

AMTOPP *Winter News*



January 2018

2018 Conference And Trade Show Coming To Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

The members of the 2017 AMTOPP Board of Directors is proud to announce that Fairmont Hot Springs Resort will be the location for the 2018 Conference and Trade Show. This venue proves to be a good location and everyone seems to enjoy themselves.

This year's conference will have two tracks, instead of three, focusing on the continuing education credits for those fields. This should maximize the class size for each track, providing a better audience for the speaker.

Continuing education units will be offered for Montana Department of Agriculture (up to 6). This year you will be able to earn 1 credit for each qualifying session, and no more than 6. In the past it has been 6 or nothing over the span of the conference. We hope this change will be a benefit for those who find they have to depart early.

Six Urban IPM credits will be offered this year. It is not an all or nothing, but on each session that qualifies.

There are 11 available ISA credits, counting 3 on Sunday

through the First Aid Clas.

Weather permitting on Monday, there will be a demonstration of an unmanned aircraft (drone) the last part of the lunch time.

Monday evening will include a social time from 5:30 to 7PM, with dinner to start a 7PM.

As in the past there will be a silent auction and 50/50 raffle during the social time and dinner, on Monday.

Check out the Speaker line up for this year's conference!

If you haven't registered - make sure to get it in today and don't miss out on a great opportunity to earn CEU's, network, and meet up with old friends.

Mark your calendars ,and don't miss out on a fun and educational time at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort!

See you there!



ISA International Society of Arboriculture

President's Message

Out-Going - 2017



Dear AMTOPP members,

As my AMTOPP presidency comes to a close, I want to begin by saying thank you to all of the board members, past presidents, and members of AMTOPP. Your guidance, support, and friendship throughout my term have taught me a lot about the industry and also leadership. I remember my earlier days as an AMTOPP member wondering if I would ever

become the president of such an inspiring association. As I developed in my business and career, I looked forward to more education and networking opportunities. Within this term, I hope that I have made a difference being on the board of directors and executives'.

The most influential aspects of my presidency include the Washington D.C. trips, summer field days, the AMTOPP Annual Conference, and the overall experience of being a leader. Although, getting to use the gavel was fun!

Thank you all for voting me to represent AMTOPP and having the confidence in me. I recommend the position to anyone looking to become more involved in the community with a willingness to succeed.

Rob Dillon
AMTOPP President 2017



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Conference Speaker Line Up

Keynote Speaker

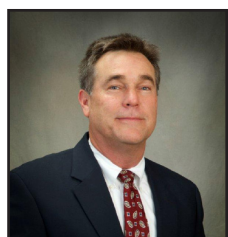


Peter Grass, Superintendent of Hilands Golf Course in Billings, and Immediate Past President of Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) will be this year's Keynote Speaker.

Peter's talk will be a brief look at the history and information about GCSAA and how my experience as a nine year Board member, including

President 2016/17, provided great personal and professional growth. Highlighting how all turf and ornamental professionals can work for better recognition and respect through being involved in various groups. Touching on advocacy, Best Management Practices (BMP's), continuing education, environmental stewardship, working together even though you may be "competitors."

He has a Business Management degree from Eastern Montana College, attended the Ohio State Turfgrass Management Short Course and over 1000 hours of profession continuing education. A past President of Peaks & Prairies GCSA (Montana/Wyoming) and currently completing his 9th year as a Director of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, serving as its President in 2016.



Bob Winston with Victory Insurance will offer the First

Aid/CPR class on Sunday, beginning at 1PM.

The medical first aid class for adults is intended for individuals

who are not healthcare providers or professional rescuers. The goal of this training is to help students develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to respond in a medical emergency.

Upon completion of this class, you will receive a wallet size certificate that is good for two years.

This class is good for 3 ISA credits.



Korey Lofy of Ranbow Treecare Scientific Advancements will speak on "The Science & Uses of Growth Regulators." Plant growth regulators (PGRs) are becoming one of the fastest and most diverse tools in the arborist toolbox. As a result of applying PGRs, some favorable changes occur that enhance the health and durability of trees in the urban landscape.



Botanist, Mary

Ellyn DuPre will host two interactive workshops, using live specimens. The first session will be,

"Invasive Weed ID" followed by "Weeds in Turf ID."

DuPre is a botanist based out of western Montana. She received a bachelor's degree in biology

(concentration in botany) at East Tennessee State University.

Currently employed at MPG Ranch, she performs vegetation surveys and data analysis of riparian, forest community types, and rangeland habitats. This position requires her to be available for plant identification of other conservation studies occurring on the ranch. MPG Ranch is a conservation property that focuses on weed management and land preservation.



Jonathan Honoild with RDO integrated Controls will intro-

duce the technology, regulation, and operation of drones and their potential application for arboriculture, in his session, "Using Drones For Tree Evaluations."

Jonathan is an account manager with RDO Integrated Controls specializing in GNSS, optical and drone positioning equipment and consultation. He has worked in the Unmanned Aircraft Systems industry for over 10 years, and has deployed worldwide, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, as a contractor for the US Navy.



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BOARD MEETING DATES

January 28, 2018 (pre conference)

Fairmont Hot Springs Resort - Board Room - 4:30PM

January 30, 2018 (post conference)

Fairmont Hot Springs Resort - Board Room - 3:30PM

All members are welcomed and encouraged to participate in all of AMTOPP's events and Board meetings. Contact any board member or Executive Director for more information.

Conference Speaker Line Up



Dr. Laurie Kerzicnik's session, **"Insecticide Challenges - Why Isn't THIS Working,"** will be a discussion on proper label reading, application, timing, dosage, and other factors that can lead to improper control of pests. A few insect pests will be chosen to focus on.

Dr. Kerzicnik is an Associate Specialist in the Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology Department at Montana State University in Bozeman. She focuses on identification and outreach of urban insects and spiders. She has a Master's and PhD in Entomology from Colorado State University and has worked with insects, spiders, and biological control for over 20 years.



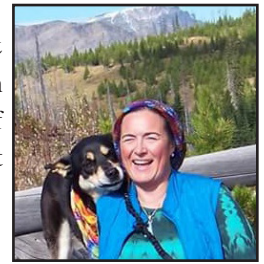
"Tree Inventory - How & Why" will cover the current status of inventories in Montana; types of inventories, methods for collecting and updating inventory data. We will also look at how we can use the data, and ways to keep track of inventories. An update on the status of DNRC's Statewide inventory will be provided..

Josh Stoychoff is a Certified Arborist and a Service Forester for the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, working out of Lewistown. He received a B.S. in Urban Forestry from University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point in 2013.



Tonda Moon

Tonda Moon & Kima Caddell with the MT Department of Agriculture, will host three sessions:



Kima Caddell

"Understanding Labels - Prevent \$\$ down the drain, client losses, and minimize non-target impacts;" - Complying with the product label is the best way to avoid application issues - and it's difficult to comply with the label if you don't clearly understand the restrictions, requirements, and responsibilities it places on you, the applicator.

"Timely Turf Topics-Best Management Practices" - Implementing BMP's minimizes impacts on the environment and beneficial species, which may protect both your business and the industry as a whole.

"Critter Damage & Control in the Landscape & Nursery" - Vertebrate pests have been a force to reckon with in 2017. We'll talk pest identification and biology; recognizing their damage; and integrated control methods in landscape and nursery settings, with a focus on rodenticide labels for those sites.



Mathew Fleishans

Discover the importance of preventative maintenance inspection in the **"Aerial Equipment Safety"** session.. Mathew Fleishans and Chris Whitmore, from Alte Natioanl Service, will discuss this and more.

Mat is a 21 year veteran of the United States Air Force where he specialized in Aircraft Hydraulic/Electrical Systems and Maintenance Management. He has been with Altec since 2013.



Chris Whitmore

Chris has been with Altec for 22 years, with 21 of those years in the Final Assembly area, located at the Saint Joseph, Missouri facility

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Conference Speaker Line Up - continued



Jessie Carr of NorMont Equipment Company, will provide some valuable insight on **“Chipper Safety,”** including looking at a machine outside to further the discussion.

The goal is to help everyone increase their production, and to increase their safety.

My first career was in national security and I spent almost two decades around the world with the focus being on the Middle East.

“Preventing Herbicide Collateral Damage,” Herbicides are an important tool for integrated weed management in turf and ornamental settings. However, this tool can sometimes have unintended consequences, causing injury to non-target plants.

Join Noelle Orloff, MSU Extension & Schutter Diagnostic Lab, as we look at common causes of non-target herbicide injury in residential settings and how to prevent this issue.



Orloff received her master's degree in Land Resources and Environmental Sciences from Montana State University. She is currently an Associate Extension Specialist at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana, where she works in the Schutter Diagnostic Lab.



Don't miss the 2 hour session on **“Rigging System Choices.”**

David Stice of Wesspur Tree Equipment will offer demonstrations using GRCS vs traditional M/A System for movement of woody material to process a site.

Stice's work experience comes from a variety of fields. For a number of years he was a commercial fisherman in the Northeast Pacific, been a sawyer on the Hotshots, and done timber falling and production climbing. He has served as an aerial rescue technician on hurricane clean-ups and much more.



Victor Gust of Warne Chemical & Equipment Company will speak on the importance of **“Pump Maintenance & Calibrations.”**

Discussion will cover proper operation, calibrations and maintenance of Turf, and Ornamental spraying systems.

Victor Gust is a turf and ornamental pest specialist. He has over 33 years of pesticide application and plant insect and disease management experience.



“Sustainable Lawns and Alternatives to Kentucky Bluegrass” by Toby Day, MSU Extension Horticulture Specialist.

Water conservation is at the forefront of landscape installation, particularly as cities adopt new water strategies. Questions arise, what are strategies to increase sustainability of Kentucky Bluegrass lawns and are there

viable alternatives to Kentucky Bluegrass?

Additional discussion will include cultural management and IPM strategies of alternative and sustainable lawns.

Toby is the Extension Horticulture Associate Specialist and state-wide Master Gardener Coordinator through Montana State University Extension.

Don't forget if you want raffle tickets to contact a board member - See the back of this newsletter for contact information!

Prizes include:

**1 Night stay @ Fairmont Hot Springs
w/ \$50 Gift Certificate**

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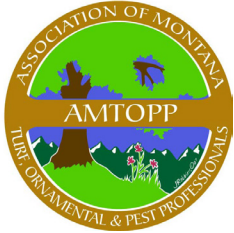
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AMTOPP 28th ANNUAL CONFERENCE & MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION JANUARY 28 -30, 2018

Fairmont Hot Spring - 1500 Fairmont Road, Fairmont, MT
FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS CALL: 1-800-332-3272

Company Name: (as it should appear on badge) _____

Name (1st attendee): _____

Contact name (if different from 1st attendee): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell: _____ Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Website: _____

Please list additional names of attendees from the same company, at the same address. Each individual must be employed by this company to receive the member rate. Please note discounted rate after two full price attendees from same member firm.

2) _____ 3) _____ 4) _____

5) _____ 6) _____ 7) _____

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL		COST		MEMBERSHIP TOTAL
Regular- <i>has pesticide license-</i> (at same location) Pesticide License # _____		\$115 per company (\$10 of this is not tax deductible as it could be used for lobbying expense.		\$
Associate- <i>NO pesticide license</i> -(at same location) ISA # _____		\$50 per company (\$10 of this is not tax deductible as it could be used for lobbying expense.		\$
Corporate		\$800 (\$10 of this is not tax deductible as it could be used for lobbying expense.		
Conference Registration (postmark is registration date)	Prices Pre-Register Before 1-15-18	Prices Post-Register After 1-15-18	Number of Attendees	Registration Total
Member Rates (regular or associate)	\$280 per person	\$295 per person		\$
Additional attendees <u>after</u> 2 from same Reg. or Assoc. member firm	\$195 per person	\$210 per person		\$
Additional <u>CORPORATE</u> Member attendee after 2 from same firm	\$145 per person	\$145 per person		\$
Non-Member Rates	\$395 per person	\$410 per person		\$
Spouse attending - meals only (Mon/Tue AM & Lunch, Mon. Dinner)	\$95. Per person	\$95 per person		\$
TOTAL	Check/money order # _____			\$

FIRST AID CLASS - PLEASE PUT ME DOWN FOR PEOPLE ATTENDING @ NC LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE

Conference registration includes attendance to all seminars, trade show and meals served during the conference.

Please make checks payable to AMTOPP. Mail completed form with check to: AMTOPP, 173 Cottonwood Rd., Townsend, MT 59644-9533. You may pay with a credit card through PayPal on the website: www.amtopp.org. NO REFUNDS AFTER JANUARY 15, 2018.

Silent Auction Items are appreciated and do not have to be related to our industry If you would like a receipt, please send the value of the item(s) to trudieamtopped@gmail.com. Thank you for your support! See you at Fairmont!

I agree to abide by the Association of Montana Turf, Ornamental, and Pest Professionals (AMTOPP) ByLaws and any other reasonable codes or standards established by AMTOPP with member approval. (See website: www.amtopp.org for By-Laws (under Membership)

Signature _____ Date _____

For AMTOPP Office use: Date Paid _____ Check # _____ /C.C./PayPal - Added to Membership File: _____

Added to 1990-Present File: _____ Added to Conf. Registration: _____ Name Badges: _____

Introducing Jason Stringer - AMTOPP's 2018 President



AMTOPP's 2018 incoming president is Jason Stringer. Jason has been a member of AMTOPP since 2013, he joined the board of directors in 2014. After serving on the board for two years, in 2016, Jason was appointed Secretary/Treasurer. He is the owner of Tree Amigos Tree Service located in Great Falls, Montana.

Jason is an ISA Certified Arborist and Tree Risk Assessor, and he is a licensed Commercial Pesticide Applicator in the state of Montana.

Jason Stringer was born in Great Falls, Montana, where he has lived most of his life. As a young child, Jason often worked alongside his grandfather, parents, uncles, siblings, and cousins for the family tree business originally established by his grandfather Ken Courtney in 1959. Everyone who could contribute was expected too. Jason's first duties were to haul brush and clippings to the truck and load them onto it. Jason says, "In those days, we didn't have a chipper. Which was probably a good thing, giving the likelihood of a gruesome accident. As it were, I was expected to jump up on to the truck and stack the brush well beyond the height of the roof. Often while running a chainsaw to cut it up and stomp it in to make more room."

Jason has owned and operated Tree Amigos Tree Service since 1997. The business continues to be a family affair, as both of his brothers Denis and Israel work alongside him. In addition, his wife Tiana, brothers-in-law, nephews, and son Austin work or have worked for the family business. Jason believes the family has survived for four generations due to the commitment of hard work, desire to learn, collaborative effort, attention to detail, and a bit of stubbornness. Jason says "I believe that these same characteristics will help me be a successful president for AMTOPP."

Jason is looking forward to the 2018 Winter Conference. He welcomes any ideas or suggestions regarding the direction of AMTOPP. If you would like to contact Jason, he can be reached at:

Email: jcstringer12365@msn.com
Cell: 406-899-1393 Office: 406-268-8733

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

Term Expires: 2/2020

Secretary/Treasurer

Past President: Ed Nolder, Natures Best Inc.; 406-207-9004; ednolder@naturesbestinc.com;

Term Expires: 2/2018

DIRECTORS

Cooper Elwood, Able Tree Service; 406-529-4877; cooper@abletreeservice.com; Term Expires: 2/2019

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

Sam Strickland, All Things Green, LLC; 406-531-7125; samthegardener@msn.com; Term Expires: 2/2020

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

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