



## Montana Nursery & Landscape Association, Inc.

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MONTANA NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION CERTIFIES TWO INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

BIGFORK, MT, January 26, 2009 — Horticulture professionals Sonya Scarff of Blanchford Landscape Contractors in Bozeman, Montana and Dustin Van Dyke of Alpine Reflections, Inc. in Belgrade, Montana have passed the difficult Montana Nursery & Landscape Association Certified Plant Professional (CPP) examination and have received their CPP certifications.



Scarff graduated MSU-Bozeman in 2006 with a degree in Ecology and Evolution as well as an Honor's degree. She spent the following summer digging dinosaurs in the Montana badlands locating a partial skull of a juvenile Triceratops which is now on display as part of the growth series at the Museum of the Rockies. Scarff has worked for two seasons at Blanchford Landscape Contractors where she says "the company is constantly striving to become a leading example of efficiency and sustainability in the horticultural industry through their proactive training programs".

Van Dyke is a native Montanan who grew up on a registered Black Angus ranch. A graduate of Montana State University with a degree in horticultural and an emphasis in landscape design, he now puts that training to use at Alpine Reflections, Inc. of Belgrade, Montana. He looks forward to many years in the development and installation of creative landscapes but mostly enjoys working with people to develop unique and sustainable landscape environments.



The exam tests participants' knowledge and recognition of plants and includes two parts — an actual plant identification exam and a written exam that tests participants' knowledge of general horticultural practices. While most of the plant material used in the plant ID portion of the exam is relatively common to our state, the test includes an extensive variety of plants, as well as some materials less common to our region. Since the CPP Certification Program was introduced in our state by the Montana Nursery & Landscape Association nearly ten years ago, it has gained a reputation among nursery professionals for being a very tough exam. Achievement of the coveted "CPP" initials after one's name carries a great deal of prestige.

The most recent exam was given in Billings, MT, as part of the MNLA 2009 Montana Green Expo. A list of CPPs and information about the certification program are available at [www.plantingmontana.com](http://www.plantingmontana.com).

The Montana Nursery & Landscape Association is a trade association of approximately 330 members from the United States and Canada. Its goal is to provide education, information, and opportunities for professional development to its members.

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