



Summer News



Tree Removal



Tree Planting



Tree Pruning

Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery

Don't Miss Out On

Summer Field Day

Saturday, August 18 at 9 AM

in

Miles City

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AMTOPP's annual event. This is a great way for us to provide community involvement.

Structured after the national event of Renewal and Remembrance held at Arlington National Cemetery.

Let's have a big turnout for support of our Veteran's.

**Help make a difference!
Let's improve the grounds
for our Veteran's resting
place.**



Some play time before work - join us for a fun afternoon of golf on Friday - 3 ish - Miles City Town & Country Club - please RSVP if you are interested in playing golf so we can make arrangement. *Golf fees not paid by AMTOPP.*



2015 An afternoon of golf before work begins the next day.

President's Message

Hello AMTOPP Members,

Finally, the summer has arrived. With the cool, wet spring behind us, it is time to melt away in the blistering dry heat of the Montana summer. With any luck, we will receive some precipitation periodically throughout the summer avoiding another nightmare fire season like the one we experienced last summer. Either way, work must go on. As well as, AMTOPP's summer agenda.

To kick the summer off, I will be attending the 2018 National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP) Legislative Day on the Hill, and Renewal and Remembrance Day at Arlington National Cemetery, in Washington D.C. on July 15-17, 2018. This event is an excellent opportunity to give back to our veterans, maintain a presence on the national level, and visit with our state senators and congressman about both state and federal level issues. Any member, affiliate, or sponsor with issues or concerns regarding the use of pesticides or other Green Industry related topics, please contact me, and we can discuss it.

On August 17th, the board will hold its' summer board meeting in Miles City at the Miles City Town and Country Club. Following the board meeting, we will play a round of golf. Any members, affiliates, or sponsors who would like to attend the board meeting or play a round of golf with the board are encouraged to attend. Please let us know so



we can make arrangements.

The following day, August 18th, AMTOPP's annual Summer Field Day, will be held at the Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery, in Miles City. This year's event will focus on planting trees. Several of the existing trees were planted too deep and need to be removed and replaced. In addition to tree planting, we will fertilize the turf, apply weed control, along with minor pruning of trees and shrubs. Again, I encourage all AMTOPP members to attend the event, even bring a friend or family member, to volunteer time and services. Lunch will be provided.

For this year's event, we are in need of trees to plant. In addition to extra hands for labor to accomplish all the planting that we are planning, we are reaching out to you to help us secure trees for planting. If you are unable to attend, you can still be part of this and help us out with either donating a tree or donate money for us to purchase a tree, remember this is for our Veterans. If you can provide a tree, or two, please contact me so we can work out the details.

This is your association and your participation in it will only help to keep it thriving, active, and productive. The board enjoys your company and needs your input as well as your support to make the association successful. If you would like to contact me, I can be reached on my cell phone at (406) 899-1393; or by email, jcstringer12365@msn.com

Jason Stringer
President of AMTOPP

August 17 - Board Meeting 10AM
Miles City Town & Country Club
727 S 4th St, Miles City, MT 59301

August 18 - Summer Field Day
9AM - Eastern Montana
Veterans Cemetery

September 19 - Saluting Branches
Fort Harrison Veterans Cemetery
Grounds - Helena - 7:30AM



November 2 - Board Meeting
10AM - Perkins Restaurant
Cedar St @ I-15, Helena

January 27 - Board Meeting
Pre Conference - 4:45PM - Board
Room - Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

January 29 - Board Meeting
Post Conference 3:30PM - Board Room
Fairmont Hot Springs Resort



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Secretary's Report



Happy summer AMTOPP members!

As the secretary of the board of directors for our fine organization, it is my responsibility to update the membership on our board meetings that occur throughout the year. While members are welcome to attend any board meeting to voice their opinions and to help plan the annual conference, it can be challenging to find the time during the busy season to attend. Part of the secretary's job is to keep a

record of our meetings, and when needed, present a synopsis to keep everyone in the loop.

Your board of directors held our last meeting in Great Falls on May 11 to continue planning our upcoming conference. We are currently working on trying to implement a third track into our conference to help with continuing education for our irrigation professionals. Stay tuned for more updates on more irrigation classes!

We also have been lining up speakers for our conference, and have many leads on professionals who may be attending; in the coming months as speakers are confirmed we will continue to release updates! Trudie has also been working on updating the website throughout this year and should be able to have a new site up and running by conference time. Our old website, which was fairly antiquated, could make registering for the conference a bit of a burden; with the new updates the website should be aesthetically pleasing as well as being less cumbersome to use. Trudie continues to update the Facebook page as well and is hoping to integrate the two together to make updating both easier.

Summer Field Day is also coming up quickly! This year we will be holding Field Day at the Veteran's Cemetery in Miles City and have lined up several items to work on, including lawn fertilizing and weed control, tree trimming, and several new plantings. All are welcome to attend the board meeting on August 17 at 10:00 AM (location TBD), with Field Day being scheduled for 9:00 AM on Saturday. Bring your gloves and hard hats and join us for the fun!

We are continuing to look for speakers and topics for the upcoming conference. If you have any input on speakers, topics, or other suggestions for the conference, please feel free to contact any of the board members. Member input is always appreciated and encouraged.

We hope to see you all at Summer Field Day in Miles City!

Cooper Elwood
2018 Secretary/Treasurer

From Our Affiliates

What's Flying Around In The Grass?

**By: Dr. Laurie Kerzicnik
MSU Ext. - Schutter Lab**

Irregular brown patches in the lawn are often a mystery. One explanation could be sod webworms, a.k.a. "lawn moths". Damage is most evident in late summer when grass growth has slowed and populations of the webworms increase. The caterpillars will chew and clip the leaf blades right above the soil surface. After feeding, they leave behind clipped grass and green fecal pellets. On golf course greens and tees, the webworms feed just below the mow line, which creates dark trails on the surface. Birds feeding in the area might also be a sign of webworms. Newly sodded fields and lawns with high fertility are particularly susceptible.

The webworm is the caterpillar stage of the moth. The caterpillars live in the thatch layer in pencil-sized holes lined with silk, grass, and debris. The lar-




Figure 1. Sod webworm adult. Photo by Chris Mallory.




Figure 2. Sod webworm caterpillar.

See Grass page 5



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AMTOPP Scholarship Winners

This year AMTOPP provided the Montana 4-H Foundation with two additional scholarships of \$250 each. We also increased the FFA Scholarship by \$500, making it \$1,000.

Thanks to all of you who purchase raffle tickets along with procuring

raffle items for low cost, AMTOPP had enough money to expand on the scholarships this year.

Congratulations to all the winners!



4-H Winner - Lily Vickers of Roundup

This is the first year Lily has been involved with a gardening project. Her fascination of how plants grow, and what it takes to make them healthy is one of the reasons she applied for the scholarship.

Her first gardening project will be to plant a small fruit and vegetable garden.

Lily says, "I could see myself working in a field that involves crops and what to grow to be able to nourish livestock and do that as reasonably as possible." She would like to be able to teach others how to provide healthy foods for their family.



4-H Winner - Cadence Kallenberger of Havre

Cadence will be using her scholarship money to develop a pumpkin patch with a variety of pumpkins.

She hopes to learn about germination of seeds, setting up a water program, pest management, and providing goods to the community.

This is not the first gardening adventure for Cadence as she grew watermelons and rainbow carrots last year.

Once she harvest the pumpkins she plans on marketing them to local businesses.



4-H Winner - Alma Harding of Whitefish

This is Alma's second year to receive an AMTOPP scholarship.

This year her project will be to design, plan, and plant a small landscape the includes raised beds, grass area, perennials and shrubs. She plans to develop a scrapbook with photos and handouts for a presentation for her 4-H group. Alma plans on including the members of her group to help brainstorm, shop for plants, planting, and finally a demonstration on the outcome.

FFA Scholarship Winner Mickayla Johnson of Hinsdale

Mickayla Johnson from Hinsdale is the AMTOPP FFA Scholarship recipient.

Mickayla has decided to pursue a career as a conservation biologist. She says, "I chose this field because it allows me to combine my love for science and the outdoors with my passion for agriculture and my desire to have a meaningful impact on the world. This career will allow me to work with farmers and ranchers to optimize the production of their operations and protect the natural resources found on their land and within their soil."

Mickayla's short term goals

are to major in Ecology and Conservation Biology with a minor in Environmental Microbiology at MSU Bozeman, intern with the NRCS or a similar organization, graduate with honors, and find a job in the field as soon as possible.

My long term goals are to make valuable contributions in my field to help preserve the future of agriculture and potentially go back to school after 20 or so years to become an Ag-Ed teacher so I can resume my involvement with FFA as well as teach and inspire the next generation of agriculturists."

4-H winners (submitted together) Emilia and Elizabeth.

At the request of their parents, we are not providing their location, photo or last name.

Their project is to increase the productivity of their garden by rebuilding planting frames, amending the soil to a deeper level, as well as experimenting with a small hoop house and alternative watering methods such as drip and mulch instead of overhead sprinklers.

These girls are long time members and very active in their 4-H club. Their list of activities they have participated in includes weeding gardens, entering flowers and vegetables in the State Fair, visiting local greenhouses, volunteering in several events related to gardening as well as planting and tending a small garden of their own.



Arbor Day Celebration

Small Towns Can Accomplish Big Things

Anaconda named Montana's Tree City of the Year



Two tall trees frame the archway in the Kennedy Common in Anaconda in this file photo from 2016, and provided by Lisa Bracco; from the Montana Standard, May 27, 2018.

Cities and towns across Montana celebrated Arbor Day in various ways, but one town stood out from the rest. This year Anaconda was named Tree City of the Year, and with that recognition, the Governor's Office selected

it to host a statewide Arbor Day Celebration on May 11.

Twenty-three years ago the Anaconda Street Tree Project Committee was formed, and since then over 2,400 trees have been planted with grants from the Department of Natural Resources and

Conservation (DNRC) explained Lydia Janosko, co-chair of the Committee.

There are some requirements to apply for this honor and includes having a tree ordinance and a tree board, spending \$2 per person on urban forestry and hosting an Arbor Day celebration. Anaconda will receive a \$10,000 grant from DNRC in addition to the title. Janosko, says the plan is to plant an additional 35 trees, host a pruning class for residents, construct tree guards and perform a tree assessment with the Grant money.

With the help from the Deer Lodge Fire Crew, 33 trees were planted in public places last year.

As this was a statewide Arbor Day Celebration this year, DNRC Director John Tubbs proclaimed Arbor Day on behalf of the Governor and helped plant a tree.

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conser-

vation's Urban Forestry Program is supported by a grant from the US Forest Service. The program aims to spread awareness about the importance of trees within communities and provides financial, educational, and technical assistance for urban forestry efforts in Montana. Learn more about urban forestry in Montana at <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/forestry-assistance/urban-and-community-forestry>.

Contact: Jamie Kirby Urban Forestry Program Coordinator-Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation(406) 542-4288 jamielkirby@mt.gov

For more information about Arbor Day visit their website at www.arborday.org

Congratulations to the Anaconda Street Tree Project Committee, and the city of Anaconda for their efforts on receiving this recognition.

Grass, continued from page 3

vae overwinter in the soil as caterpillars and start feeding in the spring. The adult moths emerge from late May-

The webworm is the caterpillar stage of the moth. The caterpillars live in the thatch layer in pencil-sized holes lined with silk, grass, and debris. The larvae overwinter in the soil as caterpillars and start feeding in the spring. The adult moths emerge from late May-June and have a distinct snout-like projection on the head. They fly over the grass at

dusk in a zig-zag pattern. There are typically two generations per year.

Examine the thatch and top inch of soil for caterpillar presence. Several insecticide formulations are available for control. The larvae are easy to reach, as they feed on the surface of the grass. Treatments are most effective when applied in the late afternoon or early morning when the larvae are feeding.

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Article from MT State Director for the RM Arborist

From: Patrick Plantenberg,
RMC-ISA MT Director
June 8, 2018

Montana ISA-RMC Update Montana Tree Worker Academy

ISA-RMC member and City Forester from Bozeman, Alex Nordquest and his staff, hosted an excellent 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. Ryan Decker and Brian Sereduke from the City of Fort Collins, CO taught the Academy. Two aerial rescue classes were also offered. ISA-RMC and MUCFA are looking for another city to host a similar hands-on event in a Montana city next spring. Possibly Great Falls.

TRAQ Requalification and TRAQ Courses

ISA-RMC member and Lewis and Clark County Extension Agent, Brent Sarchet, and Craig Marr from the City of Helena Parks and Recreation Department hosted a Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) Renewal Course in Helena, MT on May 22. Vince Urbina from Grand Junction, CO taught the course. Two students took the requalification including AMTOPP President Jason Stringer, from Tree Amigos in Great Falls. Several

Montana TRAQ qualified arborists will need to requalify next year. Vince also taught the full TRAQ course May 23-25 sponsored by ISA-RMC, MUCFA, and the City of Helena in Helena, MT at the Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds. Nine students took the class. Vince would like to teach the TRAQ course and requalification in Wyoming in 2019.

ISA Exams ISA-RMC member and Kalispell, MT Parks Superintendent, Fred Bicha offered the ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, and Municipal Specialist exams in Kalispell on June 22. Five students took the exams. 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. 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.

Upcoming Events AMTOPP is planning its annual Summer Field Day at the State Veterans Cemetery in Miles City on August 18th. AMTOPP has been doing work at Montana Veterans' facilities for over 13 years. AMTOPP and ISA-RMC tried to get the Saluting Branches organization to sanction this event to no avail. Tentative plans include complet-

ing a tree inventory and planting site inventory for the facility, pruning trees, removing trees if necessary, planting new trees, an irrigation system audit, fertilization, etc. Plan on helping with this great work. To sign up and to make donations of materials please contact me at m2andp2@mt.net.

ISA-RMC Annual Conference The ISA-RMC Annual Conference will be held September 17-18 in Grand Junction at the Avalon Theatre at 645 Main Street in Grand Junction, CO. 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! You can register now on the ISA-RMC website. Watch the ISA-RMC website for the final conference agenda. **Saluting Branches** Plans are developing for a Saluting Branches event with our Montana urban forestry partners. 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 this great event.

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 at the Clarion Inn, Copper King Hotel & Convention Center. 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. Josh Stoychoff, MT DNRC Forester and Urban Forester from Lewistown will also present a summary of the Statewide Tree Assessment report at the conference. You can register for the conference at: <http://www.mtleague.org/annual-mlct-conference/>.

EHAP Course in Butte As mentioned above John Ball will be in Butte to speak at the MLCT conference in late September. He would like to teach a Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) Elec-

trical Hazard Awareness Program (EHAP) while in Butte probably after the MLCT conference. Please let me know if you or your employees are interested in taking the course. Details will be forthcoming soon.

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 event will be held at the Holiday Inn Cody-At Buffalo Bill Village. 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. Come and learn about soils, plant propagation, wood waste and utilization, emerald ash borer, and many other exciting topics. More details will be posted as we get closer to the event including registration and room block information.

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. Vince Urbina from Grand Junction, CO will be one of the main speakers at the event. 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 Nursery and Landscape Association Green EXPO The Montana Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA) Green EXPO will be held January 9-10 in Billings, MT. Watch the MNLA website for the final conference agenda at: <http://www.plantingmontana.org>



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More From Our Affiliates

By: Dr. Laurie Kerzicnik
MSU Extension-Schutter Lab

Several reports have come in about grubs in the garden and grass. Adults are also emerging and flying to lights.

These are May/June beetles. The larvae or immatures are called “white grubs” and can be a pest of turfgrass and vegetable gardens, feeding on plant roots (Fig. 1). The adults will feed on the foliage of trees and shrubs (Fig. 2).

Damage: Some of the first signs of damage are thinning and weakening of the grass or plant stands. For turfgrass, it can then wilt and small patches of dead grass can easily be pulled back.

Monitoring: Turfgrass can be monitored for larval damage by looking for dead or dying spots in the lawn in spring and again in the fall. Often a “tug test” of the turfgrass will reveal if there is grub damage. If the turfgrass pulls up bits of sod (both the grass and the thatch together), it is possible the turfgrass has grub damage. Dig into the soil around the

dying area down to a depth of 8 inches and monitor for grubs.

Treatment:

Cultural practices: Promote good cultural practices by mowing properly (keeping the grass at 3.5-4” in height), fertilizing, aerating, and reducing thatch. Thatch buildup can result in reduced aeration and water penetration, stressing the grass. Healthy turf can withstand insect infestations.

Physical practices: One tip from the University of Florida suggests putting a white bucket under the infested plants with a few inches of water and a couple of drops of dishwashing soap. Leave it out overnight to catch adults.

Insecticides: Make sure you have a grub problem before using insecticides. There are several other turfgrass issues that resemble grub damage. The insects spend most of their time in the larval stage under the soil, so this is the best way to treat them. The threshold for treatment in lawns varies from 1-4 grubs per square foot. Several insecticides are available for grub control at garden



Figure 1. May/June beetle grub (immature). Photo by Rosie Wallander.



Figure 2. May/June beetle adult. Photo by Laurie Kerzicnik.

stores. Insecticides are most effective after egg hatch when the “grubs” are small (1st generation), which would be in mid-late August. Follow the application with a good irrigation. There are a lot

of contact insecticides available to control the adults if they are on the foliage. You might have to make several applications to control the adults.

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.

Arborist News Continued from page 6

com/montana-green-expo

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

The 2019 AMTOPP Winter Conference and Trade Show will be held January 27-29 at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort. AMTOPP will sponsor ISA Exams at the event. Watch the AMTOPP website for registration details at: <http://amtopp.org/>.

Montana Urban and Community Forestry Association Update

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
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