



NORTH DAKOTA WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Upcoming Meetings @ Doublewood in Bismarck

BOD Meeting March 25th, 9:00 am

Annual Conference @ Seven Seas

January 6—8, 2015

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is hard to think of spraying noxious weeds at 10 - 20 below zero temperatures, but this is the time to make preparations for the season. With any luck the wind will be down and we can have some long sunny days. It will warm up!

There have been changes in how we control noxious weeds in the last few years; mostly in the area of our ability to record or mark their location. By using GPS, Data loggers and mapping technology of the ag department, we are able to keep better track of present infestations and most certainly document their spread. It is also important that these records be preserved so others can have access to those locations.

There are also those new and invasive weeds we should constantly be on the lookout for; spotted knapweed and yellow toadflax to name two. I personally believe this is one of the most important parts of what a weed officer does, other than enforce the law. We must constantly be aware of what is going on in the environment we work in.

The board of directors of the association is working on the issues that were addressed at the conference from recycling and the importance of that activity to working on granting possibilities that would further the research for better control methods. And as always we are looking for ways to get the message out to the general public of the importance of noxious weed control and enforcement of the law. If you have any ideas on these issues the board would greatly appreciate your input.

Please use the tools for education that are available including the new pocket weed guide from NDSU and the ND Department of Ag; thank you for that. These do us no good sitting in a box somewhere; they need to be in the hands of the public.

I hope that you have a very productive year, keep your eyes open, but most importantly have a safe spraying season.

2014 NDWCA President

Jim McAllister

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

In order to cut costs with rising printing costs and higher postage prices, we asked for your email addresses to send you the newsletter via email. The email list did not make the secretary's transition due to technical difficulties. For those who have not yet signed up, we are asking you to send an email to ndwca@westriv.com and you will be put on the list. We realize that some of you want to continue with the paper letter, and you will continue to receive it if you so desire.

NAISMA Report

Web site WWW.NAISMA.ORG

NAISMA Annual Meeting in FARGO, ND

The organization of the Annual Meeting of NAISMA is coming together. This will be held at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, ND. on September 29th – October 1st 2014. We will be using the NDSU Research facility and the Agriculture Experiment Station Research Greenhouse Complex in Fargo along with the excellent research faculty as our main point of interest. We have a tour lined up to see how the actual research is done once a weed is discovered all the way to it being put on an invasive list. This leads to the correct timing for the application of a chemical or for the use of a biological agent. We will have speakers on the study of population genetics of Canada thistle and Leafy Spurge and we will also be shown the gnomonic genetics (DNA makeup) of Canada thistle. Another topic that will be covered is the different types of grasses that can invade natural range land and the ways to apply proper rangeland management practices to prevent this type of intrusion. We will have speakers on the different invasive insects, updates on some of the Aquatic Nuisance Species, the use of safety equipment and how to safely operate spray equipment. Along with all of this learning we will also be having a little fun at the Trade Show Mixer. Here we will be able to mingle with the vendors and sponsors of the Annual Meeting to get caught up on their latest equipment or product. We will be having a silent auction along with a fun live auction of items that have been donated. Of course we will still be having the standing committee meetings of NAISMA. Weed Free Forage: train the trainer will be offered, along with the Mapping and Professional Improvement programs. To top it off we will be having the Annual Awards Banquet. So keep watching for more updates and plan on attending the 2014 NAISMA Annual Meeting/ Conference in Fargo.

Since the conference will be in ND it would be even better that the attendance will be made up mostly of ND people.

If you are not a member of NAISMA please consider joining. This organization has and will continue to be very supportive of weed control efforts and has the support of its members from many states close to ND and to many states away from ND that have similar invasive problems with weeds.

Log onto the web site to stay caught up with the latest issues and to join the NAISMA association.

Derrill Fick

NAISMA Board member

CONTAINER RECYCLING

At the conference in January, if you were in attendance, Larry Bricco spoke to the attendees about his company and the possibility of starting a container recycling program in North Dakota. There is a recycling program already in North Dakota. If you are fortunate enough to utilize this program, please continue to do so. Unfortunately, most of the state has been left high and dry, when it comes to container recycling. Your board feels that container recycling is a number one priority. Several board members are working very hard to get a program started or expanded for everyone to utilize. We will keep you up to date with any developments as they occur.

NDDA TO HIRE NEW NOXIOUS WEED COORDINATOR

The ND Department of Agriculture is in the process of hiring a new noxious weed coordinator as Rachel Spilde is now a Plant Protection Specialist with the department. By the time you receive this newsletter, an announcement will have been made. Interviews have been completed, and a new person is about to be hired. The ND Weed Control Association looks forward with working with the new coordinator. In the June newsletter we will have more as well, possibly a short bio on the new coordinator. Stay tuned.

RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL

If you recall from the area meetings and from the annual business meeting in January, the board has been discussing with you different scenarios with getting funding for continued research for noxious weeds. At the area meetings the idea of a stand alone trust fund was discussed. This would mean going to the legislature for such a fund. With this fund, only the interest would be used to fund the project, insuring a long term fund. At the business meeting in January, the discussion turned to possibly applying for a grant through the heritage fund, a newly established fund in North Dakota. Stan Wolf, Cass County Weed Officer, and former NDWCA president, is chairing the committee working on this project. At the writing of this newsletter, the committee is still in the process of calculating the cost of the project. Stay tuned for further updates.

CONVENTION UPDATE

On behalf of the NDWCA board of directors, thank you to all of you who attended the 30th annual convention in Mandan this past January. The weather started on the cold side, but was rather decent for the drive home. For those of you who could not make it, we hope to see you next January, in Mandan.

We are always looking for speaker topics or for ideas to make each year better than the previous year. Feel free to contact any board member, or myself, if you have an idea.

Thank you to all our vendors and sponsors. Your support is greatly appreciated. To our members, when you do business with these folks, thank them for their support as well.



Debbie Trostad was the recipient of an award honoring her as being a very good, efficient secretary to the Nelson County Weed Board, at the North Dakota Weed Control Association annual convention held at Mandan Jan. 7-9. Debbie was unable to attend the convention, so Elvin Johnson, Chairman of the Nelson County Weed Board, had the honor of presenting her with her award plaque recently.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S CORNER

Well, I do believe that we have the best members any organization can have. Even though I have been around for quite some time, this convention I was a rookie all over again. At the registration desk, you were all very patient to myself and my wife, and we really appreciated it very much. Thank you.

I don't know if any of you have noticed, but it sure seems to me that winter doesn't want to leave. But before long we will probably complain of the heat.

By the time you get this newsletter, most of you will have had their chemical bids opened for 2014. Lets hope everyone has the lowest bid around. From what I understood at the convention, quantity of the regularly used chemicals should be fine.

With the continued boom in the western part of our state, we all need to be on the lookout for new invasive weeds. Even though some of us are not in the oil patch itself, traffic coming and going to the patch is tremendous. A weed seed or part of a plant can travel many miles attached to a vehicle. So our highways will need extra scrutiny for years to come.

In closing, if anyone has a article that they feel they would like to see in the newsletter, send it to me, and I will see what I can do. Usually I need them a week before the month the newsletter is published. For the next newsletter, would need your article the last week of May, usually by that Tuesday.

Till next time, Merlin

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