

## **Triple White Corvette earns GOLD!**

Since attending his first Bloomington Gold Corvette Show in 1981, Tom Stibbe of La Crosse, Wisconsin, often thought about earning a Bloomington Gold Certificate. Tom continued to attend this show thru the years, and his desire to earn a Bloomington Gold Corvette grew. When Chevrolet issued the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition Corvette in 1988, Tom often thought that one day he would own one of these limited edition Corvettes. Tom purchased a 1988 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition and at the 2004 Bloomington Gold Show, he earned a Bloomington Gold Certificate.

Upon college graduation and landing his first job, Tom used his first paycheck to order a new 1978 Corvette. Since that first Corvette, Tom has owned a series of these American sports cars, including a 1980, 1985, 1988, 1992, and a 2004. The 1988 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition Corvette was a favorite model for Tom, and in 1998, he was able to purchase #1402. This particular Anniversary Edition Corvette has a 4 + 3 standard transmission and two tops, making it one of the most fully optioned 1988 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition Corvettes produced. (There were 2,050 units produced, with only about 200 issued with a standard transmission.)

The Bloomington Gold Corvette Show began in the mid-1970s, and offered Corvette judging. Under the care of David Burroughs, the judging event was soon turned into Bloomington Gold Certification. Certification judging is based upon typical factory production, representing the authentic appearance and parts of Corvettes as they left the factory. The components of Certification judging include; originality (finish, date codes, installation, completeness, and configuration), damage or deterioration, technical operation, cleanliness, and numbers (casting, stamp, VIN). Certification judging provides the Gold Award for Corvettes judged from 100% to 95%, the Silver Award for Corvettes judged from 94% to 90%, and Bronze Award for Corvettes judged from 89% to 85%. Four expert Judges simultaneously swarm around each Corvette and record their findings. The Judges are courteous and provide a continuous explanation of the judging process to the owner. Upon completion of the judging, an Awards Ceremony is conducted and Certificates are awarded as the Corvettes are driven across a stage.

Tom Stibbe's 1988 Corvette, when purchased in 1998, had 6,800 miles on the odometer. Although the Corvette was low mileage, there were some items of concern. Tom researched the ownership history across three states and found three previous owners. Tom was able to locate the former owners, verify the mileage was accurate and determine what changes had been made to this Corvette. With due diligence, Tom was able to return this Corvette to near factory condition prior to the 2004 Bloomington Gold Show. This 1988 Corvette earned "Gold Certification" with a score of 99.1%

*Note: Tom Stibbe has been an active member of the River City Corvette Club of La Crosse, Wisconsin and a member of the National Council of Corvette Clubs' Midwest Region since 1987.*



Bloomington Gold Certification issued to Tom Stibbe and #1402, June 27, 2004



Tom Stibbe and a 1988 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Limited Edition Corvette (#1402).