Distinguished Achievement Awards
NCWSS 2005

The Distinguished Achievement Award for Service requires outstanding and creative contributions in service or leadership in activities that bring significant, important changes in weed science.

Curtis Thompson has shown dedication to weed science throughout his career and has always worked to improve our discipline. He earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agronomy from North Dakota State University and received a Ph.D. in Weed Science from the University of Idaho in 1991. He became an Assistant Professor and Extension Crops and Soils Specialist for southwest Kansas by Kansas State University and is now a full Professor. Curt's Extension program is very broad-based because the nature and primary goal of his extension program is to assist County Extension Agents and farmers with agronomic related issues. He is highly respected for his general knowledge of High-Plains agriculture and is a frequent participant in grower and ag-chemical dealer meetings. Curt participates in approximately 70 public meetings and field tours each year, presenting agronomic and weed management information to approximately 1800 clients. He multiplies his outreach by working closely and effectively with crop consultants.

Curt's extension program is supported by an applied agronomy and weed science research program. He works cooperatively with a number of KSU Research and Extension scientists on various projects. The information generated in the research program is utilized on a local, regional and national level. Dr. Thompson also works cooperatively with industry on a number of projects. He is recognized as a regional expert on weed control in dryland cropping systems and industry frequently solicits his opinions on herbicide efficacy, labeling, and product positioning in the High-Plains region.

Dr. Thompson is an active participant in professional societies. He has served on the NCWSS Board of Directors and as a member and chair of several committees within our society, the Western Society of Weed Science, and the American Society of Agronomy. He has a strong interest in student educational activities as illustrated by serving as Chair of the NCWSS Resident Education Committee and as such was very involved with student contests. Curt is a valued member on committees because of his work ethic and reliability.

The Distinguished Achievement Award in Education recognizes outstanding educational achievements in weed science. Principal criteria include innovative or unique approaches that result in learning, ability to clearly communicate ideas, motivation of the intended audience, and recognition of accomplishments by peers and the intended audience.

Chris Boerboom completed his BS and graduate degrees at the University of Minnesota and has been an extension weed scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison since 1994; he was promoted to Associate Professor in 1997 and to Professor in 2002. Dr. Boerboom is widely respected for his expertise in many aspects of weed management systems. His insight and advice are sought by a diverse clientele to whom he communicates useful, cutting-edge information on herbicide performance, herbicide-resistant crops and weeds, herbicide injury diagnosis,

integrated weed management strategies, environmental impacts of weed management, and weed biology and ecology. Over the last 10 years, Chris has participated in an average of 31 meetings, meeting series, or field days per year, reaching nearly 3,300 ag-professionals and growers. He has been prolific in written word and media development; since 1996, Chris has authored or co-authored 16 single-print or series publications, five computer-media products, 34 conference proceedings, and more than 265 newsletter articles. Additionally, he has made numerous invited presentations, most recently at Purdue University's Top Farmer Crop Workshop, the International Sweet Corn Development Association meeting, and the Illinois Crop Protection Technology Conference.

Dr. Boerboom's extensive knowledge of weed management, biology, and ecology is one contributing factor to the high level of respect that he has within weed science and agriculture. Another contributing factor is his willingness to take on difficult, controversial issues impacting weed management. Most notably, Chris is a recognized leader on glyphosate stewardship at the state, regional, and national levels. The principal reason for consensus on such a controversial topic among such a large number of agricultural associations is Dr. Boerboom's effective leadership. Chris subsequently co-hosted a national forum on glyphosate stewardship in which many national commodity organizations participated. He has also been a leader in the development and adoption of cutting-edge weed management tools like WeedSOFT, a software weed management decision support system. He proposed the first educational module that was incorporated into WeedSOFT and has developed highly engaging presentations based on WeedSOFT that address the complexities and risks associated with weed management decisions.

Dr. Boerboom has received prestigious awards for his dedication and excellence as a weed science educator, including the Wisconsin Fertilizer and Chemical Association Education Award, the Wisconsin Association of County Agricultural Agents Second Mile Award, Wisconsin Farm Progress Days Technology Transfer Award, and the University of Wisconsin College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Pound Extension Award, which is the most prestigious award for extension in our college. In addition, Chris received the NCWSS Distinguished Achievement in Weed Science Young Scientist Award in 1999.

Dr. Boerboom has also been an active member in the North Central Weed Science Society. Chris served as Secretary/Treasurer from 1997-2002, Chair of the Finance, Steering, and Policy Committee from 1998-2002, and member of the Program Committee from 1998-2002. He has been an author or co-author of numerous papers and posters at annual North Central Weed Science Society meetings including several symposia.

Chris' extension and research efforts have significantly impacted and helped to improved weed management systems in Wisconsin, the knowledge base of crop producers, and their approach to weed management. Dr. Boerboom has made and will continue to make important contributions to weed science education.

Recipients of the **Industry Distinguished Achievement Award** must meet the basic guidelines in the education, research, or service categories and have made significant contributions to weed science within the industry.

Dennis Belcher received his M.S. (Mississippi State Univ.) and PhD (Univ. of Kentucky) degrees in entomology but has served in industry as a biological scientist for more than 20 years.. His performance has met and exceeded the criteria for a service award. He is knowledgeable from both the crop and weed standpoint and rather than use this knowledge only to complete his job, he pioneered the development of an industry training program. This program includes modules on weed identification, herbicide mode-of-action, and herbicide resistance. Initially intended for use in training American Cyanamid employees, this program has been adapted and used throughout the chemical industry.

Dennis' contributions have led to development of significant weed control tools and the training necessary to implement those tools. He directed a group of 60 masters and PhD professionals and support staff in the development and launch of key ALS inhibiting herbicides which were widely adopted in the 1980's and 1990's to manage weeds in several agronomic crops. He remains active in this area, and was instrumental for launching key new technologies such as Clearfield corn, sunflowers, and wheat. He has received awards within industry that include Product Development Manager of the Year, Award for Excellence, Technical Services Manager of the Year, Midwest Technical Service Leadership Award and President's Club Award.

Dennis served the NCWSS in a number of key ways, including as the Missouri director, as both a poster and paper judge for the graduate student contest, and on the Local Arrangements and Fellow committees. Dennis was a key player in securing industry support for the Graduate Student Mixer and developing activities to make this event a success. He is a member of the WSSA and the Entomological Society of America and serves on committees or as a journal reviewer in these societies.

The Distinguished Service Award for Professional Staff recognizes outstanding and sustained contributions in support of weed science activities in the North Central region.

Anthony Dobbels was raised on a crop and livestock farm near Cambridge, IL. He attended Western Illinois University, receiving a B.S. in Agriculture Science in 1991. He obtained his M.S. in Plant and Soil Science at Southern Illinois University with an emphasis in weed science in 1993. He joined the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science at The Ohio State University as a Research Associate in 1994. Mr. Dobbels coordinates the herbicide evaluation program at OSU, and also much of the field research in weed management.

Mr. Dobbels is an essential part of the weed science program at OSU. He is highly regarded by co-workers at OSU and industry cooperators for his ability to successfully manage a large herbicide evaluation and field research program at various sites in Ohio. The results of the research program he manages are the basis for much of the information in one of the most important extension publications in the eastern corn belt, "The Weed Control Guide for Ohio and Indiana". Mr. Dobbels conducts or coordinates over 50 field research trials annually, and is well known among industry cooperators for his attention to detail in research, and his ability to deliver accurate results in a timely manner. He has streamlined the entire field research program

at OSU, reducing costs and keeping the program current with regard to information collection and communication technology. His competence allows weed scientists at OSU to conduct a successful research program across a variety of crops and locations in Ohio. This has been especially critical with regard to research in herbicide resistance, which must necessarily be conducted in farmer's fields throughout Ohio. He has also coordinated research on winter annual weeds and dandelions throughout Ohio over the past five years, and the results of this research have contributed greatly to producers' ability to manage these weeds.

In addition to his research contributions, Mr. Dobbels is actively involved in extension education in Ohio. He makes several extension presentations in Ohio each year, and has developed extension presentations for specific crops that are used by others in the OSU weed science group. He has an outstanding breadth of knowledge on herbicide effectiveness and weed management due to his involvement in the OSU field research program, which makes him a welcome resource for extension programs in Ohio. He also co-authors a number of newsletter articles each year. Mr. Dobbels is also an essential component of graduate education at OSU. He has helped numerous graduate students implement their field research, and made a significant contribution to their training in the areas of herbicide application and statistical analysis. Mr. Dobbels is an outstanding resource in the area of data analysis for others at OSU due to his knowledge of SAS. He also helps in the establishment of field plots to train students for the NCWSS Summer Weed Science Contest.

Mr. Dobbels has been an active member of the NCWSS since 1991. He has been the author or co-author of numerous NCWSS poster and paper presentations. He has twice been a member of the Local Arrangements Committee, and was chair of the Research and Publications Committee.

The Distinguished Service Award for Young Scientist is given to members under 40 years of age who fulfill the requirements to qualify for the education, research, or service award categories.

Dr. Christy Sprague completed her M.S. at the University of Illinois and her Ph.D. at Michigan State University. In 1999, she began her professional career at the University of Illinois as an assistant professor with extension responsibilities for weed management in field crops. In 2003, Christy accepted an extension and research position at Michigan State University with weed management responsibilities in soybean, sugar beet, and dry bean. During her early career, Dr. Sprague has demonstrated exceptional qualifications based on 1) the high quality and productive research programs that she designed to address applied weed management issues of Midwest agricultural systems; 2) the significant contributions that she has made in creating and disseminating weed management information in her extension role; and 3) the efficient and effective leadership that she has provided to the NCWSS, along with her other service contributions.

Research. Dr. Sprague's research program in Illinois has focused on many key issues facing Midwest weed management and has increased our understanding of 1) factors affecting herbicide efficacy for foramsulfuron and isoxaflutole; 2) weed biology and interference, especially for important species such as waterhemp and giant ragweed; and 3) the potential for applications of

hyperspectral imagining and remote sensing technologies toward site specific weed management. Christy has been very efficient in publishing this research and has 18 accepted or published articles as a consequence. This is in addition to her 10 articles from her MS and PhD research. She has also published 42 NCWSS Research Reports, 64 abstracts and proceedings for the NCWSS and WSSA since 1999, and 24 proceedings for other state, regional, and national conferences. To support this research program, Christy has authored or collaborated on 23 grants to commodity organizations, industry, and federal programs that has provided over $670,000 of support. She has developed an excellent and highly productive research program while balancing it against the time demands of extension.

Extension. Dr. Sprague has established herself as excellent and highly credible source of extension information in the North Central region. Both within her state and within the region, she provides education to ag-professionals and growers on the practical information such as factors affecting herbicide efficacy, comprehensive weed management programs, weed biology and its relation to management, herbicide resistance and management options, herbicide injury and mode of action training. Christy has authored or co-authored 12 extension bulletins and fact sheets, seven chapters of the annually revised Illinois Agricultural Pest Management Handbook, and two chapters of Illinois Agronomy Handbook, and 140 newsletter articles.

The requests that Christy has received to speak at state, regional, national, and international conferences and meetings may provide the greatest evidence of the respect that she has earned at this early stage in her career. Christy has delivered 22 presentations as an invited speaker. In total, 3,000 to 5,000 extension clientele annually receive education directly from her presentations.

Service. Christy has always stepped forward and taken an active leadership role in most of the organizations in which she has contributed. Within the NCWSS, she chaired the Resident Education and the Extension committees. She has also served as the chair of the NC-202, a North Central regional research project, and chaired a symposium for the NCWSS and for the IPM National Symposium. Within her state, Christy has been a leader by chairing three in-state committees and chairing the Crop Systems Team for Extension. Nationally, Christy has served as a member of the four WSSA committees and has been a reviewer for both Weed Science and Weed Technology.