

The Illinois Landscape Contractors' Association will honor Van Zelst, Inc. landscape design/build firm, with awards for excellence in design, construction and landscape management. The award ceremony will take place on Feb. 24, at Drury Lane, Oakbrook. Many of the 800 members of ILCA participate in the annual juried competition.

Van Zelst will receive a Gold Award for the outstanding maintenance of a Glenview residence located on a large pond. The entire property is carefully maintained; however the pond side on the site receives the greatest attention.

From the custom wood deck to the bluestone patio and ending along the granite boulder edge, a four-season management program is implemented. With the client utilizing these areas on a daily basis, attention to detail in a limited area must be achieved weekly. The core-10-month program addresses a wide range of landscape and horticulture issues. An integrated pest management system is implemented

and observed for disease and insect infestation. Extensive deadheading of hundreds of perennials is performed as well as control of weed invasion.

Hand pruning of select shrubs and ornamental trees assure an attractive appearance. There is frequent monitoring and addressing of soil moisture requirements. This treatment extends bloom times and outdoor visual fulfillment. The steep slopes of the property provide challenges for access, although the hundreds of plantings retain these slopes, mulch is layered lightly to promote moisture retention and hold the soil surface in early spring, late fall and winter. Defined spade edged beds help accentuate the perennial garden oasis.

The maintenance program for a classic Lake Geneva residence also earned Van Zelst a Gold Award. The 3.5 acres of turf are kept healthy, green and weed free. The shore of the lake area is kept clean of aquatic weeds and lake debris. The barberry hedge and oak, honey locust and sugar



Van Zelst, Inc., won a Gold Award from the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association for the excellence in landscape management of the gardens of a Lake Geneva, Wis. lakefront home.

maple ornamental trees are hand pruned to guarantee an attractive appearance. Thousands of annuals are planted every spring in pots and planters and beds. Cleome, echinacea, coreopsis,

nepeta and begonias provide bursts of color. Planting beds and tree rings are edged regularly to maintain crisp bed lines. Seasonal interest is added to the plantings using squash and pumpkins in the fall and evergreen boughs and red holly berries in the winter.

A Wilmette residence was selected for a Silver Award for design and construction. The one-third acre property was transformed to accommodate an expansive lawn for play activities. The addition of sweeping planting beds adds visual enjoyment for many months. Curvilinear stone walkways help create an expansive front yard. The bluestone patio helps separate the utility area from the house, creating a separate outdoor room. The side yard is shaded by a large mature tree and incorporates a colorful shade garden. The lawn edge draws one's eye to the focal point of the garden: a millstone fountain that softens

vehicle noise with its soothing sounds.

An assortment of perennials integrated with impatiens and pachysandra groundcover provides color contrasts at different times of day and season. Astilbe, hosta, hydrangea and ligularia lead one through the garden providing several diverse visual aspects to the walking experience. The view for a passerby is bold and colorful. David Van Zelst, landscape architect, observed, "We planned carefully to provide color in the shade areas and interesting plantings in ceramic pots in the patio area."

The 30-acre headquarters facility of Van Zelst, Inc. is located at 39400 N. Highway #41, Wadsworth. More than 300 varieties of trees, shrubs and perennials are grown in the on-site nursery to provide high quality plant materials for clients. For more information call: 847-623-3580 or visit the Web site at www.vanzelst.com.



Van Zelst was also honored for the design and installation of landscaping that created new play and entertainment areas for a Wilmette residence.