Reserve Your Room Now

January 11 is the cut off date for group room rates and for holding our block of rooms. Take advantage of this savings for your conference attendance and reserve your room BEFORE January 11.

Also after the 11th the block of rooms that are held for the conference is released to the public, so if it is a busy time for Fairmont, the rooms may not be available.

General Membership Meeting & Board Meetings

Just a reminder that the annual conference is held in conjunction with the Annual Membership Meeting. The Annual Membership Meeting starts with the opening session of the conference and runs until the meeting is adjourned on Tuesday, after voting and other business is conducted.

This year there will be a short Business Meeting during the conference on Monday, January 28, at 12:50 to 1:20 PM. This is the last part of the lunch break and the Board of Directors would like to invite everyone to attend.

On Tuesday during the last part of the lunch break we will conduct the final business of the year, with the voting in of new director and voting on the proposed changes for the Articles of Incorporation and the change in the By-Laws.

On Sunday, January 27 at 4:45 there will be a Board meeting. Then on Tuesday, January 29 will be the first board meeting of 2019 with the new board.

It’s Ski Time! Fun Time!

Hello everyone,

For those of you who are planning on attending the AMTOPP conference at Fairmont Hot Springs, why not plan on coming over on Sunday and staying through Wednesday; to get in on some skiing.

If you didn’t know we have an unofficial AMTOPP Ski Team! For the past few years some of the board members have taken advantage of being close to Discovery and made of day of skiing on Sunday and Wednesday. Last year we though it would be fun to get a bigger group together. We set up with Fairmont to extend our group room rates for Tuesday night and provide some discount lift tickets, thus launching the unofficial AMTOPP Ski Team.

This year we will be meeting on Sunday morning January 27, 2019 at Discovery Ski Area at 9:30. We will also plan on Wednesday morning January 30, the day after the conference. Please meet at the

Growing the Future of AMTOPP

-AMTOPP is a leading force in the green industry and is a reflection of the progressive future here in Montana. AMTOPP provides a platform for its members to network, it builds a standard in continued education, and implements industry advocacy on a state wide and national level. As professionals of the industry we must lead the future by establishing and maintaining the professional standard, and ensuring that the profession has a voice.

As members of the association we have access to a wealth of resources that have been built and sustained by its members for over 28 years. It is important that members of the association stay involved so that the future of AMTOPP is secured for generations to come. We are invested as professionals, educators, and residents. By having the foresight to get involved, it establishes a pilot of protection to the future of the green industry in our great state. We need members, who are willing to join the board of directors, it is extremely important to the framework of the association. One of the common misconceptions perceived by our members is the level of commitment needed. Being a board member is not as time consuming as some would assume, please do not let that discourage you from joining the board.

When I was asked to join the board I was extremely apprehensive. I was worried about the time commitment, and to be honest, I questioned how I would even be of benefit to the board. It didn’t take long after I joined for senior members to mentor me. The encouragement for involvement was not an accountability factor, but a diversity factor. We are a diverse group of industry professionals that share and develop innovative ideas that influence the future of the green industry. I encourage our members to consider being a board member. We need members to consider the challenge as a rewarding experience that can help benefit the association, its member, and the industry itself. If you are on the fence about joining the board, please do not hesitate to contact any director, an inquiry does not commit you to joining.

I personally look forward to discussing possibilities with any of you prospects out there!-

Sam Strickland
2018 Vice President of AMTOPP
President’s Message

Well, here we are again. With AMTOPP’s annual winter conference just around the corner, I am amazed by how fast the year went by. As I reflect back on my presidency, I realize just how great of an opportunity it was to serve as AMTOPP’s president. I also realize how important my fellow board members and a great executive director were to my success as the President of AMTOPP.

As my presidency began, I knew it was important for the board to set forth innovative ideas and goals that would help AMTOPP grow and provide it with members with as many benefits as possible. With the help of a dedicated board and an executive director that kept the ship straight, most of the goals we as a board set forth have been met. Thanks Trudie Southwick and all my fellow board members for your dedication and hard work to making my presidency successful. I could not have done it without each and every one of you.

One goal the board set forth was to add an irrigation tract to the conference. As we all know, great landscapes are not so great without proper irrigation. So with fellow board member Steve Jonas leading the way, we were able to implement the irrigation tract. With Steve’s drive and dedication to seeing the irrigation tract succeed, I am certain AMTOPP’s members will benefit greatly from his vision. Great job Steve, AMTOPP and its’ membership will benefit greatly from your efforts.

Another goal the board set forth was to provide more educational and training opportunities outside of the conference. With the help of Dave Stice from WestSpur’s Ascension Group NW training division, in September, AMTOPP was able to put on an Areal Rescue Clinic in Great Falls. The clinic was well attended and free to AMTOPP members.

Thanks Dave Stice for all that you do for AMTOPP and providing the information for keeping our members safe.

The one goal that has yet to be fulfilled is the recruitment of new board members. Recruitment of new and motivated board members is crucial to the future of AMTOPP. Several of our current board members have served on the board for many years and their terms are coming to an end. These vacancies will need to be filled by other members. With all that said, I would like to encourage AMTOPP’s membership to step up and join the board this year. Our great association needs your help, we are looking forward to some fresh ideas and faces on the board.

As I mentioned, I realize how great the opportunity to serve as AMTOPP’s president was. The personal and professional growth that comes from serving as the President will benefit me for the rest of my life. Again, I encourage AMTOPP’s members to take the opportunity to join the board and experience the growth for themselves. If you would like to join the board and have any questions about joining, please contact me or any of the other board members.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our speakers, suppliers, and sponsors who have made the commitment to attend AMTOPP’s 2019 Annual Winter conference. AMTOPP and its’ members appreciate your support and commitment to our association, and we look forward to seeing you all.

Sincerely,
Jason Stringer
President of AMTOPP 2018

Secretary/Treasurer’s Message

Happy winter AMTOPP members!

The board continues to make strides in putting together the final touches for the 2019 conference. Along with a new irrigation tract this year, we will also have quite a few interesting topics, including crane safety as well as several discussions on insects and diseases in turfgrass, as well as trees. Take a look in the previous newsletter for full details or check it out on the website where you can register, www.amtopp.org!

We are also looking for items for the silent auction for this year’s conference. Keep your eyes peeled for anything that you might find appropriate to donate!

One topic that has been discussed at length in our meetings this last year was the need for new blood on the board. We want to reach out to each one of our members, old and new, to invite you to participate in taking AMTOPP into the future.

Due to the demographics of AMTOPP’s members and the issue of members that would like to serve on the board but, cannot due to the current By-Laws. The board has been in lengthy discussions on opening up the requirements for board members by doing away with the Department of Agriculture licensing requirements. This discussion will continue throughout conference as we will be seeking feedback from the membership.

With any organization, getting people to serve on the board is challenging, but once on a person serves time on the board they come away with a lot more than they came into it with.

I can attest personally to the benefits of serving on the board. This past year has seen a very sudden and unexpected change of employment for me and marked the beginning of a new business. While starting a new outfit is taxing on anyone, I can say with 100% certainty that I would not have been able to do this if it had not been for the relationships that I have built while serving on the board for AMTOPP!

While at times sitting in a board meeting and discussing logistics can be tedious, the bonds that I have been able to build with my fellow board members is well worth it, and I can honestly say that I would no longer be in the green industry at all if it had not been for the people on our board. Please consider joining our board of directors for the coming year. If you’d like to know what the board is all about, remember that all the board meetings are open to the membership!

Please feel free to contact any of our board members currently serving if you’d like more information on dates and times meetings, or even to help arrange transportation to the meeting site. We are happy to help!

Cooper Ewold
Secretary/Treasurer

Food Drive!!

Don’t forget to bring some NON PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS for our food drive.

2,000 Pounds Is The Target!

For the past couple of years our Food drive has netted just under 2000 pounds. This year we are shooting to hit the 1 Ton weight.

Please pack up a bag or box or many bags and boxes and haul them over with you to the conference this year.

The food is taken to the Food Bank, in Anaconda, and is greatly appreciated. This is a great way to show that AMTOPP is involved in communities of Montana.

Proven to be Montana’s best stout against EAB.

Provide 2 years of control with the TREE-care family of products.

Chris Whitmore
Chris.Witmore@Altec.com
807-71-08-21

We invite you to stop by our booth during the conference.
Pick up an LR Inspection Checklist and some Swag!
AMENDMENTS TO AMTOPP BY-LAWS

AMTOPP Regular Members,

During the board’s review of the by-laws, we determined that the Amendment to Article III, Members and Meetings of Members, Section: 3.01 Classes of Members, adopted on December 15, 2006, amended (e) under, Regular Members which did not pertain to Corporate Membership, thereby making the rules for a Corporate member to serve on the board and have a vote, confusing and unclear. After this Amendment was adopted the original language of By-Laws should always remain. The amendments are used at the end of the By-Laws to override any of the original language.

The reasoning for the amendment was to allow up to 2 corporate members to serve on the board and each have a single vote.

We are proposing to put the original language back under (e); to Amendment (g) Corporate Membership and to Amendment (e) Associate Membership. Below is the proposed wording for each.

The original language of (c) No firm, partnership or corporation who is not actively engaged in the application of pesticides is eligible to be an Associate member of the Association and pay any dues as required by the Board of Directors. There may be no more than a total of three members combined from Associate and Corporate members who may serve on the board, and each will have a single vote. Associate members will receive all Association mailings and may attend all Association events at the Regular member rates.

We believe these changes will provide clarity for the one section, and provide a voice for the direction of AMTOPP, from the other members of the Association.

Please take the time to review the proposed amendments to the by-laws. The proposed changes will be in the registration packets of the company representative of Regular Members.

The proposal will be read 3 times during AMTOPP's annual general membership meeting at Fairmont Hot Springs and voted on by AMTOPP's regular members.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact any of the board members or the Executive Director, Trudie Southwick.

2018 Board of Directors: Jason Stringer; Sam Strickland; Cooper Elwood; Robert Dillon; Robert Worden; Jon Higgins; Ed Nolder; and Steve Jonas.
**AMTOPP 29th ANNUAL CONFERENCE & MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION**

**JANUARY 27-29, 2019**

Fairmont Hot Spring - 1500 Fairmont Road, Fairmont, MT

**FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS CALL: 1-800-352-3272**

**REFERENCE: AMTOPP CONFERENCE FOR GROUP RATE PRIOR TO 1-11-2019**

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

**Name (1st attended):**

**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.

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**Regular - has pesticide license (at same location):**

- **Cost:** $115 per company ($10 of this is not tax deductible as it could be used for lobbying expense.)

**Associate - NO pesticide license:**

- **Cost:** $50 per company ($10 of this is not tax deductible as it could be used for lobbying expense.)

**Corporate:**

- **Cost:** $800 ($10 of this is not tax deductible as it could be used for lobbying expense.)

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**AMTOPP CONFERENCE AGENDA**

**Sunday, January 27, 2019**

- **1 PM**
  - 4:30 PM: ESA Testing
  - 908
- **1 PM**
  - 5 PM: First Aid
  - 102
- **4 PM**
  - 8 PM: Vendor Set Up
  - Caribou, Grizzly & Mushroom Trailhead
- **4:30 PM**
  - 5:30 PM: Board Meeting - All Welcome
  - Executive Board Room
  - Caribou, Grizzly & Mushroom Trailhead
- **8 PM**
  - 8 PM: Early Check
  - Reception area of Conference Facility
- **8 PM**
  - 8 PM: Educational Networking Session
  - Caribou, Grizzly & Mushroom Trailhead

**Monday, January 28, 2019 - Registration Desk Open @ 7 AM**

- **8:30 AM**
  - 8 AM: Vendor Set Up
  - Caribou, Grizzly & Mushroom Trailhead
- **7 AM**
  - 8 AM: Continental Breakfast
  - Caribou, Grizzly & Mushroom Trailhead
- **8 AM**
  - 8:15 AM: Opening Session & Exhibitor Introductions
  - Caribou, Grizzly & Mushroom Trailhead
- **9 AM**
  - 9:45 AM: Keynote Speaker - Tom Stothberger
  - Caribou, Grizzly & Mushroom Trailhead

**WORKSHOPS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 AM</td>
<td>Lift Truck Inspection - Part 1 (must attend to be in Part 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 AM</td>
<td>Liability - coaching functional ecosystems Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 AM</td>
<td>Treatment of Residential Round Oats Herb Chemical</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 AM</td>
<td>Intro to Irrigation Systems: Lynda Wrightman</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 PM</td>
<td>Lift Truck Inspection - Part 2 (must have attended Part 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 PM</td>
<td>Organic Pesticides - reviewing the science Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 PM</td>
<td>Hands on Disease Diagnosis: Dr. Erna Grams MUS Extension</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
<td>Forest Insect &amp; Disease Update: Sarah Buhl MUS Est.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
<td>Stress Factors of the High Plains Urban Forests: Kris Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Trade Show Open - Caribou, Grizzly &amp; Mushroom Trailhead</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Arboriculture in the Wildland Urban Interface: Michael Hord</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Trash and Management of Tree Insects: Dr. Ann Meketa</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Ecological Surveying: Michael Hord</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Electrical Troubleshooting: Dave Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Social Mix with Cash Bar Silent Auction &amp; 5-9:30 Raffle - Dinner - AMTOPP Your In Review - Caribou Room</td>
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**Tuesday, January 29, 2019**

- **8 AM**
  - 8:30 AM: Tree Biology - Reactions Wood
  - Turf Disease ID & RPM
  - Erika Trueman
  - Idaho State Dept of Ag
- **5 PM**
  - 5 PM: Social Mix with Cash Bar Silent Auction & 5-9:30 Raffle - Dinner - AMTOPP Your In Review - Caribou Room

**Wednesday, January 30, 2019**

- **9 AM**
  - 9:15 AM: Trade Show Open

**Thursday, January 31, 2019**

- **10 AM**
  - 10 AM: Sonci Tomograph & Ricinotography
  - Employee Management - Tree Business Owners
  - The Many Ways
  - Logan Sawyer
  - Kima Trueman
  - Mountain Group
  - Turf Disease ID & RPM

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**FIRST AID CLASS - PLEASE PUT ME DOWN FOR **

**NAME ATTENDING @ NC LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE - SUNDAY, JAN, 28 - 1PM TO 5PM**

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

Please make checks payable to AMTOPP. Mail completed form with check to: AMTOPP, 175 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, 2019.

Slight Attendance Items are appreciated and do not have to be related to our industry. If you would like to receive a receipt, please send the value of the item(s) to fromtranemelin@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) By-Laws and any other reasonable codes or standards established by AMTOPP with member approval. Contact the AMTOPP office for a copy of the By-Laws or check the Membership Directory.

**Signature:**

**Date:**
2018 OFFICERS - terms end 1/29/19

President - Jason Stringer, Tree Amigos; 406-268-8733; jcstringer12365@msn.com;
Term Expires: 2/2021
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; coopere@gmail.com;
Term Expires: 2/2021
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
Ed Nolder, Natures Best Inc.; 406-207-9004; ednolder@naturesbestinc.com; Term Expires: 2/2021
Steve Jonas - Jonas Sprinklers and Fertilizer; 406-216-2281; stevejonas84@gmail.com; Term Expires 2/2021

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Trudie Southwick - trudieamtopped@gmail.com - (406) 204-0100

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