**Kenosha County Master Gardener Project Wins National Award**

The results are in for the 2016 All-America Selections (AAS) Landscape Design Contest for Display Gardens. A local Master Gardener project was an award recipient for a pollinator friendly garden at the Kenosha County Center AAS Display & Demonstration Garden in Bristol. This contest is a landscape design contest using AAS Winners announced in the last five years with the option to incorporate more than 80 years worth of past AAS Winners. AAS Winners offer gardeners reliable new varieties of flowers and vegetables that have proved their superior garden performance in Trial Grounds across North America. Each display garden is responsible for creating and executing a design incorporating the yearly theme then generate publicity surrounding the contest.

The rules for the Landscape Design Contest were the following:

1. The 2016 contest theme was: “Pollinator Education.”

2. The entry form must list the AAS Winners incorporated into the design.

3. A minimum of 50% of the total landscaped area must be AAS Winners and labeled with the variety name, AAS Winner designation and if possible, use the AAS logo.

4. The entry form must include a written description of the design in 200 words or less.

5. Eight photographs of each garden must be submitted in digital form.

6. Local publicity is expected and will be part of the criteria for judging.

7. The contest is open to current year plantings only, not previous year displays.

The criteria and final score weighting were:

• 20% on the overall attractiveness of garden design

• 20% on the creativity of design and/or design story

• 20% on the promotion of AAS and this contest to local media and garden visitors

• 20% on the photo quality and design description/explanation

• 20% on the quantity of AAS Winners used and proper signage used

Gardens were divided into three categories based on the number of visitors per year:

 In Category I: fewer than 10,000 visitors per year, second place (tie) was awarded to the Kenosha County Center Display and Demonstration Garden, Bristol, Wisconsin. Kenosha County used a plant layout that followed guidelines for attracting different types of pollinators, such as massing color for butterflies, planting tubular flowers for hummingbirds, and planting nectar rich plants as food sources. Creative pollinator posts attracted visitors to the garden where they were given guides to hunt for and find various species of bees. The John Braig Little Free Library was added to the display garden in 2016 giving it a constant source of educational materials available to garden visitors. Under the direction of UW-Extension horticulture educators, this display garden is planted and maintained by Master Gardeners.

This is the third consecutive year the Kenosha County Center AAS Display & Demonstration Garden has received awards in the AAS Landscape Design Contest. In 2014, the garden’s inaugural year, it was given Honorable Mention as the “Best Inspiration” garden. Last year, it won third place in Category 1, the same category it won 2nd place this year.

The Master Gardeners who tend this nationally recognized award-winning garden have already begun planning for the 2017 gardening season and encourage all interested gardeners to visit the site next year.

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