



# MEDIA RELEASE

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information, contact Laura Kunkle

[lkunkle@ofa.org](mailto:lkunkle@ofa.org)

614-487-1117

## **Lakeside, OH Wins National America in Bloom Awards**

(COLUMBUS, OH): Honors for the prestigious 2012 America in Bloom (AIB) national awards program were announced at the annual awards held in Fayetteville, Arkansas on September 22.

America in Bloom executive director, Laura Kunkle, said, "America in Bloom participation is helping participating towns achieve their potential. The accomplishments and progress shown by this year's towns and cities is remarkable."

Lakeside, OH was judged on six criteria: overall impression, community involvement, environmental awareness, heritage, urban forestry, landscape, and floral displays, across four sectors: municipal, residential, commercial, and community involvement.

Specially trained judges visited towns of similar populations and spent two days touring each town, meeting municipal officials, residents, and volunteers. Additional competitors in this category were Slippery Rock, PA; Hummelstown, PA and Gallipolis, OH.

Lakeside competed in the population category of 3001 - 4,500, receiving a three bloom rating, and a special mention for its efforts in Community Involvement, and won in its population category.

The judges, Diane Clasen and Bill Hahn, commented, "Congratulations Lakeside, for placing a high value on quality of life, and for embarking on a quest with America in Bloom which we hope will further enhance many facets of life for your residents and visitors. Lakeside is no traditional community, but is definitely a destination! "

Registrations for the 2013 national awards program can be submitted until February 28, 2013.

---

*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 enhancements.*

*America in Bloom provides educational programs, resources, and the challenge of a friendly competition between participating communities across the country.*

For more information, visit [www.americainbloom.org](http://www.americainbloom.org).

###