



## Weed Science Society of North Carolina

Fall 2024

Inside this issue:



Letter from the President	1
Important Dates	1
Looking Forward: 2025 Annual Meeting	2
NEWSS Weed Contest	3-4
Letter from the Student Representative	5
Crop Science: 100 Years	5
About WSSNC	6
Board of Directors	6

### Important Dates:

**Sept. 30-Oct. 2**

SC Aquatic Plant Management Society - North Myrtle Beach, SC

**January 6-9**

NEWSS - Annapolis, MD

**January 20-23**

SWSS - Charleston, SC

**February 24-27**

WSSA - Vancouver, BC

**March 18**

WSSNC - Raleigh, NC

## Letter from the President

Mr. J. Harrison Ferebee IV, BASF

Hello WSSNC members and supporters! I hope this newsletter finds you well as we head into Fall. It has been an honor to serve as president and work alongside the Board of Directors. Their dedication has enabled this society to thrive and truly make a difference in the field of weed science.

The Board has worked diligently to identify key speakers and create a program for this year's annual meeting entitled, "WSSNC: Meeting the Challenges of the ESA". As part of our progress, we are proud to host a Women in Weed Science working lunch to empower and grow this integral part of our society. 2024 marks the 100-year anniversary of the NC State Department of Crop and Soil Sciences and we recognize how important this department

has been to the success of the WSSNC.

We look forward to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting which will be held for the second year in a row at the Steve Troxler Agricultural Sciences Center (4400 Reedy Creek Rd, Raleigh, NC 27607). Please mark your calendars to attend Tuesday, March 18, 2025. The meeting will include several graduate student presentations and a poster contest. The meeting will conclude with the annual business meeting.

Attendance for the upcoming meeting will be in-person only. Registration information will be announced in January and available at [www.wssnc.org](http://www.wssnc.org). Thank you for your support and please share this newsletter with colleagues and anyone who would benefit

from this society. I wish everyone the best and look forward to re-convening in March.



**Save the Date**  
**43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**March 18, 2025**

**WSSNC: Meeting the Challenges of the ESA**

Please consider becoming a sustaining corporate member in the Weed Science Society of North Carolina. Your sustaining membership helps us provide student awards, pays for annual meeting expenses, provides us the funding to keep our society active, and gives your company the recognition of supporting the discipline of weed science in North Carolina.

## Looking Forward: 2025 Annual Meeting

Join us for the  
43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting  
of the Weed  
Science Society of  
North Carolina!

### March 18, 2025

We look forward to seeing everyone in March for our 43rd annual meeting. The board is working on securing speakers focused on a topic of "meeting the challenges of the ESA." As the EPA updates how herbicides and labels will meet the requirements of the Endangered Species Act, there are a lot of changes coming and we want to discuss how these changes will affect all of us in weed science. We hope you will join us, look for registration information to become available in late January and early February.

### Students and Advisors

It's never too early to start working on those posters and endowment ideas. An email will be shared with current students and advisors with a poster submission form in December. We always ask that posters and award packets be returned early to allow plenty of time for our judges. Be sure to share these applications with new students who may not be on our mailing list!

### Our Endowment has Grown!

Students, the endowment has grown and significant funds are available to help you and your research! Think about new and exciting ways to put those funds to use!

### Thanks to our 2024 Sponsors!

#### Sustaining



We create chemistry



Please consider becoming a sponsor in 2025!

### Judges Needed!

Please consider volunteering to help judge our poster session as well as outstanding student and endowment awards. If you are interested in being a judge, please contact Zachary Taylor at [zrtaylor@ncsu.edu](mailto:zrtaylor@ncsu.edu)

## NC State Host Northeastern Weed Science Society Weed Contest

Written by Dr. Wesley Everman, NC State Crop and Soil Sciences  
Photos by Dr. Bridgett Lassiter, Lake Wheeler Field Lab

On July 30, 2024, the Student Weed Contest was hosted by North Carolina State University at the Lake Wheeler Field Lab in Raleigh, NC. Twelve teams comprised of 27 graduate students and 18 undergraduate students competed in this event. The students, from five Universities located across the Eastern US and Canada, were quizzed in areas of weed identification, unknown herbicide, written calibration and hands on sprayer calibration, and farmer problems. The event was kicked off with a welcome supper the night prior at the North Carolina Fair Grounds where a traditional pig pickin' was prepared and enjoyed by all. Better weather could not have been planned with highs in the mid 80s and overcast skies, with rain holding off until the completion of all events. Awards were presented the evening of the 30<sup>th</sup> at the NC State Football Stadium during a reception for all attendees and volunteers.

Awards were as follows:

In the graduate level the first place team was Virginia Tech Team 1, second place was Penn State Team 1, and third place was Virginia Tech Team 2. Individual awards were presented to Eli Russell for first place graduate individual, Navdeep Godara second place, and Laurel Wellman third place.

In the undergraduate level, the first place team was University of Guelph Team 4, second place was University of Guelph Team 1, and third place was University of Guelph Team 2. Individual awards were presented to Marissa Jeens for first place undergraduate individual, Ben Fluttert for second place, and Karen Reymer for third place.

The NC State Weeds group would like to thank all the volunteers (all 73+) who helped make the contest a success! We enjoyed hosting everyone, and look forward to watching these talented students in the future.

More information is in the [NEWSS Summer Newsletter](#).



The planning committee insured the event was a success.



Over 73 volunteers were needed to host the event.



Students work on identifying herbicide symptomology.



A student meets with our corn farmer to discuss options for a failed crop.

## More NEWSS Contest Photos



Teams from Virginia Tech took home 1st and 3rd place.



The Penn State team took home second place.



The University of Guelph brought 18 undergraduate students to the competition.



Our hay farmer discusses his problem while WSSNC President Ferebee judges.

Students check their speed to meet spray at the correct GPA.



Cornell team and coaches.



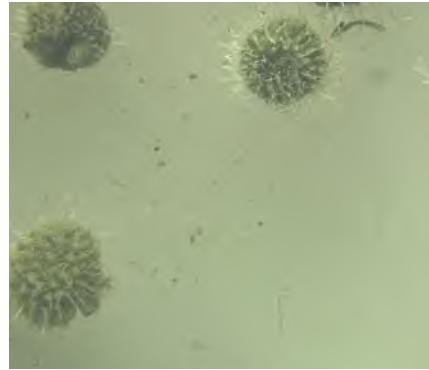
The Batts family prepared a traditional pig pickin'.



Students from Guelph were introduced to NC BBQ.



Clemson shows off their team shirts featuring The Tiger with a flamethrower.



Seed ID is always popular, do you know it?

## Letter from the Student Representative



**Stephen Ippolito**  
**2024-25 Student Representative**

Dear WSSNC members,

It has been a pleasure to serve as the student representative for WSSNC. I'm currently working to finish my Ph.D., under the supervision of Dr. Jennings. Before starting graduate school at North Carolina State University, I received my bachelor's degree at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon.

My research has focused on identifying weeds, which may be acting as a host for root-knot nematodes, and identifying herbicides that may be used safely in sweetpotato to control them. While under the direction of Dr. Jennings, I have evaluated the safety of herbicides with

PRE and POST activity, when applied over-the-top of sweetpotato. In addition, I have worked to iden-

tify how tolpyralate and pyridate might fit into potential weed management programs in sweetpotato if registered for use in sweetpotato. As student representative, I've enjoyed learning more about the society and feel this experience has helped me to learn more about the field of weed science. Moving forward, I plan to stay as involved as possible with the Weed Science Society of North Carolina.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your student representative, I hope to see you all in March 2025.

Sincerely,

Stephen

## NC State Crop Science Department: 100 Years!

In 2024, The Department of Crop and Soil Sciences is celebrating our 100 year anniversary. Started by a college reorganization in 1924, the Department of Agronomy was and continues to be one of the college's largest departments. We're celebrating our century milestone all semester with events at CALS Tailgate and on campus. We encourage all Crop and Soil Sciences alumni to help us celebrate by joining our alumni digital yearbook at [go.ncsu.edu/cssc-alumni](http://go.ncsu.edu/cssc-alumni). Thank you for being a part of our ongoing mission of Growing the Future.

## Content... We Need It!

I hope you enjoy this fall edition newsletter of the Weed Science society of North Carolina. Please send newsworthy items, important dates, or any ideas that you would like to see in the newsletter to, Zachary Taylor, newsletter editor, at [zrtaylor@ncsu.edu](mailto:zrtaylor@ncsu.edu).

Send newsworthy items to  
[zrtaylor@ncsu.edu](mailto:zrtaylor@ncsu.edu)

Please consider becoming a sustaining corporate member of the Weed Science Society of North Carolina. Your sustaining membership helps us provide student awards, pays for annual meeting expenses, provides us the funding to keep our society active, and gives your company the recognition of supporting the discipline of weed science in North Carolina.

# Weed Science Society of North Carolina



## We're on the Web!

[www.wssnc.org](http://www.wssnc.org)

The Weed Science Society of North Carolina was founded to advance the discipline of Weed Science and to improve the well-being of the citizens of the state through a better understanding of weeds and their management.

## Support the WSSNC Endowment

The Weed Science Society of North Carolina Endowment provides support for Weed Science student activities in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University and other universities in our state.

Our goal is to make more and larger awards as the endowment grows, but **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

[Contact today to find out how!](#)

## Make a note of our address!

All mail correspondence should be mailed to:

**Weed Science Society of NC**  
**Campus Box 7620**  
**Raleigh, NC 27695-7620**

## Membership in WSSNC

Membership is open to all individuals interested in weed science and/or weed management.

Active members include those who have paid annual dues.

Supporting members include any individual or firm concerned with the manufacture, distribution or application of weed management materials or devices who contribute financially to the society.

Student members include undergraduate and graduate students interested in weed science.

Join Today!

## Interested in Serving on the Board?

We will have open board positions at the annual meeting. Contact any board member to nominate yourself or a colleague. Director terms are for 2 years, Vice-President and Student Representative are 1 year terms.



## 2024-2025 Board of Directors

### Executive Directors

#### **President:**

Mr. J Harrison Ferebee IV  
 BASF Corporation  
 E-mail: [harrison.ferebee@bASF.com](mailto:harrison.ferebee@bASF.com)

#### **Past President:**

Dr. Charlie Cahoon  
 NC State University - Crop and Soil Science  
 E-mail: [cwcahoon@ncsu.edu](mailto:cwcahoon@ncsu.edu)

#### **Vice President:**

Mr. Thomas "Tommy" Batts  
 NC Cooperative Extension - Wilson County Center  
 E-mail: [tmbatts@ncsu.edu](mailto:tmbatts@ncsu.edu)

#### **Secretary-Treasurer:**

Mr. Steve Hoyle  
 NC State University - Retired  
 E-mail: [hoyle@ncsu.edu](mailto:hoyle@ncsu.edu)

#### **At-Large:**

Mr. Joshua Joyner  
 Insight Agronomics  
 E-mail: [josh@insightagro.com](mailto:josh@insightagro.com)

#### **Industry:**

Mr. Andrew Blythe  
 Corteva Agriscience  
 E-mail: [andrew.blythe@corteva.com](mailto:andrew.blythe@corteva.com)

#### **Academia:**

Mr. Keith Starke  
 Central Crops Research Station  
 E-mail: [kdstarke@ncsu.edu](mailto:kdstarke@ncsu.edu)

#### **Student Representative:**

Mr. Steven Ippolito  
 NC State University - Horticulture  
 E-mail: [sippoli@ncsu.edu](mailto:sippoli@ncsu.edu)

### Newsletter Editor/Website Coordinator

Zachary Taylor  
 NC State University - Crop and Soil Science  
 E-mail: [zrtaylor@ncsu.edu](mailto:zrtaylor@ncsu.edu)