

Sow and Tell

March, 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,

March brings with it the promise of spring. As the days grow longer, buds begin to swell, and early bulbs start to bloom, nature gently encourages us to breathe in the fresh air and step back outside to tend both our gardens and our spirits.

Eight of us had the joy of kicking off the month together at the Philadelphia Flower Show. We were treated to a private tour, enjoyed a lovely dinner out, and even found time for a little shopping. It was a memorable day filled with inspiration, beauty, and friendship.

My heartfelt thanks go to **Ann Carter**, who handled our early-morning tickets, accommodations, and transportation with such care, and to **Lura Marshall** for her thoughtful research on Philadelphia and for providing the group with an abundance of things to see and do. I am deeply grateful to both Ann and Lura for coordinating our dinners out and ensuring our trip was seamless and special.

Closer to home, our own Flower Show is just around the corner. Please don't miss this month's meeting where Deneen Wilson will share important information to help us prepare for April's event.

Our Nominating Committee is also hard at work. If you are asked to serve, I hope you'll consider saying "yes." Our club thrives because of the time and talents each of you so generously shares. And remember, no one serves alone. You are surrounded by a club full of brilliant, capable women ready to support you. Every one of you brings gifts that help keep this club vibrant and strong.

The District III meeting will take place at Meadowlark Gardens on March 26, during which the annual District III awards will be

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presented. Rosemarie has nominated our club for several recognitions, and I hope you will join me in celebrating all of this year's awardees.

Wishing you a beautiful start to the season, *Joy*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



March 10 Board Meeting
March 17 General Meeting*
March 26 District III Meeting, Meadowlark Gardens

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

MARCH 17, 2026 PROGRAM - PREPARING FOR FLOWER SHOW SUCCESS



Our own Deneen Wilson will devote the March program to present on how we are going to bring a successful flower show to fruition. She will begin by outlining the responsibilities of the chairs and all members and then detail what judges expect in horticulture and design. For horticulture, she will go over the requirements including selection, staging, and placement. For design, she will describe what is expected in each design category and how to transport and place designs. After her presentation we will all be better prepared for putting on a beautiful April flower show.

Val Plisko

WAYS AND MEANS

Date Change! The botanical arts card-making will be held on **May 15** at the home of Carolyn Staska. This is a change of date, so mark your calendars. This is a FUNdraiser, so please plan to attend!

More details coming soon.

Roberta Lewis and Carolyn Statska

HORTICULTURE

Horticulture –



We are all ready for spring and nothing says spring like seeing spring flowers popping up through the ground or flowering shrubs showing off their beautiful flowers. Let's have a magnificent display of spring flowers for our horticulture program this month. Please bring something from your yard to share with the club members.



Design –

We had a wonderful display of designs with roses last month. This month you are asked to bring in a creative design. You can use the suggestions in the handbook as a guide or just be creative. With so many talented members, let's all try to have fun and make a design. Thanks for supporting this project.



Noreen Linnemann

CIVIC



Mark your calendars for our first Glyndon Garden cleanup on May 5th at 9:30am. Please bring gardening gloves, clippers, and a blossoming spirit as we tidy up the garden and appreciate the wonder of budding new life. A sign-up genius will be sent out before the event.

Lisa Rzepka

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) 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

*"When gardeners garden, it is not just
plants that grow, but the
gardeners themselves."*

-Ken Druse

HOSPITALITY



Sign-ups for Hospitality at garden club meetings are now available for the 2026-2027 Five Hills Garden Club Calendar year. As a reminder, the Hostess Committee includes a lead hostess who coordinates the lunch menu with four or five members and a member 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 cups, cutlery, dishes, and napkins as well as coffee and tea. You can sign up here online:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4EA9A923A7F94-62382509-20262027#/>

or at the garden club meetings. All need to participate.

Installation Luncheon

The newly elected Five Hills officers for the next two-year term will be installed on **Tuesday, June 16**. The luncheon and meeting will be held at Nostos Restaurant in Vienna, VA from 11 am - 2pm. The restaurant offers a modern take on Greek food. The invitation will be sent out by email in April. ***Please respond to the invitation***. You will need to not only respond whether you are coming, but also what your choice of entrée will be. Money will be collected at Garden Club Meetings by check or cash. Kindly write checks out to Five Hills Garden Club and write *luncheon* on the memo line.

Stephanie Roche

FIELD TRIP

Richmond Garden Tour/Trip May 13-14, 2026



Members who would like to go on this trip should let me know whether they would prefer that I plan a one-day or two-day trip.

If a one-day trip is preferred, Lewis Ginter Gardens (left) would be our first stop followed by lunch and then over to Maymont Park.

If a two-day trip is preferred, the trip to Lewis Ginter Gardens would be on the 13th with many local activities to choose from for the rest of the day.

AND the second day would be a trip to Maymont Park (right) and a picnic lunch with members leaving for home when they wished after lunch. (See description of possible activities in Field Trip attachment. All other ideas are welcome. If you have recommendations, please let me know.)



Members may choose to come down for only one day even if most members elect to have a two-day trip.

Please email me at Lura@emieng.com by **April 22nd**, to let me know (a) if you are interested in going on the field trip and (b) whether you would prefer that I plan a one-day or two-day trip for the group.

Lura Marshall

CONSERVATION “Knowing Your Soils”



I am writing about soil as I have clay soil where I call my green weeds grass and mow it every two weeks. In this area my soil naturally has a pH of 4.5 and every two years I have to spread about 5, 40# bags of lime. However, where I have kept my leaves under my trees for 35 yrs., the soil is black and friable for about 10-12 inches and I don't worry about its pH as the trees like the soil. But in other areas we need to test the soil so we know what to add. If you have azaleas, they want acid soil and if your soil is alkaline you need to amend it with soil acidifiers. Your vegetable garden wants a pH of 6-7 to grow them. There are pH testers that you can buy that you push into the ground, and it will tell you the pH wherever you want to use it.

SOIL TYPES

Soils are categorized by type in soil surveys, which are documents that have been completed for about 90 percent of Virginia by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service

(NRCS), formerly the Soil Conservation Service. One hundred and ninety different soil types have been identified within the Potomac River watershed. Soil types are determined by the rock from which they originated and how they were changed by weather over time. Soil surveys were originally designed to serve agriculture, but since 1960 they have been expanded to serve suburban and environmental interests. Soil maps show the geographic location of different soil types on the landscape. Soil types are frequently given names indicating the location where the soil was first discovered. For example, soil type number 47 in Prince William County is known as Quantico Sandy Loam. Soil maps are useful for planning purposes and as an initial guide, but may not be specific or accurate enough to help you with questions about your backyard vegetable garden.

SOIL CHARACTERISTICS

The ideal soil for a garden is deep, crumbly, and well-drained. It is rich in nutrients and organic matter and active with

microorganisms. It usually has a pH between 5.5 and 7.5 (for nonacid loving plants). Compacted soil may prevent roots from spreading and prevent water from soaking easily into the ground. Not only does this shortchange your plants, the extra runoff may lead to erosion and stream easily as soil particles leach from the root zone into the groundwater.

Soil Texture and Structure

Soil may be loose and crumbly or hard and massive. The texture of a soil is determined from the proportion of its particles of sand, clay, and silt. Sand grains are large enough crumbles easily, the sand content is high. If it squeezes easily into a “snake,” the clay content is high. To be seen and felt individually, silt particles are medium-sized like flour or chalk dust, and clay particles are microscopically fine. An easy field test to determine the clay content of your soil is to squeeze a handful of soil in your fist. If it crumbles easily, the sand content is high. If it squeezes easily into a “snake,” the clay content is high.

Soil degradation

A sandy soil, low in organic matter, often holds very little water. In such a soil, the benefits of rains are often short-lived, and garden chemicals can more easily leach from the root zone into the groundwater.

Soil pH

It is an indication of relative acidity or alkalinity. It is reported on a scale of 0 to 14, with low pH numbers being acid and high pH numbers alkaline. A pH of 7 is neutral. Most plants do well in Virginia in a neutral to slightly acid soil.

Knowing your soil pH in Virginia is **highly important** and essential for plant health, as Virginia soils are typically acidic (4.5-5.5 pH), causing nutrients like phosphorus and

calcium to become unavailable. Testing every 3 years prevents nutrient lockup, ensuring fertilizers work properly, and saves money.

Why Soil pH Matters in Virginia

Nutrient Availability: If pH is too low (acidic) or too high (alkaline), plants cannot absorb nutrients, even if fertilizer is applied.

Typical Conditions: Due to climate, most Virginia soils are naturally acidic, often requiring lime to raise the pH for optimal plant growth.

Plant-Specific Needs: While most lawns and vegetables prefer a pH of (6.0-7.0), plants like blueberries and azaleas require lower pH (5.0-5.5), making tailored testing crucial.

Soil Health: Improper pH harms beneficial soil microbes, reduces crop yields, and can cause toxicity in plants.

Water pH Matters

If you irrigate with water that has a high or low pH, it can alter your soil pH over time.

Recommendations

Test Regularly: The Virginia Cooperative Extension recommends testing soil every 3 years.

Use Testing Services: Utilize soil test kits available through local Virginia Cooperative Extension offices. Further information is available through Virginia Cooperative Extension Services, they can be very helpful.

Elizabeth Huebner



PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

The theme for the 2026 Philadelphia Flower Show was "Rooted: Origins of American Gardening," celebrating the history, traditions, and diverse people who have shaped gardening in America, tying into the nation's upcoming 250th birthday. The show explored how gardening stories are passed down through generations, featuring immersive exhibits, floral artistry, and cultural practices. Five Hills members enjoyed a private morning tour of the exhibits before the show opened to the public for the day.



Ann Carter, Elizabeth Huebner, Val Plisko, Joy Salpini, Lura Marshall, Karen Thompson, and Anne Nelson



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
Vacant

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. Willow Martin
4. Noreen Linnemann

Grouped Mass

1. Lisa Church
2. Lucia Bacon
3. Cary Fichter-Vu
4. Shelia Creswell

Botanical Arts

1. Debbie Doody
2. Karen Thompson
3. Cheryl Freeman
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

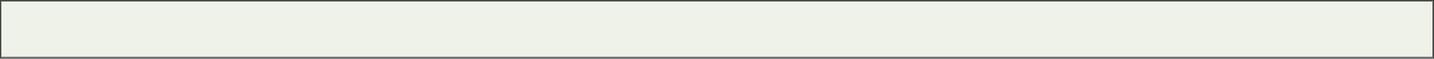
April 21, 2026 1:00 PM – 2 PM



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
Nancy Walkerbothwellandy@gmail.com
mommershen@gmail.com

Awards

Julia Smith

jsmith5227@mac.com

Clerks

Patrice Thacker
Lucia Bacon
Carolyn StaskaPatricet590@hotmail.com
lwbpiglet@cox.net
cjstaska@verizon.net

Horticulture Chair

Elizabeth Huebner

ladukai61@gmail.com

Entries/Classification

Joy Salpini
Ann Carterjlsalpini@gmail.com
anncarter@verizon.net

Placement

Noreen Linnemann
Shelia Creswellnoreenlinnemann@gmail.com
screswell@verizon.net

Design Chair

Anne Nelson

Annevnelson7@gmail.com

Botanical Arts

Valerie Warriner

wwarriner@aol.com

Hospitality/Hosts

Gail Gile
Kathy NebhutGilefam1@aol.com
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.
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) or from the General Chairman (Deneen Wilson – 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, 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.

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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
TOTAL	100

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
TOTAL	100

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 grouped 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	100

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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