



## President's Message: Happy Holidays to All Our Members

December 14, 2011

Dear Fellow Members,

Happy Holidays! As we begin another year, we look forward to good things continuing in our Society since we have plenty of tasks ahead. There will be very important conferences: for further information please, visit our website <http://www.internationalragweedsociety.org>; you can also read there the Minutes of the General Assembly held in Ascona, Switzerland in November.

### Working groups

Our Working groups cover all areas related to theoretical and applied research related to the spread of ragweed.

**Biological control:** L. Kiss, D. Coutinot

**Integrated management:** C. Bohren, T. Komives, K. Elias, G. Popow, E. Stefanic

**Biology of ragweed** (ecology, genetics, etc.): G. Karrer, E. Stefanic, L. Kiss, B. Mitic, K. Elias, U. Starfinger, A. Seliger, H. Méon

**Pollen and allergy / health impact:** M. Thibaudon, B. Clot, M. A. Seliger, B. Mitic, E. Stefanic, C. Déchamp, M. Bonini

**Financial impact** (costs of ragweed): T. Komives, I. Stefanic, M.A. Chapgier, M. Bonini, J.L. Da Passano

**Communication and education:** M. Bonini, C. Déchamp, M. Thibaudon, A. Seliger, B. Mitic

**Regulation - International collaboration** (official): M.A. Chapgier, J.L. Da Passano, T. Komives, M. Fiori, U. Starfinger, D. Coutinot

**International conferences:** M. Fiori, B. Clot, M. Thibaudon, J.L. Da Passano, I. Stefanic, C. Bohren, MA Chapgier

**Databases, mapping:** U. Starfinger, C. Bohren, E. Stefanic, B. Mitic, G. Karrer, K. Elias, H. Méon, C. Déchamp

I would like to urge the Chairs of the Working groups to start summarizing the new findings in their fields so that we can outline the program of our Society in time. Please contact the Chair of any, or all, discuss ways in which you might participate in their activities, and plan on attending their meetings.

And just as important, or maybe even more important, our Society needs volunteers to help develop our projects and programs. If interested, please do not hesitate to contact me at [tkom@nki.hu](mailto:tkom@nki.hu).

### **2<sup>nd</sup> International Ragweed Conference**

The conference will be held in Lyon, France, in March 28-29, 2012, just before the “Ambrosia 2012” conference organized by the French Ministry of Health. Please note that the deadline for sending the title of your oral or poster presentation (abstracts should be sent until January 15, 2012) and enjoying the benefits of early bird registration is December 31, 2011. In addition, please send your membership fee: there is a reduced registration fee for our members. In order to make your registration simple, please follow the directions of the link:

<http://ambrosia2012.univ-lyon1.fr/en>.

### **Membership**

Together with this message you will receive a notification inviting you to renew your membership with the society. Certainly, in order to thrive as a civic organization, besides new ideas, we need new members. When talking to colleagues, neighbors, friends and relatives, suggest they visit our Society’s website and encourage them to join the Society and do their part to control the spread of ragweed. Bring their attention to the purchasing of our Society membership. If they do not already know, our Society membership comes at a mere cost of 10 Euros (students and seniors 5 Euros). As a member, they will be entitled to benefits and privileges, such as entitlement to members-only events, priority in registration for events over non-members, and opportunity to vote and have a say at the Society’s programs.

To all those who have already signed up for membership, I would like to say a big thank you! I warmly welcome you as a member of the International Ragweed Society. To the rest, please do not deliberate any further and get your membership today!

I look forward to meeting you at upcoming events, your participation in the Society in the New Year, and thank you for your continued support and involvement. I wish you the best in 2012!

Tamas Komives  
President of the International Ragweed Society