



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

Presents

A Club Flower Show

November 17, 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

Preregistration deadline: Sunday November 15

On the day of the Show, Tuesday, November 17, 2026:

2:00 pm Floral Design challenge begins

3:45 pm Entries passed

4:15 pm Judging begins

FLOWER SHOW COMMITTEE

Chairs and Co-Chairs:

Club President

Heather Robinson, 917-626-3848

Division Chairs

Division I Floral Design

Betsy Ford, 732-245-4555

Jane Orr, 732-778-3242

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 Floral Design

Betsy Ford, 732-245-4555

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

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. 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.
4. No more than two exhibitors may execute a design unless otherwise stated in the schedule.
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. Designs may be executed off-site and brought to the show completed unless otherwise noted in the floral design schedule.
7. 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.
8. Mechanics should not be visible unless they are an integral part of the design.
9. Anything not prohibited in the GCA Rules, Floral Design Division Guidelines, or individual class descriptions is permitted.
10. 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.
11. Accessories are permitted unless otherwise stated in the class description.
12. Floral designs have no height restriction unless otherwise noted.
13. All classes may be subdivided at the discretion of the judges or the show chairs *except* those for which a Club Award is named.
14. Questions regarding class requirements may be directed to the class consultant and/or division chair.

15. 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.
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 Floral Design classes

Conformance	10
Interpretation	20
Creativity	10
Design (Principles & Elements)	50
Distinction	<u>10</u>
Total	100

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

DIVISION I

Floral Design Classes

Team Challenge Design

“Only in the darkness can you see the stars.”

Each team, one novice and one regular designer, will work together to create a hat or fascinator with the supplies provided. Exhibitors will be paired randomly. The team will have 2 hours to finish their design piece. The hat must be modeled for the judges by one member of each team.

(12) entries.

Challenge Class

- At the show, all components, mechanics, containers, plant material, and accessories are supplied by the Flower Show Committee.
- The schedule will specify how many of the items must be used.
- These items should be as identical as possible for each exhibitor.
- Exhibitors may bring clippers only. (FS&JG book 5, pg 6)

Pre-registration is required by Sunday, November 15.

Class consultants: Betsy Ford betsyford72@gmail.com

Jane Orr: janeorr88@gmail.com