



NORTH DAKOTA WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

VOL. 30 NO. 4

website: www.ndweeds.com

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November, 2020

2020 Board of Directors:

President: Cody Schnabel	(701)391-8006
1st VP: Travis Jepson	(701)590-4306
2nd VP: Jim Hennessy	(701)629-1858
Area I: Brent Nelson	(701)331-0464
Area II: Ron Manson	(701)320-4512
Area III: Derrill Fick	(701)720-2436
Area IV: Rick Schmidt	(701)794-8748
Area V: Katie Dillman	(701)218-0113
Industry: Bill Walker	(605)642-3800
Gov.: Kent Luttschwager	(701)774-2780
Past Pres: Jamen Windish	(701)320-6011
Ex. Sec. Merlin Leithold	(c) (701)527-6544 (h) (701)584-3204

Upcoming Meetings :

Board of Directors Meeting January 12, 2021, 10:00 am
Ramada Inn, Bismarck

2022 Annual Conference & Weed Forum

January 4-7, 2022

New Location

Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center, Bismarck, ND

****NEWSLETTER****

Members, Keep Up The Good Work

You, our members have done your job in reducing our costs for the paper edition of the newsletter. The board understands that some of our members cannot receive the newsletter by e mail, or prefer the paper edition. But we want to continue to reduce the paper copies, so keep sending in your e mails for the electronic version of the newsletter.

Also, as weed boards get new members throughout the year, please let us know, so we can update our list. We find where former members continue to receive the newsletter, and new members do not. Unless we are notified, we have no idea the comings and goings of board members.

Presidents Message

Hello fellow weed control specialists!

Wow, what a year folks. I was very much looking forward to seeing you all in person at the annual conference, but as most other events have gone this year, we have had to make the difficult decision to cancel it. A month ago it was looking like all was a go, and then the Covid numbers started spiking around here again. It's looking like our next chance to meet in person will be for sprayer schools. Your NDWCA board will be working hard to make those happen.

I have to thank you all for all your efforts in doing your part in this fight against noxious weeds. So many things in the world around us have changed this year because of Covid, but we found out noxious weeds don't care about Covid, so we have been out there doing our jobs just as we would have any other year.

I have to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to be president of the NDWCA board. This year has been riddled with challenges, with those challenges there have been some very important decisions made, and for that I am grateful for having been a part of.

Take care of yourselves out there. I know you'll keep up the good work.

Cody Schnabel
2020 NDWCA President

Your association has caps, a couple of jackets and vests, and padfolios, cups and a few other items for sale.

Contact Merlin, Cody or Derrill for more information

ANNUAL CONFERENCE CANCELLED

2021 Annual Conference and Commissioners Forum is cancelled. Please see inside the newsletter for more information as well.

2021 Conference and Weed Forum Cancelled

The 2021 NDWCA Conference and ND Ag Commissioners Weed Forum originally scheduled for January 12-14, 2021 has been cancelled, due to rising Covid cases and restrictions.

With the current restrictions that have been set by the Governor and Burleigh County, it is virtually impossible to have a safe convention for all to attend. With the current guidelines, socially distancing at the conference would be virtually impossible, with or without masks. Getting speakers to attend was another issue. The number one issue, is the safety of our members. Most of our members are close to if not already in the vulnerable age group. The board does not want to lose any members because they contracted Covid at our conference.

This decision did not come easy. There was a lot of discussion at the June board meeting, and the board decided to keep on track. At the September meeting, it was a very intense meeting. Each board member tried to find a solution to keep on track. At that time, the decision was to cancel the area meetings, but keep moving forward with the conference. The planning committee was supposed to meet via conference call last week to continue to plan the convention, final preparations, etc.. But it was decided to have the entire board be on that call. After some discussion, everyone felt that it was time to pull the plug, so to speak, on this upcoming convention. Nobody could find a solution. So by roll call vote, a unanimous decision was reached. We will discuss the possibility of adding topics to the May sprayer schools to further the education missed by the convention.

Discussed doing a small virtual convention, but since a lot of members do not have the technology to do so, and not wanting to exclude some of the membership, NO virtual conference will be held.

The annual meeting was discussed. The decision was to do a kind of like hybrid approach. The annual meeting minutes are posted on our website at www.ndweeds.com. The annual budget is also posted on the website. We want to encourage our members to go on the site and review them.

In 2021, we need to vote for industry representative to the board of directors. Bill Walker has been that representative for a number of years. He has graciously accepted the nomination again.

2nd vice president of the association needs to be filled, because as all of you know, according to our by laws, 2nd vice president, currently Jim Hennessy moves up to 1st vice president, 1st vice president, currently Travis Jepson becomes president, while the current president, Cody Schnabel becomes an advisor to the board for 1 year. Our current past president, Jamen Windish goes off the board.

Areas I, II, & IV are eligible areas for someone for 2nd vice president. Nominated for 2021 are Stan Wolf, Cass County, Area II, and Dylan Ripplinger, Burleigh County, from Area IV. The bios for both of these nominees are on the next page.

The first week of December, full members will receive a cover letter and a post card ballot in the mail. The ballot will have the return address, and will be postage paid. Just fill it out, and throw it back in the mail. This letter/ballot will be going out to the contacts we have on file for our members.

You will vote yes or no for approving the minutes and the budget, separate votes.

You will also vote for Industry representative. Bill Walkers name will appear on the ballot. There will also be a blank space on the ballot for a write in name if you so desire. Vote for one name only.

You will also vote for 2nd vice president. Both Stan Wolf and Dylan Ripplinger's names will appear on the ballot. There will also be a blank space for a write in name if you desire, but remember only from Areas I, II, & IV. Again, vote for one name only.

At the bottom of the ballot, please fill in the name of the member voting, for instance name of county/city/etc.. The next line will be for the signature of the person who voted. If you recall, we do that in a way at our in person meeting as well.

If you receive the ballot, and you are not the voting representative, please get in touch with that person, and get it to them to vote.

If you did not receive a ballot by December 9th, e mail Merlin at ndwca@westriv.com. It may be that someone else received it and have not contacted you. If we have a doubt of who to mail the ballot to, we will contact someone to find out.

Please mail back the ballots as soon as possible. We would like them before December 31st. Merlin will take the ballots to the board meeting on January 12 to be counted and a winner announced. We will announce the winner on our website, and also put it out on list serve. The board wants to thank you for your patience through this pandemic.

Bios For 2nd Vice President Candidates

Stan Wolf

Weed officer for Cass County since 2004 (16 years) managing two spray contractors for spraying road rights-of-way and weed control staff spraying of county owned properties. Worked with Water Resource Districts to ensure all weeds are controlled in construction of Red River Diversion. Developed a Weed Management Plan form to be filled out by all developers plotting new subdivisions outside city limits, approved by County Commission.

NDWCA past president (2010) and board member (2016-17)

NDWCA Early Career Award 2012

Weed Seed Free Forage inspector

Licensed UAV (drone) pilot using a drone for weed scouting

Member of NDSU Noxious Weed Specialist search committee interviewing and selecting candidates for the position

Certified Crop Advisor, 2000 to present

Previously was a plant breeder and manager of sunflower and sugarbeet research and development programs

I would be honored to represent the association and will work for programs to enhance our fight against noxious weeds and promote the professionalism of our members.

Dylan Ripplinger

Dylan is the weed officer in Burleigh County. He has been at Burleigh County since January, 2020. Before that, he was the assistant weed officer in Stutsman County for four years.

He grew up and graduated high school in Lisbon, ND. After that he studied wildlife management at Valley City State University. He currently lives in Bismarck, ND.

This year, Dylan has been working to improve the Burleigh County weed control program. He is working to create the most effective methods to control noxious weeds within Burleigh County.

Membership Dues

Many of you pay your membership dues with your convention registrations. Below is that part of the form if you so desire to pay them in 2020 for 2021. Some of you have put the dues in your budgets, and waiting until next year could impact that line in your budget.

We will be sending out dues statements the latter part of January for those of you who would like it that way. We are here to accommodate you in the best way possible. Again, sorry, but we cannot accept payments by credit card.

THIS FORM MAY BE USED TO BECOME A NDWCA MEMBER

EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT ATTENDING THE CONVENTION

2021 FULL MEMBERSHIP **\$275** (VOTING MEMBER) New _____ Renewal _____

2021 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP **\$175** (NON-VOTING MEMBER) New _____ Renewal _____

Grand Total Enclosed \$ _____

Executive Secretary Corner by Merlin Leithold

I missed seeing many of you in October with no area meetings. Now with the virus surging, we find ourselves cancelling the annual convention. The convention has become for many of us, not only a time to learn new ideas, refresh ourselves with old ideas, that we have forgotten about, and to visit with folks that we have not seen since perhaps the previous years convention. The latter probably the most important. Funny how it is, when a board member retires, and that county comes to the convention, and that person is not there, most people see it, and ask where he or she is at. I guess our convention is kind of like the show that used to be on tv, Cheers. Everyone knows everyone's name. I guess we all have a little Norm or Cliff in each of us. And of course, we'll miss the Tuesday evening beer & brat & auction fest, that many of us attend, and those of us that do, we seem to have a good time.

I hope you all had good spraying seasons. I know in my case, it felt good to get all roads covered, many twice. Last years early snow finished the spraying season early for many counties.

On January 12, the board has planned an in person meeting. Lets hope this can be done. With so much uncertainty, planning anything farther then a couple of weeks is hard to do.

I will again be the lobbyist for your association. Don't know in what type of capacity. Probably more on line then in person. We'll have to see how that session plays out. If any of you members have a concern with a particular bill, shoot me an e mail and I'll be more then willing to check it out, weed board or noxious weed related.

North Dakota Weed Control Association
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