



Montana Nursery & Landscape Association, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MONTANA NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION CERTIFIES INDUSTRY PROFESSIONAL

BIGFORK, MT, February 6, 2011— Horticulture professional Dorothea Kast of Caras Nursery in Missoula, and Regina Bennett of Great Falls MT. have passed the difficult Montana Nursery & Landscape Association Certified Plant Professional (CPP) examination earlier and has received her 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 Billings on January 6, 2011 as part of the MNLA's Montana Green Expo.

Dorothea
Missoula for
and one inspired
a stunning
to Caras,
had worked on a



Kast has worked at Caras Nursery and Landscape in nearly 2 years, primarily in retail sales. A longtime gardener, by natural beauty, she feels very at home in the mix at Caras: setting, gorgeous plants and amazing people. Before coming Dorothea had been a private teacher in northern Michigan, biodynamic farm in England and had spent many years

working in and around academia all over. She has degrees in art and literature from the University of Michigan and the University of Wisconsin respectively.

Regina Bennett grew up in
gardener by the age of nine. Her great
and nurseries, as well as harvesting
led her to major in education in college,
training specialist. She gardened
Germany-cold and wet, Virginia-sandy
finally settling in Great Falls MT. Over
horticulture, amassing a library of



Pennsylvania. She was an avid
joy was visiting botanical gardens
fruits from the wild. Career choices
and then on to the Air Force as a
everywhere she was stationed;
and buggy, Minot-so-brrrrr, before
the years she never lost her love of
reference books and taking every

educational class available. She completed the MSU Master Gardener Program. She worked at Forde Nursery in Great Falls for several years and learned something new every day. In the spring of 2010 she opened her own business, "The Garden Jeannie", where she helps grant the garden wishes of her clients.

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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