

SUSANNE WOODELL

Asheville, NC 28805 • 828.777.4555 • susannewoodell@gmail.com
www.linkedin.com/in/susanne-woodell

HORTICULTURE PROFESSIONAL

Award-winning gardens • Committed to innovation & excellence • Leader & developer of people

Horticulturist professional with demonstrated passion for cultivating and displaying plants, flowers, turf, shrubs, and trees. Extensive experience with 4-Star/4-Diamond and resort properties. Sought-after for visitor and community educational presentations. Analytical thinker with innovative problem solving skills and accurate intuitive perceptions of people and situations.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

BILTMORE HOUSE

2001–2017

Historic Gardens Manager (2008–2017)

Oversaw 170+ acre historical gardens | Managed 38 staff | Administered budget \$1.2M

Developed and maintained historic garden area including plants, turf, conservatory, seasonal displays, and greenhouses. Ensured the updating of state-of-the-art practices. Forged beneficial collaborations.

- Received numerous compliments from owners and the executive team for innovative garden improvements that include expanding the Azalea Garden and Tropical Plant collection.
- Created an empowered culture where staff worked together as a team by:
 - Training and coaching staff after developing standards and reinforcing expectations.
 - Initiating regular communication meetings and recognizing team achievements.
 - Upgrading knowledge and skill requirements when hiring new staff.
- Commended for initiative in preserving and interpreting Olmsted's (original landscape architect) design intentions—considered *best practice*.
- Spearheaded the transition of converting a non-working 6000 sq. ft. greenhouse into a fully functioning production space.
- Partnered with Ball Seed Introductions and Proven Winner Introductions to test new plantings before public release.
- Championed proposal to publicize newly expanded orchid collection in Biltmore Blooms—featuring an orchid specialist to answer guest questions.
- Investigated and utilized beneficial insects for Integrated Pest Management.

Awards & Recognition:

- World Federation Society of Roses Garden of Excellence Garden (*Only 10 gardens in US are recognized*) — 2015
- Great Rosarians of the World Hall of Fame Garden — 2014
- Green Star Award, Professional Grounds Management Society (Historic Gardens) — 2011

Landscaping Manager, Inn on Biltmore Estate (2001–2008)

Managed 18 staff | Administered \$800K budget

Managed the development and maintenance of plantings and turf in non-historic areas of 4-Star/4-Diamond property. Directed staff to produce an attractive, safe, and healthy environment for guests and employees.

- Transformed poorly designed landscape to meet all 4-Star/4-Diamond requirements—utilizing principles from the historic estate gardens.
 - Monitored and adhered to \$100K capital project budget.
- Restored pond based on historical design intents—bringing additional visitors to the property.

Awards & Recognition

Green Star Award (Estate), Professional Grounds Management Society — 2007

Green Star Award (Inn on Biltmore Estate), Professional Grounds Management Society — 2007

Additional Experience

CALLAWAY GARDENS, Pine Mountain, GA | **Resort Grounds Maintenance Manager**

ATLANTA ATHLETIC CLUB, Duluth, GA | **Landscape Supervisor**

WALT DISNEY WORLD, Orlando, FL | **Gardener**

EDUCATION | TRAINING

Bachelor of Science, Ornamental Horticulture • AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Auburn, Alabama

Certification: Grounds Manager, Professional Grounds Management Society

License: North Carolina Commercial Pesticide

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

PROFESSIONAL GROUNDS MANAGEMENT SOCIETY | 2001–Present

SE Regional Director (2014–Present) • **NC Branch VP** (2012–2014) • **NC Branch Treasurer** (2010–2012)