To bring attention to the importance of crop wild relatives to the success of our food supply, CSSA put together Crop Wild Relative Week 2018. Our hope is to raise the visibility of this important area of crop science as well as to the importance of wild species themselves. A team of CSSA members worked with CSSA staff to create a website that collects blogs, web stories, journal articles, and other resources to increase public awareness of crop wild relatives (www.crops.org/crop-wild-relative).

Marilyn Warburton, Editor of Crop Science, has been part of the committee working with staff to create materials for Crop Wild Relative Week. Her editorial in the journal’s September–October issue highlights the important scientific aspects of crop wild relatives. “Much of the work done to increase food security in the U.S. and around the world, and especially the breakthroughs created using crop wild relatives, has been done without great fanfare,” Warburton writes. “As long as rows of beautiful fruits and vegetables, breads and pastas, and even meats, eggs, and milk line our grocery shelves, the urgency and importance of the work of plant breeders is often taken completely for granted. The success of past research must not lead to complacency in future funding and prioritization of agricultural science in general, and especially the continued conservation and use of plant germplasm and crop wild relatives.”

To read her entire editorial, visit dx.doi.org/doi:10.2135/cropsci2018.07.0001le.

Crop Wild Relative week will be celebrated 22–29 Sept. 2018. We hope to celebrate this week every year, to keep awareness of the wild and weedy kin of our crops in the public eye!

Check out Marilyn Warburton’s related editorial on this in Crop Science at dx.doi.org/doi:10.2135/cropsci2018.07.0001le.