

2002 NCWSS PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS. Dallas E. Peterson, Professor, Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506.

Welcome to the 57th annual meeting of the North Central Weed Science Society. The annual meeting is the highlight of the year for the society where we come together as an organization to exchange information, make new acquaintances, and renew old friendships. The meeting also is the culmination of a lot of hard work by the local arrangements committee and program committees. I want to extend a special thank you this year to the local arrangements chair, Tom Peters, and to program chair and President Elect, Michael Horak for the tremendous job they have done preparing for this meeting. We have an exciting program and excellent facilities for our meeting this year, just as we have for the past 21 years that I have participated in this meeting.

I attended my first NCWSS meeting in 1981. I am always amazed when I think about the many changes that have taken place since that time. Research data was analyzed using a main frame computer with a card reader. Slides were painstakingly typed, and then photographed with a simple black on white format for the presentations. This all had to be done well in advance of the meeting. Today we can analyze data in the field with a computer that fits in the palm of your hand, and compose slick power point presentations and continue to make changes until we get to the meeting.

Likewise, our society has undergone and continues to experience tremendous change as well. I believe the North Central Weed Science Society has been the leader among our peer organizations at adopting new technologies and changing with the times. Some of the more recent changes include the shift to electronic presentations and publications. These changes have improved the quality and efficiency of operations. You've probably already noticed some of the new changes for this year. The research report and proceedings will be combined together on a single CD, which will be provided to everyone who registers for the meeting. The packaging of the two publications together and publishing them on a CD lowers the cost of publication and distribution. The proceedings and research report are now included as a part of registration for the meeting, which will simplify and increase distribution. The combined publications will be distributed in January, which will not sacrifice quality due to an early submission deadline, but will still be available in a timely manner. I feel this will be a positive change for both our members and the health of the society.

Many of the changes that have been implemented for 2002 were based on the recommendations of the Long Range Planning Committee, chaired by Past President Duane Rathmann, with much input from our publications editors Bryan Young, Bob Hartzler, and Bill Johnson. I want to thank the Long Range Planning Committee and the Editors for developing these plans. It is this kind of dedication and service from our members that makes our society successful. The same is true for all members who serve on committees and contribute their time and effort to the society. The society is here to serve its members, but certainly can not function without the many volunteer services of its members. It's also important to remember that every member's opinion is important. I would encourage everyone to participate in the member forum and provide input to the board members on how the North Central Weed Science Society can be improved in the future.

Much discussion took place at last years meeting regarding the future of the North Central Weed Science Society. Industry consolidation and smaller budgets in both industry and academia have put pressure on membership and meeting participation. However, a straw poll at last years general session indicated strong support for NCWSS to maintain its identity and continue with a similar meeting and organizational format. The Long Range Planning Committee and Board of Directors have taken this mandate into account as they develop plans for the future of the North Central Weed Science Society.

2002 North Central Weed Science Society Abstracts 57:6.

I have to confess that I could not remember much about the Presidential address or general session of my first NCWSS meeting. After reading through the “History of the North Central Weed Control Conference”, I learned there actually was no general session of Presidential address that year because of the large number of papers. I mainly remember being very nervous and anxious about my presentation the first afternoon of the conference. At that time, I certainly had no idea or aspirations of serving in a leadership role in the society. I still find it hard to believe that I was given this opportunity. It’s been a very rewarding experience and honor to serve as President of this society during the past year. I was surprised to learn that I was only the second person from the great state of Kansas to serve as president of this society. The first president from Kansas was Ted Yost, who is considered the father of this society and was the organizations very first president over 50 years ago. Thank you once again for the honor of serving as President of the North Central Weed Science Society.