



MEDIA RELEASE

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For more information, contact Laura Kunkle

aib@AmericaInBloom.org

614-487-1117

Slippery Rock, PA America in Bloom Awards Results Announced

(COLUMBUS, OH): Top honors for the prestigious 2014 America in Bloom national awards program were announced at the annual awards held in Philadelphia, PA on October 4.

America in Bloom executive director, Laura Kunkle, said, “America in Bloom is helping participants of all types achieve their potential. Every year our participants raise the bar, and the accomplishments and progress shown by this year's towns and cities is again remarkable.”

All participants were evaluated on six criteria: overall impression, environmental awareness, heritage preservation, urban forestry, landscape, and floral displays. Additionally they were judged on their community involvement across municipal, residential, and commercial sectors. America in Bloom is the only national awards program that sends specially trained judges to personally visit participants and provide a detailed written evaluation that can be used as a guide to future improvements.

Katy Moss Warner and Barbara Vincentsen, two specially trained AIB judges, visited towns of similar populations and spent two days touring each town, meeting municipal officials, residents, and volunteers. Other competitors in the 3,501 to 4,500 population category were Gallipolis, OH; Lewisburg, WV; and the University of Findlay in Findlay, OH.

Slippery Rock received a three bloom rating and a special award for having the most welcoming town entrance. In addition, they received a special mention for community involvement.

The judges said, “Eighteen community leaders from Slippery Rock in Bloom including the mayor are all actively involved in their community. Each of them are members of Rotary as well as many other municipal councils and charitable organizations. Each takes on a leadership role for SRIB – from the Flower Planter to the Weeder to the Tree Hugger to the Bedazzler. When they are all out visibly planting bulbs and flowers, weeding, watering, picking up litter or adding fairy gardens, new volunteers are recruited in great numbers. The active role of Rotary in sponsoring Slippery Rock in Bloom has resulted in many in the business community joining the volunteer corps. With over 70 volunteers showing up on a single planting day, Weekly Wednesday Weeding days drawing a crowd and the Sunday Litter Brigade announcing the importance of cleanliness, community involvement in Slippery Rock is at an impressively high level. They make volunteering fun with their ‘Hats off to Slippery Rock’ theme.”

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Congratulations to Slippery Rock!

Registrations for the 2015 national awards program can be submitted until February 28, 2015. Eligible participants include towns, cities, college and university campuses, business districts, military installations, and recognized neighborhoods of large cities.

America in Bloom is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting nationwide beautification programs and personal and community involvement through the use of flowers, plants, trees, and other environmental and lifestyle enhancement.

For more information, visit www.americainbloom.org.

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