



THE GARDEN CLUB *of* AMERICA

# Flower Show & Judging Guide

## Book 4

2022 Edition

## **Pocket Guide**

*@*

**the Show**

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## CHAPTER I: PASSING

### I. General Information

- A. All entries conforming to schedule rules, restrictions and guidelines should be passed and must be judged
- B. If an entry is not passed
  - 1. It is designated “For Exhibit Only”
  - 2. May remain in place
  - 3. May count toward the required minimum number of entries
    - a. For the type of flower show
    - b. In order to give GCA Special Awards
- C. Verify an exhibit is entered in the correct class and the entry card includes an entry number
  - 1. For Horticulture exhibits, the entry number is assigned after passing
- D. Make certain each exhibit in a competitive class adheres to the general rules, guidelines and class requirements for each division as outlined in the schedule
  - 1. In a manner that is thoughtful, precise, patient, tactful, and encouraging to the exhibitor
  - 2. With knowledge of the schedule, class intention, and attention to all details including all size restrictions
- E. Be alert for diseased and/or infested plant material in all divisions of the flower show and remove, from the venue, any exhibits showing signs of infestation
- F. Confirm the entry card and, if applicable, confirm key card information is correct and legible
  - 1. Listed plant material must correspond to the entry and be identified using the proper nomenclature and spelling
  - 2. Confirm novice status by asking an individual exhibitor
    - a. At a GCA Flower Show ask “*have you won a first place ribbon or a GCA Special Award in this division of a GCA Flower Show, GCA Major Flower Show or a Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show?*” and indicate on entry card if eligible
    - b. At a GCA Major Flower Show ask “*have you won a first place ribbon or a GCA Special Award in this division of a GCA Major Flower Show or Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show?*” and indicate on entry card if eligible
  - 3. Confirm ownership requirement and propagation information
  - 4. Highlight Special Awards entry, if eligible
    - a. Confirm no locally invasive plant material is used  
<https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/subject/lists>
    - b. Confirm any entry with rare, threatened or endangered plant material has card explaining how legally obtained and grown
- G. If entry cards are to be typed, check the preliminary entry card and give to a committee member to take to typist, making sure always to leave a card with the entry
- H. Make certain that all entrants are aware of time constraints
  - 1. Inform exhibitors at the last half hour and the last fifteen minutes before closing of entries
- I. **When the entry is passed, it becomes an exhibit**
  - 1. Mark the exhibitor’s card with the letter “P” in red in the upper right corner and include the passer’s initials
- J. Passing committee should convey any amendments and concerns with the schedule or an entry/exhibit to the chairman of the appropriate division or to the chairman of judges who will convey them at the judges briefing

1. Passing committee chairmen should remain throughout judging to answer questions

## II. Floral Design Division Passing

### A. Exhibitor

1. Complete the entry card
2. Inform the passers when ready to be passed
3. Remain on show floor until passed
4. After passing, leave floor and do not touch exhibit again before judging

### B. Exhibits

1. Must be judged if passed

### C. Passers

1. Understand show rules and class requirements
2. If entries are to be completed at the show, ascertain that this rule has been followed
  - a. GCA Major Flower Show guidelines require entries to be completed at the show
  - b. Complex, non dominant portions of the structure may be completed ahead of time and brought in

### **3. Passers are responsible for rules, judges are responsible for interpretation**

4. Anything not prohibited in the schedule is permitted
5. Determine whether an entry has fulfilled the rules and class requirements
6. Check entry card for
  - a. Correct class and entry number
  - b. Correct botanical and common names of all plant material
  - c. At a GCA Flower Show, confirm novice status by asking an individual exhibitor *“have you won a first place ribbon or a GCA Special Award in this division of a GCA Flower Show, GCA Major Flower Show or Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show?”* and indicate on entry card if eligible
  - d. At a GCA Major Flower Show, confirm novice status by asking an individual exhibitor *“have you won a first place ribbon or a GCA Special Award in this division of a GCA Major Flower Show or Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show?”* and indicate on entry card if eligible
7. Check height, width and depth restrictions specified in the schedule and class description
8. Check plant material requirements
  - a. If all fresh is required, there may not be any dried material
  - b. If all dried is required, there may not be any fresh material
  - c. If all foliage is required
    - 1) There may not be any flowers but bracts are permitted
    - 2) Bare branches may be permitted if stated in schedule
9. Plant material not in show condition may be pointed out to the exhibitor who should remove or replace the material; the passer must pass the design if replacement material is not available
10. Color requirement such as monochrome may include
  - a. Small amounts of green foliage
  - b. Small bits of attached non-conforming floral parts e.g., the yellow center of a purple aster
  - c. Container and any base or stands of a different color unless stated otherwise in the schedule

11. If container is used, check for leakage
  12. Specific objects if stated in the schedule must be included
  13. Accessories
    - a. If prohibited, must not be included
    - b. Bases, stands and mats are not considered accessories
  14. Statement of Intent
    - a. If required, ensure it is included
    - b. If permitted, ensure it is within guidelines
    - c. If prohibited, check there are none
  15. In museum shows, confirm artwork is not touched or endangered
  16. Communicate any concerns with an entry to the exhibitor(s) and to the chairman of the Floral Design Division
  17. If the design does not conform to schedule and follow all of the GCA rules and guidelines
    - a. The exhibitor may try to rectify the problem within the allotted time
    - b. If time does not permit or it is not possible to conform, the entry, because it is not passed
      - 1) Must remain in place and is designated "For Exhibit Only"
      - 2) May count toward the required minimum number of entries
        - a) For the type of flower show
        - b) To give GCA Special Awards
    - c. A brief, constructively worded statement explaining why it could not be judged should be included by the show committee
    - d. Floral design division chairman or judges chairman will communicate any passing information and/or issues to the judges
  18. Challenge classes should be passed for conformance - e. g. , they used only provided materials
- D. Passers may not
1. Pass a class they have entered
  2. Make a judgment on the design qualities of an exhibit or whether the exhibitor has properly interpreted the class
  3. Touch any entry or exhibit
- E. Passing panel should include
1. At least 2 passers for every 3 classes
    - a. More than 6 entries in each class or a class of large mass arrangements may require extra passers
  2. 2 passers working together on each exhibit may observe a problem the other has missed

### III. Horticulture Division Passing

- A. Exhibitor
1. Complete the entry card with correct [botanical nomenclature](#)
  2. Complete the [propagation card](#) if needed
  3. Water and groom the entry before going to passing table
  4. May mist at a distance from other exhibitors' plant material
  5. Mark on the back of the container to indicate how the entry should be staged
  6. Inform the passers that the entry is ready to be passed
    - a. May act on the passers' suggestions
  7. Remain on the show floor with your plant until



- a. Entry is passed
    - b. Has received an entry number
  - 8. Do not touch exhibits after passing
  - 9. Leave the show floor area after exhibit is passed and entered
- B. All exhibits must be judged if passed
- C. Passers/Entry personnel
  - 1. Understand show rules and class requirements
  - 2. Passers are responsible for rules, judges are responsible for interpretation**
  - 3. Anything not prohibited in the schedule is permitted
  - 4. Determine whether an entry has fulfilled the rules and class requirements
  - 5. Check the entry card for
    - a. Correct class and entry number
    - b. Correct botanical and common names
    - c. At a GCA Flower Show, confirm novice status by asking an individual exhibitor “*have you won a first place ribbon or a GCA Special Award in this division of a GCA Flower Show, GCA Major Flower Show or Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show?*” and indicate on entry card if eligible
    - d. At a GCA Major Flower Show, confirm novice status by asking an individual exhibitor “*have you won a first place ribbon or a GCA Special Award in this division of a GCA Major Flower Show or Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show?*” and indicate on entry card if eligible
  - 6. Check height/length restrictions specified in the schedule and class description
  - 7. May divide [entry record sheets](#) into sections with each section assigned to passers or separate entry personnel
  - 8. Record all passed exhibits in the entry book or on the entry log if using a computer
    - a. If using a computer, a printer is needed to provide the clerks and awards chairman with copies
  - 9. Check entry card is marked with the entry number and recorded in the entry book
  - 10. Verify that the exhibit is entered in the correct class and conforms to the schedule requirements; criteria to be considered
    - a. Container size
      - 1) Measurements of the container must be within any limits specified in the schedule
      - 2) Containers are measured at the diameter or diagonal inside the rim at the soil line
      - 3) Glass or plastic globe terrariums are measured at their widest diameter
      - 4) Strawberry jars are measured according to height
    - b. Height, length, or width of the exhibit, as specified in the schedule, must conform to the class requirements
    - c. Length of cut branch as specified in the schedule as either lip (of the container) to tip (top of the branch) or total length of a branch, including the part under water
    - d. Length of ownership as required by class
    - e. Blooming plants must be in flower
    - f. Foliage plants may have a few blooms
    - g. Correct number of different species or cultivars in collections
    - h. Limit on the number of entries that an exhibitor may make in a class or subdivision, provided each is a different species or cultivar

11. Verify no plant material is included which is prohibited in the GCA rules (endangered, threatened, or locally invasive)
12. Check details including dates and method of propagation, if applicable
13. Check that length of ownership
  - a) Is listed
  - b) Conforms to class schedule
14. Check for growing conditions and exposure
  - a. Outdoors
  - b. Windowsill
  - c. Greenhouse
  - d. Artificial light
15. Check for any other class-specific requirements
16. Check for special award eligibility
17. Check grooming of the entry
  - a. Exhibitor may return to the exhibitors' table for further grooming before being passed
18. Check if it is free of pests and disease
19. Check there is no evidence of dirt or spray residue on the foliage
20. Check there is no added leaf shine or other artificial enhancements, including paint, markers, etc.
21. Check there are no dead or damaged flowers or foliage, stubs, or twigs
  - a. Fresh stubs can be minimized by rubbing a bit of soil over the cut
22. Check if container is clean
23. Check that soil surface or top dressing does not exceed the level of the rim
  - a. Any material that floats when watered should not be used
  - b. Top dressing with moss or other plant material is allowed and not considered another species when judged
24. Check that the back of the exhibit is marked to indicate best staging perspective
25. Other considerations
  - a. Staking, if allowed, should be as unobtrusive as possible
  - b. Forced bulbs, except minor bulbs and amaryllis, may be staked to prevent flopping
  - c. Cachepots are permitted if stated in the schedule
  - d. Double potting is permitted if not evident
26. When entry is passed, mark the exhibitor's card with the letter "P" in red in the upper right corner of the entry card and initial the card
27. If the entry cannot be passed
  - a. It must be designated "For Exhibit Only"
  - b. A brief, constructively worded statement explaining why entry could not be judged should be displayed with the entry
  - c. May remain in the show
  - d. May count toward the required minimum number of entries
    - 1) For the type of flower show
    - 2) In order to give GCA Special Awards
  - e. If the entry does not belong in a class, it should be displayed separately
28. Once passed and entered into the entry book, an exhibit with its entry card will be taken to its class in the show
  - a. The exhibit must be carefully handled
  - b. Attention should be paid to placing it in the correct class

- 1) Staging per the exhibitor's mark for the back of the exhibit or shown to its best advantage
- c. If an error in identification has been made or the exhibit has been incorrectly placed, the exhibit may be moved to the correct class after consultation with the chairman of passing and/or the horticulture division chairman and provided that the new class has not yet been judged
- D. Passers may not
  - 1. Rule on the quality of an entry, only on its condition
  - 2. Touch the entry
  - 3. Pass a class they have entered or pass their own entries
- E. Passing panels should be
  - 1. At least 2 passers for every 3 classes depending on number of entries and time allotted to passing
    - a. More than 6 entries in each class may require extra passers
  - 2. Thoroughly knowledgeable about plant material and nomenclature and familiar with the schedule

#### **IV. Photography Division Passing**

- A. Exhibitor
  - 1. Complete the entry form in the schedule
    - a. May add a title or Statement of Intent, per the schedule
    - b. Identify plant material, if applicable
  - 2. Attach entry form to the back of the entry and indicate top of the photo
- B. Date of Passing
  - 1. Passing should be conducted at least 4 weeks prior to the date of judging to allow time for corrections to be made by the exhibitor
  - 2. Should be included in the Flower Show Schedule - Timetable for Exhibitors.
- C. Passers may not
  - 1. Pass a class in which they have entered
  - 2. Pass a class where they served as a class consultant
  - 3. Make a judgment on the design qualities of an entry
- D. Passers should
  - 1. Understand show rules and class requirements
  - 2. Understand anything not prohibited in the schedule is permitted
  - 3. Determine whether an entry has fulfilled the rules and the class requirements according to the show schedule
  - 4. Check condition of photograph for any physical damage
    - a. If there is any physical damage
      - 1) Notify Photography Division chairman
      - 2) Contact the exhibitor for a replacement, if time allows
  - 5. Check size requirements as specified in the schedule
  - 6. Check for proper printing, mounting and/or matting, including color, as specified in the schedule
  - 7. Check for class conformance
    - a. If the Passer determines that, even giving the photographer wide latitude for artistic interpretation, an image does not conform to the class specifications, they should
      - 1) Consult with the Division Chairman on whether or not to pass that entry into the show

- a) If it does not pass, offer the exhibitor the opportunity to submit another image
    - b) May count the unpassed entry toward the required minimum number of entries
      - (i) For the type of flower show
      - (ii) In order to give GCA Special Awards
- 8. Check entry card for
  - a. Correct class and entry number
  - b. Correct botanical nomenclature and common name, if plant material is required
  - c. Novice status
    - 1) At a GCA Flower Show “*have you won a first place ribbon or a GCA Special Award in this division of a GCA Flower Show, GCA Major Flower Show, or Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show?*” and indicate on entry card if eligible
    - 2) At a GCA Major Flower Show “*have you won a first place ribbon or a GCA Special Award in this division at a GCA Major Flower Show, or a Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show?*” and indicate on entry card if eligible
- E. Once passed, mark entry card with a red “P” in upper right corner and initial
- F. Passing panels should include
  - 1. At least 2 passers for every 3 classes depending on the number of entries
  - 2. If possible, at least one passer should be in the judging program
  - 3. May include Photography Division chairman and/or class consultants
- G. For questions or issues
  - a. Notify Photography Division Chairman
  - b. Consult with members in the photography judging program if any questions arise regarding class conformance or other subjective concerns
- H. Juried Shows – entries must be passed in the same manner. See [Juried Judging Resources](#)

## V. Botanical Arts Division Passing

- A. Exhibitor
  - 1. Complete entry card
  - 2. Complete sample card
  - 3. If hand-delivered and passed at show, exhibitor must leave floor after passing and not touch exhibit again before judging
  - 4. Complete ‘Statement of Intent’, if required
- B. Date of Passing
  - 1. Date, time, and location for passing should be included in the Flower Show Schedule - Timetable for Exhibitors
  - 2. If entries are mailed, passing should be conducted prior to the date of judging to allow time for corrections to be made by the exhibitor
- C. Entries
  - 1. May be passed early before the show allowing for corrections, if necessary
  - 2. If design does not conform to schedule and GCA rules, or needs repair from transit and within the allotted time, the exhibitor may attempt to rectify the problem and re-submit entry for passing

- a. Class consultant or division chairman may attempt small repairs on mail-in entries with consultation from exhibitor and re-submit entry for passing
  - b. If it is not possible to conform
    - 1) It must remain in place and is designated "For Exhibit Only"
    - 2) May count toward the required minimum number of entries
      - a) For the type of flower show
      - b) To give GCA Special Awards
  - c. A brief, constructively worded statement explaining why the entry could not be judged should be included by the show committee
  - d. Botanical Arts division chairman or Judges chairman will communicate any passing information and/or issues to the judges
- D. Exhibits must be judged if passed
- E. Passers
- 1. Botanical Arts class consultants and Division chairman may pass the Botanical Arts classes
  - 2. Botanical Arts Division chairman may not enter the division
  - 3. Class consultants may not enter any class in which they are consulting or passing
  - 4. Understand show rules, class requirements and rules specific to the botanical arts class
  - 5. Passers are responsible for rules, judges are responsible for interpretation**
  - 6. Anything not prohibited in the schedule is permitted.
  - 7. Determine whether an entry has fulfilled the rules and class requirements
  - 8. Check entry card for
    - a. Correct class and entry number
    - b. Correct botanical nomenclature and common names of all plant material
    - c. At a GCA Flower Show, confirm novice status by asking an individual exhibitor "*have you won a first place ribbon or a GCA Special Award in this division of a GCA Flower Show, GCA Major Flower Show, or Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show?*" and indicate on entry card if eligible
    - d. At a GCA Major Flower Show, confirm novice status by asking an individual exhibitor "*have you won a first place ribbon or a GCA Special Award in this division of a GCA Major Flower Show or Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show?*" and indicate on entry card if eligible
  - 9. Check sample/key card
    - a. All plant material is represented on sample/key card
    - b. Confirm botanical nomenclature and common names
    - c. Confirm sample/key card format
  - 10. Check dimension restriction of each entry as specified in the schedule and class
  - 11. Check construction methods
    - a. Only dried plant material
    - b. No visible mechanics, glue, string, wire, etc.
    - c. No resin, figural carving from processed materials (e.g., milled wood, plastic), artificial gems, shells or other prohibited materials visible
  - 12. Check Statement of Intent
    - a. If required, ensure it is included
    - b. If permitted, ensure it is within guidelines
    - c. If prohibited, check there are none
- F. Passers may not

1. Pass a class they have entered
  2. Make a judgment on the design qualities of an entry or whether the entry has properly interpreted the class
- G. Passing panels should be
1. At least 2 passers for every 3 classes depending on number of entries and time allotted to passing

## **VI. Education Division Passing**

- A. Single Division V exhibits are not passed. However:
1. If plant material is used, it must be
    - a. Properly identified with common and botanical nomenclature
    - b. Free of disease and insects
  2. Statement of Intent (50 words or less) must be included
- B. Classes
1. Follow division guidelines for included content. For example
    - a) For photography classes, follow the photography passing guidelines
    - b) If plant material is included, follow horticulture passing guidelines
  2. Check Statement of Intent
    - a. If required, ensure it is included
    - b. If permitted, ensure it is within guidelines
    - c. If prohibited, check there are none

## CHAPTER II: CLERKING

### I. Qualifications

- A. Clerks for GCA Major Flower Shows and GCA Flower Shows may be
  - 1. Candidates in the judging program
  - 2. Club members interested in the judging program
  - 3. Club members interested in the discipline
  - 4. Prospective judges
- B. Clerks must not scribe for classes they have entered

### II. General clerk duties

- A. Clerks should arrive at the show early to familiarize themselves with the floor plan in order to guide the judges to their specific class assignments
  - 1. Chairman of clerks/judges will explain procedures to be followed
  - 2. All cell phones must be turned to “mute”
- B. For candidates in the GCA judging program, before clerking at the show, send electronically, or, only if necessary, give each approved judge and/or non-GCA affiliated judge on the panel a copy of the Evaluation Form (J3). The J3B can be accessed by non-GCA judges at <https://form.jotform.com/60544614895160>
- C. Clerks should not crowd the judges or make any comments unless invited to do so
- D. Remember judges' deliberations are confidential
- E. One clerk should affix stickers or award ribbons on the winning exhibits
- F. Clerks should be able to spell correctly, write legibly and quickly
  - 1. A dictionary and other items such as measuring tape and flashlight should be available
- G. Judges may dictate comments to the clerks, or write out the phraseology themselves
  - 1. After confirming transcriptions of the judges' comments are correct, clerks may be asked to take comments to the typist or calligrapher who will inscribe the entry cards or small cards that will be attached to the entry cards
  - 2. In most cases, clerks write the comments directly on the entry cards
- H. Comments are noted before awards for class are decided
- I. Once the judging of a class has been completed, sticker awards may be placed and comments sent for processing before the panel moves on to the next class
- J. To identify novice exhibits following the initial judging
  - 1. The entry card should have a flap that is opened to indicate eligibility
- K. All eligible awards should be indicated
- L. The entry book is a back up to missed eligibility notations on the entry cards
- M. All special award eligibilities should be made public at the time ribbon placements are being made
  - 1. Joint entries are not eligible for novice awards
- N. Judges may be asked to initial the final entry cards to ensure accuracy of award placement and comment wording
  - 1. Clerks are responsible for seeing that the judges carry out the task
  - 2. After the comments have been finalized, but before they have been typewritten or transferred to entry cards
    - a. Coordinating judges should initial the final comment sheets
    - b. Ribbons or stickers must be in place to assist the Special Awards panels in their deliberations
- O. Entry cards should not reveal exhibitors' names until all panels judging for Special Awards have completed their deliberations



- P. Clerks should not leave the show floor until all comments, ribbons, and commendations are in place and entry cards are turned so that the exhibitors' names are exposed

### III. Special Awards Panel clerks

- A. Prospective judges serve as clerks on Special Awards Panels
  - 1. They do not receive a J3 evaluation
- B. Special Awards Clerking Worksheets are located on the Flower Show Committee Landing Page under 'Planning a Flower Show'
  - 1. GCA Shows, Annual and Zone Meeting Flower Shows - [click here](#)
  - 2. GCA Major Shows - [click here](#)

### IV. Floral Design, Photography, and Botanical Arts Division clerk duties

- A. Clerks are responsible for taking notes during the judges' deliberations
  - 1. Use [Clerk Note Taking Worksheet](#)
  - 2. One clerk may take all the notes and the other be responsible for placing the stickers or ribbons
  - 3. May be asked to take results to the entries chairman for recording in the entry book
  - 4. May not touch exhibits
  - 5. If requested, ask class consultant or division chairman or show chairman to clarify any questions from the judges
  - 6. If Statement of Intent card is included, point out to judges; read aloud if requested to do so by the judging panel

### V. Horticulture Division clerk duties

- A. Tracking entries and recording awards
  - 1. One clerk uses the class entry sheet from the entry book to locate and point out to the panel the exhibits to be judged
    - a. Cross-reference the class exhibits on the table/bench with the ones on the entry sheet, checking that they are all there
    - b. If an exhibit is not staged with the rest of its class, the clerk should know where it is located, e.g., a particularly large exhibit may be placed in a different part of the exhibit area
  - 2. After the class is judged, 1 clerk records the results in the space for awards on the [Entry Record Sheet](#)
    - a. The award section for each entry is recorded with a 1st, 2nd, 3rd, HM, or write "none"
    - b. Any Special Awards are also recorded on the Entry Record Sheet
  - 3. The second clerk writes comments and places the ribbons or stickers on the entry cards immediately after the class has been judged
    - a. This clerk will also turn plants and seek any information from the passing committee, class consultant or chairman of the horticulture division requested by the judges
  - 4. Clerks/candidates may rotate tasks
- B. Comments
  - 1. May be written directly on the entry card by the clerk, or transcribed onto a separate card
  - 2. Written in large, legible print or typewritten

### VI. Education Division clerk duties

- A. Follow the relevant class guidelines for clerking classes or exhibits(s)



1. e.g., if classes is photography, follow photography clerking guidelines

**VII. Educational Component clerk duties**

- A. Follow the relevant class guidelines for clerking classes or exhibit(s)
  1. e.g., if a class is horticulture, follow horticulture guidelines

## CHAPTER III: JUDGING OVERVIEW

### I. Responsibilities of a Judge

- A. To bring an educated and unbiased eye in considering strengths and weaknesses
- B. To assign awards fairly
- C. To provide clear, comprehensible comments that educate the
  1. Exhibitor
  2. Garden club members
  3. Public
- D. To respect the exhibitor's work and intent
- E. To consider the intent of the exhibitor and to what degree that intent has been realized
- F. To uphold the standards of the GCA and the guidelines of the *FS & JG*
- G. To continue to expand, develop and refine expertise through
  1. Experience in
    - a. Exhibiting
    - b. Judging
    - c. Presenting programs
  2. Education
    - a. Attending workshops and seminars
    - b. Visiting shows
    - c. Visiting gardens and museums
    - d. Reading/Studying
    - e. Presenting programs
- H. Mentor prospective judges and candidates in the judging program
  1. Fill out evaluation forms promptly and include detailed examples
  2. Encourage prospective judges to participate during judging
  3. Encourage candidates to listen to deliberations of judges

### II. General Judging Information

- A. Before judging
  1. Study the schedule
    - a. Contact show or judging chairman with any questions
    - b. Have a thorough understanding of
      - 1) Rules
      - 2) Guidelines
      - 3) Class descriptions
      - 4) Theme
      - 5) Restrictions
      - 6) [Juried Judging Procedures](#) for Photography
  2. Do research to be well informed and prepared
  3. Attend judges briefing
    - a. Show, division and/or judging chairman will advise on
      - 1) Show policies
      - 2) Any changes to schedule
      - 3) Special Awards to be made
      - 4) Situations that may affect judging

- 5) Whether the number of exhibits is sufficient for the show status
  - b. Flower Show zone representative or designee will
    - 1) Remind judges to review the entire show prior to judging
    - 2) Remind judges to remain for the mandatory evaluation session following judging
      - (a) If necessary, prior to the show date, judges should receive permission from the Flower Show representative to be excused from this mandatory evaluation session
    - 3) Announce the location of the evaluation
    - 4) Remind judges to sit at the evaluation by discipline
    - 5) Remind prospective judges to attend evaluation as observers
    - 6) Ask the awards chairman for the Judges' Commendation and Award of Appreciation forms
    - 7) Ask 1 judge on each panel to fill out award forms or supply awards chairman with information
    - 8) Ask a judge (or prospective observing the evaluation) to serve as scribe during the evaluation
    - 9) Remind each approved judge to fill out an evaluation form which is emailed to them after the show
  - c. Introduce judges and clerks
    - 1) Candidates and prospective judges will identify themselves and present completed J3-A Evaluation Forms to approved judges before judging begins
    - 2) Clerks will lead judges to their classes
- B. Judging process
1. Judges may not judge a class they have entered
  2. Survey the entire show to determine
    - a. Quality and quantity of exhibits
    - b. The appropriate balance between the size of club and quality of the show
  3. Duties and responsibilities of each judging panel
    - a. Each judge should study all exhibits in the class
      - 1) Determine whether each exhibitor's objectives have been realized
      - 2) Determine if class requirements have been fulfilled
    - b. The panel as a whole should evaluate each exhibit
      - 1) Clerks should listen to judges' deliberations and make notes on judges' comments
      - 2) If, after discussion, agreement cannot be reached, point-scoring may be helpful
    - c. Scales of points should be included in the schedule
      - 1) Reference the page numbers in Book 4, or
      - 2) Include the scales of points
    - d. Use point scoring to compare exhibits
    - e. Judges must never touch an exhibit
      - 1) Nor use pencils to point out features

- 2) May ask clerk to pick up a horticulture exhibit if it requires closer inspection
- 3) Exception: vegetables and fruits in horticulture classes may be picked up and handled by the judges
- f. Once an entry has been passed by the passing committee, the exhibit must be judged
  - 1) Exception: any exhibit with diseased or bug infested plant material will be removed as soon as the problem is discovered
- g. Judges may not disqualify an exhibit
  - 1) Points may be deducted for non-conformance to schedule rules or as appropriate
  - 2) All aspects of the exhibit should be carefully evaluated
  - 3) An exhibit that has been passed must be judged
- h. Horticulture exhibits improperly classified may
  - 1) Be moved to the correct class, with the approval of the flower show committee, provided the class has not been judged
  - 2) If the class has been judged, every effort should be made to rejudge the class to include the misplaced entry; if not possible, the exhibit should be marked "For Exhibit Only" and displayed with an explanation as to the reasons
- i. Exhibits must be judged as they appear at the time of judging
  - 1) How it might look in the near future is speculative
  - 2) Entire exhibit must be examined for all aspects
  - 3) If questions arise concerning an aspect of an exhibit, the resolution should be in the exhibitor's favor
- j. Coordinating judge (appointed by the Judging zone representative from the experienced approved judges on the panel)
  - 1) Introduces the panel
  - 2) Acts as a timekeeper
  - 3) Invites clerks to ask questions for clarification of comments
  - 4) Ascertains if the clerks have exhibits in classes that the panel will be judging
  - 5) Invites prospective judges to participate in discussions
  - 6) Reviews any changes or unusual class requirements, reminds the team to be aware of possible commendations for an exhibit or class, and the importance of confidentiality
  - 7) Acts as a discussion moderator to ensure all judges' comments are given equal weight recognizing that the opinion of the coordinating judge has no more weight than that of any other approved judge on the panel
  - 8) Confirms accurate wording of comments written on entry cards and placement of ribbons
  - 9) Initials comments, if required
- k. Confidentiality
  - 1) All deliberations are confidential
- l. Judges' Commendations

- 1) Are awarded for classes or other areas of distinction
  - 2) Are filled out by the judging panel in conjunction with the awards chairman
  - m. Judges should thank the clerks before leaving the show floor
- C. After judging, judges attend the mandatory evaluation
1. Sit at tables by discipline
  2. Jointly the judges at a table discuss and fill out a single evaluation form
    - a. List all commendations given at the show
    - b. List all commendations given at the evaluation and deliver a copy to awards
    - c. Promptly fill out the individual evaluation emailed after the show
  3. Prospective judges may audit the evaluation and serve as a scribe
- D. Point scoring
1. Valuable tool for all flower shows
    - a. Often used by plant societies, garden clubs and horticultural organizations
    - b. Used when exhibits appear equal in quality
      - 1) A tie or difficult decision
      - 2) Are helpful when a judge is not familiar with class requirements
  2. Scales of points communicate how the class is evaluated to the
    - a. Exhibitor
    - b. Garden Club Members
    - c. Public
    - d. Judge
  3. Each category in a scale
    - a. Carries number of points that indicate its relative degree of importance
    - b. Allows for systematic evaluation of exhibit
    - c. Provides structure and organization to judge the exhibit ensuring nothing is overlooked
  4. Final score is reached by:
    - a. Subtracting deducted points from 100, and then
    - b. Averaging panel members scores
- E. Ribbon/sticker awards
1. Judges may award (only) 1 first, 1 second, 1 third in each class
    - a. First (blue), 90 points or above to 100
    - b. Second (red), 85 points or above to 100
    - c. Third (yellow), 80 points or above to 100
    - d. Honorable mention (white), 75 points or above to 100
  2. More than 1 Honorable Mention may be given at the discretion of the judges
  3. In Horticulture judges may award (only) 1 first, and if merited, more than one second or third
    - a) Exception: par classes
      - (1) Multiple firsts, seconds, thirds may be given
      - (2) No Honorable Mention given
    - b) Withholding awards
      - (1) Should the best exhibit in a class not be worthy of a first, a second or even a third award may be given

- (2) If a first has been awarded, but none of the remaining exhibits merit a second, a third may be given
- (3) The option to withhold an award should be exercised sparingly after careful consideration
- 4. Awards depend entirely on merit, regardless of the number of exhibits

**5. Judges' decisions are final**

F. Comments

1. Purpose

- a. To educate the exhibitor in a positive manner
- b. To educate the viewer
  - 1) Judges must consider how their comments will be interpreted
  - 2) Construct comments succinctly to present the most information

2. Accuracy

- a. Coordinating judge confirms wording
  - 1) Checks final comments written on entry card
  - 2) Initials final awards if required
- b. Division or judging chairman may review comments before printed and posted

3. Clerks

- a. May write judges' comments
  - 1) Directly on the entry card, or
  - 2) Have comments typed on the card or separate card depending on show procedures
- b. Must not post ribbons and/or awards until all comments in the class are finalized
- c. Must post finalized awards without revealing exhibitors names to facilitate the work of the Special Awards panels
- d. Must reveal Special Award eligibility section on entry cards
  - 1) After initial round of judging, and
  - 2) Award placement has been made
  - 3) Comments have been finalized but may not have been entered on the card, depending on timing
  - 4) Clerks on the floor should not interfere or intrude on Special Award panels or other panels still judging
  - 5) Clerks may return to the floor after Special Awards panels have finished judging to complete comment writing.

**III. Special Awards Panels**

A. GCA Special Awards panels

1. Convene after

- a. Initial round of judging
- b. All ribbons have been placed
- c. All exhibits eligible for novice awards have been identified
- d. All exhibits eligible for Special Awards have been identified

- 2. May invite prospective judges to accompany the panel as auditor(s) or clerk(s) provided they do not have exhibits under consideration

3. Only approved judges may vote for Special Awards
    - a. At a GCA Major Flower Show, only approved judges selected for the Special Awards panel by the GCA Judging Chairman may vote for exhibits to receive Special Awards
    - b. Special Awards Judging Panels must write citations for each award given
  4. Special Awards are given only when merited
    - a. If no outstanding exhibits meet the criteria of the Special Awards, the awards are withheld
    - b. Awards may be withheld even though they are listed in the schedule; exhibits must reflect the distinction the award holds
  5. Special Awards are not given to Challenge, Supplemental or Specialty Classes
    - a. Exception: Supplemental Floral Design and Horticulture Classes may win Best in Show
  6. Fill out copies of award certificates given and complete necessary paperwork
- B. Best in Show
1. One winner each in Divisions I - IV and Division V (classes only) is selected from first place ribbon winners in eligible classes
  2. Selected by a panel of approved judges
    - a. In consensus, or
    - b. By written ballot
      - 1) Top three selections are chosen
      - 2) Each judge awards 3 points to first choice, 2 points to second choice and 1 point to third choice
      - 3) Points are totaled to determine Best in Show

## CHAPTER IV: JUDGING FLORAL DESIGN

*Judges may not judge classes or participate on GCA Special Award panels considering classes where they have entered or consulted*

### I. Principles and Elements of Design

#### A. Principles

##### 1. Balance

- a. Visual stability
- b. Actual stability
- c. Symmetrical
- d. Asymmetrical

##### 2. Contrast

- a. Differences between unlike elements

##### 3. Dominance

- a. The visual importance of one element over another

##### 4. Proportion

- a. A design principle; refers to how the sizes of different components of a design relate to one another
  - 1) Plant material vs. size of container

##### 5. Rhythm

- a. Dominant visual path in the design

##### 6. Scale

- a. A design principle; refers to how the size of a design relates to the area in which it is placed

#### B. Elements

##### 1. Color

- a. Hue – color name
- b. Value – tints and tones; lightness or darkness
- c. Chroma – intensity

##### 2. Form

- a. 3-dimensional structural quality

##### 3. Light

- a. Natural
- b. Artificial

##### 4. Line

- a. One-dimensional quality
- b. Visual path through the design

##### 5. Pattern

- a. The effect created by the repetition of lines, forms, elements, colors or spaces

##### 6. Size

- a. Apparent or actual dimensions
- b. Affected by light, color and texture (glossy appears larger than dull, white appears larger than black, bright light makes things appear larger than dim light)

##### 7. Space

- a. The open area in and around a design
- b. The area created within the design

##### 8. Texture

- a. Surface quality



- 1) Rough or smooth
- 2) Shiny or dull
- 3) Smooth or glossy
- 4) Etc.

## II. Considerations and Comments

### A. Considerations:

1. Conformance
  - a. To the requirements of the class
  - b. To the restrictions in the schedule
2. Creativity
3. Interpretation
  - a. Class title
  - b. Show theme
4. Distinction
  - a) Skill
  - b) Assess the condition of the plant material
    - 1) Pristine plant material adds to the quality of the exhibit
    - 2) Damaged, wilted or tainted plant material detracts

### B. Comments:

1. Consist of
  - a. Two complete sentences
    - 1) Emphasizing the principles and elements of design
      - a) First sentence is complimentary, emphasizing strength of design
      - b) Second sentence is constructive, tactfully educational
  - b. Should not remake an exhibitor's design
  - c. Exhibits receiving first awards do not require a second comment
    - 1) The first sentence explains why the design was successful using the principles and elements of design
    - 2) A constructive comment may be added if deemed appropriate
    - 3) Judges may choose to not place a constructive comment on a second place award, signifying a high score
  - d. Comments should be complete phrases or sentences
  - e. Incorporate references to the principles and elements of design and
    - 1) Interpretation
    - 2) Conformance
    - 3) Distinction
2. Are discussed and composed prior to awarding placement
  - a. Judges must consider how their comments will be received by the
    - 1) Exhibitor
    - 2) Garden club members
    - 3) Public

### III. Scale of Points for Judging Floral Design

#### A. Period Floral Designs

1. Egyptian (2900-28 BC)
2. Classical - Greek and Roman (600 BC-325 AD)
3. Byzantine (325-600 AD)
4. Renaissance (1400-1600)
5. Dutch/Flemish (1600-1700)
6. French
  - a. Baroque (1643-1715)
  - b. Rococo (1715-1774)
  - c. Louis XVI (1774-1793)
  - d. Directoire (1795-1799)
  - e. Empire (1799-1815)
7. Colonial
  - a. Early American (1607-1720)
8. Federal (1780-1830)
9. English
  - a. Georgian (early 1714-1769, late 1760-1820)
  - b. Victorian (1830-1890)
  - c. Edwardian (1890-1914)
10. Art Deco (1920-1939)

Design	30
Appropriateness to period	25
Color and textural harmony	20
Conformance	15
Distinction	10
Total	100

#### B. Traditional Floral Designs

1. Styles
  - a. Line
  - b. Line mass
  - c. Mass
2. Geometric designs
  - a. Crescent
  - b. Spiral
  - c. Triangle
  - d. Hogarth Curve

#### 3. Interpretive Designs

Design	35
Distinction	20
Interpretation	20
Color harmony	15
Conformance	10
Total	100

#### 4. Non-interpretive Designs

Design	40
Color harmony	25
Distinction	20
Conformance	15
Total	100

#### C. Abstract Floral Designs

1. Radical simplification which eliminates all unnecessary details, to represent the essential element of the design
2. Material has to be arranged in an unrealistic way, as to seem unnatural
3. Dynamic balance
4. Plant material should be “transformed” by way of cutting, folding, twisting it
5. Contains or outlines space, referred to as negative space
6. Plant material is seen as color, line, texture and form
7. May use man-made materials as well as painted plant material
8. Has dynamic tension
9. Not one center of interest, rather interest created throughout design
10. More than one point of emergence
11. Highly restrained use of plant material
12. No container is used

Design	35
Abstract quality	20
Creativity	20
Distinction	15
Conformance	10
Total	100

#### D. Contemporary Floral Designs

1. No one center of interest
2. Unconventional placement
3. Restrained use of plant material
4. Use of man-made materials

Design	35
Creativity	20
Interpretation	20
Distinction	15
Conformance	10
Total	100

### E. Miniature

1. Size 5” or less in height, width, and depth, including all components
2. Scale and proportion are most important
3. Design is complete in and of itself without relation to size of staging

Design	30
Scale/Proportion	25
Creativity	15
Conformance	10
Interpretation	10
Distinction	10
Total	100

### F. Still life

1. A design that combines two or more objects with plant material
2. May include completed floral design or plant material may appear throughout design
3. Objects should dominate and must convey the feeling of being true to normal size and function
4. Is not arranged to create a scene
5. Components are chosen for their design quality to create an effect or impression

Design	35
Creativity	15
Interpretation	15
Suitability and harmony of materials	15
Conformance	10
Distinction	10
Total	100

### G. Table Classes

1. Functional Table
  - a. Arranged for dining, including dishes, glassware, linens, and floral design(s)
  - b. Flatware may be included as specified in the schedule

Floral design	25
Overall design	20
Color and textural harmony	15
Conformance	15
Interpretation	15
Distinction	10
Total	100

## 2. Exhibition Table

- a. A display using the components of dining in an artistically presented, coordinated design
- b. Practical service of food must not be implied
- c. The total design incorporates a completed floral design or some form of plant material

Overall design	20
Incorporation of plant material	20
Creativity	15
Interpretation	15
Color and textural harmony	10
Conformance	10
Distinction	10
Total	100

## H. Supplemental Classes

### 1. Pot-et-fleurs

- a. Combination of fresh, cut flowers and growing plants assembled in a container

Design	50
Harmony of plant material	30
Condition	15
Key card	5
Total	100

### 2. Vignette

- a. A functional segment of an indoor or outdoor living space
- b. Containing furniture, accessories, floral design, or container-grown plants

Design	35
Interpretation	20
Creativity	15
Conformance	10
Relationship of parts	10
Distinction	10
Total	100

## CHAPTER V: JUDGING HORTICULTURE

*Judges may not judge classes or participate on GCA Special Award panels considering classes where they have entered or consulted*

### I. Considerations

- A. Check websites of specific plant societies for
  - 1. For current scales of points
  - 2. For specific judging criteria
  - 3. For example:
    - a. American Rose Society (ARS) [www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org)
    - b. American Daffodil Society [www.daffseek.org](http://www.daffseek.org) and [www.daffodilusa.org](http://www.daffodilusa.org)
    - c. American Dahlia Society [www.dahlia.org](http://www.dahlia.org) and <http://www.dahliaaddict.com>
    - d. American Iris Society [www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org)
    - e. American Begonia Society [www.begonias.org](http://www.begonias.org)
    - f. American Orchid Society [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)
- B. Scales of points may be adapted for material grown using sustainable practices
- C. Local difficulty of cultivation should receive consideration, especially if there are plants in close competition

### II. Subdividing classes

- A. Subdivision in the schedule is preferable rather than at the show
- B. Judges may subdivide a class
  - 1. As long as there is a minimum of three exhibits in the *both* the original class and in the subdivision

### III. Comments

- A. Are encouraged on all exhibits whenever possible
- B. Include constructive suggestions, e.g.,
  - 1. How the exhibit may have been better groomed
  - 2. Comments on proper culture
  - 3. If improperly identified
    - a. State “judges question identification”
    - b. May suggest alternate identity
- C. Should be written on the front of the entry card to educate
  - 1. Exhibitor
  - 2. Garden club members
  - 3. Public

### IV. Par Scoring System

- A. 90 - 100 = First - blue ribbon
- B. 85 - 89 = Second - red ribbon
- C. 80 - 84 = Third - yellow ribbon

### V. Scale of Points for Judging Horticulture

Collections; A, B, and C:

- A. Arrangement: Presentation of cuttings from the garden
  - 1. Displayed for cultural perfection that is artfully arranged
  - 2. All in one container

Cultural perfection	40
Design	30
Diversity	20

Key card	10
Total	100

- B. Cut specimens: Collection
1. Displayed for cultural perfection
  2. All in one container

Cultural perfection	40
Distinction	25
Variety	15
Artistic Effect	10
Key Card	10
Total	100

- C. Cut specimens: Showcase
1. Educational display
  2. May be presented in an attractive, clever, inventive manner
  3. To show relationships
    - a. In plant families
      - 1) Genus and species from one family, or
      - 2) Species and varieties form one genus, or
    - b. Plants that share a relationship with each other focusing on show theme (e.g., natives, yellow flowers in a *Sunshine* schedule, medicinal, etc.)
  4. Each specimen in separate container

Cultural perfection	50
Conformance	20
Distinction	10
Educational Value	10
Key Card	10
Total	100

- D. Begonias - cane-like, shrub-like, rhizomatous, thick-stemmed, semi tuberous

[www.begonias.org](http://www.begonias.org)

Cultural perfection	40
Foliage	30
Grooming	10
Quantity of flowers*	10
Quality of flowers	10
Total	100

\*Give all points if it is not the season for the plant to be in flower

- E. Begonias - rex-cultorum [www.begonias.org](http://www.begonias.org)

Cultural perfection	50
---------------------	----

Foliage	40
Distinction	10
Total	100

F. Branches, evergreen

Condition	40
Form of branch	40
Grooming	10
Distinction	10
Total	100

G. Branches, flowering or berried

Amount of flowers or fruit	25
Quality of flowers or fruit	25
Condition	20
Grooming	15
Form of branch	10
Distinction	5
Total	100

H. Branches, collection

Cultural perfection	50
Variety	35
Distinction	15
Total	100

I. *Bulbs rooted*

Exhibit as a whole	40
Bloom	40
Foliage attached to stem	10
Stem	10
Total	100

J. Cacti and succulents

Condition	60
Degree of maturity	20
Presentation/grooming	15
Nomenclature	5
Total	100

K. Camellias

Form	25
Color	25



Size	25
Condition	25
Total	100

L. Cut flowers - aster, zinnia, etc. \*\*

Foliage and stem	25
Flower Form	15
Size	15
Substance	15
Balance and proportion	10
Color	10
Conditioning and grooming	10
Total	100

M. Cut flowers - spike, stalk, or multiple-flowered stem\*\*

Flower Spacing	15
Number	15
Stem length and strength	15
Substance	15
Color	10
Condition and grooming	10
Foliage	10
Size	10
Total	100

\*\*see "Encyclopedia of Judging and Exhibiting" by Esther V. Hamel for cut flowers, single specimen scale of points

N. Conifers, dwarf

Degree of dwarfness	30
General appearance and condition of plant	30
Age	20
Rarity	20
Total	100

O. Daffodils cut [www.daffodilusa.org](http://www.daffodilusa.org) and [www.daffseek.org](http://www.daffseek.org)

Form	25
Condition	20
Color	15
Pose & Stem	15
Substance & Texture	15
Size	10
Total	100

P. Dahlias cut [www.dahlia.org](http://www.dahlia.org) and [www.dahliaaddict.com](http://www.dahliaaddict.com)

Color (Overall, Blends, Bicolors & Variegated, Multiple Blooms, Other Undesirable Faults)	22
Form (Symmetry/Centers, Contour, Fully Developed, True to Form)	28
Substance	15
Stem	10
Foliage	10
Bloom position	5
Uniformity/Floriferousness	5
Distinction	5
Total	100

Q. Espaliers

Cultural perfection	50
Design and distinction	25
Grooming	15
Maturity	10
Total	100

R. Ferns [www.amerfernsoc.org](http://www.amerfernsoc.org)

Cultural perfection	50
Foliage	25
Difficulty of cultivation	15
Distinction	10
Total	100

S. Flowering or fruiting plants *rooted*

Cultural perfection	40
Quality of fruit or flower	25
Grooming	15
Form and size of plant	10
Color	5
Foliage	5
Total	100

T. Flowering or foliage plants *rooted*, display

Cultural perfection	40
Staging and arrangement	30
Grooming	10
Distinction	10
Color effect	5
Key card	5

Total	100
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U. Flowering or foliage plants *rooted*, collection

Cultural perfection	50
Variety	35
Staging and arrangement	10
Key card	5
Total	100

V. Foliage plants

Cultural perfection	45
Form	15
Grooming	15
Distinction	15
Color effect	10
Total	100

W. Gesneriads in bloom <http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/>

Cultural perfection	35
Bloom	35
Condition (grooming)	30
Total	100

X. Gesneriads grown for foliage [www.gesneriads.com](http://www.gesneriads.com)

Cultural perfection	35
Ornamental value (shape, texture, color, interest)	35
Condition (grooming)	30
Total	100

Y. Grasses

Cultural perfection	45
Color	15
Form	15
Grooming	15
Key card	10
Total	100

Z. Hanging containers

Cultural perfection	40
---------------------	----

Flowers or foliage	20
Form and symmetry	20
Color	10
Grooming	10
Total	100

AA. Herbs [www.herbsociety.org](http://www.herbsociety.org)

Condition	50
Difficulty of culture	15
Presentation	15
Grooming	10
Distinction	10
Total	100

BB. Hosta

Color and Pattern	25
Condition and grooming	15
Form	15
Size	15
Substance	15
Texture	15
Total	100

CC. Iris

Cultural perfection (flower 5 - 60) (stalk 15 - 40)	75
Conditioning and grooming	25
Total	100

DD. Orchids at general horticultural shows\* <http://www.aos.org>

Form of flower (general form, sepals, petals, labellum [pouch])	30
Color of flower (general color, sepals, petals, labellum [pouch])	30
Other characteristics (size of flower, substance & texture, habit & arrangement of inflorescences**, floriferousness, stem)	40
Total	100

\*Based on American Orchid Society standards

\*\*Inflorescence should be mature enough to show the full potential of the flower(s)

EE. Parent/Child

Cultural perfection	50
Difficulty of propagation	20
Maturity	20
Distinction	10
Total	100

FF. Rock garden plants - flowering

Cultural perfection	50
Difficulty and/or rarity	35
Quality of flowers	10
Grooming	5
Total	100

GG. Rock garden plants - flowering miniatures

Overall effect (scale, balance, design, selection and compatibility of plants)	50
Difficulty and/or rarity	25
Bloom	20
Grooming	5
Total	100

HH. Rock garden plants - non-flowering miniature

Overall effect (scale, balance, design, selection and compatibility of plants)	60
Difficulty and/or rarity	35
Grooming	5
Total	100

II. Roses [www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org)

Form	25
Color	20
Stem and foliage	20
Substance	15
Balance and proportion	10
Size	10
Total	100

JJ. Strawberry jars

Cultural perfection	40
Distinction	30
Grooming	15
Color effect	10

Key card	5
Total	100

KK. Terrariums, troughs

Quality of condition	30
Suitability of material	30
Design and arrangement of plants	20
Grooming	15
Key card	5
Total	100

LL. Container gardens

Cultural perfection	40
Scale, balance and design	35
Suitability and compatibility of plant material	15
Key card	10
Total	100

MM. Trained Plants (in GCA DS, Bonsai is judged as a trained plant)

Cultural perfection	50
Design and distinction	25
Grooming	15
Maturity	10
Total	100

NN. Vegetables and fruit, small and medium

Quality: best eating stage, good color	30
Condition: free from disease, blemishes	25
Size: average or slightly above	15
Typical of variety	15
Uniformity	15
Total	100

OO. Vegetables and fruit, large

Quality: best eating stage, good color	35
Condition: free from disease, blemishes	30
Size: average or slightly above	15
Typical of variety	20
Total	100

PP. Vegetables and fruit, collection

Condition	30
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Staging and arrangement	30
Variety in kinds shown	30
Key card	10
Total	100

QQ. Windowsill collection

Cultural perfection	50
Selection and Compatibility of plant material	30
Staging and arrangement	15
Key card	5
Total	100

RR. Pot-et-fleurs

Cultural perfection	45
Condition of plant material	30
Design	20
Key card	5
Total	100

SS. Dried/preserved flowers

Natural appearance	40
Condition	20
Color	15
Distinction	15
Degree of difficulty	10
Total	100

TT. Garden Exhibit

Design	35
Quality of plant material	15
Selection and compatibility of plant material	15
Originality	10
Quality and suitability of accessories	10
Season appropriate	10
Key card	5
Total	100

UU. Window Box

Selection and Compatibility of plant material	40
Design and arrangement	35
Condition	15

Color	10
Total	100

VV. Miniature gardens

Quality of plant material	25
Design	20
Suitability of plant material	20
Craftsmanship and distinction	10
Originality	10
Quality and suitability of accessories	10
Key card	5
Total	100

WW. Miniature rooms

Presentation	35
Plant material	35
Craftsmanship	30
Total	100



## **CHAPTER VI: JUDGING PHOTOGRAPHY**

*Judges may not judge classes or participate on GCA Special Award panels considering classes where they have entered or consulted*

### **I. Principles and Elements of Composition**

#### **A. Principles**

##### **1. Balance**

- a. The image should have a sense of balance using one of these forms
  - 1) Visual stability
  - 2) Radial, coming from a central point
  - 3) Symmetrical
  - 4) Asymmetrical

##### **2. Contrast**

- a. Visible differences in the image's components

##### **3. Dominance**

- a. One component is more important than subordinate components

##### **4. Proportion**

- a. Comparative relationship in area

##### **5. Rhythm**

- a. Visual movement through the image

##### **6. Scale**

- a. The relative size of components

#### **B. Elements**

##### **1. Color**

- a. Visual perception of spectrum of light
- b. Hue - color name
- c. Value - amount of light and dark
- d. Chroma - intensity, saturation

##### **2. Form**

- a. Shapes created within the photograph

##### **3. Light/Value**

- a. Light source
- b. Impact of light on the subject

##### **4. Line**

- a. Carries eye through design
- b. Real or implied
- c. Leading lines, diagonal or radial images

##### **5. Pattern**

- a. Created by repetition of an element

##### **6. Space**

- a. Successful utilization of photographic plane

##### **7. Texture**

- a. Tactile element

## II. Considerations

### A. Creativity

1. Unusual or extraordinary in some aspect of scale of points
2. Artistic inventiveness and ingenuity
3. Technical aspects in capturing the image and producing the print
4. Dynamic, imaginative, creates a mood

### B. Technical skill

1. Image quality relative to focus and exposure
  - a. Camera and post-production
  - b. Appropriate exposure
  - c. Depth of field
  - d. Luminosity
  - e. Focus
  - f. Printing

### C. Distinction

1. Marked superiority in all aspects of the scales of points
2. Feeling and imagination that lift the work into a realm of art
3. Wow factor
4. Presentation - e.g., paper choice, ink choice, finish, orientation (vertical/portrait, horizontal/landscape)

### D. Conformance

1. Adherence to class parameters, theme, and schedule

### E. Use of scales of points

1. Images using Creative Techniques
  - a) Are allowed in any class
  - b) In a non-creative class, are judged by the regular scale of points

## III. Comments

### A. Consist of two complete thoughts utilizing the scale of points

1. First comment is complimentary, commending the most outstanding feature
2. Second comment is instructive and educational

### B. First place winners are the exception where an instructive comment may not be necessary

1. Judges may decide an instructive comment is not necessary on a strong second place exhibit

### C. Comments must be made on Special Awards

## IV. Scale of Points

### A. Scale of Points for judging Creative Technique classes

Creativity	30
Technical skill	25
Composition	20
Distinction	15
Conformance/interpretation	10
Total	100

### B. Scale of Points for judging all other photography classes

Creativity	25
------------	----

Composition	25
Technical skill	20
Conformance/interpretation	20
Distinction	10
Total	100

## CHAPTER VII: JUDGING BOTANICAL ARTS

*Judges may not judge classes or participate on GCA Special Award panels considering classes where they have entered or consulted*

### I. Considerations

- A. Craftsmanship
  - 1. Components should work together as a whole
  - 2. Construction/assembly should be neatly done
  - 3. Visible glue or other mechanics must not show
  - 4. Finishes should be flawless or as pristine as possible
  - 5. Botanical jewelry
    - a. Operable clasp
    - b. Bezel setting for stones
- B. Conformance
  - 1. Following the requirements of the class, and
  - 2. The restrictions in the schedule
- C. Creativity
- D. Skill
  - 1. Contain unusual or detailed work
  - 2. Jewelry or couture should look 'real' or wearable
- E. Interpretation
  - 1. Class title
  - 2. Show theme
- F. Distinction
  - 1. Incorporate all design elements with refinement and quality

### II. Comments

- A. Consist of
  - 1. Two complete sentences
    - a. Emphasizing the principles and elements of design
      - 1) First sentence is complimentary, emphasizing strength of design
      - 2) Second sentence is constructive, tactfully educational
  - 2. Should not remake an exhibitor's design
  - 3. Exhibits receiving first awards do not require a second comment
    - a. The first sentence explains why the design was successful using the principles and elements of design
    - b. A constructive comment may be added if deemed appropriate
  - 4. One or two word comments are not acceptable
  - 5. Incorporate references to the elements and principles of design and
    - a. Interpretation
    - b. Conformance
    - c. Distinction
- B. Are discussed and composed prior to awarding placement

### III. Judging

- 1. Judges must consider how their comments will be received by the
  - a. Exhibitor
  - b. Garden club members
  - c. Public

#### IV. Scale of Points

##### A. For all classes

Design	35
Craftsmanship	30
Creativity	15
Interpretation of theme	10
Distinction	10
Total	100

## CHAPTER VIII: JUDGING EDUCATION DIVISION

*Judges may not judge classes or participate on GCA Special Award panels considering classes where they have entered or consulted*

### I. Exhibits

#### A. Considerations

1. Different styles and approaches are found in education exhibits; consider the following points, based on the guidelines
  - a. The Statement of Intent should include a direct and succinct description of the purpose of the exhibit (50 words or less)
  - b. Exhibit should convey message with clarity and impact with text, photographs, plants, and other tangible objects
  - c. Signage must include the Statement of Intent
    - 1) Easy to read from a distance
    - 2) Mounted securely

#### B. Educational and Visual Guidelines

1. The exhibit should have educational value to garden club members and the public
  - a. Provide new ideas, fresh insights and/or important, compelling information on relevant subjects and may include ways to effect positive change
  - b. Relate to the theme of the show
  - c. Include accurate information
  - d. Content
    - 1) Contain elements which attract the audience's attention and spark their interest
    - 2) Photographs, text and any tangible objects need to be part of a unifying, interrelated message
      - a) Photographs
        - (1) Excellent quality
        - (2) Integral to the exhibit
      - b) Text
        - (1) Can be read from a distance of 3' and is condensed to essential points
        - (2) Short sentences with active verbs and clear, direct, easy-to-understand language
        - (3) Short paragraphs not jammed with information
    - 3) Organized with
      - a) Beginning (introducing subject)
      - b) Middle (explaining details) and
      - c) Conclusion (summation)
        - (1) Where we go from here
        - (2) What positive actions people can take
        - (3) Future plans
        - (4) Future directions of research, etc.
    - d) Theme title(s) and section sub-titles should be in boldface

- e) "To-do" lists or lists of facts should be bulleted
- 4) Design layout
  - a) Direct the viewer's attention through the exhibit by the design layout
    - (1) Arrangement of text and photographs
    - (2) Placement of colors, background on which text appears
    - (3) Limited number of different type sizes and/or fonts
    - (4) Interesting to read and peruse
- e. Other information
  - 1) Instructions to go to club website, or website links to be as "green" as possible
  - 2) Handouts, if absolutely essential, should be on double-sided recycled paper or bookmarks: paper handouts are discouraged
  - 3) QR codes
- 2. Plant material - if it is used it must be
  - a. Properly identified with botanical and common names
  - b. Free of disease and insects/pests
- 3. Give consideration to how the exhibit and accompanying signage can be "up-cycled." Consider a destination beyond the flower show at an education center, a nature center, or a local conservation-focused non-profit
- 4. An exhibit that does not meet the criteria for a GCA award may be given an Award of Appreciation or special ribbon acknowledging appreciation of presentation

**C. Education Exhibits Scale of Points - suggested**

Educational value	60
Staging	20
Creativity and distinction	20
Total	100

**II. Classes**

- A. Judge according to discipline/content, following guidelines of relevant discipline and point scale in the schedule

## CHAPTER IX: JUDGING EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT

*Judges may not judge classes or participate on GCA Special Award panels considering classes where they have entered or consulted*

### I. Considerations

- A. Concept
- B. Educational Value
- C. Execution of concept

### II. Judging

- A. 1 Judging panel made up of judges appropriate to the content

### III. Educational Component(s) Scale of Points - suggested

Educational value	50
Concept	30
Execution of Concept	20
Total	100



## Chapter X: JUDGING SPECIALTY CLASSES

*Judges may not judge classes or participate on GCA Judging Panels considering classes where they have entered or consulted*

### I. Considerations for Needle Arts and Pressed Plants

#### A. Craftsmanship

1. Components should work together as a whole
2. Construction/assembly should be neatly done
3. Finishes should be flawless or as pristine as possible
4. Needle Arts
  - a. Even stitches
  - b. Graded beading
  - c. Unusual finishes or materials
5. Pressed Plants
  - a. Are an artistic “painting” or design created from pressed flowers and plants
  - b. May not copy published pressed plant art
  - c. Must be flat, 2-D, matted and framed under glass, Lucite ® or plastic
  - d. May not use
    - 1) Matting as a design component
    - 2) Overlays, underlays, or glossy papers
    - 3) Fabrics, rice papers, lace, photographic images, drawings
    - 4) Lamination or coating of plant material, unless specifically stated in the schedule guidelines
    - 5) Artificial coloring or plant material including paint
    - 6) Painted or drawn backgrounds
    - 7) Three dimensional plant material unless specifically stated in the schedule
    - 8) Signed works of art
6. Three dimensional pressed plant creations
  - a. Must have plant material securely attached
  - b. May only be used when permitted by schedule
  - c. Must be protected by polyurethane or similar coating

#### B. Conformance

1. Following the requirements of the class, and
2. The restrictions in the schedule

#### C. Creativity

#### D. Skill

1. Contain unusual or detailed work

#### E. Interpretation

1. Class title
2. Show theme

#### F. Distinction

1. Incorporate all design elements with refinement and quality

### G. Scales of Points for Needle Arts and Pressed Plants

1. For Needle Arts classes

Color and Design	30
Workmanship	30
General Appearance	25
Materials	15
Total	100

2. Pressed Plants and for or all other classes

Design	35
Craftsmanship	30
Creativity	15
Interpretation of theme	10
Distinction	10
Total	100

## II. Considerations for Video Classes

- A. Creativity in presenting information in an interesting, engaging, and useful format
- B. Quality of audio and visual elements
- C. Adherence to the theme
- D. Clarity of the narrative
- E. Overall impact, creativity, and style of the video
- F. **Scale of Points for Video Classes**

Creativity	30
Technical Skill	25
Composition	20
Distinction	15
Conformance/Interpretation	10
Total	100

## III. Judging

- A. At least 1 Judging panel made up of judges appropriate to the content
  - 1. A professional videographer with appropriate experience should be included
- B. May be judged by experts in the field
- C. Do not have to be judged by GCA Judges

## IV. Comments

- A. Consist of
  - 1. Two complete sentences
    - a. Emphasizing the Considerations for Video Classes
      - 1) First sentence is complimentary, emphasizing strength of the video
      - 2) Second sentence is constructive, tactfully educational

2. Should not remake an exhibitor's design
  3. Exhibits receiving first place awards do not require a second comment
    - a. The first sentence explains why the design was successful Considerations for Video Classes
    - b. A constructive comment may be added if deemed appropriate
  4. One or two comments are not acceptable
  5. Incorporate references to the elements and principles of design and
    - a. Interpretation
    - b. Conformance
    - c. Distinction
- B. Are discussed and composed prior to awarding placement
1. Judges must consider how their comments will be received by the
    - a. Exhibitor
    - b. Garden club members
    - c. Public

# CHAPTER XI: AWARDS GUIDELINES

## I. Considerations

- A. Are approved at the time a schedule is approved
- B. Are under the jurisdiction of the GCA Flower Show Committee, not the GCA Awards Committee
- C. Are presented only when fully merited
- D. To present GCA Special Awards at a flower show, require a minimum of
  - 1. 2 judging panels each in the Floral Design and Horticulture Divisions
  - 2. 1 panel each in the Photography, Botanical Arts, and Education Divisions
  - 3. 1 judging panel for the Educational Component
- E. GCA Special Awards
  - 1. Are approved when the Flower Show Schedule is approved
  - 2. Listed in the [GCA Awards Directory](#)
  - 3. Award Certificates will be mailed
    - a. To the Flower Show Awards chairman
    - b. From GCA headquarters approximately one month prior to the flower show
- F. See [Judging](#) for number of ribbon and sticker awards which may be given
- G. Ribbon awards or stickers
  - 1. First, blue
  - 2. Second, red
  - 3. Third, yellow
  - 4. Honorable mention, white
- H. Other awards
  - 1. The judges may present any other awards the show has offered according to the criteria outlined in the schedule
- I. Judges' Commendations
  - 1. Schedule
  - 2. Staging
  - 3. Signage
  - 4. Strong aspect of show
    - a. Communication
    - b. Technology
    - c. Other
  - 5. Outstanding class in any division
  - 6. Incorporation of the best conservation-minded efforts such as:
    - a. Oasis-free floral design
    - b. Plastic-free shows
    - c. Plans to donate unused horticulture specimens and extra floral design materials to a hospital or other organization
    - d. Plans to compost horticultural waste
    - e. Wedging
      - i. Encourage plant material (no celery) that, can be composted or
      - ii. Biodegradable plastic wrap
    - f. Horticulture classes using plants grown from natives and/or collected seeds
    - g. Hosting a show in a LEED certified building
  - 7. Other
    - a. Issuing a Judges' Commendation for an entire show is discouraged

## CHAPTER XII: GCA MAJOR FLOWER SHOW AWARDS

The GCA Judging Committee chairman provides the Special Awards panels for GCA Major Flower Shows.

**Note:** Floral Design and Horticulture supplemental classes are not eligible for GCA Special Awards with the exception of Best in Show.

### I. Floral Design Division Awards

Must have a minimum of 36 exhibits in 6 judged classes with a minimum of 4 exhibits per class in the floral design division to qualify for the following awards:

#### A. Best in Show Floral Design

1. Award criteria:
  - a. Selected from the first place winners of the division
  - b. Challenge class exhibits not eligible
2. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA floral design judges provided by the GCA Judging Committee chairman

#### B. Sandra Baylor Novice Floral Design Award

*History: Sandra Baylor, an outstanding flower arranger from Zone VII, member of the Garden Clubs of Virginia Beach (VA) and Norfolk (VA), created the Sandra Baylor Novice Flower Arrangement Award. In 2000, Mrs. Baylor recognized the need to endow an award encouraging novice flower arrangers to enter GCA Flower Shows. In 2008, Mrs. Baylor broadened her intent to honor individual novice exhibitors in both GCA and GCA Major Flower Shows. Mrs. Baylor's daughter, Anne Baylor Conner, designed the award certificate.*

1. Award criteria:
  - a. Individual GCA club member who has never won a first place ribbon or a GCA Special Award in the floral design division of a GCA Major Flower Show or a Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show
  - b. Placed first, second, or third
  - c. Awarded for a unique and skillful response to the schedule
  - d. Challenge class exhibits not eligible
  - e. Eligible exhibits identified on the entry card
2. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA floral design judges provided by the GCA Judging Committee chairman

#### C. Fenwick Medal

*History: The Fenwick Medal is named in honor of Lady Fenwick who created the first ornamental garden in the thirteen original colonies at Saybrook, CT. Designed in 1934 by Harriet Frishmuth, the medal was presented by Mrs. John H. Gibbons, Garden Clubs of Hartford (CT) and Palm Beach (FL). In 1964, it was endowed by Mrs. William E. Waters in honor of Mrs. Jesse Draper, both members of the Peachtree Garden Club (GA).*

1. Award criteria:
  - a. GCA club member(s) only entering floral design classes at GCA Major Flower Shows
  - b. Placed first, second, or third
  - c. Offered in recognition of creative work of outstanding beauty using predominantly fresh plant material

- d. The awarding of the Fenwick Medal lies in the clear interpretation by the judges of the intent of the medal
  - e. A standard of creativity and quality in a highly competitive show rather than Best in Show is required
  - f. Challenge class exhibits not eligible
2. Judges:
- a. Three approved GCA floral design judges provided by the GCA Judging Committee chairman

#### **D. Carol Coffey Swift Medal of Excellence**

*History: The Swift Medal was named to honor Carol Coffey Swift by her children on the occasion of her being awarded the Bonnylin Woods Martin Medal in 2001. Mrs. Swift is a member of the Lake Forest Garden Club (IL) and the Garden Club of Santa Barbara (CA). A former club president, annual meeting chairman, Zone XI director and vice president, she is also a dedicated and inspired flower arranger. The medal was designed by Mrs. Swift featuring one of her own award winning designs.*

1. Award criteria:
- a. GCA club member(s) only at GCA Major Flower Shows
  - b. Placed first, second, or third
  - c. Offered in recognition of an exhibit of great distinction
  - d. Challenge class exhibits not eligible
2. Judges:
- a. Three approved GCA floral design judges provided by the GCA Judging Committee chairman

#### **E. Margaret Clover Symonds Medal**

*History: Honoring a long-standing member of the River Oaks Garden Club (TX), the Margaret Clover Symonds Medal was established in 1999. Mrs. Symonds was a talented arranger, compassionate teacher, GCA vice president, and flower arrangement judge. The medal was endowed by her son and daughter-in-law, Jonathan Taft and Anne Allen Symonds, and was designed by Gay Estes.*

1. Award criteria:
- a. GCA club member(s) only at GCA Major Flower Shows
  - b. Placed first, second, or third
  - c. An innovative, modern design, creatively combining man-made material(s) with fresh and/or dried plant material (as the schedule permits)
  - d. Challenge class exhibits not eligible
2. Judges:
- a. Three approved GCA floral design judges provided by the GCA Judging Committee chairman

## **II. Horticulture Division Awards**

*Must have a minimum of 100 exhibits and no fewer than 60 exhibitors in judged classes to qualify for the following awards:*

### **A. Best in Show Horticulture**

1. Award criteria:
- a. Selected from the first place winners of the division
2. Judges:

- a. Three approved GCA horticulture judges provided by the GCA Judging Committee chairman

## **B. Certificate of Excellence in Horticulture**

### 1. Award criteria:

- a. GCA club member(s), GCA clubs, non-members, other organizations at GCA Major Flower Shows
- b. Placed first, second, or third
- c. Awarded for great distinction in a competitive horticulture class

### 2. Judges:

- a. Three approved GCA horticulture judges provided by the GCA Judging Committee chairman

## **C. Elizabeth Platt Corning Medal**

*History: The Corning Medal was named for Elizabeth Platt Corning, a member of the Fort Orange (NY) Garden Club, former president of the Garden Club of America, and an outstanding horticulturist whose dedication to the field has inspired and motivated generations of GCA club members.*

### 1. Award criteria:

- a. GCA club member(s), GCA club(s) only at GCA Major Flower Shows
- b. Placed first, second, or third
- c. Awarded to an entry with distinction and originality, notable for its cultural difficulty, and exceptional standard of horticultural excellence
- d. Extra consideration is given to an exhibit propagated by the exhibitor; full propagation details must be listed on a propagation card accompanying the exhibit
- e. Must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least 6 months
- f. Awarded for a single plant, collection of plants, container-garden, or cut specimen(s)
- g. May not be awarded more than once to the same exhibit

### 2. Judges:

- a. Three approved GCA horticulture judges provided by the GCA Judging Committee chairman
- b. This panel of judges may also judge the Wrinkle, the GCA Novice Award in Horticulture, and the Certificate of Excellence in Horticulture, if so requested

## **D. GCA Novice Award in Horticulture**

*History: In 2008, the Flower Show Committee created this award to honor the accomplishment of a novice exhibitor in the horticulture division.*

### 1. Award criteria:

- a. An individual GCA club member who has never won a first place ribbon or a GCA Special Award in the horticulture division of a GCA Major Flower Show or a Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show
- b. Placed first, second, or third
- c. Offered to honor the accomplishment of a novice exhibitor
- d. Eligibility should be indicated on the entry card

### 2. Judges:

- a. Three approved GCA horticulture judges provided by the GCA Judging Committee chairman

- b. This panel of judges may also judge for the Corning Medal, Wrinkle, and the Certificate of Excellence in Horticulture, if so requested

### **E. Louise Agee Wrinkle Horticulture Propagation Award**

*History: The Louise Agee Wrinkle Horticulture Propagation Award was named for a past chairman of the Horticulture Committee, director, and member of the executive committee. It was proposed by the Garden Club of Honolulu (HI) member Phyllis Lee, who saw the need for a propagation award at GCA Major Flower Shows and suggested it be named for this member of the Little Garden Club of Birmingham (AL), judge, enthusiastic gardener and grower. The certificate was first awarded in 2007.*

1. Award criteria:
  - a. GCA club members only at GCA Major Flower Shows
  - b. Rooted plants propagated by seed, cuttings, or other methods
  - c. A single specimen, source plant and its offspring or a collection
  - d. Placed first, second, or third
  - e. Propagated and grown for at least six months
  - f. Propagation methods must be detailed on an accompanying propagation card
  - g. Distinguished by prime condition, cultural perfection, attractive presentation, and flawless grooming
  - h. May not be awarded more than once to the same exhibit
2. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA horticulture judges provided by the GCA Judging Committee chairman
  - b. This panel of judges may also judge for the Corning Medal, GCA Novice Award in Horticulture, and the Certificate of Excellence in Horticulture, if so requested

## **III. Photography Division Awards**

*Must have a minimum of 36 entries in 6 judged classes to qualify for the following awards.*

### **A. Best in Show Photography**

1. Award criteria:
  - a. Selected from the first place winners of the division
2. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA photography judges provided by the GCA Judging Committee chairman

### **B. Certificate of Excellence in Photography**

1. Award criteria:
  - a. Individual club members, individual non-members at GCA Major Flower Shows
  - b. Placed first, second, or third
  - c. For an exhibit of great distinction
2. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA photography judges provided by the GCA Judging Committee chairman

### **C. GCA Novice Award in Photography**

*History: In 2008 the Flower Show Committee created this award to honor the accomplishment of a novice exhibitor in the photography division.*



3. Award criteria:
  - a. An individual GCA club member who has never won a first place ribbon or a GCA Special Award in the photography division of a GCA Major Flower Show or a Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show
  - b. Placed first, second, or third
  - c. For an outstanding exhibit
  - d. Eligibility should be indicated on the entry card
4. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA photography judges provided by the GCA Judging Committee chairman
  - b. This panel may also judge for the Certificate of Excellence in Photography and the GCA Photography Creativity Award, if so requested

#### **D. Photography Creativity Award**

*History: In 2011, the Flower Show Committee created this award to honor exhibitors and encourage participation in the photography division of a GCA Major Flower Show*

5. Award criteria:
  - a. GCA club members only
  - b. Placed first, second, or third
  - c. For creative and technical excellence in response to the theme of the schedule
6. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA photography judges provided by the GCA Judging Committee chairman
  - b. This panel may also judge for the Certificate of Excellence and the GCA Novice Award in Photography, if so requested

### **IV. Botanical Arts Division Awards**

*Must have a minimum of 18 entries in 3 judged classes to qualify for the following awards:*

#### **A. Best in Show Botanical Arts**

1. Award criteria:
  - a. Selected from the first place winners of the division
  - b. Challenge class exhibits not eligible
2. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA Botanical Arts Judges or approved Specialty Judges for BA, provided by the GCA Judging Committee chairman

#### **B. Certificate of Excellence in Botanical Arts**

*History: In 2020, the Flower Show Committee created this award to recognize Botanical Arts as a separate division from Floral Design for an exhibit of great distinction in botanical arts division of a GCA Major Flower Show*

1. Award criteria
  - a. Individual club members, individual non-members at GCA Major Flower Shows
  - b. Placed first, second, or third
  - c. For an exhibit of great distinction
  - d. Challenge Class exhibits not eligible
3. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA Botanical Arts Judges or approved Specialty Judges for BA, provided by the GCA Judging Committee chairman

### **C. GCA Botanical Arts Creativity Award**

*History: In 2011 the Flower Show Committee created this award to honor exhibitors and to stimulate participation in the botanical arts division of GCA flower shows.*

1. Award criteria:
  - a. GCA club members at a GCA Major Flower Show (or at a GCA Flower Show)
  - b. Placed first, second, or third
  - c. For excellent craftsmanship and creative response to the schedule
  - d. Challenge Class exhibits not eligible
2. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA Botanical Arts Judges or approved Specialty Judges for BA, provided by the GCA Judging Committee chairman
  - b. This panel may also judge for the GCA Novice Award in Botanical Arts, if so requested

### **D. GCA Novice Award in Botanical Arts**

*History: In 2008 the Flower Show Committee created this award to honor the accomplishment of a novice exhibitor in the botanical arts division*

1. Award criteria:
  - a. Individual GCA club member who has never won a first place ribbon or a GCA Special Award in the botanical arts division of a GCA Major Flower Show or a Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show
  - b. Placed first, second, or third
  - c. For an outstanding exhibit
  - d. Eligibility should be indicated on the entry card
  - e. Challenge class exhibits not eligible
2. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA Botanical Arts Judges or approved Specialty Judges for BA, provided by the GCA Judging Committee chairman
  - b. This panel may also judge for the GCA Botanical Arts Creativity Award, if so requested

## **V. Education Division Awards and Conservation Awards**

### **A. Best in Show Education**

1. Award criteria:
  - a. For education classes
  - b. Selected from the first place winners of the division
2. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA judges provided by the GCA Judging Committee chairman

### **B. Certificate of Excellence in Conservation**

1. Award criteria:
  - a. GCA clubs, club members, non-members or other organizations at a GCA Major Flower Show
  - b. Awarded to an exhibit of exceptional merit that educates the public on conservation issues and promotes respect for natural resources and responsibility for environmental stewardship
2. Judges:

- a. Three approved GCA horticulture judges  
OR
- b. 2 approved GCA horticulture judges and another GCA approved judge knowledgeable about the subjects covered by the exhibit
- c. Provided by the GCA Judging Committee chairman

### **C. Ann Lyon Crammond Award**

*History: The Ann Lyon Crammond Award is named for a Peachtree Garden Club (GA) member who was chairman of The Garden Club of America Horticulture Committee, and for ten years, the executive director of the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Her life was dedicated to education and to sharing her joy and knowledge in the field of horticulture.*

- 1. Award criteria:
  - a. GCA clubs, GCA club members, non-members, or other organizations
  - b. An outstanding educational exhibit that best educates the public about gardens
  - c. Any educational exhibit that increases the appreciation of any aspect of plants, gardens, or landscape design
- 2. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA horticulture judges  
OR
  - b. 2 approved GCA horticulture judges and another GCA approved judge knowledgeable about the subjects covered by the exhibit
  - c. Provided by the GCA Judging Committee chairman

## **VI. GCA Major Flower Show Sweepstakes Award**

### **A. Annie Burr Jennings Award**

*History: The Annie Burr Jennings Sweepstakes Award was presented by the Fairfield (CT) Garden Club in honor of its member, Annie Burr Jennings. A medal was designed by Bruce Moore and first awarded in 1941. In 1993, the medal was replaced by a certificate.*

- 1. Award criteria:
  - a. Presented to the club with the highest number of points earned by its members from all competitive classes in a GCA Major Flower Show
  - b. Points are awarded as follows
    - 1) For each Special Award received, as listed in the schedule = 10 points
    - 2) First place= 5 points
    - 3) Second place = 3 points
    - 4) Third place = 1 point
  - c. The number of points for each club should be totaled by the show's judging chairman from the entry sheets for each division
    - 1) Entry sheets are obtained from the show registration or division chairman

## **VII. Other GCA Awards for GCA Major Flower Shows**

### **A. Education Award**

*History: in 2020 the GCA Flower Show Committee created the award to recognize an exhibit of exceptional merit which educates the public in keeping with the purpose statement of the GCA*

- 1. Awarded to:
  - a. Awarded for the Educational Component in a GCA Major Flower Show or a GCA Flower Show
  - b. GCA clubs and GCA club members

- c. Awarded to an entry (after passing becomes/is, an exhibit), a class, a division or an entire show
- 2. Judges:
  - a. A panel made up of three approved GCA Judges from each applicable division in the show
  - b. Provided by the GCA Judging Committee chairman

*The following awards should be included in the Awards portion of the Flower Show Schedule. The certificates may be printed from the GCA website*

**B. Judges' Commendation**

- 1. Awarded to:
  - a. An entry (after passing becomes/is an exhibit), class, division, special exhibit or other aspect of the show for exceptional merit
- 2. Issuing a Judges' Commendation for the entire show is discouraged

**C. Award of Appreciation**

- 1. Available for exhibits that do not qualify for GCA Special Awards or ribbons
- 2. May also be used for non-judged classes
- 3. May include a special ribbon or comment card provided by the show thanking the exhibitor or group for participation

**VIII. Other Awards**

*May be presented by sponsoring club or outside organizations*

- A. Should have criteria listed in schedule after GCA Special Awards
- B. Should have award certificates and/or ribbons provided by the show
- C. May be equivalent awards for non-GCA exhibitors when the show's registration is open to the public
- D. Similar to the corresponding GCA Special Awards with different component(s) to differentiate it from GCA Special Awards
  - 1. e.g., make the 'Other' Award the same as the Fenwick, but ass "plant material from the exhibitor's garden"
- E. Individual sweepstakes awarded to an individual who wins the most first place ribbons in either single and/or multiple division(s)
- F. Individual division award, or
- G. Overall show award
  - 1. A tie is broken by tallying second place awards won by each exhibitor

## CHAPTER XIII: GCA FLOWER SHOW AWARDS

*Floral Design and Horticulture Supplemental Classes are not eligible for GCA Special Awards with the exception of Best in Show.*

### I. Floral Design Division Awards

*Must have a minimum of 12 entries in 3 judged classes with a minimum of 4 entries per class to qualify for the following awards*

#### A. Best in Show Floral Design

1. Award criteria:
  - a. Selected from the first place winners of the division
  - b. Challenge Class exhibits not eligible
2. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA floral design judges provided by the Judging zone representative

#### B. Sandra Baylor Novice Floral Design Award

*History: Sandra Baylor, an outstanding flower arranger from Zone VII, member of the Garden Clubs of Virginia Beach (VA) and Norfolk (VA), created the Sandra Baylor Novice Flower Arrangement Award. In 2000, Mrs. Baylor recognized the need to endow an award encouraging novice flower arrangers to enter GCA Flower Shows. Mrs. Baylor's daughter, Anne Baylor Conner, designed the award certificate.*

1. Award criteria:
  - a. An individual GCA club member who has never won a first place ribbon or a GCA Special Award in the floral design division of a GCA Flower Show, a GCA Major Flower Show, or a Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show
  - b. Placed first, second, or third
  - c. Awarded for a unique and skillful response to the schedule
  - d. Challenge class exhibits are not eligible
  - e. Eligible entries identified on the entry card
2. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA floral design judges provided by the Judging zone representative

#### C. Dorothy Vietor Munger Award

*History: Dorothy Vietor Munger, a member of the Rumson Garden Club (NJ), was an accomplished flower arranger and judge, and served as a director and as a member of the executive committee of the GCA. In 2000, Mrs. Herbert H. Hinrichs of the Englewood Garden Club (NJ) suggested that the Flower Show Committee Award be renamed to honor Mrs. Munger and her many contributions to The Garden Club of America. Mrs. Philip Greene, Mrs. Niels Johnsen and Mrs. John Sinott of the Rumson Garden Club (NJ) gave the book to the library and headquarters to document the arrangements receiving this award with photographs and judges' citations.*

1. Award criteria:
  - a. GCA club members only at a GCA Flower Show
  - b. Placed first, second, or third
  - c. Offered in recognition of creative work of outstanding beauty using predominantly fresh plant material
  - d. Not a substitute for Best in Show
  - e. Challenge class exhibits not eligible

2. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA floral design judges provided by the Judging zone representative

**D. Harriet DeWaele Puckett Creativity Award**

*History: In 1982, a pewter bowl was presented to The Garden Club of America by Mrs. James S. Morgan, Huntingdon Valley Garden Club (PA) in memory of her friend, Mrs. Frank Best Puckett, nationally recognized creative writer and editor at The Saturday Evening Post. The award was expressly created for GCA Flower Shows.*

1. Award criteria:
  - a. GCA club members, non-members in a GCA Flower Show
  - b. Placed first, second, or third
  - c. In recognition of a uniquely skillful and creative response to an imaginative schedule
  - d. Awarded to an innovative and interpretive entry that, although it abides by the principles of good design, goes beyond traditional period arrangement to whatever art form the arranger(s) chooses
  - e. Challenge class exhibits not eligible
  - f. Not a substitute for Best in Show
  - g. Suggested scale of points:

Design	50
Creativity/originality	25
Distinction	15
Interpretation	10
Total	100

2. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA floral design judges provided by the Judging zone representative

**II. Horticulture Division Awards**

*Must have a minimum of 30 exhibits from 30 exhibitors and no fewer than 5 judged classes to qualify for the following awards:*

**A. Best in Show Horticulture**

1. Award criteria:
  - a. Selected from the first place winners of the division
2. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA horticulture judges provided by the Judging zone representative

**B. Catherine Beattie Medal**

*History: Named for Mrs. Samuel Beattie, a dedicated horticulturist, member of the Carolina Foothills Garden Club (SC), and former president of The Garden Club of America, the Beattie medal is intended to stimulate participation and improve the quality of exhibits in GCA Flower Shows.*

1. Award criteria:
  - a. GCA club members, GCA clubs in a GCA Flower Show
  - b. Placed first, second, or third

- c. Awarded for vibrancy, prime condition, and perfection of grooming
  - d. Grown by exhibitor for at least 6 months
  - e. Awarded to a single plant, collection of plants, container garden, or cut Specimen
  - f. Exhibit eligible only once but offspring are eligible
2. Judges:
- a. Three approved GCA horticulture judges provided by the Judging zone representative

**C. GCA Novice Award in Horticulture**

*History: In 2008 the Flower Show Committee created this award to honor the accomplishment of a novice exhibitor in the horticulture division.*

1. Award criteria:
- a. An individual GCA club member who has never won a first place ribbon or a GCA Special Award in the horticulture division of a GCA Flower Show, a GCA Major Flower Show, or a Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show
  - b. Placed first, second, or third
  - c. Offered to honor the accomplishment of a novice exhibitor
  - d. Eligibility should be indicated on the entry card
2. Judges:
- a. Three approved GCA horticulture judges provided by the Judging zone representative

**D. Rosie Jones Horticulture Award**

*History: Established by the GCA Horticulture Committee in 2005, the Rosie Jones Horticulture Award honors an outstanding horticulturist. A member of Diggers Garden Club (CA), horticulture judge, former chairman of the Flower Show and Judging committees, Zone XII Director and GCA vice president, Mrs. Jones inspired many to increase their knowledge and love of growing plants.*

1. Award criteria:
- a. GCA club members, GCA clubs, non-members, other organizations at a GCA Flower Show
  - b. Placed first, second, or third
  - c. Exhibit of exceptional visual appeal that reflects the spirit of growing with joy and enthusiasm and inspires others to propagate, grow, show and share horticulture
  - d. Extra consideration to an exhibit propagated by the exhibitor
  - e. While desirable, perfection is not the primary criterion
  - f. Exceptional and exuberant inspiration are its virtues
2. Judges:
- a. Three approved GCA horticulture judges provided by the Judging zone representative

**E. Clarissa Willemsen Horticulture Propagation Award**

*History: Established to encourage plant propagation by Garden Club of Morristown in honor of Mrs. Alan M. Willemsen and, a past president of The Garden Club of America and Garden Club of Morristown (NJ), a horticulture judge and an outstanding horticulturist.*

1. Award criteria:
- a. GCA club members, GCA clubs, non-members, other organizations at a GCA Flower Show
  - b. Placed first, second, or third



- c. Awarded for prime condition, flawless grooming and difficulty of Propagation
  - d. Propagated and grown by exhibitor for at least 6 months
  - e. A single rooted plant or a collection of rooted plants
  - f. Dates and method of propagation must be recorded on an accompanying propagation card
  - g. Exhibit eligible once only
2. Judges:
- a) Three approved GCA horticulture judges provided by the Judging zone representative

### III. Photography Division Awards

*Must have a minimum of 12 entries in 3 judged classes to qualify for the following awards:*

#### A. Best in Show Photography

- 1. Award criteria:
  - a. Selected from the first place winners of the division
- 2. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA photography judges provided by the Judging zone representative

#### B. Photography Creativity Award

*History: In 2006 the Flower Show Committee created this award to honor exhibitors and encourage participation in the photography division of GCA flower shows.*

- 1. Award Criteria:
  - a. GCA Club member only at a GCA Flower Show
  - b. Placed first, second, or third
  - c. For creative and technical excellence in response to the theme of the schedule
- 2. Judges:
  - a. Depending on the number of Photography judges present, two or three approved GCA photography judges provided by the Judging zone representative

#### C. GCA Novice Award in Photography

*History: In 2008 the Flower Show Committee created this award to honor the accomplishment of a novice exhibitor in the photography division.*

- 1. Award criteria:
  - a. An individual GCA club member who has never won a first place ribbon or a GCA Special Award in the photography division of a GCA Flower Show, a GCA Major Flower Show, or a Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show
  - b. Placed first, second, or third
  - c. For an outstanding exhibit
  - d. Eligibility should be indicated on the entry card
- 2. Judges:
  - a. Depending on the number of Photography judges present, two or three approved GCA photography judges provided by the Judging zone representative

### IV. Botanical Arts Division Awards

*Must have a minimum of 8 entries in 2 judged classes to qualify for the following awards:*



## **A. Best in Show Botanical Arts**

1. Award criteria:
  - a. Selected from the first place winners of the division
  - b. Challenge Class exhibit not eligible
2. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA Botanical Arts Judges or approved Specialty Judges for BA, provided by the Judging zone representative

## **B. Botanical Arts Creativity Award**

*History: In 2011 the Flower Show Committee created this award to honor exhibitors and to stimulate participation in the botanical arts division of GCA flower shows.*

1. Award Criteria:
  - a. GCA Club members at a GCA Flower Show (or a GCA Major Flower Show)
  - b. Placed first, second, or third
  - c. For excellent craftsmanship and creative response to the schedule
  - d. Challenge Class exhibits not eligible
2. Judges:
  - a. Three approved Botanical Arts GCA Judges or approved Specialty Judges for BA, provided by the Judging zone representative

## **C. GCA Novice Award in Botanical Arts**

*History: In 2008 the Flower Show Committee created this award to honor the accomplishment of a novice exhibitor in the botanical arts division.*

1. Award criteria:
  - a. An individual GCA club member who has never won a first place ribbon or a GCA Special Award in the botanical arts division of a GCA Flower Show, a GCA Major Flower Show, or a Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show
  - b. Placed first, second, or third
  - c. For an outstanding exhibit
  - d. Eligibility should be indicated on the entry card
  - e. Challenge Class exhibits not eligible
2. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA Botanical Arts Judges or approved Specialty Judges for BA, provided by the Judging zone representative

## **V. Education Division and Conservation Awards**

*Must have a large exhibit and/or a minimum of 8 entries in 2 judged classes to qualify for the following awards:*

### **A. Best in Show Education**

1. Award criteria:
  - a. For education classes
  - b. Selected from the first place winners of the division
2. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA judges provided by the Judging zone representative

### **B. Ann Lyon Crammond Award**

*History: The Ann Lyon Crammond Award is named for a Peachtree Garden Club (GA) member who was chairman of The Garden Club of America Horticulture Committee,*

*and, for ten years the executive director of the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Her life was dedicated to education and to sharing her joy and knowledge in the field of horticulture.*

1. Award criteria:
  - a. GCA club members, GCA clubs, non-members or other organizations in a GCA Flower Show
  - b. An outstanding education exhibit that best educates the public about gardens
  - c. An exhibit that increases the appreciation of any aspect of plants, gardens or landscape design
2. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA horticulture judges  
OR
3. 2 approved GCA horticulture judges and another GCA approved judge knowledgeable about the subjects covered by the exhibit and provided by the Judging zone representative

### **C. Marion Thompson Fuller Brown Conservation Award**

*History: A former president of Piscataqua Garden Club (NH), GCA Director and Vice President, Marion Thompson Fuller Brown was also a dedicated conservationist. The award was given in 1987 to honor her leadership in the field of conservation legislation and her efforts in the beautification of the state of Maine and the nation.*

1. Award criteria:
  - a. GCA club members, GCA clubs, non-members or other organizations in a GCA Flower Show
  - b. In recognition of an exhibit of exceptional educational and visual merit that increases knowledge and awareness of the environment
  - c. Exhibit should emphasize environmental concerns and may demonstrate conservation practices
  - d. Plant material may or may not be used and, when appropriate, must be clearly identified
  - e. Protected plant material may be included if such materials are identified as protected and not collected in the wild
2. Judges:
  - a. Three approved GCA judges selected by the Judging zone representative
  - b. Judges selected should be knowledgeable about the subjects covered by the exhibits

## **VI. Zone Flower Show Sweepstakes Award**

### **A. Corliss Knapp Engle Horticulture Sweepstakes Award**

*History: Corliss Knapp Engle Horticulture Sweepstakes Award honors one of The Garden Club of America's finest horticulturists. A member of the Chestnut Hill (MA) Garden Club, horticulture judge, former chairman of the Judging Committee and GCA director, Mrs. Engle consistently encouraged excellence in the GCA and in flower shows across the country both by direction and by example.*

1. Award criteria:
  - a. Presented to the club with the highest number of points earned from all competitive horticulture classes in a GCA Zone Flower Show
  - b. Points are to be awarded as follows:

Special Awards*	10 pts
First Place	4 pts

Second Place	3 pts
Third Place	2 pts
Honorable Mention	1 pt

*\*for each award listed in the schedule*

## VII. Other GCA Awards for GCA Flower Shows

### A. Education Award

*History: in 2020 the GCA Flower Show Committee created the award to recognize an exhibit of exceptional merit which educates the public in keeping with the [purpose statement of the GCA](#)*

1. Award criteria:
  - a. Awarded for the Educational Component in a GCA Flower Show or GCA Major Flower Show
  - b. GCA clubs and GCA club members
  - c. Awarded to an entry (after passing becomes/is an exhibit), a class, a division or an entire show
2. Judges:
  - a. A panel made up of three approved GCA Judges from each applicable division in the show
  - b. Provided by the GCA Judging zone representative

*The following awards should be included in the Awards portion of the Flower Show Schedule. Certificates may printed from the GCA website*

### B. Judges' Commendation

1. Awarded to:
  - a) An entry (after passing becomes/is an exhibit), class, division, special exhibit or other aspect of the show for exceptional merit
2. Issuing a Judges' Commendation for the entire show is discouraged

### C. Award of Appreciation

1. Available for exhibits that do not merit GCA Special Awards or ribbons
2. May also be used for non-judged classes
3. A special ribbon or award card provided by the show thanking the exhibitor or group for participation

### D. Other Awards

*May be presented by sponsoring club or outside organizations*

1. Should have criteria listed in schedule after GCA Special Awards
2. Should have award certificates and/or ribbons provided by the show
3. May be equivalent awards for non-GCA exhibitors when the show's registration is open to the public
4. Similar to the corresponding GCA Special Awards with different component(s) to differentiate it from the GCA Special Award
  - a. e.g., make the Other Award the same as the Munger, but add "plant material from the exhibitor's garden"
5. Individual sweepstakes awarded to an individual who wins the most first place ribbons in either single and/or multiple division(s)
6. Individual division award, or
7. Overall show award
  - a. A tie is broken by tallying second place awards won by each exhibitor

## CHAPTER XIV: FLOWER SHOW EVALUATION

### I. Who should attend

- A. Judges at GCA Major Flower Shows and GCA Flower Shows are required to remain until the flower show evaluation has been completed
  - 1. Judges should not accept assignment if unable to stay until evaluation is complete
  - 2. Prospective judges may attend as auditors
  - 3. Members of sponsoring club may not attend

### II. Who should conduct and guidelines

- A. For GCA Major Flower Shows and Annual Meeting Flower Shows, the GCA Flower Show Committee chairman will conduct the evaluation
  - 1. Secure email list from show judging chairman and email individual evaluation to judges immediately before or after the show
  - 2. Have room set up with tables by discipline and division signs on each table
  - 3. Hold discussion of what is not to be missed in each division, etc.
  - 4. Write evaluation incorporating data from onsite evaluation forms and individual forms
    - a. The written evaluation will be sent to the chairman of the show with copies to
      - 1) Flower Show zone representative
      - 2) GCA administrator
      - 3) Club president
- B. For GCA Flower Shows, the Flower Show zone representative, or if not attending, one of the coordinating judges, will conduct the evaluation
  - 1. Secure email list from show judging chairman and email individual evaluation to judges immediately before or after the show.
  - 2. Have room set up with tables by discipline and division signs on each table
  - 3. Hold discussion of what is not to be missed in each division, etc.
  - 4. Write evaluation incorporating data from onsite evaluation forms and individual forms
    - a. The written evaluation will be sent to the chairman of the show with copies to
      - 1) GCA Flower Show Committee chairman
      - 2) Flower Show Committee staff administrator
      - 3) Club president

### III. Procedure

- A. Judges sit at tables by discipline
- B. Fill out one evaluation per table based on group discussion
- C. Complete emailed individual evaluation within three days of show

## CHAPTER XV: JUDGING VOCABULARY

### I. GCA Floral Design: Principles of Design

#### **Balance**

a carefully balanced composition  
contrasting block of color creates balance  
precarious balance creates wonder and intrigue  
visual weight at the base provides balance  
reconsider the placement of ... for balance  
lacks a strong visual axis, appears unbalanced

#### **Contrast**

contrasting textures create dimension  
skillful use of opposites  
placement of components to emphasize differences  
dramatic, gentle, eloquent contrast

#### **Scale**

extended vertical line in scale with high ceilings  
size of design in perfect scale with the niche  
extended linear components bring the design into scale with the space

#### **Dominance**

achieved by size, amount and density  
bold use of texture communicates mood of the design  
superb use of color as the dominant element  
several strong colors compete for dominance  
too many unique flower forms compete

#### **Rhythm**

comes alive with movement  
dramatic use of repetition creates rhythm  
the eye is directed through the rhythmic design  
static placement of ...stops movement of the eye

#### **Proportion**

a well defined silhouette  
inverted proportion a good solution for oversized container  
volume of flowers is excessive, not in proportion  
linear element lacks sufficient height  
container is proportionally too dominant

### II. GCA Floral Design: Elements of Design

#### **Color**

a spectrum of luminous color  
playful use of color creates visual rhythm  
effective color combination captures theme  
incompatible selection of colors  
too many colors create confusion

#### **Form**

compatible flower forms create a unity in design  
contrasting forms enhance the design  
crisp juxtaposition creates a pleasing rhythm

#### **Line**

extended vertical line in scale with high ceilings  
line produces motion giving life to the design  
dramatic lines add tremendous force to design  
direction flowers face are in conflict with flow  
too many opposing lines misdirect the eye

#### **Size**

miniature design demonstrates amazing detail  
the container is over scaled for composition size

#### **Pattern**

dramatic use of repetition  
effective use of pattern carries the eye through design  
repetition of pattern creates dynamic rhythm

#### **Space**

less is more...your use of spec is exquisite!  
well-designed negative space creates tension  
large components compliment generous size of room

#### **Texture**

textural opposition evokes an emotional response  
clean execution defines distinct textural areas  
strategic placement of opposing textures creates drama  
too many similar textures confuse the eye

#### **Light**

expertly designed to capture ambient light  
flowers skillfully placed to maximize available light

#### **Distinction**

distinctive use of specimen flowers creates beauty  
flawless concept, techniques and choice of materials

### III. GCA Floral Design: *Positive Vocabulary*

#### GCA Floral Design Judging: *Positive Vocabulary*

Words to Inspire							
Alluring	Colorful	Effective	Flowing	Intricate	Pastoral	Shimmering	Sumptuous
Artful	Commanding	Elegant	Forceful	Intriguing	Peaceful	Shining	Superb
Attractive	Complex	Eloquent	Free-flowing	Inventive	Perfection	Show-stopping	Superior
Avant guard	Contemplative	Emotional	Fresh	Lavish	Phenomenal	Silhouette	Sweet
Beautiful	Contemporary	Enchanting	Glamorous	Lively	Precise	Simplicity	Symmetry
Beauty	Contrasts	Evocative	Glowing	Luminous	Provocative	Skillful	Symphonic
Bold	Courageous	Exuberant	Graceful	Lush	Pure	Sleek	Synergy
Bountiful	Crisp	Exotic	Harmonic	Lyrical	Radiant	Sophisticated	Tasteful
Bourty	Cutting edge	Expressive	High impact	Magical	Refined	Spectacular	Theatrical
Breathtaking	Daring	Exquisite	Hypnotic	Mellow	Reflecting	Splashy	Timeless
Brilliant	Dashing	Extraordinary	Idyllic	Memorable	Repetition	Splendid	Tranquil
Cascade	Dazzling	Fabulous	Illusion	Meticulous	Rhythmic	Spirited	Uncomplicated
Charisma	Debonair	Fancy	Imaginative	Mosaic	Romantic	Stately	Unconventional
Charm	Delicate	Fantasy	Imbued with	Mysterious	Rugged	Stimulating	Undulating
Chic	Delightful	Fascinating	Impeccable	Nostalgic	Sassy	Striking	Unexpected
Classy	Dignity	Finesse	Ingenious	Organic	Scintillating	Structural	Unique
Clean	Dramatic	Flair	Innovative	Original	Sensational	Stunning	Unusual
Clear	Dynamic	Flamboyant	Inspiring	Outrageous	Serene	Sublime	Visible energy
Clever	Edgy	Flirty	Interesting	Palette	Serendipity	Subtle	Whimsical

### IV.

#### GCA Floral Design: *Positive Phrases*

#### GCA Floral Design Judging: *Positive Phrases*

Positive Noun Phrases			Positive Verb Phrases	
Aesthetic appeal	Internal tension	Spatial illusion	Achieved by	Handling of
Beautiful synthesis of	Interplay of color/form	Steadying influence	Achieved balance	Imitates nature
Clean execution	Knowledgeable handling	Structural clarity	Achieved through	Incorporating
Color placement	Most expressive	Successful design	Aided	Ingenious use of
Contrasting textural	Opposing elements	Textural character	Captures	Injects vitality
Directional path	Opposing forces	Textual sensations	Carries the eye	Integrating
Directional pull	Optical emotional pull	Unifying pattern	Causes the eye to	Leads the eye
Dynamic pull	Outward emotion	Unique techniques	Characterized by	Playful
Exciting rhythmic action	Perceptive use of	Varying tension	Clean execution	Portraying
Fascinating dichotomy	Playful attitude	Visual balance	Commanding	Radiating
Faultless execution	Repetitive groupings	Visual force	Compelling	Reinforced by
Fluid movement	Respect of material	Visual path	Conveys	Relates
Forward thinking	Respect of space	Visual qualities	Creates	Revealing
Freshness of concept	Restraint and simplicity	Visual stability	Demonstrates	Softens
Haphazard selection	Rhythmic vitality	Visual tension	Draws the eye	Stimulating
Harmonious organization	Sense of order	Visual weight	Equated	Stimulates the eye
High-visibility color	Sensual connotation	Visual experience	Exemplifies	Stunning use of
Individual expression	Skillful execution	Vital movement	Expedites movement	Understanding
Intellectual energy	Smooth rhythmic flow	Well thought out	Gives clarity to	Visualized by contrast



## V. GCA Horticulture: *Positive and Constructive* Comments



### GCA Positive Horticulture Judging Comments

Appealing, Agreeable	Epitomizes the class	Meritorious, Marvelous	Remarkable achievement
Artistic, Creative	Excellent example	Meticulously groomed	Scale pleasing
Astonishing, Stunning	Exceptional, Exquisite	Natural, Organic	Seed pods contribute interest
Attractive presentation	Extraordinary, Glorious	Nicely displayed	Sensational, Show stopper
Balanced, Symmetrical	Eye-Catching	Notable, Noteworthy	Sophisticated
Beautiful, Handsome	Fabulous, Phenomenal	Outstanding, Prominent	Spectacular, Impeccable
Brilliant, Excellent color	Faultless, Flawless	Peak of maturity	Splendid, Elegant
Charming, Delightful	Flowing, Graceful	Perfection, Unsurpassed	Striking, Stunning
Commendable	Fresh, Crisp	Plant material compatible	Superb, Superior, Supreme
Dainty, Delicate	Full, Robust, Sturdy	Prime condition	Textures interesting
Distinguished, Remarkable	Full-Flowered, Prolific	Pristine, Unblemished	Typical of cultivar
Dynamic, Vibrant	Full-Fruited, Profuse	Proportions balanced	Unexpected, Surprising
Educational, Informative	Luminous, Lustrous	Radiant, Glowing	Vibrant, Glowing
Effective, Impressive	Luxuriant, Luxurious	Rare, Unusual	Vigorous, Healthy
Enchanting, Fascinating	Magnificent, Majestic	Refreshing, Pleasing	Well grown, Well shaped

### GCA Constructive Horticulture Comments



<u>Plant &amp; Flowers</u>	<u>Grooming</u>	<u>Container</u>	<u>Cultural</u>
Awkward, Ungainly	Grooming needed (state how)	Container distracting	Fertilizer may improve
Crowded, Cramped	Blemish, defect, or flaw visible	Container should be cleaned	Incorrect nomenclature
Deformed, Misshapen, Irregular	Damage visible, Injured	Fresh soil top would improve	Lacks botanical nomenclature
Lackluster, Dull, Lacks sparkle	Pose more carefully	May show better in larger pot	Lacks growing information
Lacks symmetry	Remove spent flowers	May show better in smaller pot	No length of ownership
Out of proportion	Requires disbudding	Not centered in container	Planted too deep
Past prime, Faded	Requires pruning, thinning	Proportionately too large/small	Planted too high in pot
Plants culturally incompatible	Staking mechanics too visible	Top-dressing needed	Rotating would help growth
Thin, Sparse, Leggy	Wedging too visible	Top-dressing too dark/light	Shows past insect damage
Too immature, Lacks development	Spray residue visible	<i>Could have been enhanced by...</i>	
Uneven, Unbalanced, Unsteady		<i>Presentation affected by...</i>	
Weak, Limp, Wilted		<i>To improve presentation...</i>	

## VI. Nomenclature - Learn the Botanical Name

Examples: These are examples of correct Botanical Names. Plants can be mislabeled and names can change so always double check your sources. Plant names are governed by the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN).

Botanical Name		Common name	
Genus	species	Cultivar	common name
<i>Capitalized</i> <i>Italicized</i>	<i>lower case</i> <i>italicized</i>	Capitalized single quotes (not italicized)	
<i>Magnolia</i>	<i>grandiflora</i>	'Edith Bogue'	Edith Bogue magnolia
<i>Viburnum</i>	<i>nudum</i>	'Winterthur'	Winterthur viburnum
<i>Phlox</i>	<i>paniculata</i>	'David'	David phlox
<i>Asplenium</i>	<i>nidus</i>	'Antiquum'	bird's nest fern
<i>Narcissus</i>		'Garden Club of America'	Garden Club of America daffodil
<i>Tulipa</i>		'Angelique'	Angelique tulip
<i>Rosa</i>		'Peace'	peace rose

### Nomenclature References:

[American Horticulture Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants](#)

Missouri Botanical Garden: [www.missouribotanicalgarden.org](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org)

Royal Horticultural Society: <https://www.rhs.org.uk>



## VII. Photography: *Positive* Vocabulary

agreeable	framed	rhythm
amusing	glorious	sensational
aspect	glowing	sensitive
appropriate focus	good progression	sets a high standard
artistic	good depth of field	shadows
attractive	gorgeous	significant
balance	graceful	simplicity
boldly experimental	grand	soft
captures a moment	harmonious	sophisticated
charming	impact achieved by...	space well utilized
classic	imaginative	special effects
clean	impact	stimulating
clear communication	innovative	striking
clever	interpretative	stunning
conforms to	intriguing	subtle
class/schedule	interesting	superior
compelling	inviting	surprising
creative/highly	lines lead	technically correct
creative	light	textures
creates a mood	luminous	thoughtful
daring	magnificent	turns ordinary into extra- ordinary
delicate	mood captured	uncommon
delightful	moody	understated
depth of field	mystical	unexpected
demure	natural	unique
diagonal lines	noteworthy	unified
dimensional	pleasing	unusual
dreamy	original	use of light
dramatic	outside the box	vantage point
dynamic	perfection	vibrant colors
effective	pleasing	vigorous
elegant	powerful	visual path
enchancing	presentation	well chosen
enhancing	proportion	well edited
essence captured	pure	well framed
exceptional	pushed the envelope	well saturated
exquisite	radial	whimsical
exuberant	range of light and dark- tones	witty
fascinating	rare	white balance
flawless	reflections	wild
flowing	refreshing	worthy
fluid	relevant to class	wow factor
forceful	rich tonal quality	Understate
focal point emphasized		

## VIII. Photography: *Constructive Vocabulary*

background detail	finish detracts	out of focus/over sharp
balance	focus is off the main area of interest	over/under saturated
blurred	focus (fuzzy, not sharp, over sharpened)	placement of focal area/point is static
centered focal point	format wrong	subject
cluttered	harsh light	sharper
concept unclear	hot spots detract	static
confusing	interpretation unclear	tighter shot
competing focal points	insufficient subordinate elements	tilt in horizon line
competition for dominance	loss of detail in light or dark areas	too symmetrical
crop needed or would improve impact if	light source	too many textures
crowded subject in frame of reference	line impedes eye movement	touching lines distract
depth of field	more impact needed	use of space: not fill plane or overfills plane
divided	mat detracts	
excess of elements	noise (grain)	
flat/lacking depth		
focal are weak		

## IX. Photography: *Synonyms*

Image  
Depiction  
Vignette  
Design  
Portrait  
Shot  
Print  
Likeness  
Close-up  
Impression  
Miniature  
Study  
Subject  
Form  
Replica  
Concept(ualization)  
Landscape  
Capture  
Form Object  
Abstract  
Composition  
Semblance