

THE GARDEN CLUB OF MOUNTAIN LAKES

presents

Fall is in the Air

AN NGC SMALL STANDARD FLOWER SHOW



Friday, October 16, 2026, 1pm til 6pm
Saturday, October 17, 2026, 9am til 1pm

Mountain Lakes Borough Hall
400 Boulevard
Mountain Lakes, New Jersey 07046

Free and open to the public

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MEMBER OF

The National Garden Clubs, Inc., Central Atlantic Region

The Garden Club of New Jersey, District 3, Lakeland



*Cover illustration by Laura Wilder for the
Mountain Lakes Centennial (2011)*

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FLOWER SHOW COMMITTEE

Honorary Chair	Nancy Bigelsen	
Chair	Cindy Shaw	973-214-0282
Schedule Chairs	Penny Leman	973-567-5572
	Nancy Coppola	973-714-4930
Schedule Publisher	Maureen McSharry	201-213-8817
Staging Chair	Randy Shreve	973-960-3343
Staging Committee	Karen Grove	
	Dana Vatmakhter	
Entries Chair	Janet Wilson	973-699-7834
Division I: Design		
Entries/Classification	Louise Davis	973-214-4676
Division II: Horticulture		
Entries Chair	Susan Marshall	862-812-3440
Classification Chair	Margo Gillespie	917-930-7162
Division III: Botanical Arts		
Horticultural Chair	Lisa Blake	973-219-1343
Photography Co-Chairs	Jenn Apito	201-401-8272
	Leslie Cirillo-Plante	908-759-5027
Division IV: Youth		
Chair	Janet Horst	973-936-2256
Division V: Education		
Chair	Sandy Batty	973-769-5105
Division VI: Invitational		
Chair	Cindy Shaw	973-214-0282
Judges Chair	Louise Davis	973-214-4676
Clerks Chair	Gail Boertzel	973-714-4224
Awards Chair	Donna Chaplin	973-879-2633
Publicity Chair	Laura Stuss	201-874-6414
Show Photographer	Marsi Richter	973-722-6366
Hospitality Chair	Marilyn Dowling	973-476-4694

GENERAL RULES

1. This Flower Show conforms to the standards established by National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC). *The Handbook for Flower Shows* (HB), 2017 edition as updated with revisions posted on the NGC website, is the authority for all issues not covered by the schedule which is the "Law of the Show." An updated copy of *The Handbook for Flower Shows* may be downloaded from the NGC website (gardenclub.org).
2. Members of the Garden Club of Mountain Lakes (GCML) may enter all classes, except Division I, Class I, which is open only to GCML members who have never won a blue ribbon.
3. GCML members have priority registration through July 1, 2026; after July 1, classes will be open to other exhibitors by invitation only.
4. Entry cards for all divisions are available from the Entries Chair, Janet Wilson (janetwilsonnj@yahoo.com). Entry cards are also available during drop-off at Borough Hall. Exhibitors are encouraged to fill out entry cards in advance with pencil or waterproof ink.
5. Entries in the Design Division will be accepted on Friday, October 16, from 8–930am. Entries must be preregistered with the Design Chair, Louise Davis (Imdavis034@gmail.com). No exceptions will be made. Only committee members and Design exhibitors are allowed in the show area during entry times.
6. Entries in the Horticulture Division will be accepted on Thursday, October 15, from 3–6pm by the Horticulture Chair, Sue Marshall. No exceptions will be made. Only committee members and Horticulture exhibitors are allowed in the show area during entry times.
7. Entries in the Botanical Arts Division, Section A: Botanical Arts Horticulture will be accepted on Thursday, October 15, from 3–6pm. Entries must be preregistered with the Botanical Arts Chair, Lisa Blake (lisablake33@gmail.com). No exceptions will be made.
8. Entries in the Botanical Arts Division, Section B: Photography will be accepted on Thursday, October 15, from 3–6pm. Entries must be preregistered with Photography Co-Chair, Jenn Apito (jennapito@gmail.com). No exceptions will be made.
9. Entries in the Youth Division will be placed by the Youth Chair, Janet Horst on Thursday, October 15. No exceptions will be made.
10. Entries in the Education Division will be accepted by the Education Chair, Sandy Batty, on Thursday, October 15, from 3–6pm. No exceptions will be made.

11. Entries in the Invitational Division will be accepted by the Invitational Chair, Cindy Shaw, on Thursday, October 15, from 3-6pm. No exceptions will be made.
12. Entrants must remove all exhibits on Saturday, October 17, from 1-2pm. The Garden Club of Mountain Lakes is not responsible for exhibits left behind.
13. On Friday, October 16, the judging will begin promptly at 10am.
14. The General Chair, Design Chair, and Horticulture/Classification Chairs are available during judging for possible consultation. They, along with the Judges and Clerk, are the only personnel allowed on the floor during judging (HB p. 25).
15. The decisions of the judges are final. Awards may be withheld if not merited.
16. Each exhibitor is limited to one entry per class, except in the Horticulture Division. Horticulture exhibitors may make more than one entry per class if each is a different species, variety, cultivar, type or color.
17. The GCML will strive to ensure the safety of all items after arrival and placement but is not responsible for any loss or damage to exhibits.
18. All tables (30" high) are skirted in black fabric and covered in a black tablecloth.
19. **Fresh plant material** is emphasized. No artificial plant material will be allowed in any division of the show.
20. Plant material on The Nature Conservancy's Statewide List of Invasive Plants of Highest Concern in NJ may not be included in the show. Plant material on the NJ DEP List of Endangered Plant Species and Plant Species of Concern (2016) must be grown by the exhibitor or legally obtained and that must be stated on a 3" x 5" card placed with exhibit. These lists are posted on the GCNJ website (gardenclubofnewjersey.org) under the "Flower Show School" link.

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB AWARDS

The NGC Standard System of Awarding (HB p. 5) is used in all divisions:

- ⊗ Only one (1) first place (blue) ribbon per class or subclass; must score 90 points or more
- ⊗ Only one (1) second place (red) ribbon per class or subclass; must score 85 points or more
- ⊗ Only one (1) third place (yellow) ribbon per class or subclass; must score 80 points or more
- ⊗ One (1) or more honorable mention (white) ribbons as merited; must score 75 points or more

TOP EXHIBITOR AWARDS

⊗ **Best-in-Show, Design**

One is offered to the highest scoring exhibit, scoring 90 or above, entered by an individual, meeting all section requirements. Design exhibit must be the work of one individual.

⊗ *Rosette of Blue Ribbons (HB p. 45)*

⊗ **Award of Horticultural Excellence**

One is offered to the highest scoring, correctly named blue ribbon winner, scoring 95 or above in the entire Horticulture Division.

⊗ *Rosette of Green, Blue, and Orange Ribbons (HB p. 40)*

⊗ **Educational Top Exhibitor Award**

One is offered to the highest scoring, blue ribbon exhibit, scoring 95 or above. Exhibit may be the work of one or more exhibitors.

⊗ *Rosette of Brown and White Ribbons (HB p. 44)*

HORTICULTURE DIVISION AWARDS

☼ **Growers Choice**

Four are offered to the highest, correctly named, blue ribbon winner, scoring 95 or above, meeting all the section requirements in Sections B, C, D and E, Classes 5-20.

☼ *Rosette of Dark Green Ribbons (HB p. 41)*

☼ **Award of Merit**

One is offered to the highest, correctly named, blue ribbon winner, scoring 95 or above, meeting all the section requirements in Section A, Classes 1-4.

☼ *Rosette of Orange Ribbons (HB p. 41)*

BOTANICAL ARTS DIVISION AWARDS

☼ **Botanical Arts Horticulture Award**

Three awards are offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon winner, scoring 95 or above, correctly named exhibit, meeting all the section requirements in Sections A1, A2, A3, Classes 1-11.

☼ *Rosette of Light Brown Ribbons (HB p. 44)*

☼ **Botanical Arts Photography Award**

One award is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon winner, scoring 95 or above, entered by an individual, meeting all the section requirements in section B classes 12-15.

☼ *Rosette of Black and White Ribbons (HB p. 45)*

LOCAL AWARD

☼ **Helen Connell Award**

One award is given to a Garden Club of Mountain Lakes member who is a novice, not having previously won a blue ribbon.

☼ *Silver trophy engraved with the recipient's name*

DIVISION I: DESIGN

Romantic Autumn

DESIGN RULES

1. The NGC Exhibit Policies are printed in the HB, Chapter 7, pp. 78-80, Exhibiting in the Design Division, NGC Policies and Guidelines.
2. Advance registration with the Design Chair Louise Davis (lmdavis034@gmail.com) is required. She will prepare your entry card and place it at the appropriate entry location.
3. Plant material and non-plant material permitted and not permitted can be found in the Design Division printed in HB, Chapter 7, pp. 80-81.
4. All plant material used in the design must be identified on a 3"x 5" card, provided by the exhibitor and included with the entry card (HB p. 80).
5. The exhibitor is required to conform to the stated descriptions and limitations of the Design Type if named in the class.
6. Rules for Design Types and Advanced Design Types are printed in HB, Chapter 7, pp. 73-79.
7. The Scale of Points for Design is listed in HB, Chapter 14, p. 130.
8. Designer is on his/her honor that the design being entered has not been previously entered or judged in an NGC Standard Flower Show (HB p. 29).

DESIGN CLASSES

☼ *Eligible for Best-in-Show, Design*

Class 1 Falling in Line (4 entries)

A Traditional Line Mass design of all fresh materials to be staged in front of a black hanging curtain backdrop. The design will be exhibited on a tabletop 30" high with a design space of 18" wide x 30" deep. Underlays and staging panels are permitted and must stay within the designated design space. This class is open only to members of the Garden Club of Mountain Lakes who are novices (those who have never won a blue ribbon). The blue ribbon winner is eligible for the club's Helen Connell Award.

Class 2 Leaf It to You (4 entries)

A Challenge Design, exhibitor's choice of style, to be exhibited in front of a black hanging curtain backdrop. The design will be exhibited on a tabletop 30" high with a design space of 24" wide x 30" deep. Underlays and staging panels are permitted and must stay within the designated design space. Entrants may pick up a box of materials including a container from Louise Davis (lmdavis034@gmail.com) on October 13th from 12–4pm. Entrants must use the container and at least (3) three of the materials provided.

Class 3 Parallel to the 50 Yard Line (4 entries)

A Creative Spatial Thrust design to be displayed on a black free-standing pedestal 15¾" square and 42½" high in front of a black curtain. The pedestal may not be painted. Design may not exceed 6" beyond pedestal top in any horizontal direction; no height restriction. Underlay permitted, not to exceed pedestal top. Fresh plant material must be incorporated into the design. Parallel placement of elements can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal.

DIVISION II: HORTICULTURE

Fall Garden Splendor

HORTICULTURE RULES

1. The NGC Exhibit Policies are printed in the HB, Chapter 6, Exhibiting in the Horticulture Division.
2. The rules for a single species cut or container-grown specimen are listed in the HB, or its supplement Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging.
3. To receive an NGC Top Exhibitor Award, the exhibitor must identify her/his entry by its binomial name or currently accepted scientific designation. (Consult HB, Chapter 6, Exhibiting in the Horticulture Division.)
4. Refer to the HB, Chapter 6, for a correctly filled out entry card. Entry cards are available from the Entries Chair, Janet Wilson and Horticulture Chair, Sue Marshall and also available in the Entry Registration area. Entry cards should be completed in advance, if possible, in pencil or waterproof ink.
5. Exhibitor is limited to a maximum of (5) FIVE entries total in the Horticulture Division.
6. Cut specimens should not have foliage below the water line.
7. If a plant is considered a flowering plant, it should be exhibited as a flowering specimen. Foliage specimens may flower but should be exhibited as foliage plants if they are grown for their leaves.
8. Specimens with a class designation may not be entered in the "Any other worthy" class.
9. The Horticulture Classification Chair, Margo Gillespie, and/or Show Chair, Cindy Shaw, may subdivide classes by color, form, size, cultivar, variety, or other distinguishing characteristics.
10. The Classification Chair checks the exhibit for conformity to the schedule prior to judging. Final determination for conformance is the judges' responsibility.
11. The Horticulture Committee will place the entries.
12. The Scale of Points for Horticulture is in Chapter 14 of the HB, p. 129.
13. All plant material must have been grown by the exhibitor or in the possession of the exhibitor for 90 days (HB p. 55).

14. Plant material must be in its natural state and may not be altered by application of oil, commercial "shine" products, etc., that change the natural appearance. No wiring of specimens is permitted.
15. Bubble wrap as wedging material and clear bottles for display will be provided by the Committee.

HORTICULTURE SECTIONS AND CLASSES

⊗ *Eligible for Award of Horticultural Excellence*

Section A. A Fragrant Harvest

Herbs

A fresh-cut single specimen

- | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Class 1 | <i>Ocimum basilicum</i> (Basil) |
| Class 2 | <i>Salvia rosmarinus</i> (Rosemary) |
| Class 3 | <i>Salvia officinalis</i> (Sage) |
| Class 4 | Any other herb specimen |

⊗ *Eligible for Award of Merit*

Section B. Call Me Color-fall

Coleus scutellarioides

Any variety of a single plant, in a container that does not exceed 8" in diameter or 10" in height

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Class 5 | A cultivar exhibiting elongated leaves |
| Class 6 | A cultivar exhibiting a duck-foot shaped leaf |
| Class 7 | A cultivar exhibiting a twisted-shaped leaf |
| Class 8 | Any other cultivar exhibiting a different shaped leaf |

⊗ *Eligible for Growers Choice Award*

Section C. Reliably Carefree

Succulents

Any variety of a single plant, in a container that does not exceed 6" in diameter or 8" in height

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Class 9 | <i>Aloe</i> |
| Class 10 | <i>Haworthia</i> |
| Class 11 | <i>Sempervivum</i> (Hens and Chicks) |
| Class 12 | Any other container-grown succulent |

⊗ *Eligible for Growers Choice Award*

Section D. Something Different

Cacti

Any variety of a single plant, in a container that does not exceed 8" in diameter or 10" in height

Class 13 *Mammillaria* (Pin Cushion cactus)

Class 14 *Opuntia* (Prickly Pear)

Class 15 *Schlumbergera* (Christmas cactus)

Class 16 Any other container-grown cacti

☼ Eligible for Growers Choice Award

Section E. Time to Come In

Foliage

Any variety of plant grown for foliage in a container that does not exceed 12" in diameter or 10" in height

Class 17 *Begonia*

Class 18 *Philodendron*

Class 19 *Spathiphyllum* (Peace lily)

Class 20 Any other container-grown plant

☼ Eligible for Growers Choice Award

DIVISION III: BOTANICAL ARTS

Moonstruck

BOTANICAL ARTS RULES

1. All Botanical Arts Horticulture and Design exhibits must contain some plant material.
2. All plant material must be identified by the binomial or accepted scientific name.
3. No artificial plant material is permitted in any exhibit.
4. All arboreal branches must have been in the exhibitor's possession for 6 months.
5. All plant material must be grown by the exhibitor.
6. The Scale of Points for judging Botanical Arts Horticulture and Photography is listed in Chapter 14 of the HB.
7. The rules for Botanical Arts Horticulture are in Chapter 10, HB pp. 91-93.
8. The rules for Photography are in HB, Chapter 10, pp. 95-96.
9. Advance registration is required for Section A, Botanical Arts Horticulture with the Botanical Arts Chair, Lisa Blake (lisablake33@gmail.com).
10. Advanced registration is required for Section B, Botanical Arts Photography with the Photography Co-Chair Jenn Apito (jennapito@gmail.com).
11. Bubble wrap as wedging material and clear bottles for display will be provided by the Committee.

Section A. Hunter's Moon

Section A1. The Second Show

Arboreal, fall flower color

A flower head on a branch no longer than 15". Judged by the Horticulture Scale of Points. Specimens will be displayed in clear bottles.

Class 1 *Hydrangea macrophylla* (Big Leaf)

Class 2 *Hydrangea paniculata* (Panicle)

Class 3 *Hydrangea quercifolia* (Oak Leaf)

⊗ Eligible for Botanical Arts Horticulture Award

Section A2. The Last Hurrah

Other dried and preserved plant specimens

Dried plant material on a branch no longer than 15". Judged by the Horticulture Scale of Points. Specimens will be displayed in clear bottles.

Class 4 *Allium*

Class 5 *Echinacea*

Class 6 *Sedum*

Class 7 Any other dried or preserved plant specimen

⊗ Eligible for Botanical Arts Horticulture Award

Section A3. Phase Three of Four

Arboreal, fall foliage interest

Branch cut from a tree. Specimen must be 30" to 32" in length, include several nodes and an apical tip. Branch to be displayed on a table with green table covering. Branch should have recognized fall color interest with majority of leaves intact. Judged by the Horticulture Scale of Points.

Class 8 *Acer palmatum* (Japanese Maple)

Class 9 *Acer saccharum* (Sugar Maple)

Class 10 *Cornus* (Dogwood)

Class 11 Any other tree foliage specimen

⊗ Eligible for Botanical Arts Horticulture Award

Section B. Beaver Moon

Photographs may be in the portrait or landscape orientation. The image must be presented as an 8" x 10" print matted in a plain white mat with backing, sized 11" x 14". Photos to be displayed on a vertical white mesh wall.

Class 12 **Leaf Lookers**

Photo highlighting the changing of the leaves

Class 13 **Time to Hibernate**

Animal images preparing for winter

Class 14 **Going to Seed**

Snapshot of seed pods and/or heads

Class 15 **Fall Garden Interest**

Photo of fall garden flowers, vegetables, and/or gourds

🌿 *Eligible for Botanical Photography Award*

DIVISION V: EDUCATION

Back to School

EDUCATION RULES

1. Education exhibits may be the work of more than one individual or organization unless the exhibitor is a Student Judge or an Accredited Judge seeking credit for preparing an education exhibit (HB, p. 29).
2. The presentations will be displayed on a table 6' long x 30" wide x 30" high.
3. Preregistration is required with the Education Chair, Sandy Batty (sandybatty@aol.com).
4. Scale of Points for Education Exhibits is in HB, Chapter 14, p. 130.

EDUCATION EXHIBITS

⊗ *Eligible for the Top Exhibitor Award Education Exhibits*

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Exhibit 1 | Restoration of a community garden |
| Exhibit 2 | Proper lakeside gardening: Where does the water in our lakes come from? |

DIVISION IV: YOUTH

Owl-rageous

YOUTH RULES

1. The NGC exhibit policies are printed in the HB, Chapter 9, Exhibiting in the Youth Division. All NGC policies and rules apply (HB p. 88).
2. Youth exhibits are evaluated using the adult Botanical Arts Scale of Points.
3. Youth exhibits must be created by one (1) youth.
4. All entries may be subdivided.

YOUTH EXHIBIT

A collage of individual owl-shaped figures filled in by the exhibitor with wallpaper and embellished with a variety of dried or fresh natural materials. Each owl will be placed on a branch of a large paper tree mounted on a wall. Open only to members of the Garden Club of Mountain Lakes Junior Nature Club, class of 2025-2026.

Class 1 Age 8

Class 2 Age 9

DIVISION VI: INVITATIONAL

Goodnight Moon

INVITATIONAL RULES

1. Entries will not be judged.
2. Open to those club members who attended the webinar presentation by Françoise Weeks on March 30, 2021.
3. Exhibitor must provide a 3" x 5" card listing all the plant material used.
4. Exhibitors must register with the Invitational Division Chair Cindy Shaw (shawca@optonline.net).

Section A. Harvest Moon

Explore the world of creativity with live and dried plant material on a slab/log of natural material depicting a woodland design, either real or imagined. Design must not have any moving parts. Design not to exceed 24" wide x 15" deep.

