted to one of the following sections:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Section I | Weed Management in Agronomic Crops |
| Section II | Weed Management in Turf |
| Section III | Weed Management in Pastures and Rangeland |
| Section IV | Weed Management in Horticultural Crops |
| Section V | Weed / Vegetation Management in Forestry |
| Section VI | Vegetation Management in Utilities, Railroads & Highway Rights-of-way; Industrial Sites |
| Section VII | Physiological and Biological Aspects of Weed Control |
| Section VIII | Educational Aspects of Weed Control |
| Section IX | Regulatory Aspects of Weed Control |
| Section X | Invasive Plant Species |
| Section XI | New Technologies |
| Section XII | Soil and Environmental Aspects of Weed Science |
| Section XIII | Weed Biology and Ecology |
| Section XIV | Weed Management in Aquatics |
| Section XV | Weed Management in Organic Production Systems |
| Section XVI | Posters |

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. The Program will be printed exactly as submitted, other than format and font changes for uniformity; therefore, proofread your submission very carefully. Primary contact authors will receive an email indicating their title was received and a later email confirming the section/day/time when and where the paper will be presented.

Each author is assured of one senior-author presentation, but multiple senior-author submissions will be accepted only as space and time are 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 by emailing Darrin Dodds at dmd76@msstate.edu.

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

As in the past, there will be a Graduate Student contest for oral presentations and posters. **If you are planning to enter the contest, students cannot enter the paper and poster contest concurrently in 2022. Detailed rules for the Student Contest can be found in the Manual of Operating Procedures (MOP) on the SWSS website.**

Paper Presentations: To ensure quality presentations and a smooth transition from presentation to presentation all presenters will be required to follow directions provided on the website. Projectors and Windows PC laptop computers will be supplied and/or coordinated by section chairs and moderators. Presenters will NOT be allowed to use their own computers in the sessions. If possible, computers will be located on the podium in each session. If this is not possible, an infrared remote control will be provided to advance presentations.

Screens, microphones, carts, and extension cords will continue to be supplied by AV services and paid for by the Society. In order to make this process go as smoothly as possible, please follow the guidelines below. All presentations MUST be in PowerPoint for MS Windows (PC compatible). Macintosh (MAC) /Apple formats will NOT be supported. Your presentation must be saved as a PowerPoint show file (.PPSX). The section chairs have requested that ALL presentations be prepared and uploaded on the abstract submission site so that preloading prior to the meeting can be accomplished (see Submission of Presentations). Please coordinate with your section chair if you want to preview your presentation at the meeting to ensure that the formats/fonts are all as you intended them to be.

Due to the limited time and equipment, last minute editing will not be allowed. Submission of files at the time of the presentation or at any other time during the session will not be allowed. No audio clips or sounds will be allowed. Video clips are discouraged unless absolutely necessary. Please contact the section chair or co-chair at least one week PRIOR to sending your presentation if you need to use a video clip.

Limit fonts used in the presentation to basic fonts, as not all machines may have the same choice of fonts. Examples of standard fonts are Times, Arial, Courier, Tahoma, or similar equivalents. Section chairs and computer operators are not responsible for changes in fonts, bullets, and other formatting at the time of presentation.

Please use up-to-date virus protection software to avoid infecting the computers provided by the section chairs. Further instructions will be provided in the December newsletter.

Poster Presentations: All contest posters are to be displayed before the first full day of the meetings to provide the judges appropriate time to assess all posters in a timely manner. Content of posters including text, graphs, and tables must be easily read from a distance of 6 feet. Titles and headings should be larger and readable from a greater distance.

Poster contestants will not be required to accompany their poster during the judging period (usually during the first full day of meeting) but if a designated time period has been allocated for student poster presentations, he or she may accompany their poster. Note that posters will only be judged on the content of the poster.

Because of cost and logistics, it will not be possible to provide electrical connections, video equipment, or other special equipment for any posters.

In past submissions, some students failed to complete the submission form correctly, which caused them to not be entered into the desired contest. This resulted in numerous program changes after printing and some confusion before and during the conference. Once the title submission site is activated, please be certain to fill out the submission form completely and accurately.

Students are eligible to participate in both the Student Paper Contest and Poster Contest multiple times during a M.S. program and a Ph.D. program; however, a student cannot participate in both contests concurrently during the 2022 meeting. A student can only win 1st place in the paper and poster contest once per degree program.

Specific questions pertaining to the Student Contest should be directed to Chair of the Student Contest: Tommy Butts (tbutts@uada.edu). If you have any questions about submitting a title for the 2022 meeting, please contact: Darrin Dodds (dmd76@msstate.edu), 2022 Program Chair; Mississippi State University, 32 Creelman Street., Box 9555, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Call for Nominations for 2022 SWSS Awards

Please see the listings below describing our award nomination procedures for the 2022 Awards. For some awards, a short summary document such as a resume or CV may be attached. Please see the description below for details. The deadline for nominations is Monday November 1, 2021. There will be **NO EXTENSIONS** for nominee packets. Please send your nominations to the Awards Committee Chair Eric Webster at ewebste2@uwyo.edu and the appropriate Awards Subcommittee Chair listed below:

Fellow Award – John Byrd, jbyrd@pss.msstate.edu

Outstanding Educator Award – Larry Steckel, lsteckel@tennessee.edu

Outstanding Young Weed Scientist Award* – Peter Dittmar, pdittmar@ufl.edu

Outstanding Graduate Student Award** – Sandeep Rana, sandeep.rana@bayer.com

Excellence in Regulatory Stewardship Award – Drew Ellis, andrew.ellis@corteva.com

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

** denotes 2 awards, one for MS student and one for PhD student Please nominate your SWSS colleagues for these important awards.

Details about each award can be found on the SWSS website: <http://www.swss.ws/annual-meeting/awards/>. Feel free to contact me if you have any comments, questions, or concerns at ewebste2@uwyo.edu or at 225-281-9449

Election Details

It's SWSS Office Election Time! Please take the time to review the submitted bios for the candidates. Voting will open soon through the SWSS website in the Members Only tab.

Member at Large – Academia

Nicholas T. Basinger – University of Georgia

Michael L Flessner – Virginia Tech University

VP – Academia

Todd Baughman – Oklahoma State University

Scott McElroy – Auburn University

Member at Large – Industry

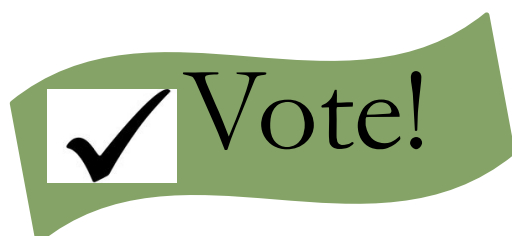
Bruce Kirksey – Agricenter International

Pete Eure – Syngenta

Endowment Foundation—Board of Directors

Michael L. Flessner – Virginia Tech University

Lauren Lazaro – Louisiana State University



Member-at-Large—Academia

Nicholas T. Basinger

Dr. Nicholas T. Basinger is an Assistant professor in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at the University of Georgia where he joined in 2018. He received his MS and Ph.D. degrees from North Carolina State University under the direction of Drs. Katie Jennings and David Monks where he worked on weed management in perennial fruit crops and annual vegetable crops. He maintains an active Weed Ecology/Biology and Integrated Weed Management research and teaching program that includes students across the University of Georgia's three campuses in Athens, Tifton, and Griffin. Nick's goal as an instructor is to provide opportunities for students to think critically and apply their knowledge to real world scenarios. In his teaching role, Nick has reached 178 students since 2018 through teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in Weed Science, Weed Technology, and Herbicide Physiology. He also serves as the Coach for the UGA Weed Team and is passionate about sharing his love of weed science with students.



In his research role, he is interested in crop/weed interactions and integrated weed management approaches through the use of cover cropping, intercropping, and living mulches in corn, soybean, cotton, and canola. He is also interested in the effects of altering the agroecosystems on weed demography. He is also investigating the biology, ecology, and control of *Setaria parviflora*, an emerging pasture/hayfield weed in the mid-south. He has formed interdisciplinary teams of soil scientists, weed scientists, and climate scientists to both gain further understanding of the agroecosystems in which he and his team work, and to maximize the impact of his team's research. Nick has presented over 40 abstracts at the SWSS, WSSA, and other academic meetings and authored 14 peer-reviewed articles and 1 book chapter.

Dr. Basinger has been a member of SWSS since 2014 where he joined as a graduate student. He was selected as the SWSS Outstanding Graduate Student in 2018 and has remained active in the SWSS where he has served as member and Chair of the SWSS Outstanding Graduate Student committee and has served as a judge for both the student oral and poster contests. He has chaired the American Society of Agronomy Weedy and Invasive Species Community and is a Board Member for the Southern Cover Crops Council. He looks forward to continuing his service to the SWSS in a great capacity as a member-at-large.

Michael Flessner

Dr. Michael L Flessner is an associate professor and extension weed science specialist in the School of Plant and Environmental Sciences at Virginia Tech. He received his BS from the University of Tennessee. He obtained both his masters and doctoral degrees from Auburn University where he also served as research associated.

Michael has research and extension responsibilities for weed management in corn, soybean, small grains, and other crops as well as pastures and forages across Virginia. His research efforts focus on herbicides and herbicide resistance as well as cover crops and harvest weed seed control. To date, Michael is an author of 46 peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals, over 160 abstracts presented at professional meetings, and 19 extension publications. He has been awarded over \$2 million in competitive funds to his program. Michael has advised or co-advised 8 graduate students and currently chairs or serves on 9 student committees. Michael's students have won numerous scholarships and awards, notably enjoying success in the Society's annual weed contest.



Michael has been a member of SWSS since 2008 and served the Society in various rolls including committee service on the Weed Resistance and Technology Stewardship, Endowment Foundation, Local Arrangements, and Resolutions and Necrology committees as well as oral/poster contest judge and section chair. Michael has served on the executive committee of the Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS) as Editor, in addition to other service. Michael was awarded NEWSS's Outstanding Researcher Award in 2019. He is also involved in WSSA, currently serving on the Weed Loss and Extension committees. Michael resides in Blacksburg, Virginia with his wife Chelsea Flessner and their two children, Davidson and Everett.

Pete Eure

Pete Eure is a Technical Product Lead for soybean and cereal herbicides at Syngenta Crop Protection. A native of eastern North Carolina, he was born and raised on a family farm where they grow corn, wheat, and soybeans. Pete received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from North Carolina State University and Ph.D. in Weed Science from the University of Georgia where he conducted research in cotton, peanuts, and vegetables.

Pete began his career at Syngenta in 2014 as a Research & Development Scientist in Texas where his responsibilities included the screening of early-stage herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides as well as conducting product concept evaluations. In his current role, Pete manages the development of new weed management concepts for soybeans and cereals and supports currently registered herbicides in these crops.

Since joining the SWSS in 2010, Pete has served the Society as a graduate student contest judge, session moderator at annual meetings, a weed contest judge, chair of the graduate student paper/poster contest and chair of the agronomic crops session. Pete serves as a reviewer for *Weed Technology* and is a member of WSSA where he serves on the Professional Development and Membership Committee. He currently lives in Greensboro, North Carolina with his wife Tabitha.



K. Bruce Kirksey

Bruce Kirksey is the Director of Farm and Research at Agricenter International in Memphis, TN where he manages the farm and conducts field research trials on 1000 acres. He works with all segments of the agriculture industry as he establishes product development, variety testing, and new crop interests on corn, cotton, soybeans, wheat, rice, and other crops.

In his career, he has been involved in research and development with several companies and has over 30 years of experience in experimental trials. Kirksey has a B.S. in Agriculture from the University of Tennessee at Martin and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Plant and Soil Science from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Bruce started his career with Sandoz Agro and was product development specialist in North and South Dakota. From there, Bruce worked for BASF in product development and moved around with BASF. He worked in North Carolina, Washington state and Mississippi. Bruce then went to work for Stoneville Pedigreed Seed in Memphis, TN. Bruce then worked for Winfield, a Land O'Lakes Company where he was the Answer Plot coordinator for the south.

Bruce then went to work for Agricenter International as Director of Research in 2009. Kirksey is active in presenting papers at research conferences and is involved in many professional organizations such as the Weed Science Society of America, Southern Weed Science Society, National Cotton Council, American Seed Trade Association, Mississippi Seedmen's Association, Southern Seed Association, Tennessee Agricultural Production Association, and the Memphis Agricultural Club. His research focuses on agronomic practices of southern crops, organic interests, and specialty crops. Bruce and his wife Marsha live on a farm in Pinson, TN.



Vice President—Academia

Todd Baughman

Todd Baughman is a native of southwestern Oklahoma. He received his B.S. and M.S. in Agronomy from Oklahoma State University, and his Ph.D. in Weed Science from Mississippi State University. Todd currently serves as a Professor and Weed Scientist at Oklahoma State University.

Prior to coming to OSU, he served as a Professor, Extension Agronomist, and State Extension Peanut Specialist with Texas A&M University; and as a Product Development Representative with Sandoz Agro, Inc. covering the V-C Region. Todd is responsible for conducting research and providing educational information useful to producers for weed management in summer cropping systems.



He has authored or co-authored 44 journal articles, 225 abstracts, 123 technical articles, 77 press releases, and 4 plant material releases. Todd has served as chair or member on 18 graduate student committees. He has been an active member of the Southern Weed Science Society since 1990. As a student, he participated and placed in the SWSS Student Paper and Poster Contests and the Southern Weed Contests. Todd has served on the SWSS board as a Member-At-Large (Academia) and as Secretary-Treasurer. He served on the Student Program Committee for 9 years and as the chairperson of that committee three different times, and as a contest judge for many years. He has also served as a local arrangements chair, program section chair, and chair or member of numerous other SWSS committees. He was honored as the SWSS Outstanding Young Weed Scientist by the society in 2006. Todd has served as a reviewer and Associate Editor for *Weed Science* and is currently serving on the WSSA Finance and Science Policy Committees. He has also served as the President of the American Peanut Research and Education Society and is recognized as a Fellow of APRES.

Scott McElroy

Scott McElroy is a Professor in the Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences at Auburn University. Dr. McElroy currently holds a distinguished Alumni Professorship as selected by the Auburn University Alumni Association. He received his MS from Auburn University and his PhD from the NC State University in Crop Science with a minor in Plant Ecology. 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*, and *Pest Management Science*, among others. Dr. McElroy teaches three classes, Principles of Weed Science (CSES 3120), Applied Weed Science Technology (CSES 5200/6200), and Advanced Turfgrass Management (CSES 5120/6120). Dr. McElroy maintains an active international research and teaching presence previously serving as an elected board member for the European Turfgrass Society. 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 was born and raised in Moulton, Alabama, a small town in Northwest Alabama. In his youth, Dr. McElroy was an avid basketball player, signing a basketball scholarship with Northwest Community College in Phil Campbell, Alabama for his freshman year and transferring his sophomore year to play at Calhoun Community College in Decatur, Alabama. Dr. McElroy is married to Dr. Nichole McElroy, DVM. They have three children, Joseph (17), William (15) and Trent (13). In his spare time, Dr. McElroy is a member of the Auburn Masters Swimming Team, plays golf (very badly), and attempts to avoid mowing his own lawn at all costs.

Endowment Foundation—Board of Trustees

Michael Flessner

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Lauren Lazaro

Dr. Lauren Lazaro obtained her B.S. degree in Biology at Sweet Briar College in 2009 and her M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Plant Biology, with an emphasis in Weed Ecology, from Southern Illinois University. She went on to be a Post-Doctoral Research Associate at the University of Arkansas in 2015. In 2017 Lauren joined Louisiana State University (LSU) AgCenter in the School of Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences where she is currently an Assistant Professor of Weed Science/Agronomy with responsibilities in teaching and research. Lauren currently teaches three course offerings at LSU AgCenter in field crop production, introductory weed science, and field plot techniques. She currently mentors several undergraduate students and chairs 2 M.Sc. students and 3 Ph.D. students.



Lauren's research focus is in integrated weed management, harvest weed seed control, and weed biology and ecology pertaining to herbicide resistant weed species. Lauren has authored 26 journal articles and one book chapter. She was awarded the Outstanding Paper in Weed Science during 2015 and currently serves on the WSSA Board of Directors as the secretary, chairs the WSSA Website Development Committee, and serves as a committee member of the WSSA Publications Board Committee. At LSU AgCenter, Lauren is the Crop Science undergraduate advisor, chair of the School of Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences Undergraduate Courses Curriculum Committee, and serves on the Scholarship Committee. Further, she is a Faculty Senate member, serves on the Inter-institutional Biological and Recombinant DNA Safety Committee, and serves on the GROW executive board. Outside of academia, Lauren is a pen pal in the Letters to a Pre-Scientist program.

2021 SWSS Endowment Enrichment Scholarship Winners

The SWSS Endowment Committee annually offers three (3) SWSS Endowment Enrichment Scholarship awards which provide an opportunity for SWSS graduate or undergraduate students to participate in a week-long educational experience of their choosing from a list of sponsors. Opportunities include learning among many different areas of weed science including experiences from the field to the lab, in research or extension, and with industry or academia. Winners will be provided \$1500 from the SWSS Endowment to pay for expenses incurred during their experience.

This experience provides excellent opportunities for broadening each student's knowledge of weed science and include visits with industry, government, or university professionals working in field, lab, or extension settings.

We received 14 application packets for the 2021 award, and it was a tough decision for our judges to come up with the top three. The top three (3) students for the 2021 SWSS Endowment Enrichment Scholarship program are:

Name	University	Chosen Sponsor
Delaney Foster	Texas Tech University / University of Tennessee	Valent U.S.A.
Hannah Wright	University of Georgia	Bayer CropScience – Texas Tour
Sarah Kezar	Texas A&M University	Bayer CropScience – St. Louis Tour

Congratulations to all the winners!!

Each of the applicants worked hard to prepare their application packages and we appreciate the efforts that were presented. In each contest we have those that do not win but the SWSS Endowment Committee strongly encourages everyone who didn't win this year to submit another package for the 2022 year.

Weeds Contest 2021

On August 3rd 2021 Corteva Agriscience hosted the SWSS Weed Contest in Leland, MS. There were a total of 37 graduate students from eight Universities who competed. The SWSS and Corteva Agriscience appreciates all the volunteers who took the time to give back at the contest and provide the students with an excellent learning opportunity and to show off their skills in Weed Science. At this time there hasn't been a set location or date for the 2022 contest but some options are nearing finalization.

Top Individual & Team Events:

- 1st Place Weed ID – Connor Webster at LSU
- 1st Place Calibration – Delaney Foster at UT
- 1st Place Calibration – Eli Russell at VT
- 1st Place Farmer Problem – Hannah Wright at UGA
- 1st Place Herbicide Symptomology – Lawson Priess at UofA
- 1st Place Team Calibration – University of Tennessee
- 1st Place Mystery Event – Texas A&M University





Top Overall Individuals:

- #1 Individual – Lawson Priess at UofA
- #2 Individual – Mason Castner at UofA
- #3 Individual – Eli Russell at VT
- #4 Individual – Connor Webster at LSU
- #5 Individual – Hannah Wright at UGA

Top Overall Teams:

- 1st Place Team – University of Arkansas
- 2nd Place Team – Virginia Tech University
- 3rd Place Team – Louisiana State University

Update Corner

Silent Action Items Needed!

Donations are needed for the 2022 SWSS Endowment Silent Auction. Previous items have included: ice chests, paintings, Yeti merchandise, historical weed science items, golf balls, etc.

If you have something you would like to donate to the 2022 SWSS Endowment Silent Auction, please contact me. The proceeds from this Silent Auction are used to support your SWSS Endowment Fund.

-Gary Schwarzlose
President, Endowment Committee

Senseman Named VP of Oklahoma Experiment Station

Oklahoma State University named Dr. Scott Senseman as the new Associate Vice President of the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station in the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

Senseman has a bachelor's degree in agricultural business from Wilmington College in Ohio and a master's degree and doctorate in agronomy from the University of Arkansas. He brings 25 years of experience in agricultural research and higher education to the position.

“With the recent addition of the new animal physiology research facility and the planned new laboratories in development as part of the New Frontiers project, Dr. Senseman's vision will help guide our research programs into the future,” said Thomas G. Coon, vice president and dean of OSU Agriculture. “His experience gives him valuable insights in how to grow research productivity and impacts for production agriculture and ultimately, for families in Oklahoma and beyond.”

Senseman previously served as the Department Head for the University of Tennessee's Department of Plant Sciences where he had been for the past eight years, along with serving as the Deputy Assistant Dean for the Herbert College of Agriculture. He also recently served as the interim dean of UT Extension. He spent 19 years as a Professor and researcher in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences at Texas A&M University and specialized in pesticide fate and herbicide physiology for most of his career, publishing more than 100 research papers.



Constitution and Operating Procedures Update

Improving SWSS Outreach Efforts Using Digital Communications. For the past three years, there have been internal discussions among the SWSS leadership about the need to improve our outreach efforts and communications using digital means, including social media. The consensus among the leadership was improved digital communications were needed to better fulfill the mission our science and the SWSS, particularly to link with younger professionals in agriculture who tend to use digital methods as their primary means of communication. The question is *how* to improve SWSS digital communications, social media presence, and project a coordinated outreach effort.

To comprehensively address this important topic, systematic changes will be needed in the SWSS committee duties, perhaps roles of ex-officio members of the SWSS Board of Directors, and eventually the SWSS Constitution/Bylaws. Before these changes are made, there will be careful discussion among the SWSS leadership.

Speaking on behalf of the SWSS leadership, we welcome and need input from the membership at-large on how to improve SWSS digital communications and social media presence. Interested and knowledgeable volunteers are needed to adequately address this topic. If interested, please contact me or any member of the SWSS Board of Directors.

Manual of Operating Procedures. The SWSS Manual of Operating Procedures has been uploaded to the SWSS website and can be downloaded by any member. This document includes the Constitution, Bylaws, Code of Ethics, duties of officers, Board members, and committee functions. Additionally, scoresheets for the graduate student Poster/Paper Contest are found in the Manual of Operating Procedures, along with description of the SWSS awards and qualifica-

Member Spotlight

Dr. Neil Rhodes



Dr. Neil Rhodes, a Tennessee native, is a Professor and Extension Weed Management Specialist at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He received B.S. and M.S. degrees in Plant and Soil Science from the University of Tennessee in 1977 and 1979, respectively. He then began pursuit of a PhD in Crop Science (major in Weed Science and minor in Entomology) at North Carolina State University in Raleigh and graduated in 1982. He worked full time as Aquatic and Noncropland weed management specialist while at State.

Following graduation, Dr. Rhodes worked for two years as a Field Development Representative for Rohm and Haas in Mississippi. In 1985 he returned to his native Tennessee to join the faculty of The University of Tennessee in Weed Science research and teaching. Beginning in 1990, Neil became Professor and Extension Weed Management Specialist with UT Extension. He has been responsible for the statewide educational program for weed management in all agronomic and horticultural crops, forages and aquatics. He has led active applied research and demonstration programs across the state that focused on weed management in no-till cropping systems. In 2001 Neil assumed additional responsibilities at the University of Tennessee when he was selected as Head of the Plant Sciences Department and he served in that role through 2008 when he requested to return to the faculty ranks. He maintains active Extension and applied research programs in weed management in forages, tobacco, aquatics and increasingly in recent years, herbicide stewardship.

He is a Past-President of both the Tennessee Agricultural Chemical Association and the Tennessee Agricultural Production Association. He is an active member of the Southern Weed Science Society, the Weed Science Society of America, and the American Forage and Grassland Council.

Dr. Rhodes has received several awards, including being named the 2004 Outstanding Extension Weed Scientist by the Weed Science Society of America, and the 2008 Distinguished Service Award from the Tennessee Turfgrass Association. Also in 2008, Neil was named as winner of the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University. In 2018, Dr. Rhodes was the recipient of the Excellence in Regulatory Stewardship Award from the Southern Weed Science Society; at the society's annual meeting in February 2019, he received the *Fellow* Award. Later in 2019, Rhodes received the Webster Pendergrass Award for Outstanding Service in the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture.

Neil is an active member of Middlesettlements United Methodist Church where he enjoys singing in the choir. He enjoys camping, fishing, woodworking and metal craft welding.

Washington Report

Seeking Your Expertise for the 2021 Weed Survey

We need your expertise for the [2021 survey of the most common and troublesome weeds](#) in aquatic and non-crop areas in the U.S. and Canada. Please list the five most common and troublesome weeds in at least one of the following areas:

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

Common weeds refer to those weeds you most frequently see, while troublesome weeds are those that are most difficult to control, but may not be widespread. Your expertise is important and will be invaluable in highlighting weed species trends over time. **The survey will remain open through Labor Day, September 6th.**

Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021WeedSurvey>

Jacobs-Young Nominated to Serve as USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics



On July 29, the Biden administration nominated Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young to serve as USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE). The REE mission area covers the work of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the Economic Research Service (ERS), the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS).

Dr. Jacobs-Young has served as Administrator of ARS since 2014. Previously, she was the ARS Associate Administrator for National Programs, where she led the Office of National Programs and the Office of International Research Programs. She is a native of Augusta, GA and holds an M.S. and Ph.D. in Wood and Paper Science and a B.S. in Pulp and Paper Science and Technology from North Carolina State University.

Confirmed Federal Agency Leaders

USDA Secretary – Tom Vilsack

USDA Deputy Secretary – Jewel Bronaugh

DOI Secretary – Deb Haaland

DOI Deputy Secretary- Tommy Beaudreau

DOI Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks- Shannon Estenoz

DOI Assistant Secretary for Water and Science – Tanya Trujillo

EPA Administrator- Michael Regan

EPA Deputy Administrator – Janet McCabe

EPA Assistant Administrator for Chemical Safety & Pollution Prevention- Michal Freedhoff

EPA Assistant Administrator for Water- Radhika Fox

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Chair- Brenda Mallory

Randy Moore is the New Forest Service Chief



On June 28, USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that Randy Moore will serve as the 20th Chief of the USDA Forest Service. Prior to this appointment, Moore served as the Forest Service's Regional Forester for the California-based Pacific Southwest Region since 2007. He previously served as the Regional Forester for the Milwaukee-based Eastern Region and also worked with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as a soil scientist in several states including North Dakota. Moore, who has a bachelor's degree in plant and soil science from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, will be the first African American to lead the Forest Service.

Producers Can Now Hay, Graze and Chop Cover Crops Anytime and Still Receive Full Prevented Planting Payment

Agricultural producers with crop insurance can hay, graze or chop cover crops for silage, haylage or baleage at any time and still receive 100% of the prevented planting payment. Previously, cover crops could only be hayed, grazed or chopped after November 1, otherwise the prevented planting payment was reduced by 65%.

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) recognizes that cover crops are not planted as an agricultural commodity but rather with the primary purpose for conservation benefits. For the 2021 crop year and beyond, RMA will not consider a cover crop planted following a prevented planting claim to be a second crop. But RMA will continue to consider a cover crop harvested for grain or seed to be a second crop, and it remains subject to a reduction in the prevented planting indemnity in accordance with the policy. [Learn more.](#)

EPA Announces Plan to Revise WOTUS Definition

The EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers have announced plans to revise the definition of "waters of the U.S." or WOTUS to determine which waterways and wetlands federal agencies can regulate under the Clean Water Act.

The agencies also intend to initiate a new rulemaking process to restore the pre-2015 definition of what constitutes WOTUS and have requested a federal judge to remand the Trump Administration's 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule. The 2020 rule, which replaced the Obama Administration's 2015 Clean Water Rule, moved WOTUS back towards Congress's original intent of "navigable waters" and removed ephemeral streams that flow only after heavy rainfall or snowmelt as well as wetlands without surface water connections to intermittent or perennial streams from the agencies definition of WOTUS.

Many agricultural groups are opposed to changing the current Navigable Waters Protection Rule because they feel it provided long-overdue certainty and clarity for landowners affected by the scope of WOTUS' jurisdiction. There is concern about government overreach and regulatory confusion in how federal agencies decide which waters of the United States they can regulate.

The Biden Administration eventually plans to draft its own definition of which waterways, wetlands and groundwater they can regulate by "*drawing from the lessons learned from the current and previous regulations, as well as input from a wide array of stakeholders, so we can better protect our nation's waters, foster economic growth, and support thriving communities.*" More information about the new rulemaking is forthcoming.

NISAW 2022 is Feb. 28 – Mar. 4.

Next year, 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.

Eagle Killing Neurotoxin Linked to Hydrilla Identified

Bald eagles, as well as other wildlife, have been succumbing to vacuolar myelinopathy (VM) in the southern U.S. since the 1990s. In a March 2021 issue of *Science*, researchers finally identified the neurotoxin, aetokthonotoxin (AETX), which is produced by the cyanobacterium *Aetokthonos hydrillicola* that is the cause of VM deaths. The cyanobacterium, *A. hydrillicola*, grows very well on hydrilla covering 20-90% of its leaf surfaces. *A. hydrillicola* has also colonized hydrilla in more than half the watersheds in the southeastern US.

Reference: “Hunting the eagle killer: A cyanobacterial neurotoxin causes vacuolar myelinopathy” by Breinlinger et al., 26 March 2021, *Science* 371. [DOI: 10.1126/science.aax9050](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aax9050)

There was some controversy created by inaccurate media reports that linked the herbicide diquat dibromide as a possible cause. AETX biosynthesis relies on the availability of bromide. The authors recognize that a number of conditions may increase or even decrease bromide availability such as environmental conditions (e.g., lake turnover, agitation), natural sources (e.g., geologic), as well as anthropogenic sources (e.g., power plants, water treatment plants, gasoline additives, chemicals, plant management). Breinlinger et al. (2021) state that “the consequences of elevated bromide from geologic and anthropogenic sources (e.g., water treatment and power plants) on VM should be further investigated”.

It should be noted that there are VM-positive water bodies with AETX where diquat has never been used. Likewise, diquat controlling hydrilla is desired because hydrilla is the source of the problem. Furthermore, the water concentration of bromide after a diquat application is 25 to 125 times below the optimum water concentration of bromide required for AETX production.

The bigger travesty in all of this is that **hydrilla is a federally listed noxious weed**, and without question, the most widespread aquatic noxious weed on the federal list. APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) has limited funding for managing and preventing the interstate spread of federal noxious weeds under the Plant Protection Act. While APHIS has active permits for two hydrilla biocontrol agents, *Hydrellia balciunasi* and *Hydrellia pakistanae*, unfortunately, APHIS confirmed that they **do not have a current program** for the control and management of hydrilla. WSSA has ongoing conversations with APHIS on this important issue.

Weed Science Societies Support NEPA and Lacey Act Fixes for Invasive Species

The national and regional weed science societies supported letters that would improve invasive species management on two separate issues.

The [first letter](#) requests that the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) approve the Department of the Interior’s request for a number of categorical exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for invasive species control. Without the ability to use categorical exclusions to promptly control invasive annual grasses after a fire on federal lands, those invasive grasses have spread rapidly while federal land managers have to go through the NEPA process, which has taken years in many cases, before those invasive grasses can be managed.

The [second letter](#) supports legislation, S. 626, in the Senate that would fix a flaw in the Lacey Act, which came about through a federal court case, where the court interpreted that the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) could not regulate interstate commerce in injurious species, notwithstanding decades of generally accepted practice during which FWS had exercised that authority.

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