

AHS NEWS SPECIAL: America in Bloom's 2008 Award Winners

by Caroline Bentley

MORE THAN 200 people from 30 communities nationwide attended the seventh annual America in Bloom (AIB) educational symposium and awards ceremony October 2 through 4 in Columbus, Ohio. This year's "Homecoming"



www.americainbloom.org

theme honored AIB's hometown with special tours of public and private gardens, including the Governor's Residence and Franklin Park Conservatory. Presentations offered take-home ideas including how to select plants for site-specific color, urban forestry, greening your community, how gardens change the face of neighborhoods, developing backyard conservation programs, new plant developments, and heritage preservation.

Bill Dawson from the Franklin Park Conservatory described Columbus's "Growing to Green" project, which helps beautify the city's neighborhoods with more than 130 thriving community gardens. The Environmental Protection Agency's eco-friendly "Greenscaping" program was detailed by **Jean Schwab** of the agency's Washington, D.C., branch. The EPA program outlines eco-friendly lawn and garden care solutions



The winner of the AHS-sponsored Community Involvement Award, Incline Village General Improvement District in Nevada, boasts spectacular natural vistas and active citizens dedicated to beautification efforts.

that save time and money while protecting our natural resources.

As part of the AHS's partnership with AIB, the Society annually sponsors the Community Involvement Award,



one of eight special "criteria" awards. This award "encourages and recognizes civic excellence where community members, government, business, and non-profit organizations work together to address critical local issues" to improve their quality of life. This year's award recognized the **Incline Village General Improvement District, Nevada**. According to AIB, "Incline Village sets the standard for community involvement. In fact, the judges have recommended that [the citizens] develop a book on their principles and implementation of collaboration between service groups. It is a model that deserves recognition and should be repeated in every town in America."

Next year's America in Bloom symposium will be held October 1 to 3 in Hershey, Pennsylvania. For more information or to enter your community in next year's contest, visit www.americainbloom.org or call (614) 487-1117.

Caroline Bentley is an editorial assistant with The American Gardener.

POPULATION CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

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|-------------------|---------------------------|
| ■ under 5,000 | Greendale, Indiana |
| ■ 5,001–10,000 | North Manchester, Indiana |
| ■ 10,001–15,000 | Greendale, Wisconsin |
| ■ 15,001–25,000 | Stuart, Florida |
| ■ 25,001–50,000 | West Lafayette, Indiana |
| ■ 50,001–100,000 | Fayetteville, Arkansas |
| ■ 100,001–300,000 | Toledo, Ohio |

CRITERIA AWARD WINNERS

- American Horticultural Society Community Involvement Award **Incline Village General Improvement District, Nevada**
- Ball Horticultural Company Floral Displays Award **Ironton, Ohio**
- Gardens Alive! Environmental Awareness Award **West Lafayette, Indiana**
- J. Frank Schmidt & Son Company Urban Forestry Award **Greendale, Wisconsin**
- Meister Media Worldwide Heritage Preservation Award **Lafayette, Indiana**
- Project Evergreen Landscaped Areas Award **Bexley, Ohio**
- SafeLawns Turf & Groundcover Areas Award **Tipp City, Ohio**
- Tidiness Award **Fayetteville, Arkansas**