



# August 2008 Newsletter

## Past President's message

Dear Colleagues,

I am addressing you as your Past President. At the 5<sup>th</sup> International Weed Science Congress in Vancouver, I had the pleasure and honor to pass the gavel to Dr. Baruch Rubin, our new President. We are in excellent hands! Baruch is very committed to serve you and has a lot of ideas and energy to make our society even better. Some changes are already taking effect and he will inform you in more detail about them.



I had the honor to serve you as your President for four years. When I began my term at the conclusion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Congress in Durban, I knew this was a major responsibility. I tried my best to move the Society forward and I hope I have not disappointed you. The best part of my voluntary work was to collaborate with so many good people, particularly with the other Executive Committee members, Dr. Baruch Rubin, Dr. Albert Fischer and Dr. Steve Duke. Their support and advice were instrumental in making my duties more meaningful and effective. I also enjoyed the great collaboration with Dr. Jerry Doll, our Newsletter Editor. His contribution to the Society was truly outstanding and I am sure that our new Editor, Dr. Mike Owen, will build upon the accomplishment of Dr. Doll.

The highlight of my last semester as your President was, of course, realizing the 5<sup>th</sup> Congress. This was a monumental endeavor which was possible only because of very successful teamwork. I am grateful to many colleagues and collaborators and I am sure you will agree that they deserve our recognition and gratitude. The Scientific Committee was chaired by Dr. Karl Hurler who cooperated very closely with the other members, Dr. Dale Shaner and Dr. Chris Hall. Karl and his team greatly contributed to the success of our Congress. A very unfortunate accident before the Congress began, resulted in Karl spending all his time in Vancouver at a local hospital. We are pleased that he returned safely home and that he is almost fully recovered now.

participants, we all recognized his fruitful involvement in the organization of the scientific

component of the Congress. Thank you Karl for a superb job! Forty-nine session organizers and co-organizers helped in putting the program together and in smoothly running the sessions. We are indebted to all of them.

Dr. Al Hamill managed to raise enough funds to allow for reasonable registration fees, support to participants in need of financial help, and for an overall positive balance of the Congress budget. He also helped with the daily logistics in Vancouver and organized the energy breaks and exhibitions. His wife, Anne, kindly helped assemble the folders for Congress participants.

We are very proud of having been able to support an important contingent of graduate students who presented outstanding research results. Recognizing them during the Congress banquet was one of the most rewarding moments we had in Vancouver. Once again, I would like to acknowledge the financial contribution of the Weed Science Society of America and the European Weed Research Society that allowed us to support those students. IWSS contributed USD 10,000 from its assets towards this goal. This year, we presented the Larry Burrill Graduate Student Travel Award to Marites Sales, a Philippine graduate student at the University of Arkansas. Larry could not be with us in Vancouver but he prepared a message for the winner which was read at the awards presentation. Sadly, Larry passed away on 2 August 2008. The committee who judged the submitted papers and selected the awardees was composed by Drs. Per Kudsk, Carol Mallory-Smith, Dale Shaner and Jonathan Gressel. We greatly appreciate their help.

Thanks to the Local Arrangements Committee, co-chaired by Dr. Bob Blackshaw and Dr. Carol Mallory Smith, we had a fantastic venue and first class service, including the meals, audiovisuals, setting up of poster room, and transportation to field sites. They were assisted by Dr. Chris Hall who was in charge of all matters related to computers and loading of presentations and by

Dr. Mahesh Upadhyaya who helped organize the field tours. All of them paid attention to detail, which made us feel comfortable and helped us to enjoy an environment that was very conducive to professional interaction. Dr. Rick Holm served as Master of Ceremonies during the banquet.

Dr. Anne Légère and Dr Bärbel Gerowitt organized a very successful and well attended workshop on Weeds and Biodiversity. Anne also reviewed the abstracts, organized the graduate student poster contest which involved the generous contribution of eleven judges, and hired a disk jockey for an enjoyable evening after the banquet. Dr. Mithila Jugulam kindly worked on correcting the abstract style and format.

I would also like to recognize the contribution of Kate Counter and Joyce Lancaster from Allen Press, who closely worked with the Executive Board and the various committees in all organizational aspects of the Congress, particularly on registration, web-site services, production of circulars and communications. Valorie Blanton from Allen Press also helped us at the registration desk.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the Society for giving me the honor and opportunity to serve. I wish you all success and hope to see you in future activities, especially at our 6<sup>th</sup> Congress to be held in China in 2012.

Bernal E. Valverde  
Costa Rica

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## New President's message

Dear Friends and Colleagues,  
I would like to thank you all for giving me the unique chance to be the president of the IWSS. Before presenting our future plans, I would like to thank my colleagues on the former board, president Dr. Bernal Valverde; Secretary/Treasurer, Dr. Albert Fischer and Past President Dr. Steve Duke, for their leadership and the hard work they have given to the society. I would like to congratulate the new Vice President - Dr. Albert Fischer - and the new Secretary/Treasurer - Dr.



Nilda Burgos - and welcome them to the Board and thank them for their agreement to serve the IWSS.

A few weeks ago, we gathered at the 5<sup>th</sup> IWSC in Vancouver, Canada, a very successful congress organized by the Canadian Weed Science Society and the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA). It was a "real" international congress with more than 500 participants who came from 48 countries around the globe. I would like to thank the local organizing committee, the scientific committee, the Main Topic Organizers, and Allen Press for their skilled and professional work; they did an excellent job. Thank you.

On behalf of all members of the society, I would like to express our thanks to Prof. Karl Hurle, Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the 5<sup>th</sup> IWSC. Karl devoted more than three years of hard work preparing the scientific program of the Congress to the last detail. He worked hard to make this Congress so successful, but due to unfortunate accident couldn't attend the Congress and enjoy the fruits of his work. We all wish him speedy recovery and a safe return to his regular activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Jerry Doll, the editor of the IWSS Newsletter for his excellent work and long service for the society, and thank Dr. Mike Owen for accepting our invitation to serve as the new editor.

The successful Congress in Vancouver has clearly shown that we have a capable young generation of weed scientists that can meet the challenges ahead of us. We, the new Board, look for your suggestions, points of view and comments on how to further encourage more young students to choose WEED SCIENCE as their career. The participation of so many young weed scientists in the 5<sup>th</sup> IWSC was made possible by the financial support given by the European Weed Research Society (EWRS), WSSA and IWSS who generously allocated funds for this important task. This "tradition" of encouraging young weed scientists to actively participate in the Congress started at the 3<sup>rd</sup> IWSC in Foz de Iguazu, Brazil and we are committed to continue and further facilitate it in the future.

There are many challenges ahead of us. We, as a professional and scientific society, have much to offer in the efforts to alleviate the food and water

crisis in sustainable ways, particularly in the developing world.

We have to improve the IWSS visibility and involvement in the activities of the regional and local weed science societies and search for the proper ways to help them develop sound and long term activities, e.g., by organizing short courses for the local members or/and providing internationally-known speakers. As a Weed Science Society, we would like to better communicate and interact with our colleagues from the agro-chemical industry in order to improve the sustainability of food production and the environment and make this globe a better place to live in.

The new board is committed to doing our best to serve the Society and improve communication among weed scientists and the public across the globe. We expect all of you to help us meet these challenges; contact us with your ideas and comments. The 6<sup>th</sup> IWSC will take place at 2012 in China, we encourage all of you to help the organizers make the next IWSC Congress the best ever.

Baruch Rubin  
Israel

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## Graduate Student and Young Scientist Award Programme

An important goal of the IWSS Congress is to support graduate students and young scientists participation by providing the opportunity to present their research and to begin building their networks. As in previous Congresses, the International Weed Science Society, the Weed Science Society of America and the European Weed Research Society donated \$35,000 USD in total for this purpose.

The Graduate Student and Young Scientist Committee (Dale Shaner, Carol Mallory- Smith, Jonathan Gressel and Per Kudsk) received 37 applications from students and young scientists from all over the world. The applications were assessed on the quality of the research and its novelty and contribution to the weed science discipline. The committee decided to support 29 of the 37 applications and fortunately all 29 awardees obtained additional funding and attended the Congress. All awardees were recognized during the official Congress banquet.

Of the 29 applications, **Marites Sales from the University of Arkansas** obtained the highest score and she was accordingly awarded the Larry Burrill Graduate Student Travel Award that covers the full cost of participating in the Congress.



The next top five applicants were (in alphabetical order):

Irfan Rashid (University of Kashmir, India)  
Puja Ray (Nat. Res. Centre for Weed Sci, India).  
Elena Sanchez-Olguin (Oregon State University)  
Maria Zappiola (Oregon State University, USA)  
Dana Ziv (The Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem, Israel)

The other awardees were (in alphabetical order):

Muthu Bagavathiannan (Univ. of Manitoba, Canada), Sanjeev Bangarwa (Univ. of Arkansas, USA), Barbara Baraibar (Univ. of Lleida, Spain), Roberto Busi (Univ. of Western Australia, Australia), Seyed Eslami (Univ. of Birjand, Iran), Mitra Ghotbi (Shahed Univ., Iran), Inbar Greenspoon (The Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem, Israel), Eva Kohlschmid (Univ. of Hohenheim, Germany), Fabiane Lamego (Univ. of Arkansas, USA), Pauline Lang (Univ. of Glasgow, UK), Claudia Marchesi (Univ. of California, USA), Biancha Martins (Oregon State Univ., USA), Claudia Morvillo (Univ. of Buenos Aires, Argentina), Santiago Poggio (Univ. of Buenos Aires, Argentina), Michael Quinn (Oregon State Univ., USA), Vinod Shivrain (Univ. of Arkansas, USA), Daljit Singh (Purdue Univ., USA), Lena Ulber (Univ. of Göttingen, Germany), Tatiana Vega (National Univ. of Rosario, Argentina) and Susie Warner (CSIRO, Australia), Lynise Wearne (CSIRO, Australia), Maria John (Univ. of Rostock, Germany), and Colin Yates (Ontario Terrestrial Invasive Plants Council, Canada),

Per Kudsk  
Chair, Graduate Student and Young Scientist  
Award Committee



Many of the Student Award Winners

## A Truly International Congress in Vancouver

512 delegates attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Congress; 51 were students. We presented 530 posters and 224 papers and here's where we came from:

Algeria: 1	Argentina: 7	Australia: 19
Belgium: 1	Brazil: 10	Canada: 64
Chile: 7	China: 15	Costa Rica: 2
Croatia: 2	Czech Rep.: 2	Denmark: 7
Finland: 2	France: 8	Germany: 21
Greece: 2	Hong Kong: 1	Hungary: 2
India: 13	Iran: 3	Ireland: 2
Israel: 10	Italy: 13	Japan: 18
Jordan: 2	Lebanon: 1	Malaysia: 5
Mauritius: 1	Morocco: 1	Mozambique: 1
Netherlands: 4	New Zealand: 5	Nigeria: 1
Norway: 1	Pakistan: 2	Philippines: 3
Poland: 15	Serbia: 2	Slovenia: 2
South Africa: 6	South Korea: 9	Spain: 8
Sri Lanka: 1	Sweden: 2	Switzerland: 3
Taiwan: 1	Thailand: 1	Turkey: 1
United Kingdom: 13	USA: 188	Uruguay: 1

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## Larry Burrill Dies

One of the founders of our Society, Larry C. Burrill, died at age 72 on 2 August, 2008, in Oregon, USA.



Larry was born in Los Olives, California, was raised in Oregon and received his BS and MS degrees from Oregon State University. He joined the OSU Weed Science Project in 1963 and in 1969 became part of the International Plant Protection Center (IPPC) and over the

years, become well known and respected as an international weed scientist. Larry actively participated in the creation of the IWSS and served as acting Secretary-Treasurer and Steering Committee member (1976-77) and as Secretary until 1986. He received the IWSS Outstanding International Achievement Award in 1992 and was a Fellow of the Weed Science Society of America. Larry retired from OSU as full professor in 1995. Larry's name will live on in the IWSS and beyond via the "Larry C. Burrill Award" which is given prior to each International Congress to an outstanding student as a travel award that covers all expenses.

The documentation supporting the creation of this award is worth highlighting in Larry's honor.

- Larry did a great deal of educational and training seminars around the world, especially in developing regions. He wrote manuals on equipment and conducting field trials. He was a main supporter of the out-of-country IPPC staff in providing information and supplies from home base. He taught the weed control course at OSU for 20 years. In that time, there were numerous international students who greatly benefited from Larry's understanding of weed control around the world. He aimed to "make learning a higher priority than teaching."
- Larry through IPPC served as the secretariat for IWSS from its inception until 1986. Without Larry IWSS would not have existed.
- He was an immensely sound and thoughtful agronomist with much wider understanding of the issues than myself and I felt I was learning from him all the time, as well as thoroughly enjoying his quiet comradeship and good humor.
- Larry was one of the prime movers in getting IWSS organized and operating. He's a worthy recipient of recognition for his work and contributions in this regard.

We close this tribute with Larry's comments read at the 2008 Congress in Vancouver regarding the award created in his name and now in his memory:

"Greetings to all of the weed management people gathered here today, and congratulations to the recipient of the IWSS travel award. I am honored to have my name associated with the award. I am sorry that I am unable to be there in person to express my enthusiasm for weed conferences of all kinds. It was my privilege to have a position within the IPPC that allowed me to participate along with several other international weed people in the many formal and informal discussions that led to the formation of the IWSS. A recurring topic was whether another society was needed. Perhaps we guessed right. All the best. Larry Burrill"

### **Jonny Gressel Receives IWSS Outstanding International Achievement Award**

Dr. Jonny Gressel was recognized for his outstanding contribution to the development of weed science. He received a BSc and MSc in Plant Physiology and did his PhD work in Wisconsin with Whitey Holm, who is well known for his book "The World's Worst Weeds." He did a post-doc in biochemistry and joined the Weizmann Institute of Science.



He has conducted research on photosynthesis, developmental biology of plants and fungi, herbicide resistance, biocontrol of weeds, and transgenic plants. He has collaborated with scientists and graduate students around the world, including Israel, USA, Kenya, Egypt, several European countries, China, India and the Palestinian Authority. He authored books on "Molecular Biology of Weed Control" and "Genetic Glass Ceilings – Transgenics for Crop Biodiversity", edited or co-edited five books on herbicide resistance, fertility, biocontrol and Striga, and co-authored over 280 peer-review papers and invited book chapters.

He was President of the IWSS and Weed Science Society of Israel (WSSI), served as the scientific coordinator of our congress in Brazil, and received achievement awards from the WSSI and WSSA.

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### **Recent Events**

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#### **Conference on Novel and Sustainable Weed Management in Arid and Semi-Arid Agro Ecosystems**

The new EWRS Working Group: "Weed Management in Arid and Semi-Arid Climate" held its first international conference in Rehovot, Israel on 7-12 October 2007 with about 100 participants from 23 countries. The oral presentations and posters covered biotechnology and molecular biology in weed science, application methods and formulations, herbicide behavior in soils, weed management in arid and semi arid farming

systems, biocontrol, organic farming and allelopathy, invasive weeds, parasitic weeds and herbicide resistant weeds and crops.

The first day of the conference was devoted to a statistical analysis course by Prof. J. C. Streibig with 20 participants. Each day opened with a keynote lecture, the first one by Jonathan Gressel on the potential biotech solutions for intractable weed problems in our arid and semi-arid ecosystems. The second keynote lecture dealt with the status of physical and cultural weed control methods for field crops in Europe presented by Bo Melander. The last keynote lecture was on the chemistry, biological activities, distribution in the plant kingdom and regulation and production of strigolactones by Koichi Yoneyama, a pioneer in the field of purification and characterization of strigolactones.

We held a one-day excursion to visit technical and cultural sites. The first stop was in the Arava Valley close to the Jordanian border where we saw an impressive hi-tech horticulture operation that grows vegetables and fruits both in open fields and under cover in a very harsh climate. Of special interest were the techniques of irrigation with saline water from the nearby aquifer. Next we traveled along the west bank of the Dead Sea making a short stop for swimming or rather floating in the Dead Sea. The day ended in Jerusalem with dinner and a splendid view of the old city of Jerusalem.

Joseph Hershenhorn  
Bo Melander

#### **National Invasive Weed Surveillance (NIWS) Programme Launched in Jabalpur, India**

On 22 April, 2008, the National Invasive Weed Surveillance (NIWS) programme was launched in India at Jabalpur on the occasion of the 19<sup>th</sup> foundation day of National Research Centre for Weed Science (NRCWS). The programme was inaugurated by Dr W.R. Reddy, Dept. of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture; Dr. Jay G. Varshney, Director, NRCWS, Jabalpur; Dr. O.M. Bambawale, Director, National Centre for Integrated Pest Management, New Delhi.

**Background:** To meet the food scarcity, the Government of India permitted importing wheat with relaxed phytosanitary conditions to encourage more participation in the bidding process to increase competition and hopefully bring down the

prices for wheat. More than 6 million tons of wheat were imported during 2006-07. Imported wheat was inspected and seeds of five regulated weed species were found by Plant Quarantine Officials: *Cenchrus tribuloides*, *Solanum carolinense*, *Viola arvensis*, *Cynoglossum officinale* and *Ambrosia trifida*.

To assess the risk potential of introducing these weeds, we must conduct regular surveys for weed detection, monitoring and surveillance. Accordingly, a National Invasive Weed Surveillance programme was sanctioned by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, with a budget for a period of two years (2008-10), with the following objectives:

1. To survey and monitor for the early detection of regulated weeds.
2. To increase public awareness of the weeds and their quarantine, control/ containment and eradication status.
3. To initiate containment and eradication programmes for these weeds.
4. To strengthen national and regional capacity in invasive weed identification and management.
5. To enhance preparedness to respond to exotic weed invasion.

In addition to detecting the establishment of any regulated weed, the project is also expected to develop a comprehensive database as well as monitoring protocols for early detection and weed risk assessment which would be of immense help with future imports and exports of food and seeds.

Dr. M.B.B. Prasad Babu

### **Venezuela Launches Weed Project for Rice**

An Integrated Weed Management Project for Rice (MIMA) has been developed by the National University of Venezuela (Universidad Nacional de Venezuela, UCV) to assist Venezuelan rice growers with their weed control problems through research and the training of farmers, professionals



and students. The project was launched in March with three educational activities where 340 people received training in two international workshops on Herbicide Resistance in Weeds aimed at rice growers and farm advisors in the rice growing areas of Calabozo (Guárico state) and Araure (Portuguesa state) and at an international course on Herbicide Physiology held at the Agronomy Faculty of the UCV. This last event was designed for students and professionals and also contributed credits towards the Post-graduate Program in Agronomy at the UCV.

The objectives of these activities were: (1) To train farmers, professionals and students involved in rice production on herbicide resistance in weeds in order to facilitate their integration into the MIMA project activities, and (2) to improve the participants' ability to rationally use herbicides as a tool for the integrated and sustainable management of weeds.

These one-day workshops were led by Drs. Aída Ortiz (UCV-Maracay Campus) and Albert Fischer (University of California-Davis). There was a high attendance to these events (100 participants in Araure and 114 in Calabozo) in spite of the Holy Week holidays and the rice harvesting activities taking place during those days (24-25 March, 2008) reflecting the relevance of the issues addressed. The Herbicide Physiology course was taught by Albert Fischer on March 27 and 28 and had 126 attendees. Funding for these events was provided by UCV, five chemical companies, the growers' association of Calabozo (APRACA), and two non-profit foundations (the National Rice foundation-FUNDARROZ and Fundación Danac) fostering activities in the rice sector.

Dr. Aída Ortiz

### **Weeds Across Borders Conference**

A conference entitled "Weeds Across Borders" was held in Banff, Alberta, Canada on May 27-30, 2008. This is an international conference held

every two years between Mexico, Canada and United States that covers the interests of professionals and organizations involved in weed management and regulation. About 175 participated and discussed the various aspects weeds/unwanted plants crossing borders, hitchhiking on trucks, cars or other vehicles or by other modes and causing problems to the native vegetation

Because weeds do not obey human imposed laws or boundaries, the three countries try to develop partnerships, share information, coordinate programs and projects that cross these boundaries. The goal of the WAB Conference is to provide a forum for educating, sharing, and disseminating knowledge about weed management, regulatory issues, and concerns about weed dispersal across and between all jurisdictional boundaries in these three countries. The conference held sessions of Status Reports; Cooperation and Partnerships; Applied Research Reports; New Issues; Early Detection and Rapid Response; Best Management Tools; Economic and Ecological Concerns; Public Policy and Awareness and conducted a Field Tour; as shown here in the photograph. Dr Raj Prasad (retired scientist, Pacific Forestry Centre, Victoria, BC, Canada) presented a paper on the Ecology, Biology and Control of Exotic-Invasive Weeds in Forestry- management of gorse (*Ulex europaeus* L.) on federal lands in Victoria, BC".

The Proceedings will be published soon; each paper has an abstract in English and Spanish and if you are interested in this, please contact Dr. Prasad at [rprasad@pfc.forestry.ca](mailto:rprasad@pfc.forestry.ca).

Raj Prasad

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## Important Announcement Regarding IWSS Membership Fee

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After long deliberations, we, the officers of the International Weed Science Society, have decided to increase our membership fee from \$15 to \$30,

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## Coming Events

### 2008

- Sept. 10-13 **First International Ragweed Conference.** Budapest, Hungary. Conference details are found at: <http://www.nki.hu/ragweed/index.html>
- Sept. 21-25 **5th World Congress on Allelopathy.** The International Allelopathy Society will hold its triennial congress in Saratoga Springs, NY. There will be sessions on all aspects of allelopathy, including

starting January 1st 2009. The reasons for this are as follows:

- a) We have moved to a website that is maintained by a webmaster for a minimal fee. This move would make our website more efficient and updates can be made quicker.
- b) We intend to make the abstracts of proceedings, directory of members (with individual consent), available on line with limited access to members only.
- c) We hope to supplement our cash reserve so we can continue to offer assistance to students and junior scientists who will be attending the future congresses.
- d) We also intend to support regional weed science activities (trainings, workshops, invited speakers, etc.) to promote scientific pursuits in weed science and continue our outreach activities.

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## My Last Issue

Eight years ago Steven Duke asked if I'd be the editor of our newsletter. It seemed right to say yes then and also to say yes to Bernal when he asked me to serve under his leadership. But now it's time to move on.



Thanks to all who supported (tolerated!) my performance and a special thanks to the Executive Committee for surprising me with recognition at the IWSS banquet. It was much appreciated. Best wishes to all, especially to Dr. Micheal Owen, your new editor who will introduce himself in the Feb. issue.

allelopathy in agriculture and the role of allelopathy in invasive species success. Further information at [www.iascongress5.org](http://www.iascongress5.org)

## **2009**

Feb. 9-12

**Weed Science Society of America** annual meeting. Venue: The Hilton Hotel in the Walt Disney World Resort, Orlando, Florida. Deadline for title submission: October 15, 2008. [www.wssa.net](http://www.wssa.net) for more information.

Mar. 9-11

**European Weed Research Society Workshop: Physical And Cultural Weed Control.** Zaragoza, Spain on the Campus of Aula Dei. Full information at: <http://www.ewrs.org/pwc/>

## IWSS officers

### Dr. Baruch Rubin, President

Faculty of Agricultural, Food and  
Environmental Sciences  
Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Rehovot, 76100, Israel  
Tel: 972 8 948-9248  
FAX: 972 8 936-2083  
E-mail: [rubin@agri.huji.ac.il](mailto:rubin@agri.huji.ac.il)

### Dr. Albert Fischer, Vice President

Department of Plant Sciences  
University of California-Davis  
One Shields Ave.; Mail Stop 4  
Davis, CA 95616  
Tel: 530 752-7386  
FAX: 530 752-4604  
[ajfischer@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ajfischer@ucdavis.edu)

### Dr. Nilda Burgos, Secretary/Treasurer

Univ. of Arkansas  
Crop, Soil, & Environmental Sciences  
1366 W. Altheimer Dr  
Fayetteville, AR 72704 USA  
Tel: 501 575-3984  
FAX: 501 575-3955 Email:  
[nburgos@uark.edu](mailto:nburgos@uark.edu)

### Dr. Bernal Valverde, Past President

Investigación y Desarrollo en  
Agricultura Tropical  
(IDEA Tropical)  
P.O. Box 2191  
Alajuela 4050  
Costa Rica  
Phone (+506) 24 33 92 74  
Fax (+506) 24 33 40 19  
E-mail: [ideatrop@ice.co.cr](mailto:ideatrop@ice.co.cr) and  
[bev@life.ku.dk](mailto:bev@life.ku.dk)  
Skype: ideatropical

The IWSS Newsletter is available on the  
Internet at: <http://iws.ucdavis.edu>.

The **IWSS Newsletter** is published in  
February and August to foster  
communication among and give  
information to our members and others  
around the globe interested in Weed  
Science.

Thanks to these contributors to the Feb.  
2008 issue: Bernal Valverde, Baruch  
Rubin, Per Kudsk, Aída Ortiz, Joseph  
Hershenhorn, Bo Melander, M.B.B.  
Prasad Babu, Raj Prasad, and Jerry  
Doll.

**Deadline for items for the next  
Newsletter is 15 January 2009**

Editor: Micheal Owen, Iowa State Univ.  
2104 Agronomy Hall  
Ames, IA 50011 USA  
Email: [mdowen@iastate.edu](mailto:mdowen@iastate.edu)  
FAX: 515 294-9985

## To join the IWSS

Complete the following information and send your dues to  
Dr. Nilda Burgos, the IWSS Secretary-Treasurer.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks, bank drafts, or money orders in US\$ should be made  
payable to: International Weed Science Society.

For ease of payment, dues can now be paid by credit card at  
our webpage following the link:  
<http://iws.ucdavis.edu/membership.htm>