

BEYOND THE GREEN



EXPLORE. DREAM. DISCOVER!

A GCA ANNUAL MEETING FLOWER SHOW

PRESENTED BY ZONE II

APRIL 26-28, 2024



BEYOND THE GREEN:
EXPLORE. DREAM. DISCOVER!

2024 GCA ANNUAL MEETING FLOWER SHOW
at the 111th Annual Meeting of The Garden Club of America

APRIL 27, 2024 8 AM – 6 PM

APRIL 28, 2024 8 AM – 2 PM

Connecticut Convention Center
100 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT 06103

Open to the public | Free of charge

Presented by
ZONE II CLUBS
MEMBERS OF THE GARDEN CLUB
OF AMERICA

CONNECTICUT CLUBS

Connecticut Valley Garden Club, Fairfield Garden Club, Garden Club of Darien, Garden Club of Hartford, Garden Club of New Haven, Green Fingers Garden Club, Greenwich Garden Club, Hortulus, Litchfield Garden Club, Middletown Garden Club, New Canaan Garden Club, Ridgefield Garden Club, Sasqua Garden Club, Stonington Garden Club, The Stamford Garden Club, Washington Garden Club

RHODE ISLAND CLUBS

Newport Garden Club, Perennial Planters, South County Garden Club of Rhode Island

BEYOND THE GREEN:
EXPLORE. DREAM. DISCOVER!

“We are called the nation of inventors. And we are.”

“..So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbor.
Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.”

Attributed to Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens), Humorist, Essayist, Novelist

The purpose of The Garden Club of America is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening; to share the advantage of association by means of educational meetings, conferences, correspondence and publications; and to restore, improve and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement.

The purpose of a flower show is threefold: to set standards of artistic and horticultural excellence; to broaden knowledge of horticulture, floral design, conservation, photography and other related areas; and to share the beauty of a show with fellow club members and with the public.

The Garden Club of America Flower Show & Judging Guide, July 2023 edition

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TIMETABLE FOR EXHIBITORS	4	DIVISION III	
FLOWER SHOW COMMITTEE	6	Photography Guidelines	26
EDUCATION INFORMATION	8	Photography Classes	30
GCA RULES	10	DIVISION IV	
GENERAL INFORMATION	12	Botanical Arts Guidelines	32
		Botanical Arts Classes	34
DIVISION I		DIVISION V	
Floral Design Guidelines	15	Education Guidelines	36
Floral Design Classes	17	Education Exhibit	36
DIVISION II		GCA FLOWER SHOW AWARDS	37
Horticulture Guidelines	19	PHOTOGRAPHY ENTRY FORM	40
Horticulture Classes	21	DIRECTIONS TO THE FLOWER SHOW	41



TIMETABLE FOR EXHIBITORS

APRIL 26, 2023	One-year ownership deadline for Par Class
OCTOBER 1, 2023	Registration opens for all divisions
OCTOBER 24, 2023	Horticulture: Six-month ownership deadline
JANUARY 10, 2024	Photography: Registration and digital submission deadline
JANUARY 17, 2024	Photography: Entrants notified if they are in the jury pool
JANUARY 24, 2024	Horticulture: Three-month ownership deadline
JANUARY 24, 2024	Floral Design and Botanical Arts registration deadline
MARCH 1, 2024	Photography: Finalists and non-finalists notified of jury results
MARCH 25, 2024	Photography printed submission deadline
	Photography entries passed
	Botanical Arts entry (if mailed) delivery deadline
	Horticulture Classes 34, 35, and 36 registration deadline



APRIL 5, 2024	Horticulture Classes 34 and 35 three-week ownership deadline	
APRIL 26, 2024	8 AM–11 AM	Floral Design and Horticulture entries accepted and passed
		Botanical Arts (hand-delivered) entries accepted and passed
		Education exhibit passed
	11 AM	All entries completed
	11:30 AM–12:30 PM	Judges luncheon and briefing
	12:30–3 PM	Judging
	3:30 PM–5 PM	Flower Show Evaluation
	5–6 PM	Flower Show Preview
APRIL 27, 2024	7 AM–8 AM	Refreshing and maintenance of exhibits
	8 AM–6 PM	Show open to the public, free of charge
APRIL 28, 2024	7 AM–8 AM	Refreshing and maintenance of exhibits
	8 AM–2 PM	Show open to the public, free of charge
	2 PM	Show closes
	2:15 PM–4 PM	All entries must be removed



FLOWER SHOW COMMITTEE

CHAIRS	Peggy Moore	Fairfield Garden Club	peggymoore236@gmail.com
	Patti Spaght	Fairfield Garden Club	pcspaght@hotmail.com
	Cynthia Rubin	Sasqua Garden Club	carubin@optonline.net
DIVISION CHAIRS	Division I Floral Design		
	Fleur Rueckert	Fairfield Garden Club	fleur.rueckert@gmail.com
	Linda Tors	Sasqua Garden Club	linda.tors@gmail.com
	Division II Horticulture		
	Beth Rhame	Sasqua Garden Club	highmeadowstudio@gmail.com
	Priscilla Twombly	Sasqua Garden Club	pgtwombly@aol.com
	Division III Photography		
	Susan Rotando	Fairfield Garden Club	AM2024photography@gmail.com
	Charlotte Stone	Sasqua Garden Club	charstone@me.com
	Division IV Botanical Arts		
	Christina Benisch	Sasqua Garden Club	cbenisch@aol.com
	Peggy Moore	Fairfield Garden Club	peggymoore236@gmail.com
	Division V Education		
	Edie Blair	Fairfield Garden Club	eblair123@gmail.com
	Virginia Cargill	Sasqua Garden Club	virginia@vcargill.com
AWARDS	Susan Bonner	Fairfield Garden Club	sbonner@thegoldenribbon.com
	Barbara Bradley	Sasqua Garden Club	bbrad1023@aol.com
	Kimberly Heyn	Sasqua Garden Club	kmhct@optonline.net



GRAPHIC DESIGN	Lisa Webb	Garden Club of Darien	morrillwebb@icloud.com
JUDGES AND CLERKS	Susan Schieffelin	Greenwich Garden Club	sustps@aol.com
JUDGES HOSPITALITY LUNCHEON/DINNER	Jennifer Downing	Sasqua Garden Club	jennifer@jbdowning.com
	Beth Tarde	Sasqua Garden Club	bethtarde@gmail.com
PASSING	Jane Gamber	New Canaan Garden Club	jhgamber@yahoo.com
	Megan Kelly	Sasqua Garden Club	megan@meganfoxkelly.com
REGISTRATION	Fleur Rueckert	(Floral Design)	fleur.rueckert@gmail.com
	Beth Rhame	(Horticulture)	highmeadowstudio@gmail.com
	Susan Rotando	(Photography)	AM2024photography@gmail.com
	Christina Benisch	(Botanical Arts)	cbenisch@aol.com
SHOW PHOTOGRAPHERS	Simin Allison	Fairfield Garden Club	sonshines3@me.com
	Patty Carpenter	Fairfield Garden Club	pattycarpenter@aol.com
SIGNAGE	Ann Franzen	Fairfield Garden Club	southportmarketing@gmail.com
STAGING	Marlowe Mitchell	Sasqua Garden Club	marlowemitchell@yahoo.com
	Alisa Ryan	Fairfield Garden Club	alisaryan@gmail.com
TREASURER	Claire Van de Berghe	Fairfield Garden Club	vdbfam@aol.com
TECHNOLOGY	Mandy Stanton	Sasqua Garden Club	mnoschese@gmail.com
	Candace Wagner	Fairfield Garden Club	chwagner531@gmail.com
VOLUNTEERS	Roxie Hennemuth	Sasqua Garden Club	henny52@aol.com
	Sherry Rago	Fairfield Garden Club	sherry.rago@gmail.com



WATER | Life is dependent on the availability of clean water, and plants play a critical role in improving and maintaining water quality. Vegetation is one of the front lines of defense against water pollution. Plants are powerful and natural solutions—adept at locking up, breaking down, modifying, and/or volatilizing pollutants. With assistance from knowledgeable garden stewards, plants are an extraordinary tool to promote clean water for the benefit of all.

GCA RULES

1. Please carefully read and follow GCA Flower Show Rules, General Information, and Division Guidelines. All rules as stated in *The Garden Club of America Flower Show and Judging Guide (FS & JG)*, July 2023 edition, shall apply.
2. All plant material must be correctly identified with the botanical and common names, if possible. Accepted references for nomenclature are:
 - a. Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder at <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx>
 - b. Royal Horticultural Society - Find a Plant at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/search-Form>
3. The Garden Club of America expects all exhibitors to be aware of the need to promote conservation of endangered and threatened plants. Plants collected in the wild and listed by the Connecticut Natural Heritage Program may not be exhibited in any flower show sponsored by a GCA club. Cultivated plant material listed by Connecticut's Natural Heritage Program may be exhibited if accompanied by a typed card stating that it has not been collected from the wild or that it was collected out-of-state and giving information concerning its cultural requirements and methods of propagation. Natural Heritage Program lists of endangered plant material will be available before and during the show from the division chairmen and are available online at <https://plants.usda.gov/home/raritySearch>



4. Plant material showing evidence of insects or disease must be removed immediately from the exhibition area. This rule will be enforced at any time during the show, whenever the problem is identified.
5. Fresh plant material must be in water or conditioned in such a way as to remain in pristine form while on exhibition. An entry not maintained in show condition may have its award removed. Entries in Photography are required to include plant material. Entries in the Botanical Arts Division must use dried plant material.
6. Locally invasive plants, diseased plant material, artificial plant material, live animals (including fish), taxidermy, natural birds' nests, feathers of any kind, and protected sea life, including coral, are not permitted. No animal parts (from live or deceased animals) may be used. This includes but is not limited to, hooves, horns, fur, hair (with the exception of wool/yarn), fins, seashells and other shells (turtle, egg, etc.). The Photography Division is exempt from this rule, but all photographs must show respect for the natural world and be taken in an ethically responsible way. Information about invasive plants is available at <https://plants.usda.gov/home/noxiousInvasiveSearch>



GENERAL INFORMATION

The Flower Show Committee encourages all exhibitors and committee members to take responsibility for environmental stewardship.

1. Entries are open to all GCA club members, including provisionals, and professionals in their disciplines, with these exceptions:
 - a. Division I Floral Design Classes 1, 2, and 3 are by invitation only.
 - b. Division I Floral Design Class 4 is open only to members of Zone II.
 - c. Division II Horticulture Class 33a is open only to members of Zone II.
 - d. Division IV Botanical Arts Classes 1, 2, and 4 are by invitation only.
 - e. Division IV Botanical Arts Class 3 is open only to members of Zone II.
 - f. Division V Education Exhibit.
2. It is extremely important that all designs are the original work of the designer(s). While the use of various techniques and components in the design may be inspired by other designs, the application of the techniques and components and the artistic concept to the design must be original. Artistic integrity is of utmost importance.
3. Registration is required for all classes in all divisions, with the exception of
 - a. Horticulture Division Classes 1–32, which are weather-dependent (cut specimens).
 - b. Horticulture Division Class 33 which is a propagation challenge.
4. Links for registration forms are provided within the schedule. Classes will be filled in the order registration forms are received according to the email date and time.
5. If there is a limit to the number of classes an exhibitor may enter within a division, the number should be stated in the schedule.
6. Entering a show constitutes permission to use images of the submitted content in all GCA channels of communication.



7. While The Garden Club of America, Fairfield Garden Club, Sasqua Garden Club, and the Connecticut Convention Center will exercise due caution in safeguarding exhibits, responsibility for damage, loss, or personal injury cannot be assumed.
8. Any clarification or change in the rules, as originally stated in the schedule, shall be communicated promptly in writing by the division chairs to all exhibitors in the class and, at the show, to the judges and the passing committee.
9. An entry card must accompany each entry. Entry cards will be available at the show and upon request from the registration or division chairs in advance of the show. Information required on the entry card must be completed in black waterproof medium.
10. The passing committee must pass each entry before an exhibitor may leave the show area. The passing committee reserves the right to refuse any entry that does not conform to the rules of the schedule. The exhibitor has the option of correcting the entry, if time permits. If not corrected, the entry cannot be judged, but may remain in place, marked “For Exhibit Only” with a brief, constructively worded statement explaining why it was not judged. The judges may not disqualify any entry passed by the passing committee unless evidence of insect infestation or disease is identified.
11. Once an entry is passed, the exhibitor(s) must immediately leave the show floor. The only exception will be flower show committee members who have entered and been passed according to the timetable. A passed entry may not be touched again by the exhibitor until after judging and then only to carry out necessary maintenance.
12. Only participating judges and clerks will be allowed on the show floor during judging. Flower Show Chairs and Division Chairs should remain nearby but off the show floor until needed.
13. All containers and accessories must be inconspicuously labeled with the exhibitor’s name.



GENERAL INFORMATION
CONTINUED

- 14. A novice is an **individual exhibitor** who has not won a first-place ribbon or a GCA Special Award in the division entered at a GCA Flower Show, GCA Major Flower Show, or Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show. An exhibitor winning a first-place ribbon in a GCA Flower Show is still considered a novice in a GCA Major Flower Show, a Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show, or in another division of any flower show. In addition, an exhibitor who has won a first-place ribbon or Special Award in a GCA Major Flower Show or Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show is no longer a novice in any level of GCA Flower Shows in the division won. Only individual novice exhibitors are eligible to receive the GCA Novice Awards or the Sandra Baylor Novice Floral Design Award. A novice exhibitor will be identified on the entry card, following the initial judging.
- 15. Statements of Intent are not permitted in any division.
- 16. All Judges’ decisions are final.
- 17. All exhibits must remain in place and in show condition until fifteen minutes following the closing time of the show.



DIVISION I
FLORAL DESIGN GUIDELINES

- 1. Please carefully read and follow the GCA Rules, General Information, and Timetable for Exhibitors.
- 2. Advance registration is required by January 24, 2024.
- 3. An exhibitor may submit only one entry per class. The exhibitor(s) under whose name(s) the entry has been registered must create and complete the design. All participants must be listed on the entry card. Only listed exhibitors and show personnel may be on the show floor at the time of entry.
- 4. No more than two exhibitors may execute a design unless otherwise stated in the schedule.
- 5. If forced to withdraw, an exhibitor must notify the registration chair and class consultant and find a substitute unless there is a waiting list for the class.
- 6. Designs may be executed off-site and brought to the show completed.
- 7. All entries must include fresh and/or dried plant material. Fresh plant material must be in water or conditioned in such a way as to remain in pristine form while on exhibition. Rooted plant material is allowed provided no soil is attached. An entry not maintained in show condition may have its award removed.
- 8. Mechanics should not be visible unless they are an integral part of the design.
- 9. Anything not prohibited in the GCA Rules, Floral Design Division Guidelines, or individual class descriptions is permitted.
- 10. Although permitted, the use of cut fruits and vegetables is discouraged and should be undertaken only with proper treatment to prevent spoilage and insect contamination.
- 11. Accessories are permitted unless otherwise stated in the class description.
- 12. Staging specifications and any restrictions are stated within the class description.



FLORAL DESIGN GUIDELINES, CONTINUED

- 13. Pertinent paint samples will be available from the division chair after registration form is received.
- 14. Questions regarding class requirements may be directed to the class consultant and/or division chair.

JUDGING

- 15. Judging will be based on the principles of design: balance, contrast, dominance, proportion, rhythm, and scale, and the elements of design: light, space, line, form, color, texture, pattern, and size. Creativity is important, as are distinction, conformance to and interpretation of the class, and schedule.

Scale of points by which Floral Design classes are to be judged:

Design	35
Distinction	20
Interpretation	20
Color harmony	15
Conformance	10
Total	100

See FS & JG Book 4, July 2023 edition



DIVISION I
FLORAL DESIGN CLASSES

CLASS 1 | DISCOVER... 4 ENTRIES

Celebrating the natural landscape of Connecticut and Rhode Island: rivers, waterfalls, rock outcroppings, nature preserves and coastline.

A cascade design staged on a gray pedestal, 42” high with a 14” square top and placed in front of a painted wall. Viewed and judged from three sides. Floral design may not exceed 16” in width or depth from the center of the pedestal. No height restriction. Paint samples of pedestal and wall colors along with a photograph of the pedestal will be sent following registration.

Cascade Design: a design constructed of layered, loosely trailing plant material which appears to flow; waterfall. *FS & JG, Book 5, July 2023 edition*

Class Consultant: Fleur Rueckert, 203-613-1015, fleur.rueckert@gmail.com

CLASS 2 | SET SAIL... 4 ENTRIES

Celebrating the tradition of sailing along our coastline, as well as racing for the America’s Cup (the Auld Mug). The race is the oldest continuous international competition in any sport and has historical ties to Newport, Rhode Island, that date back to 1930.

A design staged on a gray pedestal, 42” high with a 14” square top and placed in front of a painted wall. Viewed and judged from the three sides. Floral design may not exceed 16 inches in width or depth from the center of the pedestal. No height restrictions. Paint samples of pedestal and wall colors along with a photograph of the pedestal will be sent following registration.

Class Consultant: Fleur Rueckert, 203-613-1015, fleur.rueckert@gmail.com



FLORAL DESIGN CLASSES, CONTINUED

CLASS 3 | TAKE FLIGHT... 4 ENTRIES

Celebrating the "Father" of the helicopter, Igor Sikorsky, Connecticut.

A design staged on a gray pedestal, 40" high with a 14" square top and placed in front of a painted wall. Judged and viewed from three sides.

Paint samples of the pedestal and background wall colors along with a photograph of the pedestal will be sent following registration.

Class Consultant: Fleur Rueckert, 203-613-1015, fleur.rueckert@gmail.com

CLASS 4 | FLOURISH... 4 ENTRIES

Celebrating ecologically healthy rivers and estuaries.

An underwater design staged on a gray pedestal, 38" high with a 15" round top and placed in front of a painted wall. Judged and viewed from three sides.

Paint samples of the pedestal and background wall colors along with a photograph of the pedestal will be sent following registration.

Underwater Design: a contemporary design style where all or part of the design must be under visible water. *FS & JG, Book 5: Glossary of Terms, July 2023 edition*

Class Consultant: Fleur Rueckert, 203-613-1015, fleur.rueckert@gmail.com

This class is open to GCA Zone II club members only.

Register for Class 4 [HERE](#)



DIVISION II
HORTICULTURE GUIDELINES

1. Please carefully read and follow the GCA Rules, General Information, and Timetable for Exhibitors.
2. Advance registration for classes 34, 35 and 36 is required by March 25, 2024.
3. An exhibitor may submit 2 entries per class in classes 1–32, provided each is a different species or cultivar.
4. Entries must have been owned and grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of three months unless otherwise stated in the schedule.
5. Entries eligible for the Catherine Beattie Medal and/or the Clarissa Willemsen Horticulture Propagation Award must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least six months and will be identified on the entry card.
6. All rooted entries propagated by the exhibitor must be identified with details of the method and relevant date(s) on an accompanying **propagation card** to be eligible for the Clarissa Willemsen Horticulture Propagation Award.
7. Mats, stands, saucers, stakes, ties, etc., are allowed.
8. Classes may be subdivided and entries moved and/or reclassified at the discretion of the show committee and/or the judges.
9. Containers are measured at the diameter or the diagonal of the widest point on the inside of the rim at the soil line.
10. One key card (diagram or plant list) is required when multiple species or cultivars are exhibited in the same container and/or propagation information is applicable. Key card must be a 4" x 6" white unlined card completed in black waterproof medium. A 5" x 8" photograph with identifying numbers may be used.



- 11. Container-grown plants must be exhibited in containers that are clean, unobtrusive, and compatible with the exhibit. Terracotta clay pots are preferred. Other options include stone-like (Hypertufa), wire baskets, slatted orchid baskets, and plants mounted on driftwood. Disguised double potting and top dressing are permitted; top dressing must not float when watered.
- 12. Classes 1–32 to be exhibited in the exhibitor’s appropriately-sized clear glass container. The committee will provide wedging materials for all cut specimens.
- 13. A dot with the entry number on it will be affixed to the container to ensure an entry card, separated from the exhibit container during staging, can be returned to the proper entry before judging.
- 14. The committee will water the exhibits if instructed to do so in writing. Notify the division chair at the time of entry with written instructions for watering.
- 15. The scale of points by which the classes are to be judged are listed with the class descriptions when applicable or are available in the *FS & JG Book 4, July 2023 edition*.



DIVISION II

HORTICULTURE CLASSES

GATHER

CLASSES 1–32 | CUT SPECIMENS

Celebrating Spring

One stem or branch, not to exceed 30” in length, from the lip of the container to the tip of the stem. Any foliage must be attached to the stem. No foliage may be underwater. To be exhibited in the exhibitor’s appropriately-sized clear glass container. Water and wedging material will be available.

BULBS, CORMS, RHIZOMES AND TUBERS IN FLOWER

A bulb is a modified, subterranean bud, with a short, thick stem and fleshy scale leaves or leaf bases. A-Z p. 1072

A corm is a subterranean storage organ consisting of a solid stem or stem base, often enclosed in a tunic. A-Z p. 1073

CLASSES 1–5

One flowering stem, spike or spray. Must be in flower with any foliage attached to the stem.

- 1. *Tulipa*
- 2. *Narcissus*
- 3. *Hyacinthus*
- 4. *Iris*
- 5. Other



HORTICULTURE CLASSES, CONTINUED

FLOWERING HARDY HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS AND BIENNIALS

A perennial is a plant that lives for more than two growing seasons; in Horticulture, usually applied to non-woody plants. A-Z p. 1076

CLASSES 6–15

One flowering stem, spike, spray or branch. Must be in flower. Foliage must be attached to the stem.

6. *Aquilegia*

7. *Amsonia*

8. *Campanula*

9. *Dicentra*

10. *Euphorbia*

11. *Helleborus*—any stage

12. *Iris*

12a. *Iris germanica*

12b. *Iris sibirica*

12c. *Iris* other

13. *Phlox*

14. *Pulmonaria*

15. Other

WOODY PLANTS IN FLOWER: SHRUBS, TREES, AND VINES

CLASSES 16–30

One stem or branch. Must be in flower. Any foliage must be attached to the stem.

16. *Chionanthus*

17. *Clematis*

18. *Benthamidia* (formerly *Cornus*)

19. *Daphne*

20. *Lonicera*

21. *Magnolia*

22. *Malus*

23. *Paeonia x suffruticosa*

24. *Prunus*

25. *Rhododendron*—deciduous

26. *Rhododendron*—evergreen

27. *Spirea*

28. *Syringa*

29. *Viburnum*

30. Other



WOODY PLANT GROWN FOR FOLIAGE: SHRUBS AND TREES

CLASS 31–32

One stem or branch. No flower permitted.

31. Deciduous

32. Evergreen

Cut specimen Class Consultant: Jane Cary, 203-610-6799, jmcary2021@gmail.com

CLASS 33 | NURTURE

Viola ‘Sorbet Lemon Chiffon’ One rooted plant grown from seed by the exhibitor. To be exhibited in a terra cotta-colored container of appropriate size with a compatible saucer.

33a. Zone II Gavel Competition. Each Zone II club is responsible for one entry in Class 33a. Registration for the Gavel Challenge takes place between 8–11 a.m. on April 26, 2024, when the club entry is submitted for passing at the show. Seeds will be distributed on September 14, 2023, at the Zone II meeting to each club president. Extra seeds may be purchased as noted below.

33b. Open to club members in all other zones. Seeds to be purchased on your own. Seeds are available from Swallowtail Garden Seeds, www.swallowtailgardenseeds.com.

Scale of points:

Horticultural perfection	40
Quality of flower	25
Grooming	15
Form and size	10
Color	5
Foliage	5
Total	100

Class Consultant: Priscilla Twombly, 203-209-2690, pgtwombly@aol.com



HORTICULTURE CLASSES, CONTINUED

CLASSES 34–35 | SOAR

Celebrating the frisbee, invented by Yale students spinning aluminum tins from the Frisbie Pie Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Succulent bowls: A minimum of three rooted species or cultivars of succulents in a 10” terracotta bulb pan with saucer provided by the exhibitor. A white 4” x 6” key card, enclosed in clear plastic, listing the botanical and common names of the plant material must accompany the entry. Ownership minimum three weeks.

34. Succulents hardy to USDA zone 6

6 ENTRIES–REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Register for Class 34 [HERE](#)

35. Succulents not hardy to USDA zone 6

6 ENTRIES–REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Register for Class 35 [HERE](#)

Scale of points:

Horticultural Perfection	40
Scale, Balance, Design	35
Suitability, Compatibility	15
Key card	10
Total	100

CLASS 36 | CREATE

6 ENTRIES–REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Register for Class 36 [HERE](#)

Celebrating Gardens

An arrangement in a basket that must include fresh plant material but may contain some dried material from the exhibitor’s garden. Plant material may be from more than one garden club member’s garden. The exhibit should not exceed 14” from the center of the pedestal. To be exhibited on a gray pedestal 40” high x with a 14” square top. All fresh material must be cut and in water.



A white key card, enclosed in clear plastic, listing the botanical and common names of the plant material must accompany the entry. Exhibit may be completed by more than one person as long as all flowers are from a club member’s garden.

Scale of points:

Cultural Perfection	40
Design	30
Diversity of Collection	20
Key card	10
Total	100

Class Consultant: Beth Rhame, 203-895-1586, highmeadowstudio@gmail.com

CLASS 37. REACH

Celebrating Excellence

Par Class	Entry limit 30	Register for Class 37 HERE
A. 1–5 years		
B. Over 5 years		

An exhibit of exceptional horticultural merit, which does not qualify for entry elsewhere in the Horticulture Division. **Entries in the Par class must have been owned and grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of one year.** Cut specimens, hanging baskets and orchids are not permitted. Containers may not exceed 12” in any direction.

Par scoring system:

90–100 pts = First Place
85–99 pts = Second Place
80-84 pts = Third Place

Class Consultant: Jane Cary, 203-610-7799, jmcary2021@gmail.com



DIVISION III

PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDELINES

- 1. Please carefully read and follow the GCA Rules, General Information, and Timetable for Exhibitors.
- 2. This is a juried show. The jury will choose six finalists in each class from a pool of not more than 16. An exhibitor may submit only one entry in the photography division.

REGISTRATION

- 3. Advance email registration is required between October 1, 2023, and January 10, 2024. Links to the Online Registration forms are located in the class descriptions.
- 4. Digital image preparation: A JPEG image, 1MB–5MB in the RGB color space, of the photo being entered due with the registration. Each photo submitted must be renamed with the entrant’s last name, first name, zone, and class number (e.g. Smith_Jane_IL_class3.jpg).
- 5. By date of receipt, the first 16 digital photographs per class received, with correct specifications, will be submitted to the juried panel of photography judges. From these, 6 finalists per class will be selected. All entrants will be notified no later than January 17, 2024, if they have been included in the jury pool.
- 6. Finalists and non-finalists will be notified of jury results by March 1, 2024.

PHOTOGRAPHIC REQUIREMENTS

- 7. A photograph previously entered in any GCA, GCA Major, Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show, or a GCA Focus online contest may not be entered again even with slight alterations and/or reprinting. The same photograph may only be entered in one show at a time. If a photo is not advanced as a finalist in Juried Judging, it may be entered into a second Juried FS, a GCA FS, a GCA Major FS, or a Club Show. Editing is allowed.



- 8. A photograph that has been entered into a Club Show, may be entered again into a GCA, Zone, GCA Major or a Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Show, unless that photograph was submitted for publication in the *Focus* photography gallery or a printed issue of *Focus*.
- 9. Each photograph must be the work of the exhibitor under whose name it is registered. In manipulated photographs, any added imagery must be the work of the exhibitor. Non-representational commercial overlays and textures are allowed. Matting, mounting and printing may be done professionally. All photographs must be 2-dimensional and printed on paper unless otherwise specified. All post-production must be done before the photograph is printed.
- 10. Any editing at any stage must be the work of the exhibitor. This includes enhancement for color or clarity, removal of a part of the image, combining images, or distorting the original subject.
- 11. Photography entries are limited to subjects consistent with The Garden Club of America’s interests such as horticulture, floral design, gardens/landscapes, conservation, the environment, historic preservation, civic improvement, and the natural world. **Plant material is required in photographs.**
- 12. Images of a child or children are not permitted. Featuring identifiable people (other than in street scenes) in photographs is discouraged as GCA requires a release.
- 13. A title of seven words or less is optional. A Statement of Intent is not permitted.

INFORMATION FOR FINALISTS

- 14. Printing and mounting may be done professionally. All photographs must be printed on paper and flush mounted on standard 3/16” black foam core. Photographs may not be over-matted. Overall dimension of entry must be a minimum of 36” and not exceed 50” in total perimeter measurement. Surface finish is the choice of the exhibitor. Glass and framing are not permitted



PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDELINES, CONTINUED

15. Finalists’ mounted photographs along with two copies of the completed entry form must be received no later than March 25, 2024. Affix one entry form to the back of the photograph mounting with exhibitor’s name, garden club, zone, email address, phone number, and class entered. Also include a second completed entry form in the mailing. The top of the photograph must be indicated. The exhibitor entry form may be found on page 40.
16. Identification of plant material on the entry form is encouraged but not required. The division chairs will provide an entry card to be staged with each photograph.
17. Send photographs to: Susan Rotando, 25 Barrister Lane, Fairfield, CT 06824. Receipt of your photograph will be acknowledged. For questions, please contact Susan Rotando at **AM2024photography@gmail.com** (203-521-5774) or Charlotte Stone at **Charstone@mac.com** (203-556-6622).
18. The printed photo must match, including cropping, the digital image sent with the original registration. Once juried, images may not be further edited or manipulated in any way. Printed photographs will be passed by the Annual Meeting Photography Committee to verify:
- The print is the same as the digital submission.

The print is mounted correctly.

The print is in show condition.

If a photograph is not passed, the exhibitor will be notified and allowed, if time permits, to send a replacement photograph.
19. Photographs will be hung against a black background.
20. If a photograph, comment card and award are to be returned, the exhibitor must provide a self-addressed return label, envelope or mailing box, and postage and packing material. Any award received will be noted on the back of the mount before it is returned. Postage: Please include a \$12 check (payable to Susan Rotando) to cover return postage. Please do not enclose stamps, UPS or FedEx labels or postage meter strips.



21. If return envelope/box packing material and postage check are not included, it will be assumed that the image will not be returned.
22. If a photograph will not be returned, in order to receive a comment card and any award won, include a self-addressed and stamped envelope.
23. Recommended packing: Use two 15” x 19” bubble wrap envelopes or a reusable mailing box. (Smaller envelopes are too tight to easily get images in and out with their various wrappings). Wrap your mounted image between 2 suitable pieces of foam core (this is very light) or non-bendable cardboard, which will be reused for return. Place wrapped image and folded self-addressed return envelope inside the mailing envelope.

JUDGING

24. Only the photography committee may reclassify an entry, but only with the exhibitor’s permission. The photography committee and/or the judges may subdivide a class.
25. The scales of points by which the classes are to be judged.
- | | | | |
|--|-----|--------------------------------|-----|
| For Judging Creative Techniques classes: | | For Judging all other classes: | |
| Creativity | 30 | Creativity | 25 |
| Composition | 20 | Composition | 25 |
| Technical Skill | 25 | Technical Skill | 20 |
| Conformance/Interpretation | 10 | Conformance/Interpretation | 20 |
| Distinction | 15 | Distinction | 10 |
| Total | 100 | Total | 100 |
26. A follow-up letter or email will be sent to all photography exhibitors listing the results of the Photography Division.



DIVISION III
PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES

CELEBRATING CREATIVITY

CLASS 1 | IMAGINE
Color
Capture a landscape emphasizing pattern.

6 ENTRIES
Register for Class 1 [HERE](#)

CLASS 2 | DELIGHT
Color
Present a captivating close-up.

6 ENTRIES
Register for Class 2 [HERE](#)

Close-up: A photo taken close to the subject or with a long focal-length lens to permit a close and detailed view of the object. The object fills most of the frame. *FS & JG, Book 5, July 2023 edition*

CLASS 3 | REFLECT
Color
Depict a water scene with a reflection.

6 ENTRIES
Register for Class 3 [HERE](#)

CLASS 4 | EXPLORE
Creative Techniques–Color
Push the boundary beyond the green.

6 ENTRIES
Register for Class 4 [HERE](#)

Creative Techniques: The use of manipulation or alteration in any stage of the photographic process to achieve an effect that the original subject is no longer discernible or reflective of reality. All representational images in a manipulated or creative techniques photo must be the work of the photographer. Non-representational enhancements such as the addition of purchased textures are allowed. *FS & JG, Book 5, July 2023 edition*



CLASS 5 | SURPRISE
Color Splash
Catch the eye with a burst of one color.

6 ENTRIES
Register for Class 5 [HERE](#)

Color Splash: The selective use of color(s) in an otherwise gray scale image. It is not monochrome. See Monochrome. *FS & JG, Book 5, July 2023 edition*

CLASS 6 | DISCOVER
Color
Evoke motion in nature.

6 ENTRIES
Register for Class 6 [HERE](#)

Division III Class Consultants:
Susan Rotando, 203-521-5774, AM2024photography@gmail.com
Charlotte Stone, 203-556-6622, Charstone@mac.com



DIVISION IV
BOTANICAL ARTS GUIDELINES

1. Please carefully read and follow the GCA Rules, General Information, and Timetable for Exhibitors.
2. Advance registration is required by January 24, 2024.
3. Classes 1, 2, and 4 are by invitation only and limited to one entry per zone. Class 3 is open to Zone II club members only.
4. No more than two exhibitors may execute a Botanical Arts entry, unless otherwise stated in the schedule. All participants must be listed on the entry card. All handiwork must be executed by the exhibitor(s).
5. If forced to withdraw, the exhibitor must notify the registration chair and the class consultant, and find a substitute within their zone.
6. All plant material used must be dried—this includes flowers, foliage, seeds, pods, nuts (in or out of shells), vegetables, twigs, vines, reeds, etc. Only plant material, mechanics and their surface treatments (e.g., paints, nail polishes, varnishes, waxes, etc.) are permitted. Artificial, endangered, and locally invasive plant material is not permitted.
7. Figural forms must be assembled or judiciously carved by the exhibitor. Any plant material may be cut, incised or shaped to enhance artistic effect.
8. Non-plant material (e.g., cardboard, metal, twine, string, cording, etc.) may be used only for construction and must not show.
9. Anything not prohibited in the GCA Rules, Botanical Arts Division Guidelines, or individual class descriptions is permitted.
10. Processed products are not permitted in the design (e.g., couscous, pasta, tapioca, balsa wood.)
11. A sample card must accompany each entry. An untreated sample of each plant material used in the design, correctly identified with botanical and common names, is affixed to a 5" x 8" white unlined card.



12. All entries must be received no later than March 25, 2024. Send entries to Peggy Moore, 33 Old Academy Road, Fairfield, CT 06824. For information, contact Peggy Moore, 203-556-3977, peggymoore236@gmail.com. If an entry will be hand-delivered at the show, please contact the BA Division chairs before the mail-in deadline.
13. If an exhibit is to be returned, the exhibitor must provide a self-addressed return label, return postage, and packing material/container. If an entry is to be picked up by a club president or delegate, please inform in writing who that will be.
14. If an exhibit has won first place or a GCA Special Award in a GCA Flower Show, GCA Major Flower Show, or Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show it may not be entered in competition again. An exhibit, which has been previously entered and did not place first, may be entered again if the piece is significantly altered.
15. All entries will be passed by the botanical arts committee to verify class specifications have been met. If time permits, an entry may be returned for correction.
16. The committee will be responsible for installation of the exhibits. Each exhibit will be handled with the utmost care. Indicate in writing, and include with the exhibit, any special instructions for handling and display. The exhibitor may install their own work if pre-arranged with the BA Division chairs.
17. Scale of points by which the classes are to be judged:

Design	35
Craftsmanship	30
Creativity	15
Interpretation of theme	10
Distinction	10
Total	100



DIVISION IV

BOTANICAL ARTS CLASSES

SECTION A. BOTANICAL JEWELRY

CLASS 1 | MODERN

4 ENTRIES

Celebrating modernity

Create a necklace that signifies present-day style. Displayed on a black plexiglass neck form and placed on a 42" high x 14" square black plexiglass pedestal. Viewed and judged from the front. Neck form supplied by the committee upon registration.

Botanical Jewelry: a design created entirely from dried plant material and made to resemble wearable jewelry in both size and function. Plant materials may be treated. No mechanics or structural base material may be visible. *FS & JG, Book 5, July 2023 edition*

Class Consultant: Peggy Moore, 203-556-3977, peggymoore236@gmail.com

SECTION B. BOTANICAL EMBELLISHMENT

CLASS 2 | BRIGHT

4 ENTRIES

Celebrating the coastal lighthouse

A wood lighthouse form entirely embellished with dried plant material. Lighthouse (12" x 4") supplied by committee upon registration. Staged in a gray niche 13 ½" wide x 80" tall with an opening 12 ½" wide x 15" tall x 12" deep. Bottom of the niche opening is 50" from the floor. To be judged and viewed from the front. The inside of the niche will be painted dark blue. A 1 ½" high flat rock will be available to place under the lighthouse (optional). Niche will be lit with cool LED lighting. A paint sample and photograph of the niche will be sent following registration.

Botanical Embellishment: a man-made object enhanced with dried plant material. Plant materials may be treated. *FS & JG, Book 5, July 2023 edition*

Class Consultant: Peggy Moore, 203-556-3977, peggymoore236@gmail.com



SECTION C. BOTANICAL COUTURE

CLASS 3 | CONNECT

4 ENTRIES

Celebrating fashion-forward

Register for Class 3 [HERE](#)

A belt buckle created from all dried plant material. Staged on a 8" square black wedge on a shelf 48" high from the floor. To be viewed and judged from the front. Staging wedge provided upon registration.

Botanical Couture: a design emulating an item of clothing and/or other fashion accessory created from all dried plant material. Plant materials may be treated. No structural base material may be visible. *FS & JG, Book 5, July 2023 edition*

THIS CLASS IS OPEN TO GCA ZONE II CLUB MEMBERS ONLY.

Class Consultant: Christina Benisch, 203-610-2519, cbenisch@aol.com

SECTION D. BOTANICAL FORMS

CLASS 4 | FRESH

4 ENTRIES

Celebrating nature's bounty

Create a minimum of five different botanical forms depicting fruits and/or vegetables. Displayed in a 6" x 8" market basket supplied by the committee upon registration. Basket with botanical forms will be placed on black burlap on a 36" square by 40" high table draped in black. Each basket will be placed in a corner of the table and viewed from three sides. Botanical forms should be true to life, not miniature. Basket may be painted.

Botanical Forms: a design of any other form (e.g., not Botanical Jewelry, Botanical Embellishment, or Botanical Couture) created from all dried plant material. Plant materials may be treated. No mechanics or structural base material may be visible. *FS & JG, Book 5, July 2023 edition*

Class Consultant: Christina Benisch, 203-610-2519, cbenisch@aol.com



DIVISION V

GCA FLOWER SHOW AWARDS

GCA Flower Show Awards described below have been applied for and will be presented if merited.

EDUCATION EXHIBIT

Statement of Intent | Clean water is vital to life. Conservation-oriented plants and land management is essential to maintaining clean water. The exhibit will demonstrate how plants can safeguard water quality. The objective is to inspire attendees to go “beyond the green” and to implement measures to keep our water clean.

EDUCATION GUIDELINES

- 1. Please carefully read and follow the GCA Rules, General Information, and the Timetable for Exhibitors.
- 2. Education exhibits may be organized and entered by any interested person(s), group, or business wishing to communicate information relevant to the educational message of the flower show.
- 3. Include a 50-word Statement of Intent for each Education Exhibit.

Education Exhibits Scale of Points:

Educational Value	60
Staging	20
Creativity and Distinction	20
Total	100

DIVISION I, FLORAL DESIGN

Best in Show Floral Design is selected from first place winners in the division.

The **Dorothy Vietor Munger Award** may be awarded to members of The Garden Club of America clubs in competitive Floral Design classes at a GCA Flower Show. It is offered in recognition of creative work of outstanding beauty using predominantly fresh plant material. The design must have placed first, second, or third. Challenge class entries are not eligible. The award is not a substitute for Best in Show and will be given at the discretion of the judges.

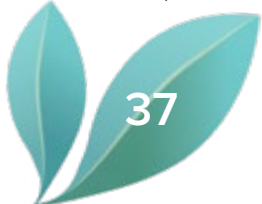
The **Harriet DeWaele Puckett Creativity Award** may be awarded to members of GCA clubs or non-members in recognition of a uniquely skillful and creative response to an imaginative schedule in Floral Design. It will be given for an innovative and interpretive entry, which, although it abides by the principles of good design, goes beyond traditional period arrangement to whatever art form the exhibitor(s) chooses. The design must have placed first, second, or third in the Floral Design Division of a GCA Flower Show. An entry in any challenge class is not eligible to receive this award. The award is not a substitute for Best in Show and will be given at the discretion of the judges.

The **Sandra Baylor Novice Floral Design Award** may be given at a GCA Flower Show to an exhibitor who is a member of a GCA club and who has never won first place, or a GCA Special Award in the Floral Design Division of a GCA Flower Show, GCA Major Flower Show or Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show. It shall be awarded to an individual novice exhibitor for a unique and skillful response to the schedule. Novice entries placing first, second, or third in any competitive class, including challenge classes, are eligible for this award.

DIVISION II, HORTICULTURE

Best in Show Horticulture is selected from first place winners in the division.

The **Catherine Beattie Medal** may be awarded for a horticulture entry distinguished by its vibrancy, prime condition, and perfection of grooming. The exhibitor must have owned and grown the exhibit for at least six months. The medal may be awarded for a single plant, collection of plants, container garden, or cut specimen, but only if there is an exhibit worthy of the honor. It may be awarded to members of GCA clubs only; individual, joint, and club entries are eligible. The award should not be considered as a substitute for Best in Show. The medal may not be awarded to the same exhibit more than once; however, offspring of a Beattie winner are eligible to receive the award.



The **GCA Novice Award** in Horticulture may be awarded for an outstanding exhibit to a member of a GCA club who has never won first place or a GCA Special Award in the Horticulture Division in a GCA Flower Show, GCA Major Flower Show or Sanctioned non-GCA Major Flower Show. Novice entries placing first, second, or third are eligible for this award.

The **Clarissa Willemsen Horticulture Propagation Award** may be awarded for a horticulture entry distinguished by its prime condition, flawless grooming and difficulty of propagation. The entry must have been propagated and grown by the exhibitor for at least six months. This award may be given for a single rooted plant or a collection of rooted plants. The dates and method of propagation must be recorded on an accompanying propagation card. The entry must have placed first, second, or third at a GCA Flower Show. The award may not be given to the same exhibit more than once.

The **Rosie Jones Horticulture Award** may be presented to a horticulture entry of exceptional visual appeal that reflects the spirit of growing with joy and enthusiasm and inspires others to propagate, grow, show and share horticulture. An exhibit that has been propagated by the exhibitor will be given special consideration but propagation is not a requirement. Perfection, while always desirable, is not a primary criterion. This award celebrates the ineffable joy inherent in the beauty and pursuit of horticulture.

DIVISION III, PHOTOGRAPHY

Best in Show Photography is selected from first place winners in the division.

The **GCA Novice Award in Photography** may be awarded for an outstanding exhibit to a member of a GCA club who has never won first place or a GCA Special Award in the Photography Division in a GCA Flower Show, GCA Major Flower Show or Sanctioned non-GCA Major Flower Show. Novice entries placing first, second, or third are eligible for this award.

The **Photography Creativity Award** may be awarded at a GCA Flower Show to a member of a GCA club in recognition of creative and technical excellence in response to the theme of the schedule. The entry must have placed first, second, or third.

DIVISION IV, BOTANICAL ARTS

Best in Show Botanical Arts is selected from first place winners in the division.

The **GCA Novice Award** in Botanical Arts may be awarded for an outstanding exhibit to a member of a GCA club who has never won first place or a GCA Special Award in the Botanical Arts Division in a GCA Flower Show, GCA Major Flower Show or Sanctioned non-GCA Major Flower Show. Novice entries placing first, second, or third are eligible for this award.



The **Botanical Arts Creativity Award** may be awarded at a GCA Flower Show to a member of a GCA club for excellent craftsmanship and creative response to the theme of the schedule. The entry must have placed first, second, or third.

DIVISION V, EDUCATION

EDUCATION

The **Ann Lyon Crammond Award** may be presented at a GCA Flower Show to an outstanding educational exhibit, which best educates the public about gardens. Any educational exhibit, which increases the appreciation of any aspect of plants, gardens, or landscape design, may be considered for this award. The award may be given to GCA club members, member clubs, non-members or other organizations.

CONSERVATION

The **Marion Thompson Fuller Brown Conservation Award** may be presented for an outstanding conservation exhibit at a GCA Flower Show. The award recognizes an exhibit of exceptional educational and visual merit, which increases knowledge and awareness of the environment. The exhibit should emphasize environmental concerns and may demonstrate conservation practices. Plant material may or may not be used and, when appropriate, must be clearly identified. Protected material may be included if such materials are identified as protected and not collected in the wild. The award may be given to The Garden Club of America clubs, club members, non-members or other organizations.

OVERALL (DIVISIONS I–V)

Judges' Commendation(s) may be given to an entry, class, section, special exhibit or other aspect of the show that is of exceptional merit.

Award of Appreciation may be given to thank an exhibitor or group for participation. The award may also be given to non-judged classes.

ZONE II AWARD (DIVISION II)

The **Zone II Gavel Challenge Award** will be awarded to the winning exhibit in Class 33a.



BEYOND THE GREEN
PHOTOGRAPH ENTRY FORM



TOP

The following must be copied and affixed to the back of the photograph mounting when entry is mailed or submitted.



TOP

PHOTOGRAPH ENTRY DEADLINE TO BE RECEIVED: MARCH 25, 2024 | Affix this form to the back of the mounting.

Send photograph to: Susan Rotando, 25 Barrister Lane, Fairfield, CT 06824
For information: 203-521-5774, AM2024photography@gmail.com

Class # Class Title

Name

Garden Club and Zone

Email Telephone

Address

Return postage and packaging have been provided. Yes | No *(Please circle)*

Identifiable plant material *(optional)*: _____

Image title, seven words or less *(optional)*: _____

Novice? Yes | No *(Please circle)*

A novice is an individual exhibitor who has not won a first-place ribbon or a GCA Special Award in Photography in a GCA Flower Show, GCA Major Flower Show, or Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show. If your novice status changes before the date of this show, please notify the division chairman or class consultant.



FLOWER SHOW VENUE
DIRECTIONS

Connecticut Convention Center
100 Columbus Boulevard Hartford, CT 06103
Phone: (860) 249-6000

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

The Connecticut Convention Center’s main lobby is located on Columbus Blvd. It is accessible from Level P1 of the parking garage. Level P5 of the garage tower provides an alternate entrance, along an outdoor esplanade, to the Center’s riverside entrance.

TRAVELING ON I-91 NORTH

- Take I-91 North to EXIT 29A – Capitol Area/Convention Center (Left Exit)
- Stay in the right lane
- Take the first exit on the right – Columbus Blvd./Convention Center
- Turn RIGHT on Columbus Blvd.
- The Convention Center and its attached parking garage are located immediately on the right

TRAVELING ON I-91 SOUTH

- Take I-91 South to EXIT 29A – Capitol Area/Convention Center (Right Exit)
- Stay in the right lane
- Take the first exit on the right – Columbus Blvd./Convention Center
- Turn RIGHT on Columbus Blvd.
- The Convention Center and its attached parking garage are located immediately on the right

TRAVELING ON I-84 EAST

- Take I-84 East to EXIT 52 to I-91 South, toward New Haven
- Take EXIT 29A – Capitol Area/Convention Center (Right Exit)
- Take the first exit – Columbus Blvd./Convention Center (Right Exit)
- Turn RIGHT onto Columbus Blvd.
- The Convention Center and its attached parking garage are located immediately on the right

TRAVELING ON I-84 WEST/ROUTE 2 WEST

- Take I-84 West/ route 2 West to EXIT 54/ Downtown Hartford (Left Exit)
- Stay in the left lane over the Founders Bridge
- At the bottom of the bridge, turn left onto Columbus Blvd.
- The Convention Center and its attached parking garage are on the left side of Columbus Blvd.



