



NEWS

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Phyllis Fitzgerald

502-574- 5322

Dee Lynch

502-574-7275

Winners Announced in Low-Maintenance Landscaping Design Contest

Louisville, KY (August 17, 2005) – Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District announced today the recipients of the nation’s first Juried Low-Maintenance Landscaping Design Contest. Homeowners as well as professional landscaping designers competed for national recognition and cash prizes in the nation’s first local competition showcasing sustainable and reproducible low-maintenance landscape designs.

Phyllis Fitzgerald, who coordinated the District’s competition, was impressed with the innovative entries. “One of the designs is a rain garden. Though small in scale, it will prevent erosion and add beauty and value to the property. Other designs utilized all native plants. One established design is so drought tolerant, the homeowner only uses a watering can on occasion.”

A regional panel of horticulture and landscaping experts judged all entries and announced the winners at the Metro Louisville Air Pollution Control Board meeting on August 17, 2005. Cash prizes ranged from \$500 to \$1,000 in each of the four categories. An additional \$1500 stipend was awarded for each of the four top designs in their categories: sunny, shady, mixed sun and shade, and homeowner design. The additional award will go toward supplies and materials necessary for implementing and bringing the design to life. Students from the Horticulture Program at the Jefferson Technical College will volunteer to assist with implementing winning designs.

A \$25,000 grant from EPA funded the competition, which will promote improving regional air quality by reducing air pollution produced by gasoline powered lawn equipment and further highlight the benefits of low-maintenance lawn care concepts. The District introduced low-maintenance lawn care concepts in 2001 with its Lawn Care for Cleaner Air program.

According to the District’s Director, Art Williams, “The winning designs will be made available to the public across our state and nation. The competition offers something for

everyone interested in a healthier environment and alternatives to labor intensive, high-maintenance landscaping.”

Low-maintenance landscaping embraces strategies and practices designed to reduce the use of gasoline powered, high polluting lawn care equipment, frequent chemical applications, and excessive water consumption. Low-maintenance landscaping designs also reduce the expense, time and labor required to maintain large grassy lots.

Director Williams added that, “We were very excited to receive EPA’s grant and expect that this competition will continue building on the success of our Lawn Care for Cleaner Air program. The competition promotes new and creative solutions for improving our region’s air quality.”

Entries were accepted from nine Kentuckiana counties: Bullitt, Henry, Jefferson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer and Trimble counties in Kentucky, and the Indiana counties of Clark and Floyd. Nonwinning entries received Lawn Care for Cleaner Air awards and \$20 gift certificates from Keith’s Hardware.

The District and U.S. EPA will make the winning designs available across the country as no-cost models for homeowners, businesses and communities to replicate and promote low-maintenance designs in their communities. A tour of established and newly implemented design gardens is planned for the summer of 2006.

#

**Juried Landscape Design Competition Entries
2005**

1. **Sheldon and Kim Karnes** (Design Implemented)
(Certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat by National Wildlife Federation)
111 Clearview Drive
Jeffersonville, IN 47130

First Place: Homeowner Division

2. **Lori & Craig Belling** (Design Implemented)
2005 Meadowview Drive
Crestwood, KY 40014-9261

Second Place: Homeowner Division

3. **Portia Brown** (Professional Native Plant Consultant; Design Not Implemented)
1868 Douglas Blvd.
Louisville, KY 40205

First Place: Sun Division

4. **Richard Wolford (Professional Landscaper; Design Not Implemented)**
825 Gililand Road
Louisville, KY 40245

Second Place: Sun Division

5. **Joan Brown (Design Implemented)**
(Certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat by National Wildlife Federation)
918 Magnolia Avenue
Shelbyville, KY 40065

First Place: Shade Division

6. **Barbara Berman (Design Implemented)**
1420 Goddard Avenue
Louisville, KY 40204

Second Place: Shade Division

7. **John Pacyga (Professional Landscape Architect; Design Not Implemented)**
219 S. Jane Street
Louisville, KY 40206

First Place: Mixed Sun/shade Division

8. **Karen Bess (Professional Landscape Designer; Design Not Implemented)**
P. O. Box 116
New Castle, KY 40050

Second Place: Mixed Sun/shade Division

Additional contest details and information are available at the Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District's website at: www.apcd.org/lawncare/design_contest/.

###