



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

Presents

A Club Flower Show

January 19, 2027

Bingham Hall

**40 Bingham Avenue
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

October 19, 2026 Horticulture – Three-month ownership deadline

January 12, 2027 Photography entries deadline

January 17, 2027 Floral Design registration deadline

On the day of the Show, Tuesday, January 19, 2027:

8:00 am – 9:00 am Floral Design and Horticulture 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 Botanical Arts

Betsy Ford, 732-245-4555

Jane Orr, 732-778-3242

Division II Horticulture

Elaine Eadon, 732-778-4400

Amy McCooey, 917-319-8801

Division III Photography

Bonnie Torcivia, 908-812-6416

Natasha Halbout, 732-500-2847

Awards

Wendy Wilt, 732-233-6150

Avery Brighton, 732-859-1551

Judges, Passers and Clerks

Mary Ann McDonald, 908-804-3542

Laura Wallach, 908-461-5477

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 Botanical Arts

Betsy Ford, 732-245-4555

Division II Horticulture

Elaine Eadon, 732-778-4400

Division III Photography

Bonnie Torcivia, 908-812-6416

GCA RULES

1. Please carefully read and follow the GCA Rules, General Information, and Division Guidelines for the flower show. All rules as stated in *The Garden Club of America Flower Show and Judging Guide (FS & JG)*, 2026 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 - <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx>
 - b. Royal Horticultural Society Find a plant - <https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/search-Form>
 - c. GCA Flower Show Committee - [Botanical Nomenclature](#)
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 New Jersey as rare may not be exhibited in any flower show sponsored by a GCA club. Cultivated plant material listed by New Jersey as rare may be exhibited if accompanied by a typed card stating that it has not been collected from the wild or collected out-of-state and giving information concerning its cultural requirements and propagation methods. Lists of endangered plant material will be available before the show, during passing from the division chairs, and online by searching for New Jersey's list of rare plants.
4. Plant material showing evidence of insects or disease must be removed immediately from the exhibition area. This rule will be enforced during the show when the problem is identified.
5. 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.).

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. Entering a show constitutes permission to use images of the exhibitor's work in all GCA channels of communication.
4. Photographs that include images of identifiable minor children require this written [Identifiable Photograph of Minor Release](#) form. If identity is questionable, the release form is still required. The two-part form is started by the exhibitor and completed by the parent.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. ***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.
9. 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.
10. 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.

11. Containers and accessories should be inconspicuously labeled with the exhibitor's name.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. All judges' decisions are final.
16. All exhibits must remain in place and in show condition until fifteen minutes following the closing time of the show.

DIVISION I

Botanical Arts Guidelines

1. Please carefully read and follow the GCA Rules, General Information, and Timetable for Exhibitors.
2. Registration deadline is January 17, 2027.
3. An exhibitor is permitted only one entry per class but may enter two classes.
4. The exhibitor(s) under whose name(s) the entry has been registered must create and complete the design. All participants must be listed on the entry card. All handiwork must be executed by the exhibitor(s).
5. No more than two exhibitors may execute a Botanical Arts entry.
6. If forced to withdraw, the exhibitor must notify the division chair and the class consultant and find a substitute unless there is a waiting list for the class.
7. All plant material must be dried. This includes flowers, foliage, seeds, pods, nuts (in or out of shells), vegetables, twigs, vines, reeds, etc. While not officially part of the plant kingdom, algae, dried fungi, including lichens and mushrooms are permitted. Only plant material, fungi, algae, mechanics, and surface treatments (paint, nail polish, varnish, wax, etc.) are permitted. Use of artificial or locally endangered or invasive plant material is not permitted.
8. Entries must be assembled, carved, or shaped from plant material by the exhibitor. Manufactured figural forms as base material are not permitted. Any plant material may be cut, incised, or shaped to enhance artistic effect.
9. Non-plant material (e.g., cardboard, metal, twine, string, cording, etc.) may be used only for construction and must not be visible except to knot or string plant material resembling pearls or gemstones in jewelry classes. The knots must be only minimally visible and not dominate the design. Stands, bases, hangers, etc., used as staging do not need to be covered.
10. Only natural plant material as existing or caused by nature may be visible in the design, except natural raffia, rattan, and skeletonized leaves. Items such as couscous, pasta, tapioca, milled wood, balsa wood, toothpicks, loose glitter, etc., are not permitted.
11. Gemstones must be made from plant material and/or plant by-products of resin or sap. Gemstones may not be made from epoxy, lacquer, glue, or nail polish.
12. Scenes, flowers, figures, etc., should be created with plant material rather than decorative painting. Painting techniques such as shading, veining, marbelizing, etc., are permitted.
13. Anything not prohibited in the GCA Rules, Botanical Arts Division Guidelines, or individual class descriptions is permitted.

14. A 4" x 6" white, unlined sample card must accompany each entry. A small, untreated sample of all plant material must be affixed to the sample card with the placement noted. Plant material must be properly identified with botanical and common names. See [Botanical Nomenclature](#).
15. If an exhibit has won first place or GCA Special Award in a club, GCA, GCA Major, or sanctioned, or sanctioned Major flower show, it may not be entered into competition again. An exhibit that did not place first or win a GCA Special Award may be entered again if the piece is significantly altered.
16. Scale of points by which the classes are to be judged: (as per *FS & JG Book 4: Judging at Flower Shows, 2026 edition*).

For all Botanical Arts classes	
Design	35
Craftsmanship	30
Creativity	15
Interpretation of theme	10
Distinction	<u>10</u>
Total	100

Refer to *FS & JG Book 4: Judging at Flower Shows, 2026 edition*, for applicable guidelines.

DIVISION I

Botanical Arts Classes

BOTANICAL EMBELLISHMENT

A manufactured object enhanced with dried plant material. Plant material may be treated. Complete coverage of the object is not required. Embellished objects should remain recognizable and not completely obscured.

Birds of a Feather

Class 1

(6) Entries

Embellish a paper-mache bird provided to create a representation of your favorite bird. The entry will be displayed on a 30" table with a white tablecloth. Viewed from all sides.

Class 2

(6) Entries

Novice. Same as above.

BOTANICAL FORMS

A design of any other form (e.g., not Botanical Couture, Embellishment or Jewelry) created entirely from dried plant material. Plant material may be treated. Mechanics or structural base material may not be visible except required staging (mounting stand, support, etc.).

It's a Bug's Life

Class 3

(6) Entries

Create an insect using only dried plant material. The entry does not have to be to scale, but the bug must fit within a 5"x 5" square on a white background.

Class 4

(6) Entries

Novice. Same as above.

Pre-registration is required by: Sunday, January 17.

Class consultant: Betsy Ford betsyford72@gmail.com and Jane Orr janeorr88@gmail.com

DIVISION II

Horticulture Guidelines

1. Please carefully read and follow the GCA Rules, General Information, and Timetable for Exhibitors.
2. There is no limit to the number of classes you may enter, but there is a limit of two entries per class per exhibitor, provided each entry is a different species or cultivar.
3. Entries must have been owned and grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of three months, unless otherwise stated in the schedule.
4. Mats, stands, saucers, stakes, ties, etc., are not allowed. Unobtrusive stakes and ties are allowed.
5. Classes may be subdivided, and entries moved and/or reclassified at the discretion of the show committee and/or the judges unless specified in the schedule. Subdivision is preferable in the schedule rather than on the floor.
6. Containers are measured at the diameter or the diagonal of the widest point on the inside of the rim at the soil line.
7. Leaf shine or other commercial foliage enhancers are not permitted.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. The Rumson Garden Club will provide containers and wedging materials for all cut specimens unless specifically stated in the schedule.
11. Questions regarding class requirements may be directed to the division chair.

DIVISION II

Horticulture Classes

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

***HIPPEASTRUM* (AMARYLLIS) CHALLENGE CLASS**

- Class 1 One amaryllis bulb from the RGC sale for the club challenge, grown in the member's own container. May be exhibited in water, rocks or soil.
- Class 2 Novice. Same as above.
- Class 3 Any other amaryllis. One amaryllis bulb grown in the member's own container. May be exhibited in water, rocks or soil.
- Class 4 Novice. Same as above.

'TIS THE SEASON

One evergreen branch to be displayed in member's own non-etched colorless glass container, not to exceed 24" in length from lip of container to tip of entry.

- Class 5 With berries.
- Class 6 Novice. Same as above.
- Class 7 Conifer with cones
- Class 8 Novice. Same as above

FORCED BULBS CHALLENGE CLASS

- Class 9 Ten *Iris-Dwarf histrioides* 'Katherine Hodgkin' bulbs displayed in one member's own container. Bulbs to be purchased by members at the October meeting. May be exhibited in water, rocks, or soil.
- Class 10 Novice. Same as above.

PAR

- Class 11 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.

DIVISION III

Photography Guidelines

1. Please carefully read and follow the GCA Rules, General Information, and Timetable for Exhibitors.
2. There is no limit to the number of classes you may enter, but there is a limit of one entry per class per exhibitor. 4 entries will be accepted per class with no more than 12 entries per show. To register your entry please email Bonnie Torcivia at bltorcivia@gmail.com.
3. Entries must be delivered by January 12, 2027. Your registration will be confirmed, and receipt of your photograph will be acknowledged. For information, contact Bonnie Torcivia at (908) 812-6416.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. No identifiable minor children may be included in photographs without written parental release using the Identifiable Photograph of Minor Release form available on the GCA website.
7. Plant material is strongly encouraged in all photographs.
8. A title/statement of intent is not required, but may be helpful to judges.
9. 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.
10. Any image posted in the *Focus* Gallery or published in *Focus* may not be entered in any show.
11. Photographs not selected as finalists through juried judging may be entered in another show.
12. 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.
13. 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.

14. Matting, mounting, and printing may be done professionally.
15. 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 overall dimension of entry must be a minimum of 36" and not to exceed 50" in total perimeter measurement. Glass and framing are not permitted.
16. 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.
17. Photographs will be hung on a tri-fold with a black background.
18. 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.
19. Questions regarding class requirements may be directed to the class consultant and/or division chair.
20. Information on entering photographs, including mailing instructions, can be found on the [GCA Photography Committee page](#).
21. Eligible winning images may be [submitted to the Focus Gallery](#).
22. Scale of points by which classes are to be judged (as per *FS & JG Book 4: Judging at Flower Shows, 2026 edition*).

For Photography classes

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

DIVISION III

Photography Classes

*"Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.
Finding the hidden beauty beyond the bloom"*

Class 1

(4) Entries

A color photo of a flower/tree/shrub past its bloom **with a focus on structure**

Class 2

(4) Entries

Novice. Same as above.

Class 3

(4) Entries

A photo of a seed pod, or group of seeds.

Class 4

(4) Entries

Novice. Same as above.