



## Weed Science Society of North Carolina



Fall 2025

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### Important Dates:

#### January 4-8

NEWSS - Hershey, PA

#### January 25-29

SWSS - Nashville, TN

#### February 9-12

WSSA - Raleigh, NC

#### March 11

WSSNC - Raleigh, NC

## Letter from the President

Mr. Thomas Batts, NC Cooperative Extension

Hello WSSNC members and supporters! I hope this newsletter finds you well as we head into the busy winter meeting season. Weed Science has been a major part of my entire life. From weekend trips to help daddy with watering weeds in the greenhouses at Method Rd, to teaching Alligatorweed identification at a county agent training in the credit union field at cherry hospital, to doing a masters research project on 2,4-D and dicamba on sweetpotatoes, it has always been an integral part of me. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as president of the WSSNC and to work alongside the phenomenal Board of Directors. Their work and dedication has enabled this society to thrive and truly make a difference in the field of weed science.

Over the last few years, we have seen many changes in weed science, particularly on the farm. That is why we decided on the

theme of the meeting, "A Legacy of Weed Science and a Vision for Tomorrow". We have arranged for a couple of top notch professors, (including the new NCSU Crop and Soil Science Department Head, Dr. Ian Burke), as well as a panel of crop consultants. These perspectives will give us a look into how things are changing on the farm, as well as in academia.

We look forward to the 44th Annual Meeting which will be held for the third year in a row at the Steve Troxler Agricultural Sciences Center (4400 Reedy Creek Rd, Raleigh, NC 27607). Please mark your calendars to attend Wednesday, March 11, 2026. 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 March for learning and fellowship.



**Save the Date**  
**44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**March 11, 2026**

**WSSNC: A Legacy of Weed Science  
and a Vision for Tomorrow**

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.

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

## Looking Forward: 2026 Annual Meeting

### March 11, 2026

We look forward to seeing everyone in March for our 44<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. The board has secured an excellent lineup this year to discuss some of the changes we have seen in weed science and how both weeds and management practices have changed and adapted over the years. The meeting will be highlighted by two keynote speakers, Dr. Ian Burke and Dr. Franck Dayan. We will also have a panel discussion featuring several crop consultants from across North Carolina to get their input on how weed management has changed over the years and how growers are adapting.

## Students and Advisors

It is time to start working on those posters and endowment ideas. Along with the newsletter you should have received poster and endowment application forms as well as application packets for outstanding student awards. Please take a look at the endowment application as we have updated that application with a new grading rubric to help standardize the judging process and help students know what type of applications will be awarded. 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!

## Thanks to our 2024 Sponsors!

### Sustaining



### Contributing



Bayer CropScience



Please consider becoming a sponsor in 2026!

## 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 [ztaylor@ncsu.edu](mailto:ztaylor@ncsu.edu)

## Introducing Dr. Navdeep Godara

Navdeep Godara is an Assistant Professor of Turfgrass and Forage Weed Science at North Carolina State University. He earned Ph.D. in Weed Science from Virginia Tech in 2025 and M.S. degree in Weed Science from the University of Arkansas in 2022. During his dissertation research, he evaluated the ecological impacts of turfgrass weed management practices, with emphasis on herbicide effects on floral morphology, pollinator behavior, and residue dynamics. At NCSU, Godara's research and extension program focuses on practical weed management challenges in turfgrass and forage systems, weed biology, ecology, precision weed control tools, and the development of sustainable turfgrass management practices. He plans to work closely with the turfgrass industry in North Carolina to address the emerging weed management challenges.

Navdeep is excited to join the WSSNC and looks forward to meeting members at the upcoming 44th Annual Meeting.



## Women in Weed Science

The inaugural meeting of the Women in Weed Science for the North Carolina Weed Science Society took place last year at the 43rd annual meeting. This gathering brought together women scientists from both academia and industry, creating a unique space to network, share experiences, and learn more about the diverse opportunities within weed science. It was a fantastic chance to exchange ideas, strengthen professional connections, and explore the latest research and practices shaping the field.



This year, we're inviting anyone interested in helping plan the next meeting to get involved! Your input and participation will ensure this initiative continues to grow and thrive. For more details or to join the planning team, please contact Sandy Ethridge at [Sandra.ethridge@basf.com](mailto:Sandra.ethridge@basf.com).



## Weed Contest

NC State was well represented at both the Northeastern and Southern Weed Science Society annual student weed contest. We fielded two teams and seven students at each contest.

The Northeastern Weed Science Society contest was at the Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Bridgeton, NJ on July 29. In total, 51 students competed and represented 5 universities. NC State team 1, made up of Jackson Alsoforf, Colden Bradshaw, Brock Dean, and Kai Goble, took home second place.



Team 1, Brock Dean, Kai Goble, Jackson Alsdorf, and Colden Bradshaw take home second place at NEWSS.

The Southern Weed Science Competition was held in Newport, Arkansas on August 7th and was hosted by the University of Arkansas at the Jackson County Extension Center. There were 10 universities represented with 25 teams and a record of 105 participants!

NC State Team 1 of Colden Bradshaw, Brock Dean, Kai Goble, and Diego Contreras finished in fifth place overall. Colden finished in the top 10 in written calibration and Diego finished in the top 10 in herbicide ID. Hope Thome finished second overall in farmer problems. The mystery event this year was a good ol' fashioned egg toss. Brock and Colden made it just shy of the final round for team 1, while Luke Szoch and Hope took the challenge of guessing that they had boiled eggs and smashing them against their foreheads to get a free pass to the final round. While Luke got the boiled egg, Hope, unfortunately, was not so lucky.



Hope takes the challenge! Unfortunately her egg was not boiled. (Photo credit: Amy Sullivan, GROW)



Herbicide ID (Photo Credit: Kohlton Barber)

## Letter from the Student Representative



**Brock Dean**

**2025-26 Student Representative**

Dear WSSNC Members and Supporters,

I am honored to write to you as the student representative of the Weed Science Society of North Carolina. I earned my undergraduate degree in Agronomy and Agricultural Business from Morehead

State University in Kentucky. these studies is designed to Afterward, I spent a year in serve the stakeholders of California working for North Carolina, and through SynTech Research before be- the support of my advisors and my involvement with beginning my M.S. at North Car- WSSNC, I have further the guidance of Dr. Charlie learned the importance of Cahoon. Upon completing my supporting growers, a princi- M.S, I have continued my ple I strive to carry throughout studies as a Ph.D student, my professional career. working under the direction of WSSNC has played a key role Drs. Cahoon and David Jordan. in my development as a student and has greatly enhanced my knowledge of

My M.S. research evaluated weed science, for which I am the utility of residual herbicide truly grateful to the society -coated fertilizer in cotton. My and its members.

Ph.D. research is largely aimed at improving annual grass control, including examining potential herbicide antagonism in tank-mixtures and quantifying the effects of drought stress on weed management. Additionally, I am conducting a study to determine whether using multiple integrated weed management strategies can alter the critical period of weed removal in corn and cotton. Each of

As student representative, I have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to support the society, its members, and its students. I look forward to the upcoming meeting and hope to see you all there.

Sincerely,  
Brock Dean

## 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)

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# 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.

## 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**

## 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!](#)

## 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.

# 2025-2026 Board of Directors

## Executive Directors

### President:

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

### Past President:

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

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

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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)

### Academia:

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

### Industry:

Dr Sandy Ethridge  
BASF Corporation  
RTP, NC 27709  
E-mail: [sandra.ethridge@basf.com](mailto:sandra.ethridge@basf.com)

### Student Representative:

Mr. Brock Dean  
NC State University - Crop and Soil  
Science  
E-mail: [badean@ncsu.edu](mailto:badean@ncsu.edu)

## Newsletter Editor/Website Coordinator

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

