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America in Bloom Judges to Visit Brewton, Alabama

Judges from the America in Bloom (AIB) national awards program will visit Brewton, Alabama on April 28 and 29 2014. This is Brewton's first entry in the America in Bloom national awards program. The town is one of 33 towns across America working on local revitalization programs with the hopes of receiving a prestigious America in Bloom national award.

Brewton is competing against Belpre, OH; Catskill, NY; Estes Park, CO; and Greendale, IN in the 4,500 to 10,000 population category.

Participants are evaluated in the following areas: overall impression, heritage preservation, environmental efforts, urban forestry, landscapes, floral displays, and community involvement. The judges evaluate these criteria in the residential, commercial, and municipal sectors.

Judges are Sue Amatangelo and Marlborough Packard.



Sue Amatangelo



Marlborough B. Packard

Sue Amatangelo brings a well-rounded background to her judging for America in Bloom. After a successful career as a medical technologist, Sue worked in medical sales and management before raising a family and working part time as a golf instructor.

Sue is currently the Director of "Home and Garden Showplace," a division of True Value where she is in charge of 220 independent garden centers across the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean. Sue is a Plan Commissioner for the city of St. Charles, Illinois, and is the author of *Absolutely Beautiful Containers*.

Marlborough B. Packard is a retired Professor of Historic Preservation from the Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia; he began teaching at the college in 1992. Professor Packard holds a B.A. degree in art education from Adelphi University, an M.A. in art education from Hofstra University and an M.F.A in historic preservation from the Savannah College of Art and Design. He has been active in the preservation of the built and natural environment since 1963, both as a consultant and as a developer of historic properties.

His expertise includes graveyard preservation and conservation, decorative arts, preservation technology, nonprofit management, material culture studies, community redevelopment and he is a practicing artist specializing in painting and relief sculpture. A committed environmentalist, Professor Packard lives in Maine for three months each year in a home he designed and built which functions without electricity, minimal gray water discharge, and features a solar assisted composting toilet. The surrounding landscape is 100 percent xeriscaped and produces thirty to forty quarts of wild blueberries each year.

Participants have opportunities to receive recognition in the following areas:

- Bloom rating
- Population category winner
- Outstanding achievement award – the “best of the best” over all participants in each of the six evaluated criteria
- Special mention – for what the judges deem to be an extraordinary project or program.
- Population category winners are invited to participate in international competition via the Communities in Bloom program in Canada.
- Community Champion
- YouTube Video Award

To date, more than 220 towns and cities from 41 states have participated in the program and more than 20 million people have been touched by it. Awards will be announced on October 4 at AIB’s National Symposium and Awards, held this year in Philadelphia, PA.

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America in Bloom is an independent non-profit 501c3 corporation. America in Bloom envisions communities across the country as welcoming and vibrant places to live, work, and play – benefiting from colorful plants and trees; enjoying clean environments; celebrating heritage; and planting pride through volunteerism.