



THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA
2024
ANNUAL MEETING

**A GCA Annual Meeting Flower Show
Presented by Zone II**

BEYOND THE GREEN: Explore. Dream. Discover!

April 26–28, 2024

BEYOND THE GREEN: Explore. Dream. Discover!

A GCA Annual Meeting Flower Show
at the 111th Annual Meeting of The Garden Club of America

April 26–28, 2024

Connecticut Convention Center
100 Columbus Blvd.
Hartford, CT 06103

Open to the public
Free of Charge

April 27, 8 AM–6 PM

April 28, 8 AM–2 PM

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

PHOTOGRAPHY TIMETABLE FOR EXHIBITORS

October 1, 2023	Registration opens, 12.01 a.m.
January 10, 2024	Photography: Registration and digital submission deadline
January 17, 2024	Photography: Entrants notified if they are in the jury pool
March 1, 2024	Photography: Finalists and non-finalists notified of jury results
March 25, 2024	Photography printed submission deadline Photography entries passed
April 28, 2024	Show ends

NOTE: Photography registration links will be live on October 1, 2023, in the schedule posted on the GCA website. This pdf is for *information only* to aid photography exhibitors in preparing for the October 1 live registration.

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 III Photography

Susan Rotando	Fairfield Garden Club	AM2024photography@gmail.com *
Charlotte Stone	Sasqua Garden Club	charstone@me.com

Registration

Susan Rotando (Photography)	AM2024photography@gmail.com *
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*Note: please use srotando@gmail.com if you need to contact *before* October 1, 2023.

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.
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 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 initial, zone, and class number (e.g. SmithP_II_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.
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 [HERE](#) (*link will be live October 1, 2023, in the schedule posted on the GCA website*)
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:

Creativity	30
Composition	20
Technical Skill	25
Conformance/Interpretation	10
Distinction	<u>15</u>
Total	100

For Judging all other classes:

Creativity	25
Composition	25
Technical Skill	20
Conformance/Interpretation	20
Distinction	<u>10</u>
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 6 Entries
 Color
 Capture a landscape emphasizing pattern. Register for Class 1 [HERE](#)

Class 2 DELIGHT 6 Entries
 Color
 Present a captivating close-up. 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 6 Entries
 Color
 Depict a water scene with a reflection. Register for Class 3 [HERE](#)

Class 4 EXPLORE 6 Entries
 Creative Techniques–Color
 Push the boundary beyond the green. 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 6 Entries
 Color Splash
 Catch the eye with a burst of one color. 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 6 Entries
 Color
 Evoke motion in nature. 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

*Note: please use srotando@gmail.com if you need to contact *before* October 1, 2023.