

Van Zelst, Inc. a landscape design/build firm has been honored by the Associated Landscape Contractors of America in its nationwide competition. The Wadsworth company received four Environmental Improvement Awards for its landscape design and construction work.

### **Grand award**

ALCA's prestigious Grand Award was received for landscape design and installation of a Barrington residence.

The strategic placement of the plantings on a 15-acre property provides a perfect setting for the owners to enjoy beautiful long vistas and pursue their interests in nature and gardening.

Eight acres of non-native buckthorns were removed to allow the installation of large caliper deciduous and evergreen trees and over 50,000 large native variety perennial plants.

Thirty-eight thousand bulbs, including spring flowering daffodils and narcissus,

were naturalized throughout the newly opened-up land areas.

New bark and stone paths and five acres of wildflowers were installed. Rudbeckia, coreopsis, echinacea and similar varieties were planted along a patio near the home.

Plants and trees were selected to surround the home with constantly changing three-season landscape color and four-season diversity.

### **Merit Award**

Van Zelst's landscape installation of the Buehler Enabling Garden at the Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, received ALCA's Merit Award. This beautiful 12,000 square-foot public garden demonstrates the latest strategies of plantings in raised beds, vertical gardens, hanging baskets and tools and techniques for easy gardening and enjoyment.

"The overall intent was to make this garden appear instantly mature, as if it had been there for five years or more," said David Van Zelst, landscape architect and company

president. "So, we contracted with nurseries throughout the country to grow the specific plant material to a size that would be ready at the time of installation."

The garden features plantings that stimulate the senses, including many brightly colored daylilies, such as Hemerocallis "Chicago Star," "Kindly Light" and "Tigerling."

The garden was also designed to appeal to touch and smell, using fuzzy plants such as Stachys Byzantia "Big Ears" and Achillea Millefolium "Lilac Beauty." Fragrant flowers included Clethra Achifolia "Rosea" and Viburnum Carlesi "JN Select."

Many of the plants installed in the Buehler Enabling Garden were grown by Christina Farms, the Van Zelst nursery. Ten-foot tall arborvitae installed along the walkways provide contrast to the large sweeps of perennial beds.

This beautiful garden allows nearly everyone – including seniors and people with disabilities – to enjoy the many physical and emotional benefits of gardening.