

Name: Kris McNaughton

Occupation: Research Technician

Previous work and volunteer experience in Weed Science:

I got my first taste of Weed Science as a summer student at the Huron Research Station in Exeter, Ontario where I worked for three summers. Following my undergraduate degree I completed my MSc with François Tardif looking at the molecular basis of group 2 resistance in pigweed and then began work as a technician at the University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus. I've been at Ridgetown for 20 years and while I've primarily worked in vegetable crop weed control, I have also worked with cover crops, field crops and recropping issues. In 2012 I also completed my PhD with Darren Robinson looking at cumulative herbicide stress on processing tomatoes.



Aside from work I am involved with my local 4-H Association, have helped out at Campus events and have spoken to several horticultural and Girl Guides groups on weed/wildflower identification and invasive plants.

How did you become involved with CWSS and when?

Well, I've been involved for awhile since the first conference I attended was the ECW-CEM meeting in 1999 in Ottawa!

What has the extent of your involvement been? (i.e. have you served on committees/executive?)

Since my first ECW-CEM meeting, I've been fortunate to attend several CWSS annual meetings and at one point sat on the board as the Graduate Student representative while I was working on my PhD in 2010.

Favourite memory/experience in your weed science career to date?

As a field technician you get pretty used to backpacking herbicides on test plots, but for a few years in addition to my normal spray schedule I got to 'blast' tomato and sweet corn plants with silica beads to simulate hail damage. The entire production was pretty comical to watch with our generator, sand blaster, two summer students holding the fire hose up off the crops to avoid squishing them and me moving down rows 'shooting' silica beads at the crops we wanted to damage. You never entirely know what new projects you will get year-to-year.

What is your favourite weed and why?

For me it kind of depends on what context you are asking. Redroot pigweed will always be near and dear to my heart because I worked with it so much during my Master's, but if I was going purely on looks, I would likely pick Flower-of-An-Hour. It has an attractive bloom that reminds me of my time at the Huron Research Station.

What are your career goals/future plans in weed science (if you are comfortable sharing)?

I enjoy tackling new challenges and would like to continue doing community outreach and working with various grower groups. I love when I'm able to share information that might help growers and industry with their operation or business and then they, in turn, share what they are seeing out in the fields with me; which definitely helps me with my research!