



**Utah Weed Control Association  
Annual Conference  
Feb. 21-22, 2024**

**Utah Valley Convention Center  
Provo, UT**

## UTAH WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION - ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

February 21-22, 2024

Wednesday, February 21

8:00 am	Registration and Trade Show Opens - <i>Sponsors</i>
9:00 am	Welcome and Presidential Address – <i>Cory Worwood, President, UWCA</i>
9:15 am	Keynote - From Lab to Label: The Product Development Process - <i>Jesse Richardson, Process Getting Herbicide Approved, Corteva</i>
10:00 am	Break and Trade Show - <i>Sponsors</i>
10:30 am	Basic Weed ID, <i>Corey Ransom, Mirella Ortiz, Eric Westra, USU Weeds Group</i>
11:10 am	Amber Johnson, Utah Poison Control Director
12:00 am	Vendors Recognition and Introductions - <i>Amber Mendenhall, Vice President Elect, UWCA</i>
12:15 pm	Business Meeting: Financial Report, UWCA Officer Nominations, Elections - <i>Corey Ransom, USU</i>
12:30 pm	Lunch

Breakout Sessions 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Session B	Breakout Session A	Breakout
<b>Integrated Habitat Management</b>	<b>Chemicals</b>	
1:30 pm Aquatic Weed ID and Management,	1:30 pm Agronomic Forensic Investigations,	
	Mirella Ortiz, USU	Jesse Richarsen, Corteva
2:00 pm Wildland Fire Management considerations	2:00 pm Adjuvants Activity, Corey Ransom, USU	
	for Integrated Weed Management,	
	Brad Washa, USU Extension	
2:30 pm Rangeland Restoration Challenge,	2:30 pm Adjuvants (cont.), Eric Westra, USU	
	Eric Thacker, USU	
3:00 pm Integrated Management of Invasive	3:00 pm Aquatic Plant Control Using Herbicides,	
	Phragmites, Keith Hambrecht, FFSL	Kaitlyn
Quincy, SePRO,	3:30 pm	Break

Full Session 4:00 - 5:00 pm

4:00 pm	Using Herbicides and Following the Label, Sandra McDonald, Mountain West Pest
5:00 pm	Adjourn
5:05 pm	UWSA Annual Business Meeting, Room # TBA

## Thursday, February 22

7:30 am	Registration and Trade Show Continues
8:00 am	Presidential Welcome - <i>Cory Worwood, President, UWCA</i>
8:10 am	Utah Invasive Species Data Platforms, <i>Aaron Eagar, UDAF</i>
8:50 am	Panel: Best Management Practices for Weed Control - <i>USU Weed Program, Scott Nissen, Sara Jo Dickens, Multiple Vendors</i>
9:20 am	Bareground Herbicides, <i>Scott Nissen, CSU Emeritus</i>
10:10 am	Break and Trade Show - Sponsors

### Breakout Sessions 10:30 - 12:00 pm

#### Breakout Session A Pollinators

#### Breakout Session B Emerging Threats

10:30 am	Getting to know Utah bees: How can we protect Utah pollinators, Joe Wilson, USU Tooele
11:00 am	UDAF Pollinator Habitat Program, Mindy Wheeler, USU
11:30 am	Hands-on Work with Pollinator Habitats, Maya Pendleton, Ogden Nature Center

10:30 am	Project Photo Documentation, Rosann Fillmore, UWSA
11:00 am	Palmer and Waterhemp: An Emerging Problem in Western Agriculture, Clarke Alder, Amalgamated Sugar
11:30 am	Herbicide Resistance, Eric Westra, USU

12:15 pm	Election Results, Awards and Lunch - <i>Cory Worwood, UWCA President</i>
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### Full Session 1:15 - 3:15 pm

1:15 pm	Improved Strategies in Biocontrol, Utah's Biocontrol Dashboard, <i>Amber Mendenhall, UWSA</i>
2:05 pm	Decisive Actions in Critical Moments: Making the Difference, <i>AJ Ferguson, Farm Bureau</i>
3:00 pm	Presidential Wrap-up and Door Prizes - <i>Cory Worwood, UWCA President</i>
3:15 pm	Adjourn

- [From Lab to Label: The Product Development Process](#) – Pesticide development phases, resources required to register a new pesticide, federal laws regulating pesticides, types of federal and state registrations.
- [Agronomic Forensic Investigations](#) – Ten elements of an effective agronomic forensic investigation, six most common contributors to pesticide performance issues, four real life agronomic forensics case files.

### **Corey Ransom- PhD Associate Professor, Weed Science Utah State University**

Corey got his doctorate degree in Crop and Soil Science at Michigan State University and has been working to provide useful weed science research and education since. He is currently an Associate Professor at Utah State University and sits on the state noxious weed committee and serves the Utah Weed Control Association as treasurer.

### **Eric Westra- Research Assistant Professor-Weed Science Utah State University**

Eric was born and raised in Fort Collins, Colorado and grew up around an academic weed science program at Colorado State University. He received his bachelors degree in Soil and Crop Sciences and conducted various aspects of soil-herbicide interaction research for his masters degree at CSU. Eric continued for his PhD in Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management at CSU where his research was focused on the management of herbicide-resistant kochia in Colorado. After graduating in 2016, Eric transitioned into a Research Scientist position at CSU and developed an applied field weed research program working on various aspects of weed science in multiple cropping systems. Eric started his new position at USU as a Research Assistant Professor on Jan 1 st (2023) where he looks forward to continuing his work in field applied weed research for the state of Utah.

### **DR. Mirella Ortiz-Assistant Professor in Weed Science, Utah State University**

Mirella Ortiz is an Assistant professor in Weed science at Utah State University. Mirella received her BS degree in Agronomy from Brazil and her MS and PhD degrees in Weed Science from Colorado State University. Mirella's research interests include weed biology and ecology and herbicide physiology to improve weed management. Mirella's interest in aquatic plant management started 8 years ago when she was first introduced to invasive aquatic plants during her Master's degree and she has been studying aquatic weeds since then.

### **Mindy Wheeler- Pollinator Program Coordinator**

Mindy has been the USU Quinney College of Natural Resources/UDWR state native plant conservation project leader since 2016. The job consists of a variety of tasks that include tracking the state's rare plants (through surveys, monitoring and database curation), doing pollinator habitat projects and 'other duties as assigned.' The tie to the noxious weed world always comes into play when dealing with threats to rare plants and their vegetation communities, as well as potential effects of introduced species on pollinators. She has had many years of noxious weed surveys, plans and control and has the couple of pairs of shoes that are forever dyed blue to prove it...

### **Sara Jo Dickens-Owner & Principal Ecologist Ecology Bridge**

Sara Jo Dickens is the owner and principal ecologist for Ecology Bridge Environmental Consulting and project manager for the Summit CWMA. She received her doctorate in plant biology studying plant-soil feedbacks, annual grass invasion and ecosystem function from UC Riverside and completed her Postdoctoral work at UC Berkeley assessing restoration and land management success. She now works with private and public landowners/managers implementing noxious weed control, soil and forest health and water conservation practices and engaging the community through outreach when appropriate.

### **AJ Ferguson – Vice President of Farm Safety**

AJ has completed basic CPR, first aid and AED trainer certification, attended the OSHA 500, OSHA 501 courses, and safety management for small business, and is a certified Farmedic instructor for Cornell University. Has completed a Bio-defense—foreign animal disease emergency animal response program. In addition, he is a Nationally Certified as an EPA Worker Protection Standard trainer for workers and handlers of pesticides, has certified as state ATV safety instructor for Utah Parks and Recreation, and has completed other safety courses at Utah Safety Council as well as being certified as a Nationally Certified Tractor Safety Instructor. Certificate of completion for Rural Roadway Safety: with Ag Equipment and snowplows.

Title: Decisive Actions in Critical Moments: Making the Difference

Short explanation:

Having the confidence to act in a critical moment can lead to making the right decisions when you need them the most. Gain an understanding of the basic emergency response procedures involving a vehicular accident and spills that have occurred. As the driver you are accountable for what happens next.

Eric Thacker

Rangeland Restoration Challenge

Learning about rangeland rehabilitation through doing, observing and sharing.

**J. Bradley Washa** – brad.washa@usu.edu - 435.729.0040 -

Brad became an Assistant Professor of Wildland Fire Science in the Wildland Resources Department with Utah State University Extension in July 2023. This is a new Extension specialist position in the Quinney College of Natural Resources. Brad had a very rewarding and successful career in wildland fire and fuels management and appreciates the opportunity to give back to the wildland fire community and those coming up in the field in this new professor role and continuing as a “student of fire.”

After more than 33 years in federal wildland fire management service with over 400 wildland fires, Brad retired in 2021 as the State Fuels Specialist for the Bureau of Land Management in Utah. Besides being on the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point Fire Crew, his first experience with western wildfire was on the Helitack Crew at Mesa Verde National Park. Other wildland fire work included the U.S. Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with details to the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) and the Department of Interior’s Office of Wildland Fire. He holds a MS in Forest Science - Wildland Fire Science from Colorado State University (2001) and a BS in Natural Resource Management and minor in Political Science from UW-Stevens Point (1990).

Brad has obtained and maintains some of the highest wildland fire qualifications including Type 1 Operations Section Chief, Type 1 Prescribed Fire Burn Boss, Prescribed Fire Manager, Fire Behavior Analyst, Strategic Operations Planner, and Incident Commander T3. Brad represented the United States contingent for the 2020 Australian Bushfires, and continues to be a member of the Alaska Incident Management Team as an Operations Section Chief T1 focusing on Strategic Planning. Areas of interest for Brad are the creation of landscape resilient fuels treatments including the implementation of prescribed fire and study of treatment effectiveness, smoke management, risk analysis, strategic planning, and dispelling of wildland fire misinformation.

Kaitlyn Quincy

Title:

Aquatic Plant Control Using Herbicides

Description:

This presentation covers management of floating, emergent, and submersed aquatic species, including plants and algae, using herbicides and algaecides. 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.

Bio:

Kaitlyn earned her bachelor's in Botany and master's in Ecology and Agronomy from the University of Florida. Kaitlyn has worked in the aquatics industry since 2019 and currently covers the Mountain and Great Plains regions as a SePRO Technical Specialist. Kaitlyn is on the board of directors for the Western Aquatic Plant Management Society and is an active member of Women of Aquatics. She is passionate about scientific communication, and she hopes to pursue her PhD in aquatic plant management in the coming years.

Keith

Title: Integrated Management of Invasive Phragmites

Description: The Great Salt Lake watershed was heavily invaded by invasive Phragmites after the floodwaters of the 80's receded. Many years of local research and on the ground management experience have yielded reliable, detailed best practices on how to use an integrated approach to controlling Phragmites and restoring wetland habitat. This presentation will cover all you need to know about controlling Phragmites and will hopefully inspire others to join the effort in reducing the impacts to our watershed from this very aggressive and destructive wetland invader.

Bio:

Keith has been with the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands since 2016. His work focuses on large scale management of ecosystem altering invasive vegetation and native vegetation restoration. After receiving his BS/MS in engineering from University of Utah in 2011, he left engineering behind to pursue his interests in public land management and ecological restoration. Keith grew up in Massachusetts and moved to Utah in 2005 to ski, bike, and hike the mountains of the West.

Amber Mendenhall

Utah Weed Supervisors Association

Title: Improved Strategies in Biocontrol, Utah's Biocontrol Dashboard

Description:

It is important to use mapping and new strategies to improve success of biocontrol. Utah has developed a GIS based dashboard to help accomplish our goals. We will discuss the use of our new

dashboard an additional strategies to track and improve the efficacy of biocontrol in an integrated management program.

BIO:

Amber Mendenhall has been the biocontrol specialist since 2005. She built biocontrol programs for 12 noxious weeds in Utah. She works as a contractor for the Utah Weed Supervisors Association.

Amber works with cooperators in western states to share biocontrol agents and techniques across borders. Amber's priorities are to establish new biocontrol insectaries and assist in integrated management strategies to incorporate biocontrol.

Maya Pendleton:

Title: Hands-on Work with Pollinator Habitats

Description: I will be discussing the Ogden Nature Center's role and experiences in restoring native pollinator habitat through the UDAF Utah Native Pollinator Habitat program. We will discuss challenges, successes, and lessons learned when working to restore pollinating species across multiple project sites at the Ogden Nature Center.

Short Bio: Maya is a Northern Utah Native and has worked extensively with non-game wildlife and habitat restoration. She graduated with her M.S. in Ecology from Utah State University where she focused on ecosystem functions of Great Salt Lake wetland habitats and how they relate to avian conservation and ongoing habitat restoration efforts. She currently works for the Ogden Nature Center as their Conservation Director and focuses on restoring degraded and non-native habitats to benefit the suite of urban wildlife that resides at Ogden Nature Center.

Clarke Alder:

Title: Palmer and Waterhemp: An Emerging Problem in Western Agriculture

This presentation will go over basic ID of the two weeds, the current distribution in the US, Idaho and Oregon, and potential sources of species spread in hopes to get ahead of introduction into other western states. We will touch on herbicide resistance and how we might work around that to manage the weeds in crops in Oregon, Idaho, and Utah.

Born in Manti, Utah, Clarke Alder drove his first tractor around age seven while no one was looking. At age 11, his grandparents sold the small dairy that his father was a part of and his family moved north to the Cache Valley. Clarke attended middle school, high school, and college in Logan. He earned a Master of Science in Weed Science, a Bachelor of Science in Ornamental Horticulture and a minor in Business all from

Utah State University. Prior to moving to Idaho, Clarke worked in the landscaping industry for nearly a decade and has also worked various trades including cabinetry, electrical, framing, and tile.

Clarke hired on at Amalgamated Sugar just before harvest in September of 2012 as a Crop Consultant in the Weiser, Payette, and Fruitland areas where he still holds the unofficial record for running a skeleton harvest crew until December 19th that first campaign. Clarke transitioned to the Sugarbeet Research (SBR) team in late 2015 as a Research Agronomist after overlapping a short time in both roles. Clarke currently serves as a Weed Scientist where he focuses on weed control in sugarbeet, particularly looking for alternatives to glyphosate to help manage resistant weed populations and more recently, how to control Palmer amaranth and waterhemp in Idaho. Clarke also oversees much of the trialing in the western part of the state and has served as the Editor-in-Chief for *The Sugarbeet Magazine* and Amalgamated Sugar's Grower Guidebook since 2015.

Clarke, his wife, and six kids currently reside in Middleton, ID and love traveling and almost anything you can do in the outdoors.

## Scott Nissen

### Title – Bareground Herbicides

Summary – Bareground herbicides help keep weeds from growing on rights-of-way to help reduce unwanted risks associated with vegetation. Choosing the right product and understanding the application timing are key to successful treatments and prolonging the life of these tools through a successful resistance management program.

Bio – Scott Nissen was a professor at Colorado State University and retired in December 2021. His responsibilities included research (applied and basic), outreach (Cooperative Extension) and some teaching. His research focused on invasive species management and adaptive strategies to establish desirable plant communities. The goal of this research was to establish sustainable plant communities that can resist re-invasion. Herbicides are an important management tool, so he also focused on herbicide fate in the environment and non-target impacts.

## Sandra McDonald

### Title – Using Herbicides and Following the Label

Summary – Using pesticides legally requires that the applicator must read, understand and follow the label. FIFRA (40 CFR, Part 170.305) defines use as more than just applying pesticides; the steps of legal “use” will be covered.

Bio – Sandra McDonald founded Mountain West PEST (Pesticide Education & Safety Training) in 2009. Prior to establishing Mountain West PEST, Sandra was the Environmental and Pesticide

Education Specialist at Colorado State University. She worked for 13 years at Colorado State University where she was involved in specialty crop pesticide research in addition to her role as a pesticide safety educator. Sandra also has extensive teaching experiences in pesticide safety, pesticide applicator exposure, pest management and pesticides in the environment.