



MEDIA RELEASE

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Plymouth, IN National America in Bloom Awards Results Announced

(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."

Plymouth, IN 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 Coshocton, OH; Tarboro, NC; and Smithfield, VA.

Plymouth competed in the population category of 8,001 - 13,000, receiving a two bloom rating, a special mention for its environmental efforts, and a special award for the community festival that draws the most attendance.

The judges, Billy Butterfield and Jack Clasen, commented, "Plymouth hosts the annual Marshall County Blueberry Festival on Labor Day weekend. This is the largest four day festival in the state of Indiana. Over 500,000 people attend the event which includes a parade, over 400 vendors, fireworks, three stages for musical events, a carnival, hot air balloons, early American craft demonstrations, auto show, sky divers, bicycle tour, 5K and 15K race, and Miss Blueberry Pageant. There is recycling at the festival – promoted by 40 adults and youth in bright shirts – called the "Respect the Bin". Also, a rain barrel auction is held. Many non-profit organizations in the town raise their entire operating funds for the year from proceeds from their activities at the festival."

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.

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