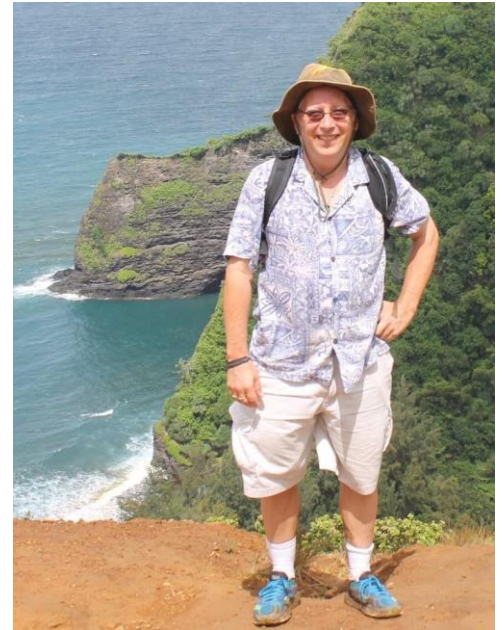


Name: David R. Clements

Occupation: Professor at Trinity Western University, Langley, BC

Previous work and volunteer experience in Weed Science:

I did my undergraduate thesis with Paul Cavers at Western University on yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*) and also worked for him one summer as a research assistant, busy planting and caring for Ph.D. student Brenda Frick's white cockle (*Silene alba*). I did a three-year postdoc with Clarence Swanton at University of Guelph working on meshing ecological theory with Integrated Weed Management. There I got to work with many members of the Swanton lab who are involved in CWSS to this day, or others that have gone on to represent the legendary Swanton brand internationally like Anita Dille, Steve Knezevic, David Chikoye, Stephan Weise, Joseph Oryokot and many others.



How did you become involved with CWSS and when?

The first meeting I attended was in 1996 in Victoria when it was being discussed whether CWSS should go big or go home (it wasn't officially the CWSS yet). However, once I attended the fabulous 2000 meeting in Banff chaired with great zeal by Denise Maurice, I was forever hooked and I have only missed two CWSS meetings since then (Quebec City in 2001 and Halifax in 2022).

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

I have served on the awards committee and was on the CWSS executive from 2010-2015 and was President in 2014 when we hosted the meeting in my backyard in Vancouver alongside the WSSA. I have been on the local arrangements committees, often in a co-chair role, for several other meetings: Victoria (2006), Kelowna (2019) and Virtual (2022). "Virtual" was supposed to be Vancouver, and very nearly was.

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

My first trip to China in 2010. In 2010 I was teaching a course on Hawai'i when I got an email message that was to have a major effect on my career. By the way, teaching my Trinity Western University tropical botany course on Hawai'i every other year also creates good memories. The email was from Prof. Fudou Zhang of the Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences (YAAS) in Kunming, China, inviting me to visit and provide advice on mile-a-minute weed, *Mikania micrantha*. My first visit in 2010 was epic not least of all due to the seriousness of *Mikania*, and was followed by many other visits and much collaboration with YAAS scientists and a sabbatical with Leslie Weston in Australia – who was on many of the Yunnan trips with me.

What is your favourite weed and why?

Knotweed (*Reynoutria* spp.). It is a weed that has it all – clonal growth, growth in a variety of habitats, seed production, genetic diversity, and its ability to disperse exacerbated by climate change.

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

sharing)? My goal is to continue work at two levels – my experimental work with weeds like knotweed, and my more cerebral work contributing to the literature on weed ecology as I started with Clarence Swanton during my postdoc. I aim to focus on climate change and weed invasion, particularly weed invasion along rivers subject to more and more frequent flooding. I also plan to further reflect on how Christian environmental stewardship calls us keep our earth from becoming a “planet of weeds.”