



For immediate release.

For more information, contact Laura Kunkle (614-487-1117) aib@americainbloom.org

### **America in Bloom Judges to Visit Coshocton, OH**

Judges from the America in Bloom (AIB) national awards program will visit Coshocton, OH on July 7 and 8, 2014. This is Coshocton's fifth 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.

Coshocton is competing against Morro Bay, CA; Pella, IA; and Washington, MO in the 10,001 – 15,000 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 Evelyn Alemanni and Bruce Riggs.



Evelyn Alemanni



Bruce Riggs

**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 109 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.

**Bruce Riggs** currently free-lances in horticulture and is involved in several not for profit institutions. He is also very involved in the family landscape design business with his wife Melanie Menachem Riggs who is also an AIB judge. They reside in New Rochelle, New York. He recently held the position of Curator of Science at the Bruce Museum (no relation!) of Arts & Science in Greenwich, CT.

During his 18 years at the New York Botanical Garden, Bruce was very involved with the Horticulture and Education Divisions. He administered the creation and implementation of the internationally recognized interpretation program for the NYBG.

He has recently been very involved in elementary school science and horticulture programs. He has worked on projects for the American Association of Museums and the Institute of Museum Studies. He has been very involved with Mountain Top Arboretum in Tannersville, NY, serving as President since 1998. Bruce is an avid traveler having visited numerous gardens and natural areas.

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.

###

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.