



Montana Nursery & Landscape Association
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MONTANA NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION ELECTS NEW BOARD MEMBER

BIGFORK, MT, February 3, 2009 — The board of directors of the Montana Nursery and Landscape Association proudly announces the election of their newest board member, Steven J. Lehenbauer. The election took place at the association's Annual Membership Meeting which was held in conjunction with their 2009 Montana Green Expo in January.

Lehenbauer is the vice president and owner of Sylvan Nursery, Inc. in Billings, Montana. His history with the association started during his grade school years in the early 1970's when he helped his father Norbert and one of MNLA (then Montana Association of Nurserymen) founders Jim Toole machine dig trees for their customers. Norbert and his wife opened Sylvan Nursery in 1976, focusing on evergreen trees. They built a small greenhouse and began selling bedding plants, while also doing landscaping work. Steve did landscaping after school and in the summers, and helped care for the Christmas tree farm.



After graduating from Montana State University with a BS in Horticulture and Landscape Design in 1989, he managed the landscape division at Sylvan. The nursery continued growing and was moved to its current location in 1991. In 2006 Norbert retired, leaving son Steve as general manager of all of Sylvan Nursery Inc.'s divisions. Sylvan Nursery is now one of the few companies that offer a full garden center, landscape design and installation, underground irrigation installation and service, and a complete grounds maintenance division.

"My family has enjoyed the services of the Montana Nursery and Landscape Association for many years. It is time for me to return the favor," notes Lehenbauer. "I am excited about serving the membership and being part of the future of the industry, while remembering our great past."

MNLA board members serve for five years, coming onto the board in the role of 3rd vice president. They move up the ladder to 2nd and 1st vice president, then assume the role of president in their fourth year. Finally, they serve one year as past president. Currently serving in the role of president is David Anderson of New Leaf Landscaping, 1st vice president is Josh Friendson of Blanchford Landscape Contractors, 2nd vice president is Jake Wagner of Wagner Nursery & Landscaping, and past president is Andy Blanchford from Blanchford Landscape Contractors. Susan Smith of Field of Dreams Tree Farm is serving a second term as secretary, and Jennifer Weiss of Gardening Under the Big Sky continues her commitment serving as the Education Committee Chair. Information about the board of directors and other volunteer opportunities is available at www.plantingmontana.com.

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Electronic copies of this press release, as well as photos of the board members are available from the MNLA website: <http://www.plantingmontana.com>.