

2019 Mini College Session Descriptions

Morning Sessions

What you should know about Soils

Instructor: Jay Brooker

Jay is a senior soils scientist with the Natural Resources and Conservation Service. He has spent his long career mapping soils and examining the physical and chemical properties of soils for their ability to grow trees and crops. Jay will provide an overview of how to assess soils for their qualities and how to use the web based mapping tool that allows anyone to look up what soils are present under their property and what their strengths and limitations are.

Log Scaling Intro. 1 & 2

Instructor: Scott Kuehn

Scott has been a professional forester in Montana for more than 30 years and is a School of Forestry, University of Montana alumni. He has also competed in professional logger sports since his college days and held the world record in “hot saw” (speed sawing) competition for over a decade with his own custom made chainsaw. He currently coaches the University of Montana logger sports team and is considered one of the greatest experts in many aspects of applied logging.

This class will teach the basics of evaluating the useable wood volume in a log and how to deduct the various defects a log may possess that influences value and volume such as taper, knots, cracks and rot. This is normally a 4 hour class that has been scaled down to cover the basics in 2 hours. If you plan on selling or sawing logs this class will give you a better perspective of log valuations for when you harvest or sell your logs.

Note: participants must take Intro. 1 to participate in Intro. 2.

Montana Insect & Disease Forecast for 2019

Instructor: August Kramer

August is an Entomologist for Montana DNRC will review the forest insects and diseases that caused problems across Montana last year and what they project to be species of concern for 2019.

Montana Forest Ecology/Management Concepts

Instructor: Peter Kolb

This class will present an overview of how the different forest types (tree species assemblages) of Montana historically functioned in relation to natural disturbances and how different forest management practices can be implemented to moderate insect and wildfire occurrences and conserve productive functioning forests.

Montana Climate – Past Present and Future

Instructor: Kelsey Jensco

Kelsey is the Watershed Professor for the Franke College of Forestry and Conservation and also the state climatologist.

Lunch Speaker

Kate Davis, Raptors of the Rockies

Back by popular demand, the lunch speaker will be Kate Davis, founder of Raptors of the Rockies along with a selection of her birds for a knowledgeable and entertaining presentation about her birds, experiences and raptor conservation.

Afternoon Sessions

Animal Wonders

Instructor: Taylor Craig

Animal wonders is a non-profit organization that helps rehabilitate animals to the wild. In this class you will be able to learn and interact with Seraohina the red fox and Lollipop the skunk and discuss their biology, habitat needs and behavior.

Estate Planning

Instructor: Joel Schumacher

Joel is an Associate Extension Specialist with the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University. An Accredited Financial Counselor his research and outreach programs focus on agricultural finance and consumer economics.

This session will provide an overview of how contract law, state laws of intestate session, wills and other legal documents help Montanans create their estate plan. This session will also provide attendees with information about additional estate planning educational resources.

Eight –Legged Forest Residents

Instructor: Laurie Kerzicnik

Laurie is an Associate Extension Specialist at Montana State University in Bozeman, focusing on urban insects, spiders, and education. She has a Master's and PhD in Entomology from Colorado State University and has worked with spiders over 25 years.

Laurie will discuss spider diversity in rural and forested habitats, spiders of medical importance in Montana, and common myths.

Sawmilling and Horse Logging

Instructor: Scott Kuehn and Dick Clemow

Scott has been a professional forester in Montana for more than 30 years and is a School of Forestry, University of Montana alumni. Dick is from the Forest Forever Horse logging & milling program will have a team of horses to demonstrate driving.

Participants will take a bus right after lunch at 1:30 to the Forest History Museum and return at 4:00pm, **this is an all afternoon session.**

Assessing your Home and Surrounding for Wildfire Risk

Instructor: Jordan Koppen, DNRC Fire Prevention Specialist

Numerous studies have found that the majority of homes that burn during a wildfire event do so because burning embers that a blown well in advance of any fire front ignite homes and surrounding landscaping. This presentation will give you an applied approach to assessing your home and surrounding landscape and making it resistant to ignitions from a nearby wildfire. Information presented is based on numerous assessments and studies of past wildfire occurrences and why some homes burned and others did not.