

The Wilton Garden Club, Inc. presents

AMERICAN REVELRIES

A Blooming Quilt of Holidays and Traditions!

An NGC Holiday Standard Flower Show

Friday, October 10, 2025: 1 pm ~ 5 pm

Saturday, October 11, 2025: 10 am ~ 4 pm

at historic

Cannon Grange

25 Cannon Road, Wilton, Connecticut 06897

Admission: \$15 suggested donation



www.wiltongardenclub.org

*Celebrating 104 years of Community Service,
Education, Horticulture, Conservation and Floral Design*

Organized 1921 ~ Joined The Federation 1927 ~ Incorporated 1953

Member of:

National Garden Clubs, Inc. ~ Donna Donnelly, President

New England Garden Clubs, Inc. ~ Polly Brooks, Director

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. ~ Nan Merolla, President

TABLE OF CONTENTS – *Random Acts of Kindness Day*

	<u>Page</u>
Table of Contents – <i>Random Acts of Kindness Day</i>	2
Flower Show Chairs – <i>Fun at Work Day</i>	3
General Rules – <i>According to Hoyle Day</i>	4, 5
National Garden Clubs Top Exhibitor Awards – <i>Times to Remember</i>	
Horticultural Awards	5
Design Awards	5, 6
Education Awards	6
Youth & Sponsored Groups Awards	6
Botanical Arts Awards	6
Special Awards – <i>National High Five Day</i>	6
Division I: Horticulture - <i>Gardener's Almanac</i>	
Horticulture Rules	7, 8
Horticulture Sections and Classes	8 - 10
Division II: Design – <i>Celebrations in Bloom</i>	
Design Rules	10, 11
Design Sections and Classes	11, 12
Division III: Education – <i>Nature's Holidays</i>	
Education Rules	12
Education Exhibits	13, 14
Division IV: Youth & Sponsored Groups – <i>World Smile Day</i>	
Youth and Sponsored Groups Rules	14
Youth Sections & Classes	15
Healing, Therapy & Senior Gardening Classes	16
Division V: Botanical Arts – <i>Gardens of Eden</i>	
Artistic Crafts Rules	16
Artistic Crafts Classes	17
Photography Rules	17
Photography Classes	18
Scales of Points for Judging – <i>National Scrabble Day</i>	19 - 21

FLOWER SHOW CHAIRS – *Fun at Work Day*

General Show Chairs

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>
Flower Show General Chair	janerbelson@gmail.com
Flower Show Consultant	nan.merolla@gmail.com
Artistic Consultant	agraysanders@gmail.com
Awards and Clerks	edna8562@aol.com
	bamontaudy@aol.com
Cover and Print Art	wolfson.dana@gmail.com
Decorating	haikudurden@yahoo.com
	jordannielsen83@yahoo.com
Hospitality	rennipsj@gmail.com
	dljamus@hotmail.com
Hostesses	onyx227@aol.com
Judges	nan.merolla@gmail.com
	andreaeomeara@gmail.com
Print Materials and Signage	nan.merolla@gmail.com
Program	nan.merolla@gmail.com
Program Ad Sales	ballet54@aol.com
	cduncan@optonline.net
Publicity	jordannielsen83@yahoo.com
Schedule	nan.merolla@gmail.com
Schedule Consultants (FGCCT)	mel.unger@ctgardenclubs.org
	pam.wright@ctgardenclubs.org
Staging and Properties	thuffard@gmail.com
Treasurer	erbuse13@gmail.com
Flower Show Celebration	maryotocka@gmail.com
	turbocanine@sbcglobal.net
• Silent Auction	haikudurden@yahoo.com
	marlenclark12@gmail.com

Entries / Classification

Horticulture Division	janerbelson@gmail.com
	kimberleyeyoung@gmail.com
	karen.murchison@hotmail.com
Design Division	grkilmartin@gmail.com
	elizhwalsh@gmail.com
Education Division	annedju@gmail.com
	waynegura@gmail.com
Youth & Sponsored Groups Division	pam.nobumoto@gmail.com
• Youth	dljamus@hotmail.com
	pam.nobumoto@gmail.com
• Healing, Therapy & Senior Gardening	maryotocka@gmail.com
	kmchampion@gmail.com
Botanical Arts Division	kmrosenbaum@mac.com
• Artistic Crafts	kmrosenbaum@mac.com
• Photography	mayaohlrodriguez@gmail.com

GENERAL RULES – *According to Hoyle Day*

- This Flower Show conforms to the standards established by National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC). *The Handbook for Flower Shows* (HB), as updated with revisions posted on the NGC website, is the authority for all issues not covered by the Schedule, which is the “Law of the Show”. An updated copy *The Handbook for Flower Shows* may be downloaded from the NGC website at <https://gardenclub.org/>,
- There must be an emphasis on FRESH plant material. No artificial plant material is permitted in any Exhibit in any Division.
- Each Exhibitor is limited to one entry per Class, except in the Horticulture and the Education Divisions. Exhibitor may make more than one entry per class if each is a different species, variety, cultivar, type or color.
- The Wilton Garden Club, Inc. (WGC) Flower Show Committee and The Cannon Grange will strive to assure the safety of all items after arrival and placement, but is not responsible for the loss or damage to Exhibits.

ELIGIBILITY FOR ENTERING THE FLOWER SHOW

- The Horticulture Division may be entered by WGC members, members of any NGC-affiliated Club, and local amateur gardeners.
- The Design and Botanical Arts Divisions may be entered by WGC members and members of any NGC-affiliated Club.
- The Education Division may be entered by WGC members.
- The Youth and Sponsored Groups Division may be entered by youth-aged students and members of the Club’s Healing, Therapy & Senior Gardening program.

REGISTERING TO EXHIBIT

- Advance registration for all Exhibits is required. Registration deadlines and specific procedures for making entries are stated within each Division’s Rules.

TIMES TO ENTER AND REMOVE ENTRIES

- Entries in all Divisions will be accepted on Thursday, October 9, 2025, between 9:30 am and 4:00 pm, except as noted in this Schedule, or by special permission from the Show Chair.
- ONLY entries in Design and Horticulture will be accepted, by special permission from the Show Chair, on Friday, October 10, 2025, between 8:00 and 9:30 am.
- All entries must be removed on Sunday, October 12, 2025, between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

MAKING ENTRIES

- Exhibitors are required to bring one completed Entry Card per Exhibit. Cards should be typed or printed in pencil or with a waterproof ink pen. Entry cards will be available from each Division’s Chair, beginning Friday, September 5, 2025. Cards will also be available on the day the entries are submitted. Refer to HB, Chapter 6 for a correctly filled-out entry card.

JUDGING ~ FRIDAY, October 10, 2025, 10 am – 12:30 pm

- The Classification Chair for each Division checks Exhibits for conformity to the schedule prior to judging. Final determination for conformance is the responsibility of the Judges.
- The General Chair and the Classification Chairs for each Division, are available during judging for possible consultations. They, along with the Judges and Clerks, are the only personnel allowed on the floor during judging.
- The decisions of the Judges are final. Awards may be withheld if not merited.

- When a gross infraction of NGC Policy is noticed after a decision is made, but before the show is open to the public, the General Show Chair is advised. The General Show Chair or Classification Chair may disqualify the Exhibit. If the Chair does not disqualify the Exhibit, the original panel may re-judge. Refer to HB Chapter 11.

FLOWER SHOW HOURS

- The Show will be open to the public on Friday, October 10, 2025, from 1:00 – 5:00 pm, and again on Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

POLICY ON USE OF ENDANGERED AND INVASIVE PLANTS

Plant Material listed on the following websites is prohibited in any Division:

- Connecticut Invasive Plant List: https://cipwg.media.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/244/2024/10/CT-Invasive-Plant-List-2024_Scientific-Name.pdf
- Endangered, Threatened & Special Concern Plants in CT: <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/endangered-species/endangered-species-listings/endangered-threatened--special-concern-plants>

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB AWARDS – *Times to Remember*

The National Garden Club Standard System of Awarding (HB P 25) will be used in all Divisions as follows:

- One (1) first-place (blue) ribbon per Class or Subclass; 90+ points
- One (1) second-place (red) ribbon per Class or Subclass; 85+ points
- One (1) third-place (yellow) ribbon per class or Subclass; 80+ points
- One (1) or more Honorable Mention (white) ribbons as merited; 75+ points
- 90+ (plus) points may be awarded for those Exhibits scoring 90 plus points or more but are not the First-Place or Blue-ribbon winner.

Scales of Points for all Divisions are stated in Chapter 14 of the “*Handbook for Flower Shows*,” and are included at the end of this Flower Show Schedule (see pages 19 - 21). Scales of Points are based on perfection (100 points). Each Exhibit is evaluated individually. Exhibits are ranked by the points they receive.

NGC TOP EXHIBITOR AWARDS BY DIVISION

Division I: HORTICULTURE

- **Award of Horticultural Excellence** – One is offered to the highest scoring, correctly named, blue-ribbon Exhibit, scoring 95 or above, judged to be the finest in the entire Horticulture Division. Rosette of green, orange, and blue ribbons. (HB pg. 40)
- **Arboreal Award** – One is offered to the cut or container arboreal Exhibit which is the highest scoring, correctly named, blue-ribbon winner, scoring 95 or above, meeting all requirements in Section F. Rosette of green ribbons. (HB pg. 40)
- **Award of Merit** – Five are offered to cut non-woody Exhibits, including vines, which are correctly named, blue-ribbon winners, scoring 95 or above, meeting all requirements in each of Sections A, B, C, D, and E. Rosette of orange ribbons. (HB pg. 41)
- **Grower’s Choice Award** – Six are offered to the container-grown Exhibits which are the highest scoring, correctly named, blue-ribbon winners, scoring 95 or above, meeting all requirements in each of Sections G, H, I, J, K, and L. Rosette of dark green ribbons. (HB pg. 41)

Division II: DESIGN

- **Designer’s Choice Award** – One is offered to the highest scoring blue-ribbon winner, scoring 95 or above, entered by an individual, meeting all requirements in Section A, Classes 1, 2, and 3. Rosette of purple ribbons. (HB pg. 42)

Division III: EDUCATION

- **Educational Top Exhibitor Award** – One award offered to the highest scoring, blue-ribbon Exhibit, scoring 95 or more, entered by one or more Exhibitors, in Section A. Rosette of brown and white ribbons. (HB pg. 43)

Division IV: YOUTH and SPONSORED GROUPS

- **Youth Top Exhibitor Awards** - Four are offered in each age group, one in Horticulture, one in Design, one in Education, and one in Botanical Arts. The awards may be offered to the highest scoring, blue-ribbon Exhibits, scoring 90 or above, no minimum number of Exhibits required. Rosette of red, white and blue ribbons. (HB pg. 44)

Division V: BOTANICAL ARTS

- **Botanical Arts Artistic Crafts Award** - Three are offered to the highest scoring, blue-ribbon Exhibits, scoring 95 or above, entered by an individual, meeting all requirements in Section A, Classes 1, 2, and 3. Rosette of navy blue ribbons. (HB pg. 44)
- **Botanical Arts Photography Award** - Three are offered to the highest scoring, blue-ribbon Exhibits, scoring 95 or above, entered by an individual, meeting all requirements in Section B, Classes 1, 2, and 3. Rosette of black and white ribbons. (HB pg. 45)

SPECIAL AWARDS – *National High Five Day*

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

- **Award of Appreciation** – More than one is offered to invitational non-competitive Exhibits, which are not to be judged. Rosette of orchid ribbons. (HB pg. 45)

The Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc.

- **Connecticut Judges Design Award** – Two are offered to the highest scoring Design Exhibit in Section B, Classes 4 and 5, scoring 95 or more. Rosette of gold ribbons.
- **Connecticut Judges Education Special Award** - Exhibit must score 94 or more and awaken interest in a subject and stimulate the viewer to learn more. Rosette of yellow and white ribbons.
- **Connecticut Silver and Pink Rosette** - One or more are offered in the Youth Section of the Education Division. Not given to a winner of an NGC Youth Top Exhibitor Award. Rosette of silver and pink ribbons.
- **Connecticut Silver and Blue Award** - Up to three may be awarded to Education Exhibits scoring 90 or above at the discretion of the Judges. Rosette of silver and blue ribbons.

The Wilton Garden Club, Inc.

- **Vera Breed Trophy** – One awarded for the most points in the Horticulture Division.
- **President's Cup** – One awarded for the most Blue Ribbons in Horticulture and Design, combined.
- **Betty Clark Bowl** – One awarded for the most points in the Design Division, calculated with one point for third, two points for second and three points for first.
- **Loosely Cup** – One awarded for Blue Ribbon winner in the Design Division, Novice Class 1.

Division I: HORTICULTURE – *Gardener's Almanac*

HORTICULTURE RULES:

1. The NGC Exhibit Policies for Horticulture are printed in the HB Chapter 6, *Exhibiting in the Horticulture Division*.
2. The rules for a single species cut or container-grown specimen are listed in the HB or its supplement, *Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging*.
3. To receive an NGC Top Exhibitor Award, the Exhibitor must identify her/his entry by its binomial name or currently acceptable scientific designation. (HB Chap. 6)
4. Advance registration is required by Monday, September 15, 2025 by contacting the Horticulture Division Chairs, Janer Danforth Belson, janerbelson@gmail.com, Kim Young, kimberleyeyoung@gmail.com, or Karen Murchison, karen.murchison@hotmail.com.
5. Horticulture Entry Cards will be available from the Division, beginning Friday, September 5, 2025. They are to be filled-out in advance of Exhibit placement and should be typed or printed in pencil or with a waterproof pen. Information to be included on each card includes: Name, Phone, Email, Class, Section Numbers, and Botanical Names of Specimen. (Refer to HB Chap. 6 for a correctly filled-out entry card.)
6. Key cards, 3" x 5", should give the approximate date of propagation for Sections K and L.
7. All entries should arrive for placement on Thursday, October 9, 2025, between 9:30 am and 4:00 pm. Only by special permission from the Show Chair will Entries be accepted on Friday, October 10, 2025, between 8:00 and 9:30 am.
8. Pre-register any horticulture and container plants which you think may be ready at show time. There is no penalty for withdrawing material that is not show ready. The dimensions of the container plants should be given to facilitate staging.
9. All plant material must be fresh and have been grown by the exhibitor, except where noted in this Schedule.
10. An Exhibitor may make more than one entry per Class, provided each entry is of a different species, variety, cultivar, type or color.
11. Single container-grown plants, houseplants, and perennials must be in the Exhibitor's possession for 90 days; combination containers for six (6) weeks; and Arboreals for six (6) months.
12. If a plant is considered a flowering plant, it should be Exhibited as a flowering specimen. Foliage plants may flower, but should be Exhibited as foliage plants if they are grown for their leaves; it is not necessary to remove flowers from foliage plants.
13. Specimens with a class designation may not be entered in the 'Any Other Worthy' class.
14. The Horticulture Classification Committee Chair and/or General Show Chair are free to subdivide by color, form, size, cultivar, variety or other distinguishing characteristics.
15. Clean, clear bottles and wedging (using a small inconspicuous "plug" of bubble wrap in the neck of the container to prop the specimen upright) for cut specimens will be provided by the Horticulture Division Committee. Clean, neutral-colored pots with saucers are preferred for container-grown plants.
16. White round paper plates will be provided for displaying Fruit, Class 21 and Vegetables, Class 23, by the Horticulture Division Committee.
17. Cut specimens, except Gladiolus, should not have foliage below the waterline.
18. Double-potting of container-grown plants is permitted. The inner pot must not be visible. All entries must be well groomed. Diseased or insect-infected plant material will not be accepted. Water thoroughly before bringing entries to the show. Unobtrusive soil surface coverings such as coarse sand, poultry grit, pottery grit, pea gravel, etc. can be used in container-grown specimens and combination plantings.
19. Plant material must be in its natural state and may not be altered by application of oil or commercial "shine" products. No wiring of specimens is permitted. Unobtrusive staking is permitted.

20. Containers up to 16" in diameter, measured from top outside edges, will be accepted. The Exhibitor must be able to carry the container to the Exhibition Hall without assistance from the Committee.
21. Appropriate methods for displaying trailing plants and hanging plants will be provided by the Horticulture Committee. Exhibitors must pre-register these plants by contacting Horticulture Classification Chair: Janer Danforth Belson: janerbelson@gmail.com.
22. The Scales of Points for judging Horticulture are located in the HB Chapter 14 and on page 19 of this Schedule.

HORTICULTURE ~ SECTIONS and CLASSES:

- Section A.** *America's Birthday - July 4th* *Eligible for Award of Merit*
CUT SPECIMENS: ANNUALS / NON-HARDY PERENNIALS
Class 1. *Geranium*
Class 2. *Helianthus*
Class 3. *Salvia*
Class 4. *Tagetes* (Marigold)
Class 5. *Zinnia*
Class 6. Any Other Worthy
- Section B.** *Groundhog Day* *Eligible for Award of Merit*
CUT SPECIMENS: PERENNIALS GROWN FOR FLOWERS
Class 7. *Aster*
Class 8. *Chrysanthemum*
Class 9. *Echinacea*
Class 10. *Nipponanthemum nipponicum* (Montauk Daisy)
Class 11. *Sedum*
Class 12. *Solidago*
Class 13. Any Other Worthy
- Section C.** *Valentine's Day* *Eligible for Award of Merit*
CUT SPECIMENS: ROSES
Class 14. Climbers
Class 15. *Polyanthus*
Class 16. Shrub Rose
Class 17. Any Other Worthy
- Section D.** *National Show Off Day* *Eligible for Award of Merit*
CUT SPECIMENS: DAHLIAS
Class 18. Dinner plate, 8" plus
Class 19. Medium, 4" – 8"
Class 20. Small, under 4"
- Section E.** *Earth Day* *Eligible for Award of Merit*
FRUITS & VEGETABLES
Class 21. Fruit: Displayed on round white plates, provided by the Horticulture Committee.
a) Berries, five (5)
b) Grapes, five (5)
c) *Malus*
d) Pear
e) Any Other Worthy

Class 22. Herbs: One stem per entry

- a) Basil
- b) *Mentha* (Mint)
- c) *Petroselinum* (Parsley)
- d) *Rosmarinus officinalis* (Rosemary)
- e) *Salvia* (Sage)
- f) Any Other Worthy

Class 23. Vegetables: Displayed on round white plates provided by the Horticulture Committee.

- a) *Brassica* (Cruciferous vegetables like broccoli, cabbage)
- b) *Cucurbita* (Gourd family: squash, pumpkin, gourds)
- c) *Solanaceae* (Nightshade family: eggplants, peppers, tomatoes)
- d) Any Other Worthy

Section F. *Arbor Day* *Eligible for Arboreal Award*

ARBOREAL SHRUBS (Length 12 – 20”, includes several nodes and an apical tip)

- Class 24. Broad Leaf Evergreen
- Class 25. *Hydrangea* or Other Flowering Branches
- Class 26. *Ilex*, *Callicarpa* Berried or Fruited Branch
- Class 27. Needled Evergreen
- Class 28. Any Other Worthy

Section G. *Take Your Houseplant for a Walk Day* *Eligible for Grower’s Choice Award*

CONTAINER PLANTS: Flowering Plants

- Class 29. Begonias
- Class 30. Orchids
- Class 31. *Anthurium*
- Class 32. Any Other Worthy

Section H. *St. Patrick’s Day ~ Wearing of the Green* *Eligible for Grower’s Choice Award*

CONTAINER PLANTS: Foliage Plants

- Class 33. Ferns
- Class 34. *Ficus*
- Class 35. *Philodendron*
- Class 36. Any Other Worthy

Section I. *Hug a Cactus Day* *Eligible for Grower’s Choice Award*

CACTI AND SUCCULENTS

- Class 37. Cacti
- Class 38. Succulents
- Class 39. Semi-Succulents: *Beaucarnea recurvata* (Ponytail palm); *Euphorbia milii* (Crown of Thorns); *Euphorbia pulcherrima* (Poinsettia); *Peperomia*

Section J. *Houseplant Appreciation Day* *Eligible for Grower’s Choice Award*

COMBINATION CONTAINER PLANTS

- Class 40. Hanging Baskets
- Class 41. Planters
- Class 42. Terrariums

- Section K.** *Mothers' Day* *Eligible for Grower's Choice Award*
PROPAGATION: Plants propagated by the Exhibitor
(Key card required giving approximate date of propagation)
Class 43. Grown from Cuttings
Class 44. Grown from Division
Class 45. Grown from Seed
Class 46. Other Methods (Grafting, Air Layering, etc.)
- Section L.** *Old Lang Syne ~ Old Plant Friends* *Eligible for Grower's Choice Award*
Must be owned by the Exhibitor for at least 2 Years
(Key card required giving approximate date of propagation)
Class 47. Cacti/Succulents
Class 48. Houseplants
Class 49. Trees: Citrus, *Ficus*, *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island Pine), Palms
Class 50. Any Other Worthy

Division II: DESIGN – *Celebrations in Bloom*

DESIGN RULES:

1. The NGC Exhibit Policies are printed in *The Handbook for Flower Shows* (HB), Chapter 7, *Exhibiting in the Design Division, NGC Policies and Guidelines*.
2. Advance registration in all Classes is required by Monday, September 15, 2025, by contacting the Design Division Chair, Gretchen Kilmartin, grkilmartin@gmail.com. Information should include Exhibitor's Name, Class Number, Email, Cell Phone, Title of Design (if any).
3. All plant material used in the design must be identified on a card (3" x 5") provided by the Exhibitor and included with the entry card.
4. Note: Section A; Classes 1, 2, and 3 are open to Wilton Garden Club Members and members of any NGC-affiliated Club. Section B; Classes 4 and 5 is an invitational section, open to Judges and Student Judges.
5. Entry Cards will be left next to the design after the Design Classification Chair has passed the design.
6. Exhibitors may enter multiple Classes within the Design Division, but only one Exhibit per class.
7. Exhibits must be the work of only one Exhibitor and that Exhibitor's name must appear on the entry card.
8. If the Designer is unable to fulfill the assignment, it is the Designer's responsibility to provide a substitute and notify the Division Chair of the change.
9. If the Designer is unavailable to transport and/or set up their completed design, a substitute person may enter the Exhibit for the Designer with the Designer still receiving Exhibiting credit.
10. The Exhibitor is required to conform to the stated description and limitations of the Design Type if named in the Class.
11. Rules for Design Types, Advanced Design Types, Table Design and Table Appointments are printed in the HB, Chapter 7.
12. Plant material and non-plant material permitted and not permitted in the Design Division are printed in the HB, Chapter 7.
13. A Floor Plan of the entire Flower Show will be available from the Design Division Consultants to enable Exhibitors to envision the space/frame of reference not only for Design Sections and Classes but for the entire Flower Show.
14. Details of the staging for each Class will be available from the Division Chair. There will be a "drop-in" advance viewing of staging and show site for Exhibitors on Tuesday, October 7th between 2:00 and 4:00 pm.
15. All designs will be judged from the front but are viewable from 3 sides unless otherwise noted.

16. Designers are on their honor that the design being entered has not been previously entered or judged in an NGC Flower Show.
17. Design entries will be received on Thursday, October 9th, between 12:00 and 4:00 pm, or by special permission from the Show Chair, on Friday, October 10th, between 8:00 and 9:30 am.
18. The Scales of Points for judging Design is located in the HB Chapter 14 and on page 20 of this Schedule.
19. The Designer has the freedom to choose traditional or creative style with any design listed unless restricted by the Schedule.
20. Plant material need not have been grown by the Exhibitor.
21. Fresh plant material may not ever be treated in any manner. Dried plant material may be treated unless restricted by the schedule.

DESIGN ~ SECTIONS and CLASSES:

Section A: *Holidays that Sparkle*

Eligible for the Designer's Choice Award

WGC Members only. Fresh, dried and/or treated dried plant material. [Four (4) entries for each Class]

Class 1. *Home for the Holidays*

Eligible for the WGC Loosely Cup Award

Novice - Wilton Garden Club first-time entrants only.

A Creative Mass Design (HB pg. 74), inspired by favorite winter holiday traditions. Use elements of your own family traditions or memories of "home," whether near or far. Design will be staged on round 22" in diameter x 32" high tables, skirted in a white floor length cloth. Design does not exceed 18" wide. Walls and ceiling are dark walnut brown and wainscoting is off-white and 35" high. Designer may provide an underlay or staging panel.

Design Consultant: Elizabeth Walsh, 203-807-1570, elizhwalsh@gmail.com

Class 2. *Red, White and Bloom*

An Informal Functional Table Design (HB pg. 76) for two persons inspired by the patriotic colors, sparkle and tradition of the 4th of July Holiday. Specifications: Designer must provide plates, napkins, and glassware (no utensils); Designer must provide an underlay. A decorative floral unit must be included and provided by the Designer. Staged on 30" round x 30" high tables for two, skirted in a white floor length tablecloth. Walls and ceiling are dark walnut brown and wainscoting is off-white and 35" high.

Design Consultant: Katie Nelson, 203-313-0052, kmchampion@gmail.com

Class 3. *Flowering with Love*

A Line-Mass Design (HB pg. 71) inspired by Valentine's Day, capturing the essence of love and romance through color, texture, and form. Design will be staged on white pedestal measuring 12" square and 42" high. Walls and ceiling are dark walnut brown. Designer may provide an underlay not to exceed 12" wide/deep. Designs should not exceed 12" beyond the pedestal top. Exhibitors may not cover completely or alter the size of the pedestal.

Design Consultant: Gretchen Kilmartin, 914-584-9277, grkilmartin@gmail.com

Section B: *Autumn Enchantment*

Eligible for the CT Judges Design Award

Judges and/or Student Judges. Fresh, dried and/or treated dried plant material. [Four (4) entries for each Class]

Class 4. *Bountiful Harvest*

A Still Life Design (HB pg. 76) celebrating the Thanksgiving Holiday, incorporating fruits, vegetables and/or flowers that celebrate gratitude and abundance. Design will be staged on 8' (96") long tables, divided into 4, 30" deep x 24" wide areas. Table will be clothed in white. Walls and ceiling are dark walnut brown and wainscoting is off-white and 35" high. Designer must provide an underlay and a staging panel.

Design Consultant: Gretchen Kilmartin, 914-584-9277, grkilmartin@gmail.com

Class 5. *Haunted Maze*

A Parallel Design (HB pg. 75) incorporating spooky or playful Halloween-themed elements. Design will be staged on a white pedestal measuring 20" deep, by 30" wide, by 42" high. Walls and ceiling are dark walnut brown. Designer may provide an underlay and/or staging panel.

Design Consultant: Gretchen Kilmartin, 914-584-9277, grkilmartin@gmail.com

Division III: EDUCATION – *Nature's Holidays*

EDUCATION ~ RULES:

1. Advance registration in Division III is required by Monday, September 15, 2025, by contacting the Education Division Chairs, Anne Djupedal Gura, annedju@gmail.com or Wayne Gura, waynegura@gmail.com.
2. Education Entry Cards will be available from the Education Division Chairs, beginning September 5, 2025. Entry Cards should include all plant material, with botanical and/or common names, if used in the display.
3. Details of the staging for each Exhibit will be available from the Education Division Chairs.
4. Education Exhibits may be the work of more than one individual or committee, unless a Student Judge or an Accredited Judge is seeking Exhibiting credit for preparing an Education Exhibit. Exhibits to be judged must not show name of Exhibitor until after judging.
5. There is no minimum or maximum size for an Education Exhibit; however, to be eligible for an Educational Top Exhibitor Award, an Exhibit must occupy a minimum of eighteen (18) square feet surface area.
6. Although it is not mandatory, NGC encourages the use of fresh plant material in Exhibits where appropriate. Artificial plant material is not permitted.
7. Handout materials add to the educational value but are not required. Each part of the Exhibit should contribute to the distinctive overall effect.
8. The Scales of Points for judging Education is located in the HB Chapter 14 and on page 21 of this Schedule.

EDUCATION ~ SECTIONS and EXHIBITS:

Consultants: Anne Djupedal Gura (203-451-6505) Email: annedju@gmail.com
and Wayne Gura (203-451-3444) Email: waynegura@gmail.com

Section A. *When Nature Opts to Play it Cool*

Eligible for Educational Top Exhibitor Award
and Connecticut Silver & Blue Award

Despite the cooling temperatures that draw each growing season to a close, there are plenty of great gardening activities to enjoy in fall and winter. With these two intertwined Exhibits, the WGC Conservation Committee shares what we've learned over the past three years while growing from seed a wide range of showy herbaceous native plant species. Our aim with this project – dubbed WON ("Wilton's Own Natives") – was to strengthen our botanical and horticultural skills while adding more genetically-resilient plants to the gardens and landscapes of our local ecosystems.

Exhibit 1. *The Autumnal Equinox: "Tis the Season...for Botany!"*

The fall season is redolent of harvest – including collecting seeds for next year's crop. There is so much useful knowledge to acquire about the tiny powerhouses of plant life we call seeds! In this Exhibit we look at the seeds of a selection of native species of herbaceous perennials, biennials and annuals – most of them collected in the fall. You'll see what they look like and what their form tells you about them. You'll learn what they consist of, and what cues they need for germination. It's a great way for each of us to renew our appreciation of each faded flowerhead we may see in the landscape.

Exhibit 2. *The Winter Solstice: "Tis the Season...for Winter-Sowing!"*

A great way to celebrate the season of colder temps and dormancy is to get ready for winter sowing. It's a simple, sustainable gardening method that mimics nature's way of starting seeds. In this Exhibit you'll discover the what/when/where/how/why of winter sowing as we go through the steps that get each of our native-species seeds from the mother plants and into its "mini-greenhouse" for the winter. Later, they will be transplanted into our gardens and landscapes to become the showy garden performers that they are. An additional benefit is the food and habitat they provide for our hard-working native pollinators.

Section B. *When Nature Celebrates Renewal*

Eligible for Award of Appreciation

Exhibit 1. *The Spring Equinox: "Tis the Season...of Planting a Pollinator Garden"*

Wilton Garden Club's Conservation Committee supported The Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc.'s President's Project, **BEE RESILIENT ~ Garden for Nature**, by creating small native gardens in public locations, collaborating with a community organization, promoting sustainable gardening in a changing climate, and creating habitats for insects, birds and other wildlife. The Exhibit displays the planning stages, garden layout, plants purchased, installation, watering, maintenance, and plans for the future.

Section C. *When Nature Celebrates Abundance*

Eligible for Award of Appreciation

Exhibit 1. *The Summer Solstice: "Tis the Season...of the Vegetable Garden"*

Wilton Garden Club's "**Green Teens**" youth gardening program is celebrating 10 remarkable years of providing learning activities, workshops and garden work for students of all ages at Trackside Youth Center and Garden, encouraging participants to create and maintain organic vegetable and flower gardens, to learn about the importance of healthy foods, and to give back to the community. The Exhibit displays all stages of the program, including Boys Scout and Girl Scout contributions, which earned them Eagle Scout, Silver and Gold Awards, Gardening Badges, as well as Community Service hours. A video shows the varied program activities: planting, watering, harvesting, donations to the local food bank, educational on sustainable gardening, pollinator habitats, beneficial insects, invasive species and more. The Exhibit shows the program today, which includes outreach to community organizations. Also on display are the State and National awards and ribbons earned by the program.

Section D. *When Nature Celebrates Restoration**Eligible for Award of Appreciation***Exhibit 1. *National Audubon Day: Friends of Sherwood Island – Garden Team***

Twenty years ago, officials at Sherwood Island State Park in Westport bulldozed all their dunes away. They wanted visitors to have an unimpeded Long Island Sound view - from the parking lot and concession stand. It was not a great idea – it affected the coastal wildlife habitat and lessened the shoreline’s resiliency to rising seas. So, **Friends of Sherwood Island** board member Michele Sorensen decided to employ the help of her group, master gardeners, and volunteers from around Fairfield County, to create a new dune with native beach grass to stop the flooding and beach erosion. Since 2017 the **Friends’ Garden Team** has been restoring dunes in the East Beach, planted a Pollinator Garden in front of the Nature Center, added native plants at the park entrance, conducted invasive species removal, and many other native gardening projects. The Garden Team has planted over 130 native trees and shrubs, 18,000 beach grass stems, and dozens of perennial flowers in designated areas, all of which are cared for by the volunteers. Birds, butterflies and many other creatures have taken advantage of the restored dune habitat in the 235 acre park. The Garden Team raises its own funds for plant material, supplies, and educational signage. Master Gardeners and community volunteers are recruited to join the Garden Team, which meets year-round once a month in the winter and 2-3 times per week from spring through fall.

Division IV: YOUTH AND SPONSORED GROUPS - *World Smile Day***YOUTH & SPONSORED GROUPS ~ RULES:**

1. Advance registration is required by Monday, September 15, 2025, by contacting the Youth Section Chairs: Pam Nobumoto, pam.nobumoto@gmail.com or Laurie Musilli, dljamus@hotmail.com, or Sponsored Groups Chair, Mary Otocka, maryotocka@gmail.com.
2. Youth and Sponsored Groups Entry Cards will be available from the Youth and Sponsored Groups Section Chairs, beginning September 5, 2025. Entry Cards for Horticulture should include Botanical and/or Common Names of the Specimens; for Design and other Sections, the Entry Cards should include all plant material.
3. Groups are considered “sponsored” if members of the WGC provide Leadership Assistance, Programs/Workshops on NGC objectives, or Financial Assistance.
4. Exhibits may be divided into Horticulture, Design, Education and Botanical Arts Sections.
5. Exhibits must be the sole work of one (1) individual, although Educational Exhibits may be the work of more than one person and also must require a minimum of six (6) square feet.
6. Design Exhibits should have fresh flowers as the dominant component, with the optional use of dried, painted, or natural botanical accents. No artificial plant material may be used.
7. Details of the staging for each Section and Class will be available from the Section Chairs.
8. Exhibitors do not compete against each other.
9. Youth-age group must be specified as follows: Juniors (Pre-school – Age 7), Intermediate (Age 8 – 12), High School (Age 13 – 18).
10. No minimum number of Exhibits required.
11. Youth and Sponsored Groups entries are evaluated using the Horticulture, Design, Education and Botanical Arts Scales of Points (HB Chap. 14) and NGC Standard System of Awarding.
12. The NGC Exhibit Policies are printed in the HB Chapter 9, *Exhibiting in the Youth and Sponsored Groups Division, NGC Policies and Guidelines*.
13. Horticulture Exhibits must be grown by the Exhibitor, although plants could be part of a family garden or yard.
14. Container-grown plants must have been in the possession of the Exhibitor for a minimum of sixty (60) days.
15. Combination plantings must have been grown together for a least three (3) weeks.

YOUTH & SPONSORED GROUPS ~ SECTIONS and CLASSES

Section A: **YOUTH – *Every Day is Kids' Day***

Consultants: Pam Nobumoto (203-210-5513) pam.nobumoto@gmail.com and Laurie Musilli (203-210-5270) dljamus@hotmail.com

Section A1. *National Gardening Day* *Eligible for Youth Top Exhibitor Award (in Horticulture)*

Junior, Intermediate and High School Youth – HORTICULTURE

- Class 1. *Eat Your Vegetables Day* - Vegetables
- Class 2. *Teddy Bear's Picnic Day* – Flowers
- Class 3. *Dance Like a Chicken Day* - Container Grown Foliage
- Class 4. *World Juggling Day* - Herbs

Section A2. *Talk Like a Pirate Day* *Eligible for Youth Top Exhibitor Award (in Design)*

Junior, Intermediate and High School Youth - DESIGN

- Class 1. *Buccaneer's Treasure* - A Design, with a Fall theme, using fresh and/or dried plant material, not to exceed 12" in width, 12" in depth, and 18" in height, staged on a black cloth, placed on a countertop in the kitchen of The Grange.
- Class 2. *Superhero Day* - A Design, with a Baking theme, using fresh and/or dried plant material, not to exceed 12" in width, 12" in depth, and 18" in height, staged on a black cloth, placed on a countertop in the kitchen of The Grange.

Section A3. *National Play Outside Day* *Eligible for Youth Top Exhibitor Award (in Education)*

Junior, Intermediate and High School Youth – EDUCATION

- Exhibit 1. *Kite-Flying Day* – Teas with Flowers & Berries
- Exhibit 2. *Take a Hike Day* – History of Ferns
- Exhibit 3. *Scavenger Hunt Day* – Pepper Varieties (Scoville Scale, Colors, etc.)
- Exhibit 4. *World Habitat Day* – Bugs That Help Us
- Exhibit 5: *Visit the Zoo Day* – Cold Frames (From concept, construction, installation and results)

Section A4. *National Kids Take Over the Kitchen Day*

Eligible for Youth Top Exhibitor Award (in Botanical Arts)

Junior, Intermediate and High School Youth – BOTANICAL ARTS

- Exhibit 1. *Tooth Fairy Day* – Pressed Flowers
- Exhibit 2. *Cookie Monster Day* – Herbal Cookies
- Exhibit 3. *Spaghetti Day* – Photography
- Exhibit 4. *Girl Scout Day* – Fairy Gardens

Section B: HEALING, THERAPY & SENIOR GARDENING – *One is Silver and the Other Gold*

Group Entry – BOTANICAL DESIGN

Eligible for Awards of Appreciation

Class 1. *Friendsgiving* – Seniors create Mass Designs (HB pg. 71) inspired by the spirit of Friendsgiving - gatherings filled with gratitude, laughter, and shared traditions among friends, whether through festive Fall colors, harvest-inspired elements, or personal traditions shared with their chosen family. Staged on 96" long tables, divided in 15" wide by 15" deep areas. Table will be clothed in white. Walls and ceiling are dark walnut brown and wainscoting is off-white and 35" high. Designer may provide an underlay or staging panel.

Consultant: Katie Nelson (203-313-0052) kmchampion@gmail.com

Class 2. *Pokémon Go Community Day* – *Community Steps* members choose their favorite Pokemon character and use the colors to inspire their design – *Gotta Catch'em All!* Wilton's **Community Steps** program, which serves special education students when they reach age 18-22, teaches post-secondary skills, life skills, and vocational skills." Through partnerships with a number of Wilton businesses and nonprofits, such as Wilton Garden Club, *Community Steps* provides students with opportunities to develop the skills they need as they transition out of school and into "real world" settings.

Consultants: Pam Nobumoto (203-210-5513) pam.nobumoto@gmail.com
and Laurie Musilli (203-210-5270) dljamus@hotmail.com

Division V: BOTANICAL ARTS – *Gardens of Eden*

BOTANICAL ARTS ~ GENERAL RULES:

1. All Botanical Arts Exhibits except Photography must contain some plant material. No artificial plant material is permitted in any exhibit.
2. The Scale of Points for Botanical Arts are listed in HB, Chapter 14.
3. The rules for Botanical Arts are listed in HB, Chapter 10.
4. The general guidelines for all Designs as printed in HB, Chapter 7, including a card provided by the exhibitor listing plant material used in the design apply to Botanical Arts Design.

Section A – ARTISTIC CRAFTS RULES

1. Artistic Crafts are objects with a function. They may be artistically pleasing but were not created solely for their artistic value. They serve a purpose and can be labeled as a certain object such as a basket, necklace, or hat.
2. Each Exhibit must be the work of the Exhibitor under whose name it is Exhibited and cannot have been previously entered or judged in an NGC Flower Show.
3. Advance registration in all Classes is required by Monday, September 15, 2025, by contacting the Artistic Crafts Section Chair, Kathy Rosenbaum, kmrosenbaum@mac.com.
4. Entry Cards for Exhibits will be available from the Section Chair, beginning Friday, September 5, 2025. All plant material used must be listed, preferably with current scientific designation.
5. All Artistic Crafts entries must have 5"x 8" key card showing samples of each material used in the design and identified by common name or scientific designation.
6. An Exhibitor may enter as many Classes as desired, but only one Exhibit per Class. Each Entry must be the work of the Exhibitor under whose name it is registered.
7. All Exhibits must contain a majority of fresh and/or dried plant material and/or fungi. Only dried plant material may be treated. Plant material must be in its natural form/state: example: flax made into fabric or ribbon is not in its natural state. No artificial, endangered, or locally invasive plant material may be used. Please refer to the Policy on use of native and invasive plants websites noted in the General Rules on p. 5 of this Schedule.
8. No artificial plant material is permitted in any Exhibit.

9. Forms may be assembled from plant material. Clipping, cutting, or shaping of material is allowed.
10. Non-plant material may be used for construction but must not show unless allowed by the Schedule.
11. Plant material may not be carved into figural forms; however, such forms may be assembled from plant material. Clipping, cutting or shaping of material is allowed.
12. The Scale of Points for judging Artistic Crafts is located in HB, Chapter 14 and on page 21 in this Schedule.

BOTANICAL ARTS ~ SECTIONS AND CLASSES

Section A. ARTISTIC CRAFTS - *Mad Hatter Day*

Eligible for the Botanical Arts Artistic Crafts Award

Fresh and/or dried plant material; Non-plant material for construction may be visible.

[Four (4) entries in each Class]

Class 1. *Let the Good Times Roll*

Mardi Gras Masks: Get the party started with a floral mask to beat the band! Masks must fit a black velvet model head, 21" H x 11" W x 5.5" at the base, provided by the Artistic Crafts Chair. Must fasten to the model without adhesive.

Class 2. *A Salute to our Heroes*

Military Medals: Reminiscent of Veteran's Day, honor those who have served with a replica of military medal, or medals. Medals will be displayed on a black background, and must fit inside frames, provided by Artistic Crafts Chair, no larger than 7.5" x 5.5". Medal must be attached by pin to backdrop.

Class 3. *You Own the World*

Handbags: Ladies, we know everything would come to a crashing halt without us! Celebrate everything "woman" by creating a handbag, along with a small vignette. A large walnut brown wooden chair will be provided.

Design Consultant: Kathy Rosenbaum (203-943-9543) kmrosenbaum@mac.com

BOTANICAL ARTS ~ RULES:

Section B – PHOTOGRAPHY RULES:

1. Photography classes are open to Wilton Garden Club members who are amateur photographers.
2. Each Exhibit must be the work of the Exhibitor under whose name it is Exhibited and cannot have been previously entered or judged in an NGC Flower Show.
3. Advance registration in all Classes is required by Monday, September 15, 2025, by contacting the Photography Section Chair, Maya Rodriguez, mayaohlrodriguez@gmail.com.
4. Entry Cards for Photo Entries will be available from the Section Chair, beginning Friday, September 5, 2025. Photographed plant material should be listed, preferably with current scientific designation.
5. There is a maximum of five (5) entries per Class. An Exhibitor may enter as many Classes as desired but only one (1) Exhibit per Class.
6. Entries may be black and white or color and may have a vertical (portrait) or horizontal (landscape) orientation.
7. To maintain a safe and welcoming environment, entries may not include: political statements of any kind, violence or weapons, drugs, profanity, or nudity.
8. The Wilton Garden Club reserves the right to decide which entries will be included in the show.
9. All entries must be 8" x 10" and be mounted on black foam core, cut to the exact size of the image. Matting, glass and framing are not permitted. Please be sure photographs are securely attached to foam core.

10. Information to include on the back of the photo matte: Name, Phone, Email, Class number and Class name. The top of the Photograph must also be indicated. Optional, but strongly encouraged: title, location taken, binomial name or currently acceptable scientific designation of plant material to be included.
11. Professional printing mounting to foam core are permitted. Photo may be enhanced by the Exhibitor with cropping, filters, adjustments and/or other darkroom techniques.
12. Staging: Photographs will be hung on 21" W x 68" H panels with a black fabric background.
13. The Scale of Points for judging Photography is located in HB Chapter 14 and on page 21 in this Schedule.

BOTANICAL ARTS ~ SECTIONS AND CLASSES

Section B. PHOTOGRAPHY - *Take a Walk in the Park Day*

Eligible for the Botanical Arts Photography Award

Class 1. *Fall Quilting Bee*

A warmly nostalgic composition celebrating community, craftsmanship, and the turning of the seasons. The "Fall Quilting Bee" photography theme blends autumnal warmth, garden textures and the idea of patchwork or community. Photos evoke cozy, homespun imagery and natural patterns, as if the garden itself were stitched together like a quilt. Consider rich textures of fabric, dappled sunlight filtering through branches, and heirloom scissors nestled beside garden-picked chrysanthemums evoke a timeless harmony between handmade tradition and nature's abundance.

Photos will be mounted on display panels draped with a warm-toned fabric (such as gold or cranberry) to reflect autumn's color palette.

Class 2. *Snow Day*

A celebration of winter's quiet magic, "Snow Day" captures the fleeting beauty of gardens and nature transformed by snow. Whether it's delicate frost tracing the edge of a withered rose, snow-laden branches bowing over a birdbath, or footprints leading through a dormant flower bed, this category invites images that reflect the stillness, purity, and hidden life of the garden in winter. Photographs may range from serene snowscapes to close-up studies of icy detail - each evoking the wonder, contrast, and unexpected poetry of a garden asleep beneath the snow.

Photos will be mounted on display panels draped with soft gray fabric to mimic snow and keep focus on the photo.

Class 3. *Spring Fling*

Celebrate the joyful return of life to the garden with "Spring Fling," a Photography category capturing the delightful interaction of wildlife and blooms. From bees diving into violets, to robins hopping between tulips, to rabbits nestled among daffodils, this category showcases the vibrant energy of spring through the eyes of nature's visitors. Photographers are encouraged to highlight motion, curiosity, and the spontaneous beauty of garden creatures reveling in the season's renewal.

Photos will be mounted on display panels draped with a pale yellow or sky blue fabric to evoke fresh spring air and new growth.

Class 4. *Yankee Doodle Day*

A spirited tribute to patriotic pride and American heritage, the "Yankee Doodle" category invites images that capture the red, white, and blue spirit in the garden. From flag-draped porches framed by blooming geraniums, to Fourth of July floral displays, or children waving sparklers among daisies, this category celebrates national traditions through nature's lens. Photographers are encouraged to showcase garden scenes, arrangements, or moments that evoke Americana, unity, and festive joy - highlighting how flowers and freedom bloom side by side.

Photos will be mounted on display panels draped with American Flag Bunting.

Photography Consultant: Maya Rodriguez (203-482-4211) mayaohtrodriguez@gmail.com.

SCALES OF POINTS FOR JUDGING – *National Scrabble Day*

I. All Cut or Container-Grown Horticulture Specimens and Collections

(Arboreal, Flowering, Foliage, Fruit/Vegetable/Nuts)

<u>CRITERIA</u>	<u>VALUE (points)</u>
Conformance	5
Plant Identification	5
Peak of Perfection	
Form	20
Color	20
Maturity/Size	20
Condition/Blemishes	15
Grooming/Staging	
Grooming	10
Staging	5
TOTAL	100

II. Combination Plantings and Gardens

<u>CRITERIA</u>	<u>VALUE (points)</u>
Conformance	5
Plant Identification	5
Labeling	5
Peak of Perfection	
Form	10
Color	10
Condition	10
Show-worthy Size	5
Overall Effect	30
Creative/Distinctive	5
Grooming	10
Staging	5
TOTAL	100

SCALES OF POINTS FOR JUDGING (cont.) – *National Scrabble Day*

III. Displays

<u>CRITERIA</u>	<u>VALUE (points)</u>
Conformance	5
Plant Identification	5
Labeling	5
Grooming	5
Peak of Perfection	
Form	10
Color	10
Maturity/Size	10
Condition	10
Design Principles	30
Creative/Distinctive	10
TOTAL	100

IV. All Designs

<u>CRITERIA</u>	<u>VALUE (points)</u>
Conformance	
To Type	7
To Schedule Requirements	7
Design Principles	48
Selection of Components	8
Organization of Components	8
Expression	8
Distinction	14
TOTAL	100

SCALES OF POINTS FOR JUDGING (cont.) – *National Scrabble Day*

V. Educational Exhibits

<u>CRITERIA</u>	<u>VALUE (points)</u>
Educational Value	
Interest to Viewer	25
Clear, concise presentation	15
Adequate signage	10
Conforms to NGC Objectives	10
Staging	
Craftsmanship/Technique	10
Distinction	10
Creativity and Expression	20
TOTAL	100

VI. Artistic Crafts

<u>CRITERIA</u>	<u>VALUE (points)</u>
Conformance	14
Design	48
Craftsmanship/Technique	24
Distinction	14
TOTAL	100

VII. Photography

<u>CRITERIA</u>	<u>VALUE (points)</u>
Conformance	5
Interpretation of Class Title	10
Composition	25
Artistry/Creativity	25
Technical Achievement	25
Distinction/Impact (Wow! Factor)	10
TOTAL	100