



## MEDIA RELEASE

For more information regarding this media release, contact:

Bill Ruppert, Co-Chair, America in Bloom 2010 Symposium and Awards Program

Phone: (314) 966-0253 Fax: (314) 966-1830

Email: [billr@rupehort.com](mailto:billr@rupehort.com)

Date of Release: 03/15/2010

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **America in Bloom 2010 Symposium & Awards Program Coming to St. Louis**

(COLUMBUS, OH): St. Louis has been selected as the site for the **2010 America in Bloom Symposium and Awards Program**. This national conference, to be held at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark September 30 - October 2, will draw hundreds of community leaders and active citizens from across the United States.

Dr. Peter Raven, president emeritus of the Missouri Botanical Garden will present the Friday keynote address entitled "*Connecting a Botanical Institution with the Community*". Anna Ball, President of Ball Horticultural Company, will present the Saturday keynote address, "*The Power of Plants: opportunities for community quality of life*". Additionally, the two day Symposium will feature 18 educational sessions and 3 themed tours of the St. Louis area. The symposium and tours are open to everyone, not just America in Bloom participating cities. Attending provides a great opportunity to learn more about topics regarding urban forestry, environmental improvement trends, community gardens, beautification of commercial areas, marketing of community heritage and much more.

The event culminates with the presentation of national awards for participating towns scoring highest in evaluations that include **community involvement, tidiness, urban forestry, heritage preservation, environmental awareness, turf and groundcovers, landscape, and floral displays**.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Symposium Co-Chair Bill Ruppert at [billr@rupehort.com](mailto:billr@rupehort.com) or the America in Bloom office ([aib@ofa.org](mailto:aib@ofa.org)) for details.

Communities of the region with previous America in Bloom participation include **Kirkwood, MO** (2007), **Glen Carbon, IL** (2007), **Springfield, IL** (2009), **Columbia, MO** (2008), **University of Missouri – Columbia, MO** (2006) and **Lees Summit, MO** (2002).

**Webster Groves, MO** is competing in 2010 and **University City, MO** is planning to compete in 2011.

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

---

*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.*