

Laura – please send this release on or before July 5 to the Holliston, MA press list.

For immediate release.

For more information, contact Laura Kunkle (614-487-1117) aib@ofa.org

www.americainbloom.org

America in Bloom Judges to Visit Holliston, MA

Judges from the America in Bloom (AIB) national awards program will visit Holliston, MA on July 22 and 23. This is Holliston's second entry in the America in Bloom national awards program. The town is one of 28 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; Washington, MO; and Catskill, NY in the 12,001 to 18,000 population category.

Judges are Melanie Riggs and Katy Moss Warner.



Melanie Riggs



Katy Moss Warner

Melanie Riggs, of New Rochelle, New York, began her career as a horticulturist for the Wildcliff Museum Greenhouses where she worked as the greenhouse Exhibitions Director for many years. Melanie graduated from the University of Vermont with a degree in Plant Science and Botany. She subsequently has studied Landscape Design and has graduate coursework in Botany. Her passion for plants and gardens compliments her passion for travel. Melanie has traveled extensively throughout Europe, South and Central America, Southeast Asia, North Africa and North America.

Riggs said, "I have been reading about the progress that Holliston, MA has made in their first year as an AIB city. I look forward to experiencing the vibrant warmth of their community which is full of many creative and hardworking volunteers. "

Katy Moss Warner is President Emeritus of the American Horticultural Society (AHS), a national, non-profit, member-based organization with a bold vision of "making America a nation of gardeners, a land of gardens. Katy was the Director of Disney's Horticulture and Environmental Initiatives at the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida, responsible for the landscapes of four theme parks, 15 resort properties and over 70 miles of roads on the 30,500-acre property. For 24 years - from 1976 to 2000 - she provided the leadership necessary to ensure that Disney's horticultural traditions of beautiful gardens and themed landscapes were sustained. Katy, who lives in Windermere, Florida, has traveled extensively and has hosted garden tours in Italy, England, Belgium, Czech Republic, Argentina, Morocco as well as many destinations within the USA. In addition to judging for America in Bloom and international competitions, Katy is a member of AIB's Board of Directors.

Warner commented, "Celebrating the heritage of our communities is critical to protecting their charm and character. However, this is not enough. I look forward to meeting the team who understands that it is important to protect the integrity of your heritage while embracing the change that ensures a prosperous future. "

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.
- Community Champion
- YouTube Video
- Population category winners are invited to participate in international competition via the Communities in Bloom program in Canada.

To date, more than 200 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 September 21, 2013 at AIB’s National Symposium and Awards, held this year in Orlando, FL.

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America in Bloom is a non-profit 501c3 corporation whose mission is to promote nationwide beautification through education and community involvement by encouraging the use of flowers, plants, trees, and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements.