

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

RULES AND GUIDELINES

Eligibility

- Classes 1-4 are open to adult amateur photographers only.** Any amateur photographer who does not sell their photos for the major part of their livelihood may exhibit in Photography.
- Class 5 is open to adult and junior amateur photographers.** Junior photographers are aged 10-17 years.

Entering

- This is a juried show.** Advance email registration for all classes is required and registrations must be accompanied by a digital copy of the photo being entered. Each class is limited to 16 entries for jurying, based on the date and time stamp of the registration form.
- An exhibitor may submit only one photo per class and may enter no more than two classes in total.** Entries will be capped at 16 entries per class.
- The digital photos will be juried by a panel of photography judges to determine the six finalists in each class, plus two alternates. Finalists must freshly print and mount their photos as per [Finalist Guidelines \(see page 31\)](#) for display at the New England Fall Flower Show. The alternates will be notified if they become a finalist by Thursday, August 20, 2026.
- Digital images must be submitted as jpegs, sized between 1 and 5 megabytes, and must accompany the Registration. Incorrectly sized images will not be accepted. Images must be large enough to print well for the show (the overall dimension of final entry must be a minimum of 40" and not exceed 60" in total perimeter measurement).
- Rename your digital photo file: Last name.First name.Class entered. For example: Smith.Joan.Class1.jpeg, rather than IMG-1.jpeg.
- Any manipulation done to the photo must be done before the digital entry is submitted. Manipulation at the time of exposure, in the darkroom, or by computer is allowed in all classes and must be the work of the exhibitor. This includes cropping of the image, enhancement for color or clarity, removal of a part of the image, combining images, or distorting the original subject. The use of AI to generate new visual imagery in a photograph is prohibited.
- Photos that have won a blue ribbon in a previous public Photography Show may not be entered in this competition. If accepted into the show, the photograph must be newly mounted for judging and display.

TIMETABLE

Registration opens	Tuesday, April 7
Registration deadline	Friday, June 5
Jury Results & Finalist Acceptance	Friday, July 10
Mail-in Deadline	Thursday, August 20

For a full timetable, see Show Timeline on page 5

Committee Contact & Class Consultant:
Beth Paisner, bpais001@gmail.com

CLASSES

Growing Together: Celebrating and exploring connection, nature, and growth through the lens.

CLASS 1 Celebrating Artistry

16 Juried | 6 Finalists

An intimate landscape of human-made objects enhancing a garden. Color.

Landscape - Intimate: A pared-down version of a natural scenery that is a closer view of the subject(s) than traditional landscape photography. Intimate landscapes typically omit sky (but not always).

CLASS 2 Bearing Witness

16 Juried | 6 Finalists

A traditional landscape that captures a natural environment. Monochrome

Landscape - Traditional: A view of scenery of any kind from (a garden or wilderness for this class) where the main subject is the scenery and it must dominate. Sky and structures and objects may be included. Identifiable people may not be included.

Monochrome: An image is monochrome only if it gives the impression of having no color (e.g., contains only shades of gray which can include pure black and pure white) OR it gives the impression of being a grayscale image that has been toned in one color across the entire image. (For example, sepia, red, gold, etc.)

CLASS 3 Savoring the Harvest

16 Juried | 6 Finalists

A composed Still Life with fruits and/or vegetables evoking the beauty and symbolism of harvested growth. Color.

Composed Still Life: an intentional arrangement by the photographer of a variety of objects to convey a visual story or to explore broader compositional concepts such as color, form, light, or shadow.

CLASS 4 Growing Native

16 Juried | 6 Finalists

Close up of a New England Native plant. Color

Use this reference guide: [Native Plant Trust Plant Finder](#)

Close-up: A photograph taken close to the subject to permit a detailed view.

CLASS 5 Seeking Perspective

16 Juried | 6 Finalists

Junior and Amateur Collaboration Diptych

Create a diptych without borders, from two images of the same plant. The two images must come from two completely different photographs taken by the two photographers. Color

Diptych: Two images, printed on a single piece of photographic paper, which together create a unified composition.

REGISTRATION

Please ensure you've read the rules and guidelines thoroughly before registering. [Click here to register for Floral Design.](#)

You may enter only one class in the Floral Design Competition.

AWARDS *The following awards may be given to finalists during the Judging of the Show:*
Best in Show: Chosen from the first place winners, may be awarded to the most outstanding photograph in the show.

Garden Club of America Award of Distinction in Photography: Awarded to an exhibitor for a photograph of high creative and technical merit in a competitive class in the Photography division of a flower show. Presented at a sanctioned Non-GCA Flower Show for GCA clubs, non-members, or other organizations. Entry must have placed first, second, or third in a judged Class in its division.

Massachusetts Horticultural Society Corliss Knapp Engle Photography Award: May be awarded to a photograph by an amateur photographer in the Photography Competition of the New England Flower Show. This award may be presented to an outstanding photograph celebrating the natural world with artistry, delight, and distinction. The subject might be, but is not restricted to, a landscape, plant or plants, and/or plant related subject(s).

Massachusetts Horticultural Society Novice Photography Award: May be given to an exhibitor who has never won first place in photography in any MHS flower show in the past. It shall be awarded to an individual novice exhibitor for an exceptional photograph. Novice entries placing first, second or third are eligible for this award.

Judges' Commendations: May be given to an entry, class, division, or other aspect of the show which is of exceptional merit.

POINT SCALES FOR JUDGING

	<i>For Creative Awards</i>	<i>For All Others</i>
Creativity	30	25
Composition	20	25
Technical Skill	25	20
Conformance/Interpretation	10	20
Distinction	15	10
TOTAL	100	100

FINALISTS

The following set of rules applies to finalists chosen from the juried part of the New England Fall Flower Show. When the photographer has been notified that their photograph has been accepted for final judging, they should prepare their photograph for hanging at the Show.

1. The printed photo must match the digital image in all respects including color, cropping, and/or manipulation. The photo will be returned to the exhibitor if the Photography Committee determines:
 - a. The print is significantly different from the digital submission.
 - b. The print is mounted incorrectly.
 - c. The mounted print does not appear to be in Show condition.
2. The Photography Committee will ask the exhibitor to reprint and/or remount the photo if these conditions apply. The newly mounted photo must be resubmitted to the New England Fall Flower Show prior to Monday, September 7 to be included in the Show.
3. Each Finalist must print and attach to their photograph a completed Entry Form, which will be sent to finalists in their Finalist Acceptance email.
4. The final show quality print of the photograph must be mounted onto **standard-size black foam core** with no over-matting. The surface finish of the photograph is the choice of the exhibitor.
5. **The finished size of the mounted photograph must be at least 48 inches in perimeter, but may not exceed the total perimeter dimension of 60 inches** (for example, an 11 x 14 print).
6. The photographs must be the work of the exhibitor. Printing and mounting may be done professionally.
7. Finalists' mounted photographs must be received by Thursday, August 20, 2026. If possible, please mail your photograph between August 1-15.
Mail to: **Massachusetts Horticultural Society**
Attn: Flower Show Photography Competition
900 Washington Street
Wellesley, MA 02482
8. If the printed photo is not received by Thursday, August 20, 2026, the Photography Committee will assume you have withdrawn your entry and your entry position will be given to an alternate.
9. If you wish to receive your entry back after the Show, please include a self-addressed return shipping label. Shipping material will be recycled for the returns. If you do not want your photo returned, we donate them to local hospitals and nursing homes or other non-profit organizations.
10. All Finalists will be notified by e-mail of the results of the Judging as soon as possible after the Judging takes place. Entry cards with comment and any ribbons/prizes will be mailed to each finalist within two weeks after the show.