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America in Bloom Judges to Visit Fairhope, AL

Judges from the America in Bloom (AIB) national awards program will visit Fairhope on April 27 and 28. This is Fairhope's second entry in the America in Bloom national awards program. The town is one of 42 towns across America working on local revitalization programs with the hopes of receiving a prestigious America in Bloom national award.

Fairhope is competing against Madisonville, KY; Fairview Park, OH; and Ottawa, IL in the 16,000 – 20,000 population category.

All 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 Evelyn Alemanni and Billy Butterfield.



Evelyn Alemanni



Billy Butterfield

Evelyn Alemanni is a self-employed writer and award winning gardener from Elfin Forest, California. She has judged for the America in Bloom program since 2003 and also serves as an international judge for the Canadian Communities in Bloom program and for the international LivCom Awards; experiences which Evelyn says has given her the opportunity to share wonderful ideas and inspirations with communities in many countries, and to build networks of people committed to improving their hometowns. She has judged more than 130 towns in nine countries.

Evelyn serves on the AIB board of directors and chairs its external relations committee. She is the creator/author/designer of the *Ten Years of Best Ideas* book and donated the rights to the book to AIB. In 2014, she has released her four-volume book series, *Fleurs du Jour* which features bouquets made every day with flowers from her garden and three special volumes, *Caladiums*, *Roses*, and *Bouquets from the Bulb Garden*.

In 2001, *Good Morning America* named Evelyn's garden one of the five best in the U.S. *San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles* has twice named it one of its gardens of the year. *Garden Ideas and Outdoor Living* featured it on its cover. It has also been in *Garden Shed*; *Better Homes and Gardens*; *Gardens, Decks and Landscapes* and many other garden-related magazines.

Billy Butterfield, from Orlando, Florida, has been active in the landscape field for 35 years. His management experience is in the areas of commercial and industrial landscape management. Billy is the manager of AmeriScapes Landscape Management Services, LLC, a landscape management company he started in 1995 which now has grown into a \$4 million operation covering four central Florida counties.

Billy is a Certified Pest Control applicator and is licensed in Aquatics through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Billy is an irrigation specialty contractor, an FNGLA Certified Landscape Contractor and Certified Horticulture Professional, and is a Certified Landscape Professional through Planet. He currently serves on the Orange County Farm Bureau, the Orange County Ag Advisory Board as Chairman, and on the Action Chapter Board of the Florida Nursery, Growers, and Landscape Association as past president.

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.
- Special awards
- 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 240 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 September 26 at AIB's National Symposium and Awards, held this year in Holland, MI.

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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.

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