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### **America in Bloom Advisors to Visit Greenwood, SC June 9-10, 2022**

Professional volunteer advisors from the America in Bloom (AIB) national awards program will visit Greenwood, SC on June 9 and 10. This is Greenwood's fifth year as an America in Bloom participant and is one of the many proud and passionate communities across America working on local revitalization programs with an eye to receiving a prestigious America in Bloom national award.

In addition to a receiving detailed written evaluation from the advisors citing strengths and opportunities for improvement, participants receive a bloom rating and special mention for what the judges deem to be an extraordinary project or program. Additional awards that can be earned are as follows:

- Population category winner
- Outstanding achievement award – the “best of the best” over all participants in each of the six evaluated criteria
- Special awards
- Community Champion
- YouTube Video Award

Judges will be evaluating the community's efforts in the areas of overall impression, environmental efforts, celebrating heritage, landscaped areas, urban forestry, floral displays, and community vitality in the municipal, commercial and residential sectors.

The judging team members are **Douglas Airhart** and **Steve Zwiep**.



Douglas Airhart is a Professor of Horticulture in the School of Agriculture at Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville. He teaches production horticulture (landscaping, nursery, greenhouse), turf, and provides FFA training and contests in nursery and floriculture. He serves on the Cookeville Tree Board. He is a Certified Arborist, Municipal Specialist; has managed the Arboretum Certification Program of the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council; and provides assistance to regional Tree Boards. He has published articles on consumer horticulture and tree care technologies, and has coordinated grant projects about

tree care and maintenance. He invites you to visit his website at [www.tlcfortrees.info](http://www.tlcfortrees.info).



Steve Zwiep has served the City of Holland, Michigan for 29 years. He attended Calvin College and majored in Plant Biology. After college, he became the lead grower for the family greenhouse. Today, Steve is the Park Supervisor responsible for landscape management and maintenance for more than 400 acres in the city park system. He oversees the selection, ordering, design, and planting of thousands of tulips throughout the community for its annual Tulip Time Festival. Following the festival, Steve oversees the planting of thousands of annuals throughout the downtown and public parks which has helped Holland receive numerous awards for its Floral Displays from America in Bloom. Steve is a Certified Pest Control Applicator and has served on the Holland in Bloom Committee for the past 7 years.

To date, nearly 250 communities from 41 states have participated in the program and more than 22 million people have been touched by it. Awards will be announced on September 29-October 1 at the National Symposium in Washington, Missouri.

***The media will have the opportunity to meet and visit with the judges during their visit Thursday, June 9, at 9:00 a.m. at the Inn on the Square. Please RSVP your attendance to Kelly McWhorter at [Kelly.mcwhorter@gwdcity.com](mailto:Kelly.mcwhorter@gwdcity.com).***

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. [www.AmericaInBloom.org](http://www.AmericaInBloom.org) 2130 Stella Ct. Columbus, OH. 43215

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