

Name: Breanne Tidemann

Occupation: Weed Scientist with AAFC

Previous work and volunteer experience in Weed Science:

My interest in ag research started when I worked as a summer student for AAFC Scott on the weed management crew. I worked as a crop scout for Cargill and as a summer student for Dow (when they were still called Dow) before starting my M.Sc. in Weed Science in 2011, then on to my Ph.D in 2014. I started with AAFC partway through my Ph.D. in 2016.



How did you become involved with CWSS and when?

My first CWSS meeting was in November 2011 in Niagara Falls. I attended and presented as a grad student – and learned I really needed to work on my presentation skills to compete with the presentation level of the CWSS students!!

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

I served as the graduate student representative from 2015-2017 which got me involved with the Membership Committee and the Communication Committee which I still serve on today. I also am the current Secretary for the society, host the archives and manage the social media. I've served on 4 Local Arrangements committees (Edmonton 2015, Moncton 2016, Saskatoon 2017, Kelowna 2019).

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

I'm not sure I can pick one! I've had some cool experiences like representing CWSS at the International Weed Science Congress in Prague in 2016, doing a 3 week study tour with Michael Walsh in Australia, etc. but I think the most fun is just being in a field or plot with other folks who love weeds, or seeing a student become fascinated by weeds! CWSS each year is also wonderful memories – getting to sit and talk weeds with other #WeedNerds can't be beat.

What is your favorite weed and why?

I have a love/hate relationship with false cleavers (*Galium* spp.). I think their stickiness in plant and stem to facilitate dispersal and growth are SO fascinating – but I really detest the welts that

come from working with them! I have a scar on the back of my leg from a biomass where I made the silly mistake of wearing capris to beat the heat while dealing with cleavers.

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

I'm hoping to keep working with AAFC in weed science, hopefully doing work that is valuable and impactful to the industry and to farmers! I'm hoping to keep learning and trying new things, and just keep exploring the fascinating world of weeds. Two specific goals: I hope to see harvest weed seed control adopted more in Canada and would love to be involved in supervising graduate students.