



February 2006 Newsletter

President's Message



I hope you all had a great start of the year and wish you health, success and prosperity throughout 2006. We continue making progress in the organization of our next congress in Vancouver, Canada, 23 to 26 June 2008. Dr. Robert Blackshaw is putting together a variety of activities for participants, including field trips for the third day of the congress. We will also have low-cost accommodation available for graduate students. Our WSSA/CWSS colleagues will formally appoint an Ad hoc committee to work with the IWSS on fund raising, registration, local arrangements, advertising, etc. The Scientific Committee (Dr. Karl Hurlle, Dr. Dale Shaner and Dr. Christopher Hall) is working on the congress structure and program, which will be very attractive and thorough.

At the WSSA Annual Meeting held in New York this February, we had our customary open meeting of the Board of Directors and devoted most of it to discussing the next congress. We were fortunate to have a very good group of participants who helped us begin defining topics of interest and the structure of the congress. You will find some of the proposed scientific activities and topics in the Congress section of this Newsletter and we invite your opinions and suggestions. Very soon we will begin selecting people to be in charge of the sessions and looking for plenary speakers.

Most Regional Representatives of the IWSS have been appointed. In addition to Dr. R. K. Malik (India and South and Southeast Asia), Dr. Gualbert Gbehounou (West and Central Africa) and Dr. Dionisio Gazziero (South America), who were appointed earlier, this select group now includes Dr. Chaoxian Zhang (Central Asia), Prof. Kil-Ung Kim (North East Asia), Dr. Anisur Rahman (Oceania), and Prof. Kazimierz Adamczewski (Eastern Europe). I will continue to cover Central America but we still have two vacancies: the Middle East and North Africa and East and Southern Africa. Please nominate yourself or a colleague to join us as part of this important support group.

In this issue you will find

- **President's message**
- **2008 IWS Congress Information**
- **News from Regional Representatives**
- **News from Regional Societies**
- **News from National Societies**
- **Other Events**
- **Editor's comments**
- **Coming Events**
- **And more**

The secure system for paying dues using a credit card through our website is becoming very useful, especially for members from countries where it is very difficult and expensive to send bank checks or transfers. At the time we set up the credit card payment and the new membership fees, our colleagues from WSSA had already established their payment protocols for 2006. For this reason, it was not possible to modify their system to collect USD 15.00 instead of USD 10.00. Those who have paid their dues at the USD 10.00 rate though WSSA should not worry about their membership status. However, we would greatly appreciate it if they would consider the USD 5.00 difference next time they send us a payment. The fees we collect are used mainly to produce the Newsletter and to support participation of graduate students in regional conferences as well as in our congress.

Once again I invite all IWSS members to become active in the Society and to help us with the organization of the 2008 congress.

Regards,
Bernal E. Valverde, Costa Rica

2008 IWS Congress

The next International Weed Science Congress will be held in Vancouver, Canada, 23 to 26 June 2008. The Board would like to receive your suggestions and to know if you would like to volunteer time in organizing sessions or symposia. Please contact Dr. Karl Hurlle of the Scientific Committee (khurle@t-online.de), President Bernal Valverde (bev@kvl.dk or ideatrop@racsaco.cr), or any other IWSS officer and be part of this major effort.

In principle, the Scientific Committee is considering a four-day conference plus a field day on Wed. June 25. We intend to have plenary sessions/all-congress lectures every day (except when we have the field trips). The core of the congress will be the poster sessions. Participants will be encouraged to submit abstracts and present posters. Main topic organizers and session chairs will select a few posters from their respective sessions to be presented orally. Each session will begin with an invited lecture, which could be selected from one of the posters, and conclude with a discussion of corresponding the posters. We will also have symposia or workshops on topics of global interest. Additionally, we are interested in arranging special sessions for researchers from developing countries to meet and discuss topics of common interest with colleagues from developed countries and to explore possibilities of formal collaboration through research projects.

A CD with all submitted abstracts and volunteer extended abstracts will be prepared in advance and will be made available to all participants at the congress. Session organizers could make arrangements for publication of selected papers in special sections or issues of scientific journals but IWSS will not negotiate a general publication with any journal, publisher or scientific organization.

The following topics are being considered as the backbone of the congress. These are not definite and we invite you to suggest changes or propose alternative topics by 30 June 2006.

1. Weed biology, dynamics and ecology
2. Integrated weed management
3. Modelling problems and solutions in weed science
4. Natural and synthetic herbicides
5. Formulation and adjuvants
6. Regulatory aspects
7. Herbicide resistance in crops and weeds
8. Biocontrol
9. New technologies
10. Site specific weed management
11. Weed management in non-crop situations
12. Weed management in organic farming
13. Management of parasitic weeds
14. Management of invasive species
15. Aquatic weed management
16. Education and technology transfer in weed science
17. Environmental aspects of weed management
18. Weed problems in major crops and forestry
19. Spotlights on global weeds

The first circular of the 2008 Congress, in electronic format, will be distributed in August 2006.

We are looking for a slogan for this congress. For Durban we had “Weed Science Serving Humanity”. Please let us know your proposal for Vancouver.

Regional Representatives' Reports

New West Africa Project on Aquatic Weeds

Aquatic weeds remain a threat in West Africa. The species *Eichhornia crassipes* commonly known as water hyacinth, *Salvinia molesta* known as water fern, *Pistia stratiotes* also called water lettuce are the main threats. Given the regional nature of the threat, the council of ministers of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has adopted a regional aquatic weeds management project. ECOWAS countries concerned are Bénin, Ghana, Gambia, Niger, Nigeria, Mali and Senegal. Mauritania, also seriously affected by aquatic weeds, has joined the project.

The main objective of the project is to efficiently prevent deterioration of waterways by floating weeds and subsequently improve the livelihood of the people affected. The project will achieve this by adoption of an integrated control strategy and capacity building of the populations, extensionists and scientists involved. Rearing and releasing biological control agents on waterways will be two major activities of the project. The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) will provide technical backstopping to national staffs.

Management of this five-year project that started in January 2006, and is financially supported by countries involved, is assured by a regional coordination unit based in Burkina-Faso and a national coordination unit in each of the countries.

The project is a good example of regional mobilization at the political level to overcome a common threat.

G. Gbèhounou, Regional Representative for West and Central Africa

News from Regional Societies

Latin American Weed Science Society (ALAM) Met in Cuba

The 17th Congress of ALAM, the 1st IberoAmerican Weed Science Congress and the 4th Congress of the Cuban Weed Science Society (SOCUMAL) were jointly held at the “Plaza America” Convention Center, Varadero, Cuba in November 2005. The Congress Organizing Committee and the Cuban Weed Science Society, chaired by Dr. Juan C. Díaz, included representatives of the National Sugarcane Research Institute, the National Plant Protection Research Institute and the Cuban Sugar Technologists Association.

Congress delegates included 105 Cubans plus 101 from 17 other countries who presented 160 papers, distributed among 15 main topics. Special sessions focused on red or weedy rice (Aida Ortiz and Luis E. Rivero, chairs), sugarcane (Juan C. Díaz and Roberto Arevalo), agro-ecological and biological weed management (Bielinski Santos and Eduardo Perez).

Keynote addresses included:

- The impact of herbicide resistant transgenic crops on weeds and the environment by Dr. Baruch Rubin of Israel
- Herbicide resistance in weeds: detection in the field, greenhouse and lab by Dr. Rafael de Prado of Spain
- Regulated invasive plants in the region: A review of the Cuban list by MSc. Jorge Padron of Cuba

The Congress included field visits to the Jesús Rabí Sugar Enterprise or Victoria de Girón Citrus Enterprise, and the “Guamá” tourist facility.

The ALAM General Assembly approved the Society bylaws, and selected Brazil as the next venue and elected Dr. Ricardo Victoria Filho as chairman, who will organize the 18th Congress to be held during the first half of 2008 in conjunction with the Brazilian Weed Science Society Congress. Following the Congress in Brazil, the 19th ALAM Congress will take place in 2009 in conjunction with the 2nd IberoAmerican Weed Science Congress in Spain. Dr. José Luis González-Andújar, current President of the Weed Science Society of Spain (SEMh), was elected as ALAM’s vice president and Dr. Bielinski Santos was elected as permanent Secretary Treasurer of ALAM.

The ALAM General Assembly elected Dr. Roberto Antonio Arevalo, from Brazil and Argentina, as honorary member “for lifetime achievements.”

The Congress Proceedings (edited by Dr. Bielinski Santos) with summaries of all papers is available in English on a CD via the ALAM website (<http://grec.ifas.ufl.edu/ALAM/index.htm>). Copies may also be requested from Dr. Juan C. Díaz (jcdiaz@inica.edu.cu). They also will be posted on the IWSS website.

Some of the ALAM participants:



Dr. Baruch Rubin
of Israel



Dr. Bielinski of the
Dominican Republic.



Dr. Rafael de Prado
of Spain.



Roberto Arevalo of
Argentina and Brazil

News From National Societies

The Crop and Weed Sci. Society of West Bengal (formerly the West Bengal Weed Sci. Society) will have its first biennial conference on 21 April 2006 at BCKV, West Bengal, India. The latest issue of the Journal of Crop and Weed and The 2006 Newsletter Crop and Weed Science will be released at this Conference. Interested Academicians can send scientific articles/ news/events/important information to the following address:
Prof. Dr. R.K. Ghosh, Secretary, CWSS, Department of Agronomy, BCKV, Mohanpur-741252, West Bengal, INDIA email- rkgbckv@rediffmail.com or rkgbckv@yahoo.com.

The Venezuelan Weed Science Society

(SOVECOM) produces the “El Malezólogo” newsletter with interesting articles. Aida Ortiz is the SOVECOM President and the contact for SOVECOM is Prof. Cástor Zambrano; both are professors at the Universidad Central de Venezuela, Facultad de Agronomía, in Caracas, Venezuela. The Society’s email is: elmalezologo@gmail.com. The editor for El Malezólogo is Trinidad María Pérez Fernández, ULA-NURR. Dpto. de Ciencias Agrarias, Trujillo, Edo. Trujillo; e-mail: trina@ula.ve and the Society’s temporary web site is: <http://www.arrozrojo.info.ve/>

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WSSA Celebrates 50th Anniversary in New York City

The Weed Science Society of America was born in New York City in 1956 and returned to the city of its birth for the first time since then to celebrate its golden anniversary. Several symposia plus the papers and posters resulted in 355 presentations during the Feb. 13-16, 2006 event. The Society’s history was celebrated in posters and memorabilia of their past. Dr. Arnold Appleby of Oregon State University wrote a book on the first 50 years of the society and a special article on the history of our discipline for the January 2006 issue of the Weed Science Journal. Copies of the history book and the meeting abstract CD can be purchased through the WSSA website in the near future.

The WSSA Honorary Member Award was presented to Dr. Robinson Pitelli of Brazil (read more about this in the next article). Among the items of interest from the 2006 meeting was the presence of a group of 11 New York City elementary students plus their teachers who presented a poster on Garden Mosaics. Never too early to involve young learners in weed science!

The 2007 WSSA meeting will be in San Antonio, Texas from February 5-8. The Society also looks forward to co-hosting the 2008 International Weed Science Congress to be held in Vancouver, BC.

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Prof. Robinson Pitelli is the 2006 WSSA Honorary Member

In the opening ceremony of the 46th meeting of the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA), Prof. Robinson Pitelli from Brazil received the highest award given to a leading weed scientist working outside the

U.S. – that of Honorary Member of WSSA. Prof. Pitelli received this special award for his leadership in Weed Science and for his significant contributions to our profession in Brazil and worldwide. He was praised for his meritorious service to his university (UNESP) as a researcher and educator, as President of the Brazilian Weed Science Society and President of ALAM. During his career he conducted research in many areas of weed science including weed ecology, biological and chemical weed management. He published more than 114 peer reviewed papers and has given numerous talks in many countries around the world. Dr. Pitelli has organized and taught in professional courses organized by FAO and other national and international organizations for young weed scientists from Brazil and from the neighboring countries. As a very active member of the IWSS in Brazil, he and his colleagues organized and hosted the unforgettable 3rd International Weed Science Congress held in 2000 at the Iguazu Falls, Brazil.

IWSS and his friends from all over the world salute him for his achievements. Congratulations Robinson!!!



Robinson accepts his Honorary Member Award.



Prof. Pitelli (second right) and friends Ricardo Labrada, Marija Arsenovic and Baruch Rubin.

New Zealand Plant Protection Society

The **New Zealand Plant Protection Society** held its 58th annual conference in Aug. 2005. The nearly 400 members presented 60 papers and 30 posters. Prior to the meeting, 15 speakers addressed “Biosecurity”: Technologies for weed and pest eradication.” The Society’s latest book is “Pesticide Resistance: Prevention and Management Strategies 2005.” It is available from the secretary@nzpps.org for \$NZ35 plus postage and handling.

The current officers of the Society are President Dr. Phillip Stevens, Vice President Trevor James, Secretary Sonja Reid, and Treasurer Dr. Anis Rahman. The Society is administering a new scholarship: The Dan Watkins Scholarship in the memory of Dan as founder of the NZ Weeds Conference and in recognition of his contribution to weed science in New Zealand. The Society is now part of the Council of Australian Weed Science Societies and as such will host the conference in New Zealand periodically. Dr. Ian Popay represents the Society on this Council.

Other Events

The Uruguayan Institute of Agricultural Research (INIA) and the Institute of Agricultural Research of Spain, with support of the Interamerican Development Bank (BID), and FAO, sponsored an IberoAmerican workshop on Herbicide Resistance and Transgenic Crops held in Colonia del Sacramento, Uruguay in Dec., 2005. The meeting was organized by local weed scientists Drs. Amalia Ríos (INIA) and Grisel Fernández (Universidad de la República). The objectives were to review the global status of herbicide resistant weeds and the adoption of transgenic crops, to analyze the alternative management strategies developed to manage resistant biotypes, and to develop possible strategies to effectively reduce the problem of herbicide-resistant weeds. These issues were framed by 12 excellent presentations by experts in their fields. The full text of the papers (all 146 pages) is available in Spanish at this web site: http://www.inia.org.uy/estaciones/la_estanzuela/webseminariomalezas/index.htm.



Some of the 120 participants at the Resistance Workshop in Uruguay in 2005.

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Dr. Raj Prasad Receives Award

Dr. Raj Prasad, lifetime member and former Secretary Treasurer of the IWSS who works at the Pacific Forestry Centre, Victoria, B.C. was honored at a local Ecostar Award Ceremony, Nov. 2005 for his contribution to management of exotic-invasive weeds using biological and other control methods. Many exotic weeds have rapidly invaded coastal landscapes and threaten to destroy the local habitat/biodiversity of the native species. Dr. Prasad’s research has helped turn the tide of this invasion and thus preserve natural habitats.



Dr. Raj Prasad with Award presenter Carol Greaves and Bill Turner.

Recent Publications

FAO published an addendum to the 1994 **Weed Management for Developing Countries** document. The document, edited by Dr. Ricardo Labrada, contains three sections with multiple papers by renowned experts in these areas:

- Research and risk-assessment techniques for improved weed management
- Problem weeds and their management in crops and non-crop situations (included are: *Rottboellia*, *Imperata*, *Eichhornia*, tulip tree and weedy rices
- Management options and perspectives.

The publication is on the FAO web site at: <http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/006/Y5031E/Y5031E00.HTM>. Copies can also be requested from Dr. Labrada at Ricardo.Labrada@fao.org.

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The 97-page Proceedings of an International Workshop on "**Protocols and Methodologies in Allelopathy**" (IWPMA) held in 2004 are now available free of cost. However, postal charges US\$ 6.00 must be paid in advance to the Organizing Secretary IWPMA at Palampur.

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Editor's Comments

Two thoughts come to mind as I prepare this edition of our newsletter. First, I've been privileged to attend the annual meetings of societies that have celebrated their 50th anniversaries in recent months. The Crop Science Society of America and the Weed Science Society of America have both achieved this state of longevity. And both, like most societies I know, are seeking to define (or redefine) their futures in times of rapid change. Many societies have lost membership and attendance at their conferences/ congresses/symposia have declined. The most dramatic change in direction and focus of societies was the recreation of the Brighton Pest Control Conferences into the BCPC Crop Science and Technology Conference. The IWSS finds itself in a similar situation as changes in the private and public sectors often seem to disfavor growth in our discipline.

The exception to this is my second thought: herbicide resistant weeds are both a bane and a blessing. Of course we would all prefer a world without resistance issues but the title of a presentation by a renowned Australian weed scientist has always stayed with me. The title was, "Why Herbicide Resistant Weeds have been Good for Australian Weed Science" and the positive impact was the increase in attention and funding into weed science to study the "whys" and develop the "what to do" programs as a result of wide-spread herbicide resistant problems in that country. Our professional societies have been the sponsor of numerous symposia, workshops, posters and papers on resistance. Would that we had the resources to do the lesser studied aspect of weed biology and ecology!

Do you wish you had a way to learn of and contact weed science societies and related organizations anywhere in the world? You will find links to such groups at the IWSS web site link (<http://www.plantsciences.ucdavis.edu/iws/related.htm>) and at the WSSA web site on Weed Sci. Organizations at: <http://www.wssa.net/weedjobs/weedorg.html>. It is impressive that many organizations serve our discipline. If you know of a society that is not listed at the sites, please contact their web masters.

As always, I invite your contributions (I would like to have the problem of too many articles!) and suggestions on how to improve the Newsletter. I work for you and welcome your comments.

Coming Events

2006

- Apr. 21 **1st Biennial Conf. The Crop and Weed Science Society of West Bengal** (formerly the West Bengal Weed Science Society). Venue: BCKV, West Bengal, India. (See article on page 3 for details)
- Oct. 15-21 **Novel and Sustainable Weed Management in Arid and Semi-Arid Agro-Ecosystems.** Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences, Rehovot, ISRAEL. This special International Conference will emphasize weeds and weed management issues prevailing in the Mediterranean region and other arid and semi-arid climate countries. The aim of the conference is to gather a forum for weed scientists involved in research on all special aspects of weed management in arid and semi-arid agriculture, especially in the Mediterranean region. Contact wgarid@agri.huji.ac.il or visit: <http://www.agri.huji.ac.il/aridconference>
- Sept. 18-19 **Novel Biotechnologies for Biocontrol Agent Enhancement and Management.** Sponsored by the NATO Advanced Study Institute. Venue: Gualdo Tadino, Perugia, Italy. This is short course to give students a concentrated overview of the rapidly developing advanced biotechnological knowledge and tools to enhance and manage biological control agents in modern agriculture. Complete information at: <http://www.ispa.cnr.it/NATO-ASI/>
- Sept. 24-28 **The 15th Australian Weeds Conference**, organized by the Council of Australasian Weed Societies, will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre in Adelaide, South Australia. The theme of the Conference will be "Managing Weeds in a Changing Climate." More information: <http://www.plevin.com.au/15AWC2006/>
- Oct. 23-25 **BCPC 2006 Crop Science and Technology Conference.** SECC, Glasgow, UK. "Global Aspects of Crop Production, Crop Protection and Food Supply." Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow, UK. Email: becky.dyer@bcpc.org. Web site: www.bcpc.org/Conference2006/

2007

- Feb. 5-10 **Weed Science Society of America.** Annual meeting. Marriott Riverwalk, San Antonio, Texas, USA. Contact Joyce Lancaster: jlancaster@allenpress.com
- June 18-21 **XIV EWRS Symposium** will take place in Hamar, Norway. 15 September 2006 is the date for preliminary registration and the deadline for submitting a title and short summary of contribution (250 words). Check the web site <http://sites.web123.no/Planteforsk/EWRSSymposium/> for details.
- Sept. 17-21 **9th International Conference on the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions.** Hyatt Regency Perth, Western Australia. Further information at: <http://www.congresswest.com.au/emapi9/>
- Oct. 15 – 18 **XVI International Plant Protection Congress**, in association with the BCPC International Congress - Crop Science & Technology 2007. SECC, Glasgow, UK. Email: md@bcpc.org. Web site: <http://www.plantprotection.org/>

2008

- First part **XVIII Congress Latin America Weed Science Society (ALAM).** Brazil.
- June 23-26 **International Weed Science Congress** Vancouver, Canada.

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**The IWSS Newsletter is available on the
Internet at:**

<http://www.plantsciences.ucdavis.edu/iws/>

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. 2006 issue: Bernal Valverde, Juan C. Díaz, Baruch Rubin, Karl Hurlle, R.K. Ghosh, Albert Fischer, Gualbert Gbèhounou, Anisur Rahman, Aida Ortiz, Amalia Ríos, Ricardo Labrada, G.L. Bansal, Raj Prasad, Dale Shaner and Jerry Doll.

**Deadline for items for the next
Newsletter is 15 July 2006**

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To join the IWSS

Complete the following information and send your dues to Dr. Albert Fischer, the IWSS 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://www.plantsciences.ucdavis.edu/iws/membership.htm>