Hello and happy holidays AMTOPP members. It is hard to believe the year is almost over. With January quickly approaching, it is time to get signed up for AMTOPP’s 30th Annual Winter Conference. The upcoming conference will be held at Fairmont Hot Springs, as it has been for many years. However, there has been some changes to the conference agenda.

First, the days in which the conference is held have changed to January 22-24 (Wednesday – Friday). The change was due to availability of the conference rooms at Fairmont. Hopefully, the change of days will work out for everyone. The board would like feedback from the members on the change of days.

In addition to the change of days, changes have been made to the pre-conference schedule. Typically, the day before the conference, AMTOPP offered ISA testing and First Aid training. Both will continue to be offered. However, there will be additional educational and training opportunities available.

On Wednesday, January 22, 2019 there will be two full day workshops. They will begin at 8am and end at 5pm. The first being a Landscape Irrigation Technician Class. The Irrigation Association will provide the training. The other opportunity is an Electrical Hazard Awareness Program. Again, both classes will begin at 8am and end at 5pm. Both classes have limited space so be sure to get signed up soon.

The following day, Thursday, January 23 at 8am the opening session will open the annual general meeting and conference. At 8:30 this year’s keynote speaker, Donna Gaukler from Missoula’s Park and Recreation Department will kick everything off.

Following Donna’s keynote, the conference will branch out to several different training and educational opportunities. Each hour will offer several classes to choose from. This arrangement better reflects AMTOPP’s diverse membership. AMTOPP’s membership includes pesticide applicators, irrigators, arborist, educators, and of course lawn and turf specialist. The board worked hard to provide each with a class specific to their field, however, please feel free to attend any class you would like regardless of your field.

With each hour offering different classes, the number of speakers has grown as well. Please, take the time to talk with and thank the speakers. It is their willingness to share their knowledge that has helped all of us become more knowledgeable and proficient at the work we do.

A tradition that started a few years back will continue on Thursday night during dinner, a “look back” through the year with AMTOPP. This presentation will give everyone a chance to see what all goes on under the AMTOPP name throughout the year.

We have a couple of board vacancies that need to be filled. If you would like to be considered or know someone that you think would be a good prospect, please contact me or one of the board members or the AMTOPP office. The names will be presented during the conference with voting to take place on Friday, January 24, during the lunch period.

Another item that will be coming up for a vote is an Amendment to the By-Laws. I know there have been several put forward over the past couple of years, however as the organization grows and evolves over the years some things need to be clarified or changed to fit the current needs of the association. You can read more about the proposed change on page 6 of this newsletter. This Amendment will come before the members on Friday, January 24, 2020 for a vote.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact me or another board member.

With that said, I’m looking forward to seeing everyone at the conference and wish everyone Happy Holidays.

President of AMTOPP
Jason Stringer
Conference Line Up

Keynote Speaker - Donna Gaukler

AMTOPP Welcomes Donna Gaukler, Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Missoula. As Director of Missoula Parks and Recreation, Donna has guided the Missoula community in the development and adoption of several land use and management plans, and improvements ranging from neighborhood parks to regional pathways, and conservation lands to water parks. Partnerships, empowerment, inclusion, and engagement are what Donna views as the keys to the Department’s success.

Don’t miss out on Donna’s keynote address “Why Green Space Matter,” Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 8:30 AM. This will provide a look at understanding the outcome and expectations of end users or visitors thus providing an understanding of what best practices to apply. This is just a bit of what will be discussed.

Landscape Irrigation Technician Class

This will cover basic hydraulics and irrigation system installation and maintenance. A full day, hands-on learning session covers gluing and repairing PVC pipe, installation of nozzles and adjusting heads, setting and repairing electric valves, and field and controller wiring techniques.

There is a manual for the class that will given out at the beginning of the class. Upon completion a certificate of completion will be issues.

Tips and tactics to safely and remotely remove hazard or hung u trees in a tree felling situation

An Overview of Insect Issues Affecting Regional Landscape Plants

A smorgasboard of some of the more common and important insect/mite issues of landscape plants in the western states.

Recognizing and Working with Beneficial Insects in Landscape Settings

A review of the most important biological controls of landscape pest insects, showing how to recognize them and to discuss ways to conserve and assist their activities.

Insect CSI (Crime Scene Investigation)

Diagnosing what has happened on a plant by what insects (and mites) leave behind.

Electrical Hazard Awareness Program (EHAP)

This class will be a full day class covering all things involved with EHAP.

Z133 Safety Standards Update

A look at new additions and changes to ANSI standards in new 2017 standards from the 2012 standards

Hazard and Danger Tree Felling

Tips and tactics to safely and remotely remove hazard or hung u trees in a tree felling situation

Sports Field and Park Turf Maintenance

A comprehensive overview of turf management techniques combined with a study of soil microbiology as it deals with pests and pesticides.

Discussion will include: Converting to an all organic plan; Water conservation; Turf sustainability; Cutting edge breakthroughs; Design and renovations; Working with tight budgets; Construction; How to survive and Economic Downturn; Outsourcing Turf Maintenance

This is a four hour class, broken out into two sessions, of 2 hours each.
Vertebrate Pest Specialist for the Montana Department of Agriculture. He has over 30 years of experience in the wildlife control industry in private, academic, and government roles. His experience includes handling conflicts with squirrels, moles, voles, birds, snakes, beaver, raccoons, skunks, and more.

**Vole Management for Ornamental & Turf Professionals**
This presentation will review vole biology, identification of their presence/activity, and effective methods to reduce damage in landscape settings.

**Deer Damage Management**
A look at deer biology, identification of their presence/activity, and effective methods to reduce damage in landscape settings.

**Pesticide Emergency**
**Spill Response**
Spills happen! A look at how to become more aware of spill potential and how to prevent them, how to respond when they do occur and how to mitigate the damage that results.
Also a look at applicable Montana state laws pertaining to reporting pesticide spills will be addressed.
Prevention and preparation can pay off in the long run.

**Landscape Fundamentals**
Design concepts, soil analysis, proper planting techniques, and after care including fertilizing, insect and disease issues and treatments. A look at the importance of proper watering and how to achieve it. These are just a few of the topics that will be covered in this 2 hour session.

**Noxious Weed ID and Controls**
Noxious weeds affect the vitality and survival of native species, due to competition for space, nutrients and water. With over 36 state listed noxious weed species, it is important to know how to identify them. This session will give you tips for identifying unique features and characteristics of Montana’s noxious weeds, and what to do if you spot them.

Jolene Hendrix is the Training and Development Specialist for the Montana Department of Agriculture charged with developing and conducting training for commercial pesticide applicators and dealers. She has worked extensively in groundwater protection, chemical safety, analytical evaluation, and science education for the past 20 years.

**Regulatory Updates**
A discussion on regulatory changes, relevant to pesticide licensing, and applications. Also a look at upcoming regulatory discussions.

**From MSU Extension - Schutter Labs**
From MSU Extension - Schutter Labs

**From MSU Extension - Schutter Labs**
Dr. Grimme has over 20 years of experience in applied horticulture and has worked with a wide variety of plants including annuals, perennial plants, and woody ornamentals.

**Diagnosis and Control of Plant Diseases Common in Montana**
An accurate and rapid diagnosis of plant diseases is the key for successful control in the urban landscape. Symptoms and signs of plant diseases and appropriate control measures will be highlighted.

**Nitrogen Sources in Lawn Care**
A look at Nitrogen and nitrogen sources and when to use what source. Broadleaf weed control and herbicide choices, and the importance of correct tank mixing.

**Landscape Fundamentals**
Design concepts, soil analysis, proper planting techniques, and after care including fertilizing, insect and disease issues and treatments. A look at the importance of proper watering and how to achieve it. These are just a few of the topics that will be covered in this 2 hour session.
Conference Line Up

Peter Nieves-Sosa
The Crane Man Inc.

Some of you will remember Peter from the last conference, he spoke on Crane Operations from the Operator & Climber Perspective.
He’s back this year with another crane presentation.
Peter founded the nationally recognized Crane Safety Climber School in 2011 to help climbers learn to work more safely in a crane removal setting. He is the owner of The Crane Man Inc., located in Pennsylvania.

Crane Safety Operations
Crane operations and safety from job set up through rigging and cutting with actual pieces. Also climber positioning and ground crew responsibilities. An on-site demo will be set up.

Patrick Plantenberg

Who doesn’t know Pat? He seems to be everywhere.
Join Pat and others over a continental breakfast for a whirlwind discussion on tree related events for the upcoming year.

ISA Round-table Discussion
Discussions will include: training needs for the coming year; an overview of upcoming events related to the tree industry; scheduled training; potential speakers for the annual Tree School, and many other topics.

Scott Bernhardt
Northwestern Energy

Scott is from Billings, MT and has experience with the diverse areas across Montana. He has over 29 years with Northwestern Energy Vegetation Management Program. He is responsible for Northwestern Energy’s 107,000 square mile service territory in Montana as well as the service territories in South Dakota and Nebraska.

Northwestern Energy Vegetation Management Program
An overview of Northwestern Energy’s Vegetation Management Program, Right Tree Right Place, Safety, and partnering with us.

EHAP is FULL!
The Irrigation Class is filling up!
Don’t delay - get registered TODAY!

NOTICE: The Crane Class scheduled for Friday, Jan 22 is weather permitting. If the weather on Thursday looks better that what is predicted for Friday the class will be moved to Thursday. This will be announced on Thursday at the General Session.

Anyone interested in, and needing to renew their Basic First Aid?
Basic First Aid Class available on Wednesday - no extra charge to attend this! Upon completion you receive an official card good for 2 years.

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 or 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.

Remember the SILENT AUCTION
Please bring something to make it bigger and better. It doesn’t need to be industry related.
# AMTOPP Conference Agenda

## Tuesday, January 21, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start</th>
<th>End</th>
<th>Early Check In - Registration Area of Conference Facility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 PM</td>
<td>6 AM</td>
<td>Early Check In - Registration Area of Conference Facility</td>
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</table>

As of print date information regarding CEU's for MT Dept of Ag or Urban IPM have not been received, therefore there is not any notice shown for CEU's for either of those departments.

## Wednesday, January 22, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start</th>
<th>End</th>
<th>Workshop Information</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>5 PM</td>
<td>Certified Irrigation Technician Class - Nick Millward - Irrigation Association</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>5 PM</td>
<td>FULL Electrical Hazards Awareness Program (EHAP) Sam Kezar - 8 ISA CEU's</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>12 PM</td>
<td>ISA Testing</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 PM</td>
<td>4 PM</td>
<td>First Aid/CPR - Robert Winston - Victory Insurance - 4 ISA CEU's</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 PM</td>
<td>8 PM</td>
<td>Vendor Set Up - Cutthroat, Grizzly, Meadowlark and Hallway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 PM</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Board Meeting ROOM 107</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 PM</td>
<td>8 PM</td>
<td>Early check In - Registration Area of Conference Facility</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

## Thursday, 23, 2020 - Registration Desk Open @ 7AM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start</th>
<th>End</th>
<th>Vendor Set-up in Cutthroat, Grizzly, Meadowlark, and Hallway</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30 AM</td>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>Continental Breakfast - Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 AM</td>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>Opening Session - Jason Stringer - AMTOPP President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Keynote Address - Donna Gaukler - Parks &amp; Recreation City of Missoula</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Workshops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 AM</td>
<td><strong>Scales</strong>&lt;br&gt;Patrick Anderson&lt;br&gt;<strong>Rainbow Treecare</strong>&lt;br&gt;1 ISA CEU's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 AM</td>
<td><strong>Lawns</strong>&lt;br&gt;Victor Gust&lt;br&gt;<strong>Warne Chemical</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 PM</td>
<td><strong>Landscape Fundamentals</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dudley Marburger&lt;br&gt;<strong>Dudley's Trees</strong>&lt;br&gt;2 ISA CEU's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:20 PM</td>
<td><strong>Chipper Operator Certification</strong>&lt;br&gt;Kevin Kowallic&lt;br&gt;<strong>Morbark</strong>&lt;br&gt;this is a 4 hour class 2nd part after lunch&lt;br&gt;Max attendance is 30 4 ISA CEU's</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:50 AM</td>
<td>Annual Membership Luncheon, Exhibitor Personal Introductions,(12:15-12:45) and Business Meeting (12:50-1:20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 PM</td>
<td><strong>Test - Certified Irrigation Technician Test</strong> - Room 103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>Overview of Insect Issues Affecting Regional Landscape Plants</strong>&lt;br&gt;Whitney Cranshaw&lt;br&gt;<strong>Colorado State University</strong>&lt;br&gt;1 ISA CEU's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>Regulatory Updates</strong>&lt;br&gt;Jolene Hendrix&lt;br&gt;<strong>MT Dept of Ag</strong>&lt;br&gt;1 ISA CEU's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>Sports Field and Park Turf Maintenance</strong>&lt;br&gt;Larry Musser and Steve Hagy&lt;br&gt;<strong>PRZ Consulting</strong>&lt;br&gt;Part 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:20 PM</td>
<td><strong>Chipper Operator Certification continued</strong>&lt;br&gt;Must have attended morning session to attend afternoon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>Hazard &amp; Danger Tree Felling</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sam Kezar&lt;br&gt;Aspen Arboriculture Solutions&lt;br&gt;1 ISA CEU's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:20 PM</td>
<td><strong>Deer Control</strong>&lt;br&gt;Stephen Vantassel&lt;br&gt;<strong>MT Dept of Ag</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>Trade Show Open and Open Mic for Exhibitors</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>Noxious Weeds</strong>&lt;br&gt;Jasmine Reimer&lt;br&gt;<strong>Dept of Ag</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>Characteristics for Proper Tree Selection</strong>&lt;br&gt;Christopher Boza&lt;br&gt;1 ISA CEU's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>Diagnosis &amp; Control Of Plant Diseases Common In Montana</strong>&lt;br&gt;Eva Grimme&lt;br&gt;<strong>Schutter Labs</strong>&lt;br&gt;1 ISA CEU's</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td><strong>Social Mix with Cash Bar</strong>&lt;br&gt;Silent Auction &amp; 50/50 Raffle - <strong>Cutthroat Room</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td><strong>Dinner and Presentation - AMTOPP Through The Year</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Cutthroat Room</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continued on Page 6
**AMTOPP CONFERENCE AGENDA (Continued)**

**Friday, January 24, 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start</th>
<th>End</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 AM</td>
<td>7:55 AM</td>
<td><strong>ISA Roundtable Discussion over Breakfast - Cutthroat Room</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 AM</td>
<td>7:55 AM</td>
<td><strong>Pre-Meeting Morning Social - Continental Breakfast - Cutthroat Room</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WORKSHOPS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Room 107</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>Crane Class Introduction and Demonstration (The Crane Man)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 AM</td>
<td>Crane Class Introduction and Demonstration continued (3 ISA CEU's)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Workshops</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>Ponderosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 AM</td>
<td><strong>Trade Show Open</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 AM</td>
<td><strong>Sapphire</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 AM</td>
<td><strong>Bitterroot</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 PM</td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>Board Meeting - ROOM 107</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Proposed By-Law Amendment**

There will be a By Law Amendment put forth for voting on Friday, January 24, 2020. For all voting members there will be a ballot enclosed in your registration packet. Discussion will be opened before the vote.

**AMENDMENT TO THE ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA TURF ORNAMENTAL AND PEST PROFESSIONALS BY-LAWS**

**Article IV. Board of Directors**

**Section 4.14 ATTENDANCE**

(b) Any Board member missing three or more meetings within a calendar year without prior notification to any Officer or the Executive Director will be asked to resign.

**Adoption:**

**The New By Law reads:**

(b) Any Board member missing three or more meetings within a calendar year may be asked to resign. The decision for requesting a resignation will be at the discretion of the board after a review of each absence has been considered. A two-thirds majority vote of board members will be required.
AMTOPP 30th ANNUAL
CONFERENCE & MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION With
EHAP & Irrigation - JANUARY 22 - 24, 2020
Fairmont Hot Spring - 1500 Fairmont Road, Fairmont, MT
FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS CALL: 1-800-332-3272
REFERENCE: AMTOPP CONFERENCE FOR GROUP RATE PRIOR TO Jan 6, 2020

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 Regular - (at same location) has a pesticide license $115 per company $
Membership Associate - no pesticide license $50 per company

EHAP FULL NO REGISTRATION AVAILABLE

Landscape Irrig. Class Attendance Yes ____ No ____ How many? ________
If attending full conf. $50 per person for manual x ________ people

Irrigation Only (Wed. Jan 22) $250/pp (inc. man. ______# of people

Please circle the names of those attending the EHAP or the irrigation class.

Please Note: EHAP - Seating Is Limited to 30

Irrigation Class - Deadline to register is November 1, 2019 - EXTENDED

Conference Registration (postmark is registration date)

Prices

Pre-Register Before 1-6-20

Post-Register After 1-6-20

Member Rates (regular or associate) $280 per person $295 per person $
Additional attendees after 2 from same company $195 per person $210 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 - WED. JAN 22, 2020 - 12-4PM - 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.


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. (See website: www.amtopp.org for By-Laws (under Membership)

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: _______ QB: ___________
2019 OFFICERS - Executive Board

**President** - Jason Stringer, Tree Amigos; 406-268-8733; jcstringer12365@msm.com; Term Expires: 2/2020

**Vice President** - Cooper Elwood, Mountain Tree Company; 406-529-0185; coopere@gmail.com; Term Expires: 2/2021

**Secretary/Treasurer** - W. Dudley Marburger, Dudley's Trees; 406-212-3391; dudleystreess@centurytel.net; Term Expires: 2/2023

**Past President** - Robert Dillon, Robert Dillon Tree Service LLC; 406-542-5485; info@robertdillontreeservice.com; Term Expires: 2/2020

**DIRECTORS**

Craig Stensby, TruGreen; 406-860-9443; cstensby1971@gmail.com; Term Expires 2/2022

Tom Molitor, Big Twig Tree Care; (406) 600-9365; tom@bigtwigtreecare.com; Term Expires: 2/2022

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

Steve Jonas - Jonas Sprinklers and Fertilizer; 406-216-2281; stevejonas84@gmail.com; Term Expires 2/2021

Chris Galanti; Galanti Lawn & Landscape; (406) 212-4850; chris@galantilandscaping.com; Term Expires: 2/2022

Lydia Heser, Heser Tree Service; (406) 740-0931; clheser@gmail.com; Term Expires: 2/2022

Stephen Pulley; City of Missoula; (406) 214-1316; spulley@bresnan.net; Term Expires: 2/2022

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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

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**Contact AMTOPP**

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

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amtopp@amtopp.org