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Put it on the Calendar

Beltwide Cotton Conference, New Orleans, LA,
January 4-7, 2005

Southern Weed Science Society, Charlotte, NC,
January 24-26, 2005

Weed Science Society of America, Honolulu, HI,
February 6-11, 2005

Upcoming 2004 Annual Meeting



Message From the
Program Chair David Shaw

2005 Program –
Something for Everyone!

As I write this article, I'm waiting on a few final details before I send the 2005 program document to Bob Schmidt for printing. I'm truly excited about the program, and think it will be well-received by everyone who participates in the conference.

As you know, we have focused the oral presentations topically this year, and have invited presentations rather than volunteered papers. The symposia that we are conducting offer something for everyone, and on some of the most important topics that we as weed scientists must consider. These will include two herbicide resistance sessions, one specifically on glyphosate resistance and the other on general principles of herbicide resistance, separate sessions on weed management in cotton, peanut, and reduced tillage systems, pasture and rangeland, forestry, and rights-of-way. We'll also have sessions that have invited outside speakers to address fundamentals of regulatory efforts, invasive species management, environmental issues, methyl bromide replacement, and weed management

issues in transgenic turf. My hat's off to the section/symposium chairs this year; they've done an amazing job of putting together quality symposia on an amazing array of topics.

We've continued to try to improve our focus on our graduate students in a couple of ways. First, we've organized Tuesday with all grad students presenting their oral presentations in one of two concurrent sessions. We've limited other sessions to only one opposite of these so that everyone has the best opportunity possible to support the grad students and see the future of our organization. We also are continuing the very successful graduate student symposium. This year it is going to provide a mock interview session, with points then made on what a student (or anyone else!) should consider when they are interviewing. I'm sure all of us will be interested in this session!

We're also having two poster sessions this year on Monday and Tuesday evenings, with even and odd poster presenters present, respectively. We're putting these from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. each evening, and a hosted mixer with food and drink will accompany these. I think this will give us a great opportunity to visit with the presenters at a time when we can maximize participation. The mixer will set a great atmosphere in which to do this.

We're splitting the award ceremonies this year. At the end of the General Session on Monday afternoon, we'll present all non-student awards. This will allow us to recognize the awardees appropriately during the conference, rather than trying to catch them after the Wednesday night awards ceremony. The graduate student paper/poster awards will continue to be presented on Wednesday night at the banquet, since we won't know before then who the winners are.

I'm very encouraged by the number of papers/posters that have been submitted this year. We are within ten of the same number that were submitted last year. Given the dynamics of our discipline, and the substantial changes in the program this year, I was concerned that we might see a significant decline. But, you all delivered! I think with the change in program format we also have the opportunity to reach out more effectively to others and draw in a larger audience. However, that'll require **all** of us to spread the message! I'd ask each of (Continued page 2)

(continued from page 1)

you to think about someone you know who would be interested in each one of the various symposia, and extend a personal invitation to that person. We have so much sound science that we can share; but we can't do that by talking to ourselves!

As I've already mentioned, the program format and structure has been changed substantially this year. We are going to spend some time in the Business Meeting this year discussing the pros and cons of these changes, after you've had the chance to participate in the revised format. The Board wants your input as it considers what adjustments might need to be made to effectively serve the membership, and to reach out to new members. I'm expecting a lively discussion that you don't want to miss!

Finally, I'm going to mention something again that I put in my first e-mail back in February. SWSS sometimes can come across rather stiff and formal. I'd propose that we adopt a business-casual dress code this year, with the exception that we encourage the grad students to wear business-formal during their paper presentations. As I participate in other conferences with my varied job responsibilities, I'm finding more and more the business-casual approach. We want to make ourselves more attractive and open as we have new members join, and I think this is one way we can help that. The feedback that I've gotten from the grad students and younger generation has been unanimously for this idea, so let's try it this year.

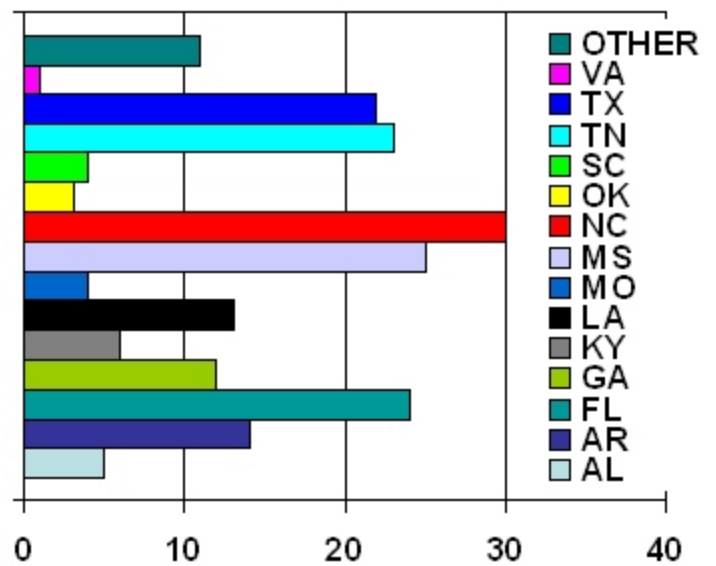
I look forward to seeing you in January. Again, tell a friend about the conference, and share the conference program with them when it comes out this month!

David Shaw, Program Chair

A symposium on Regulatory Fundamentals will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 26 at the annual SWSS meeting in Charlotte. Speakers will include regulatory experts from state, regional and federal agencies as well as industry regulatory departments. Please forward this information on to people you know who work in this area but may not attend the SWSS meeting regularly, especially those close to Charlotte. A one day registration fee is available for \$75 for anyone wanting to only attend the symposium. If you have any questions about the symposium call Jerry Wells at 336-632-6324.

All SWSS members are cordially invited to the second annual SWSS Christian Prayer Breakfast at the Annual meeting on Wednesday morning. More details are located in the annual meeting program. For more information, contact John Wilcut, Local Contact for this event.

Table 1. Tabulation of voting numbers from various states within SWSS (and beyond)



Actual number of ballots tallied from each state.

NOTE: The voting results for individual ballots for each respective officer were not compared to the state of origin. Also, some ballots may not be attributed to the correct state since only the postmark was used to indicate where the ballot was from.

The above table and comments provided by Tom Mueller, Secretary/Treasurer. (I found this data interesting, and I thought you might, too). TCM

2004 Southern Weed Contest

The 24th annual Southern Weed Contest was held August 3rd, 2004 at the Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Eric Webster, Jim Griffin and the entire staff of Louisiana State University did an excellent job providing the students with a challenging day. The weed identification, herbicide symptomology, sprayer calibration, and the field problem solving were well prepared and challenging to all of the contestants. The mystery event was a relay race through a flooded rice field.

A total of 24 contestants from nine universities competed this year. Universities represented were the University of Arkansas, Clemson University, University of Florida, University of Georgia, University of Kentucky, Mississippi State University, Oklahoma State University, University of Tennessee, and Texas A&M University. The Weed Contest Committee would like to encourage every university affiliated with the Southern Weed Science Society to attend the 2005 contest. The contest is an outstanding educational opportunity and we hope everyone plans to attend.

Winning teams and individuals were as follows:

Team Awards:

1st Place	University of Arkansas (\$500)
2nd Place	Mississippi State University (\$300)
3rd Place	Clemson University (\$200)

Individual Awards:

1st Place	Vinod Shivrain, Arkansas (\$400)
2nd Place	Chad Brewer, Arkansas (\$250)
3rd Place	Drew Ellis, Arkansas (\$100)
4th Place	Nathan Goldschmidt, Arkansas (\$75)
5th Place	Ken Hutto, Mississippi State (\$50)
6th Place	Chris Mudge, Florida
7th Place	Darrin Dodds, Mississippi State
8th Place	Sunny Malik, Clemson
9th Place	Jason Walton, Mississippi State
10th Place	Jay Meehan, Clemson

The traveling "Broken Hoe" trophy was presented to the University of Arkansas at the awards banquet. Plaques and cash awards were also presented to winning teams and individuals, and contestants with the highest scores within each event were also recognized. This was an excellent contest for students to demonstrate their knowledge and talent.

The Southern Weed Contest Committee wishes to thank all sponsors of the 2003 Southern Weed Contest. Sustaining members for this year included: Perennials (\$2,000+) - BASF, Dow AgroSciences, Monsanto, and Syngenta; Biennials (1,000-1,999) - Bell, Inc. To maintain the excellent tradition of the Southern Weed Contest, the Southern Weed Science Society Contest Committee will again ask each company in 2005 to become, or continue to be, sustaining members of the Southern Weed Contest.

A location has not been determined for the 2005 Southern Weed Contest.

Eric Webster, Chair



The mystery event was a relay race under "moist" field conditions followed by weed ID of local weed species of interest.



Teams calibrated a sprayer to apply products in a sugar cane field.

People and Places

Vijay Nandula started postdoctoral work with Dan Poston at the Delta Research and Extension Center, Mississippi State University, Stoneville in September, 2004. He was previously at North Dakota State University, Fargo working on the physiology of herbicide resistance in weed populations of North Dakota and the Upper Midwest. Vijay received his Ph.D. in Weed Science and Plant Physiology from Virginia Tech and M.S. degree in Agronomy (Weed Science) from Penn State.

Steve Kelly was promoted from Assistant to Associate Professor at Louisiana State University.

Cam Smith moved to Walnut Creek, California to take the position of Strategic Accounts Manager for Valent USA Corporation. He was previously working as a sales rep for Valent in Monroe, LA.

Eric Walker, has completed his Ph.D at the University of Arkansas and has joined USDA-ARS in Jackson, TN as a Soybean Agronomist.

Oscar Sparks completed his Ph.D. in August 2004, and is now working for Monsanto as trait development project lead and is in the Trait Development Pipeline Group.

Dr. **Larry Newsom**, transferred from BASF's RTP, NC, site to Tifton, GA. Larry was the U.S. CLEARFIELD crops Biology Project Leader and is now the Biology Area Manager, for Florida, Georgia, and S. Carolina.

The University of Florida IFAS welcomes two new Weed Scientists. **Curtis Rainbolt** is a new extension/research specialist stationed at the Everglades Research and Education Center in Belle Glade, FL, with an emphasis on weed management in sugarcane and rice. Curtis completed his Ph.D. at the University of Idaho in 2003 and has been working for the past year as a multi-county extension agent in South Florida with responsibilities in sugarcane production and weed control. **Brent Sellers**, a recent graduate of the University of Missouri, will work from the Cattle and Range Research and Education Center at Ona, FL. Brent will have research and extension responsibilities for control of weeds and invasive species in South-Central Florida pasture and range settings.

Brian Ottis (University of Arkansas) has accepted a position with the University of Missouri as Assistant Research Professor-Rice Production Systems. Brian will begin work at the Delta Center in Portageville in March 2005.

Marty Schraer (Syngenta) has relocated to cover southern Idaho, the Willamette Valley of Oregon, Utah, and Nevada. He moved in March 2004.

Comments from Tom Mueller

It is safe for me to say that I have learned much about the SWSS over the last 3 years. I have served as your Secretary/Treasurer, and also as your Newsletter Editor. The meeting in January brings to an end my formal service to SWSS, at least for now. I hope I have served you well.

I also made some trips for "leadership training" on behalf of the SWSS: one to Virginia and one to New York. These were made with two really great people, Scott Senseman (Board Member) and David Shaw (program chair and future president). Through this process the SWSS has started the process of change. Any time a group starts to change, there is a divergence of opinion about that change. Some "early adopters" say we need to be more flexible, and more in-tune with the current culture (websites, business casual attire at meetings, etc). Some "conservatives" scream that we are making "fatal" changes that the society will never recover from (no examples given). I wish to use my last few words to strongly emphasize one point, and if you get nothing else from my comments, I hope you learn this one point.

The board is not making changes just to upset the members. The board really does care what the members think and want to do. The board will not do anything the members really do not want to do. I STRONGLY encourage you to let your board members know what you want. And to BE PRESENT at the business meeting at the annual meeting. It is at that meeting that the members will decide to move/not move the annual meeting. For your consideration, I have included a few comments that SWSS members sent to me.

Thank you for allowing me to serve SWSS these past 3 years. With kind regards, *Tom Mueller*

Member Comments: Moving meeting date

Firstly, I included all the comments sent to me, although I had to edit some for brevity (some people wrote about 2 full pages). I also printed them pretty much in the order in which they were received. I designated some folks as *SWSS member* so all responses were anonymous. I know who each person was, based on their email signature.

Secondly, I did not print those comments which I found to be not directly relevant to the specific topic of "moving the meeting". It is not that they were not good comments or ideas, but they simply were not cogent to this forum. Thank you for all that submitted their opinions and ideas. I hope reading through them gives you a flavor of the discussion ahead.

Since plenty of folks provided their comments, I will not provide mine. *Tom Mueller, SWSS Newsletter Editor*

As a rep with a large territory, moving the SWSS meeting earlier (Nov/Dec) would be fatal. Pushing back into February or March would be beneficial. Assuming you want to keep Industry attendance and grow it, pushing later into winter/early spring could be beneficial. Moving closer to spring may allow additional 'work/meetings' to be accomplished in conjunction with the SWSS - for example trial placement and protocol discussions. *Industry representation covering 21 states*

I favor the 3rd or 4th week of January, since it has worked fine for years. *OSU Cowboy stuck in Arkansas*

The rumor floating around is that the suggestion is moving the meeting to October. I am totally against that move since that is the time that we are planting wheat, harvesting peanut, and spraying harvest aids or harvesting cotton. I am also not in favor of November since planting and harvesting often stretch into that month for us in Texas, and am not for December since that is a short month with many conflicts and could possibly conflict with students finals. *Cowboy from Oklahoma.*

I vote for moving the meeting to the 2nd or 3rd week of February. Reason = too many meetings

(professional and internal) in the month of January. *Wolf prowling in TN.*

Having two back to back meetings in the midst of winter is not very desirable. It would be nice for some time separation between the national and regional. Ideally, a summer meeting would be nice. Finally the American Society of Agronomy did this in 2004 with a July meeting in Biloxi and following it up with a San Antonio meeting in July 2005, instead of the usual conflict with the WSSA annual meeting. *Oh Mama Can this really be the end, To be stuck with the Memphis Blues again*

I would suggest moving the SWSS away from the cotton beltwide. I would also consider (significant change!) combining the SWSS and NCWSS! There could be a combined general session and several sections. Some sections may not be interesting to both groups but both are losing membership. I would vote for December, similar to the NCWSS today because it is before the Christmas holiday, the first set of meetings, away from the beltwide, could be held in the south (a warmer climate!) Thanks for the opportunity to comment! *SWSS member*

Move away from winter weather problems, fall or summer either one. Summer meeting at a decent location would attract some to include their families. Also what few companies are left in the game have their national sales meetings in Jan., so you always are going to conflict with some company. *SWSS member*

I have heard a rumor that Oct. would be the new date. So I will make my remarks based on Oct. as being the new annual meeting date. I prefer Nov. 10-20 of each year for an annual meeting. I am against an Oct. meeting, since it's my busiest time of year. I will probably only attend an Oct. meeting if I'm presenting a paper (very rarely). *Weegle Beagle*

The current meeting date for SWSS conflicts with the National Golf Course Superintendents Association meeting; therefore, I have not been able to attend the SWSS for the past 12 years for the most part. As you know, January until late February is a very busy time for national meetings, etc. I would suggest having it in the late fall of the year after most academics have their data collected but prior to the Holiday season. Thanks. *SWSS member*

If it ain't broke don't fix it!!! Don't know when I could fit it in any other time anyway.

The Hunter

I would have to hear the problem with the current time.. after February - things really get busy. I suggest we stay the same unless there is a valid reason to move..*Tractor Driver in MS - muddy at present time*

I propose we leave the date "as is" towards the end of January. From an industry perspective, that is one of the few times of the year that we can combine some of our business objectives with the meeting (i.e. discuss some of the projects for the upcoming season) I realize that this is a heavy travel season. Nobody is more aware of this than Industry with our many societal meeting obligations.

Here are a few arguments against other times:

Mid-March - May = Everyone is planning for their upcoming growing season.

June - August = Middle of the growing season.

Sept. - Nov. = Harvest - absolute worst time

December = An opportunity to analyze and put together data (formulate presentations). If the students are truly the lifeblood of the society, then there is a definite conflict of interest with their education/finals.

Feb, - Mid-March = I don't have a strong objection to this time, but it kind of goes along with the December comment. Kind of a conflict of interest for the students.

A couple of arguments for the meeting staying where it is in late January:

January provides an opportunity to discuss business (upcoming projects) while sharing trial results with colleagues. I was once a graduate student and am acutely aware that this time provided invaluable time to organized data for a presentation without other academic distractions. If we want this to be an academic meeting like the SE Branch ESA or the Southern Division APS, changing the date will help. Thanks for an opportunity to provide input regarding these proposed changes. *Hungry Tiger Surrounded by Hogs*

I like late June - July. It would be a good time for family vacations. *It's too dxxx hot to work anyway.*

I like it right where it is. I have NCWSS just before Christmas, and WSSA in February right after SWSS. You would have to go back to November or out to

March to avoid conflicting with those meetings. I never liked NCWSS in December as a graduate student because it always fell on, or near, final exam week. That was a tough time to be working on a presentation and missing classes as I am sure you remember. *SWSS member*

The NEWSS meeting is the first week of Jan every year and my state's turfgrass conferences is the 2nd week. I would not be able to make the SWSS every year if it is placed in those two weeks. The 3rd or 4th week of Jan works well for me as well as any time in Feb other than WSSA's meeting time. I'm opposed to December due to preparation for other meetings and the holidays. Early November is the time of ASA but anytime in October would work for me. However, most row-crop folks don't have their data yet for an October meeting. The ASA gets around that by requiring titles and abstracts in early summer but that limits all of the data to last year's studies. I like the current meeting time or if it were pushed a little later into Jan or Feb.

Leave the date in January. The spring and summer are not practical due to the nature of our work. The fall hosts the ASA meetings and February hosts the WSSA. Although the Beltwide is also in January, the people who are going to attend both meetings have been doing so anyway. The only possible suggestion that would offer as to a good reason to move the meeting is to combine with another small society that is meeting (i.e. American Forage & Grassland Counsel). *A War Eagle in Georgia*

Personally I like it where it is. I teach in the fall and a fall meeting makes it impossible to get data at least field wise for a student paper. The summer is busy with field research, weed contests, and a family vacation. The year in my mind ends with the SWSS and the WSSA, it allows me to see what others have done right before I start finalizing my plans for the upcoming field season, whether it is efficacy or biology work; and several times I have gotten good ideas for lab studies from SWSS presentations. Any later in the spring months starts becoming an issue for students as the semester is starting to really pile on. The middle to end of January, they have time to play catch up. Really not much going on in January. *Hannibal*

AGAINST: Fall meeting (Oct-Dec): Unless you want to eliminate all Industry folks, don't hold the meeting in the Fall (Sep-Dec). There are too many internal data review, budgetary, and planning meetings during this time of year.

AGAINST: Summer meeting (July-Sept): Many of the industry folks are working in multiple disciplines (entomology, pathology, biotech, etc.). This is usually a time when weed scientists get somewhat of a break, but if you are involved in entomology or pathology, the field research is just heating up. Again, unless you want to eliminate the Industry Folks, this is not a good time either!

FOR: Feb-March: Either keep the meeting as is or move to a mid-February to early-March time period: fewer meeting conflicts and relatively slow period, and except for some of the extreme SOUTH, field projects haven't begun in earnest. Also allows time for collaborative meetings for protocol planning AFTER budgets have been established. Regards,
Industry Guy

Summer is out from Industry and consultants--ongoing work and vacation for some. Fall is out, due to harvest/data collection of trials and preparing for company meeting.

January is the best month especially the week of MLK. But not on that day. Wed-Friday better rates.
SWSS member

I've been a card-carrying SWSS member for 20 years and have a great deal of respect for past and current members..... If SWSS is bound on moving the meeting time I would only be in favor of moving it up one week.
SWSS member

I have been attending the SWSS for about 50 years and I have always enjoyed the meeting in January because the time came when I was not busy calling on clients and it produced the latest information for me to distribute to the potential clients. I desire the meeting to remain about the same time.
Razorback

I am fully supportive to alter the meeting time. Obviously, we are struggling with our present arrangement. I recall consideration of a late October meeting date. That has my full support. [Our current meeting time (late January) is OK, but I am not thrilled about it.]

PRO: An October meeting date will have few conflicts (for me) and will greatly minimize weather related travel woes. Also, it will add separation among other meetings weed scientists also attend

(WSSA, Beltwide Cotton, and regional vegetable meetings.) Finally, this is speculation, but we may gain more participation from under-represented groups by changing meeting time.

CON: Yield data for some crops may not be available. Furthermore, there is less time between summer-season and meeting time to properly analyze all data. (To counter that, we tend to present too much 1-year data at these meetings.) Student participation has been our backbone in recent years and changing the meeting time may reduce student participation by restricting the amount of field data available to present. Tanks for the opportunity to respond.
SWSS member

We need to get input from our industry members--THEY are the ones who have left. Academics have tended to stay loyal and given more and more papers to fewer and fewer ears. We need to look for associations every bit as much as we try to try new ideas. Industry recognizes crop protection as a whole- not weeds, bugs, fungi. Partnering with other academic pest meetings or NAICC, or NACA or something might bolster our industry participation. The number one saddest thing about SWSS is when entire companies skip SWSS (and this happens roughly every year or two). We must face the truth that THE BEST Weed Science Meeting around isn't of enough relevance or value to them to religiously attend. October SWSS- I'm not sure I see any advantage to this date. Most Industry folks I've talked to say that this is an especially bad time for them. A late July meeting at a FUN location (not necessarily within SWSS states) was suggested- with the key being trying to align SWSS with a family vacation opportunity. My first reaction was yuck, I'm still busy with plot work then. My second reaction was- hmmm, Late July isn't really any worse than Late January regarding overall busy-ness. But, my third reaction is darn, our industry guys are ramping up their bug spray research in a very big way in late July. I'm afraid that January may be THE best time, unless we're thinking about joining with the NCWSS boys in December.
SWSS member

My choice is to leave it as it is. Most of us have learned to organize our schedules around that time of year. I am strongly opposed to having it during the summer months. There is the factor of time away from field work, and all the data presented would be a year old for a summer meeting. I can't

see having it any earlier in the winter. People are harvesting in November. December is full of local meetings already. We have to work around the Beltwide in early January. We have to work around the WSSA in early February. So, mid-February or March is about the only alternative time I could suggest. *SWSS member*

I am for moving the meeting date to sometime in the summer. In today's society, entertainment seems to be the key. Anymore, if it is not fun, people don't want much to do with it, whatever "it" is. If we move the meeting to sometime in the summer and have the meeting somewhere like on the coast, I feel more people will attend. More importantly, those in attendance can bring their families. Attend a meeting in which your employer is paying for your room and bring the family this equals a cheaper summer vacation. Other societies are doing this, why can't we? As far as those who say the summer time is when we are collecting our data. Come on, that excuse is getting old. Most of us have complete or enough of a data set to present at the meeting. Having the meeting in the summer time also give advisors a vacation-like treat for graduate students. This helps moral. *Mr. Weed of Mississippi.*

Washington Report, December 2004 Rob Hedberg, Director of Science Policy

The Noxious Weed Control Act of 2004, Not just a good idea, It's the Law.

On October 30, 2004, President Bush took a little time out from the final moments of his reelection campaign to sign the Noxious Weed Control Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-412). This new law that was nearly five years in the making marks important progress for the many groups concerned with managing weeds of range and natural areas.

This law was ultimately passed as an amendment to the Plant Protection Act of 2000. It gives the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture authority to create two new funding programs of up to \$7.5 million each. One program will be a competitive grant program that provides cost share support to local weed management groups and the other program will use cooperative agreements to fund high priority or time sensitive projects such as rapid eradication of newly detected weed infestations. Full text can be found at: <http://thomas.loc.gov> by entering S.144.ENR.

Herbicide Application Demonstration for Federal Agency Staff

In mid November WSSA worked with a number of other organizations to hold a field demonstration of herbicide application techniques for federal agency staff that regularly consider herbicide registration packages and permitting applications. The organizers for this event included WSSA, The Nature Conservancy, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, BASF and Dow Agro Science. The objective was to help agency staff people recognize the significant improvements that have been made in herbicide application, specificity and selectivity for work in non-crop settings.

The application techniques that were demonstrated included aerial (helicopter) applications using sophisticated guidance and monitoring systems; aquatic applications for emerged and submerged vegetation; ground applied low volume foliar applications; ground applied selective foliar treatments; hack and squirt; basal bark and cut stump techniques. Many thanks are due to the professional staff of Invasive Plant Control, Aquatic Nuisance Plant Control, Arborchem/Waldrum Specialties, and Summit Helicopters who did an excellent job demonstrating these techniques.

Overall the day was a considerable success with 75 attendees including representation from EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the USDA Forest Service and the National Invasive Species Council. From comments during and after the program it was obvious that participants learned a great deal and that they will have a better sense of how herbicides are used and applied in non-crop environments. They will also know additional resource people they can turn to with questions about herbicide use.

[Reminder: The Sixth National Invasive Weed Awareness Week; February 27- March 4 in Washington DC. For details go to: http://www.nawma.org/niwaw/niwaw_index.htm.](http://www.nawma.org/niwaw/niwaw_index.htm)

The **GeoResources Institute (GRI)** of Mississippi State University recently hosted a tour and informational meeting on invasive species management for restoration of lower coastal plain ecosystems. The tour was co-sponsored by the Mississippi Invasive Species Alliance, the Southern Weed Science Society, and BASF. Approximately 50 participants from federal, state, and local government agencies attended the tour.



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