

AHS NEWS SPECIAL

America In Bloom's 2006 Award Winners

by Heather Robbins

FOR THE FIFTH year, America in Bloom (AIB) recognized the efforts and accomplishments of garden-oriented communities across the country at its 2006 Educational Symposium and Awards Gala. The event took place from September 28 to 30 in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, a Victorian-era town nestled in the Ozark Mountains.

In accordance with the host city's quaint setting, the symposium's theme this year was "Life in the Past Lane," with presenters and some participants getting into the spirit and donning Victorian finery for the Gala and Awards Ceremony, at which 17 major awards were presented in a variety of categories (see box below).

AIB is a non-profit organization seeking to increase community gardening in this country and a fitting partner for the AHS, which sponsors the Community Involvement Award. For the second year in a row, Logan, Ohio, won the AHS Community Involvement Award by accumulating more than 500,000 hours of



Eureka Springs, Arkansas



Lincoln Square, New York City



Award-winning Eureka Springs, Arkansas, top left, and Lincoln Square in New York City, top right. Above: AHS President Emeritus Katy Moss Warner, right, with AIB participants from the town of Logan, Ohio, shown at right.



Logan, Ohio

volunteer work to fulfill its blooming potential. "It is impressive to see so many cities across America proudly sharing what they have done to beautify their

communities, care for their environment and get their citizens involved. Each of these cities is a winner," says AHS President Emeritus, **Katy Moss Warner**, who is on the AIB's Board of Directors.

AIB judges base population category and special awards on ratings for each of eight criteria: floral displays, landscaped areas, turf and groundcover areas, urban forestry, environmental awareness, tidiness, heritage preservation, and community involvement. All participants benefit from the program, whether they win an award or not. As AIB President **Marvin Miller** notes, studies from the University of Illinois have shown clear links between the "greening" of cities and positive trends such as crime reduction and improved academic performance.

For more information about the 2006 Awards, a list of all participating communities, and guidelines and registration for the 2007 competition, visit www.americainbloom.org or call (614) 487-1117.

Heather Robbins is editorial intern for The American Gardener.

POPULATION CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

- under 5,000 Eureka Springs, Arkansas
- 5,001–10,000 Oberlin, Ohio
- 10,001–15,000 Wickliffe, Ohio
- 15,001–20,000 Greenfield, Indiana
- 20,001–50,000 Columbus, Indiana
- 50,001–100,000 Fayetteville, Arkansas
- Medium business district Lincoln Square, New York City
- Small business district Columbus Avenue, New York City
- University campus University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri

SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

- America in Bloom Tidiness Award *Bartlett, Tennessee*
- American Horticultural Society Community Involvement Award *Logan, Ohio*
- Ball Horticultural Company Floral Displays Award *Gallipolis, Ohio*
- Gardens Alive! Environmental Awareness Award *Buffalo, Minnesota*
- J. Frank Schmidt & Son Urban Forestry Award *Ocala, Florida*
- Meister Media Worldwide Heritage Preservation Award *Eureka Springs, Arkansas*
- Project Evergreen Landscaped Areas Award *Columbus, Indiana*
- Scotts Miracle-Gro Turf & Groundcovers Award *Tipp City, Ohio*