



AN NGC PETITE DESIGN SPECIALTY SHOW

Presented by The Judges' Council
Of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc.
at the
Framingham Public Library, Main Branch
49 Lexington Street, Framingham, MA

Friday, June 12 - Sunday, June 21, 2026

Free & Open to the Public During Library Hours

Members of the National Garden Clubs, Inc., New England Garden Clubs, Inc., and
Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc.





May these miniature arrangements remind us that our country started 250 years ago as a Tiny Nation. A place where natural beauty, quiet resilience, and bold courage took root and bloomed into a great republic, a true democracy, and an inspiration to the world in 1776.

Table of Contents

Committee Chairs	3
General Rules:.....	4
Awards	5
Division I: Design Division Rules	6
Division I: Design "The Colony of Massachusetts"	7
Division II: Education Rules:.....	8
Division II: Education "Tiny Creatures Enrich a New Nation"	8

Committee Chairs

General Chair	Jill Malcolm Advisor: Lisa Pattinson	Jillyjill07@comcast.net Lisa.pattinson@gmail.com
Schedule Co-Chairs	Vana Nesor, Lisa Pattinson, Betsy Szymczak	Vana.nesor@gmail.com Lisa.pattinson@gmail.com szymczakb@gmail.com
Staging Chair	Valerie Howes Advisor: Lisa Pattinson	vlhgarden@gmail.com Lisa.pattinson@gmail.com
Design Entries' Chair	Sarah Papajohn Advisor: Lisa Pattinson	spapajohn@gmail.com Lisa.pattinson@gmail.com
Design Classification Co-Chairs	Joy DiMaggio Advisors: Cathie Healy	Jmarykay2@outlook.com Lafleure55@yahoo.com
Education Entries' Chair	Vana Nesor	Vana.nesor@gmail.com
Judges' Chair	Suzanne McCance Advisor: Ruth Evans	suzannemccance@gmail.com ruhev@aol.com
Clerks' Chair	Jen Mank Advisor: Nancy Costa	Jenmank4@gmail.com Ncosta71@hotmail.com
Tabulation Chair	Jill Malcolm Betsy Szymczak	Jillyjill07@comcast.net szymczakb@gmail.com
Awards' Chair	Jane Davis Advisor: Kathy Hawes	Jc.davis11@verizon.com Kmh4383@gmail.com
Photography Chair & Award Applications	Joan Marie Driscoll Advisor: Beate Bolen	joanaire@gmail.com beatebolen@gmail.com

General Rules:

1. "A Tiny Nation Blooms" is an NGC Petite Design Specialty Flower Show and is staged according to the rules of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. using as its authority the *Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017 Edition. Revised July 2020 – 2026*. <https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2025-07/fs-hanbook-2025.pdf>
2. Division I - The Design Division is open all levels of NGC Judges and Flower Show Students.
3. Division II - Educational Exhibits are open to any individual or organization.
4. Each exhibitor is limited to one entry per class.
5. Entry date & time: Design & Education: Friday, June 12, 2026, 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM.
6. Judging begins: Friday, June 12, 2026 at 11:00 AM.
7. Removal date: Sunday, June 21, 2026 at 4:00 PM.
8. An Exhibitor's meeting will be held by Video Conference on May 21 at 7:00 pm.
9. There must be an emphasis on FRESH plant material. 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. However, the Framingham Public Library is open to the public during this time. Every effort will be made by the General and Classification Chairs to ensure privacy for the judging process.
12. The decisions of the judges are final. Awards may be withheld if not merited.
13. 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. List: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/printable-list-of-endangered-threatened-and-special-concern-species/download>
14. 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>
15. We will strive to assure the safety of all items after placement but are not responsible for any loss or damage to the exhibits.

Awards

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.

Design Awards

For complete requirements, refer to the *Handbook of Flower Shows*, Chapter 5.

The Award of Design Excellence is offered to the highest scoring blue-ribbon exhibit scoring 95 or above in Division I - Design. It is a rosette of gold ribbons.

The Tricolor Award is offered to the highest scoring blue-ribbon exhibit scoring 95 or above in Section A, Classes 1-3. It is a rosette of red, yellow and blue ribbons.

The Designer's Choice Award is offered to the highest scoring blue-ribbon exhibit scoring 95 or above in Section B. A second award is given to the highest scoring blue-ribbon exhibit scoring 95 or above in Section D. It is a rosette of purple ribbons.

Award of Distinction is offered to the blue-ribbon winner scoring 95 points or more in Section C, Classes 7-9. All plant material used must be dried and or treated, but not fresh. It is a rosette of brown ribbons.

Education Awards

For complete requirements, refer to the *Handbook of 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. Exhibits 1-2 are eligible.

Division I: Design Division Rules

1. The NGC Design Policies/Rules are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 7, Exhibiting in the Design Division, NGC Policies and Guidelines.
2. This is a Petite Design Specialty Show which means that all designs in this show are required to be twelve (12) inches or smaller in every direction.
3. Advance registration is required through Signup Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0448A8A82FA3FCC43-62820541-atinylation> or with Design Entries Chair by Friday, May 15, 2026.
4. All plant material used in a design must be identified on a card, by common name, provided by the exhibitor and included with the entry tag. The plant material list must be reviewed by the Design Classification Chair before the Designer leaves their placement.
5. The exhibitor is required to conform to the stated description and limitations of the Petite Design Type if named in the class.
6. Rules for Design Types and Advanced Design Types are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 7.
7. The Scale of Points for Design is listed in the *Handbook for Flower Show*, Chapter 14.
8. Plant material need not have been grown by the exhibitor.
9. Fresh plant material may not be treated in any manner. Dried plant material may be treated. *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 7.
10. All designs must be the work of one individual.
11. If a Designer is unable to fulfill her/his assignment, it is the Designer's responsibility to find a replacement.
12. The Designer is on her/his honor that the Design being entered has not been previously judged in an NGC Flower Show.
13. Exhibits may be completed at home or in the show area.
14. Use of floral foam such as Oasis should be kept to a minimum.
15. The staging serves as the frame of reference for each exhibit. Exhibitors may **NOT** add color or texture to the staging provided by the committee **EXCEPT** for Section C. Color and/or texture added to designs in Section C shall not exceed the frame of reference. Such additions will be judged as part of the Design. No pins or nails may be used to attach materials to the inside of Section C staging

Division I: Design “The Colony of Massachusetts”

Section A “Wilderness Awaits”

(Tricolor Award)

All fresh plant material required. Staging provided by the committee. Four entries per class.

Class 1 “Colorful Trails” Line-Mass Design.

Frame of reference: White staging consisting of a 7”x7” board with a 7”x7” back panel. Staging will be placed on a structure to be viewed at approximately 47” from the floor.

Class 2 “Dancing Waterfalls” Multi-Rhythmic Design

Frame of reference: White staging consisting of a 10”x10” board with a 10”x10” back panel. Staging will be placed on a structure to be viewed at approximately 40” from the floor.

Class 3 “Shady Woods” All-Foliage Design.

Frame of reference: White staging consisting of a 12”x12” board with a 12”x12” back panel. Staging will be placed on a structure to be viewed at approximately 47” from the floor.

Section B “The Bay Beckons”

(Designer’s Choice Award)

Fresh or Dried plant material. Staging provided by the committee. Four entries per class.

Class 4 “Light Houses Soar” Parallel Design

Frame of reference: Staged on a 10”x10” board with a 10”x10” back panel painted Benjamin Moore Wickham gray. Staging will be placed on a structure to be viewed at approximately 54” from the floor.

Class 5 “Sails Fill the Horizon” Panel Design

Frame of reference: Staged on a 12”x12” board with a 12”x12” back panel painted Benjamin Moore Wickham gray. Staging will be placed on a structure to be viewed at approximately 54” from the floor.

Class 6 “The Bay Path” Creative Low-Profile Design

(Design must be 4 times longer than wide or high. Designer must use and identify on entry card the use of 3 or more advanced techniques.) Design not to exceed 12” long x 3” wide. Designs to be staged on a black board measuring 13”x13” with a back panel measuring 13”x13” that will hold the entry card. Staging will be on a tabletop.

Section C “Boston”

(Award of Distinction)

All plant material used must be dried and or treated, but not fresh. Staging provided by the committee. All designs in this Section are staged in a white niche 12” square and 50” from the floor. Please refer to Item 15 of the Design Division Rules for further information. Four entries per class.

Class 7 “The Tea Party” A Traditional Design

The white front panel has a 9½” round opening which begins ½” from base of the niche.

Class 8 “Old North Church” A Vertical Design

The white front panel has a 9½” round opening which begins ½” from base of the niche.

Class 9 “Faneuil Hall” A Design

The white front panel has a 6½” round opening which begins ½” from base of the niche.

Section D "The Trades"

(Designer's Choice Award)

Fresh or Dried plant material. Staging provided by the committee. Four entries per class.

Class 10 "Carpenters" An Angular Design

Frame of reference: White staging consisting of a 10"x10" board with a 10"x10" back panel. Staging will be placed on a structure to be viewed at approximately 42" from the floor.

Class 11 "The Blacksmiths" A Design

Frame of reference: White staging consisting of a 7"x7" board with a 7"x7" back panel. Staging will be placed on a structure to be viewed at approximately 42" from the floor.

Class 12 "The Silversmiths" A Design

Frame of reference: White staging consisting of a 7"x7" board with a 7"x7" back panel. Staging will be placed on a structure to be viewed at approximately 42" from the floor.

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 the education exhibit.
1. An exhibit must occupy no less than **six (6) square feet** of surface area including any back panels used to display information.
2. The Committee will provide card tables for Exhibits unless the entrant makes prior arrangement to bring their own. Card tables may range up to 48" wide and deep and 28"- 30" high. Underlayment may extend to the floor.
3. Some plant material (Fresh or Dried) is required in each exhibit.
4. Advance registration with the Education Entries Chair is required by May 15, 2026.
5. The scale of points for Education Exhibits is listed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 14.

Division II: Education "Tiny Creatures Enrich a New Nation"

Education Exhibits

(Education Top Exhibitor Award)

Section A "Fragile Insects Ignite Joy and Insure Bounty for the Growing Nation"

Exhibit 1 "The Tiny Monarch Enchanted Settlers with its Life Cycle, Pollination, and Striking Color"

This exhibit captures the Monarch Butterfly life cycle, revealing the startling transformation and beauty of this native, 12,000-year-old, North American important pollinator. All photographs taken by the exhibitor.

Exhibit 2 "Pollinators and the Plants They Love Provide Bounty & Beauty to this Country"

This exhibit celebrates and examines the native pollinators of Massachusetts whose bodies gather the pollen of native plants and food crops that have fed and delighted us for more than 250 years.