



The Rumson Garden Club
(a member of the Garden Club of America)

Presents

A Club Flower Show

October 21, 2025

Rumson Country Club
at the Riverhouse

163 Rumson, Road
Rumson, NJ 07760



The purpose of The Garden Club of America is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening; to share the advantage of association by means of educational meetings, conferences, correspondence and publications; and to restore, improve and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement.

The purpose of the Rumson Garden Club is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening in the fields of horticulture and landscape design; to encourage beauty and form in the arranging of flowers and foliage, the creation of botanical arts, and photography; to teach conservation of natural resources, including the protection of native plants, and to initiate and support community improvements in line with the goals of the Rumson Garden Club and the Garden Club of America.

The purpose of a flower show is threefold: to set standards of artistic and horticultural excellence; to broaden knowledge of horticulture, floral design, conservation, photography and other related areas; and to share the beauty of a show with fellow club members and with the public.

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TIMETABLE FOR EXHIBITORS

June 1, 2025	Horticulture – Three-month ownership deadline for Ritchie Moore propagation award
October 1, 2025	Floral Design registration opens
October 7, 2025	Photography registration deadline
October 14, 2025	Photography entries passed
October 19, 2025	Floral Design registration deadline
Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 8:00 am – 9:00 am	Floral Design and Horticulture entries accepted and passed

On the day of the Show, Tuesday, October 21, 2025:

8:00 am – 9:00 am	Floral Design entries accepted and passed
9:15 am	Judges briefing
9:30 am	Judging begins
1:00 pm	Show closes
2:00 pm	All entries must be removed

FLOWER SHOW COMMITTEE

Chairs and Co-Chairs:

Club President

Heather Robinson, 917-626-3848

Division Chairs

Division I Floral Design

Louisa Renn, 732-859-4418
Mary Jane O'Hare, 973-945-3855
Stella Ryan, 732-718-0332
Betsy Ford, 732-245-4555
Piper Leddy, 732-859-0734
Gail Van Winkle, 732-233-1955
Mary Brodsky, 732-687-8149

Division II Horticulture

Division III Photography

Awards

Wendy Wilt, 732-233-6150
Avery Brighton, 732-859-1551

Judges, Passers and Clerks

Elaine Eadon, 732-778-4400

Staging

Laura Haaren, 732-616-1271
Lisa Attallah, 732-991-0854

Show Photographer / Publicity

Pari Harrison, 732-915-3051
Tilden Wilt, 732-859-1552

Registration

Division I Floral Design
Division II Horticulture
Division III Photography

Louisa Renn, 732-859-4418
Betsy Ford, 732-245-4555
Gail Van Winkle, 732-233-1955

Signage/Graphics/Printing

N/A

Hospitality

N/A

GCA RULES

1. Please carefully read and follow GCA Flower Show Rules, General Information, and Division Guidelines. All rules as stated in *The Garden Club of America Flower Show and Judging Guide (FS & JG)*, 2025 edition, shall apply.
2. All plant material must be correctly identified with the botanical and common names, if possible. Accepted references for nomenclature are:
 - a. Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder at <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx>
 - b. Royal Horticultural Society - Find a Plant at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/search-Form>
 - c. [Botanical Nomenclature](#) - GCA Flower Show Committee
3. The Garden Club of America expects all exhibitors to be aware of the need to promote the conservation of endangered and threatened plants. Plants collected in the wild and listed by the New Jersey Natural Heritage Program may not be exhibited in any flower show sponsored by a GCA club. Cultivated plant material listed by New Jersey's Natural Heritage Program may be exhibited if accompanied by a typed card stating that it has not been collected from the wild or that it was collected out-of-state and giving information concerning its cultural requirements and methods of propagation. Natural Heritage Program lists of endangered plant material will be available before and during the show from the division chairs and are available online at <https://plants.usda.gov/home/raritySearch>
4. Plant material showing evidence of insects or disease must be removed immediately from the exhibition area. This rule will be enforced at any time during the show, whenever the problem is identified.
1. Use of the following items is not permitted in Floral Design and Horticulture Divisions: locally endangered or invasive plants, diseased plant material, artificial plant material, live animals of any kind, taxidermy, or anything from or produced by an animal including natural birds' nests, feathers of any kind, bones, coral, hooves, horns, fur, hair (except wool), and shells (sea, turtle, egg, etc.). The Photography Division is exempt from this rule, but all photographs must show respect for the natural world and be taken in an ethically responsible way. Information on invasive plants is available online by searching for New Jersey's list of invasive plants.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Entries are open to all Rumson Garden Club (RGC) members including Provisionals (novice), and professionals in their disciplines, except as noted in the schedule.
2. All designs must be the original work of the exhibitor(s). Although techniques and components may be inspired by other designs, the application of the techniques and components must create an original design that is distinct from the inspiration.
3. Registration is required for all classes, with the exception of those in the Horticulture Division that are weather-dependent (cut specimens, etc.).
4. Classes will be filled in the order registration is received. If there is a limit on the number of classes an exhibitor can enter in a division, it will be specified in the division guidelines.
5. Entering a show constitutes permission to use images of the exhibitor's work in all GCA channels of communication.
6. While The Garden Club of America, the Rumson Garden Club, and the flower show venue will exercise due caution in safeguarding exhibits, responsibility for damage, loss, or personal injury cannot be assumed.
7. Any clarification or change in the rules, as originally stated in the schedule, shall be communicated promptly in writing by the division chairs to all exhibitors in the class and, at the show, to the judges and the passing committee.
8. An entry card must accompany each entry. Entry cards will be available at the show and are available in advance of the show on the Rumson Garden Club website, www.rumsongardenclubnj.org, or upon request from the chairs listed on page 5 of this program. Information required on the entry card can be printed or completed in black waterproof medium. If a sample or key card will be displayed with the entry, it is acceptable to write "See Key card" in lieu of listing plant material on the entry card.
9. ***The passing committee must pass each entry before the exhibitor(s) may leave the show area.*** The passing committee reserves the right to refuse any entry that does not conform to the rules of the schedule. The exhibitor has the option of correcting the entry if time permits. If not corrected, the entry cannot be judged but may remain in place, marked "For Exhibit Only" with a brief, constructively worded statement explaining why it was not judged. Judges may not disqualify any entry passed by the passing committee unless insect infestation or disease is evident.
10. Once an entry is passed, the exhibitor(s) must immediately leave the show floor. The only exception will be the flower show committee members who have entered and been passed according to the timetable. A passed entry may not be touched again by the exhibitor until after judging and then only to carry out necessary maintenance.

11. Only participating judges and clerks will be allowed on the show floor during judging. Flower Show and Division chairs should remain nearby but off the show floor until needed.
12. Containers and accessories should be inconspicuously labeled with the exhibitor's name.
13. For a GCA Flower Show, a "novice" is an exhibitor who has never won first place or GCA Special Award in Floral Design at a Club Show, GCA Flower Show (including GCA Zone and Annual Meeting Flower Shows), GCA Major Flower Show, or Sanctioned non-GCA Major Flower Show. An exhibitor who has won first place or a Special Award in a division is still a novice in the other divisions. Novice award eligibility is marked on the entry card and confirmed at passing.
14. For a RGC *Club* Flower Show, the Rumson Garden Club defines a "regular exhibiting member" as someone who has either earned two first place awards or has accrued at least 16 floral or horticulture class points *in a single show season*. Once an exhibitor has met these requirements, the member's status will change to "regular exhibitor" at the end of the year and will continue for as long as the exhibitor remains a member of the RGC. Until the above criteria is met, a member is considered "novice" for the purpose of exhibiting in a class at a *Club* Flower Show.
15. A Title or Statement of Intent, if required by the class, must be submitted at the time of passing. The statement must be no more than 25 words, typed or printed in black waterproof medium on a 4" X 6" white unlined card.
16. All Judges' decisions are final.
17. All exhibits must remain in place and in show condition until fifteen minutes following the closing time of the show.

DIVISION I

Floral Design Guidelines

1. Please carefully read and follow the GCA Rules, General Information, and Timetable for Exhibitors.
2. Advance registration is required by at least one day prior to the show, unless noted in the schedule. Refer to page 13 of this program for registration guidelines.
3. An exhibitor is permitted only one floral design entry *per show* unless otherwise specified in the floral design schedule.
4. The exhibitor(s) whose name(s) the entry has been registered must create and complete the design. All participants must be listed on the entry card. Only listed exhibitors and show personnel may be on the show floor at the time of entry.
5. No more than two exhibitors may execute a design unless otherwise stated in the schedule.
6. If forced to withdraw, an exhibitor must notify the division chair and class consultant and find a substitute unless there is a waiting list for the class.
7. Designs may be executed off-site and brought to the show completed unless otherwise noted in the floral design schedule.
8. All entries must include fresh and/or dried plant material. Fresh plant material must be in water or conditioned in such a way as to remain in pristine form while on exhibition. Rooted plant material is allowed provided no soil is attached with the exception of a pot-et-fleur class.
9. Mechanics should not be visible unless they are an integral part of the design.
10. Anything not prohibited in the GCA Rules, Floral Design Division Guidelines, or individual class descriptions is permitted.
11. Although permitted, the use of cut fruits and vegetables is discouraged and should be undertaken only with proper treatment to prevent spoilage and insect contamination.
12. Accessories and underlays / overlays are permitted unless otherwise stated in the class description.
13. Floral designs have no height restriction unless otherwise noted.
14. All classes may be subdivided at the discretion of the judges or the show chairs *except* for those for which a Club Award is named.

15. Questions regarding class requirements may be directed to the class consultant and/or division chair.
16. Judging will be based on the principles of design (balance, contrast, dominance, proportion, rhythm, and scale) and the elements of design (light, space, line, form, color, texture, pattern, and size). Creativity, distinction, conformance to and interpretation of the class and schedule are also considered. 2025 FS & JG Book 4, pages 22-27.
17. The Scale of points by which 2025-2026 floral design classes are to be judged are listed below. For types of designs *not* listed below (i.e. abstract, miniature, vignettes, etc.), refer to the FS & JG Book 4: Judging at Flower Shows, 2025 edition, pages 24-48, for applicable scales of points. The FS & JG can be found on the GCA website, www.gcamerica.org.

Applicable DESIGN Scales of Points to be used during the 2025-2026 flower show season:

Traditional and Interpretive Floral Designs

Design	35
Distinction	20
Interpretation	20
Color harmony	15
Conformance	10
Total	100

Period Floral Designs

Design	30
Appropriateness to period	25
Color and textural harmony	20
Conformance	15
Distinction	10
Total	100

Specialty Classes (pressed flowers)

Design	35
Craftsmanship	30
Creativity	15
Interpretation	10
Distinction	10
Total	100

DIVISION I

Floral Design Classes

Flowers Taking Flight - *An Interpretive Design**

ELIZABETH DIMOCK KNAPP TROPHY

A silver bowl awarded to the member with the best *Interpretive* design. The exhibitor awarded *Best in Show* from among the first-place winners will be designated the winner of the Elizabeth Dimock Knapp Trophy.

*“Keep a green tree in your heart and perhaps the singing bird will come.”
- Lois Lowry*

Class 1

(8) Entries

Create a floral design interpreting a favorite or interesting bird. Design is to be staged on a 42” high by 10.5” square black pedestal. Width and depth cannot exceed 8” from center of the pedestal. Viewed and judged from three sides. Feathers are not permitted. A Title or Statement of Intent is required.

Class 2

(6) Entries

Novice. Same as above, however, design is to be staged on a 42” high by 30” round high-top table covered with a white tablecloth. Width and depth cannot exceed the dimensions of the tabletop. Viewed and judged from three sides. Feathers are not permitted. A Title or Statement of Intent is required.

All exhibitors are required to submit a 4” x 6” photo of the bird being interpreted to be displayed with the Entry Card and Title/Statement of Intent.

Pre-registration is required by Sunday, October 19.

Class consultant, Stella Ryan, stellaryan1@aol.com.

* *Interpretive Design*: a design in which components are selected and organized to portray a theme, idea, occasion, mood, or atmosphere; not a design style.” FS & JG, Book 5, p. 7.

DIVISION II

Horticulture Guidelines

1. Please carefully read and follow the GCA Rules, General Information, and Timetable for Exhibitors.
2. Advance registration for certain classes is required when notified by Horticulture Chair.
3. An exhibitor may submit a single entry per class, unless specified in the schedule.
4. Entries must have been owned and grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of three months, unless otherwise stated in the schedule.
5. All rooted entries propagated by the exhibitor must be identified with details of the method and relevant date(s) on an accompanying [propagation card](#).
6. Mats, stands, saucers, stakes, ties, etc., are not allowed. Unobtrusive stakes and ties are allowed.
7. Classes may be subdivided, and entries moved and/or reclassified at the discretion of the show committee and/or the judges. Subdivision is preferable in the schedule rather than on the floor.
8. Containers are measured at the diameter or the diagonal of the widest point on the inside of the rim at the soil line.
9. One key card (diagram or plant list) is required when multiple species or cultivars are exhibited in the same container and/or propagation information is applicable. Key card must be on a 4" x 6" white unlined card completed in black waterproof medium. A 4" x 6" photograph with identifying numbers may be used.
10. Container-grown plants must be exhibited in containers that are clean, unobtrusive, and compatible with the exhibit. Terracotta clay pots are preferred. Other options include stone-like (Hypertufa), wire baskets, slatted orchid baskets, and plants mounted on driftwood. Disguised double potting and top dressing are permitted; top dressing must not float when watered.
11. The Rumson Garden Club will provide containers and wedging materials for all cut specimens unless specifically stated in the schedule.
12. Questions regarding class requirements may be directed to the class consultant and/or the division chair.
13. Scale of points by which the classes are to be judged: (as per *FS & JG Book 4: Judging at Flower Shows, 2025 edition*). Points scale is listed under class description.

DIVISION II

Horticulture Classes

All entries must be properly identified with species and cultivar information.

RITCHIE-MOORE TROPHY

- Class 1 Open to all members. Any plant propagated since June 2025. Clay or plastic pots are permitted. Pots not to exceed 4" in diameter. Maximum three pots per member. Points from October 2025 and May 2026 exhibits will be combined to award the Ritchie-Moore Trophy in June. Propagation cards are required.

FABULOUS FALL FOLIAGE AND FLOWERS

- Class 2 One stem of three different kinds (genera) of herbaceous and/or woody specimens with foliage displayed in **one** RGC container. May contain branches, perennials or grasses. Not to exceed 24" in length or width from lip of container. ***To be judged on the point scale below.
- Class 3 Novice. Same as above.
- Class 4 One stem of a late blooming perennial or annual to be displayed in a RGC container.
- Class 5 Novice. Same as above.
- Class 6 One **native**** late blooming stem or branch with foliage not to exceed 24" in length from the lip of the container to the tip of the branch. To be displayed in one RGC container.
- Class 7 Novice. Same as above.

FOR THE BIRDS

- Class 8 Three to five different kinds (genera) of seed heads, pods, capsules or hips arranged and displayed in ONE RGC glass container. ***To be judged on the point scale listed below.
- Class 9 Novice. Same as above.

THE GRASS ISN'T ALWAYS GREENER

- Class 10 One stem of ornamental grass with inflorescence. Non-native cultivars are permitted. Height may not exceed 24" from the lip of the container to the tip of the branch. Displayed in an RGC container. *Class may be subdivided.*
- Class 11 Novice. Same as above.

PAR

- Class 12 An exhibit of exceptional horticultural merit, which does not qualify for entry elsewhere in the Horticulture Division. Entries in the Par class must have been owned and grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of one year. Cut specimens are not permitted.

* Disbudded: to remove superfluous or unwanted buds from plant

** Native plants, for the purpose of this schedule, will be defined as “native to New Jersey” according to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center or the JerseyYards.org Native Plant Database. Please visit those sites to verify the eligibility of your specimens.

***Scale of Points by which Arrangement is to be judged:

Cultural perfection	40
Design	30
Diversity	20
Key card	<u>10</u>
Total	100

DIVISION III

Photography Guidelines

1. Please carefully read and follow the GCA Rules, General Information, and Timetable for Exhibitors.
2. An exhibitor is permitted only one entry per class.
3. Registration opens October 7, 2025 Entries must be delivered by October 14, 2025.
4. Photographs must be received no later than October 14, 2025. Your registration will be confirmed, and receipt of your photograph will be acknowledged. For information, contact Gail Van Winkle at 732-233-1955.
5. If forced to withdraw, an exhibitor must notify the division chair and class consultant and find a substitute unless there is a waiting list for the class.
6. Photography entries are limited to subjects consistent with The Garden Club of America's interests, including horticulture, floral design, gardens, landscapes, conservation, the environment, historic preservation, civic improvement, and the natural world.
7. No identifiable minor children may be included in photographs.
8. Plant material is strongly encouraged in all photographs.
9. A title/statement of intent is not required.
10. Each photo may only be entered in one show at a time. A photograph previously entered in a Club, GCA, GCA Major, sanctioned non-GCA, or sanctioned non-GCA Major flower show, or *Focus* online contest cannot be re-entered, even with minor edits or reprinting.
11. Any image posted in the *Focus* Gallery or published in *Focus* may not be entered in any show.
12. Photographs not selected as finalists through juried judging may be entered in another show.
13. The exhibitor must have created all of the visual elements of the composition. Inclusion of third party or stock images and use of AI image generators is strictly prohibited. An exhibitor is, however, permitted to use non-representational, commercial textures and overlays.
14. All editing, including, but not limited to: lighting, color, and clarity adjustments; adding and removing visual elements; combining and blending imagery; image distortion, etc., must be the work of the exhibitor.
15. Matting, mounting, and printing may be done professionally.

16. Photographs must be mounted on black single-layer foam core cut to the exact size of the image and may not be over-matted. The surface finish is the choice of the exhibitor. Glass and framing are not permitted.
17. Unless otherwise specified, all photographs must be two-dimensional and printed on paper. All post-production work must be completed before the photograph is printed.
18. Photographs will be hung on a tri-fold with a black background.
19. Each entry must have the submission form affixed to the back of the photograph mounting with the class entered, exhibitor's name, garden club, zone, email, address, phone number, and novice status. The top of the photograph must be indicated. A second loose copy of the submission form should be mailed with the entry.
20. The division chair will provide an entry card to be staged with each photograph.
21. All entries will be passed by two members of the show's Photography Committee or the Photography judging program to verify that class specifications have been met. If a photograph is not passed, the exhibitor will be notified and allowed, if time permits, to send a replacement photograph.
22. Questions regarding class requirements may be directed to the class consultant and/or division chair.
23. Information on entering photographs, including mailing instructions, can be found on the [GCA Photography Committee page](#).
24. Eligible winning images may be [submitted to the Focus Gallery](#).
25. Scale of points by which classes are to be judged (as per *FS & JG Book 4: Judging at Flower Shows, 2025 edition*).

For Photography classes

Creativity	25
Composition	25
Technical skill	20
Interpretation	20
Distinction	<u>10</u>
Total	100

DIVISION III

Photography Classes

Class 1	Amber Waves of Grain	Four Entries
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A color photo of native grasses that create beautiful autumn colors in the garden and across our land

Class 2	Novice, same as Class 1	Four Entries
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Class	Topic	Number of Entries
Class 3	America in Nature	Four Entries

A color photo of a furry, fluffy or slithery friend enjoying nature, in your yard or across Monmouth County.

Class 4	Novice, same as Class 3	Four Entries
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CLUB FLOWER SHOW AWARDS

GCA Club Show Awards:

Best in Show, selected from among the first-place winners, may be awarded in each division.

Judges' Commendation may be given to an entry, class, section, special exhibit or other aspect of the show that is of exceptional merit.

Rumson Garden Club Awards:

Division I - Floral

Club Award for Interpretive Design - the Elizabeth Dimock Knapp Trophy.

A silver bowl awarded to the member exhibiting the best *Interpretive* design. The exhibitor awarded Best in Show will be designated the winner of the Elizabeth Dimock Knapp Trophy.

Division II – Horticulture

Club Award for Propagation – the Ritchie-Moore Trophy.

A silver bowl awarded to the member for the best results from a propagation workshop or a previously determined schedule.

DIVISION I

Floral Design Registration Form

Registration Deadline: Sunday, October 19, 2025. Open to all members. Classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis until full.

Copy and email registration information to *ONE* of the following:

Louisa Renn, louisarenn@gmail.com,
Mary Jane O'Hare, ohare.maryjane@gmail.com,
Stella Ryan, stellaryan1@aol.com,
Bonnie Torcivia, bltorcivia@gmail.com.

As receipt of registration and confirmation of entry into the class, each exhibitor will receive an email with the attached GCA-approved RGC Club Flower Show Program Schedule. This Schedule includes the Class description, staging requirements, and all GCA rules regarding showing in the class. Please review carefully prior to starting the design process.

Flower Show Date:

Registration Date / Time:

Name:

Tel:

Email:

Co-Exhibitor(s):

Novice: **Yes**
 No

Class Title

1st Choice:

2nd Choice:

DIVISION III

Photography Registration Form

Registration Deadline: October 7, 2025

Email to: Gail Van Winkle, gailfvw@gmail.com

Date:

Name:

Garden Club and Zone

Address:

Tel:

Email:

Class Number

Class Title

1st Choice:

2nd Choice:

Novice? Yes/No

For this show, a novice is an exhibitor who has never won first place or GCA Special Award in Photography at a Club or GCA (including GCA Zone and Annual Meeting flower shows), GCA Major, sanctioned non-GCA, or sanctioned non-GCA Major flower show. If your novice status changes before the date of this show, please notify the division chair and the class consultant.

Information on entering photographs can be found on the [GCA Photography Committee page](#).



PHOTOGRAPHY SUBMISSION FORM



Photograph Delivery Deadline: October 14, 2025

Please complete two submission forms per photograph. Affix one form to the back of the mounting and include the second loose form with the entry.

Send the photograph to: Gail Van Winkle, 51 Lippincott Road, Little Silver

Class entered:

Name:

Garden Club and Zone

Email:

Address:

Tel:

Plant material (botanical and common names):

Title:

Novice? Yes/No

For this show, a novice is an exhibitor who has never won first place or GCA Special Award in Photography at a GCA, GCA Major, sanctioned non-GCA, or sanctioned non-GCA Major flower show. If your novice status changes before the date of this show, please notify the division chair or class consultant.

Requesting the photograph returned? YES/NO

If the photograph is to be returned, the exhibitor must provide a self-addressed return label, return postage/prepaid shipping label, and packing material/container