

AHS NEWS SPECIAL: Community Beautification Rewarded

TEN COMMUNITIES and cities ranging from tiny Lewes, Delaware (population less than 5,000), to Columbus, Ohio (population over one million), received awards for community beautification efforts at the second annual America in Bloom (AIB) Symposium and Awards Program, held September 20 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. Known internationally for its greening and beautification efforts, Chicago was the grand winner of AIB's largest-population category at the inaugural award ceremony held last year.

Founded in 2002, America in Bloom is a national campaign and contest. It is modeled on successful programs in England and Canada (Communities in



Colorful gardens like this earned Indianapolis an AIB award for overall excellence.

How to Get Involved

If you'd like to get your community involved in the America in Bloom program, here are tips for getting started:

- Start by seeking approval and support from your mayor, city council, or appropriate municipal officials.
- Then complete and submit the AIB registration form (download from www.americainbloom.org).
- Organize a local AIB contest committee comprised of representatives from businesses, the municipal government, and community members.
- Review judging criteria and documents received from AIB. Create a notebook of year-round events in the community that relate to the evaluation criteria.
- Encourage local media outlets to help publicize the competition and program events.
- Make it fun and enjoy the journey!

For more information about America in Bloom, contact AIB Administrator Laura Kunkle at (614) 487-1117 or visit www.americainbloom.org. For information on Communities in Bloom, visit www.communitiesinbloom.ca.

Bloom) that have fostered urban beautification efforts and civic pride. In the friendly competition, communities are evaluated in a wide range of categories such as floral displays, urban forestry, landscaped areas, turf and ground-covers, environmental awareness, heritage conservation, and community involvement.

"We are proud to count both America in Bloom and Communities in Bloom among our horticultural partners," says AHS President **Katy Moss Warner**. "Both organizations share our belief that plants and greenspace are critical to the quality of life in our cities and communities."

Nearly 40 communities from all regions of the United States received

recognition in the second year of the AIB program. Judges visited all the communities this past summer prior to making the award decisions. The 2003 winners for overall excellence, listed by population category, are shown in the box below.

"I really appreciate America In Bloom's mission of trying to beautify communities of all sizes," says

Anne Maschmeyer, beautification manager for the city of Indianapolis, which received the AIB overall award for

cities with a population between a half million and a million. "Beauty goes beyond aesthetics; it conveys a message to residents, employees, and visitors that a community is healthy, vibrant, and a great place to live in."



2003 AIB AWARD-WINNING COMMUNITIES

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| ■ 5,000 or less | Lewes, Delaware |
| ■ 5,001–10,000 | Warwick, New York |
| ■ 10,001–15,000 | Brecksville, Ohio |
| ■ 15,001–20,000 | Berea, Ohio |
| ■ 20,001–25,000 | Batavia, Illinois |
| ■ 25,001–50,000 | Lake Oswego, Oregon |
| ■ 50,001–100,000 | Reston, Virginia |
| ■ 100,001–300,000 | Akron, Ohio |
| ■ 500,001–1,000,000 | Indianapolis, Indiana |
| ■ 1,000,001 or greater | Columbus, Ohio |



A winning view from Berea, Ohio