

AMTOPP Conference Information



December 2023

We'll see you here - at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort!



Needed Silent Auction Items

Help make the Silent Auction fun and filled with good items. Pick up something between now and conference time and help fill the tables.

Scholarship for Members

The Board of Directors have been working on incorporating the members into the AMTOPP Scholarship program. It was decided to try it out to see how it goes and if it is something that is received and used by the members.

Employees of member companies qualify for applying for the Scholarship.

This Scholarship will not take away from the existing 4H and FFA Scholarship, but will be added to the program.

The way the AMTOPP Member Scholarship works:

Fill out the application (attached), and return it to the AMTOPP office by January 5, 2024. It can be emailed or if mailed postmarked

by January 5, 2024.

All the applications received will go into a drawing that will be held the last day of the conference, Friday, January 26, 2024.

No late applications will be received, all must be in by or postmarked January 5, 2024.

If you have any questions regarding the application or the process, please contact:

Look for the Application in this packet and in your email (sent out Nov. 24).

Lydia Heser, (406) 740-0931 or email at clheser@gmail.com.

**Conference Agenda, Speaker Line Up and
Registration Inside!
Deadline for Early Registration
is December 22, 2023!**

\$10



Raffle Tickets Are Available!

Contact a Board Member or the AMTOPP office if you are interested.
The proceeds fund the AMTOPP Scholarship Program for 4H, FFA,
and this year AMTOPP Members

\$700 Gift Card

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1 Night Stay at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort and \$100 Gift Card

Name _____
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In Coming President's Message



We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give," Winston Churchill. It is my privilege to serve as the 2024-2025 AMTOPP president. It has been an excellent opportunity to get to know the many people who serve their communities by providing professional service to their clients. As part of AMTOPP, many of you have benefited from having the networking opportunity. When I started

my own application business, I had a lot of questions, and having experienced professionals I could call was invaluable.

I look forward to working with the AMTOPP team to bring educational opportunities that will benefit you all.

I will tell you about who I am to help you get to know me. Clint, my husband, and I started Hesar Tree Service as a family business in Eastern Montana. We have worked with our children, son-in-law, and others since 2012. We began with climbing as our only method, but recently, we added a bucket truck. Large cottonwood trees, the most commonly planted in our area in the last 100 years, are the majority of trees we trim or remove. As we developed our business, we saw

the need for plant health care, so I got my application license and began working with clients to help improve their tree health. AMTOPP was huge in helping me figure out how to set up a program, charge, and improve my services. AMTOPP has also been my primary source of continued education credits. Clint and I are blessed to have worked and grown together with our family in our business. I am very grateful for the friendships and support we have found through AMTOPP. The relationships we have developed here are lifelong friendships.

As you mingle with others at the conference, look for networking opportunities, and they may turn into lifelong friendships. Many of you already have those friends from AMTOPP. This opportunity is more than just educational; each of you can find networking opportunities to help you in your service to your clients. Don't forget to be someone who makes a difference for someone else. Please let me know what AMTOPP can do to help you; I look forward to serving you this next year.

Lydia Hesar
Hesar Tree Service
Incoming 2024 AMTOPP President

Synopsis of Board Meeting on 10-13-2023

*Submitted by: Owen Nickolr
2023 Secretary/Treasurer*

Hello to everyone in the AMTOPP community and hopefully everybody shares my opinion that the best season

is the winter season.

This fourth meeting of 2023 brings the board to Fairmont on October 13, to make sure that all the conference bugs have been worked out. This meeting covered many different topics.

The meeting started out discussing the scholarship and how we could make it better and implement a new application. Next, we dove into the conference and how we could help Trudie, who is always the one that makes everything happen. We then discussed different ways to make people move around and network while being at the conference. There was a discussion about saluting branches of 2023 and what we

could do for 2024. The next big topic was ideas on how to increase the training opportunities for AMTOPP. The big edition being discussed right now would be adding a summer crane class and maybe using that for training and providing volunteer work. We also talked about adding a turf day to saluting branches or crane training.

We as a board also had a good discussion about what AMTOPP means to you and elected a new honorary member. We then as a board walked around Fairmont and discussed the layout for the conference and what we could add to make it more efficient.

This board meeting was awesome to be part of and I encourage everybody to come and be part of the meetings. As always feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. Thank you for the opportunity to be your 2023 Secretary/Treasurer.



S PONSORS



Pesticide License

NEW THIS YEAR

The Montana Department of Agriculture is offering pesticide dealer and applicator licensing exams at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort on Wednesday, January 24 from 1-6 PM in Room 108. If you wish to obtain a license, add, or renew a license category all exams will be available. These are closed book exams consisting of 50-75 multiple choice questions (depending upon the category). The passing score is 80%. All testing materials will be provided. You will need to provide a picture ID.



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Forty Foot Fireballs

By **Dudley Marburger**
2023 Past President

These events took place many years ago in Yuma Arizona. The trees were located on a small farm. The scope of the contract was to do a height reduction, clear structures and lightly open the inner canopy of several Eucalyptus trees. There were four of us, two groundmen and two climbers.

We began the job with the usual walk around and safety protocol. Yuma is known for its hot climate but the plan was to have the brush down before the real heat hit. We identified the targets. These were poles and primary power lines loosely slung out to an old barn. I put the less experienced climber in the first tree and I took the one over the lines. Unfortunately a bucket truck was not an option.

Normally I would climb as high as I could, tie in and use my ropes and saddle to get to the limb over the lines. Unfortunately someone had removed the top of the tree and left the errant limb over the lines. So on to plan B. Planning on shinning out the limb, getting set and making small cuts that would hopefully fall through the lines. I start the climb tied in at a steep angle which made me nervous. About a third of the way out I came across a split in the limb I was climbing on. If the limb failed while I was on it I would fall into the power lines. So I reversed my climb to reconsider other options.

The power lines ran parallel to the trees then took a dogleg away from the trees towards the barn. The plan was to make a monkey fist and throw it as far out on the limb as possible. Use a pole clip to pull the knot to me. Tie a running bowline and set the knot out on the limb. Have the ground crew tie the bull line to the hitch on the truck and put major pressure on the limb. Away from the poles. On paper it all seemed fine so we proceeded to set it up. Eucalyptus is known for their brittle wood so the right amount of pressure with the truck was critical. Too much could cause the limb to fail without the directional cut of the saw.

I get set and start my saw to begin the cut. Part way through the ten inch limb I wave to begin the truck pull. There is a tremendous crack and the limb gets a mind of its own. Heading for the pole all hell is breaking loose. The limb hits the pole somehow missing the power lines. Landing on the ground the pole starts swaying, big time. The positive and the negative contact each other and a huge fireball erupts. I look at the other climber. His hair is on end. I look at the crew on the ground two hundred feet away. Their hair is on end. The air is filled with electricity.

The next pole had started to do the dance and the fireball began moving down the line from pole to pole. With me in the best seat in the house another fireball explodes in front of my tree. This also moves down the line with the poles continuing to sway. A third eruption as once again a fireball arcs in front of me. Then a loud boom is heard at the road and everything stops.

Looking at the crew no one seems to be injured. I am very grateful the power did not arc over to my tree. And we blew a transformer, not my first and expensive. Turns out we blew a circuit breaker. Events such as these will make a believer out of you and make you wonder why this is your chosen profession. Or did it choose you?



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Application - AMTOPP Scholarship

A \$1,000 scholarship will be given to an AMTOPP member, including their employees, or any immediate family member of an environmentally responsible industry area including horticulture, arboriculture, and landscaping. Then application can be for any educational purposes in these areas.

Application deadline is Friday, January 5, 2024. Postmarked that day or emailed that day.

Name: _____

Company: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____, State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please answer the following questions with 1-3 complete sentences.

1. What is the educational opportunity in which you would like to participate?

2. How will this educational opportunity benefit you and improve your ability to serve in your area of industry?

3. What are your goals for your future in this industry, and how does this education help you to achieve those goals?

4. Why should you receive this scholarship?

5. What factors support your need for this scholarship?

Mail completed application to:

AMTOPP, Executive Director, Trudie Southwick , 173 Cottonwood Rd, Townsend, MT 59644

Email: scan all documents and send as a PDF or Word Document to: amtopp@amtopp.org

Keynote Speaker - Mark Chisholm



Mark Chisholm is a New Jersey Licensed Tree Expert and state climbing champion at the International Tree Climbing Championships for more than 20 years.

He is a twenty-time NJ Tree Climbing Champion and three-time World Champion winning his third World title in Chicago in 2010. Mark was World Champion in 1997 and 2001 and had second place finishes in 1996 and 2000. He has appeared at numerous TCI Expos doing climbing demonstrations, and frequently does climbing seminars in New Jersey and around the world.

Mark will also be providing three additional presentations throughout the conference.

Thursday

Being A True Professional

Growing up in the tree care industry has given Mark a unique understanding as to where the industry was, where it is and where it is going. This talk will be a fun walk down memory lane where Mark shares pictures, videos and insights about what it takes to be a true professional and how make sure you are representing yourself and our profession in the best possible light.

Longevity In Arboriculture

Being an arborist for your whole career can take its toll. Learn tools and techniques that will enable you to both stay engaged and functionally fit to perform over the long haul.

Friday

Cranes and Tree Removals

This presentation will take a look at the aerial side of doing crane work. The art of balancing picks while matching it with the right cut for a given scenario is the secret sauce. You will be able to see how calculated you can really be.

Dealing with Difficult Tree Removals

This presentation will dig into one of the most difficult yet exciting disciplines in tree care- rigging. Mark will share techniques that he has learned from a lifetime of field work and explain some strategies he's created and refined to meet his needs. You will see, through the help of jobsite pictures and videos, how he approached real world challenges and how he and his crew overcame them by using the best tools of today paired with a little creativity

A Big Thank You to



for making it possible for Mark Chisholm to be part of
the 2024 AMTOPP Conference.

We greatly appreciate it!

Tuesday - Jan. 23 - Pre Conference Classes

Landscape Irrigation Auditor

this class is through the Irrigation Association

Assess irrigation system performance with this comprehensive overview of auditing techniques.

This two-day session covers field tests and calculating accurate watering schedules based on plant water use, soils and local weather data.

This class has limited seating.

Brent Mecham



Brent has recently retired from the Irrigation Association as the industry development director. He was very involved in content and curriculum development for many of the educational classes that IA offers, the Smart Water Application Technologies initiative. He was also involved in the development of many standards for irrigation products as well as best practices for efficient irrigation. He is the recipient of numerous awards including IA's Industry Achievement Award and ASIC's Roy Williams Award for his dedication and commitment to the irrigation industry. His years of experience also include being a landscape contractor and working as a landscape water management specialist for a large water agency. He is certified as a designer, water manager, auditor and contractor.

Medical First Aid/CPR

Pre Registration Required

For non health care providers or professional rescuers; provide students with information to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to respond to a medical emergency.

NOTE: This class is limited to 12.

Misty Sleaford, Rosebud County Ambulance Service

Misty has been an EMT with Rosebud County Ambulance Service over 15 years; teaching CPR & First Aid more than 8 of those years.



Electrical Hazard Training

Tree work is among the most hazardous professions in the US. Contact with electric current ranks as one of the leading causes of death among arborists. This workshop covers the Z133 standards and OSHA regulations that pertain for residential/commercial tree workers who work in trees that are within 10 feet of any electrical or communication wires. This training is required for any tree worker who find themselves do this type of work. We will also cover safe work practices and touch on the other hazards performing tree work.

This class has limited seating.

Dr. John Ball

South Dakota State University

Dr. Ball is currently a Professor of Forestry at South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD with a split appointment in teaching, extension and research.



Thursday Classes

Acer is a Four Letter Word

Maples are popular trees, but the popularity comes with a cost – a greater risk to exotic threats. China has more species of maple than North America. There is a risk that there may be yet unknown, but potentially lethal, insects and diseases coming from Asia. This presentation will illustrate the potential threat and comparison to emerald ash borer. The session will also identify trees that have greater use in the Montana landscape and have minimal risk of over-sea threat.

Tree Workers Safety in the 1970s: What We Have Learned

It was a common practice in the early 1970s to free-climb trees and only tie-in as you were pruning or dismantling the trees on the way down. Helmets? Nope. Chaps? No, they were considered a greater risk! So why was our injury rate not much different? This presentation will show just how tree work was performed 50 years ago and why it could still be done safely.

Conference Line Up

Dane Terrill - Crop Services International, Inc.

Introduction to Soil Health Principles

Minerals, Microbes and Carbon in Landscapes Minerals are the “basis” of life and are the “building blocks” for plant fertility and soil structure. Microbes are the “mediator” of life and carbon is the “fuel”. Strategies to improve these key components in soil for all cropping systems (including landscapes) reduce the negative impacts on the environment through erosion, leaching and volatilization of fertilizers and pesticides.

Plants from the Soil UP-Physiology 101

The session will cover the basics of plant photosynthesis, including nutrient demand and fertilization and the benefit of healthy soil on this process. Healthy Plants growing in healthy soils provide important ecosystem services of carbon sequestration, and environmental benefits of clean water and air.

“Weeds A Gentle Reminder Soil Health Is Lacking”

Presenting alternative tools and methods to control weeds by implementing soil health practices. This session will introduce weeds as indicators of soil health and how to use those indicators to make management decisions to improve soil health and reduce weed pressures.

Insects, Disease “Nature’s Garbage Collection Services”

Understanding the roles of nature’s “garbage collection services” and why there is weekly pick up at your place. Utilizing IPM’s and BMP’s of soil and

foliar nutrition, biological pesticides, and cultural practices to improve soil and plant health and reduce these pressures and reduce the negative environmental impact.

Putting It All Together

Strategies to improve soil health as it pertains to turf grass and landscapes. Introduction of carbon sources (compost, biochar, humates) in addition to the use of biostimulants (calories) to support microbial activity and function. Use of microbial inoculants (compost, compost teas/extracts and packaged biological inoculants) to improve functional diversity.



Terrill is the owner of Crop Services International (CSI) located in Marcellus, MI. CSI has been educating and consulting with agricultural producers across North America since 1994 focused mainly on Organic transition, Certified Organic, Biodynamic and Sustainable paradigms.

Dane was employed by Flowerfield Enterprises (FE) in Portage, MI, a leader in the small-scale vermicomposting industry, to develop and implement an organic lawn care business model using the benefits of healthy soil to grow healthy lakeside lawns and landscapes in SW Michigan.

Dane’s presentations cover a diverse collection of topics rooted in environmentally responsible agriculture, gardening, and turf management. Dane engages, informs, and inspires participants by combining his training, experience, collective photographic and research data from clients throughout North America.



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Linda Chalker-Scott - Washington State University

Can You Force Trees Into Early Dormancy

As weather extremes become more common and unpredictable, landscape managers are eager to help trees enter winter dormancy to avoid early freeze damage. This seminar will explain the environmental conditions that naturally trigger the onset of winter dormancy, and how popular products and practices can hurt this process. An alternative set of practices, based on woody plant eco-physiology, will allow practitioners to use a science-based approach to protect trees through harsh winter conditions.

Diagnostic Delusions: You Can't Always Believe Your Eyes

As arborists we are careful to consider environmental factors when diagnosing tree problems. However, what we see in the landscape is not necessarily the cause of problems we see. There can be serious repercussions when we make diagnostic errors; not only do we miss the actual cause of the problem, but our recommended treatment can cause even greater damage to the tree or the environment. This seminar will present some common misdiagnoses. By understanding what additional information needs to be collected to make an accurate diagnosis, arborists will learn to avoid conflating correlation to causation.

Bat Sheet Crazy - How Sheet Mulches Damage Soil And Tree Health

Mulches are an ideal alternative to chemical weed control. If correctly chosen and applied, mulches can not only reduce weed invasions, but also reduce management costs by improving water and air movement, moderating soil temperatures, improving soil structure and nutrition, and enhancing beneficial microbes and insects. Sheet mulches, on the other hand, will interfere with air and water movement into the soil, injure roots and soil organisms, and can even promote weed growth. Sheet mulches can increase stress on plants, making them more susceptible to pests and diseases, which in turn leads to increased use of pesticides.



Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott has a Ph.D. in Horticulture from Oregon State University and is an ISA certified arborist and an ASCA consulting arborist. She is WSU's Extension Urban Horticulturist and an Associate Professor in the Department of Horticulture, and holds two affiliate associate professor positions at University of Washington. She conducts research in applied plant and soil sciences, publishing the results in scientific articles and university

Extension fact sheets.

Linda also is the award-winning author of five books: the horticultural myth-busting *The Informed Gardener* (2008) and *The Informed Gardener Blooms Again* (2010) from the University of Washington Press and *Sustainable Landscapes and Gardens: Good Science - Practical Application* (2009) from GFG Publishing, Inc., and *How Plants Work: The Science Behind the Amazing Things Plants Do* from Timber Press (2015). Her latest effort is an update of Art Kruckeberg's *Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest* from UW Press (2019).



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Jerrod Scott - Rain Bird

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Irrigation for Your Trees

When planning an irrigation system, trees are commonly an afterthought. Healthy trees, however, require proper irrigation infrastructure and several factors should affect your tree-watering approach. We will go through a few various irrigation delivery methods to help you select an efficient irrigation method for your unique trees. *(this is a 2 hour class)*

Jerrod Scott has been with Rain Bird covering the Rocky Mountain region of Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana since 2016. His primary focus is contractor education and support. He spends many of his days doing job site visits doing design and irrigation troubleshooting as well as office trainings on IQ4, controllers, rotors, sprays, valves, hydraulics, and electrical troubleshooting.



Alan Walkenhorst - Hunter Industries

New Wireless Technologies in Irrigation

Choosing The Proper Irrigation Product For The Application

Learn How Installing Smart Controllers Can Save Time And Water

Alan has been actively involved in the landscape and irrigation industry since 1978 when he started working for a local contractor at the young age of 12. He continued this part time work until he graduated high school and in 1986, he and a friend partnered up and started their own landscape business while going through college. Then in 1992 he was hired on with a local Utah distributor for six years; during that time, he oversaw commercial irrigation design and take-offs. In 1998 he started his career with Hunter Industries as a District Sales Manager. His territory has covered many states and currently he is over Utah, Montana, and Alaska.



FAIRMONT
HOT SPRINGS RESORT

Conference Line Up

Structural Pest

Please note: These are not the only classes that carry Structural credits, but are specifically relating to Structural and presented by the same person.

Ashley Roden - Sprague Pest Solutions

Pesticide Classes

This course on "Pesticide Classes" delves into the science and technology of insecticides, including their history, modes of action, and resistance. Participants will explore various insecticide classes such as botanicals, chlorinated hydrocarbons, organophosphates, and neonicotinoids, among others. Additionally, the curriculum touches upon pesticide formulations, types of applications, early challenges with insecticides, and best practices for managing resistance.

Pesticides and the Environment

The presentation "Pesticides and the Environment" emphasizes the significant impact of pesticides on the environment, providing a deep dive into the various classes of pesticides and their respective ecological effects. A pivotal section of the presentation discusses the importance of droplet sizes in pesticide application, underlining strategies to reduce drift and ensure targeted, efficient, and eco-friendly applications. The session underscores the need for proper techniques to minimize environmental harm and optimize pesticide efficacy.

Perimeter Treatments

"Perimeter Treatments" is a detailed presentation that explores the significance and techniques behind treatments to safeguard buildings from pests. The presentation underscores the rationale for and timing of these treatments, the distinct pesticides used in conjunction with their state regulations, and specialized strategies for individual pests, stressing that a single solution isn't universally effective. It also covers equipment maintenance, alternative treatment solutions, specific strategies for pests like ants, and the importance of considering factors like weather, landscape, and regulations before undertaking a perimeter treatment.



Ashley Roden, MS, B.C.E. is the technical manager at Sprague Pest Solutions. Roden started with Sprague in 2013 as a route manager in the Seattle branch working on multiple high-profile accounts. She transitioned into Sprague's technical department and is responsible for creating and leading Sprague's innovative technical training programs.

A native of Georgia, Roden holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Environmental Health and Entomology from the University of Georgia. She is a member of the Pi Chi Omega professional fraternity and the Urban Pest Management Technical Committee. Roden is also an active guest speaker at pest management conferences and workshops.

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Calibrations

This class will look at why properly calibrating your equipment is important as well as how often sprayers should be calibrated based on use patterns and wear and tear. Key sprayer characteristics that effect sprayer calibration will be identified. Various types of calibration equations frequently used will be demonstrated and practiced.

Jake Degenstein - Montana Dept of Ag

Jake Degenstein is a Plant Science Specialist for the Montana Department of Agriculture based out of Great Falls. He is a graduate of the University of Montana in Missoula with a degree in Forest Resource Management. Jake has just over a decade of experience in the turf and ornamental industry. He started with residential turfgrass management involving fertilizer and pesticide applications. Jake later moved into the golf course maintenance industry working as the lead spray technician which included a wide variety of pest management practices. His current position with the State of Montana consists of education, compliance, and enforcement of both State and Federal pesticide laws.



"Q" is for Quality

This presentation will cover the importance of water quality regarding pesticide performance and why it is critical to check water quality before making pesticide applications.

Ben Hauptman - Granit County Extension Service

Ben Hauptman is the Montana State University Extension Agent and Noxious Weed Coordinator in Granite County and has served there since 2017. Prior to that, Ben worked as the Agriculture and 4-H Extension Agent in Blaine County Montana from 2013-2017 and as an Ag Research Manager for South Dakota State University's Western Ag Research Center from 2012 to 2013. Ben has a Bachelor's of Science in Range-land and Natural Resource Ecology and a Master's of Science in Land Resource and Environmental Science from Montana State University.



Medical Emergency Protocols on the Job Site

This discussion will cover how to manage a medical emergency efficiently in remote and urban settings. The lecture will demonstrate the process of an "8-line Medical Incident Report." In addition we will go over how to establish an "incident commander" and a "Medical incident commander," as well as detailed tips to be better prepared for a medical emergency. Proper communications with 911, dispatch, and cooperating groups will also be addressed.

Robert Dillon - Robert Dillon Arboriculture & Forestry

Rob is the owner and operator of Robert Dillon Arboriculture & Forestry based out of Clinton and Hall Montana. He has worked as an arborist and forester for 28 years. He is certified as an Arborist, Tree Worker, and Tree Risk Assessor within the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). He has also been a member of AMTOPP for 20+ years and was the 2017 AMTOPP president. In addition, Rob has 25 years of experience as a wildland firefighter (currently as an ENGB, C-faller, ICT4, TFLD and RXB2[t]), 15 years in structure firefighting, and was a certified EMT for 12 years. He is the current safety and training officer for the Valley Fire Department in Drummond, MT.





Overall, Rob has managed and worked alongside small and larger crews in an urban and backcountry setting. Given this, he is motivated to share his experiences with other arborists and firefighters on how to have safe operations on the job site.



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Contact Kevin Tierney at
ktierney@arborwear.com or call
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Montana Department of Agriculture Category Listing

Class	10	10	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	44	45	46	50	55	60
Intro to Soil Health Principles	2						2			2		2							2	2
Can You Force Trees	1						1					1								1
Pesticide Classes	1	1	1			1	1		1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1
Review of Turfgrass Insects and Mites	1						1					1								
Acer is a four-letter word	1						1					1								1
Pesticides and the Environment	1	1	1			1	1		1	1	1	1	1				1	1	1	1
Plants from the Soil UP	2		2				2			2		2				2			2	2
Diagnostic Delusions	1					1	1			1		1							1	1
Calibrations	1	1	1			1	1		1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1
Secret Lives of Gall Makers	1						1					1	1						1	1
Perimeter Treatments	1						1					1						1		1
Weeds "A Gentle Reminder..."	1						1			1		1							1	1
How Characteristics of Insecticides Affect Field Performance	1						1					1				1				1
"Q" is for Quality	1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1
Insects, Disease "Nature's Garbage Collection"	1		1				1					1								1
Sprayer Pump Maintenance and Reddiness	1	1	1			1	1		1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1
Management Strategies for Foliar Disease	1					1	1					1								1
Putting It All Together	2						2					2				2				2
Update on Some Shade Tree/Ornamental Insect	1						1			1		1						1	1	1
Can An Application Go Wrong	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bat Sheet Crazy	1		1				1			1		1							1	1
Leveraging Growth Regulators	1						1					1								1

Please note there may be some categories added after this make sure to check in the conference program for credits.

Urban IPM CEU Class List

Can Your Force Trees Into Early Dormancy - Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott

Review of Turfgrass Insects & Mites - Whitney Cranshaw

Acer is a Four-Letter Word: Diversity in the Community Forest - Dr. John Ball

Diagnostic Delusions: You Can't Always Believe Your Eyes - Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott

Calibrations - Jake Degenstein

Secret Lives of Gall Makers - Whitney Cranshaw

How Characteristics of Insecticides Affect Field Performance and Risk - Whitney Cranshaw

"Q" Is For Quality - Ben Hauptman

Update on Some Shade Tree/Ornamental Insect Pests - Whitney Cranshaw

Can An Application Go Wrong - Tonda Moon

Bat Sheet Crazy - How Sheet Mulches Damage Soil and Tree Health - Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott

Mark Your Calendars

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Conference Line Up

Whitney Cranshaw - Colorado State University

Review of Turfgrass Insects & Mites

A unique complex of insects and mites are important as pests of turfgrass in the Rocky Mountain States, including several kinds of white grubs, caterpillars, and spider mites. This review will cover the identification and diagnosis of the various "bugs" in regional turfgrass, how they damage plants, and their seasonal life history. Key concepts on management will also be covered.

Secrete Lives of Gall Makers

Perhaps the most unusual kind of injury that insects can produce on plants is the production of galls. These are abnormal growths that some insects (and some mites) can tease the plant to produce on leaves, stems, flowers and fruit. The galls that are produced rarely cause significant injury to the plant, but often attract attention and concern. They are also distinctive and each kind is associated with one kind of plant, so they can often be used in plant identification. This program will review how galls are produced and discuss the lives of the "bugs" that make them.

How Characteristics of Insecticides Affect Field Performance/Risk

There are dozens of insecticides available to help manage problems with insects and mites on shade trees and shrubs. Each of these vary in their chemistry and formulation, changing characteristics that will affect their use and performance. These include differences in water solubility and the Koc values, which in turn determine features such as their mobility in soil or whether they can move systemically in the plant. Ability to resist breakdown in light or how they degrade in soils or water of different pH affects persistence. Products

may have a broad spectrum of insects they may be able to kill, or may have a narrow range, affecting how selective are their effects on desirable insects such as biological controls or pollinators. This will be a brief overview of these key chemical and biological characteristics of insecticides commonly used to manage insects on turfgrass and landscape plants.

Update on Some Shade Tree/Ornamental Insect Pest

Insects issues that affect shade trees/shrubs and ornamental plants constantly change for a variety of reasons. During this session we will discuss several insects that affect woody and ornamental plants in Montana and have changed in abundance in recent years, including some that have become newly established in the area. Also discussed will be a few insects that have recently become established elsewhere in the Rocky Mountain region but perhaps have not yet found their way to the state and how these insects seem to be developing differently than has occurred in other parts of the country.

Whitney Cranshaw is an Emeritus Professor of Entomology at Colorado State University where he has worked since 1983. During this time he has conducted a wide ranging Extension/Research/Teaching program with the primary focus of improving the understanding of and effective management of insects of horticultural crops (vegetables/fruits, flowers, trees/shrubs, turfgrass, hemp). Although retired from CSU in July 2020, he has not retired from "bugs" and continues to write, speak with diverse audiences, support websites and listserv discussion groups, and conduct research on projects of interest.



PPE Inspection and Selection

In this quick one hour class we will discuss selection of PPE for working at height and how to properly and regularly inspect equipment in order to maintain a safe and productive career working aloft. We will discuss the pitfalls of getting the newest and "greatest" gear and how to avoid the pitfalls of using unproven systems and utilizing gear that is incorrect for the application, or above the workers level of training.

Dave Stice - WesSpur Tree Equipment and Ascension Group



Dave Stice is a regular at the AMTOPP conference and summer training events. Many of you have met Dave over the years and know he is a big supporter of AMTOPP.

Dave's work experience comes from a variety of fields that include commercial fishing in the Northeast Pacific, sawyer on the Hotshots, timber falling and production climbing. He served as an aerial rescue technician on hurricane cleanups, and real-world experience to you and your business. My training material and consulting services are intended to assist your advancement in the industry.

Not Your Grand Pappy's Pruning

Anyone or anything can prune a tree, but is it the right way or the best use of your time? This presentation will cover tree biology, equipment for the job, different techniques, time management, and tips and tricks of the trade.

Mitch Sangl - Big Twig Tree Care

Mitch is an Arborist Consultant for Big Twig Tree Care in Bozeman. In his position, he meets with clients to offer advice on improving the care of their trees and property, which includes providing them with the benefits and drawbacks of tree removal and tree pruning, as well as explaining environmental factors affecting their trees, such as insects, diseases, and weather. Remaining the point of contact for the customer and now the team, Sangl oversees the project from set up to clean up, providing any assistance required to complete the job.

He has always carried a passion for the outdoors growing up, hunting, fishing, hiking, and snowboarding. This passion led him to pursue a career as a wildlife biologist. However he found that his favorite class in college was forest ecology, which fueled his interest in the tree care industry. With this newfound interest, he decided to obtain a degree in forestry. Mitch received his Bachelor's Degree in Biological Sciences and a Master's Degree in Plant Science from South Dakota State University. While attending college, Mitch worked for a local tree company to gain hands-on experience within the green industry. He also competed in collegiate tree-climbing competitions throughout the country.

Mitch has been in the tree care industry since 2015, holding various positions from tree climber, crew foreman, safety coordinator, and arborist consultant. He has held those positions in both private and corporate tree companies. He is an ISA Certified Arborist and Certified Tree Care Safety Professional.





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Thank you!

TCIA



Class	CEU
First Aid/CPR	5.75
Electrical Hazard Training	7
Being A True Professional	1
Acer is a Four-Letter Word	1
Longevity in Arboriculture	1
PPE Inspection and Selection	1
Tree Worker Safety in the 1970s	1
Cranes and Tree Removals	1
Dealing with Difficult Tree Removals	1
Medical Emergency Protocols	1



AMTOPP CONFERENCE AGENDA

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Start	End		Room
7:00 AM	8:30 AM	Check In	Conference Registration Desk
8 AM	5 PM	Landscape Irrigation Auditor Class - Brent Mecham	Bitterroot
11 AM	12 PM	Check In	Conference Registration Desk
12 PM	6 PM	First Aid/CPR - Misty Sleaford	108
4 PM	6 PM	Early Check In	Conference Registration Desk

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

Start	End	Workshop Information	Room
7 AM	8:30 AM	Check In	Conference Registration Desk
8 AM	4 PM	Electrical Hazard Training (EHT) - Dr. John Ball	Sapphire
8 AM	5 PM	Landscape Irrigation Auditor Class Day 2	Bitterroot
7:30 AM	12 PM	ISA Testing	108
12 PM	8 PM	Vendor Set Up	Cutthroat & Hallways
1 PM	6 PM	Montana Department of Ag Pesticide License Testing -	108
5 PM	6:30 PM	Board Meeting	Executive Board Room 2nd floor
6 PM	8 PM	Early check In	Conference Registration Desk

Thursday January 25, 2024 - Registration Desk Open @ 7AM

6:30 AM	8 AM	Vendor Set-up in Cutthroat, Grizzly, Meadowlark, and Hallway	
6:30 AM	8:30 AM	Check In - Conference Registratoin Area	
7 AM	8 AM	Breakfast Buffet - Rocky Mountain Foyer	
8 AM	8:50 AM	Opening Session - Tom Molitor - AMTOPP President with Exhibitor introductions	Cutthroat Room
9:00 AM	9:50AM	Keynote Address - Mark Chisholm - Being A True Professional	Cutthroat Room

WORKSHOPS	
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10 AM	11:00AM	Introduction to Soil Health Principles Dane Terrill <i>Crop Services Internationl</i>	Can You Force Trees Into Early Dormancy Linda Chalker-Scott <i>Washington State University</i>	Not Your Grand Pappy's Pruning Mitch Sangl <i>Big Twig Tree Care</i>	Working Smarter Using Connected Products Jerrod Scott <i>Rain Bird</i>	Pesticide Classes Ashley Roden <i>Sprague Pest Solutions</i>	
11:10 AM	12:10 PM		Review of Turfgrass Insects & Mites Whitney Cranshaw <i>Colorado State University</i>	Acer is a Four Letter Word Dr. John Ball <i>South Dakota State University</i>		Pesticide and the Environment Ashley Roden <i>Sprague Pest Solutions</i>	
12:10 PM	1:20 PM	Annual Membership Luncheon, and -Business Meeting (12:50-1:20) - Cutthroat Room					
1:30 PM	2:30 PM	Plants from the Soil UP Physiology 101 Dane Terrill <i>Crop Services Internationl</i>	Diagnostic Delusions: You Can't Always Believe Your Eyes Linda Chalker-Scott <i>Washington State University</i>	Longevity in Arborculture Mark Chisholm <i>Aspen Tree Expert Co</i>	Irrigation for Your Trees Jerrod Scott <i>Rain Bird</i>	Calibrations Jake Degenstein <i>Montana Dept of Ag</i>	
2:40 PM	3:40PM		Secret Lives of Gall Makers Whitney Cranshaw <i>Colorado State University</i>	PPE Inspection & Selection Dave Stice <i>WesSpur Tree Equipment/ Ascensioonn Group</i>		Perimeter Treatments Ashley Roden <i>Sprague Pest Solutions</i>	
3:40 PM	4:20 PM	Trade Show Open - Cutthroat, Grizzly, and Meadowlark Rooms					
4:30 PM	5:30 PM	Weeds A gentle reminder soil health is lacking” Dane Terrill <i>Crop Services Internationl</i>	How Characteristics of Insecticides Affect Field Performance/Risk Whitney Cranshaw <i>Colorado State University</i>	Tree Workers Safety in the 1970s: What We Have Learned Dr. John Ball <i>South Dakota State University</i>	Open	Q is for Quality Ben Hauptman <i>Granite County Ext Service</i>	
5:30 PM	7PM	Social Mix with Cash Bar - Silent Auction & 50/50 Raffle - Cutthroat Room					
7 PM	9:30 PM	Dinner, Presentations of Awards, and Vote New Directors - (introduction of new Executive Board and New Directors - Cutthroat Room					

Please note: All classes, speakers, and designated times are subject to change without notice.

AMTOPP CONFERENCE AGENDA (Continued)

Friday, January 26, 2024

Start	End					
7 AM	7:50 AM	Pre-Meeting Morning Social - Continental Breakfast				
7 AM	7:50 AM	ISA/RMC Round Table Meeting over breakfast - Cutthroat Room				
		WORKSHOPS				
8 AM	9 AM	Insects, Disease “Nature’s Garbage Collection Services” Dane Terrill Crop Services International	Sprayer Pump Maintenance and Reddiness Victor Gust Warne Chemical & Equipment Company	Cranes and Tree Removals Mark Chisholm Aspen Tree Expert Co	New Wireless Technology In Irrigation Alan Walkenhorst Hunter Industries	Management Strategies for Foliar Disease Hannah Hampton Rainbow Ecoscience
9 AM	9:50 AM	Trade Show Open				
10 AM	11 AM	Putting It All Together Dane Terrill Crop Services International	Update on Some Shade Tree/Ornamental Insect Pest Whitney Cranshaw Colorado State University	Dealing With Difficult Tree Removals Mark Chisholm Aspen Tree Expert Co	Choosing The Proper Irrigation Product For The Application Alan Walkenhorst Hunter Industries	Can An Application Go Wrong? Tonda Moon Montana Department of Agriculture
11:10 AM	12:10 PM		Bat Sheet Crazy-How Sheet Mulches Damage Soil & Tree Health Linda Chalker-Scott Washington State University	Leveraging Growth Regulators to Reduce Labor Demands Joe Boffa Rainbow Ecoscience	Learn How Installing Smart Controllers Can Save Time And Water Alan Wakenhorst Hunter Industries	Medical Emergency Protocols on the Job Site Rob Dillon Dillon Tree Service
12:10 PM	2:00PM	Lunch - Passing of the Gavel for 2024 President --Raffle Drawing; Annual Meeting Closes -Cutthroat Room				
3:00 PM	5:30 PM	Board Meeting - Room 108 - All Members Invited and - Welcomed				
Please note: All classes, speakers, and designated times are subject to change without notice.						

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Conference Line Up

Sprayer Pump Maintenance and Reddiness

Discussion on sprayer pump operation, maintenance, and season readiness.



Victor Gust - Warne Chemical and Equipment Company

Victor Gust is a turf and ornamental pest specialist. He has over 33 years of pesticide application and plant insect and disease management experience. Victor has worked as a sales and technical representative, and is currently vice president of Warne Chemical & Equipment Company, covering South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, and Utah.

Can An Application Go Wrong

My talk will focus on the relationship of law, label, license, site and pest that influences all aspects of a pesticide application, and how it correlates with the MDA requirements of daily applicator records. Striking a balance between safety for human health and the environment with pest control through pesticide use will be discussed from the perspective of prevention of off-target damage through preparation and awareness.

Tonda Moon - Montana Dept of Ag



I grew up behind the Twin Creeks logging camp on the Blackfoot River, adventured some, and found my way home again. I attended the University of Montana, securing a BS in Forestry. Over my rather many years, I have held positions with the USFS, private timber industry, Sanders County Weed District, and the Montana Department of Agriculture. My most rewarding experiences have been the sort that result in "0" on the annual Social Security report: years spent with my four children, who now are all grown and on adventures of their own. For fun, I play in the woods. For work, I am the MDA District 1 Plant Science Specialist.

Rainbow Ecoscience

Management Strategies for Foliar Disease

Foliar diseases are a common issue for several trees and shrubs in our landscapes. While most of these diseases cause aesthetic damage some may be a true health issue. During this discussion we will cover several diseases encountered in landscapes, their lifecycle, and practical management strategies

Hannah Hampton - Rainbow Ecoscience

Hannah provides education and training to Rainbow's clients through her role as Technical Advisor. She is also an expert in working with government entities around invasive species management plans with a strong emphasis around Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). She holds a B.S. in Forestry with a focus on urban and community forestry from Iowa State University and is an ISA certified arborist with previous experience in residential tree care ranging from plant health care, pruning to sales.



Leveraging Growth Regulators to Reduce Labor Demands

Using Growth Regulators (paclobutrazol based) as a spray or soil drench to reduce labor demands of landscape and tree professionals and to regulate general plant health

Joe Boffa - Rainbow Ecoscience

Joe Boffa has many years of experience in tree care. He focuses on plant healthcare education and training in the Rocky Mountain region. Joe provides support, education and training to commercial tree care and landscape companies. He is a certified arborist, has his Qualified Supervisor Applicator license from the Colorado Department of Agriculture, and is a Certified Treecare Safety Professional.



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ISA CEU List At A Glance

Class	Certified Arborist	Utility Specialist	Municipal Specialist	BCMA- Science	BCMA- Practice	BCMA- Management	TW Climber Specialist	TW Aerial Lift Specialist
First Aid	4	4	4	0	0	4	0	4
Electrical Hazard Training	7	7	7	0	7	0	7	7
Being A True Professional	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Can You Force Trees	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Not Your Grand Pappy's	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
Pesticide Classes	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Acer Is A Four Letter	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Plants from the Soil Up	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Diagnostic Delusions	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Longevity in Arboriculture	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
Irrigation for Your Trees	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Secret Lives of Gall Makers	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
PPE Inspection and Selection	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
How Characteristics of Insecticides	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Tree Worker Safety in the 1970's	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
Cranes and Tree Removals	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
Management Strategies for Foliar	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Update on Some Shade Trees	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Dealing with Difficult Tree	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
Bat Sheet Crazy	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Leveraging Growth Regulators	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Medical Emergency Protocols	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1

Please note there may be changes in number of credits and addition of classes after this printing.



Registration and Application

Conference - Pre Conference Classes - Membership

January 23 - January 26, 2024

Host Hotel: Fairmont Hot Spring - 1500 Fairmont Rd, Fairmont, MT - 800-332-3272
Additional Hotel: The Forge Hotel (complimentary breakfast) - 100 Union Ave, Anaconda, MT - 800-780-7234

REFERENCE: AMTOPP CONFERENCE FOR GROUP RATE PRIOR TO 01/04/2024

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

Contact name: _____

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

Cell: _____ Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Website: _____

Please list those attending the conference here, (note they must be 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.

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1) _____ | 2) _____ | 3) _____ |
| 4) _____ | 5) _____ | 6) _____ |
| 7) _____ | 8) _____ | 9) _____ |
| 10) _____ | 11) _____ | 12) _____ |

Membership Section for Regular and Associate - New and Renewal (\$10 per membership could be used for lobbying purposes)		
Membership Regular - has a pesticide license	\$115 per company	\$
Membership Associate - no pesticide license	\$50 per company	\$
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP		\$

Conference Registration - (postmark is registration date)						Pre Conference Classes (M=member \$; NM=non member \$)				
	Pre-Register Prior 12/22/2023	Post-Register After 12/22/23	How Many	Conference Total		First Aid \$100 per person	Irrigation Auditor \$200- M	EHT \$250 - M \$305 - NM	Pre Conference Classes Total	Grand Total Conference and Classes
Member Rates - 1st two registra- tions (each)	\$325	\$360		\$				\$	\$	
Additional attendees (each) (<u>after</u> <u>2 @ above \$</u>)	\$310	\$345		\$				\$	\$	
Non-Member Rates	\$451	\$495		\$				\$	\$	
Spouse/Additional - meals only (served Thurs & Fri)	\$125	\$125		\$				\$	\$	
TOTAL				\$				\$	\$	

Grand Total includes: Membership - Conference - Pre Conference Classes	(M=member fee; NM=non member fee)	\$
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Please list those attending the pre-conference classes here and circle the class they are attending. E=EHT; I=Irrigation; FA=First Aid

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1) E/I/FA _____ | 2) E/I/FA _____ | 3) E/I/FA _____ |
| 4) E/I/FA _____ | 5) E/I/FA _____ | 6) E/I/FA _____ |
| 7) E/I/FA _____ | 8) E/I/FA _____ | 9) E/I/FA _____ |
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Conference registration includes attendance to all seminars, trade show and meals served during the conference. It does not include the Pre Conference Classes. 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 . PLEASE NOTE: NO REFUNDS AFTER January 5, 2024.	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 amtopp@amtopp.org . 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. For By-Laws: see Membership Directory 2021 or contact the AMTOPP office. Please note: All classes, sessions, speakers, and time are subject to change without prior notice.
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Vice President - Lydia Heser, Heser Tree Service; (406) 740-0931; clheser@gmail.com; Term Expires 2026

Secretary/Treasurer - Owen Nickol; Oxen Tree Services (406) 270-1506; oxen@ronan.net; Term Expires 2027

Past President - Dudley Marburger, Dudley's Trees; (406) 212-3391; dudleystrees@centurytel.net; Term Expires: 2024

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James Roberts - TruGreen; 406-860-9443; tmr.trugreen@gmail.com; Term Expires 2025

Steve Jonas - Jonas Sprinklers and Fertilizer; (406) 216-2281; stevejonas84@gmail.com; Term Expires 2025

Chris Galanti; Galanti Lawn & Landscape; (406) 212-4850; chris@galantilandscaping.com; Term Expires 2026

Jason Stringer, Tree Amigos Tree Service; (406) 268-8733; jcstringer12365@msm.com; Term Expires 2025

Cooper Elwood, Mountain Tree Company; (406) 529-0185; mountaintreecompany@gmail.com; Term Expires: 2026

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