



## Montana Nursery & Landscape Association, Inc.

PO Box 1366 • Bigfork, MT 59901-1366

Toll Free 888.220.1569 • Tel. 406.755.3079 • Fax 406.755.3072 [www.plantingmontana.com](http://www.plantingmontana.com)

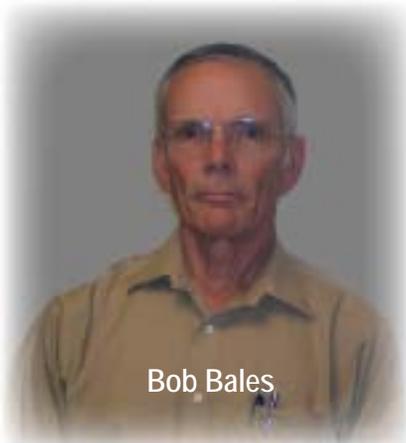
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Lori Curtis, Executive Director  
888.220.1569 or 406.755.3079

### **MONTANA NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION CERTIFIES TWO INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS**

BIGFORK, MT, September 28, 2009 — Horticulture professionals Robert Bales from the Montana Department of Agriculture in Billings and Joe Walker from Fancy Plants/Montana Ace Hardware in Missoula have passed the complex Montana Nursery & Landscape Association Certified Plant Professional (CPP) examination and have received their CPP certification.

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 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 Helena on August 27<sup>th</sup> in Helena, as part of MNLA's Montana annual Fall Tour.



Bob Bales

Robert Bales is a long time resident of Billings since 1978. He is originally from Sheridan, Wyoming. He has worked for the Montana Department of Agriculture for almost 15 years. This current work follows a 30-year career with the Bureau of Land Management. He has a Masters Degree in Range Management and hails from a

ranching family. Joe Walker has 21 years of experience in the horticultural industry, including owning two retail nurseries and managing another in Oklahoma. Joe has been with Ace Hardware since November of 2000 and is currently the store manager of the Montana Ace Hardware in Polson.

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.

###

