

MWCA SOUTHWESTERN AREA
Applicator Training
February 23, 2022
416 Cottonwood Ave
Deer Lodge, MT



8:30-8:45 **Registration & Welcome**

8:45-9:45 **A Golf Course Superintendent's View of Weed Control in Montana ~ Rick Hathaway, Rock Creek Golf Course Superintendent**

This topic will cover what sort of struggles with weeds a golf course faces in Montana. To grow high quality turf in Montana, we have worked with several products to help control not only broad-leaf weeds but also weedy grasses such as *Poa annua* and *Poa trivialis*. My talk will focus on what strategies we have tried for different types of weeds, and how they worked or didn't work. I will also talk about what we have been working on in the native areas around the course for control of spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, thistle spp. and cheatgrass.

Rick has served as the superintendent at Rock Creek since 2011. As superintendent for the past 17 years in Montana, both Old Works and RCCC Ranked #1 golf course(s) in the state. Rick moved to Montana in 1996 to help construct the Old Works Golf Course in Anaconda. He has served as host superintendent of 3 PGA Tour events, and is President of the Peaks and Prairies Golf Course Superintendents Association. He currently residing in Hall, MT with wife Lisa of 24 years and has two children attending MSU.

9:45-10:45 **Aquatic Plant Management: Where Are They in Montana? ~Craig McLane, FWP AIS Monitoring Coordinator**

This talk will focus on the current distributions of aquatic invasive plants in MT and then dive into different control and eradication work happening around Montana. These scenarios will highlight methods that can be used to help guide future management options as these aquatic species continue to spread within the state and new species arrive into it.

Craig McLane has worked for the State of Montana for the last 10 years with MT Department of Agriculture and Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks. During his tenure he has worked as a plant science specialist and an environmental specialist working to prevent the spread, containment, control, and eradication of aquatic invasive species. As the AIS Monitoring Coordinator for FWP Craig also helps the agency and partners tackle a variety of AIS issues.

10:45-11:00 **Break**

11:00-12:00 **Air, Land & Water: The Secrets to Herbicide Movement ~Rory Lewis- Sales Representative, Helena Agri-Enterprises LLC**

Rory Lewis, with Helena Agri-Enterprises LLC, will bring to light some common the various ways herbicides move during and after application. He will discuss the environmental impacts and issues of herbicide movement through the air, land and water. Rory will also talk about tools and resources available to applicators to reduce herbicide movement to benefit your spraying operation.

Rory was born and raised on a cow/calf ranch north of Reed Point, MT, and worked at Farmers Union Coop in Columbus until graduation of high school. He obtained his associates degree from Sheridan College in Ag Business and went on to earn his bachelor's degree at Montana State University and graduated in Spring of 2018. Rory started in Helena's warehouse his freshman year of college working his way up to Area Sales Representative.

12:00 – 12:45

Lunch

12:45 – 1:45

Rangeland 101 with Corteva

~Clair Volk, Corteva Rangeland and Pasture Representative

Topics will include managing and identifying invasive species, current prescriptions, and the tools for long-term success of rangeland restorations.

Claire Volk is the Range and Pasture representative serving Montana, Wyoming, and West River North and South Dakotas for Corteva Agriscience. Growing up on a farm and ranch in Nebraska, she finds any day in a pasture to be a good one. Claire earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she studied agricultural economics and entrepreneurship. Upon graduation, heritage Dow Agrosiences located her in Dallas, Texas, exploring bare ground opportunities in the oil and gas markets. Since fall of 2015, she has dedicated her career to western rangelands. She resides in Helena, Montana and enjoys skiing and team roping.

1:45 – 2:45

How Water Quality and Soils Impact Herbicide Performance

~ Clint Saunders – Nutrien Sales Specialist

This presentation will cover how water quality such as pH, hardness, dissolved solids affect herbicide performance. Clint will also cover measures that can be taken to mitigate problems associated with water quality including additives that are available and how they can be used in a tank mix.

2:45 – 3:00

Break

3:00 – 4:00

New and Less Common Invaders

~ Karen Laitala, Powell County Weed Coordinator

This presentation will focus on identification, biology, and phenology of non-native plants that are more recent Montana invaders and invasive plants that are less common across the state, and potentially less recognizable. The goal of the presentation is familiarizing the audience with plants to enhance prevention and early detection, rapid response control measures.

Karen Laitala Powell County Weed Board Projects Coordinator since early 2019. She has also worked as the Vegetation Coordinator for the Blackfoot Challenge non-profit for more than 8 years. Karen has a BS in Environmental Field Biology, and an MS in Plant Science from the University of Idaho in Moscow.