



CWMA Newsletter
November 2011

Executive Director's Corner

I am writing as the new Executive Director of CWMA. As reported earlier, the Executive Director position has passed from Greg Williams of Redpoint Resources to Jay B. Wilson. Greg has worked with me tirelessly to help make this a smooth transfer. I met with the Board of Directors in Eagle, CO the third week in October. We had a very productive strategic planning session and Board of Directors meeting.

I come to CWMA with a background in agriculture. I am a native of Utah where I grew up on the family sheep and cattle ranch. That does mean I have chopped burdock, burs, and other noxious weeds from a young age. I was the executive director of a sheep industry membership organization in California for over ten years. I went from there to overseeing a pilot loan and grant program with USDA for a decade. I have worked with the legislative process as an industry advocate and as a staff member.

I am working hard to get up to speed on CWMA issues and administrative procedures. It is a challenge getting familiar with the organization's customs, traditions, and systems. We are currently in full forward mode to prepare for the Annual Conference in Colorado Springs. President-elect, Fred Raish and others have worked to get a full program together with a broad variety of topics and speakers and the registrations to date are strong. If you haven't registered for the conference [PLEASE REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE ASAP](#). Registration can be done online, mailed, or faxed. I look forward to meeting you in Colorado Springs. This is an energized Board and membership and I hope to be a part of helping you meet your goals as you work to service your industry's needs.

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President's Column

By K. George Beck

The year 2011 has been an interesting one filled with challenges and new opportunities. As we work on growing our Association and raising the societal level of concern for what we do--manage invasive and noxious weeds, our struggling economy has impacted our success. It is troubling to hear of county weed programs that are on the brink of folding because of the paucity of public funds to support those efforts. Weed management is an ancient issue for humans and as with many such issues, familiarity seems to breed contempt. The Mesa County program is an example of such and CWMA will pursue developing possible solutions. However, it will take more effort than the Board of Directors alone can muster!



In difficult economic times, our Association must work diligently to assure that our efforts to manage invasive weeds do not backslide because of funding. It will be imperative for ALL our members to contact their county commissioners and elected officials serving in Denver to provide adequate funding for our programs. We simply cannot stand back, do nothing, and watch programs fail because of the 'unfunded mandate' argument. We must work to get funding from the state to support programs and end this continuing debate. The only way that will happen is to get our elected officials at the county and state levels to care more about what we do. This means they must more fully understand and appreciate that noxious weed management is not an option! Our natural heritage is at stake. Most Coloradoans have great respect and sincere appreciation for our natural resource base; but often, they and our elected officials often do not connect the dots between conserving our natural heritage and noxious weed management. I ask that each of you, as members of CWMA, work with local news media and utilize other avenues of public education to make the importance of our work known to all Coloradoans. We need to recruit others in convincing our public officials that abandoning noxious weed management places our natural and agricultural resources in peril. Ignoring or abandoning noxious weed management will continue to aggravate our stagnate economy. Spending public funds on our issue is a sound investment for now and the future!

What we do is hardly trivial and frankly, helps comprise our economic base in Colorado and elsewhere throughout the U.S. We must work together and diligently so to improve our invasive and noxious weed management programs throughout our magnificent state. And, it will take our collective efforts to insure success. Make no mistake, your Board of Directors and Legislative Committee will vigorously pursue ending the unfunded mandate, but we need your

Calendar Time

The CWMA Weeds of Colorado calendar is now available and focuses on recreation and its relationship to the spread of invasive species. As we all engage in the recreational opportunities in Colorado, our enjoyment can be greatly impacted by invasive species. Conversely, some of our recreational activities are major players in the spread of these invaders to new habitat.

The calendar price structure will remain the same as last year for bulk orders and anyone ordering over 300 calendars will be recognized as a calendar sponsor. Thank you for your support for ordering a 2012 CWMA Weeds of Colorado Calendar!

[CLICK FOR ORDER FORM](#)

2011 Board of Directors

George Beck: President
Chad Clark: Secretary/Treasurer
Fred Raish: President Elect
Jonathan Rife: Past President
Kevin Gallagher: Board Member
Alicia Doran: Board Member
Kenny Smith: Board Member
Jana Gregg: Board Member
Ron Mabry: Board Member
Steve Sauer: Board Member
Sheila Grother: Board Member
Jay Wilson : Exec Director
Steve Ryder: Ex Officio (Ag Dept)

Renew Your Membership!

It is time to renew your Membership for 2011. You can renew your membership online (using a credit card) and receive an immediate receipt or you can download and print a paper renewal form. If you renew a group membership online don't forget to send an email to info@cwma.org listing the names and contact information (including email) of everyone in your group. Renewal forms were mailed to all 2010 members.

[Renew Now!](#)

Online Store

The CWMA Online Store is open. You and your friends can order any CWMA publication online, plus you can choose your delivery method (UPS or USPS) and all items are usually shipped the next day. Pay by credit card, invoice, check, or purchase order. To order online go to www.cwma.org.

Until the details with the new warehouse and order fulfillment service are worked out orders can be

help to be successful. Please take the time to communicate frequently with your local and state elected officials about our issue. Remember, tenacity is a virtue--never give up!!

A Year in Review

By Steve Ryder, State Weed Coordinator, Colorado Department of Agriculture

Another field season is winding down. Richard and Scott--CDA's veteran seasonals--have turned in their gear and Patty has moved indoors to lead the launching of our new online mapping system. We were able to visit many county and conservation district weed programs this year and learn about their needs and challenges. Thank you all for taking the time to show us around.



We've also encountered a number of challenges here at the state level. Foremost among them were the weed fund and Forest Service grant processes. The USFS grants were not available until August this year--due mostly to the federal budget not being finalized until after the field season began. Added to this is the state grant review process that occurs after the federal funds have been allocated. All in all, it was a very frustrating season for those involved.

On the positive side, the updated quarter-quad mapping and reporting system is about ready to go live. This first phase places the current system online. This should make it much easier for county weed managers and conservation districts in charge of weed management in some counties to enter infestation data by quarter-quad for their areas. Additionally, the mapping function will allow any weed manager in the state to view graphic infestation data for other counties and for the state as a whole.

The Ag Commission should be reviewing the proposed 2011 rule changes soon. We will begin working on 2012 rule revisions this winter and want to work with weed managers and others to clarify parts of the existing rule, particularly those having to do with managing weeds near roads and waterways.

As always, please feel free to call me and chat about your concerns and ideas, and thanks very much to those of you who have!

placed online, but to pay by credit card you must call the office or fax or mail your credit card information after placing your online order.

Success!

*By Sheila Grother, San Miguel County
Weed Manager*

In 2007, a new invasive plant, sulfur cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta*), was identified in San Miguel County (Western Colorado). Unfortunately, when initially discovered, the infestation had already spread to several hundred acres in an area in excess of 4,000 acres of USFS and private ranch land. The government entities in the area, San Miguel County and the US Forest Service, reacted as rapidly as government can react. Within a matter of days there were boots and wheels on the ground as the work began, both to find out how much sulfur cinquefoil there was and to get a handle on how far it had spread. This was the first test of our EDRR response plan and one that we are extremely proud of.



sulfur cinquefoil

It was determined that seed likely arrived on equipment during the 2002 Burn Canyon Fire and that the cinquefoil had been spreading unrecognized for five years. The program responded with a GPS survey and treatment utilizing Milestone herbicide. The eleven private landowners involved were not prepared to work on their own toward eradication of this new invader. It is hard to distinguish when growing among the closely-related native species. The county ultimately took on the project on private lands with a simple service agreement between landowner and county. This put professional applicators trained in identification, treatment, and mapping on the private land from May through August of each year.

Funding was the next huge issue. The county stepped up and added to the Weed Control Program Budget. Grant money was applied for and received from the USFS State and Private Forestry Program and the Habitat Partnership Program (HPP), as well as through the Conservation District Matching Grants Program. The much needed funding allowed the county to hire additional help and acquire equipment to begin the process of searching and destroying every sulfur cinquefoil plant in the area. The Forest Service contributed with funding, equipment, and manpower as well.

Fast forward to 2011, the fifth year of the project. Both entities continue search and control efforts. Gone are the extremely large patches--some over an acre in size. The largest patch located in 2011 contained less than 200 plants. We've gone from counting acres to counting plants! Although victory cannot yet be declared, sulfur cinquefoil is definitely on the run.

As of this field season we are relatively certain that sulfur cinquefoil has been confined to the initial area, albeit a large one. Each location has been mapped and maps lead employees back to previously treated locations year after year to treat new plants coming from the seed stored in the soil. Mapping is done on a grid basis to improve the chances of finding each and every plant.

The plan for 2012 includes continuing the mapping and treatment program under the county and Forest Service. At the same time, 2012 will be the year to train the landowners to recognize the sulfur cinquefoil and to perform their own treatment to decrease their reliance on the county program. The long-term goal of the project is still total eradication. If successful this project will be a model for other locations with newly discovered infestations and the will and willingness to succeed!

MapItFast in the UACWMA

By J.R. Phillips, Fremont County Weed Manager

For many years, the Upper Arkansas Cooperative Weed Management Area (UACWMA) has been discussing and utilizing various methods of mapping. In late 2010, AgTerra made available a product called MapItFast that consists of a digital pen, mapping card, and GPS device. Following a comparison of other available products and an evaluation by local NRCS experts, multiple UACWMA counties made the purchase!



This technology is easy to use in the field and mapping is made simple on the MapItFast website, which requires no GIS knowledge to use. From the website, files can be downloaded to GoogleEarth or ArcGIS for viewing or more sophisticated editing. Jana Gregg of Fremont County, Larry Walker of Chaffee and Lake Counties, and Alan Swartz of Park and Teller Counties have reported significant success with this technology during the field season.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture is also upgrading its quarter-quad mapping system including the method of annual reporting for all counties. Future interface of the two new systems may actually reduce the arduous task of recording and reporting field operations as we move into the future. Alan Telck, owner of AgTerra, grew up in Cañon City, Colorado. He continues to work closely with the UACWMA to modify the process, making it custom-fit for our changing needs.

Newsletter Update

By Holly Postmus, Chair

The Newsletter Chair position is available for an interested member, especially for someone who would like to be instrumental in adding Twitter or Facebook features. Please contact Jay Wilson, CWMA's Executive Director, at info@cwma.org.



If you would like to become a member of any CWMA committee, there will be a volunteer sign-up sheet available at the Annual Conference in Colorado Springs, December 7-8, 2011. If you are unable to attend the Annual Conference, but would like to volunteer for one or more committees, contact: Jay Wilson at info@cwma.org.

Our committees are: Annual Conference, Education/Outreach, Executive/Finance, Legislative, Marketing, Membership, Native Plants, Newsletter, Nominations and Awards, Ornamental Weeds, Pulling for Colorado, Professional Applicators, Scholarship, and Training School.

CWMA is seeking volunteers to Chair the following committees:

Education/Outreach, Marketing, Membership, Newsletter, and Scholarship.

The Newsletter Committee will continue to profile the A-list weeds that were added to Colorado's Noxious Weed List and to highlight the new Watch List Weeds. The management objective for A-list species is to eradicate all infestations. If you are aware of any watch list species infestations, please contact Patty York at Patty.York@ag.state.co.us

A-List Noxious Weed Profile

Elongated Mustard, *Brassica elongata*
Erhr. subsp. *integrifolia*
Family: Brassicaceae, Mustard



Elongated Mustard

Biology:

- This mustard family species is a short-lived perennial
- Reproduces mostly by seed, but also by producing lateral runners
- Upon desiccation, the base of stem weakens and skeletons tumble in the wind
- Grows just about anywhere, in the shade or sun, arid and wet

Stems/Leaves:

- Multiple branches form a bushy plant
- Upper leaves are elliptical, basal leaves are oblong
- All leaves have white midrib and wavy margins

Flowers and fruit:

- Flowers are bright yellow with four petals
- Seed pod is brown, 1-1.5 inches in length, holding 15-30 seeds
- Pod is tacky to the touch
- Flower is slightly larger than other yellow mustards and is sweet smelling

Ecology:

- Elongated mustard is native to Africa, Asia, and Europe
 - The only known location in Colorado is located along the Fremont and Chaffee county line, infesting approximately 100 acres
 - Nevada is the only other state currently reporting this weed (The National Plant database also lists Oregon as having a population in 1980)
 - Scientific information about this species is limited
-

Watch List Species

Wooly distaff thistle,
Carthamus lanatus
Family: Asteraceae, Sunflower



Wooly distaff thistle
Photo courtesy of Joe
DiTomaso

Biology:

- This sunflower family or composite plant is an annual
- Reproduces from seed.
- Favors range and pasture lands

Stems/Leaves:

- Grows up to 3 1/2 feet
- Leaves are alternate, clasping and deeply toothed, with stout spines on the margin
- Leaves are glandular with cobweb-like hairs in axils
- Stems are persistent after desiccation

Flowers:

- Flowers are yellow with red veins in spiny heads
- Fruit are straw colored, brown and sometimes black
- Inner portion of flower may have a ring of black scales
- Spines are fleshier than yellow star thistle

Ecology

- This weed was discovered and eradicated in Rangely, Colorado in 2010
- It is considered an A-list species in OR and B-list in CA
- Recreation, haying and grazing often lead to the spread of this species
- It is unpalatable to wildlife and livestock
- This Watch List species is native to Egypt, Turkey, and Europe