

Signs of Spring

An NGC Standard Flower Show



**Presented by The Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc.
Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. & New England Garden Clubs, Inc.**

**43rd Annual Connecticut Flower & Garden Show®
CT Convention Center, 100 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT 06103**

**Thursday, February 20, 2025 – 10 am to 7 pm
Friday, February 21 & Saturday, February 22, 2025 – 10 am to 8 pm
Sunday, February 23, 2025 – 10 am to 5 pm**

Schedule date: 10-30-24

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Directions to the CT Convention Center-Take I-91, I-84 or Route 2 to Hartford:

From I-84W: Take EXIT 54 onto the Founders Bridge. Stay in left lane on the bridge.

At bottom of bridge turn left onto Columbus Blvd. Turn left at next light. Parking garage & CTCC are on the right.

From Route 2W: Follow Downtown Hartford Sign onto Founders Bridge. Stay in left lane on the bridge. At bottom of bridge turn left onto Columbus Blvd. Turn left at next light. Parking garage & CTCC are on the right.

From I-84E: Take EXIT 52 onto I-91S. Take EXIT 29A (Capital Area/CTCC). Next take the first exit on right (Columbus Blvd/CTCC). Parking garage and CTCC are immediately on the right.

From I-91N and I-91S: Take EXIT 29A (Capital Area/CTCC). Next take the first exit on right (Columbus Blvd/CTCC). Parking garage and CTCC are immediately on the right.

Ticket Information for Garden Club Members:

The Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc. members may receive a \$15.00 discounted ticket through February 1, 2025. Anyone using a credit card will incur a processing fee. Please make check payable to: North East Expos, Inc. Mail to: 49 Case Street, Canton, CT 06019. Regular price admission after 2/1/25: \$17.00 online and \$20.00 at the door.

For Information on Public Admission, please visit: North East Expos, Inc. (NEE) website: www.ctflowershow.com

Show Committee – *My Sun, My Moon and All My Stars*

Federated Garden Clubs of CT

President	Karin Pyskaty karin.pyskaty@ctgardenclubs.org
First VP	Nan Merolla nan.merolla@ctgardenclubs.org
Second VP	Kelle Ruden kelle.ruden@ctgardenclubs.org
Treasurer	John Davis john.davis@ctgardenclubs.org

Signs of Spring General Committee

Show Chair	Vonice Carr vonice.carr@ctgardenclubs.org
Schedule/Signs	Mel Unger mel.unger@ctgardenclubs.org
Awards	Deb Vallas deborah.vallas@snet.net
Clerks Chair	Carole Fromer carole.fromer@ctgardenclubs.org

Creative Staging	Elizabeth Berlenbach eberlenbach@yahoo.com
Exhibit Staging	Renee Barreira Rcaporale9@sbcglobal.net
Hospitality Chair	Kathy Lindroth kathleen.lindroth@gmail.com
Judges	Carmelina Villani readccv@gmail.com
Name Tags	Alison Waxman alison.waxman@ctgardenclubs.org
Publicity Chair	Pat Dray pbdray@optonline.net
Publicity Chair	Linda Kaplan linda.kaplan@ctgardenclubs.org
Quality Control	Suzy Fisher suzy.o.fisher@gmail.com
Quality Assistant	Wendy Yu wendyyu009@gmail.com
Schedule Review	Pam Wright pam.wright@ctgardenclubs.org
Website	Scott DeMuth scott.demuth@ctgardenclubs.org

Horticulture Division

Horticulture Chair	Cheryl Cappiali cheryl.cappiali@ctgardenclubs.org
Classification	Renee Marsh renee.marsh@ctgardenclubs.org
Registration	Cindy Eadie cindy.eadie@ctgardenclubs.org
Registration Asst.	Elaine Matulis eerwinmatulis@gmail.com
Sect Q Consultant	Sharon Bender sharon.bender@ctgardenclubs.org
Placement	Donna Kaffenberger donna.kaffenberger@ctgardenclubs.org
Clerk	Scott DeMuth scott.demuth@ctgardenclubs.org

Design Division

Design Coordinator	Mary Lynn McRee mcruclady@aol.com
Classification	Nolini Baretto barretto.nolini@gmail.com
Classification	Shonah Drakos ssdrakos@gmail.com
Classification	Cindy Marien cindy.marien@ctgardenclubs.org
Classification	Carol Martens carolann61@comcast.net
Entry/Comment Cards	Deb Flower deb.flower@ctgardenclubs.org
Sect A Consultant	Leslie Martino lcmartino@yahoo.com
Sect B Consultant	Diane White dmarywhite@gmail.com
Sect C Consultant	Peggy Townsend peggy.townsend@ctgardenclubs.org
Clerk	Nathalie Fonteyne nathaliefonteyne@hotmail.com

Sect D Consultant	Kara McKenna-Wong karakatiebyron@gmail.com
Sect E Consultant	Wendy Yu wendyyu009@gmail.com
Sect F Consultant	Trish Manfredi ptmanfredi@cox.net

Education Division

Education Chair	Kelle Ruden kelle.ruden@ctgardenclubs.org
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Botanical Arts Division

Artistic Crafts Chair	Larry Huzi larry.huzi@ctgardenclubs.org
AC Consultant	Beth Brunone bsgammon74@yahoo.com
AC Classification	Vana Nespor vana.nespor@gmail.com
Photography Chair	Kathy Harris kathy.harris@ctgardenclubs.org
Asst Photo Chair	MaryAnn Tyma grinchma@gmail.com

Councils

Judges Co-Chair	Pat Dray pbdray@optonline.net
Judges Co-Chair	MaryAnn Tyma grinchma@gmail.com
Landscape Chair	Susan Laursen susan.laursen@ctgardenclubs.org
Environmental Studies Chair	Martina Doshan tinadosh@gmail.com
Garden Studies Chair	Cheryl Cappiali cheryl.cappiali@ctgardenclubs.org

GENERAL RULES

- This Flower Show conforms to the standards established by National Garden Clubs, Inc. The Handbook for Flower Shows (HB), 2017 edition, with revisions posted on the NGC website, is the authority for all issues not covered by the schedule, which is the Law of the Show.
- There must be an emphasis on FRESH Plant material; no artificial plant material may be used in any division.
- Each Exhibitor is limited to one entry per class, except in the Horticulture division. Exhibitor may make more than one entry per class if each is a different species, variety, cultivar, type or color.
- The Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc., the CT Convention Center, and North East Expos, Inc. will strive to assure the safety of all items after arrival and placement but are not responsible for any loss or damage to Exhibits.

ELIGIBILITY FOR ENTERING THE FLOWER SHOW

- The Horticulture Division may be entered by NGC garden club members and amateur gardeners.
- The Design, Botanical Arts and Education Divisions may be entered by NGC garden club members.
- The Education Division, Section B is also open by invitation to Plant Societies and Educational Institutions.

REGISTERING TO EXHIBIT

- **Horticulture Division:** Exhibitors are strongly encouraged to use the advance on-line registration, no later than Friday, 2/14/25. Pre-register Horticulture at www.ctgardenclubs.org.
- **Design Division:** Exhibitors must register online at www.ctgardenclubs.org. Refer class specific questions to the class consultant; see show committee page or design schedule for contact information.
- **Education Division:** Exhibitors must pre-register with Education chair: **Kelle Ruden**, kelle.ruden@ctgardenclubs.org
- **Botanical Arts Division: Artistic Crafts and Photography Exhibitors must register online at www.ctgardenclubs.org.** Photography entries must be registered before 1-15-25.

TIMES TO ENTER AND REMOVE ENTRIES

- Entries in every Division will be accepted on **Tuesday, 2-18-25 from 12pm until 7pm.**
- **ONLY** Design Division, Education Division and Artistic Crafts entries will be accepted **Wednesday, 2-19-25 from 8-10am.**
- **NO HORTICULTURE OR PHOTOGRAPHY ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED ON WEDNESDAY.**
- All exhibits must be removed on Sunday, 2-23-25 between 5-6pm. Be prompt in picking up.

MAKING ENTRIES

- Computer-generated entry cards will be available for all registered entries at the designated set-up times.
- Design and Education Divisions and Artistic Crafts entry cards will be placed on the staging where the entry will be located. Nomenclature forms will also be placed with Design entry cards and exhibitors must list what plant materials were used on both the entry card and the nomenclature form.
- Horticulture Division and Photography entrants must check-in at the Horticulture and Photography registration tables to complete the entry process.

JUDGING - WEDNESDAY, 2-19-25, 11AM-2PM

- The Classification Chair for each division checks exhibits for conformity to the schedule prior to judging. The final determination for conformance is the responsibility of the Judges.
- The General Chair and the Classification Chair for each Division are available during judging for possible consultation. They, along with the judges and clerks, are the only personnel allowed on the floor during judging.
- The decisions of the judges are final. Awards may be withheld if not merited.
- When a gross infraction of NGC Policy is noticed after a decision is made, but before the show is open to the public, the General Chair is advised. The General Chair or Classification Chair may disqualify the Exhibit. If the Chair does not disqualify the Exhibit, the original panel may re-judge. HB p98.

POLICY ON USE of ENDANGERED and INVASIVE PLANTS: Plant Material listed on the following websites is prohibited in any Division.

- Connecticut Invasive Plant List: <https://cipwg.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/244/2014/12/CT-Invasive-Plant-List-2014Scientific-Name.pdf>
- Endangered, Threatened & Special Concern Plants in CT:
https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2702&q=323482&deepNav_GID=1628

AWARDS

The NGC Standard System of Awarding is used in all Divisions.

- Only one (1) first-place (blue) ribbon per Class or Subclass; must score 90 points or more.
- Only one (1) second-place (red) ribbon per Class or Subclass; must score 85 points or more.
- Only one (1) third-place (yellow) ribbon per Class or Subclass; must score 80 points or more.
- One (1) or more Honorable Mention (white) ribbons as merited; must score 75 points or more.
- 90+ (plus) may be awarded for those exhibits scoring 90 plus or more but are not the First- Place or Blue-ribbon winner.

DIVISION I – HORTICULTURAL AWARDS

National Garden Clubs – Division Award

Award of Horticultural Excellence: Rosette of green, orange, and blue ribbons. One is offered and may be awarded to the highest scoring correctly named blue-ribbon winner in the entire Horticulture Division.

National Garden Clubs – Section Awards

- **Arboreal Award:** Rosette of green ribbons. Three are offered and may be awarded to the cut arboreal exhibit which is the correctly named blue-ribbon winner scoring 95 points or more in each of Sections J, K, and L.
- **Award of Merit:** Rosette of orange ribbons. Two are offered and may be awarded to the cut non-woody exhibit which is the correctly named blue-ribbon winner scoring 95 points or more in each of Sections O and P.
- **Elfin Award:** Small rosette of chartreuse and purple ribbons. Five are offered and may be awarded to exhibits designated as dwarf or miniature varieties or cultivars by nurseries and plant societies. Specimens may be cut, container grown or arboreal. The Elfin Award may be awarded to the exhibit which is a correctly named blue ribbon winner scoring 95 points or more in each of Sections C, G, H, M, and N.
- **Grower's Choice Award:** Rosette of dark green ribbons. Two are offered and may be awarded to the correctly named blue-ribbon winner scoring 95 points or more for container-grown plants in each of Sections E and F.

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut – Horticultural Awards

- **The Mary Lou Smith Award of Merit:** Rosette of turquoise and green ribbons. Four are offered and may be awarded to the correctly named blue-ribbon winner scoring 95 points or more in each of Sections A, B, D, and I.
- **The Connecticut Group Horticulture Award:** Rosette of hunter green and gold ribbons. One is offered and may be awarded at any Standard Flower Show presented by The Federation or member clubs for a group or club effort for garden design or other horticultural effort which scores 95 points or more. Section Q is eligible.
- **The Elisabeth Swain Memorial Propagation Award:** Rosette of green and lime green ribbons. One is offered and may be awarded to outstanding NAMED blue-ribbon winner scoring 95 points or more, propagated by an Exhibitor. Exhibits will be identified with the word "Propagated" printed on the entry cards. Exhibits will be identified during registration. Brief propagation details will be required.

DIVISION II – DESIGN AWARDS

National Garden Clubs – Division Award

- **Award of Design Excellence:** Rosette of gold ribbons. One is offered and may be awarded to the highest scoring exhibit in the entire Design Division entered by a single exhibitor. Section F, Club Competition is not eligible.

National Garden Clubs – Section Awards

The award-winning Exhibit, in either creative or traditional style, must be a blue-ribbon winner, scoring 95 points or more and entered by an individual in designated Sections containing at least 3 Classes per Section. Each class must have at least 4 exhibits.

- **Club Competition Award:** Rosette of light blue ribbons. One is offered and may be awarded to the blue-ribbon winner scoring 95 points or more in Section F.
- **Designer's Choice Award:** Rosette of purple ribbons. Three are offered and may be awarded to the blue-ribbon winner scoring 95 points or more in each of Sections C and D, & E. Designer has freedom to choose plant material and other components.
- **Petite Award:** Small Rosette of blue and white ribbons. Two are offered and may be awarded to the blue-ribbon winner scoring 95 points or more in each of Sections of Petite Designs A and B. Designer's choice of Plant Material in all Classes.

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut- Design Awards

- **The Nell McGuinness Award:** A Certificate and a rosette of pink and gold ribbons is offered and may be awarded to the most outstanding Exhibit in the Design Division.
- **The Terry Stoleson Creative Design Award:** Rosette of purple and orange ribbons. One is offered and may be awarded to the Design that best represents the creativity, imagination, and originality essential in Creative Design. Section C classes 8 and 9, Section D classes 11 and 12 and Section E class 15 are eligible.

THE FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF CT - PEOPLE'S CHOICE DESIGN AWARD in HONOR of BARBARA BRUCE

Barbara Bruce loved flower shows and was an extraordinary designer and generous mentor. The unique and beautiful flower shows she created were always imbued with her inner light and joy. Barbara chaired Flower Show School and several state

flower shows all while fending off cancer. Passing on opening day of the state show she was chairing in 2016, Barbara left us the gift of a flower show schedule for the next year to guide us and to guarantee the show would go on.

A Certificate will be awarded to the first-place winner, selected by ballot, as the people's favorite exhibit in the Design Division. The winner along with second and third place will be acknowledged and announced on The Federated Garden Clubs of CT. Inc. website: ctgardenclubs.org

DIVISION III – EDUCATION AWARDS

National Garden Clubs – Division Award

- **Educational Top Exhibitor Award:** Rosette of brown & white ribbons. One is offered and may be awarded to the highest scoring Exhibit which scores 95 points or more. The Exhibit must occupy a minimum of 18 square feet of surface area. Section A, class 1 is eligible if the space requirements are met.
- **Award of Appreciation:** Rosette of orchid ribbons. One or more are offered and may be awarded to invitational and commercial non-competitive Exhibits, if merited, which are not to be judged. Section B, Classes 2, 3, and 4 are eligible.

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut – Education Awards

- **CT Judges Special Award:** Rosette of yellow and white ribbons. One is offered and may be awarded to one Educational Exhibit scoring 94 points or more which awakens interest in a subject and stimulates the viewer to learn more. Section A, class 1 is eligible. The winner of the Educational Top Exhibitor Award is not eligible.
- **CT Silver and Blue Award:** Rosette of silver and blue ribbons. One or more may be offered and awarded to Educational Exhibits scoring 90 or more (no space requirements) at the discretion of the judges. Section A, class 1 is eligible. The winner of the Educational Top Exhibitor Award is not eligible.

DIVISION IV – BOTANICAL ARTS AWARDS

National Garden Clubs – Botanical Arts Section Awards

- **Botanical Arts Artistic Crafts Award:** Rosette of navy ribbons with gold lettering. One is offered and may be awarded to the highest scoring craft of 95 points or more. Artistic Crafts are not eligible for any other Exhibitor Award. Section A is eligible.
- **Botanical Arts Photography Award:** Rosette of black and white ribbons. One is offered and may be awarded to the highest scoring photograph of 95 points or more. Section B is eligible.

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut –Photography Section Awards

- **CT Photography Award:** Rosette of cream, navy, and burgundy ribbons. One is offered and may be awarded to a Photograph Exhibit in the Photography Section scoring 95 points or more.
- **Cheryl Collins Photography Award:** Rosette of light green and lavender and dark green ribbons. One is offered and may be awarded to the Photograph of flowers or gardens judged to be the most creatively photographed. The winner need not be a Blue-Ribbon winner.

Division I – Horticulture - *The Lunar Calendar*

Horticulture Division Rules

1. The NGC Exhibit Policies are printed in Chapter 6. Exhibiting in the Horticulture Division is in the HB pp 55-62.
2. The rules for a single species cut or container-grown specimen are listed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows* or its supplement, *Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging*.
3. To receive an NGC Top Exhibitor Award, the Exhibitor must identify her/his entry by its binomial name or currently acceptable scientific designation. Consult HB pp 53-54.
4. Horticulture entries should be registered in advance, computer generated entry cards will be available at the show when entries are accepted. Exhibitors with unregistered entries should bring written information so a card can be generated when entries are accepted.
5. Cut specimens should not have foliage below the waterline, except *Gladiolous*.
6. If a plant is considered a flowering plant, it should be exhibited as a flowering specimen. Foliage plants may flower, but should be exhibited as a foliage plant if they are grown for their leaves; it is not necessary to remove flowers from foliage plants.
7. Specimens with a class designation may not be entered in the 'Any Other Worthy' class.
8. The Horticulture Classification Committee Chair and/or General Show Chair are free to subdivide by color form, size, cultivar, variety or other distinguishing characteristics.

9. Clear bottles and wedging will be provided for cut specimens. Clean, neutral-colored pots with saucers are preferred for container-grown plants. Discreet double potting is allowed.
10. All Entries must be well groomed. Diseased or insect-infected plant material will not be accepted. Water thoroughly before bringing entries to the show. Plant material must be in its natural state and may not be altered by application of oil or commercial "shine" products.
11. Please pre-register any horticulture which you think may be ready at show time. There is no penalty for withdrawing material that is not show ready.
12. Containers up to 12" in diameter, measured from top outside edges, will be accepted. The Exhibitor must be able to carry the container to the exhibition hall without assistance from the Committee.
13. Risers will be provided for trailing plants. You must pre-register for a riser. Please contact Horticulture Classification Chair: **Renee Marsh: renee.marsh@ctgardenclubs.org** with any questions.
14. The Scales of Points for Horticulture are located in Chapter 14 of the *Handbook for Flower Shows*. The most recently updated *Handbook for Flower Shows* is available free for use, download and printing on the NGC website, Flower Show Resources page. <https://gardenclub.org/flower-show-school-resources>

Horticulture Division Schedule

Section A – Full Moon

CACTI-CONTAINER-GROWN

Eligible for Mary Lou Smith Award of Merit

- Class 1. *Astrophytum*
- Class 2. *Echinocactus*
- Class 3. *Mammillaria*
- Class 4. *Opuntia*
- Class 5. Any Other Worthy

Section B – Snow Moon

SUCCULENTS-CONTAINER-GROWN

Eligible for Mary Lou Smith Award of Merit

- Class 6. *Agave*
- Class 7. *Aloe*
- Class 8. *Crassula*
- Class 9. *Dracaena trifasciata* (Formerly *Sansevieria*)
- Class 10. *Echeveria*
- Class 11. *Euphorbia*
- Class 12. *Haworthia*
- Class 13. *Lithops*
- Class 14. Any Other Worthy

Section C – Worm Moon

MINIATURE CACTI & SUCCULENTS

CONTAINER-GROWN

Eligible for Elfin Award

- Class 15. *Crassula*
- Class 16. *Echinocactus*
- Class 17. *Euphorbia*
- Class 18. *Mammillaria*
- Class 19. Any Other Worthy

Section D – Pink Moon

ORCHIDS-CONTAINER-GROWN

Eligible for Mary Lou Smith Award of Merit

- Class 20. *Dendrobium*
- Class 21. *Oncidium*
- Class 22. *Phalaenopsis*
- Class 23. Any Other Worthy

Section E – Flower Moon

CONTAINER-GROWN FOLIAGE

Eligible for Grower's Choice Award

- Class 24. *Begonia*
- Class 25. *Epipremnum*
- Class 26. Fern
- Class 27. *Hedera*
- Class 28. *Peperomia*
- Class 29. *Philodendron*
- Class 30. Any Other Worthy

Section F – Strawberry Moon

CONTAINER-GROWN FLOWERING

Eligible for Grower's Choice Award

Plants must be in fruit or flower.

- Class 31. *Anthurium*
- Class 32. *Begonia*
- Class 33. *Sinningia*
- Class 34. *Streptocarpus ionanthus* (African Violet)
- Class 35. Any Other Worthy

Section G – Buck Moon

DWARF OR MINIATURE FOLIAGE PLANTS

CONTAINER-GROWN

Eligible for Elfin Award

- Class 36. *Begonia*
- Class 37. *Ficus*
- Class 38. *Hedera*
- Class 39. *Peperomia*
- Class 40. Any Other Worthy

Section H – Sturgeon Moon

DWARF OR MINIATURE FLOWERING PLANTS

CONTAINER-GROWN

Eligible for Elfin Award

- Class 41. *Begonia*
- Class 42. *Orchid*
- Class 43. *Streptocarpus*
- Class 44. Any Other Worthy

Section I – Harvest Moon

FORCED BULBS, TUBERS, RHIZOMES

CONTAINER-GROWN

Eligible for Mary Lou Smith Award of Merit

Judges Challenge

Bulbs distributed in November of 2024

Class 45. *Anemone blanda*, Blue

Class 46. *Chionodoxa forbesii*, Glory of the Snow

Class 47. *Iris reticulata*, Harmony, Rock Garden Iris

Open to Everyone

Class 48. *Hippeastrum* (Amaryllis)

Class 49. *Hyacinthus*

Class 50. *Narcissus*

Class 51. Any Other Worthy

Section J – Corn Moon

ARBOREALS - Broadleaf Evergreens

Eligible for Arboreal Award

Cut specimens must be no more than 30" in length, include an apical tip, central leader, and several nodes.

Class 52. *Buxus*

Class 53. *Ilex*

Class 54. *Leucothoe*

Class 55. *Rhododendron*

Class 56. Any Other Worthy

Section K – Hunters Moon

ARBOREALS - Needled Evergreens

Eligible for Arboreal Award

Cut specimens must be no more than 30" in length, include an apical tip, central leader, and several nodes.

Eligible for Arboreal Award

Class 57. *Chamaecyparis*

Class 58. *Juniperus*

Class 59. *Picea*

Class 60. *Pinus*

Class 61. *Thuja*

Class 62. *Tsuga*

Class 63. Any Other Worthy

Section L – Beavers Moon

ARBOREALS - Forced or Winter Blooming Branches Eligible for Arboreal Award

Cut specimens must be no more than 30" in length, include an apical tip, central leader, and several nodes.

Eligible for Arboreal Award

Class 64. *Chaenomeles*

Class 65. *Forsythia*

Class 66. *Hamamelis* (Witch Hazel)

Class 67. *Pieris*

Class 68. Any Other Worthy

Section M - Cold Moon

DWARF OR MINIATURE ARBOREALS

CONTAINER-GROWN

Eligible for Elfin Award

Class 69. Broadleaf Evergreens

Class 70. Forced or Winter Blooming

Class 71. Needled Evergreens

Class 72. Any Other Worthy

Section N– Wolf Moon

DWARF OR MINIATURE ARBOREALS

CUT SPECIMENS

Cut specimens must be no more than 18" in length, include an apical tip, central leader, and several nodes.

Eligible for Elfin Award

Class 73. Broadleaf Evergreens

Class 74. Forced or Winter Blooming

Class 75. Needled Evergreens

Class 76. Any Other Worthy

Section O – Crescent Moon

FOLIAGE CUT SPECIMENS

Eligible for Award of Merit

Class 77. *Alocasia*

Class 78. *Begonia*

Class 79. *Coleus*

Class 80. Any Other Worthy

Section P – Half Moon

FLOWERING CUT SPECIMENS

Eligible for Award of Merit

Class 81. *Crocus*

Class 82. *Galanthus*

Class 83. *Helleborus*

Class 84. Any Other Worthy

Section Q - Blue Moon

Eligible for The Connecticut Group Horticultural Award

Consultant: Sharon Bender

sharon.bender@ctgardenclubs.org

- This is a Club Horticultural effort limited to four (4) Entries.
- Only the Club President's Name is on Entry Card.
- Key card (minimum 4" x 6") with plant ID must accompany entry.
- Exhibit space is 3'W x 29"D x 29"H.

Class 85. Display of *Pinus* Cut Arboreal Specimens

Display must use a minimum of seven different (7) specimens (species, variety or cultivar) grown by two (2) or more club members

Presidents Project: Plant-a-Tree

Planting Trees and Saving Forests

For many years, National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the USDA Forest Service have maintained a partnership sustaining our national forests through the reforestation and forest education program Plant-a-Tree (formerly known as Penny Pines).

Your garden club can participate by contributing to this meaningful conservation project. All contributions help the Forest Service to plant trees across the national forest system where reforestation is needed most- The places most impacted by wildfires, flooding, drought and other forest disturbances.

<https://gardenclub.org/plant-tree>

Division II – Design – *The Astrological Calendar*

Design Division Rules

1. The NGC Exhibit Policies are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 7, Exhibiting in the Design Division, NGC Policies and Guidelines.
2. Advance online registration deadline is February, 14, 2025.
3. Plant material and non-plant material permitted and not permitted in the Design Division are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 7. **Not permitted in CT** per Committee: coral, starfish, sponges, sea fans, or collected bird nests; and cut fruits or vegetables even if sealed. Whole fruits and vegetables are allowed.
4. All plant material used in the design must be listed on both the entry card and nomenclature form provided at the time of entry.
5. The exhibitor is required to conform to the stated description and limitations of the Design Type if named in the class.
6. Rules for Design Types, Advanced Design Types, Table Design and Table appointments are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 7.
7. The Scale of Points for Design is listed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 14.
8. The most recently updated *Handbook for Flower Shows* is available free for use, download and printing on the NGC website, Flower Show Resources page. <https://gardenclub.org/flower-show-school-resources>
9. Designers are encouraged to use minimal amounts of green floral foam for environmental reasons.
10. Mail or Email from Consultants to Exhibitors will include: (a) A detailed sketch or photograph of staging on the Exhibitor's specific Class. (b) A detailed, scaled Floor Plan of the entire flower show to enable Exhibitors to envision the space/frame of reference for Design Sections and Classes and entire Show. **Curtains behind Designs will be 8' height, black.** Pedestals are placed 30" apart and designs must not extend more than 12" horizontally beyond the pedestal.
11. All designs will be judged from the front but are viewable from 3 sides unless otherwise noted.
12. Designers are on their honor that the design being entered has not been previously entered or judged in an NGC Standard Flower Show.

Design Division Schedule

Section A – The Planets Align Eligible for the Petite Award – 4 Entries in each class

Consultant: Leslie Martino, lmartino@yahoo.com

All designs in this section are Petite not to exceed 8" in height, width and depth and will be staged on white foam core panels consisting of a 14" square vertical back and 14" square base, Placed on a 42" height table. Underlay and staging panel required. Fresh and/or dried plant material allowed.

Class 1 – Solar Eclipse – Novice (Open to designers that have not been awarded a blue ribbon in a prior NGC show)

Petite creative design

Class 2 – Mercury Rising

Petite creative design

Class 3 – Rings of Saturn

Petite creative design

Section B – Air Signs Eligible for the Petite Award – 4 Entries in each class

Consultant: Diane White, dmarywhite@gmail.com

All designs in this section are Petite not to exceed 12" in height, width and depth and will be staged on white foam core panels consisting of a 14" square vertical back and 14" square base, Placed on a 42" height table. Underlay and staging panel required. Fresh and/or dried plant material allowed.

Class 4 – Gemini: Spontaneous and Dramatic

Petite spatial thrust design

Class 5 – Libra: Social Butterfly

Petite multi-rhythmic design

Class 6 – Aquarius: Quirky and Visionary

Petite underwater design

Section C – Earth Signs Eligible for the Designer's Choice Award – 4 Entries in each class

Consultant: Peggy Townsend, peggy.townsend@ctgardenclubs.org

Class 7 – Taurus: Languorous Luxury Lover

Traditional Still life design staged on a 20" square, 34" height black pedestal

Class 8 – Virgo: Elegant, Polished Perfectionist

Reflective design staged on an 18" square, 42" height black pedestal

Class 9 – Capricorn: Ambitious and Powerful

Angular design staged on a 16" square, 42" height black pedestal

Section D – Water Signs Eligible for the Designer's Choice Award – 4 Entries in each class

Consultant: Kara McKenna-Wong, karakatiebyron@gmail.com

Class 10 – Cancer: Emotional and Maternal – Novice

(Open to designers that have not been awarded a blue ribbon in a prior NGC show)

Traditional line mass design staged on a 12" square, 42" height black pedestal

Class 11 – Scorpio: Intense and Passionate

Framed Spatial Design staged on a 30" wide, 60" high, 5.5 deep black frame center mounted on a 36" square, 12" height black base. A hook for hanging the design is centered on the top frame rail.

Class 12 – Pisces: Artistic Daydreamer

Cascade design staged on a 15" square, 40" height black pedestal

Section E - Fire Signs Eligible for the Designer's Choice Award – 4 Entries in each class

Consultant: Wendy Yu, wendyyu009@gmail.com

Class 13 – Aries: Bold and Fearless

Exhibition table staged on a 24" diameter round, black table top on a 36" high chrome base.

Class 14 – Leo: Fiery Heart

Functional semi-formal table for two staged on a 36" round, 30" high table. Exhibitor must provide a table cloth and/or skirting to the floor to completely cover the table and base.

Class 15 – Sagittarius: Adventurous, Spiritual Wanderer

Low profile design staged on a 17.5" high, 39" wide, 19" deep black coffee table placed on a 3" high, 48" square black base. Design techniques must be listed on the entry card.

Section F – By the Light of the Moon Eligible for the Club Competition Award -4 Entries

Consultant: Trish Manfredi, ptmanfredi@cox.net

Class 16 – A Nightcap in the Moon Garden

Club competition vignette staged in 8' diameter circle. It will be viewed from all sides and judged from the front. Electricity (advance approval required) some shrubs, sod, mulch and flowers may be available to augment design-see class consultant for more information.

Division III – Education *The Solar Calendar*

Education Division Rules

1. Educational Exhibits may be the work of more than one individual or organization. If a student or Accredited Judge is seeking exhibiting credit, the work must be done solely by the individual and entered accordingly. Names of Exhibitors may appear in the schedule ONLY if the exhibit is not being judged.
2. Exhibits eligible for the NGC Educational Top Exhibitor Award must occupy a minimum of eighteen (18) square feet of surface area.
3. While it is not mandatory that plant material be included in Educational Exhibits, NGC Inc. encourages the use of plant material in Exhibits whenever appropriate, especially fresh plant material. Artificial plant material is never permitted.
4. Handout materials add to the educational value but are not required. Each part of the Exhibit should contribute to the distinctive overall effect.
5. Exhibits in Class 1 will each be staged on a 2.5'x 8' table, covered and skirted in black. Exhibits in Classes 2, 3, and 4 will each be staged on a provided table 6'W x 29"D x 29"H covered in white and skirted in black.
6. Scales Of Points for Judging Educational Exhibits see HB page 130.

Section A – Spring Fever

Eligible for Educational Top Exhibitor Award

CT Judges Special Award

CT Silver and Blue Award

Class 1 - Vernal Equinox – 3 Entries

The Vernal Equinox marks the first day of Spring. In honor of The National Garden Club's Plant America Program, "Landscape for Wildlife," share which plants and / or animals show us spring has arrived.

Exhibit 1. TBD

Exhibit 2. TBD

Exhibit 3. TBD

Section B – Come into Season

Eligible for Award of Appreciation

Class 2 – Summer Solstice – 4 entries - Not to be Judged

Organizations that celebrate flowers.

Exhibit 4. TBD

Exhibit 5. TBD

Exhibit 6. TBD

Exhibit 7. TBD

Class 3 – Autumnal Equinox – 3 Entries - Not to be Judged

Organizations that celebrate trees and horticulture.

Exhibit 8. TBD

Exhibit 9. TBD

Exhibit 10. TBD

Class 4 – Winter Solstice – 4 Entries - Not to be Judged

The Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc, offers a variety of NGC, Inc. schools. The four NGC schools lead to certification or accreditation in each area of study. All instructors are NGC approved, recognized experts in their area of study.

Exhibit 11. Environmental School

Exhibit 12. Gardening School

Exhibit 13. Flower Show School

Exhibit 14. Landscape Design School

Division IV – Botanical Arts – *Sign of the Times*

Artistic Crafts Rules

1. Artistic Crafts are objects with a function. They may be artistically pleasing but were not created solely for their artistic value. They serve a purpose and can be labeled as a certain object such as a basket, necklace, package, or hat.
2. Each Exhibit must be the work of the Exhibitor under whose name it is exhibited and cannot have been previously entered or judged in an NGC Flower Show.
3. All Exhibits must contain a majority of fresh and/or dried plant material and/or fungi. Only dried plant material may be treated. Plant material must be in its natural form/state: example: flax made into fabric or ribbon is not in its natural state. No artificial, endangered, or locally invasive plant material may be used. Please refer to the Policy on use of native and invasive plants websites noted in the General Rules on page 3.
4. Non-plant material may be used for construction but must not be seen.
5. Forms may be assembled from plant material. Clipping, cutting, or shaping of material is allowed.
6. All Artistic Crafts entries must have 5"x 8" key card showing samples of each material used in the design and identified by name.
7. See Handbook for other detailed Artistic Craft information and Scales of Points. The most recently updated *Handbook for Flower Shows* is available free for use, download and printing on the NGC website, Flower Show Resources page. <https://gardenclub.org/flower-show-school-resources>

Section A - Artistic Crafts Schedule - The Woodland Fairy Spring Gala – 4 Entries in Each Class

Eligible for the Botanical Arts Artistic Crafts Award

You are cordially invited to the biggest social event on the woodland fairy calendar, join us to celebrate the arrival of spring. Display area for each entry is 24" wide x 24" deep X 29" high table covered and skirted in black; entries must not extend beyond the allotted space.

Class 1 – Crowning Glory

A crown or tiara fit for the queen of the woodland fairies completely covered natural dried materials to be displayed on a 12" tall black velvet head mannequin.

Class 2 – The Icing on the Cake

Create a cake to be the centerpiece of the fairy spring gala. It must be completely covered in natural fresh or dried materials. Manufactured cake plates or cake stands are allowed.

Class 3 – Enchanted Jewels

A necklace to wear to the Fairy Spring Gala completely covered in natural dried materials. To be displayed on a 15" tall black velvet necklace bust mannequin.

Photography Rules

1. Online registration is required in Section B by 1/15/25. A digital high-resolution copy of each entry is required; send it to kathy.harris@ctgardenclubs.org by the 1/15/25 deadline.
2. There is a **Maximum of 12 Entries per Class**. An exhibitor may enter up to 5 classes but only one (1) Photograph per Class.
3. Photography classes are open to all members of National Garden Clubs who are amateur photographers.
4. Each entry must be the work of the exhibitor under whose name it is exhibited.
5. Exhibits must not have been previously entered in an NGC sponsored contest (see general rules).
6. All exhibits must relate to horticulture, gardening, design or other NGC goals, objectives and/or initiatives (landscape, conservation, civic projects, preservation, ecology, environment, etc.)
7. All entries must be 8x10 and be mounted on black foam core, cut to the exact size of the image. Matting, glass and framing are not permitted. A matte finish is strongly recommended due to overhead lighting. Please be sure photographs are securely attached to foam core.
8. Entries may be black and white or color and may have a vertical (portrait) or horizontal (landscape) orientation.
9. Professional printing mounting to foam core are permitted. Photo may be enhanced by the exhibitor with cropping, filters, adjustments and/or other darkroom techniques
10. Write the exhibitor's name, class number and class name and indicate the top of photo on the back of the foam core.
11. Exhibitors are encouraged to label photographed plant material (current scientific designation is preferred).
12. Staging: Photographs will be hung on 38"W x 70"H panels with a dark charcoal gray fabric background.
13. See handbook for further information and scales of points. The most recently updated *Handbook for Flower Shows* is available free for use, download and printing on the NGC website, Flower Show Resources page: <https://gardenclub.org/flower-show-school-resources>.

Section B - Photography Schedule – Timekeepers - 12 Entries in Each Class

Eligible for Botanical Arts Photography Award, CT Photography Award and Cheryl Collins Photography Award

Class 1 – Dawn of a New Day

A landscape photo of a sunrise or the "Golden Hour" after sunrise.

Class 2 – Searching for Spring Ephemerals

A photo of one or more native "Spring Ephemeral". The earliest spring flowers that emerge as the sun warms the soil. These unique wildflowers are short-lived and bloom before tree leaf out.

Class 3 – Time Stands Still

A photo of a sundial in a garden with focus on the sundial.

Class 4 – Sands of Time

A photo of sea life (flora or fauna) on the beach.

Class 5 – A Day in the Life

A photo of one or more blooms from a plant for which flowers last only for one day.

Class 6 – A Time to Reap

A photo of ripe or ripening fruit in its natural growing environment.

Class 7 – Fall Festival

An 8x10 collage or creative arrangement of two or more fall foliage photos (stacking or diptychs are acceptable options).

Class 8 – Frozen in Time

A photo of winter that includes the dynamic interaction of winter light with frost, ice or snow in a garden or natural setting.