



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

Presents

A Club Flower Show

October 13, 2026

Seabright Beach Club

**999 Ocean Avenue
Sea Bright, 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

July 12, 2026 Horticulture - Three-month ownership deadline

October 6, 2026 Photography entry delivery deadline

October 11, 2026 Floral Design registration deadline

On the day of the Show, Tuesday, October 13, 2026:

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 Floral Design

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 Floral Design

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

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. 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. 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 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.
17. 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

Flowers Taking Flight - *An Interpretive Design**

(GCA Judges)

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.

“I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers” - Claude Monet

Class 1

(6) Entries

Create a design that interprets one of two paintings curated by Kathy Keating from the Beauregard Gallery collection. Entry is to be staged on a 30” high rectangular table covered with a white floor length tablecloth. Design should not exceed 12” width or depth. Exhibitors are given a 20” x 20” design space. Viewed and judged from all sides. A statement of intent is required.

Class 2

(6) Entries

Novice. Same as above. Entry is to be staged on a 30” high rectangular table covered with a white floor length tablecloth. Design should not exceed 12” width or depth. Exhibitors are given a 20” x 20” design space. Viewed and judged from all sides. A statement of intent is required.

**Interpretive design: a design in which components are selected and organized to portray a theme, mood, or atmosphere; not a design style. FS&JG, book 5, pg 7*

For judging, the paintings will be displayed on easels near the arrangements. Entrants may use photos of the artwork to aid in the interpretation. The paintings will be displayed in the gallery prior to the show and arrangements can be made to view them two weeks prior to the show.

Pre-registration is required by Sunday, October 11.

Class consultants, Jane Orr, janeorr88@gmail.com and Betsy Ford, betsyford72@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.

(GCA Judges)

RITCHIE-MOORE TROPHY

- Class 1 Open to all members. Any plant propagated since June 2026. Clay or plastic pots are permitted. Pots not to exceed 4" in diameter. Maximum three pots per member. Points from October 2026 and May 2027 exhibits will be combined to award the Ritchie-Moore Trophy in June 2027. Propagation cards and one key card are required. A key card with visual diagram and plant list is required. Key card must be a 4" x 6" white unlined card completed in black waterproof medium. A 4" x 6" photograph with identifying numbers may be used.

FALL EXTRAVAGANZA

- Class 2 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 stem. Displayed in one RGC container. Class may be divided.
- Class 3 Novice. Same as above.
- Class 4 An arrangement of one stem of three to five different kinds (genera) of seed heads, pods, capsules or hips displayed in one RGC container. A key card with visual diagram and plant list is required. Key card must be a 4" x 6" white unlined card completed in black waterproof medium. A 4" x 6" photograph with identifying numbers may be used. To be judged 70% horticultural merit and 30% artistic merit.
- Class 5 Novice. Same as above.

Scale of points by which arrangement is to be judged:

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

HERBS

- Class 6 An arranged bouquet of 3 to 5 different kinds (genera) of home-grown herbs to be displayed in member's clear glass unetched container. A key card with visual diagram and plant list is required. Key card must be a 4" x 6" white unlined card completed in black waterproof medium. A 4" x 6" photograph with identifying numbers may be used.
- Class 7 Novice. Same as above.

Scale of points by which arrangement is to be judged:

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

LATE BLOOMING FLOWERS

One flowering stem to be displayed in one RGC container

- Class 8 *Chrysanthemum*
- Class 9 Novice. Same as above.
- Class 10 *Rudbeckia hirta* (black-eyed Susan)
- Class 11 Novice. Same as above.
- Class 12 *Sedum*
- Class 13 Novice. Same as above.
- Class 14 Any native flowering stem **
- Class 15 Novice. Same as above
- Class 16 Any other late blooming stem.
- Class 17 Novice. Same as above

PAR

- Class 18 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. Photographs must be received no later than October 6, 2026. 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

Roots and Resilience

*“It’s a quiet job being a root. No one hugs you or praises your intricate ways”
Steve Turner*

Class 1

(4) Entries

A color photo portraying the beauty and complexity of roots of any kind.

Class 2

(4) Entries

Novice. Same as above.

Class 3

(4) Entries

A black and white photo of a resilient plant/tree growing in an unexpected or hard to grow place

Class 4

(4) Entries

Novice. Same as above.

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.