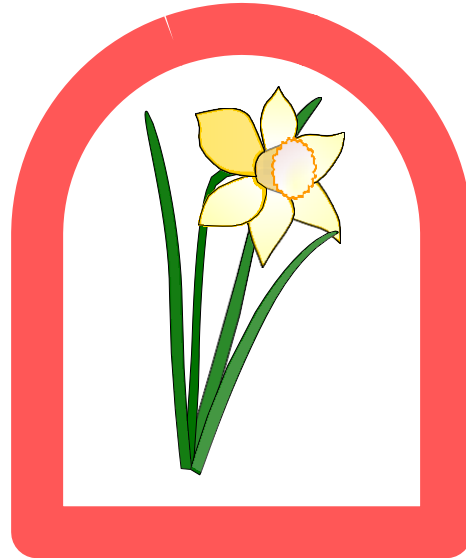


An NGC  
Standard Flower Show

# “1776 Flower Show”



**Presented By:**  
**The Thursday Garden Club of Sudbury, MA**

A Member of:  
Central North District of Massachusetts  
Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc.  
National Garden Clubs, Inc

**CELEBRATING ITS 75th ANNIVERSARY**

**The Presbyterian Church**  
**330 Concord Rd, Sudbury, MA 01776**

**April 16, 2026      3 pm to 7:30 pm**

**April 17, 2026      10 am to 5:00 pm**

**Free Admission    ~    Handicap Accessible**

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## GENERAL RULES

1. This “1776 Flower Show,” A Standard Flower Show, conforms to the standards established by National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC). *The Handbook for Flower Shows* (HB) 2025 Edition is posted to the NGC website and is the authority for all issues not covered by this schedule. All revisions to the Handbook are listed on the NGC website. The schedule is the law of the Show.
2. Entry Dates and Times:
  - a. Botanical Arts, Education, and Youth Divisions - Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> 3-6 pm
  - b. Horticultural Division and Design Division - Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> 7-9 am
3. Removal: Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> 6-8 pm.
4. Judging will begin on April 16<sup>th</sup> 10 am.
5. The exhibitors’ meeting will be on March 2, 2026, starting at 10:00 am at the Presbyterian Church, 330 Concord Rd, Sudbury, MA 01776.
6. There must be emphasis on fresh plant material. No artificial plant material is permitted in any exhibit in any division.
7. All NGC members are welcome to enter the “1776 Flower Show”. The Youth Division is open to children ages 5-11.
8. Entry procedure: Entries for Design and Botanical Arts will be done online at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4DAEA62AA4F94-59531175-1776#/>  
All entries must be registered by February 15, 2026. For questions, contact the General Chair Joy DiMaggio, at 978-460-0851 or joydimaggio4@gmail.com
9. The General Chair and Classification Chairs 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. Before the exhibitor leaves the show area, the Classifications Chair for each Division checks for conformity to the schedule prior to judging. Final determination of conformance is the judges’ responsibility.
11. The decisions of the judges are final. Awards may be withheld if not merited.
12. Judges are required to consider non-blue ribbon winners for 90+ point recognition in all divisions; the Committee will provide staging unless otherwise stated.
13. No artificial food or alcohol is permitted. All fruits and/or vegetables must be whole, not cut.
14. Each exhibitor is limited to one entry per class, except the Horticulture Division.
15. Exhibitor is on his/her honor that the design being entered or judged has not been previously entered or judged in any NGC Standard Flower Show.
16. The Exhibitor is responsible for keeping his/her exhibit in good condition for the duration of the show. An exhibit may be removed at the discretion of the Committee.
17. It is the exhibitor’s responsibility to find a replacement if unable to fulfill the assignment.
18. The Thursday Garden Club of Sudbury and the committee will strive to ensure the safety of all items after arrival and placement but are not responsible for any loss or damage to exhibits.
19. Entering a design and/or horticulture gives the Flower Show permission to use the entry in photos and promotional materials.

## AWARDS

The Standard System of Awarding is used. NGC Standard System of Awarding is used for all competitive judging and allows for the following awards in each class or sub-class (HB pg. 39).

Only one First Place (Blue Ribbon): Score 90+ per class. Only one Second Place (Red Ribbon): Score 85+ per class. Only one Third Place (Yellow Ribbon): Score 80+ per class. One or more Honorable Mention (White Ribbon): Score 75+ per class

### Awards Offered

#### Horticulture Division

**Award of Horticulture Excellence.** One (1) is given to the highest-scoring exhibit in the Horticulture Division (Division I). Rosette of green, blue, and orange.

**Arboreal Award.** One (1) will be given for cut or container-grown trees and/or shrubs to the highest score (95+) in Horticultural Section A. Rosette of green ribbons

**Grower's Choice Award.** One (1) will be given for container-grown plants with the highest (95+) score in Horticultural Section C. Rosette with dark green ribbons

**Award of Merit.** One (1) will be given for non-woody specimens, including vines with the highest score (95+) in Horticultural Section B. The rosette has orange ribbons

#### Design Division

All Design Division blue ribbon winners who score 95+ points or more are eligible. For complete requirements, refer to (Handbook pp 42-43).

**Award of Design Excellence.** A rosette of gold ribbons may be awarded to the highest scoring blue ribbon exhibit scoring 95+ points or more in the entire Design Division. Winners in Sections A and B are eligible.

**Designer's Choice Award.** A rosette of purple ribbons. Section A is eligible. Plant material that is dried may be treated. Fresh material may not be treated.

**Tricolor Award.** A rosette of red, blue, and yellow ribbons. All plant material must be fresh. Non-plant material may be included. Section B is eligible.

#### Botanical Arts Division

**Botanical Arts Artistic Crafts Award.** A rosette of navy-blue ribbons. Division V is eligible for this award. The exhibit must have some plant material and be the work of one individual.

#### Education Division

**Educational Top Exhibitor Award.** A rosette of brown and white ribbons. Division III is eligible.

#### Committee Choice Awards

These awards are chosen by the Flower Show Committee for the entry that best represents the "1776 Flower Show" theme. Three awards will be presented: one in Design/Botanical Arts, one in Horticulture, and one to a Novice Exhibitor. Note: A Novice Exhibitor is someone who has never won a blue ribbon in an NGC Flower Show.

## DIVISION I: HORTICULTURE

### Horticulture Division Rules

1. NGC exhibit policies are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows* - Chapter 6 Exhibiting in the Horticulture Division (*HB pg. 27*). The most complete and current version can be found online at <https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2025-07/fs-hanbook-2025.pdf>
2. All exhibits must be fresh.
3. All exhibits must be grown by the exhibitor.
4. Plant material must be in its natural state and may not be altered by application or treatment of oil, commercial shine products, etc. that change the natural appearance. No wiring of specimens is permitted.
5. All plant material must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for no less than:

Houseplants	90 days
Bulbs	90 days
Woody ornamentals (branches)	6 months
6. The rules for single species cut or container-grown specimens are listed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows* (*HB pg. 27*) or in its supplement: *Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging*.
7. Only foliage and/or flowers naturally grown and still attached to the specimen are permitted in the Flower Show. Unattached foliage is never included with a cut bloom specimen.
8. To receive the NGC Top Exhibitor Award, the exhibitor must identify his/her entry by its binomial name or currently acceptable scientific designation (Consult *Handbook for Flower Shows* (*HB pg. 27*)).
9. Entry cards are to be filled out in advance, if possible. Cards are available from Horticulture Chair: Betsy Szymczak [szymczakb@gmail.com](mailto:szymczakb@gmail.com), 617-750-1422. Cards are to be printed or written in waterproof ink or in pencil. Refer to *Handbook for Flower Shows* for a correctly filled-out entry card (*HB pg. 57*).
10. Cut specimens should not have foliage below the waterline (*HB pg. 27*).
11. 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 foliage plants if they are grown for their leaves (*HB pg. 27*).
12. Specimens with a class designation in the schedule may not be entered in "Any Other Worthy Class" (*HB pg. 27*).
13. The Horticulture Classification Committee and/or General Show Chairman are free to subdivide classes by color, form, size, cultivar, variety, or other distinguishing characteristics. (*HB pg. 27*).
14. The scales of points for horticulture are located in Chapter 14 of the *Handbook for Flower Shows 2017 Edition, Revised 2025*.
15. The exhibitor is required to provide a clear and colorless glass container for each cut specimen. The committee will provide clear plastic or bubble wrap for wedging. Materials that could wick water, such as cotton, batting, twine, etc. are not permitted.

## **DIVISION I - HORTICULTURE**

*Eligible for Award of Horticultural Excellence*

### **Section A: “Harbingers of Spring”**

*Eligible for Arboreal Award*

Single branch of a flowering shrub, no more than 30”, staged in a glass container on a white cloth.

Class 1: *Chaenomeles*.

Class 2: *Forsythia*

Class 3: *Pieris*

Class 4: Any other worthy specimen

### **Section B: “Fragrant Beauty”**

*Eligible for Award of Merit*

Flowering bulb: single stem, displayed in a clear glass container, no more than 20” in length.

Class 5: *Allium*

Class 6: *Narcissus*

Class 7: *Tulipa*

Class 8 Any other worthy specimen

### **Section C: “On a Sunny Windowsill”**

*Eligible for Grower’s Choice Award*

Container-grown for foliage – an indoor or outdoor container not to exceed 10”.

Class 9: *Begonia*

Class 10: Fern

Class 11: *Pelargonium* (zonal or scented geranium)

Class 12: Any other worthy specimen

## DIVISION II: DESIGN

### Design Division Rules

1. The NGC exhibit policies/rules are printed in the “*Handbook for Flower Shows*, 2017 Edition, Chapter 7. Revised 2025.
2. The exhibitor is required to conform to the stated descriptions and limitations of the design type, if named in the class.
3. “Rules of Design Types, Advanced Design Types, Table Designs, and Table Appointments are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows 2017 Edition, Chapter. 7*. Revised 2025.
4. Advance registration required by **February 15, 2026**. Online registration is available at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4DAEA62AA4F94-59531175-1776#/> or by contacting the Design Entry Chairperson.
5. No artificial plant material is permitted in any Division of the Flower Show.
6. All plant material must be identified on a 3” x 5" card provided by the exhibitor, and included with the entry card, Botanical and common names are listed.
7. Exhibits must be the work of one individual.
8. If a Designer is unable to fulfill the assignment, it is the designer’s responsibility to find a replacement.
9. American flags and/or national flags are prohibited.
10. The Design Scale of Points is listed below. (HB pg.130)

**Scale of Points** per (HB Chapter 14) is as follows:

Conformance to type	7
To schedule requirements	7
Design Principles	48
Selection of Components	8
Organization of Components	8
Expression	8
Distinction	14

**Total 100**

11. Exhibits may be completed at home or in the Show area.

## **DIVISION II: DESIGN**

### **“The British Are Coming”**

*Eligible for Award of Design Excellence*

#### **Section A: “The Shot Heard Round the World”**

Four entries in each class. (Eligible for Designer’s Choice Award)

**Class 1:** “Muskets at the Ready” A Spatial Thrust Design (HB pg. 75) in a white niche. Inside niche dimensions are 12” x 12” x 12”. The niche front panel has a 9½” round opening which begins 1½” from the base of the niche. Interior flat white panels may be covered with paper, foam sheets, etc. by the exhibitor, but may not be painted. Fresh and/or dried plant material.

**Class 2:** “One if By Land and Two if by Sea” A Transparency Design (HB pg. 77), staged on a black pedestal 36” H and 16” square top. The background is beige matte fabric. Fresh and/or dried plant material.

**Class 3:** “Marching Side by Side” A Parallel Design (HB pg. 75), staged on a black pedestal 36” H with a 16” square top. Fresh and /or dried plant material.

#### **Section B: “Food and Family”**

Four Entries per class. (Eligible for the Tricolor Award)

**Class 4:** “Ready for a Day in the Fields” A Breakfast Tray for one. Not to exceed 10” x 16”. Staged on a 33” x 33” x 28” high table. Covered with black tablecloth. The background is a matte beige fabric. All plant material must be fresh.

**Class 5:** “Dinner for John and Abigail Adams” A functional table for two, set for food service. Must have a Decorative Unit. The table is 33” x 33” x 28” high. Covered with a black tablecloth. The background is matte beige fabric. All plant material must be fresh.

**Class 6:** “A Tisket a Tasket, a Pretty Spring Basket”. A design using a basket as a container. Staged on a black pedestal 36” H with a 16” square top. The exhibitor will provide the basket. All plant material must be fresh.

## **DIVISION III: EDUCATION DIVISION**

*Eligible for Educational Top Exhibitor Award*

### **Educational Division Rules**

1. Each exhibit must be the work of one individual. This division is for competition. (HB pg. 81)
2. Exhibit size is 18 square feet minimum surface.
3. Plant material is encouraged but not mandatory.
4. Advanced registration is required by February 1, 2026
5. A brief description of the table is required at registration.
6. The committee will provide an 8'x 30" table with a white tablecloth. The backdrop is a window.
7. The Scale of Points is listed below. (HB pg 130)

#### **Scale of Points:**

##### **Educational Value**

Interest to the viewer	25
Clear, concise presentation	15
Adequate signage	10
Conforms to NGC Objectives	10

##### **Staging**

Craftsmanship/technique	10
Distinction	10
Creativity and Expression	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

### **Section A: "Then and Now"**

**Entry 1:** Food and Beverages that were used in 1776 and 2026

**Entry 2:** Apples: The Apples of 1776 and the Apples of 2026

## **DIVISION IV: YOUTH INVITATIONAL**

**(Ages 5-11)**

### **Youth Division Rules**

1. All designs exhibited must be created solely by the exhibitor.
2. Open to the public - age-appropriate required.
3. Each exhibitor will provide a 3"x5" card with their name and age.
4. No artificial plant or other materials may be used.
5. Each entry will receive a Participation ribbon

### **Class 1: "American Pride"**

Decorate a 3-corner Patriotic Hat. Natural items (no artificial material allowed) should be used to decorate the hat, such as seeds, dried plant material (flowers, leaves, cones, berries, etc.). Feathers may also be used. The committee will provide the hat. The hats will be displayed on a table covered with a white tablecloth.

## **DIVISION V: BOTANICAL ARTS ARTISTIC CRAFTS**

*Eligible for Botanical Arts Artistic Crafts Award*

### **Botanical Arts Artistic Crafts Rules**

Refer to the Handbook for Flower Shows 2017 Edition, Revised 2025, pg. 94

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. A 3"x5" card listing plant material (fresh and/or dried) must be included with all artistic craft entries.
4. Judged on the Artistic Craft Scale of points.
5. Must be the work of one (1) individual.
6. The section must have 3 classes, and 4 entries per class.
7. The Artistic Crafts Scale of Points is listed below (HB pg. 131).

#### **Artistic Crafts Scale of Points:**

Criteria	Value(points)
Conformance	14
Design	48
Craftmanship	12
Technique	12
Distinction	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

### **Division V-Botanical Arts/Botanical Arts Artistic Crafts**

#### **Section A: "Remembering Our Heritage"**

**Class 1 "A Light to Guide You Home"**. A Decorated Candle Lantern. The exhibitor will provide the lantern. The lantern will be placed on one half of a 30" x 30" x 28" table, divided on the diagonal with a black tablecloth. The background is a beige wall. Only a battery-operated candle is permitted.

**Class 2 "1776 Patriotic Brooch"**. A brooch pin to be hung on a 7" x 7" black panel, on a black easel, placed on a table covered with a black tablecloth. The black panel, easel, and tablecloth will be provided by the committee.

**Class 3 "The Fairies All Around You"**. A Fairy, not to exceed 10" in any direction. Displayed on a tree branch provided by the committee, staged on a black pedestal 36" high. A small silver eye hook is allowed, will be provided by the committee.

***THANK YOU to the Following Organizations***

- ◆ *Nancy Miller for sponsoring Specialty Awards*
- ◆ *South Shore District for Staging*
- ◆ *GCFM - Judges Council for Support and Guidance*
- ◆ *Design Study Group Central MA*
- ◆ *Presbyterian Church of Sudbury*
- ◆ *Sudbury 1776 Militia for Opening Ceremony*
- ◆ *Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School Students*
- ◆ *Girl Scout Troops: Troop 64179 and Troop 63364*
- ◆ *Thursday Garden Club of Sudbury for always helping.*
- ◆ *Nicewicz Orchard and Family Farm in Bolton, MA*