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America in Bloom Judges to Visit Holliston, MA

Judges from the America in Bloom (AIB) national awards program will visit Holliston, MA on July 24 and 25, 2014. This is Holliston's third entry in the America in Bloom national awards program. The town is one of 33 towns across America working on local revitalization programs with the hopes of receiving a prestigious America in Bloom national award.

Holliston is competing against Arroyo Grande, CA; Ottawa, IL; and Wisconsin Rapids, WI in the 15,001 to 19,000 population category.

Participants are evaluated in the following areas: overall impression, heritage preservation, environmental efforts, urban forestry, landscapes, floral displays, and community involvement. The judges evaluate these criteria in the residential, commercial, and municipal sectors.

Judges are Jim Sutton and Karin Rindal.



Jim Sutton



Karin Rindal

Jim Sutton is the Display Designer for Longwood Gardens, one of the world's great gardens, encompassing 1,077 acres of gardens, woodlands, meadows, fountains and a 4-acre conservatory complex. Longwood continues the mission set forth by founder Pierre S. DuPont to inspire people through excellence in garden design, horticulture, education and the arts.

Jim is a former Peace Corps volunteer, where he served in Honduras demonstrating soil conservation and improvement techniques and teaching environmental awareness. He has also taught English as a second language for several years and Horticulture at a local vocational school.

Jim's education in Horticulture is from Pennsylvania State University. He has served on a local beautification committee and volunteered at the Community Arts center. His own garden has been featured on several garden tours. Jim regularly judges at the Philadelphia Flower show and numerous competitions at other gardens. He also lectures and conducts floral demonstrations.

Karin Rindal's wide ranging business career in manufacturing and government includes time involved in international trade program evaluation and training in Total Quality Management (TQM) and Malcolm Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence.

In 2004 Karin discovered the New Jersey Master Gardener program. She was appointed to the Board of Directors at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morristown, NJ, where she organized annual plant sales and coordinated activities of volunteer committees including donations, raffle, and publicity and print materials.

Karin has won awards at the New Jersey Home and Garden Show for container design and for horticultural entries at the Newport, RI Flower Show. For two years she wrote a regular weekly garden column for the Millburn/Short Hills Patch. Since 2005 she has taught gardening and cooking classes to adults and children. After a trip to Germany to do on-site research and photography, her most recent lecture involves the herbs and gardens of medieval cleric, Hildegard Von Bingen.

Karin currently volunteers at the US Botanic Garden where she has assisted with a broad variety of educational events, including presenting a class on sustainable container gardening. Through her work at the Botanic Garden on the Sustainable Sites Initiative™ (SITES) she completed the requirements for the New Jersey Environmental Stewardship program. Karin's career began with a degree in Political Science and German, with a minor in French, followed by a Master's Degree from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.

Participants have opportunities to receive recognition in the following areas:

- Bloom rating
- Population category winner
- Outstanding achievement award – the “best of the best” over all participants in each of the six evaluated criteria
- Special mention – for what the judges deem to be an extraordinary project or program.
- Population category winners are invited to participate in international competition via the Communities in Bloom program in Canada.
- Community Champion
- YouTube Video Award

To date, more than 220 towns and cities from 41 states have participated in the program and more than 20 million people have been touched by it. Awards will be announced on October 4 at AIB's National Symposium and Awards, held this year in Philadelphia, PA.

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America in Bloom is an independent non-profit 501c3 corporation. America in Bloom envisions communities across the country as welcoming and vibrant places to live, work, and play – benefiting from colorful plants and trees; enjoying clean environments; celebrating heritage; and planting pride through volunteerism.