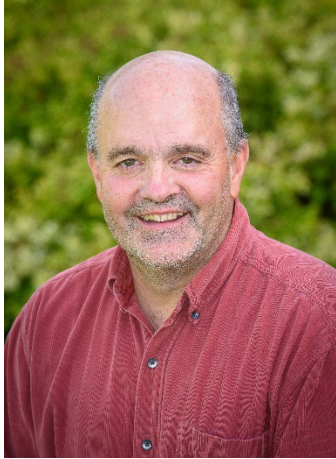


NCWSS 2025 CANDIDATE SLATE

VICE PRESIDENT

Fritz Koppatschek, ABG AG Services



Fritz Koppatschek is a first generation American. He has been married to his wife Cindy for 25 years and they have three children Clayton, Sage and Brooke. Fritz grew up in northwest Ohio and developed a love for agriculture by working with local farmers. He grew his first corn crop when he was in 9th grade, and it did not do very well. Growing up he learned the value of hard work from his parents and loved spending time outdoors.

Fritz holds a BS in Agronomy from The Ohio State University, a Master of Science and Ph.D. in Agronomy from the University of Illinois. He is the President of ABG AG Services a contract research and consulting company with locations in Sheridan, Indiana and Toronto, South Dakota. His primary responsibilities for the company are sales, people management, overall direction and vision and being the primary South Dakota site janitor. He personally conducts between 30-40 research trials. Prior to ABG AG services, he was a partner at Agri Business Group, a Congressional Science Fellow working for US Senator Tom Daschle, and worked as an intern at Monsanto and Rhone Poulenc. A philosophy he follows is from a mentor who advised him to “Look at what everyone else is doing and do something different”.

Fritz attended his first North Central Weed Science meeting in 1984. During that time, he has been on the Finance Committee, Long Range Planning Committee, Resident Education Chair, and poster and paper judge. The NCWS Weed Contest has played an important part in his education and personal development. He has been a participant, team coach, volunteer and his company hosted the event in 2009 and 2024. At the 2024 NCWSS meeting, he will be named a NCWSS Fellow. He is most proud of the long-term friendships he has made during his involvement in the NCWSS.

NCWSS 2025 CANDIDATE SLATE

Erin Burns, Michigan State University

Erin Burns is a Weed Science Extension Specialist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences at Michigan State University. Erin's research and extension program focuses on current and emerging problematic weeds in Michigan cropping systems, specifically forages, potatoes, hemp, and corn. Current



research focuses on practices to mitigate the development and spread of herbicide resistant weeds and understanding how climate variability will impact weed biology, ecology, and population dynamics. Erin received her B.S. degree from the College of Saint Benedict (Minnesota) in Biology, M.S. from North Dakota State University in Plant Sciences (Weed Science focus), and Ph.D. from Montana State University in Plant Sciences (Weed Science focus). Erin has been at Michigan State since 2017.

Erin has been an active member of the NCWSS since 2017.

Erin has served NCWSS in various roles including: Resident Education Committee Member, Local Arrangements Committee Member-Grand Rapids (specifically coordinated effort in recording sessions to make accessible to members who could not attend due to COVID restrictions), Strategic Planning Committee Member, Paper/Poster Judge annually, and NCWSS Representative to WSSA. One of Erin's main goals in this position is to expand and broaden participation in NCWSS. Erin, is not from a weed science/agricultural background and being a member of NCWSS has quickly broaden her knowledge base and helped her learn about all of the diverse research that is occurring at NCWSS while at the same time bringing unique experiences to NCWSS. Extending this experience to others along with those from agricultural backgrounds will allow NCWSS to tackle and provide innovative solutions to sustainable weed control.