

# Sow and Tell

February, 2026  
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A Publication of The Five Hills Garden Club  
Member of the National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Central Atlantic Region, District III

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Garden Club Members,

I'm writing this message from the warmth of my home, with a view of the newly fallen snow and ice from our first winter storm of the season. The snow is beautiful, and the crisp layer of ice gives the landscape a beautiful winter glow. It's the perfect time to be inside with a good book and a cup of tea.

As we look ahead to February and Valentine's Day, it feels like a fitting moment to appreciate the friendships we have formed within our club. Some of our members are facing challenges that keep them home, and it would mean a great deal if each of us took a few minutes this month to reach out and let someone know we are thinking of them.

With our flower show fast approaching, this month's program features a demonstration by Arlene Stewart. Arlene is a gifted floral designer, and she'll be sharing several design techniques to help us prepare for the show. This is truly a meeting you won't want to miss!

A gentle reminder that membership dues are payable by the March General Meeting on Tuesday, March 17, in accordance with our by-laws. Details about payment are included in the newsletter.

The Nominating Committee will also be reaching out to members in the coming weeks to fill several key positions: Vice President and Membership Chair, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary. If you are contacted, I hope you will consider this opportunity to serve. Our club thrives because of the time, talent, and dedication of its members, and your involvement truly makes a difference.

Wishing you all a lovely Valentine's Day and a warm, cozy February.

Warmly, *Joy*

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



February 10 Board Meeting - ZOOM  
February 17 General Meeting\*

**NOTE:** \*All general meetings at Vienna Presbyterian Church will be held in the Fellowship Hall on the first floor.

### FEBRUARY 17, 2026 PROGRAM - DESIGNING FOR THE FLOWER SHOW WITH ARLENE STEWART



Past National Capital Area Garden Club President and current Judges Council President Arlene Stewart will bring her considerable design chops to Five Hills as we prepare for the upcoming Spring Flower Show. She will focus on basic elements and required design features for different types of displays that will be in the show. She will also comment on how innovations in design reflect a more sustainable approach to creating beauty.

*Val Plisko*

### PLANT SPOTLIGHT

Looking for long lasting blooms for the summer? As its name suggests, **Summerlong Coral Hyssop, *Agastache mexicana* "Balsumiora"**, features stems covered with small tubular orange-pink blooms for most of the summer. In addition, those beautiful, bright flowers are atop fragrant blue-green foliage and attract native bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Lastly, and importantly, it is deer resistant and hardy in zones 7-10.



### WAYS AND MEANS

**Save the Date** - Please save **Friday, May 8** on your calendars for a Botanical Arts card-making session. Lisa Rzepka has graciously consented to lead this workshop and help us create beautiful unique cards just in time for Mother's Day. All supplies will be furnished, but you are welcome to dry items from your garden to use. Cost, location and time will be determined at a later date.

*Roberta Lewis and Carolyn Statska*

## HORTICULTURE

**Horticulture** – This month we are asking everyone to bring in a cutting of a pine, conifer or other kind of needle bearing tree or shrub. They should be plentiful and easy to locate in your yard or in your neighbor's yard. It will be interesting to see how many different examples we can find. Please help us fill up our display table and learn about the wonderful winter green plants.



*"Go to the winter woods: listen there, look, watch, and "the dead months" will give you a subtler secret than any you have yet found in the forest."*

*Fiona Macleod,  
Where the Forest Murmurs*

**Design** – Roses are plentiful at this time of year in most stores. The variety of colors is such fun to use in designs. This month our design should include roses. It can be all roses or a combination of flowers and greens but please include some roses. If you haven't had an opportunity to bring in a design, this is an easy one to do.



*Noreen Linnemann*

## MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our newest member of the Five Hills Garden Club! Enjoy getting to know Jayne by reading her bio below and please extend a warm welcome to her.



My name is **Jayne Young** and I am excited about joining the Five Hills Garden Club and learning more about plants, both growing them and arranging them. I initially learned about the club from my sweet friend Anne Nelson. I have long been impressed with all she does with the garden therapy program. I have a soft spot in my heart for the seniors as I have been involved with a local nonprofit, the Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia, that provides free services and social programs for seniors in our community.

I am a native Northern Virginian, having grown up in the Sleepy Hollow area of Falls Church. I have fond memories of my mother's trellised rose garden and azalea covered yard.

(Cont'd.)

I graduated from Virginia Tech with a business degree and have worked as a legal administrator, paralegal, business owner (for 24 years with 90+ employees) and a variety of positions at the Shepherd's Center. My husband, Joe, and I have lived in Oakton for the past 37 years. We have 3 adult sons. We are blessed with 5 rather lively grandchildren that all live in Alexandria.

I look forward to getting to know the club's members and increasing my knowledge of "all things" relating to gardening.

## **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Our club will start collecting dues for the year September 2026 to June 2027. Collection of dues occurs during the months of February and March. Deadline for collection is March 31st.

Active members - \$70.00  
Associate members - \$75.00

A description of what is expected of each is explained in the by-laws section of our yearbook.

Cash or Checks can be given to Valerie Warriner at meetings or mailed to her at the address below. Please make sure the checks are payable to Five Hills Garden Club.

Valerie Warriner  
13479 Lake Shore Dr.  
Herndon, Va 20171

This is also the time members need to review their information in the current yearbook making sure all information is correct. If there are no changes, let me know at our meetings or email me at ([wwarriner@aol.com](mailto:wwarriner@aol.com)) indicating "No Changes." If updating is necessary, please complete a registration form. A copy of it can be found under forms on the Five Hills Garden Club website. Forms will also be available at general meetings or you can contact me to obtain a copy of the form electronically. If you have any questions or need help, please feel free to contact me.

*Valerie Warriner*

## HOSPITALITY



The Hospitality Committee will begin requests for the 2026-2027 Five Hills Garden Club Calendar year for the Luncheon Hostess Committees on March 1st. The Hostess Committees include a lead hostess who coordinates the luncheon menu with four or five committee members and a hostess responsible for bringing flowers for the buffet table. Please note that the flowers can be donated to the church office. The Hospitality Committee will provide the cups, cutlery, dishes, and napkins as well as coffee and tea. A Sign-up Genius will be emailed to the members on March 1, 2026. And we will have a sign-up sheet available during the March Garden Club meeting.

### Installation Luncheon

The newly elected Five Hills officers for the next two-year term will be installed on Tuesday, June 16 at noon. The luncheon and meeting will be held at Nostos Restaurant in Vienna, VA. The restaurant offers a modern take on Greek food. The Luncheon overview and invitation will be sent out by email in April.

*Stephanie Roche*

## CONSERVATION

### Turtles Don't Hibernate, They Brumate

#### The turtle knows what to do in winter



ing in to brumate.

North Carolina's state reptile is the Eastern Box Turtle. The Eastern Box Turtle is also found throughout Virginia, and in case you wondered, it gets its name from its protection plan. At the sign of anything unfamiliar, the box turtle pulls its head and legs into the shell and then, in an amazing protection skill, uses the hinged pastron (the bottom part of the shell) to close up behind them forming an impenetrable box. Yep,

As temperatures start to cool off, there's a good chance you'll spot box turtles foraging for a last-minute snack or two, before settl-

that's where the name "box turtle" comes from. And brumation is what Eastern Box Turtles do in the winter.

#### **Brumation, not hibernation**

Most people usually refer to it as hibernation, but technically, Eastern Box Turtles don't hibernate. Brumation is a winter cool-down which allows the turtle to survive when food is scarce, and temperatures are lower. Turtles burrow into soft soil and enter a period of sluggishness, inactivity and torpor. They live off stored fat and their metabolism slows but they can still move around if needed.

#### **How to help your friendly neighborhood turtle**

Habitat loss continues to threaten box turtles, especially in states growing as fast as Virginia. The International Union for Conservation of

Nature reports that box turtle populations have fallen more than 30 percent since the mid-1900s. Moving at a speed measured in feet per hour, turtles are vulnerable to getting hit by cars, injured by lawn equipment, attacked by domestic animals, and picked up by the occasional human. And that's something important to remember. Don't pick up a slow-moving turtle, even though you think you might be helping it.

Box turtles can't be relocated. They spend their entire lives—which can span over a hundred years—in one small area and, if moved, they will spend the rest of their life trying to get home. That means crossing through unfamiliar territory and often dying in the process. So as our turtle friends prepare to brumate, or anytime you spot a box turtle, don't pick it up or move it unless it is

injured or is in imminent danger. If you spot a turtle crossing a road, move it to the side in the direction it was going. Turtles have small home territories and should be left where they are found. Their survival depends on it.

This was new to me so I thought I would share it, especially if you saved your leaves in your yard as I suggested earlier; you might disturb your turtles in their nap, and it is a bit too cold to uncover them.

It's Brumation Time for Our Favorite Turtle by **Frank Graff**: Published by PBS North Carolina on September 28, 2021 • Last modified on August 10, 2022

*Elizabeth Huebner*

## The Brick Hack: Saving the "Thirsty Ones."

(Article contributed by Lura Marshall)

In winter, liquid water is scarce, and dehydration impacts wildlife more than starvation.

### The Problem: Ice Prison

- Birds lose 10% of body weight daily through breathing.
- Squirrels and chipmunks can't access frozen surfaces.
- Rabbits eat snow, risking hypothermia.
- Opossums and raccoons trek miles for water.
- Deer crowd at unfrozen spots, spreading disease.

### The Solution: Passive Solar Heating

- Place a dark brick in a shallow dish



with 1-2 inches of water, catching morning sunlight.

-The brick warms the water, delaying freezing.

### Why It Works:

-Dark bricks can reach over 50°F even in 25°F air and water stays liquid longer, accessible to wildlife.

### Who Uses It:

- Birds (for drinking and bathing), squirrels and chipmunks, rabbits, opossums and raccoons and even foxes!

**Energy Math:** Drinking liquid water = energy gain; eating snow = energy loss.

**Bonus Tip:** Float a dark tennis ball in the water to resist freezing!

## GARDEN THERAPY

Our garden therapy group met at Chesterbrook Residences on February 3 for our winter program. Anne Nelson organized the February and March activities which were very engaging. Gail Gile prepared materials and led the session.

First, the twelve residents wore Valentine headbands, and created a Valentine card with hearts made from dipping a Q-tip in paint and pressing each Q-tip side angled to make little hearts on the card. Lura Marshall was the original creative organizer for this same activity last year, and residents asked us to repeat the craft for this year. Each design was unique and our garden club volunteers, Rosemarie J, Kathy N, Debbie D, helped embellish the cards with flower stems and bows.



The March activity, originally suggested by Lucia Bacon during our Iliff Nursing Home days with Willow Prall Martin & Anne N, involved making a Leprechaun's pot of gold (found at the end of a rainbow) with a green foam sheet, and creating a bouquet of "gold" silk daffodils. Everyone pulled the flowers through holes, and tape secured stems on the back. It was a bright festive way to herald in St. Patrick's Day and Spring at the same time.

The residents were just delightful and so appreciative of the projects they created. One even said she never thought she could be an artist, but felt like one that day. The staff at Chesterbrook said they were also grateful for our garden therapy session and served us all hot chocolate on that cold morning. It is a reciprocal feeling for the Five Hills volunteers who always leave "enriched and uplifted" from the experience. We welcome anyone to come join in the fun.

*Gail Gile  
(For Anne Nelson)*



Our Five Hills volunteers on the back row left to right: Debbie Doody, Kathy Nebhut, Gail Gile & Rosemarie Jaksetic.

**FLOWER SHOW**  
**“The Art of the Bloom”**  
**2026 FLOWER SHOW SIGN-UPS**



**SHOW CHAIR -** Deneen Wilson

**SCHEDULE -** Joy Salpini

**STAGING -** Andy Bothwell  
Nancy Walker

**HORTICULTURE CHAIR –**  
Elizabeth Huebner

**HORT. ENTRIES -** Joy Salpini  
Ann Carter

**HORT. PLACEMENT –**  
Noreen Linnemann  
Shelia Creswell

**DESIGN CHAIR -** Anne Nelson

**BOTANIC ARTS -** Valerie Warriner

**JUDGES CHAIR -** Val Plisko

**CLERKS -** Patrice Thacker  
Lucia Bacon  
Carolyn Staska  
Lisa Rzepka

**HOSPITALITY -** Gail Gile  
Kathy Nebhut

**AWARDS -** Julia Smith

**PUBLICITY-** Cary Fitchner-Vu

**DESIGNS**

Creative Novice

1. Val Plisko
2. Kathy Nebhut
3. Patrice Thacker
4. Joy Salpini

Creative Design

1. Elizabeth Huebner
2. Anne Nelson
3. Andy Bothwell
4. Noreen Linnemann

Grouped Mass

1. Anne Nelson
2. Lucia Bacon
3. Cary Fichter-Vu
4. Shelia Creswell

Botanical Arts

1. Debbie Doody
2. Karen Thompson
3. Lisa Rzepka
4. Elvira Hausken

# ***THE ART OF THE BLOOM***

**AN NGC SMALL STANDARD FLOWER SHOW**

**Presented By**

**FIVE HILLS GARDEN CLUB**

**Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.**

**Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs, Inc.**

**National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc.**

**District III**



**Vienna Presbyterian Church**

**124 Park Street NE**

**Vienna, VA 22180**

**(703) 938-9050**

**April 21, 2026**

**FREE AND OPEN TO INVITED GUESTS**

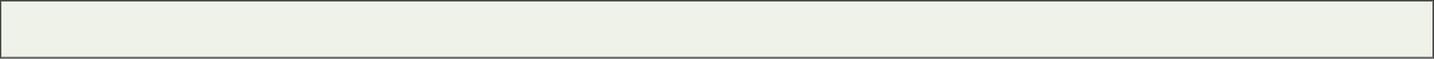
**April 21, 2026 1:00 PM – 2 PM**



## ***THE ART OF THE BLOOM***

### **The Purpose of an NGC Flower Show Is To:**

- Educate club members and the viewing public,
- Stimulate interest in horticulture and floral design,
- Provide an outlet for creative expression, and
- Communicate NGC goals and objectives.



***THE ART OF THE BLOOM***

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**THE ART OF THE BLOOM**

## Honorary Chairs

Danielle Brabazon, President, NCAGC, Inc.  
Kate Abrahams, Director, District III

**SHOW COMMITTEE**

## General Chairman

Deneen Wilson                      deneenewilson@gmail.com

## Schedule

Joy Salpini                              jlsalpini@gmail.com

## Staging

Andy Bothwell                      bothwellandy@gmail.com  
Nancy Walker                      mommershen@gmail.com

## Awards

Julia Smith                              jsmith5227@mac.com

## Clerks

Patrice Thacker                      Patricet590@hotmail.com  
Lucia Bacon                              lwbpiglet@cox.net  
Carolyn Staska                      cjstaska@verizon.net

Horticulture Chair  
Entries/Classification

Elizabeth Huebner                      ladukai61@gmail.com  
Joy Salpini                              jlsalpini@gmail.com  
Ann Carter                              anncarter@verizon.net

## Placement

Noreen Linnemann                      noreenlinnemann@gmail.com  
Shelia Creswell                      screswell@verizon.net

## Design Chair

Anne Nelson                              Annevnelson7@gmail.com

## Botanical Arts

Valerie Warriner                      wwarriner@aol.com

## Hospitality/Hosts

Gail Gile                                      Gilefam1@aol.com  
Kathy Nebhut                              Kathy.Nebhut@gmail.com

## Judges

Val Plisko                                      plisko@msn.com

## Publicity

Cary Fichter-Vu                      cary@caryfvu.com

**THE ART OF THE BLOOM****SHOW EVENTS**

**Tuesday, February 17, 2026** - Final Date for advance registration for:

**Design Division** - Register with Design Division Chair, Anne Nelson.

**Botanical Arts Division, Jewelry Section** - Register with Botanical Arts Division Chair, Valerie Warriner.

**Monday, April 20, 2026**

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Delivery of Botanical Arts Division exhibits to the Vienna Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, unless prior arrangements have been made with the Botanical Arts Division Chair, Valerie Warriner.

**Monday, April 20, 2026**

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Installation of show staging.

**Tuesday, April 21, 2026**

8:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Placement of Design Division exhibits.

Placement of Horticulture Division exhibits.

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Judges' briefing and hospitality.

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Judging

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Open to invited guests

2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

All exhibits and staging to be removed

**THE ART OF THE BLOOM****GENERAL RULES**

1. This flower show conforms to the standards established by National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC). The *Handbook for Flower Shows* (HB), as updated 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." An updated copy of the *Handbook for Flower Shows* may be downloaded from the NGC website at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org).
2. All Divisions are open to members of the FIVE HILLS GARDEN CLUB (FHGC).
3. Horticulture Entry Cards are available from the Horticulture Entries and Classification Chair (Elizabeth Huebner – [ladukai61@gmail.com](mailto:ladukai61@gmail.com)) or from the General Chairman (Deneen Wilson – [deneenewilson@gmail.com](mailto:deneenewilson@gmail.com)) beginning on February 17, 2026.
5. Entries will be accepted in accordance with the Show Events, page 3.
6. Judging begins promptly at 11:00 AM on April 21, 2026.
7. Exhibits are to be removed not earlier than 2:00 PM and not later than 4:00 PM on April 21, 2026.
8. The Classification Chairmen for each Division check exhibits for conformity to the Schedule prior to judging. Final determination for conformance is the judges' responsibility.
9. The General Chairman and the Classification Chairmen for each division are available during judging for possible consultations. They, along with the judges and clerks, are the only personnel allowed on the floor during judging.
10. The decisions of the judges are final. Awards may be withheld if not merited.
11. All judged exhibits will receive a checkmark on the entry card.
12. There must be an emphasis on FRESH plant material. No artificial plant material is permitted in any exhibit in any division.
13. Each exhibitor is limited to one entry per class, except in the Horticulture Division and the Botanical Arts horticulture Section. Exhibitor may make more than one entry per class if each is a different species, variety, cultivar, type or color.
14. The Five Hills Garden Club will strive to ensure the safety of all items after arrival and placement, but is not responsible for any loss or damage to exhibits.
15. Plant material on the Conservation Guide List, available at [www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/nativeplants](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/nativeplants), may be used, if acquired in a lawful manner and labeled with both botanical and common names.
16. Plant material listed on the Virginia Invasive Plant Species List, available at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/invspdflist>, is not permitted in any Division.

**THE ART OF THE BLOOM.****AWARDS**

Consult the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, 2017 edition, Chapter 5.

**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 or more Honorable Mention (white) ribbons as merited; must score 75 points or more.

The entry cards of all blue ribbon-winning exhibits must be signed and dated by an NGC Accredited Judge on the judging panel.

All non-blue ribbon exhibits scoring 90+ points must be so designated on the entry card and signed and dated by an NGC Accredited Judge on the judging panel.

**HORTICULTURE AWARDS**

**NGC Award of Horticultural Excellence** (rosette of green, blue, and orange ribbons): One is offered and may be awarded to the highest scoring, correctly named, blue ribbon-winning exhibit, scoring 95 points or more, in the entire Horticulture Division.

**NGC Arboreal Award** (rosette of green ribbons): Two (2) are offered and may be awarded to the correctly named, highest scoring, blue ribbon winning exhibit, scoring 95 points or more, in each of Sections C and D.

**NGC Award of Merit** (rosette of orange ribbons): Three (3) are offered and may be awarded to the correctly named, highest scoring, blue ribbon winning exhibit, scoring 95 points or more, in each of Sections A, B, and E.

**NCAGC Horticulture Recognition Award** (rosette of orange and white ribbons): One is offered and may be awarded to the highest scoring, blue ribbon winning exhibit, scoring 95 points or more, in Section D.

***THE ART OF THE BLOOM.*****DESIGN AWARDS**

**NGC Best in Show Award** (rosette of blue ribbons): One is offered and may be awarded to the highest scoring blue ribbon winner scoring 90 points or more in the Design Division.

**NCAGC Novice Award** (rosette of pink ribbons): One is offered and may be awarded to a blue ribbon-winning exhibit, scoring 95 or more points, in Class 1 of the Design Division. It is available only to designers who have never won a blue ribbon in the Design Division of an NGC Flower Show.

**NCAGC Harlin G. & Muriel N. Turner Award for Most Innovative Design** (rosette of fuchsia ribbons with a lavender button): One is offered and may be awarded to a design exhibit incorporating imaginative manipulation of components. It is awarded to the most innovative exhibit scoring 85 points or above in the Design Division, provided all other General and Design Award Requirements are met.

**FHGC People's Choice Award:** (rosette of red ribbons) - One is offered and the winner is selected by ballot, as the people's favorite exhibit in the Design Division. Attendees at the Flower Show on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, may vote for their choice. This award will be announced and presented to the winner at the conclusion of the Flower Show on April 21, 2026.

**THE ART OF THE BLOOM****DIVISION I – HORTICULTURE****“PETAL AND PALETTE”****HORTICULTURE RULES**

1. The NGC Exhibit Policies are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 6, Exhibiting in the Horticulture Division.
2. All exhibits must have been grown by the exhibitor.
3. Plant material must be in its natural state and may not be altered by application (treatment) of oil, commercial “shine” products, etc., that change the natural appearance. No wiring of specimens is permitted.
4. Only foliage and/or flowers naturally grown and still attached to the specimen are permitted in the show. Unattached foliage is never included with a cut bloom specimen.
5. All plant material must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for 90 days with the exception of arboreals (woody ornamentals) that must be in possession of the exhibitor for 6 months.
6. 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*.
7. In order to receive an NGC Top Exhibitor Award, the exhibitor must identify their entry by its binomial name or currently acceptable scientific designation. (Consult *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Exhibiting in the Horticulture Division, Chapter 6.)
8. Entry Cards are to be filled out in advance, if possible, in either pencil or waterproof ink. Address labels printed with the exhibitor’s name/address may be used on Entry Cards. Refer to the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 6, for a correctly filled out Entry Card.
9. Cut specimens should not have foliage below the water line, except for *Gladiolus*.
10. 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.
11. Specimens with a class designation in the Schedule may not be entered in an “Any Other Worthy” class.
12. Arboreal specimens must have an apical tip, a central leader, and several nodes present.
13. The Horticulture Entries and Classification Chair and/or the General Show Chairman are free to subdivide classes by color, form, size, cultivar, variety, or other distinguishing characteristics.

***THE ART OF THE BLOOM***

14. Cut specimens must be exhibited in clean transparent green glass bottles of suitable size and stability, provided by the exhibitor. If wedging is needed to improve the pose of the specimen, foam plugs are permitted. Wedging to be provided by the Committee.

15. Scale of points for All Cut Horticulture Specimens:

Conformance	5
Plant Identification	5
Peak of Perfection	
Form	20
Color	20
Maturity/Size	20
Condition/Blemishes	15
Grooming/Staging	
Grooming	10
Staging	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

**THE ART OF THE BLOOM****DIVISION I – HORTICULTURE****“PETAL AND PALETTE”****HORTICULTURE SECTIONS AND CLASSES**

All Sections are eligible for the NGC Award of Horticultural Excellence

**Section A – “Burst Into Bloom”**

Eligible for NGC Award of Merit

**Bulbs, Corms, Rhizomes, and Tubers (Length – Max. 18”)**

One single cut specimen staged in a transparent clear green glass bottle provided by the exhibitor .

Class 1 - *Iris*

a. Bearded

b. Siberian

Class 2 – *Narcissus* (Daffodil, Jonquil)

Class 3 – *Tulipa* (Tulip) (2 leaves per stem)

Class 4 – Any other worthy named specimen

**Section B – “Season After Season”**

Eligible for NGC Award of Merit

**Herbaceous Perennials**

One single cut specimen staged in a transparent, clear glass bottle provided by the exhibitor.

Class 5 – Ferns

Class 6 – *Paeonia* (Peony)

Class 7 – *Lamprocapnos spectabilis* (Bleeding Heart)

Class 8 – Hosta

Class 9 - Any other worthy named specimen

**Section C – “Branches and Buds”**

Eligible for NGC Arboreal Award

**THE ART OF THE BLOOM****Flowering Trees and Shrubs**

One single-cut specimen staged in a clear green glass bottle of appropriate height provided by the exhibitor. (length – min. 8”, max. 30”)

Class 10 – *Cornus florida* (Flowering Dogwood)

Class 11 – *Viburnum*

Class 12 – *Magnolia*

Class 13 – *Rhododendrons* (Azaleas)

Class 14 – *Rhododendrons* (Other than Azaleas)

Class 15 – *Kalmia latifolia* (Mountain Laurel)

Class 16 – Any other worthy named specimen

**Section D – “Everlasting Shade”**

**Eligible for NGC Arboreal Award and NCAGC Horticulture Recognition Award**

**Evergreen Trees and Shrubs**

One single-cut specimen staged in a clear green glass bottle of appropriate height provided by the exhibitor. (length – min. 8”, max. 30”)

Class 17 – *Pinus* (Pine)

Class 18 – *Ilex* (Holly)

Class 19 – *Juniperus* (Juniper)

Class 20 – Any other worthy named specimen

**Section E – “Whispers on the Trellis”**

**Eligible for NGC Award of Merit**

**Vines**

One single-cut specimen staged in a clear green glass bottle of appropriate height provided by the exhibitor. (length – min. 8”, max. 30”)

Class 21 – *Gelsemium sempervirens* (False Jasmine, Carolina Yellow Jessamine)

Class 22 – *Lonicera sempervirens* (Trumpet Honeysuckle, Coral Honeysuckle)

Class 23 – *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (Virginia Creeper, Woodbine)

Class 24 – Any other worthy named specimen

**THE ART OF THE BLOOM****DIVISION II – DESIGN  
THE GARDEN AS GALLERY !”****DESIGN 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. Some plant material must be used in every exhibit. This includes fresh and/or dried plant material.
3. An exhibitor may enter multiple classes within the Design Division, but only one exhibit per class.
4. Exhibits must be the work of one (1) individual.
5. Completed Design Entry Cards must be placed with each exhibit and will be provided for exhibitors by the Committee.
6. If a designer is unable to fulfill their design exhibit commitment, it is the exhibitor’s responsibility to provide a substitute and to notify the Design Chair, Anne Nelson.
7. If the designer is unavailable to transport and/or set up their completed design, a substitute person may enter the exhibit for the designer. The designer may still receive exhibiting credit, if needed. This is permitted only for completed designs.
8. A single flower is not a design. Container grown plants are permitted in Design Division where appropriate but they are **never** considered floral design.
9. Landscapes, scenes, or anything representing an actual item of clothing, person, animal, etc., are not considered acceptable in the Design Division.
10. Religious symbols used in a design must be displayed in a respectful manner.
11. All plant material used in the design must be identified on the Entry Card. Botanical and/or common name acceptable.
12. Advance registration with the Design Division Chair, Anne Nelson, is required by February 17, 2026.
13. Plant material and non-plant material permitted and not permitted in the Design Division are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 7.
14. The designer has the freedom to choose traditional or creative style with any design listed unless restricted by the Schedule.
15. The exhibitor is required to conform to the stated description and limitations of the Design Type, if named in the class.

**THE ART OF THE BLOOM**

16. Rules for Design Types, Advanced Design Types, Table Designs and Table Appointments are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 7.

17. Designers are on their honor that the designs being entered have not been previously entered or judged in an NGC Flower Show.

18. Plant material used in designs need not have been grown by the designer.

19. Scale of Points for Design:

Conformance to Type	7
Conformance to Schedule Requirements	7
Design Principles	48
Selection of Components	8
Organization of Components	8
Expression	8
Distinction	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

**THE ART OF THE BLOOM****DIVISION II – DESIGN****“The Garden As Gallery!”****DESIGN CLASSES**

**All designs are eligible for the NGC Best in Show Award, NCAGC Harlin G. & Muriel N. Turner Award for Most Innovative Design, and the FHGC People’s Choice Award**

**Class 1 – “Impressionist Petals”****4 Exhibits**

**Open to FHGC members who have never won a blue ribbon in the Design Division of an NGC Flower Show.**

**Eligible for the NCAGC Novice Award.**

A creative design (*NGC Handbook for Flower Shows*, Rev. 2017, page 71) expressing the class title utilizing the designated space. Exhibitor must provide appropriately sized staging panel - no fold-out side panels/wings permitted. Underlay is optional. The frame of reference is 30 inches deep by 30 inches wide. Height determined by exhibitor on a 29-inch high table covered with a white tablecloth.

**Class 2 – “Blooms From Within”****4 Exhibits**

A creative design (*NGC Handbook for Flower Shows*, Rev. 2017, page 71) expressing the class title utilizing the designated space. Exhibitor must provide appropriately sized staging panel - no fold-out side panels/wings permitted. Underlay is optional. The frame of reference is 30 inches deep by 30 inches wide. Height determined by exhibitor on a 29-inch high table covered with a white tablecloth.

**Class 3 - “Palette of Petals”****4 Exhibits**

A mass design (*NGC Handbook for Flower Shows*, Rev. 2017, page 74) expressing the class title utilizing the designated space. Exhibitor must provide appropriately sized staging panel - no fold-out side panels/wings permitted. Underlay is optional. The frame of reference is 30 inches deep by 30 inches wide. Height determined by exhibitor on a 29-inch high table covered with a white tablecloth.

**THE ART OF THE BLOOM****DIVISION III – BOTANICAL ARTS****“WHERE FLOWERS MEET ART”****ARTISTIC CRAFTS RULES****Jewelry and ornamental accessories**

1. Exhibit must contain some fresh and/or dried plant material. Only dried material may be treated.
2. No artificial, endangered or locally invasive plant material may be used.
3. Schedule may determine type of craft, staging and number of entries.
4. A card listing plant material must be included with all artistic craft entries.
5. Judged by the Artistic Crafts Scale of Points.
6. Items must be ready-to-wear with fasteners, clasps, etc., as needed.
7. Non-plant material may be used for construction but must not show unless allowed by the schedule.
8. Forms may be assembled from plant material. Clipping, cutting or shaping of material is allowed.
9. Scale of Points:
 

a. Conformance	14
b. Design	48
c. Craftsmanship/Technique	24
i. (12 points for each)	
d. Distinction	14
e. TOTAL	<b>100</b>

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***THE ART OF THE BLOOM***

**DIVISION III - BOTANICAL ARTS**

**“Where Flowers Meet Art”**

**BOTANICAL ARTS SECTION AND CLASSES**

**Eligible for NGC Artistic Crafts Award**

**Section A – Artistic Crafts – “Adorned By Nature”**

**Class 1 - “Botanical Baubles”**

**A bracelet designed using fresh or dried plant material.**

**4 Exhibits**



Schedule artwork created by Microsoft Co-Pilot