

Award of Honorary Membership in the California Weed Science Society



Honorary Members: Conrad Skimina, Don E. Koehler, and Nathan Dechoretz

To: Nathan Dechoretz
Date: January 21, 2003

Nate is the Chief of Integrated Pest Control Branch the California, Department of Food and Agriculture Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services. This is only the most recent of his responsibilities since beginning his “second” career at CDFA in 1988. After finishing his undergraduate work at the University of Arizona, Nate’s first “20-year career” was with the USDA-Agricultural Research Service Aquatic Weed Research Laboratory on the UC Davis campus beginning in 1968, and where his research included methods for eradication of hydrilla, efficacy of new aquatic herbicides and improvement in controlling weeds in irrigation systems. Now, as Branch Chief, he currently oversees the following CDFA Programs:

- Hydrilla Eradication Program
- Weed and Vertebrate Program
- Weed Management Area Program
- Vertebrate Pest Control Research Program
- Biological Control Program
- Pink Bollworm Program
- Curly Top Virus Program
- Tristeza Program

Nate's professional affiliations include:

- Aquatic Plant Management Society
- Western Weed Coordinating Committee – Past President (1997-1998)
- Western Society of Weed Science
- Western Aquatic Plant Management Society – Past President (1992) and current Secretary Treasurer
- Western Regional Panel for Aquatic Nuisance Species – Current California Alternate Representative to Executive Committee
- California Vertebrate Pest Control Research Advisory Committee
- California Interagency Noxious Weed Coordinating Committee
- CAL/FED Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Committee
California Exotic Pest Plant Council

Throughout his career at ARS and CDFA, Nate has steadily contributed his time and expertise to the functioning and mission of CWSS, including many memorable presentations on aquatic weed research and on eradication programs for hydrilla, and other invasive weeds. Most directly, however, from 1988-1990, Nate has served as Secretary, Program Chair and President of CWSS. His leadership and enthusiasm are contagious, and are well appreciated by all of us. The California Weed Science Society therefore recognizes Nate as a Honorary Member for his long-term support and hands-on efforts in support of weed science throughout the past 30 years.

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To: Conrad Skimina

Date: January 21, 2003

Conrad Skimina has had an active and very productive career working in Weed Science in a nursery operation (Monrovia Nursery) in southern and central California for nearly 40 years. Conrad has been an active member of the California Weed Science Society, providing effective communications on weed management in nurseries through numerous presentations CWSS meetings, and through effective, active participation in other related groups in California.

Conrad received his undergraduate and masters degrees from University of California, Riverside. His Masters of Science work, in the Social Science Department at UCR, focused on soil particle size distribution and longevity in artificial container mixes.

Conrad was research director of Monrovia Nursery, Azusa, CA for 38 years. He is semi-retired and is emeritus from this nursery, but continues active involvement with the nursery. While at the nursery Conrad was farsighted enough to recognize the need for water conservation and for wastewater management at nurseries. He has developed recycling procedures for water and by products of the nursery as a savings mechanism before there was major interest in off-site pesticide concerns. He was especially interested in herbicides that could be effective and safe to use in a nursery environment. Consequently, he conducted research on all new pesticides that could be used in the nursery, often assisting the chemical company with data for registration and labeling. He developed the facilities, including recycling plans, for Monrovia's 434-acre nursery site in Visalia. He has authored over 900 research reports while at the nursery and has received many awards for his research. The most prestigious award is the B.Y. Morrison Award from the American Society of Horticultural Science for outstanding contributions to the U.S. nursery industry and the California Association of Nurserymen's' Research Award for outstanding contributions to the California Nursery industry.

Though Conrad has stepped down from full-time duties, the nursery business stays in the family since his son also worked at the Monrovia Nursery for some 10 years. Conrad lives in the Fallbrook area of southern California.

The California Weed Science Society is proud to recognize Conrad's achievements in nursery weed management, water recycling and waste management and welcomes him as an Honorary Member.

Award of Honorary Membership in the California Weed Science Society

To: Dr. Don E. Koehler
Date: January 21, 2003

Don is a Senior Environmental Research Scientist in the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, a division of the Department in the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). He has accrued 20 years exciting years of experience in this position, in which his area of specialization is Plant Physiology and herbicide registration issues.

Don earned his B.S. in Agricultural Science at the University of Illinois and an M.S. in Plant Physiology at Purdue University. Don completed his Ph.D. in plant biochemistry from Michigan State University, 1972 and conducted post-doctoral research at the University of Chicago and at UC Riverside, MS in Plant Physiology – Purdue University. He also served on the faculty and graduate faculty at Texas A & M University prior to joining CDPR.

His current scientific responsibilities include review of efficacy data for herbicides, plant growth regulators, and spray adjuvants. He reviews phytotoxicity data for all products. Importantly for University and other governmental researchers, Don reviews and approves the Research Authorizations, which provide the California permit for experimental pesticide field trials. He also coordinates the Departmental review of Research Authorizations for products of biotechnology, and assists with other matters pertaining to biotechnology.

Hi agricultural foundations began as a youngster on a corn/soybean farm in Illinois. this background and understanding, coupled with his professional expertise and commitment, has been a very positive benefit for us at CWSS. Don has been a member of CWSS since 1983 and served both as a Director and on the Steering Committee, as well as presenting many information talks on pesticide regulatory issues affecting us all. He also a member of the Weed Science Society of America, Western Society of Weed Science, American Society of Plant Biologists, American Society of Agronomy, Plant Growth Regulator Society of America, and past President and Fellow of the Western Plant Growth Regulator Society.

The Board of Directors is proud to award Don this Honorary Membership for his contribution to the California Weed Science Society. We know he'll hang this plaque on the wall near his wine barrels that he intends to fill with vintages from his new grapes in the coming years.