

Sow and Tell

April, 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,

The Art of the Bloom

Spring seems to have made a sudden appearance, and I'm fairly certain we've seen the last of the snow until next year. It has certainly been a roller-coaster season weather-wise. My own garden took quite a beating from the snow and ice this winter and I'll be working hard to get it back into shape as we head toward the warm summer months.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to **Julia, Valerie, Patrice, Cary, and Karen** for donating fruit for the District III meeting at Meadowlark Gardens, and to **Cary Fichtner-Vu** for creating two magnificent platters — they were absolutely beautiful. And to everyone who attended, thank you for representing our club so well. We are thrilled to share that we won **First Place for our Yearbook and Second Place for our Newsletter, Sow and Tell**. Congratulations to **Cheryl Freeman and Ann Carter**, and to everyone who supported them in producing such outstanding work.

And now... it's here! Our Flower Show is in its final stages. It has taken many hands to bring this show to life, and we could not have done it without the steady leadership and expertise of **Deneen Wilson**. Her presentation last month helped alleviate fears, build confidence, and inspire participation. Thank you, Deneen.

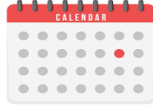
I hope all of you are scanning your gardens for your best horticulture exhibits and that our designers are putting the finishing touches on their beautiful creations. I cannot wait to see the show — and to experience the beauty, creativity, and talent our members bring to ***The Art of the Bloom***.

Joy

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- April 14 Board Meeting
- April 14 NCAGC Spring Meeting
- April 21 Five Hills Garden Club Flower Show*
- April 27-28 Landscape Design School Course 4

NOTE: *Held at Vienna Presbyterian Church
in the Fellowship Hall on the first floor.

APRIL 21, 2026 PROGRAM - SUCCEEDING BEAUTIFULLY AT THE FIVE HILLS FLOWER SHOW



It's showtime at last! Now that we have prepped and primped, it's time for our long-awaited biennial flower show of floral design and horticulture. All members participate in the show; indeed, there are novice awards for newbies.

Val Plisko

WAYS AND MEANS - UPDATE

The botanical card-making workshop previously scheduled for May 15 has been postponed due to very busy schedules. We hope to find a suitable date during the 2026-2027 Five Hills Garden Club year. Many thanks to those of you who expressed interest.

Roberta Lewis and Carolyn Staska



HOSPITALITY



We continue to need members to sign up for Hospitality at garden club meetings for 2026-2027. As a reminder, the Hospitality 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. You can sign up at the garden club meetings or here online:

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

All members need to participate.

Installation Luncheon



Nostos Restaurant

You should have received your invitation to the FHGC Luncheon for the Installation of Officers by email. (For convenience I have included link to the invitation below)

Please note, there are two pages to the invitation. The second page has our menu. **You will be able to choose your entrée at Nostos.**

We only need to know if you are coming or not and receive payment for your lunch.

The cost of the luncheon, \$50, will be collected at Garden Club Meetings **by check or cash**. Kindly write checks out to **Five Hills Garden Club** and write ***luncheon*** on memo line.

RSVP: Rochesteph2008@gmail.com

Invitation: <https://canva.link/mklb2zii0j0wpap>

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 **May 1**, 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

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

[Landscape Design School Course 4](#) is being offered at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fairfax, VA on Monday and Tuesday, **April 27 and 28, 2026**. Debbie Reed-Wagaman helped Sylvia Sloan put together a fabulous line-up which will feature Kirk Brown! Topics are Contemporary LD Trends; Community Participation in Landscaping Projects; History and Development of Community Gardens; Suburban Design; and Evaluation of Landscape Designs. Register with the **brochure** at the link above and please email LDS@ncagardenclubs.org with any questions.

GARDEN THERAPY

“APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS”

On Tuesday, April 7, 2026, the Garden Therapy Committee presented our “April Showers Brings May Flowers” program to Residents at the Chesterbrook Assisted Living Residence in Falls Church, VA. We had 9 participants; 8 women and 1 man, all avid former gardeners. Due to continuing bone-chilling temperatures, we moved our group into the Lobby area which overlooks their beautiful outside courtyard and in view of the raised garden bed where 40 Herb starters created in the first Activity will thrive from April to October.

For **Activity #1**: Each person was given 4 Peat Pots, 1 pair of gloves, a spoon & cup for scooping organic garden soil, and 4 different Herbs - Basil, Oregano, Parsley and Thyme. Guidance was provided on loosening the tight roots, sizing the ratio of soil and plant into each cup, and matching plant markers to each Herb. We heard lots of chatter, humming, and saw happy faces around the 3 tables. The residents loved feeling the 4 different plant textures, rubbing the leaves to smell their different scents, feeling the soil fall through their fingers (gloves off), and being able to manage most of the tasks without help. We collected the 36 pots plus 4 extras to then plant the 40 Herbs outside in the raised bed. We also planted 2 pots of Mint near ground beds.

For **Activity #2**: Each person was given a little clay (yogurt) pot and a coleus and again were asked to size up plant roots, soil, watering and sunlight habits where the plant will live in their bedroom on a window sill or shelf. Sarah, Beza, and Carla were Staff assistants. Debbie Doody, Gail Gile, Rosemarie Jaksetic and Anne Nelson were Garden Therapy Committee Volunteers. We all enjoyed another fantastic group of Volunteers and Participants. THIS is what Garden Therapy is all about.

Debbie snapped a photo of a schedule posted in the Chesterbrook elevator:

“Tues., April 7th: 10:15am Courtyard - The Five Hills Garden Club is a terrific group of volunteers that lead garden therapy programs/crafts! Now that it is nice out, they have been kind enough to donate herbs to our community. Come get your hands dirty and help us plant them!”

Our next and last program of this season will be Tuesday, June 2, 2026. Meet at 9:45am in the Lobby at Chesterbrook A.L. Residence. Google for directions. We begin the program at 10:15 and end at 11:15am. Thank you for your interest and support of this wonderful Committee.

Anne Nelson



CONSERVATION

Roundup

WARNING



PESTICIDES

Roundup, containing the active ingredient glyphosate, is the world's most widely used herbicide, but it is under intense scrutiny due to links to cancer, specifically non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, with thousands of lawsuits resulting in multi-billion dollar settlements. Studies suggest risks of liver inflammation, metabolic disorders, and neurotoxic effects, with some indicating potential harm at levels previously considered safe. It does not degrade and can remain in your soil forever. It can leach into groundwater and aquifers. If you

have a well it can be worrisome if your neighbor uses this product.

Childhood Exposure: Research indicates that childhood exposure may increase the risk of disease in young adulthood, with some evidence suggesting prenatal exposure affects fetal development.

Environmental Presence: Glyphosate is commonly detected in human bodily fluids, including blood and urine, affecting 60%–80% of the general population in some studies.

EPA & EU (EFSA): Generally maintain that there is not enough evidence to definitively link it to cancer in humans, though these findings are heavily contested.

Safety and Alternatives:

Safety Measures: If using, it is recommended to wear protective gear, avoid spraying on windy days, wash hands immediately after, and avoid walking on treated areas for at least 24 hours.

Organic Options: Alternatives to chemical herbicides include organic, plant-based, or homemade solutions, such as vinegar-based products.

For more detailed studies and articles, the [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#) provides comprehensive research on the health impacts of weed killers.

The regulation of glyphosate in the European Union and in the United States is corrupted by malpractices arising from conflicts of interest. Officials from the industries that produce pesticides and genetically modified crops are placed in high positions in the regulatory agencies, and the actions of the agencies are then steered towards ensuring a favorable outcome for applications to bring to market the products of those industries.

Sweeping regulatory reform is urgently needed to prevent further harm to humans, animals, and the environment. Despite the large and growing number of papers published by independent scientists revealing the harm, the assessment processes have largely dismissed these papers on bureaucratic technicalities. The long-term toxicity of the formulations needs to be included but is not part of the regulation by the EFSA, ECHA and EPA, and was not part of the work of IARC. Governments and regulators need to understand that their primary purpose

is to promote the welfare of the population and the environment. At present, governments are narrowly focused on bolstering the economy via the huge profits made by giant corporations selling pesticides and GMOs, and regulators work closely with these industries. The result of these practices is that the health of people and animals suffer, and the environment becomes degraded.

More information is available at ScienceDirect.com
IARC (International Agency for Research on Cancer)

Elizabeth Huebner

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. You can sign up at the Sign-Up genius link here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0945A9AE23A2FD0-63366575-glyndon>

Lisa Rzepka



“The thing about planting a garden is it takes you back to the basics and reminds you what’s really important. In a world that’s loud, give me the peace of dirt under my fingernails, sunshine on my face, and the quiet joy of watching life bloom.”

Her View From Home

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 –
Karen Thompson

DESIGN CHAIR - Anne Nelson

BOTANIC ARTS - Valerie Warriner

JUDGES CHAIR - Val Plisko

CLERKS - Patrice Thacker
Lucia Bacon
Carolyn Staska
Sheila Creswell

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 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

Elizabeth Huebner ladukai61@gmail.com

Entries/Classification

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.
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.

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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