



## *“Let’s Party”*

### **AN NGC HORTICULTURE SPECIALTY FLOWER SHOW**

Presented by

**The Springfield Garden Club**

at

**Historic Forest Park Springfield, Massachusetts**

**In the ‘Old Monkey House’**

**Entrance at 200 Trafton Road off Dickinson Street, Springfield, MA 01108**

**Free & Open to the Public with Admission to the Park**

**Friday, October 10, 2025, 2 pm–5 pm**

**Saturday, October 11, 2025, 9 am–4 pm**

**Member of:**

**National Garden Clubs, Inc.: Donna Donnelly, President**

**New England Garden Clubs, Inc.: Polly Brooks, Regional Director**

**Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc.: Kim Edwards, President**

**Western & Central South District: Jill Dore, District Director**

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***We wish to especially acknowledge the help and support of:  
Springfield Mayor Dominic Sarno  
Thomas Ashe, Director of Parks, Buildings and Recreation,  
Deputy Parks Director Peter Krupczak, and his entire Staff***

## Committee Chairs

|                                      |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>General Co-Chairs</b>             | Beate Bolen<br>Suzanne Reed                                  | <a href="mailto:beatebolen@gmail.com">beatebolen@gmail.com</a><br><a href="mailto:suzreed54@gmail.com">suzreed54@gmail.com</a>   |
| <b>Schedule Committee</b>            | Beate Bolen,<br>Janet Dolder,<br>Jamie Hall,<br>Suzanne Reed | <a href="mailto:beatebolen@gmail.com">beatebolen@gmail.com</a><br><a href="mailto:janet@dolder.us">janet@dolder.us</a><br><a href="mailto:jrhletters@aol.com">jrhletters@aol.com</a><br><a href="mailto:suzreed54@gmail.com">suzreed54@gmail.com</a> |
| <b>Staging</b>                       | Evan Bandouveres<br>Paul Gonzalez<br>Al Whitehouse           | <a href="mailto:Maryellen6112@gmail.com">Maryellen6112@gmail.com</a><br><a href="mailto:teresagonzales@earthlink.net">teresagonzales@earthlink.net</a><br><a href="mailto:Alfred.whitehouse@gmail.com">Alfred.whitehouse@gmail.com</a>               |
| <b>Horticulture - Entry</b>          | Janet Dolder   | <a href="mailto:janet@dolder.us">janet@dolder.us</a>   |
| <b>Horticulture - Classification</b> | Nora Santourian<br>Elizabeth Stevens                         | <a href="mailto:Gardenkeeper618@aol.com">Gardenkeeper618@aol.com</a><br><a href="mailto:cnmstevens@comcast.net">cnmstevens@comcast.net</a>   |
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| <b>Education – Entry</b>             | Judy Cmero   | <a href="mailto:Jacmr2013@gmail.com">Jacmr2013@gmail.com</a>   |
| <b>Judges</b>                        | Vana Nespor  | <a href="mailto:vana.nespor@gmail.com">vana.nespor@gmail.com</a>   |
| <b>Clerks</b>                        | Fidele Malloy  | <a href="mailto:Fidele.malloy@gmail.com">Fidele.malloy@gmail.com</a>   |
| <b>Awards</b>                        | Janine Boland  | <a href="mailto:J9boland@gmail.com">J9boland@gmail.com</a>   |
| <b>Publicity</b>                     | Mary Bandouveres   | <a href="mailto:Maryellen6112@gmail.com">Maryellen6112@gmail.com</a>   |
| <b>Photography</b>                   | Mary Bandouveres<br>Ruth Christiansen<br>Brian Sheehy        | <a href="mailto:Maryellen6112@gmail.com">Maryellen6112@gmail.com</a><br><a href="mailto:Ruth15090@yahoo.com">Ruth15090@yahoo.com</a><br><a href="mailto:Bsheehy85@gmail.com">Bsheehy85@gmail.com</a>   |
| <b>Hospitality</b>                   | Hope Lewis   | <a href="mailto:hopetlewis@gmail.com">hopetlewis@gmail.com</a>   |
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## General Rules

1. "Let's Party!" is an NGC Horticulture Specialty Flower Show and conforms to the standards established by National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC). The Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017 Edition, Revised July, 2024, is the authority for all issues not covered by the Schedule, which is the law of the show.
2. Division I-Horticulture and Division II- Education are open to any NGC Garden Club member
3. Entry cards are available from the General Chairs (Beate Bolen, [beatebolen@gmail.com](mailto:beatebolen@gmail.com) and Suzanne Reed [suzreed54@gmail.com](mailto:suzreed54@gmail.com)).
4. Entry dates:
  - a. Horticulture: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 2:00 – 4:00 pm and Thursday, October 9, 2025, 7:30 am - 9:30 am
  - b. Education: Thursday, October 9, 2025, 7:30 - 9:30 am
5. Removal date: Saturday, October 11, 2025, 4:30 – 6:30 pm
6. Judging begins: Thursday, October 9th, 2025, 11:30 am
7. An Exhibitor's meeting will be held on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 3 PM
8. There must be an emphasis on FRESH plant material.
9. No artificial plant material is permitted in any division.
10. The Classification Chairs for each Division check exhibits for conformity to the schedule prior to judging. Final determination for conformance is the judges' responsibility.
11. The General and Classification Chairs 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.
12. The decisions of the judges are final. Awards may be withheld if not merited.
13. Each exhibitor is limited to one entry per class except in the Horticulture Division.
14. Wild collected plants of species listed by the Massachusetts Heritage program may not be used. Cultivated plant material appearing on the list are allowed if the exhibitor provides a card noting that it was not wild collected. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/printable-list-of-endangered-threatened-and-special-concern-species/download>
15. Plants listed on the Massachusetts Dept. of Agricultural Resources Prohibited Plant List may not be exhibited in this flower show. The list can be found at: <https://massnrc.org/mipag/invasive.htm>
16. Springfield Garden Club will strive to assure the safety of all items after placement but is not responsible for any loss or damage to the exhibits.

## Awards Being Offered in the Show

The NGC Standard System of Awarding will be used in all divisions (*Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 5.)

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Only one first (blue) ribbon per class or subclass                        | Must score 90 or |
| above. Only one second (red) ribbon per class or subclass                 | Must score 85 or |
| above. Only one third (yellow) ribbon per class or subclass               | Must score 80 or |
| above. One or more Honorable Mention (white) as merited                   | Must score 75 or |
| above. Note: Multiple 90+ awards may be given in each class if warranted. |                  |

### **NGC Top Exhibitor Awards**

Top Exhibitor Awards must be blue ribbon winners scoring 95 or above.

**Horticulture Awards** For complete requirements, refer to the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 5.

**The Award of Horticultural Excellence** is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon exhibit scoring 95 or above in Division I - Horticulture. It is a rosette of green, blue and orange ribbons.

**The Award of Merit** is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon exhibit scoring 95 or above in Section A Classes 1-4, Section B Classes 5-8, Section D Classes 13-18, Section G Classes 27-30, and Section H Classes 31-35. One award is available per Section. Five (5) awards are available. It is a rosette of orange ribbons.

**The Collector's Showcase Award is offered** for collections and displays consisting of 3 or more classes, of all collections or all displays, with each specimen within the exhibit scoring 95 points or more; scores for the specimens are not averaged. Section C Classes 9-12 are eligible. One (1) award is available. It is a rosette of brown and green ribbons.

**The Elfin Award** is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon exhibit scoring 95 or above in Section E, Classes 19-22 are eligible. One (1) award is available. It is a small rosette of chartreuse and purple ribbons.

**The Grower's Choice Award** is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon exhibit scoring 95 or above in Section F Classes 23-26 and Section J Classes 40-43 are eligible. One award is available per Section. Two (2) awards are available. It is a rosette of dark green ribbons.

**The Arboreal Award** is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon exhibit scoring 95 or above in Section I Classes 36-39. One (1) award is available. It is a rosette of green ribbons

**Education Award** For complete requirements, refer to the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 5.

**The Educational Top Exhibitor Award** is offered to the blue-ribbon exhibit scoring 95 or above in Division II. It is a rosette of brown and white ribbons. One award is available. Exhibits 1-2 are eligible.

## Division I - Horticulture Division Rules

1. The NGC Horticulture Exhibit Policies are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, 2017 Edition, Revised July, 2024 Chapter 6, "Exhibiting in the Horticulture Division."
2. 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*.
3. In order to receive an NGC Top Award, the exhibitor must identify his/her entry by its binomial name or currently accepted scientific designation (Consult *Handbook for Flower Shows*.) Exhibiting in the Horticulture Division, Chapter 6.) Common names may be added in parentheses.
4. Entry cards available at the show or in advance from the General Chairs (Beate Bolen, [beatebolen@gmail.com](mailto:beatebolen@gmail.com) and Suzanne Reed, [suzreed54@gmail.com](mailto:suzreed54@gmail.com)) or the Horticulture Chair, Janet Dolder [janet@dolder.us](mailto:janet@dolder.us)
5. Entry cards are to be filled out in advance if possible, using return address labels, pencil or waterproof ink. If handwritten, the scientific or binomial name must be underlined. If typed, it must be italicized. (Refer to the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 6 for a correctly filled out entry card.)
6. Exhibitors may have more than one entry per class if each is a different species, variety, type, cultivar, or color.
7. Cut specimens should not have foliage below the water line except for gladiolus
8. 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.
9. Specimens with a class designation in the schedule may not be entered in the "Any Other Worthy" class.
10. All plant material must be fresh and in the possession of the exhibitor for the appropriate number of days: Annuals, perennials 90 days; Combination plantings - 6 weeks growing together.
11. Committee will provide clean, clear, colorless glass containers, and white cotton wedging if needed for each cut exhibit in Sections A, B, D and H unless otherwise noted. Exhibitors may provide their own clean, clear, colorless glass containers.
12. Petite Horticulture Containers have the same requirements as standard size specimens and should be sized accordingly.
13. Pebbles or glass marbles may be used as ballast for top-heavy specimens to improve stability. These weights must not obscure the stem.
14. All tables in Division I Horticulture will be covered with white tablecloths provided by the Committee.
15. The Horticulture Classification Chair and/or General Show Chair have the authority to subdivide classes by color, form, size, cultivar, variety or other distinguishing characteristics.
16. The Classification Chair must initial all entries before placement.
17. The Scales of Points for Horticulture are located in Chapter 14 of the *Handbook for Flower Shows*.
18. Plants listed on the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Prohibited Plant List may not be exhibited in this flower show. The list can be found at: <https://www.massnrc.org/mipag/invasive.htm>.

Division I: Horticulture  
“Let's all celebrate and have a good time”  
(*Eligible for Award of Horticultural Excellence*)

Section A “Garden of Dancing Flowers” (*Eligible for Award of Merit*)  
Annual in New England, grown for Flowers, single cut stem

- Class 1     *Dahlia*  
Single disbudded bloom with one set of leaves
- Class 2     *Tagetes* (Marigold)  
Single stem, three (3) leaves required, no side shoots
- Class 3     *Zinnia*  
Two (2) sets of leaves for large & medium, one (1) set for small
- Class 4     Any other worthy specimen.

Section B “Date with the Mad Hatter” (*Eligible for Award of Merit*)  
Annual in New England, grown for Foliage, cut specimen, one stem

- Class 5     *Begonia*
- Class 6     *Colocasia esculenta* (Elephant ear)
- Class 7     *Plectranthus scutellarioides* (Coleus)  
Single stem, minimum three (3) sets leaves required
- Class 8     Any Other Worthy Specimen

Section C “Royal Flush Card Party” (*Eligible for Collector’s Showcase Award*)

Perennial or annual collections grown for foliage. Pre-registration is required – an exhibit of specimens judged for their cultural perfection: a minimum of five (5) different specimens (cut and/or container grown), exhibited in individual containers, or with the appearance of being individually exhibited. Specimens must be related, such as all one (1) plant family. The Exhibitor must provide a card stating the plant relationships. Staging containers must be compatible and furnished by the Exhibitor. Each specimen must be correctly and clearly labeled with the current scientific designation, and in a manner to easily identify the specimen’s location in the collection.

This may be done with a single chart or individual placards. Individual specimen scores in the collection are NOT averaged; the lowest scoring specimen in the Collection will determine the highest ribbon possible for the exhibit. Display space limited to 24” square maximum.

- Class 9     *Hosta*
- Class 10    *Heuchera* (Coral Bells)
- Class 11    (Ferns)
- Class 12    Any other worthy specimen

Section D 'Royal Family Receiving Line"

(Eligible for Award of Merit)

Flowering perennial, cut specimen, one stem

Class 13     *Symphyotrichum* (Aster)

Class 14     *Chrysanthemum*

Single, disbudded bloom (one flower per stem) with at least three leaves or as a spray with many flowers per stem

Class 15     *Rosa* (Rose)

Two sets of leaves required

Class 16     *Rudbeckia* (black-eyed Susan)

Class 17     Any other worthy specimen

Section E "Elves and Fairies Ball"  
*Award)*

(Eligible for Elfin

Petite (naturally small growth, or those designated as dwarf or miniature varieties or cultivars by nurseries or plant societies). Container Grown. Container not to exceed 4" diameter.

Class 18 *Orchidaceae* (Miniature Orchid)

Class 19 *Begonia* (Miniature Begonia)

Class 20 *Streptocarpus section Saintpaulia* (Miniature African Violet)

Class 21 Any other worthy specimen.

Section F "Autumn Garden Party"

(Eligible for Grower's Choice Award)

Combination Plantings; container not to exceed 12" diameter. A grouping of three or more botanically different plants with similar cultural requirements. Exhibitor provides the container, and must provide a diagram of plant placement on the materials card

Class 22 Planter (a grouping of plants in an indoor or outdoor container)

Class 23 Dish Garden (miniature landscape in a low shallow container- maximum 6" deep)

Class 24 Terrarium

Class 25 Any other worthy specimen



Section G “Tailgate Picnic“

*(Eligible for Award of Merit)*

Vegetables – Should be at right stage of maturity for best taste and quality; table-ready for consumption; specimen quantities determined by size of vegetables in each class, no stems required, and staged on an appropriately sized paper plate supplied by the Committee

- Class 26: Capsicum (pepper), 3 specimens
- Class 27: Cucurbit (squash), one specimen if exhibiting winter squash/pumpkin; three (3) specimens if exhibiting zucchini/yellow squash
- Class 28: Solanum lycopersicum (tomato), three (3) specimens for single-size, or 12 specimens for small cherry/grape-sized tomatoes
- Class 29: Any Other Worthy Specimen

Section H “Bouquet Garni” Kitchen Party

*(Eligible for Award of Merit)*

Herbs – one cut stem

- Class 30: Petroselinum crispum (parsley)
- Class 31: Rosmarinus officinalis (rosemary)
- Class 32: Salvia officinalis (sage)
- Class 33: Thymus (thyme)
- Class 34: Any Other Worthy Specimen

Section I “Beltane Celebration”

*(Eligible for Arboreal Award)*

Broadleaf evergreens: (single branch, no more than 30” in length, including an apical tip, central leader and several nodes) displayed in the exhibitors’ own clear glass container

- Class 35: Buxus (boxwood)
- Class 36: Leucothoe
- Class 37: Rhododendron
- Class 38: Any Other Worthy Specimen

Section J “Octoberfest”

*(Eligible for Grower’s Choice Award)*

Container grown plants – single species grown in container; indoor/outdoor, container not to exceed 10” diameter.

- Class 39: Begonia
- Class 40: Cactus/ Succulent
- Class 41: Orchid
- Class 42: Any Other Worthy Specimen

## Section K 'Flash Dance'

### Challenge Classes

Container grown from bulbs provided by committee, 8" diameter containers provided by the committee

Class 43      Caladium 'Red Flash'

Class 44:     Caladium 'White Queen'

Cut specimen, single disbudded bloom with one set of leaves grown from tuberous roots provided by committee:

Class 45:     Dahlia 'Café au Lait'

Class 46:     Dahlia 'Purple Taiheijo'

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## Division II - Education Rules

1. Education Exhibits may be the work of more than one individual or organization unless a Student Judge or an Accredited Judge is seeking exhibiting credit for preparing an education exhibit.
2. An exhibit must occupy a minimum of 18 sq. ft. of surface area.
3. Some plant material is required in each exhibit.
4. The committee will provide a table for each exhibit measuring 6' x 30." It will be covered with a white tablecloth provided by the committee.
5. Advanced registration with the Education Entries Chair, Judy Cmero is required by September 15, 2025.
6. The Scale of Points for Education Exhibits is listed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 14.

Division II: Education  
“Pollinator Fiesta”  
*(Eligible for Educational Top Exhibitor Award)*

Exhibit 1 “Pollinators and the Plants They Love”

Pollination is the process of carrying pollen from one flower to another. It is essential for the production of many fruits, vegetables, and seeds. While bees are often the first pollinators that come to mind, this display highlights many of the other animals that also act as pollinators and the Massachusetts native wildflowers that rely on these pollinators as much as the pollinators rely on them.

Exhibit 2 “Every Party Needs a Pollinator”

This exhibit asks – and answers – Who is on the guest list for a Pollinator Party? What do pollinators do when they are not partying? And what can you do to attract them to your next party? The answers include a definition of “pollinator” and “pollination,” identification of some of the pollinators and the flowers they are attracted to, as well as a description of the parts of a flower.

Exhibit 3 “To Bee or Not to Bee”

This display demonstrates with background text and graphics why bee pollination is important and how and why the bee populations have declined. Live examples of the flowering plants and flora which attract these particular pollinators will show what gardeners can do to help reverse this decline.



*The Old Monkey House*

## Forest Park

Since 1873, Forest Park in Springfield Massachusetts, has been an oasis of peace and tranquility, covering 735 acres of historic land overlooking the Connecticut River. Its design was influenced by the renowned landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, and features the unique aquatic gardens of the Everett Barney Estate, an outdoor amphitheater, a formal rose garden, Victorian promenades, the Romanesque-style Trolley Pavilion, numerous sculptures and a beautifully landscaped banquet facility at the historic Barney Carriage House. The Park's miles of flowing streams along scenic trails and ravines make it a haven for hikers and nature lovers during all seasons of New England. Other year-round and seasonal family fun activities include a zoo, team sports at Walker Grandstand, tennis, basketball and lawn bowling, hockey and public skating at Cyr Arena, sledding, cross country skiing and "Bright Nights at Forest Park" (a Holiday techno light show). Generations of Pioneer Valley residents and their families have enjoyed Forest Park's beauty, expanse and rich history.