

CITY OF
GREAT FALLS
Mansfield Events Office

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(EDITORS: This is corrected version of March 28, 2009, news release; corrects total number of booths)

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Marketplace Wraps Up With Sales, Awards

GREAT FALLS, MT – The 2009 Made in Montana Marketplace concluded Saturday (March 28) with an estimated 2,348 people taking advantage of the opportunity to buy Montana-cachet products directly from producers at 127 booths on Public Day. Attendance was the third largest number of people on Public Day in the four years Great Falls has hosted the show. For comparison, here are the Public Day gate figures for the other years:

- 2008 – 2,115
- 2007 – 2,516
- 2006 – 2,410

The 2009 Marketplace, presented by the City of Great Falls, filled the Mansfield Convention Center and the Missouri Room in the Great Falls Civic Center. This annual two-day trade show on the first day connected wholesale buyers looking for Montana products with the people who produce them, the exhibitors, and opened the second day of the show to the public for retail sales.

Figures for commercial buyers who registered for the first day of the 2009 Marketplace – Friday were strong:

- 2009 – 175 registered companies
- 2008 – 147 registered companies
- 2007 – 165 registered companies
- 2006 – 171 registered companies

The 127 booths at the 2009 Marketplace was the largest number in the Marketplace's history. Close to 150 exhibitors showed products at the Marketplace, including the new Artisans' Section in the Missouri Room of the Great Falls Civic Center.

Awards presented on Friday recognized four exhibitors:

- Remedies Essentials, Whitefish, producer of handmade bath and body care product, first-runnerup for Best First Time Exhibitor;
- Tailfeathers, Missoula, which produces jewelry, Best First Time Exhibitor;
- Heinlein Apiaries, Helena, producer of plain and flavored honeys, candles, soaps, and pollen, honorable mention for Best of Show; and
- Tuf Girlz Co., Miles City, which produces jewelry and belts, Best of Show.

The Montana Department of Commerce and the Montana Department of Agriculture started the original Made in Montana Food & Gift Show in 1998; however, funding for the show was cut in 2004. The Schweitzer Administration restored funding to help sponsor the rebirth of the show in 2005. In 2006, the City of Great Falls assumed production of the show and renamed it the Made in Montana Marketplace. The Department of Commerce remains a primary partner and sponsor of the Marketplace. The Department of Agriculture and Montana Arts Council are contributing partners. Private business sponsors are All American Pharmaceutical, Billings; the Great Falls Tribune; Color World Printers, Bozeman; Big Sky Commerce, Missoula; Creative Wave Design, Great Falls; La Quinta Inn and Suites-Great Falls; and Quality Inn Ponderosa, Great Falls.