



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

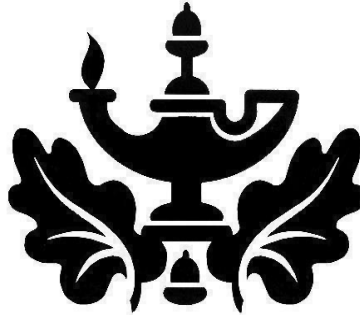
**Presents**

***A Club Flower Show***

April 21, 2026

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**

**April 1, 2026**          Floral Design registration opens

**April 19, 2026**        Floral Design registration deadline

## **On the day of the Show, Tuesday, April 21, 2026:**

**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

Division II Horticulture

Betsy Ford, 732-245-4555

Piper Leddy, 732-859-0734

### **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

Louisa Renn, 732-859-4418

Division II Horticulture

Betsy Ford, 732-245-4555

### **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.
5. Use of the following items is not permitted in Floral Design Classes: locally endangered or invasive plants, diseased plant material, artificial plant material, live animals of any kind, taxidermy, natural birds' nests, feathers of any kind, coral, hooves, horns, fur, hair (except wool), shells (sea, turtle, egg, etc.) Information on invasive plants is available online at <https://plants.usda.gov/home/noxiousInvasiveSearch>

## 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 by emailing or calling the contact listed in the schedule.
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](http://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* 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. 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](http://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

### April is Blooming with Conservation!

*“To leave the world better than you found it, sometimes you have to pick up other people’s trash.” — Bill Nye*

#### Class 1

**(4) Entries**

*Earth Day 2026* - Create a *Parallel Design*. \* Use recycled material for your container and accessories; Multiple containers are permitted. Staged on the Riverhouse’s 42” high wooden bar with lip. A 26” high white cloth backdrop and a staging space of 24” width x 18” depth are provided for each design. Viewed and judged from three sides. A Title or Statement of Intent is required.

#### Class 2

**(4) Entries**

Novice. Same as above.

*“In nature, nothing is perfect and everything is perfect. Trees can be bent, contorted in weird ways, and they’re still beautiful.” – Alice Wade*

#### Class 3

**(4) Entries**

*Arbor Day 2026* - Create a *Parallel Design*\* expressing important elements or features of a tree. Multiple containers are permitted. Staged on the Riverhouse’s 42” high wooden bar with lip. A 26” high white cloth backdrop and a staging space of 24” width x 18” depth are provided for each design. Viewed and judged from three sides. A Title or Statement of Intent is required.

#### Class 4

**(4) Entries**

Novice. Same as above.

**Pre-registration is required by Sunday, April 19.**

Class consultant, Louisa Renn, [louisarenn@gmail.com](mailto:louisarenn@gmail.com).

Exhibitors may enter one class only.

\* *Parallel Design*: a design in which plant material (and other components, if not prohibited) are placed in strongly parallel groupings with open space between; may be vertical, horizontal, or diagonal. Additional components may be placed at any angle at the base as connectives. Multiple containers may be used, but design must appear as a single unit. FS & JG, Book 5, p. 9.

## **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 TWO entries 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.

#### **DAFFODILS**

- Class 1 Three **different** varieties to be displayed in **separate** RGC containers. Must be properly identified with Daffodil code and division\*.
- Class 2 Novice. Same as above.
- Class 3 Three daffodils of the **same** variety to be displayed in **one** RGC container. Must be properly identified with Daffodil code and division\*.
- Class 4 Novice. Same as above.
- Class 5 One single daffodil of choice to be displayed in **one** RGC container. Must be properly identified with Daffodil code and division\*.
- Class 6 Novice. Same as above.
- Class 7 One miniature daffodil to be displayed in **one** RGC container. Must be properly identified with daffodil code and division. A miniature is classified as having a bloom less than 2 inches.
- Class 8 Novice. Same as above.

#### **SPRING BULBS**

One single stem properly identified, to be displayed in a RGC container.

- Class 9 *Muscari* (Grape Hyacinths)
- Class 10 Novice. Same as above.
- Class 11 *Tulipa* (Tulip)
- Class 12 Novice. Same as above.
- Class 13 Other **BULB**.
- Class 14 Novice. Same as above.

#### **FLOWERING BRANCH**

- Class 15 One flowering branch not to exceed 30” in length from the lip of the container to the tip of the branch. To be displayed in members' own clear glass container (*this class may be subdivided*)
- Class 16 Novice. Same as above.
- Class 17 *Camellia japonica* (Camellia) one stem not to exceed 12” in length from lip of container to tip of the branch.
- Class 18 Novice. Same as above.

#### **NATIVE SPRING FLOWERS**

- Class 19 One stem of a native\*\* spring flower. Can be bulbs, herbaceous or woody. To be displayed in a RGC container.
- Class 20 Novice. Same as above.

**PAR**

- Class 21 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.

\*Daffodil code: Daffodils are given a color code to describe both the perianth (petal) and the cup color. Refer to The American Daffodil Society <https://daffodilussa.org/> for more information on classifications of division and color.

\*\* 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

# **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(s)** 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 II – Horticulture**

#### **Club Award for Horticulture (Daffodils) - the Ellwood-Winmill Daffodil Award**

To be awarded to the member who garners the most points in the April daffodil show.

#### **Club Award for Horticulture (Daffodils - Novice) - the Marie Appleby Severance Trophy**

To be awarded to the novice member with the most points in the April daffodil show.

# DIVISION I

## Floral Design Registration Form

**Registration Deadline: April 19, 2026.** Classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis until full. Exhibitors may enter only one class.

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

Louisa Renn, [louisarenn@gmail.com](mailto:louisarenn@gmail.com),  
Mary Jane O'Hare, [ohare.maryjane@gmail.com](mailto:ohare.maryjane@gmail.com),  
Stella Ryan, [stellaryan1@aol.com](mailto:stellaryan1@aol.com),  
Bonnie Torcivia, [bltorcivia@gmail.com](mailto: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**

**1<sup>st</sup> Choice:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Choice:**