

The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts
and its Northern and Northeastern Districts
Present



At the Topsfield Fair
An NGC Small Standard Flower Show

October 4 – October 15, 2024

Member of:
National Garden Clubs, Inc
And New England Garden Clubs, Inc

Topsfield Fairgrounds 207 Boston Street, Route 1 North
Topsfield, MA 01983



Table of Contents

Committee Chairmen | page 1
 General Rules: | page 2
 Awards: | page 4
 Horticulture Division Rules: | page 5
 Horticulture Division: | page 6
 Design Division Rules: | page 7
 Design Division: | page 8
 Entry Information: | back cover



scan code for a free digital version of the **Handbook for Flower Shows**



scan code to access SignUp Genius and enter Division II Design

Committee

General Chair: Pat Fleming	fleming.3patricia@gmail.com
Awards: Julianna Kallas	jkallas27@gmail.com
Clerks: Lisa Harrison, Nancy Walke	lisah2667@gmail.com nancywalke@rocketmail.com
Design Schedule: Suzanne McCance Advisor: luBeth Kuemmerle	suzannebmccance@gmail.com lubethk@comcast.net
Design Entries: Nancy Mann	flowershowcommittee@gmail.com
Design Classification: day 1 Judy Colburne	jacolburne@aol.com
Design Classification: day 2 Joy DiMaggio	jmarykay2@outlook.com
Graphic Designer: Max King	max@maxlking.com
Hostesses /Greeters: Joni Pesola	jpesola@aol.com
Horticulture Classification: Betsy Szymczak	szymczakb@gmail.com
Horticulture Advisor: Cathy Felton	afelton@comcast.net
Horticulture Chair: Rita DeLollis	rdelollis@aol.com
Horticulture Schedule: Rita DeLollis	rdelollis@aol.com
Judges: Kathy Leva	kathryn.leva@gmail.com
Staging: Connie Dice Krissy Locuson	diceconnie@gmail.com kristinlocuson@gmail.com
Typing/Clerks: Juliana Lloyd	loyd.juliana@gmail.com

Special thanks to the personnel of the Topsfield Fair



Committee

1. This Small Standard Flower conforms to the standards established by National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC). The Handbook For Flower Shows (HB) with revisions printed published in The National Gardener (online) magazine (TNG) is the authority for all issues not covered by the schedule, which is the Law of the Show. (For an online version of the Handbook For Flower Shows, scan the QR code or go to: <https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/fss-handbook-2017-secure-july-2023.pdf>)
2. Division I and Division II and are open to members of National Garden Clubs, Inc.
3. All exhibits must be the work of individual exhibitors.
4. Entry cards for horticulture will be available at the time of entry.
5. Entry dates for Horticultural and Design are Friday, October 4th, and Wednesday, October 9th. Entry times for Horticulture are from 7- 10 am, for Design from 7-10 am. Designs must be completed by 10:00 am.
NOTE: If one is entering both Horticulture and Design, they **MUST** enter their Horticulture first. Judging will begin at 10:30 am on both entry days.
6. An exhibitors' meeting will be held at the Fairgrounds in the Flower Barn, Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 10 am.
7. There must be an emphasis on FRESH plant material. Artificial plant material is not allowed in any division.
8. The General Chairman and the Classification Chairmen for each division are available during judging for possible consultation. They, along with the judges and clerks, are the only personnel allowed on the floor during judging
9. **Before the exhibitor leaves the show area, the Classifications Chairmen for each Division checks for conformity of the schedule prior to judging.** Final determination of conformance is the judges' responsibility.
10. The decisions of the judges are final. Awards may be withheld if not merited. Judges are required to consider non-blue-ribbon winners for 90+point recognition.
11. Wild collected plants of species listed by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program may not be exhibited in Standard Flower Shows of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc. or its member clubs. Cultivated plant material appearing on the list may be exhibited if the exhibitor provides a typed card noting that it has not been collected.
12. Plants listed in the Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List are not permitted in any Division. A current list may be found: www.Mass.gov/MassachusettsProhibitedPlantList



13. All entries from **Day 1** must be removed, 7 to 8 pm on Tuesday, October 8. Entries from **Day 2** must be removed on Tuesday, October 15 between 9 am and 2 pm. No designs will be allowed to be stored overnight in the Flower Barn.
14. The Committee, The Garden Club of Massachusetts, Inc. and The Topsfield Fair will endeavor to protect all exhibits but cannot be responsible for loss or damage to the Exhibitor's property.
15. In all Divisions, the Committee will provide staging. All staging is on a platform/riser 6" high from the barn floor.
16. Exhibitors are responsible for keeping their 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 assignment.

The Standard System of Awarding is used in all divisions

- ✧ **First Place** (one – 90 points or above),
- ✧ **Second Place** (one – 85 points or above),
- ✧ **Third Place** (one – 80 points or above), and
- ✧ **Honorable Mention** (one or more – 75 points or above in each class). A design, if merited, may receive 90+ recognition.

Above awards are judged by the scale of points in the Handbook For Flower Shows.



Horticulture Division Top Exhibitor Awards

Section Awards- For complete requirements, refer to the Handbook for Flower Shows.

AWARD of MERIT is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon winner in sections A and B

GROWER'S CHOICE AWARD is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon winner in section C.

ARBOREAL AWARD is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon winner in sections D.

Division Award

AWARD OF HORTICULTURAL EXCELLENCE is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon winner in the entire Horticulture Division for each entry date.

Design Division Top Exhibitor Awards

All Design Division blue ribbon winners must score 95 points or more to be eligible. For complete requirements refer to the Handbook for Flower Shows.

GEORGIA McHUGH AWARD A plaque is given annually to the Novice with the highest point score in the Design Division at the Topsfield Fair. An exhibitor who has never won a blue ribbon in an NGC Standard Flower Show is considered a Novice. All classes are eligible.

PAULINE D BOWDEN AWARD The designer receiving the highest scoring Blue Ribbon Design each entry date using the scale of points will be eligible for the Pauline D. Bowden Award. All classes are eligible.

Scale of Points for the Pauline D. Bowden Award

- Design 40
- Color Selection 25
- Creativity 20
- Distinction 15
- Total 100



DIVISION I: HORTICULTURE

Horticulture Rules

1. The NGC Horticulture Policies are printed in the *Handbook For Flower Shows (2023 Revision)*, Chapter 6, and the *Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging Supplement*.
2. The rules for a single species or container grown specimen are listed in the *Handbook For Flower Shows (2023 Revision)* and the *Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging Supplement*.
3. All exhibits must be fresh and grown by the Exhibitor for at least 90 days, except for Class 6, which may be younger. If so, indicate date seed planted.
4. Exhibitors will submit their entries in their own appropriately sized, clean, colorless glass containers. Wedging material (small scale bubble wrap or plastic wrap) is permitted. Anchoring is not permitted.
5. Cut specimens should not have foliage below the water line.
6. Maximum length of a branch is 30" for Section D, E, & F.
7. In a class judged for foliage (Class 1), plants may be in flower, but flowers will not be judged.
8. Double potting is permitted, but the inner pot must not be visible.
9. The Classification Chairman and/or General Show Chairman are free to subdivide classes by color, form, size, cultivar, variety or other distinguishing characteristics.
10. In order to receive an NGC Top Exhibitor Award, the exhibitor must identify her/his entry by its binomial name or currently acceptable scientific designation.
11. Entry cards are to be filled out in advance, if possible. Cards are to be typed, or printed, using waterproof ink or pencil. Refer to the *Handbook For Flower Shows (2023 Revision)*. Chapter 6, for a correctly filled out entry card.
12. Due to space limitations, exhibitors may be limited to a maximum of four entries at the discretion of the horticulture Chair. Exhibitors will be allowed to choose submitted entries if over the limit allowed.
13. All entries must be approved for conformance to the schedule by a Classification Chairman before placement by the Committee.
14. Division I Exhibits are eligible for the Award of Horticulture Excellence. One award may be given, if merited, to the highest scoring exhibit with a score of 95 or more in the entire Horticultural Division.
15. Horticulture entries will be judged by the appropriate Scale of Points found in Chapter 14 of the *Handbook For Flower Shows (2023 Revision)*.



DIVISION I: **Horticulture**

Celebrating our native plants (N) that feed our neighborhoods, including us, with pollen, dew, flowers, leaves and stems. We welcome the original species, and also new cultivars. We also celebrate plant species that came with our ancestors from other parts of the world, brought here because they give pleasure to our senses.

Section A: CELEBRATING GREEN!

Container-grown plants grown for foliage. Beauties from afar. Classes 1 and 2 mixed genres. Container not to exceed 10 inches. Eligible for *Grower's Choice Award*.

- Class 1: Fern (many are N. Please indicate if so).
- Class 2: Palm.
- Class 3: Rex begonia. *Begonia rex-cultorum* (many are N. Please indicate if so).
- Class 4: Coral bells. *Heuchera* (N).
- Class 5: Foamflower. *Tiarella*.(N).

Section B: A DAILY CELEBRATION

Vegetables. Our ancestors' choices. Displayed on a 10-inch white paper plate supplied by the Committee. Eligible for *Award of Merit*.

- Class 6: Summer squash. *Cucurbita pepo* ssp. *pepo*.
3 specimens with stems.
- Class 7: Common bean. *Phaseolus vulgaris*.
5 specimens with stems. Indicate if bush or pole cultivar.
- Class 8: Radish, European or summer type. *Raphanus sativus*.
5 specimens, tops cut to 2 in.
Indicate planting date.
- Class 9: Potato. *Solanum tuberosum*. 3 specimens.

Section C: CELEBRATING RENEWED LIFE EACH YEAR.

Flowering Perennials, in bloom (and/or with pods for Milkweed only). Single specimen, cut stem. *A. curassavica* is excluded. Eligible for *Award of Merit*.

- Class 10: Butterfly weed. *Asclepias* (N).
- Class 11: Milkweed. *Asclepias* (N).
- Class 12: Joe-Pye Weed. *Eupatorium maculatum* or *E. purpurium* (N).
- Class 13: Black-eyed Susan. *Rudbeckia* (N).
- Class 14: Coneflower. *Rudbeckia* (N).
- Class 15: Goldenrod. *Solidago* (N).



Section D: A CELEBRATION IN THE MOUTH

Herbs we brought with us. One stem. Eligible for *Award of Merit*.

- Class 16: Lovage. *Levisticum officinale*.
- Class 17: Rosemary. *Rosmarinus*.
- Class 18: Sage. *Salvia officinalis*.
- Class 19: Thyme. *Thymus*.

Section E - Celebrating the Sustainability of Natives

Ornamental Grasses. Not to exceed 30 inches in length. Eligible for *Award of Merit*.

- Class 20: Side oats grama. *Bouteloua* (N).
- Class 21: Northern sea oats. *Chasmanthium latifolium* (N).
- Class 22: Pink or purple muhly. *Muhlenbergia capillarius* (N).
- Class 23: Switchgrass. *Panicum virgatum* (N).
- Class 24: Little bluestem. *Schizachyrium scoparium* (N).

Section F: CELEBRATING BEAUTY AND VARIETY IN NATURE

Fruited or flowering branches, not to exceed 30 inches in length. Eligible for *Arboreal Award*.

Fruited branches:

- Class 25: American beautyberry. *Callacarpa americana* (N).
- Class 26: Winterberry. *Ilex verticillata* (N).
- Class 27: Crabapple. *Malus* (some N).
- Class 28: Common snowberry. *Symphoricarpos alba* (N).

Flowered branches (must be in flower):

- Class 29: Clethra or Summer sweet. *Clethra alnifolia* (N)
- Class 30: Witch hazel. *Hamamelis* (N).
- Class 31: Steeplebush. *Spirea tormentosa* (N)



DIVISION II: DESIGN

Design Division Rules

1. Entries, the work of ONE exhibitor, are open to members of an NGC Club.
2. All entries are made through SignUp Genius. To Sign up, scan the QR code below with your smart phone or go to www.signupgenius.com/go/ NEW NUMBER
3. All designs must be completed in the show area.
4. The exhibitor is required to conform to the stated Class description and limitations of the Design Type if named in the class as stated in the Handbook for Flower Shows.
5. An entry card listing all plant material by common name, in the design must be given to and initialed by the Classification Chairman before the exhibitor leaves the show area. The exhibitor need not grow plant material.
6. Fresh plant material may not ever be treated in any manner. Dried plant material may be treated.
7. Rules for Design Types are printed in the Handbook for Flower Shows..
8. Exhibitors are responsible for keeping their designs in good condition for the duration of the show.
9. If a designer is unable to fulfill their assignment, it is the designer's responsibility to find a replacement. Designs may not be a copy of a preciously entered or judged entry in an NGC Flower Show.



DIVISION II: **DESIGN** 'Let's Start the Party!'

Class 1: BASTILLE DAY: Assemblage Design.

Vivre la France!

Design staged on a pedestal 17"square, 37"tall.

Class 2: WINTER SOLSTICE: Transparency Design.

"Snow was falling, so much like stars filling the dark trees"

Design staged on a 'sage green' 17"square pedestal, 37"tall.

***Class 3: MARDI GRAS:** Semi-Formal table for two.

Laissez les bon temps rouler!

Design staged in a (sage green) niche (40"wide, 35"deep, 5' high) on a 30"round, 30"tall table. Committee to provide white table covering.

Class 4: LUNAR NEW YEAR: Multi-Rhythmic Design.

The Dragon will come at the sound of the drum!

Design staged on a black 17"square pedestal, 37"tall.

*Novice Class:

Only those entrants who have never won a Blue Ribbon in a GCFM sponsored flower show are eligible to enter.

-All designs are staged on a 6" riser.

-All staging is painted sage green (ex: BMoore 458, 460) except for Class 4 where the staging is painted black.

Required: 4 Classes, each with 4 entries.

There are TWO entry dates for Design.
Friday, October 4, and Wednesday, October 9.



To Enter, please scan the code below with you smart phone
to go to **SignUp Genius**



or enter >

[https://www.signupgenius.com/
go/10C0E48ACAA29A6FCC07-49843537-lets#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E48ACAA29A6FCC07-49843537-lets#/)

in your browser tab

Entry Day 1 - Friday, October 4th.

Design entries accepted from 7 - 10 am.

Horticulture entries accepted from 7 - 10 am.

Removal is October 8th, 7 - 8 pm.

Entry Day 2 - Wednesday, October 9th.

Design entries accepted from 7 - 10 am.

Horticulture entries accepted from 7 - 10 am.

Removal is October 15th from 9 am - 2 pm.

For questions or help completing the SignUp Genius form,
call or text Nancy Mann at 978-430-2743 or Pat Fleming 508-846-0522,
or email flowershowcommittee@gmail.com