



## CALCP Spring Training Conference | March 3 & 4, 2026

The Sheraton Denver Tech Center, 7007 S. Clinton St, Greenwood Village, CO

### Tuesday, March 3, 2026

8:00am-8:30am	N/A	Green Industries of CO Legislative	Jay Hicks
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**Speaker Bio:****Course Description:**

8:30am-9:30am	EP & PF	Insecticide Classes and Natural Enemies: Making Smart IPM Decisions in Plant Care	Dr. Whitney Cranshaw
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**Speaker Bio:**

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). He has written extensively on these subjects, producing many hundreds of publications on research and for public education/Extension. He has also written several books, perhaps best-known being *Garden Insects of North America* and *Bugs Rule! An Introduction to the World of Insects*. His work has been recognized by numerous awards from various "green industries" and professional associations, within the state and nationally. Although retired from CSU in July 2020, he has not retired from "bugs" and continues to write, speak with diverse audiences, manage websites and listserv discussion groups, and conduct research on projects of interest.

**Course Description:**

Changes in the types of pesticides available to control insects and mites are constant, due largely to the development of new chemistries and shifts in regulations affecting registered uses. Understanding pesticide chemical families and their modes of action helps plant care professionals keep up with these changes, make effective control decisions, and consider environmental risks. At the same time, all insect pests are naturally regulated by biological controls such as predators, parasitoids, and pathogens. Recognizing these natural enemies is essential, as they often indicate a pest situation is already being controlled and may not require insecticide intervention. This course teaches participants how to identify major insecticide classes and understand their use over time, while also learning to recognize and work with natural enemies to support effective, environmentally responsible IPM programs in arboriculture.

9:30am-10:30am	206	New Active Ingredients for the industry and Improving Efficiency in Pesticide Applications	Don Frantz
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**Speaker Bio:**

Don has over 25 years of turf and ornamental experience. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Colorado State University majoring in landscape horticulture: turf management. His professional experience brings all aspects of the industry, including end user roles, plus distribution and manufacturer sales. Don lives with his wife and identical twin daughters in Boise, Idaho.

**Course Description:**

I will enthusiastically cover all topics with an upbeat, fresh presentation that conveys my passion for the industry, while having an information dense talk. The active ingredient portion of the talk will include new EPA-registered offerings. The highest active ingredient phosphite fungicide, and the role phosphites play in an IPM strategy. Understanding the overall concept of plant hormones and how peptides and harpin proteins can trigger the SAR response in plant material, including the plant processes that aid in plant protection. Will also discuss the importance and understanding of label instructions. Ways to enhance spraying efficacy and applicator safety. Defining spray drift and cultural methods to improve drift risk. Defining the main categories of Adjuvants, and how to properly utilize them in a program. How Adjuvants aid in the application of pesticides, and how each family improves the physical properties of spraying. Options to improve the water quality of our pesticide spray mixes.

11:00am- 12:00pm	LR (2 credits)	Course Title	Speaker (CDA)
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**Speaker Bio:****Course Description:**

1:00pm-1:30pm	AS	Applicator Safety	Jared Reinke
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**Speaker Bio:**

Jared supports PBI-Gordon partners across Iowa, Nebraska, and Colorado. Prior to joining the company, he served as a Business Development Manager with industry partner SiteOne in Omaha. He also brings hands-on operational expertise from his time as Golf Course Superintendent at The Players Club at Deer Creek. Jared holds a Bachelor of Science in Turfgrass Management from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Course Description:**

This presentation provides a comprehensive overview of safe, responsible application practices for turf and landscapes. Participants will learn how to select and handle products correctly, interpret label requirements, and implement application techniques that protect people, property, and the environment. The course also covers essential topics such as personal protective equipment, mixing and loading procedures, drift prevention, and emergency response protocols. By the end of the session, attendees will be better equipped to make informed decisions in the field.

1:30pm-2:30pm	304	Common "Nuisance Invader" Insects of Homes and Buildings	Dr. Whitney Cranshaw
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**Speaker Bio:**

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). He has written extensively on these subjects, producing many hundreds of publications on research and for public education/Extension. He has also written several books, perhaps best-known being *Garden Insects of North America* and *Bugs Rule! An Introduction to the World of Insects*. His work has been recognized by numerous awards from various "green industries" and professional associations, within the state and nationally. Although retired from CSU in July 2020, he has not retired from "bugs" and continues to write, speak with diverse audiences, manage websites and listserv discussion groups, and conduct research on projects of interest.

**Course Description:**

In many, if not most, homes most insects and other bugs that attract attention are "nuisance invaders" that reproduce outdoors and wander into buildings randomly or to seek temporary shelter. Examples include clover mites in early spring, root weevils and elm seed bugs in mid-season, and a flood of insects (e.g., boxelder bugs, elm leaf beetles, conifer seed bugs, cluster flies) and several kinds of spiders that enter homes in early autumn. This will review the kinds of nuisance invaders found in regional homes through the season, discuss the conditions that increase their likelihood of being found within a building, and provide some ideas on what steps can be taken to reduce their presence in a building.

3:00pm-4:00pm	PS & UP	Backpack Calibration	Mark Pickrel
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**Speaker Bio:**

Mark Pickrel is an agronomist with Wilbur-Ellis Company. He started his career in the green industry as a lawn care technician in Central Florida in 2005. He holds degrees from Northern Illinois University and Valencia College. In his free time, he works as a flyfishing guide splitting time between Denver and Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

**Course Description:**

This presentation will discuss the best management practices for applying pesticides through a backpack sprayer. A practical demonstration of the functions of the backpack sprayer will be discussed. An overview of how informed decisions on pesticide formulations drive backpack selection. A detailed video of hands-on calibration will be shown. The presentation will include how proper application reduces off-target drift, reduces potential pesticide exposure and how label requirements effect nozzle selection and application. Best practices for cleaning and maintaining a backpack sprayer will also be discussed.

4:00pm-5:00pm	207	Wood Borers: Diagnosis and Management	Dr. Whitney Cranshaw
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**Speaker Bio:**

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). He has written extensively on these subjects, producing many hundreds of publications on research and for public education/Extension. He has also written several books, perhaps best-known being *Garden Insects of North America* and *Bugs Rule! An Introduction to the World of Insects*. His work has been recognized by numerous awards from various "green industries" and professional associations, within the state and nationally. Although retired from CSU in July 2020, he has not retired from "bugs" and continues to write, speak with diverse audiences, manage websites and listserv discussion groups, and conduct research on projects of interest.

**Course Description:**

Many kinds of insects develop by tunnelling within trunks and branches of trees and shrubs, including various kinds of beetles, moths, and an odd group of wood boring wasps. Each produces different patterns of injury to plants and their ability to cause plant injury varies widely. Being able to recognize the common wood borers, and the understanding the principles in their management will be the focus of this program.



## CALCP Spring Training Conference | March 4 & 5, 2025

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### Wednesday, March 4, 2026

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Leaf it to the Caterpillars: Identification and Management of Moth Tree Pests of the Rockies

8am - 9am

207

Ryan Bartlett

**Speaker Bio:**

Ryan Bartlett began his career in the Green Industry in the late 1990s, specializing in pests and diseases of trees, and native pollinators of the Rocky Mountain region. Ryan pairs his knowledge of pollinators and pesticides to educate licensed pesticide applicators in environmentally safe approaches to pest management using disease forecast methods and integrated pest management theory. Ryan authored his first insect-related book in 2023, A Field Guide to Native Bees of the Western United States. Ryan lectures at industry-related conferences and teaches plant biology and plant healthcare for the Arborist Apprenticeship Program at Front Range Community College. When he is not looking at bugs, fungi, birds, and trees, he is usually spending time with his wife and two daughters hiking in nature or learning something new.

**Course Description:**

This one-hour talk will highlight moth pests found in the urban environment in trees and shrubs and will discuss both cultural and chemical controls. We will take a deep look at species life cycles and application timings for optimal management strategies.

Protecting Colorado Rangelands:  
Practical Pest and Weed Management  
for Healthy Landscapes

8am - 9am

107

Robert Gonzales

**Speaker Bio:**

Robert Gonzales is an agricultural professional with Nutrien Ag Solutions, supporting customers with practical, field-based guidance on pest management and crop input solutions. He brings hands-on experience working with land managers to address real-world pest and vegetation challenges, with a focus on effective, responsible application practices and long-term stewardship.

**Course Description:**

Colorado's rangelands support wildlife habitat, grazing, and open space values—but they can be threatened by damaging insects, invasive weeds, and other pest pressures. This session provides an overview of safe, effective rangeland pest control strategies, with an emphasis on monitoring, treatment timing, and responsible pesticide use in native and naturalized plant communities. Attendees will also learn key considerations for minimizing off target impacts and supporting long-term rangeland health.

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9:00am - 10:00am      207      The Updated Tree Diagnostic Checklist      Korey Lofy

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**Speaker Bio:**

Korey Lofy, Rocky Mountain Territory Technical Manager, KLofty@arborjet.com. Korey helps tree care companies and municipalities in the Rocky Mountain region grow their plant healthcare programs. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Steven Point with a B.S. in Urban Forestry, Forest Recreation, and Interpersonal Communication. He is an ISA Certified Arborist with a pesticide applicator's license in multiple states. Korey is the Co-Host of The Discovering Forestry Podcast and aims to become your biggest resource to help save trees and grow your business. He resides in Granby, CO and is a past ISA's Rocky Mountain Chapter Arborist of the Year and currently sits on the board as Colorado's Chapter Director.

**Course Description:**

Prescription without diagnosis is malpractice! Proper diagnosis of plant problems is a key factor in plant health management. Practicing modern arboriculture can be challenging in urban forests. With non-native trees, invasive pests, and extreme weather conditions, it can be difficult to care for our urban canopy. Modern tree healthcare requires several different tools and considerations to manage our tree health. During this presentation, you will learn the most efficient way to implement a checklist into your diagnostic toolbox. We will also cover the top urban forest tree pests in our region and how to control them using modern treatments.

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9am - 10am      304      Occasional Invaders      Ryan Riley

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**Speaker Bio:**

Ryan entered the Pest Control industry in April 2000, as a technician for Terminix Commercial in Colorado Springs, Colorado. While employed with Terminix, he was given the opportunity to work in several different commercial pest control branches across different states before getting transferred back to Colorado. During the time with Terminix Commercial, Ryan served as a Manager in Nashville, Tennessee; Houston, Texas; Dallas, Texas back to Colorado Springs and last Denver, Colorado.

In 2015, Ryan worked for Orkin in Denver, Colorado and serving as an Assistant Branch Manager and Branch Manager for both residential and commercial branches. In 2019, served as the Denver North and Denver East Branch Manager for Saela Pest Control. Ryan is currently working as the Market Leader for SavATree in Centennial Colorado. Qualified Supervisor Lic # 6161 in Categories: 110,301,302,303,304. Outside of work, he has held several positions since 2012 for the Colorado Pest Control Association Board, serving as an Executive Board Member, Vice President, and President. Currently serving as the State Policy Affairs Representative, State Policy Committee Chair and Executive Board Member.

**Course Description:**

There are a few pests that can be found invading both residential and commercial structures, during specific months, during extreme weather or accidentally. These pests are normally considered to be occasional invaders, normally they are more a nuisance than a pest causing damage or a threat. This session covers Occasional Invaders, including what occasional invaders are and common occasional invaders found in Colorado. It also reviews pest biology, focusing on identification, habitat, and food sources. Participants will learn pest control techniques, including IPM, non-chemical controls, and chemical controls. The session also includes pest control information for clover mites vs. chiggers, earwigs, and springtails, with emphasis on identification, habitat, and food sources for each.

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10:30am - 11:30am	206	CO Turf Pest Control	Wes Epple
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**Speaker Bio:**

Wes Epple is a Sr. Sales Specialist for BASF Corporation. He joined BASF in 2012. In this role, Wes represents the BASF Turf & Ornamentals portfolio in the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Arkansas. Wes graduated from NC State University in 2011 with a BS in Turfgrass Science, Purdue University in 2018 with a MS in Agricultural Economics, and Indiana University in 2018 with an MBA. He resides in McKinney, TX with his wife and family.

**Course Description:**

This course will cover an IPM approach to disease management for turfgrasses in Colorado lawns and landscapes. This course will focus on disease control strategies primarily in the Spring and Fall of the year. A considerable amount of time will be spent on fungicide strategies for the Spring and Summer. Photos of disease will be shared. Methods of disease control as well as preventative versus curative treatments will be presented. How fungicides move through the plants will be discussed. FRAC numbering on the label will be discussed and a rotational strategy is stressed. Warm season turfgrasses and cool season turfgrasses will be considered. Cultural practices, such as mowing height, translocation of pests from equipment, irrigation and plant stresses will be discussed. Plant Health strategies will also be covered in the presentation. The goal of this presentation is to educate attendees on a holistic approach to disease prevention and control in turfgrass and ornamental landscapes.

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10:30am - 11:30am	109	Industrial and Right-of-Way Weed control	Mark Pickrel
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**Speaker Bio:**

Mark Pickrel is an agronomist with Wilbur-Ellis Company. He started his career in the green industry as a lawn care technician in Central Florida in 2005. He holds degrees from Northern Illinois University and Valencia College. In his free time, he works as a flyfishing guide splitting time between Denver and Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

**Course Description:**

This class will focus on identifying Industrial and ROW sites, understanding why these sites need to be managed, and differentiating between "soft" and "hard" bare ground sites. It will also cover herbicide categories and how proper herbicide rotation can help reduce herbicide resistance, as well as the herbicides available for use in Industrial and ROW settings. In addition, the class will discuss how water quality can affect herbicide efficacy in Industrial and ROW applications.

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11:30am - 12:30pm	206	"Managing Turf Pests with soft chemistries and bio-nutritional technologies"	Judd Fitzgerald
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**Speaker Bio:**

Judd has been serving the Green Industry for nearly 20 years in multiple capacities. He is a graduate of Rutgers University, but one of the few Colorado natives in circulation. None of his credential's matter because his goal in life is to work enough to allow him to go on his next white-water exhibition down one of the many wild rivers of the western US.

**Course Description:**

In this course we will briefly review the traditional techniques to pest management. In the second half of course we will learn about and introduce softer chemistries and bio-nutritional technologies that serve as non-pesticidal control options that are being used more for pest management.

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11:30am - 12:30pm	106	A Tiny Threat: Understanding the Spruce Beetle and its Role in Colorado's Forests	Bret Pilkington
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**Speaker Bio:**

Bret is a Colorado native who, after completing a degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from CU Boulder fell in love with the world of arboriculture. He is a Certified Arborist, Prescription Pruning Qualified Arborist, Qualified Supervisor with the

CDA and has been in the industry for 6 years. Bret has done everything from climbing and treating trees to building and elevating plant health care programs and sales. During his free time he enjoys skiing, biking, and hiking with my dogs.

**Course Description:**

This talk will explore and help you understand the fundamentals of spruce beetles from life cycle to management in your urban forest. We will dive into the specifics of this Colorado pest that is becoming a key player in forest health. Differences in population densities play a large role in understanding forest health and where we might be headed.

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1:30pm - 2:30pm	108	"Solutions for Success in Aquatic Systems."	Kaitlyn Quincy
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**Speaker Bio:**

Kaitlyn earned her bachelor's in Botany and master's in Ecology with a focus in Agronomy from the University of Florida. She worked with the South Florida Water Management District before moving to Denver and joining SePRO in 2021 to cover the Mountain and Great Plains regions. Kaitlyn is the Vice President for the Western Aquatic Plant Management Society and is an active member of Women of Aquatics. She is passionate about scientific communication and plans to pursue her PhD in aquatic plant management in the coming years.

**Course Description:**

Aquatic invasive species like Eurasian watermilfoil and curly leaf pondweed are becoming more prevalent throughout the country. Submerged species as well as emergent aquatic species can be difficult to manage without the proper tools. This presentation covers management of floating, emergent, and submersed aquatic species including plants and algae. The speaker will address the consideration of end goals, water use, and water characteristics when developing a management plan. It includes discussion of new chemistries and techniques to manage nuisance aquatic species and will provide an outline of how to approach a variety of aquatic management challenges.

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1:30pm - 2:30pm	109	Right of Way Weed Control Application Types & Methods	Brad Maddy
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**Speaker Bio:**

Brad Maddy previously served as SavATree Branch Manager – Colorado Springs. He is currently the Vice President of Key Account Management at Ferrovia LLC, a vegetation management company serving railroad, Department of Transportation, utility, and industrial right-of-way clients across the United States. Ferrovia provides comprehensive services including vegetation inspection, abatement, and herbicide-based control to help maintain safe, clear, and compliant corridors for transportation infrastructure. In his role, Brad works closely with customers to develop and implement effective vegetation management strategies that support operational safety and environmental considerations. With experience in industrial vegetation control and right-of-way applications, he brings practical insight into the challenges and solutions associated with managing plant growth along critical infrastructure corridors.

**Course Description:**

Industrial and right-of-way (ROW) weed control in Colorado requires site-specific planning, accurate target identification, and application methods that protect desirable vegetation, the public, and surrounding landscapes. This presentation covers herbicide application and vegetation management along roads, sidewalks, trails, utility corridors, railways, parking lots, substations, drainage and irrigation structures, and adjacent ROW areas where maintaining definable cover or bare ground is required. Designed for arborists and lawn care professionals, the course highlights how ROW vegetation management differs from traditional turf and ornamental work, and reviews common treatment objectives such as reducing hazards, improving access and visibility, and supporting long-term corridor maintenance. Attendees will explore different ROW application approaches including spot treatments, broadcast applications, selective vs. non-selective control, and integrated strategies, with discussion of how equipment choice, product selection, timing, and site conditions influence performance and environmental risk. Participants will leave with practical guidance for selecting effective ROW application methods based on the site, target weeds, and management goals commonly encountered across Colorado's industrial and corridor settings.

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2:30pm - 3:30pm	302	Voles and Pocket Gopher Services: From Start to Finish	Brandon Ewals-Strain
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**Speaker Bio:**

Brandon has been in the pest and wildlife control industry since 2005 and has owned and operated Northern Colorado Pest and Wildlife Control since 2016. He holds a bachelor's degree in wildlife biology and a graduate degree in Entomology from Colorado State University, where he had the opportunity to study under Dr. Whitney Cranshaw. Brandon currently serves as Vice President and incoming President of the Colorado Pest Control Association and has been a board member for the past five years. Outside of work, he is fortunate to share life with his wife, Kristen, and his three children—Brooklyn, Daphney, and Tennessee.

**Course Description:**

This session will walk attendees through the full-service process for voles and pocket gophers, beginning with inspection and species identification based on both physical damage and animal characteristics. We will explore a range of mitigation techniques used for each species, including the advantages and limitations of each approach. The discussion will also

address the environmental considerations of rodenticides and fumigants, with a focus on the risks of primary and secondary poisoning. The session will conclude with guidance on pricing and quoting these services, follow-up strategies, and warranty considerations, before opening the floor for questions.

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2:30pm - 3:30pm	107	From Ditch to Fence: Practical Weed Control That Works	Jeffrey Pettingill
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**Speaker Bio:**

Since February 2024, Jeffrey Pettingill has been the Territory Sales Manager for Alligare LLC covering Eastern Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah. Prior to this he was a County Weed Department Supervisor for 24 years. 20 years at Bonneville County Weed Control in Idaho, and the past four years at Baker County Weed District in Oregon where he worked with area Ranchers in invasive annual grass management as well as broadleaf noxious weeds across all landscapes. While working for Bonneville County he also had his own business of Pasture and Range Management where he worked with Government Agencies, Private Landowners, and NGO's. Prior to this, he worked for Wilbur Ellis Company as a Specialty Business Sales Representative in the markets of Vegetation Management, Landscape/Lawn Care, Golf Course Turf Management, and Pest Control Specialists. Jeffrey is a graduate of Idaho State University. He enjoys the very outdoors he protects in working with all land stewards in invasive and noxious weed management.

**Course Description:**

Jeffrey will discuss how to control weeds along the edge of crop fields, along irrigation corridors, and how to get the best out of bare ground areas such as storage yards, fencelines, and other sites. Presentation will include weed identification, herbicide selection and timing, as well as label comprehension to ensure one is following label requirements and are properly calibrated for best management practices.

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3:45pm - 4:45pm	110	Mosquito Trapping Services	Brandon Ewals-Strain
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**Speaker Bio:**

Brandon has been in the pest and wildlife control industry since 2005 and has owned and operated Northern Colorado Pest and Wildlife Control since 2016. He holds a bachelor's degree in wildlife biology and a graduate degree in Entomology from Colorado State University, where he had the opportunity to study under Dr. Whitney Cranshaw. Brandon currently serves as Vice President and incoming President of the Colorado Pest Control Association and has been a board member for the past five years. Outside of work, he is fortunate to share life with his wife, Kristen, and his three children—Brooklyn, Daphney, and Tennessee.

**Course Description:**

This presentation will focus on the use of mosquito trapping services as a proactive public health tool within Colorado's integrated pest management (IPM) framework. Attendees will gain an overview of mosquito biology and behavior relevant to Colorado species, followed by a discussion on how surveillance-based trapping programs help identify population density, species composition, and disease-vector risk. The session will cover common trap types used in public health settings, including their placement, limitations, and data interpretation, as well as how trapping supports decision-making for targeted larviciding and adulticiding while minimizing unnecessary pesticide exposure. Emphasis will be placed on reducing the risk of mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile virus through early detection, environmental management, and public education. Regulatory considerations, recordkeeping requirements, and best practices for communicating results to municipalities and the public will also be addressed to ensure compliance with Colorado Department of Agriculture standards and effective community protection.

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3:45pm - 4:45pm	103	Spray Smart: Weed ID, IPM, and Precision Control	Jeffrey Pettingill
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**Speaker Bio:**

Since February 2024, Jeffrey Pettingill has been the Territory Sales Manager for Alligare LLC covering Eastern Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah. Prior to this he was a County Weed Department Supervisor for 24 years. 20 years at Bonneville County Weed Control in Idaho, and the past four years at Baker County Weed District in Oregon where he worked with area Ranchers in invasive annual grass management as well as broadleaf noxious weeds across all landscapes. While working for Bonneville County he also had his own business of Pasture and Range Management where he worked with Government Agencies, Private Landowners, and NGO's. Prior to this, he worked for Wilbur Ellis Company as a Specialty Business Sales Representative in the markets of Vegetation Management, Landscape/Lawn Care, Golf Course Turf Management, and Pest Control Specialists. Jeffrey is a graduate of Idaho State University. He enjoys the very outdoors he protects in working with all land stewards in invasive and noxious weed management.

**Course Description:**

Jeffrey will discuss how to control unwanted weeds in bare ground sites, Non-Crop, and Range and Pasture areas. Discussion will include weed identification, integrated pest management, and pesticide safety. Identifying the proper invader will lead into proper herbicide and adjuvant selection, proper pesticide rates and timing as well as how to make sure your sprayers are calibrated to ensure best weed control. He will discuss how to ensure that the pesticide label is followed and interpreted especially when dealing with use along waterways and grazing tolerances.