

Spring News

Re-Cap of Conference 2018

According to the evaluations and feedback that came in; the 2018 Conference proved to be a success. Attendance reached 110, including speakers and exhibitors. There was positive remarks about the speakers, our trade show increased in size, and we acquired more sponsors. Fun was had at the pools, and continuing education units were available for every session, in one or more categories.

Winners of the raffle items were:

Gun winners:

Kyle Kinn of TrueGreen Terry (Billings)
Tyler Clark of Miles City Motors

Tablet winners:

Dan Devore of 2M Company
Chris Anderson of Frontier Lawn and Landscaping

Night at Fairmont Hot Springs w/\$50 Gift Certificate

Rick Jennison of Jennison Tree Service

Winner of Chainsaw donated by Intermountain STIHL and RDO Equipment

Dudley Marburger, of Dudley's Trees

50/50 Winner

Carol Cherry took home just over \$500!

Congratulations to all the winners!



Bing Cherry accepting the gun for Tyler Clark of Miles City Motors



Robert Worden accepting the gun for Kyle Kinn of TruGreen Billings Branch in Terry



Dan Devore of 2M Company
Samsung Table Winner



Chris Anderson of Frontier
Lawn & Landscaping
Samsung Table Winner

The proceeds from the raffle tickets sales, less expenses, funds the Scholarship Program. Scholarships are awarded to two 4-H clubs, or 4-H individuals, in the amount of \$250 each and one to an FFA member, for \$500. This year with the sale of all the tickets, and amazing prices on the raffle items, we were able to add two more \$250 scholarships for 4-H and increased the FFA scholarship by \$500, making it a \$1,000 scholarship. Information on all the scholarship recipients will be in the summer newsletter.

The board is already in full swing planning for next year's conference. As in years past, Fairmont Hot Springs Resort will be the host location for the 2019 conference. We have looked into other venues for the conference, to see what others have to offer, but found Fairmont Hot Springs Resort has a lot to offer.

There is a lot that goes into planning a conference, not only a location, but, securing speakers, exhibitors and sponsors. With all that is involved, it is never too early to start planning. Please be sure to contact the AMTOPP office or a board member if you have a lead on a speaker, exhibitor or sponsor.

Mark your calendars for next year's conference date: January 27-29, 2019. Hope to see you there!

Your 2018 Committees

Finance - Chairman - Cooper Elwood/Secretary Treasurer, members: Executive Board (Jason Stringer, Sam Strickland, and Robert Dillon)

Legislative - Chairman - Jason Stringer, members: Robert Dillon and Jon Higgins

Public Relations - Chairman - Ed Nolder, members: Chris Anderson and Steve Jonas

Membership - Chairman - Chris Anderson, members: Robert Dillon and Jon Higgins

Education - Chairman - Robert Worden, member: Sam Strickland

Nominating - Chairman - Robert Dillon/Past President, members: Executive Board (Jason Stringer, Sam Strickland, and Robert Dillon)

Ethics - Chairman - Ed Nolder, members Cooper Elwood, and Robert Dillon



Rick Jennison of
Jennison Tree Service
Winner of Night @ Fairmont



Dudley Marburger of
Dudley's Trees
Winner of Chainsaw

President's Message

AMTOPP Members,

After a long, cold, and snowy winter that had me considering a southward migration. I am looking forward, as many of you are, to spring and the renewed life it brings. Soon the grasses, flowers, shrubs, trees, and those pesky weeds will awaken from their long sleep. With their awakening, our work begins.



Speaking of work, I would like to thank my fellow board members, vendors, sponsors, speakers, and AMTOPP's affiliates for their hard work and contributions to AMTOPP's 2018 Winter Conference. As one might imagine, there is a lot of work that goes into putting a conference together. Without the efforts of so many, the task would be daunting. I would also like to thank all the members who attended the conference for their continued support of AMTOPP. Membership attendance is a critical part of making the conference a success.

With AMTOPP's 2018 conference behind us, it is time to start planning next year's conference. As it has for many years, the conference will be held at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort. I encourage AMTOPP's membership to participate in developing the schedule. If you have any ideas or suggestions for topics and speakers, please contact me or any of the board members via telephone or email. In order for the board to make the conference exciting, informative, and ultimately successful, we need the memberships input on what they would like to see at next year's conference. In addition to membership participation in the conference, I would also encourage our membership to participate in AMTOPP's other yearly functions.

July 15-17, the National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP) hosts its' annual Renewal and Remembrance Day event to honor our veterans. The event takes place at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington DC. More than 400 volunteers from around the

nation come together to prune trees, plant trees, fertilize the lawn, fix irrigation issues, and landscape. All working together to beatify our country's most sacred grounds. In addition to the day of service, AMTOPP's representatives will attend Legislative Days on the Hill, giving them an opportunity to visit with their Senators and Congress men and women about Green Industry issues and concerns that affect our membership on both the state and federal levels. For more information Visit: <https://www.landscapeprofessionals.org/nalp/nalp/advocacy/renewal-remembrance.aspx>

August 18, AMTOPP's annual Summerfield Day will take place at Eastern Montana Veterans Cemetery in Miles City. Summer Field Day is another opportunity to give back to our veterans. Volunteers fertilize the lawn, pull weeds, prune and plant trees and perform other grounds maintenance services. This event may offer ISA and MDA credits. More information on Summer Field Day will be available on AMTOPP's Facebook Page in coming weeks and printed in the Summer Quarterly Newsletter. Be sure to visit AMTOPP's Facebook page and provide some feedback.

Finally, September 19, the Annual Saluting Branches event will be held at the Montana State Veterans Cemetery in Helena. Additionally, there may be other locations this event is held at in Montana. Again, this is an opportunity to use your skills and knowledge to improve and beatify our State Veteran's Cemeteries. Saluting Branches is spearheaded by Pat Platenberg from MUCEA. If anyone would like to help facilitate a Saluting Branches event, please contact Pat. For more information visit: <https://www.salutingbranches.org>

Again, I encourage AMTOPP' membership to get involved and participate in AMTOPP's yearly functions. Furthermore, feel free to attend any of the board meetings held throughout the year. The board needs your participation, ideas, input, and feedback to best serve you and the membership as a whole.

Jason Stringer
AMTOPP President 2018

Call To Action! Your Input Is Needed

On Tuesday, April 24, the AMTOPP Board of Directors will be attending a meeting, called by the Montana Department of Agriculture (The Department). The purpose of this meeting is to gain input from stakeholders affected by the Financial Responsibility for Applicators and Aerial Applicators.

The Department brought this up during the 2017 Legislation Session at which time nothing was decided. However, the Legislature put

a sunset on the department's rulemaking authority for this issue, which expires in 2019, unless further legislative action takes place. Currently, the method allows for a \$500 bond (\$1500 for aerial applicators). It was determined during the last Legislative session that further discussion was needed in this area to determine what the proper level of financial responsibility should be.

The AMTOPP Board of Directors is seeking your input on this matter so they can take your comments, concerns, and recommendations to the Department on April 24.

Providing your comments is your opportunity to have your voice heard and aid in the rulemaking that affects your business.

Please send your comments to Jason Stringer, Chairman of the Government/Legislative Committee at jcstringer12365@msm.com or call Jason at 406-268-8733.

Comments can also be sent to the AMTOPP office: amtopp@amtopp.org; or any of the board members, see their contact information on the back of this newsletter.

If you are interested in attending this meeting, please let Jason or the AMTOPP office know so that we can plan accordingly.

Please send your comments as soon as possible so we can prepare for this important meeting.



www.2mco.com

Serving you is our BUSINESS!



Wholesale Supplier of Turf, Landscaping, Water Well,
Irrigation and other water-related products.



2M Billings	800-234-7426	1215 Cordova Street, Billings, MT 59101
2M Bozeman	866-566-8385	165 Quail Run Road, Bozeman, MT 59718
2M Kalispell	866-610-5961	1075 Trumble Creek Road, Kalispell, MT 59901
2M Missoula	800-326-6795	2901 Latimer Street, Missoula, MT 59808

Membership Committee Report

Hello fellow AMTOPP members.

My name is Chris Anderson, your 2018 Chairman of the Membership Committee.

We are well into another year, and even though the snow is deep, I feel spring is here. As I look at our current membership list, I wonder why the list is short, compared to how many companies we have in Montana, that fit into our membership levels. I believe AMTOPP has a lot to offer companies whose business is the application of herbicides and pesticides, as well as those performing tree work.

Why AMTOPP?

- Tap into knowledge - the members that makeup AMTOPP are from a diverse group of companies. Odds are someone has encountered the same situation you may be facing.
- Enhance your reputation - being a member of a trade association helps set you apart by showing your commitment to continuing education and professionalism of the industry
- AMTOPP is an association of members whose work requires certification from regulatory agencies or international society
- Professional Development - Continuing education units can be earned at AMTOPP conferences along with networking opportunities
- Political clout and expertise - one of the permanent committees of AMTOPP is a Legislative/Government Committee. This committee has their ear to what is going on with various regulations that will affect the members and have been instrumental in killing bills that have come before the Legislature. AMTOPP can turn one small voice into a powerful, collective shout.
- AMTOPP provides an opportunity to show your support and honor our Veterans by volunteering their services one day each year to help beautify the grounds of one of Montana's Veterans Facilities.

I am seeking your help in building our membership. If you know of a business or person that would be interested in what AMTOPP has to offer, contact them and encourage them to become a member, or send me their information.

The AMTOPP website is under construction this year, and we hope it will be easier to navigate through. Also, if you haven't been to AMTOPP's Facebook page, I encourage each of you to visit the site (www.facebook.com/amtopp). You can find updates and other valuable information on the site.

As for our next conference, a little tip, Irrigation contractors may have an interest in some of the classes that are in the works.

Thank you and have a great spring.

Chris Anderson
Chairman of Membership
Committee

Best Management Practices for Pesticides Use for Homeowners and Commercial Lawn Care

Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 2018.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) developed voluntary Best Management Practices (BMPs) to bring awareness to homeowners and lawn care companies on proper and judicious use of pesticides for homeowners, lawn care companies, and golf course managers to help protect water resources, humans, and non-target organisms including pollinators

Homeowners and lawn care companies are advised to carefully read, understand, and follow the pesticide product label.

The following are the BMPs for all pesticides used by homeowners and lawn care companies:

Conduct regular scouting to identify pests such as weeds, insects, and diseases, and to assess if pest pressure justifies chemical pest control tactics. Use pesticides only when pest populations reach aesthetic threshold levels or when conditions favor pest development. Consult University of Minnesota Extension on the pest thresholds for lawn and turfgrass management.

Whenever possible, use

non-chemical pest control methods like prevention (sanitation, remove mosquito breeding areas, use of pest free seeds/transplants), physical barriers (landscape fabric, mulch, wraps/cages around plant stem), mechanical (hand removal, hoeing, insect and rodent traps, plant thinning/trimming), cultural practices (timely watering and fertilization, planting turf varieties tolerant to pest pressure), and biological control (promoting beneficial insects).

Use pesticides only when needed and always apply them at labeled rates. Spot treat if the pest population is contained in one or few places and not widely distributed throughout the property. Select pesticides with low toxicity to humans and other non-target organisms, such as pollinators, pets, birds, etc.

Calibrate and inspect application equipment properly prior to pesticide applications. Do not calibrate equipment near ponds, lakes, etc. To prevent contamination of water sources while filling a sprayer, do not place the end of the hose into the spray solution.

See Management page 6



Wilbur-Ellis – here to help with all of your turf and ornamental needs from start to finish:

- Seed
- Plant Protection Products
- Controlled Release Liquid and Granular Fertilizer
- Custom Blended Fertilizer

Montana

Billings | Mike Doty 406-248-1176
Great Falls | Rob Warehime 406-727-4500

Washington

Spokane | Tim Magney 509-928-4512



pro.wilburellis.com

For information only. Not a label. Prior to use, always read and follow the product label directions. WILBUR-ELLIS logo, Ideas to Grow With, LINK and WIL-GRO are registered trademarks of Wilbur-Ellis Company. K-0015-210

Arborist News

Article from MT State Director,
Patrick Plantenberg, RMC-ISA MT Director
March 19, 2018

Montana ISA-RMC Update Montana Nursery and Landscape Association Green EXPO

I attended and manned a booth at the January 10-11 Montana Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA) Green EXPO in Missoula, MT. ISA-RMC sponsored a booth again and supported the urban forestry track with the Montana Urban and Community Forestry Association (MUCFA), and the MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Urban and Community Forestry Program. The highlight of the EXPO was Greg Mortensen's talk on the North Dakota State University tree research on new cold hardy cultivars.

Think Trees Conference

As an ISA-RMC Board member, I attended the Think Trees Conference in Albuquerque, NM January 18-19, 2018. The event drew over 300 people and has been running for over 30 years. This year's speakers include both James Urban and Jim Gilman. Gilman gave two incredible talks on how to write bid packages and the importance of pruning when you plant trees. Another great program was presented by Nancy Buley from JF Schmidt. She highlighted the new JF Schmidt cultivars adapted to the New Mexico area and then showed pictures of them growing in the local area.

Association of Montana Turf, Ornamental, and Pest Professionals Winter Conference

I attended and manned a booth at the January 28-30 Association of Montana Turf, Ornamental, and Pest Professionals (AMTOPP) winter conference at Fairmont Hot Springs. ISA-RMC sponsored a booth again and supported the urban forestry track with MUCFA, and the MT DNRC-UCF Program. Josh Stoychoff, ISA-RMC member and DNRC Service Forester from Lewistown presented on tree inventories at the conference. Jason Stringer, ISA-member and owner of Tree Amigos Tree Service from Great Falls, MT is the new President of AMTOPP. The conference was well attended and a lot of great networking occurred throughout the conference and in the hot pools! AMTOPP offered ISA exams again this year.

Right Tree Right Place Class

Josh Stoychoff, ISA-RMC Certified Arborist and MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Service Forester from Lewistown, taught an adult education tree class on Right Tree Right Place in Lewistown March 12th. About 15 students attended the course.

Montana Tree Pest Workgroup Meeting

On March 13, I attended the Montana Tree Pest Workgroup Meeting for the Montana Invasive Species Council representing MUCFA,

the Montana Nursery and Landscape Association, the Association of Montana Turf, Ornamental, and Pest Professionals, and ISA-RMC. The informal group invites members of all groups in Montana interested in tree pests to share information and identify needed actions on coordination, prevention, detection, rapid response, and control of tree pests. The meeting was a tabletop exercise on how the incident command system would be used to deal with an alien invader when it arrives in Montana.

Growing Greener Communities Workshop

MUCFA, the MT DNRC Urban Forestry Program, and the ISA-RMC hosted the Growing Greener Communities Workshop in Lewistown, MT March 15 and 16. This workshop occurs every other year in Montana alternating with the Northern Rockies Tree School. The retreat helps small towns with their urban forestry programs and trains and inspires Tree Board members. Growing Greener Communities is a gathering of tree board and municipal members to help them understand urban and community forestry. The thought is to help with the daunting task of maintaining trees, while demonstrating the resources that are available to communities. Topics ranged from when to schedule maintenance work to acquiring grant funds. The target audience was smaller communities throughout Montana.

The workshop was well attended by many small towns, two Conservation Districts, as well as representatives from Billings, and Kalispell. Many communities shared information about their tree programs. The highlight of the conference was the presentation of MUCFA's annual awards for 2017. Roundup, MT was presented with the Outstanding Urban Forestry Project Award. ISA-RMC member and City of Billings Arborist Steve Riley was presented with the Outstanding Urban Forestry Leader/Volunteer Award. Townsend, MT was presented the Outstanding Community Forest Award. ISA-RMC member Scott Bernhardt and NorthWestern Energy Company (NWE) was presented the Outstanding Urban Forestry Corporate Sponsor Award. Scott is the Vegetation Manager for NWE and has presented at several training events in Montana. NWE is the largest corporate sponsor for urban forestry projects in Montana.

Montana Training Opportunities in 2018

Plans are developing for several training events in Montana. ISA-RMC member and City Forester from Bozeman, Alex Nordquest and his staff, have agreed to coordinate and host a two-day entry level climber workshop as well as a one-day advanced climber workshop in Bozeman April 11-13 sponsored by ISA-RMC, Montana Urban and Community Forestry Association (MUCFA), and the City of Bozeman. Two aerial rescue classes are also being offered in Bozeman. Check out

**Attec
Service
Group**

**Service Providers of Aerial
Devices, Chippers, and now
Spray Equipment!**

Chris Whitmore
Chris.Whitmore@Attec.com
877-GO-ALTEC

TREE, LAWN, AND PEST CONTROL SPRAYING EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCTS

Complete line of lawn, tree, pest control, and industrial vegetation sprayers, pumps, tanks, hose, handguns, and parts



Professional health care products for trees, shrubs, and lawns.

Call today for a free catalog or visit us online at www.warnechemical.com



2680 Commerce Road, Rapid City SD 57702
800-658-5457 * 605-342-7644 * 605-342-4036 Fax

Arborist News Continued

the details and sign up at the MUCFA website: <http://mucfa.com/get-involved/treeworker>.

ISA-RMC member and Lewis and Clark County Extension Agent, Brent Sarchet, has agreed to coordinate a Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) course May 23-25 sponsored by ISA-RMC, MUCFA, and the City of Helena in Helena, MT. ISA-RMC 2017 Arborist of the Year Vince Urbina from Grand Junction, CO is teaching the course. Check out the details and sign up on the ISA-RMC website at: <http://isarmc.org/meetinginfo.php?id=24&ts=1517246843>

Vince is also teaching a Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Renewal Course in Helena, MT on May 22 for any of you that are within 18 months of needing requalification. Check out the details and sign up on the ISA-RMC website at: <http://isarmc.org/meetinginfo.php?id=25&ts=1519841643>

Montana members of ISA-RMC are trying to sponsor a tree climbing championship in Montana in 2018. The winning Montana ISA-RMC member will win a free trip and can compete in the ISA-RMC tree climbing championship in Ft. Collins, Colorado in July. I need someone or several people to help coordinate the Montana Tree Climbing Competition. I have several members interested in participating.

ISA-RMC member and Kalispell, MT Parks Superintendent, Fred Bicha is offering ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, and Municipal Specialist exams in Kalispell June 22. Check out the details and sign up on the ISA-RMC website at: <http://isarmc.org/meetinginfo.php?id=27&ts=1518575924>

The next chance for ISA exams will be at the Northern Rockies Tree School in Cody, WY in October. We would like to sponsor aerial lift and tree climber practical skills tests in Kalispell, Great Falls, and Bozeman in 2018. Let me know if you can help or want to coordinate a training or testing event in your area. We also need more proctors for the exams in Montana. If you are interested in becoming an exam proctor so we can get more people certified, please contact me at m2andp2@mt.net.

ISA-RMC Annual Conference

On the way to Albuquerque in January, my wife and I stopped in Grand Junction to meet with the organization committee for the ISA-RMC Annual Conference to be held September 17-18 in Grand Junction. What a great event they are planning and what a great city to host the conference. Please mark your calendars and bring your partner to the event! Make sure you plan to attend the pre-and post-conference events in the area.

Saluting Branches

Plans are developing for Saluting Branches events with our Montana urban forestry partners. AMTOPP and ISA-RMC will be holding a Saluting Branches event in Miles City at the Veterans' Cemetery at AMTOPP's Summer Field Day August 17. I will be site leader again for the Saluting Branches event in Helena at the State Veterans' Cemetery and VA facilities on September 19. Please plan on participating at these great events.

MT League of Cities and Towns (MLCT) Conference

John Ball has signed a contract to present three talks at the MLCT Conference in Butte, MT September 26-28, 2018. He will talk on "Trees Have Value", "Trees Require Care", and "Trees and the Law". This is the first time urban forestry has been on the MLCT agenda. Please consider attending. The DNRC Urban Forestry Program had Davey Tree Expert Company completed a full analysis of 61 MT community tree inventories. A summary of the results was presented at the Northern Rockies Tree School. Data summaries for each city's inventory are complete. Final statewide results will be in the final report when completed. Josh Stoychoff, MT DNRC Forester and Urban Forester from Lewistown will present a summary of the Statewide Tree

Assessment report at the conference.

Northern Rockies Tree School

The 9th Annual Northern Rockies Tree School (NRTS) will be held on October 10-12, 2018 in Cody, WY with a pre-conference workshop on the 10th. The theme will be "Trees Below Ground". Dr. Les Werner from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point will be one of the speakers. Les has co-authored several publications including ISA's Best Management Practices for Tree Fertilization and an excellent new book on Urban Forestry. Les covers many arboriculture topics but his specialty is soils, nutrients, root functions, etc. The Buffalo Bill Cody Irma has been reserved for an evening social/banquet/band again.

Montana Trails, Recreation, and Parks Association (MTRPA) Annual Conference

MUCFA, DNRC Urban Forestry Program, and ISA-RMC will help sponsor and have a booth again at the MTRPA Annual Conference on October 15-17 in Helena, MT. We look forward to working with their association as many of the municipal forestry departments around the state are housed in city parks departments. Watch for more information at: (<https://www.facebook.com/montanatrailsrecreationparks/>).

Montana Urban and Community Forestry Association Update

The MUCFA Executive Committee had a meeting March 15th in Lewistown, MT to plan 2019 work. MUCFA members stayed over and attended the Growing Greener Communities Workshop (see above).

As a public service, late last fall MUCFA assumed the role of applying for additional grant funds from companies, foundations, and other organizations to make up the Montana DNRC UCF Program Development Grant \$34,000 shortfall. To date MUCFA has been able to secure funding to help with projects in Bozeman, Columbia Falls, Roundup, and Missoula.

Please join MUCFA for 2018 at <http://mucfa.com/get-involved>. Get involved and let's see what committed people can accomplish for trees in Montana. Check out the MUCFA website and Facebook pages at: <http://mucfa.com/> and www.facebook.com/MontanaUrbanForestry.

Thank you.

Patrick Plantenberg
m2andp2@mt.net
1-406-431-4615



Management continued from page 3

Use an anti-siphon/backflow prevention.

Avoid foliar pesticide applications if a rain event is expected soon after application. Do not apply pesticides directly to any water body unless labeled for aquatic pest control.

Manage pesticide drift by following spray drift management recommendations/requirements given on the product label. For example, do not apply pesticide when wind is blowing >15 mph or under temperature inversion conditions.



May 11 - Board Meeting - Perkins Restaurant
526 2nd Ave N, Great Falls, MT 59401

August 17 - Board Meeting
Miles City, Location To Be Determined

August 18 - Summer Field Day
Eastern Montana Veterans Cemetery

September 19 - Saluting Branches
Fort Harrison Veterans Cemetery
& Grounds - Helena
Another location may be announced later

November 2 - Board Meeting -
Perkins Restaurant - Cedar St @ I-15, Helena

January 27 - Board Meeting - Pre Conference
Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

January 29 - Board Meeting - Post Conference
Fairmont Hot Springs Resort



**Providing an entire range of products
for structural pest & turf needs.**

Equipment • Fertilizers • Fungicides • Herbicides • Insecticides

[Learn more at PestWeb.com](http://PestWeb.com)

Mark Nelson
Sales Mgr Western Region
801 933 6132; 801 243 9350
mark.nelson@univar.com

The right product is just the beginning.™

© 2016 Univar Inc. All rights reserved. UNIVAR, the hexagon, and other identified trademarks are the property of Univar Inc., Univar USA Inc.

Look at active ingredient(s) on each product and keep record of active ingredients used for a specific pest. Avoid using same pesticide products within same chemical group or mode of action over an extended period of time to prevent pesticide resistance. Consult the [University of Minnesota Extension on rotation of pesticide products with different chemical groups](#).

Check the product label for specific requirements for pollinators, such as honey bees, to minimize exposure to non-target organisms. Pesticide labels may contain statements on pollinator protection under "Environmental Hazards" or under the "Bee Advisory" box or under specific use. For example, "Do not apply this product while bees are foraging". Look for the bee sign on the label. Ensure all pollinator requirements on the pesticide label are followed while applying pesticides.

Lawn care companies must always place warning signs immediately after pesticide application to caution neighbors. Homeowners are also encouraged to use signs to caution other people in the neighborhood. Place signs where everyone can easily see them before entering the treated area. Prior to pesticide application, communicate with your neighbors to keep kids or pets off the treated area. Follow all [warning sign requirements for applying pesticides to turf](#) (PDF: 114 KB / 1 page).

Clean pesticide application

equipment regularly. Follow product label directions for cleaning application equipment and disposing the leftover pesticide solution. Check pesticide equipment for any leaks during cleaning.

Store pesticide products in a safe and secure place which is out of reach of children. Keep pesticides in their original containers and placed in a secondary container to prevent any potential leaks from wear and tear of the original containers.

Always use the label approved Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The use of PPE is intended to prevent pesticide exposure to the applicator by creating a barrier between the applicator and pesticide. Keep PPE in a clean and safe place to avoid contamination. Always keep the product label or Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for emergency situation.

Spread the word in your community about these BMPs to increase awareness regarding the proper use of pesticides. Homeowners and lawn care companies are highly encouraged to contact the University of Minnesota Extension or the MDA with any questions related to pesticide use for lawn care and ornamental.

The MDA has also developed more detailed Best Management Practices for Turfgrass Pesticides and can be viewed at:

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting/bmps/turfbmps.aspx>

2018 Conference Sponsors

2M Company
Dan Devore

**Crop Production
Services (CPS)**
Tom Gritzmacher

**Intermountain
STIHL**
Danny Lamb

**Action Print
& Promotional
Products**

**Dillon
Distributors**
Robert Dillon

**Missoula County
Weed District
& Extension
Service**
Jerry Marks

Arborwear
Kevin Tierney

**DNRC/MUCFA/
ISA-RMC**

Broadwater Ford
Bill Malone

Patrick Plantenberg

**NorMont Equip-
ment Company**
Jessie Carr

Chemtica USA
Jarmila Ruzicka

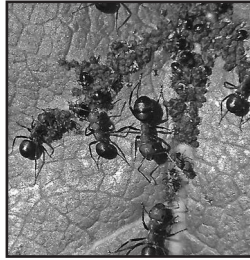
**Fairmont Hot
Springs Resort**

Wilbur-Ellis
Rob Warehime

From Our Affiliates

My Tree is Looking a Bit “Antsy”

*Submitted by: Dr. Laurie Kerzicnik
MSU Extension - Schutter Lab*



If you get a call from a client concerned about ants infesting her tree, you might want to take a closer look. It is likely that ants are not the problem; a large group of ants running up and down the tree might indicate that you have an aphid issue occurring somewhere on the tree.

Aphids can build up in large numbers on trees and shrubs, as adults can produce three to five young per day. They feed on the sap of plants, causing plant dieback, reduced vigor, and leaf curling. They also excrete large amounts of honeydew. This can be a nuisance on decks and sidewalks and can also attract sooty mold, which turns black and is unsightly to homeowners. It is this same honeydew that attracts the ants. The ants harvest the honeydew from the aphids, and it is a treasured food source for them. In return, the ants protect the aphids from their natural enemies, such as ladybeetles, spiders, lacewings, and predatory wasps. They fend off any unwanted visitors. Our most common ant species on trees is the field or thicket ant, *Formica* sp.

A good integrated pest management strategy for controlling aphids would be to start off washing aphids from leaves with strong jets of water; this will knock down and kill many of the pests. Repeat this on hot days. If chemical treatments are necessary, check for beneficial insects on the leaves first. If natural enemies, such as ladybeetles, are present, consider delaying your treatment to allow them to reduce aphid densities. Use reduced-risk insecticides to minimize effects on beneficial insects. Some examples of contact insecticides in this category include insecticidal soap and horticultural oil, which must be applied before any leaf curling symptoms occur. For systemic insecticides, reduced-risk products include the active ingredients imidacloprid and dinotefuran. Make sure to follow the label to minimize impacts on pollinators.

Investing in your Education with the Urban IPM Program

*Submitted by: Sarah Eilers
MSU Extension - Schutter Lab*

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest,” is a quote by Benjamin Franklin. He understood that no one can afford to stop learning. Learning keeps us inspired, increases self-confidence, keeps one current and helps us identify opportunities to grow.

The professional advantages of the Montana State University Urban Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Certification Program are considerable. Certification provides a marketing advantage by opening doors to consumers who are searching for sustainable practices. Certification also proves that one is serious about their profession and wants to meet the highest standard.

Urban IPM certification can be gained through several methods. To sign up to start the process, contact us at the email address listed below. A participant in the certification program will then need to receive 12 credits over a three-year period to earn or maintain certification. Credits are available for participation in workshops and conferences. For example, there have been credits available for the last two years at the AMTOPP annual conference. Signing up for Urban Alerts is another way to earn a credit. There is also an annual IPM workshop offered each year on the MSU campus for green industry professionals. Specialists in their field are brought in to present on relevant topics. Finally, online courses are available through the Urban IPM Digital Chalk platform.

Please keep on the lookout for updates on the program. Upcoming events will be posted as Urban Alerts. Any questions regarding the Urban IPM certification program can be sent to: urbanipm@montana.edu

Schutter Diagnostic Lab

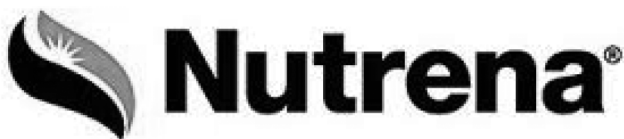
Do you need help with a plant problem?

Services provided by the Schutter Diagnostic Lab include diagnosis of plant diseases, insect damage, and environmental plant problems, as

well as visual assessment of herbicide injury to plants. We also provide identification services for plants, insects, and mushrooms and give management recommendations when needed.



PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTS DIVISION



Tom Gritzmacher

Professional Products Sales

tom.gritzmacher@cpsagu.com

Office - (208) 454-0475

Mobil - (208) 867-5687

4914 Hwy 20-29, Caldwell, ID 83605

2018 OFFICERS

President - Jason Stringer, Tree Amigos; 406-268-8733; jcstringer12365@msm.com:

Term Expires: 2/2020

Vice President - Sam Strickland, All Things Green, LLC; 406-531-7125; samthegardener@msn.com;

Term Expires: 2/2020

Secretary/Treasurer - Cooper Elwood, Mountain Tree Company; 406-529-0185; cooper@gmail.com;

Term Expires: 2/2022

Past President: - Robert Dillon, Robert Dillon Tree Service LLC; 406-542-5485; info@robertdillontreeservice.com;

Term Expires: 2/2019

DIRECTORS

Robert Worden, TruGreen; 406-256-9499; rworden@trugreenmontana.com: Term Expires 2/2019

Jon Higgins, Nitro-Green of Helena; 406-443-5088; jon@nitrogreenhelena.com: Term Expires: 2/2020

Chris Anderson, Frontier Lawn & Landscaping; 406-265-1670; chevls01@yahoo.com; Term Expires: 2/2020

Ed Nolder, Natures Best Inc.; 406-207-9004; ednolder@naturesbestinc.com; Term Expires: 2/2021

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Trudie Southwick - trudiemtopped@gmail.com - (406) 204-0100

amtopp@amtopp.org

www.amtopp.org

Contact AMTOPP

173 Cottonwood Road,
Townsend, MT 59644
(406) 204-0100



www.facebook.com/amtopp

Association of Montana
Turf, Ornamental, and Pest Professionals
173 Cottonwood Road
Townsend, MT 59644

