

NCWSS 2019 Office Candidates

Vice President

Mark Bernards

Mark Bernards is an Associate Professor in the School of Agriculture at Western Illinois University (WIU). He earned his Ph.D. at Michigan State University, and M.S. and B.S. degrees at Brigham Young University. Prior to joining WIU in 2011, he worked as an Extension Weed Specialist for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2005-2011). At WIU, Mark teaches Principles of Crop Science (AGRN 176), Integrated Pest Management (AGRN 373), Weed Science (AGRN 479), No-tillage Farming (AGRN 370) and Crop Ecology and Management (AGRN 377). He advises the Agronomy Club and coaches the WIU Weed Science and Crop Judging teams. Mark directs agronomy operations at WIU's Agricultural Field Laboratory where he conducts research on weed management in corn and soybean, evaluates herbicides and adjuvants for crop safety and weed control efficacy, and enjoys mentoring undergraduate students. Mark has been a member of the NCWSS since 2001, and has served as a state director on the Strategic Planning Committee, as WSSA representative, and through the leadership rotation of the Resident Education Committee. He has also been active in the WSSA, serving on several committees and as the Constitution and Operating Procedures chair on the Board of Directors.

Harlene Hatterman-Valenti

Harlene Hatterman-Valenti is a Professor, Assistant Head, and High-value Crops Specialist in the Plant Sciences Department at North Dakota State University. She has state-wide weed research responsibilities in fruit and vegetables. Harlene earned her M.S. in Horticulture from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (1985) and Ph.D. from Iowa State University in Agronomy and Horticulture (1993). Prior to accepting her current position at NDSU, she was a Research Biologist with FMC at the Princeton, NJ facility, responsible for primary and pre-secondary herbicide evaluations in the Herbicide Discovery project. Harlene has been at North Dakota State University since 2000, and teaches two horticultural courses and coordinates the field experience courses throughout the year for crop and weed science students as well as horticulture students.

Harlene has trained two PhD, 18 MS students and currently has one Post-doc, one PhD and seven MS students in her program. She advises approximately 10 undergraduate students each semester and has served as a faculty mentor for new faculty in the department as well as the university for the past eight years. To date, Harlene has published 48 peer-reviewed manuscripts, authored or co-authored three book chapters, published 127 scientific abstracts or proceedings, authored or co-authored 20 extension publications, and published 193 research reports. Since joining NDSU, she has given 68 professional meeting presentations and 205 extension presentations.

Harlene has been a member of the NCWSS (Fellow) and WSSA for many years and has recently also become a member of WSWS. Society commitments for NCWSS include graduate student paper/poster judge for eight years between 2001 and 2016; Career Placement Committee, Vice Chair/Chair/Past Chair, 2000-2002; Sectional Program Vice Chair/Chair/Past Chair, Soybeans and Annual Legumes, 2002 – 2004; Membership Committee, 2002 – 2005, Chair/Past Chair 2003/2004; Resolution & Necrology Committee, 2003 – 2005, Vice Chair/Chair/Past Chair 2004 – 2006; Electronic Communications Committee, 2004 to present; Sectional Program Vice Chair/Chair/Past Chair, Sugarbeets, Hort. & Orn., 2003 – 2005, 2009-2011, 2014-2016; Finance, Steering and Policy Committee, 2005 to present; Research and Publications Committee, 2005 – 2007; Board of Directors, 2005 to 2015; Graduate Students Poster Judge, 2007, 2012; and Newsletter Editor, 2005 to 2015. For WSWS, Harlene is currently the Necrology Chair.

CAST Representative

Reid Smeda

Dr. Smeda is a Professor of Weed Science in the Division of Plant Sciences at the University of Missouri. He received a B.S. degree in Crop and Soil Science from Michigan State University in 1982, an M.S. in Horticulture from Michigan State University in 1985, and a Ph.D. in Horticulture from Purdue University in 1990. He has been employed as a faculty member in the Division of Plant Sciences at the University of Missouri since 1996. His teaching appointment involves instruction of undergraduate and graduate courses in weed science. He also serves as an academic advisor for students emphasizing crop management and advises the Division's Agronomy Club. His research program encompasses: weed biology and management of problem species in agronomic crops as well as non-crop areas (roadside and railroad right-of-way); physiology and mechanism(s) for weed species resistant to herbicides; and management of invasive species in pasture, roadside, and railroad habitats. Dr. Smeda has trained 4 Ph.D. students and over 27 M.S. students. He has published over 70 peer-reviewed papers. In addition, he has served the weed science societies in numerous board of director positions (WSSA representative, Treasurer, Chair of Resident Education Committee, etc.) as well as poster/paper judges and Chair of different sections (Weed Biology, Invasive Weeds, etc.). He would be honored to serve as the CAST representative for the North Central Weed Science Society.

Ryan Lins

Ryan Lins is a Research and Development Scientist with Syngenta based in MN. His present responsibilities include delivering results from a field research program designed to evaluate crop protection and trait technology, leading herbicide development projects, providing outreach and technical training to the Syngenta sales organization and serving as the primary Syngenta liaison to U of MN cooperators. Ryan received his BS at the U of Wisconsin-River Falls in 2000, his MS from the U of Wisconsin-Madison in 2002 and his PhD from Oregon State University in 2005.

Proceedings Editor

Amit Jhala

Amit Jhala is an associate professor and extension weed management specialist in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Before joining faculty position at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Amit was a postdoctoral scientist at University of California-Davis and University of Florida. Amit's responsibility in current position is to provide research and extension network for weed control in corn, soybean, sorghum, and popcorn in eastern Nebraska. His research program is focused on the biology, gene flow, and management of herbicide-resistant weeds. Amit has published research results in peer reviewed scientific journals and invited book chapters. His list of publication includes 11 book chapters and 88 peer-reviewed papers published/in press in high impact journals. Amit has served on the Board of Directors of the North Central Weed Science Society as the Chair of Extension Section and a moderator of the symposium. As the Chair of Extension Section, he has introduced 'NCWSS Graduate Students Video Contest'. He is also serving on several committees of Weed Science Society of America. Amit has been serving as an associate editor of Weed Technology as well as an associate editor of the Canadian Journal of Plant Science (*a journal published by the Canadian tri-societies: the Canadian Weed Science Society, the Canadian Society of Agronomy, and the Canadian Society of Horticultural Science*). Amit has graduated 3 MS and 3 Ph.D. students at University of Nebraska-Lincoln and he is serving on committees of at least 10

other graduate students. Amit has been honored with the prestigious awards such as Distinguished Achievement Young Weed Scientist Award by the North Central Weed Science Society; Outstanding Early Career Weed Scientist Award as well as Outstanding Reviewer Award by the Weed Science Society of America. Recently, he is honored with Outstanding Associate Editor Award by the Canadian Journal of Plant Science. For more information about Amit's research and extension program: <https://agronomy.unl.edu/jhala>

Jan Michael

Jan Michael works as a Research Associate with Dr. Donald Penner in the Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences at Michigan State University. Research involves adjuvants and formulations. This often involves technique development and making unique combinations to enhance herbicide efficacy. In addition, responsibilities include project organization, supervising undergraduate team members and keeping the project work load flowing smoothly. Ms. Michael has worked at Michigan State University since 2000. Previously, she worked two years for Monsanto as a temporary research assistant, and six years at Minnesota Valley Testing Labs conducting herbicide resistance bioassays. Her education consists of a B.S. degree from the University of Illinois in Agronomy – Crop Protection, and M.S. degree from Iowa State University in Agronomy - Crop Production and Physiology.

Joe Wuerffel

Joe Wuerffel has worked as R&D Scientist with Syngenta for four years: three years in Vero Beach, Florida and one year in southern Illinois. Joe holds a PhD from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in Plant Biology, with specialization in Weed Science. He has been a member of the NCWSS since 2012, has served as the NCWSS Industry Committee Director, and has been a paper and poster judge on numerous occasions since 2014. Joe has also authored 17 paper and poster presentations and four peer-reviewed manuscripts, was an invited graduate student symposium speaker in 2016, and is a frequent reviewer for Weed Science and Weed Technology.