

This month's profile is of Dr. Shaun Sharpe. Shaun has recently been hired as a Research Scientist at AAFC Saskatoon, and since we've decided he'll soon be a vibrant member of CWSS we thought you should get to know him a bit better! Read on to learn more about Shaun



Previous work and volunteer experience in Weed Science: I spent two years as a postdoctoral associate at the Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, University of Florida, at Balm, Florida, under the supervision of Nathan Boyd (*Editor's note: Nathan was a CWSS member while he was at Dalhousie!*). During this time I developed artificial intelligence for weed detection and precision spraying technology, studied germination and emergence of weeds, and evaluated herbicides. My Ph.D. (2017) was also at the University of Florida studying weed management in strawberries, looking at gaining control of black medic using clopyralid by evaluating crop safety, weed emergence, growth and development, dose response, uptake and translocation, and spray penetration. During my M.Sc. (2008), I used a hyperspectral radiometer to try to detect weeds in wild blueberry production. (*Editor's note: Shaun grew up in Amherst, Nova Scotia, so really he's just come back home to the great white north.*)

How did you become involved with CWSS and when? I became involved after I accepted this position with AAFC. During my time in Nova Scotia, weeds were only a component of my project and I never had opportunity to interact with the society. (*Editor's note: I'm not sure that we're giving him a choice on being involved... welcome to CWSS Shaun!*)

Favorite memory/experience in your weed science career to date? Field work, when stumbling upon wildlife. Be it bears and deer in Nova Scotia or gators and bobcats in Florida. It's always a good reminder that we are sharing the environment with nature and wildlife and they will invade a field as much as we are invading their home.

What is your favorite weed and why? My favorite weed is black medic (*Medicago lupulina* L.). While I am sure this will change, it has been the weed which has challenged me the most to understand its ecology. I've grown much as a scientist studying it and its sometimes unpredictable interaction with the environment.

What are your career goals/future plans in weed science?

Developing decision support systems and precision technology to aid and assist producers in getting information, making informed decisions, and reducing costs associated with production. I also seek to solve problems facing producers to make them more competitive in the current market.

Welcome back to Canada Shaun. We are looking forward to getting to know you at Kelowna and future meetings.