"CHORUS FOR THE COUNTRY"

Celebrating Early Patriotic Songs

An NGC Patriotic Standard Flower Show

Presented by

Rock Spring Garden Club

Member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc.,
Central Atlantic Region,
National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc.,
District III, and
South Atlantic Region,
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.,
Piedmont District

Friendship Hall (Lower Level)
Little Falls Presbyterian Church
6025 Little Falls Road
Arlington, VA 22207

Thursday, May 21, 2026

Free and Open to the Public
2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

THE PURPOSE OF AN NGC FLOWER SHOW IS:

To educate club members and the viewing public,

To stimulate interest in horticulture and floral design,

To provide an outlet for creative expression, and

To communicate NGC goals and objectives.

FLOWER SHOW PROGRAM

May 1, 2026

Entry Registration Deadline for RSGC members for Horticulture Section E and all Design, Education, and Photography entries. After this date, other District III and NCAGC members will be invited to enter the show to fill classes for judging purposes.

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Staging, décor, signage, and photo display set up	3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Exhibits delivered, reviewed, and placed	5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Cut and container-grown horticulture exhibits and designs delivered and reviewed for classification and placement. Education exhibits set up by exhibitors on assigned tables in room.

Thursday, May 21, 2026

Exhibits delivered, reviewed, and placed	7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Subdividing and final inspection	9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Judges' welcome coffee and brunch	10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Judges' walk through before judging	11:20 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Exhibits judged	12:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Open to members and the public	2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
All exhibits to be removed	5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.
Dismantle staging and clean up	5:30 p.m. onward

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Honorary Chair: NCAGC President Danielle Brabazon

Club President: Cheryl Atkinson

General Chair	Maryam Zolecki	maryamzolecki@gmail.com
Schedule Chair	Kate Abrahams	cnabythesea@gmail.com
Staging/Properties Chair	Maryam Zolecki	maryamzolecki@gmail.com
Décor	Renée Bayes Janice Haines	bayesrenees@gmail.com jhaines123@aol.com
Horticulture Entries and Placement Chair	Pat Getz	getzpatricia25@gmail.com
Horticulture Classification and Consultant Chair	Jo Ella Samp	samp34@verizon.net
Design Entries, Consultant, and Placement Chair	Charlotte Benjamin	lottieb60@gmail.com
Education Entries Chair	Connie Richards	hcrrsgc@gmail.com
Botanical Arts Photography Entries and Placement Chair	Kate Abrahams	cnabythesea@gmail.com
Judges Chair	Thea McGinnis	theamcginnis@gmail.com
Clerks Chair	Sharon Davis	gardengatedesign@icloud.com
Awards Chair	Anita Brown	arbarl2014@gmail.com
Publicity Chair	Thea McGinnis	theamcginnis@gmail.com
Hospitality Chair	Janis Gunel	janisgunel@gmail.com

GENERAL RULES FOR EXHIBITORS

1. This flower show conforms to the standard established by National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC). The *Handbook for Flower Shows* (HB), with revisions posted on the NGC website, is the authority for all issues not covered by the schedule, which is the "Law of the Show." An updated copy of the *Handbook for Flower Shows* may be downloaded from NGC website at www.gardenclub.org.
2. All Divisions are open to growers, designers, and photographers who are Rock Spring Garden Club (RSGC) members and invited guests.
3. Horticulture entry cards are available from the Horticulture Entries Chair, Pat Getz (getzpatricia25@gmail.com). Horticulture exhibitors are required to bring the provided registration sheet with a list of all entries and the required completed horticulture entry card/cards on the day of the show. Section E Container Grown Plants horticulture entries should be registered with Horticulture Entries Chair, Pat Getz, by May 1, 2026.
4. Design exhibitors must register with the Design Entries Chair, Charlotte Benjamin (lottieb60@gmail.com), by May 1, 2026.
5. Education exhibitors must register with the Education Entries Chair, Connie Richards (hcrrsgc@gmail.com), by May 1, 2026.
6. Photography exhibitors must register with the Photography Entries Chair, Kate Abrahams (cnabythesea@gmail.com), by May 1, 2026.
7. Exhibits will be accepted from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 and from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2026.
8. Judging begins promptly at 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Thursday, May 21, 2026.
9. Exhibits must be removed no earlier than 5:00 p.m. and no later than 5:45 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2026.
10. The Classification/Entries Chair for each Division checks the exhibits for conformity to the schedule prior to judging. The final determination for conformance is the judges' responsibility.
11. The General Chair and the Classification/Entries Chair 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.
12. The decisions of the judges are final. Awards may be withheld if not merited.
13. There must be an emphasis on FRESH plant material. No artificial plant material is permitted in any exhibit in any Division.
14. Each exhibitor is limited to one entry per class, except in the Horticulture Division. Exhibitors may make more than one entry per class if each is a different species, variety, cultivar, type, or color.
15. Rock Spring Garden Club will strive to assure the safety of all items during arrival and placement but is not responsible for any loss or damage to exhibits.
16. Plant material on the Conservation Guide list, available at www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/nativeplants, may be used, if acquired in a lawful manner and labeled with both botanical and common names. A 3" x 5" card with the following statement should accompany the exhibit: In accordance with the policies of the National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc., the public display here of native plants is not contrary to conservation practices. These plants were properly gathered with permission of the owner, on land where locally abundant.
17. Plant material listed on the Virginia Invasive Plant Species List, available at https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/invsppdflist, is not permitted in any Division.

AWARDS

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

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

- The entry cards of all blue ribbon winners must be signed and dated by an NGC Accredited Judge on the judging panel.
- All non-blue ribbon winners scoring 90+ points must be so designated on the entry card and signed and dated by an NGC Accredited Judge on the judging panel.
- All entry cards will receive a check mark to indicate the judging panel examined the exhibit.

HORTICULTURE AWARDS

NGC Top Exhibitor Awards

Award of Horticultural Excellence (Rosette of Green, Orange, and Blue Ribbons) One (1) is offered to the highest scoring, correctly named, blue ribbon winner, scoring 95 or above in the entire Horticulture Division (HB, p. 40)

Arboreal Award (Rosette of Green Ribbons) Two (2) are offered to the highest, correctly named, blue ribbon winner, scoring 95 or above, meeting all section requirements in each section (Sections F and G) of cut or container-grown trees and/or shrubs. (HB, p. 40)

Award of Merit (Rosette of Orange Ribbons) Four (4) are offered to the highest, correctly named, blue ribbon winner, scoring 95 or above, meeting all section requirements in each section (Sections A, B, C and D) of cut, non-woody specimens. (HB, p. 41)

Grower's Choice Award (Rosette of Dark Green Ribbons) One (1) is offered to the highest, correctly named, blue ribbon winner, scoring 95 or above, meeting all section requirements in the section (Section E) of all container-grown plants. (HB, p. 41)

National Capital Area Garden Clubs (NCAGC) Judges' Council Awards

Horticulture Recognition Award (Rosette of Orange and White Ribbons) One (1) is offered to the highest scoring, correctly named, blue ribbon winner, scoring 95 or above. The section must consist of three or more classes.

DESIGN AWARDS

NGC Top Exhibitor Awards

Holiday Excellence Award (Rosette of Red Ribbons) One (1) is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon winner, scoring 95 or above, entered by an individual, in the entire Design Division. The Design Division must have at least two design sections of three classes with four (4) entries each. (HB, p. 42)

Designer's Choice Award (Rosette of Purple Ribbons) One (1) is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon winner, scoring 95 or above, entered by an individual, meeting all section requirements in Section A. Minimum four (4) exhibits per class. (HB, p. 42)

Petite Award (Rosette of Blue and White Ribbons) One (1) is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon winner, scoring 95 or above, entered by an individual, meeting all section requirements in Section B. Minimum four (4) exhibits per class. (HB, p. 43)

NCAGC and Club Design Awards

Rock Spring Garden Club Novice Award (Rosette of Green Ribbons with Gold Imprinting) is a club award recognizing a RSGC club member(s)' first blue ribbon winning or 90+ point scoring exhibit awarded in the Design Division of an NGC Standard or Small Flower Show. Only awarded to RSGC members. Six (6) are offered and may be awarded to a blue-ribbon winning exhibit, scoring 90 or above as well as other ribbon winners scoring 90 or above in the Design Division. The Design Entries Chair will determine the novice status during registration of design entries.

NCAGC Harlin G. and Muriel N. Turner Award for Most Innovative Design (Rosette of Fuchsia Ribbons with a Lavender Button) is offered and may be awarded to a design exhibit incorporating imaginative manipulation of components. One (1) is offered to the most innovative exhibit scoring 85 or above in the Design Division, provided all other general and design award requirements are met.

EDUCATION AWARD

NGC Educational Top Exhibitor Award (Rosette of Brown and White Ribbons) One (1) is offered to the highest scoring, blue ribbon exhibit, scoring 95 or above, entered by an individual or organization, meeting all section requirements. Minimum of two (2) exhibits. (HB, p. 44)

BOTANICAL ARTS PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

NGC Botanical Arts Photography Excellence Award (Rosette of Black and White Ribbons) One (1) is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon winner, scoring 95 or above, entered by an individual, meeting all section requirements in the Photography Section. Minimum of four (4) exhibits per class. (HB, p. 45)

DIVISION I - HORTICULTURE

"YANKEE DOODLE"

HORTICULTURE RULES

1. The NGC Exhibit Policies are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows* (HB), Chapter 6, Exhibiting in the Horticulture Division.
2. All exhibits must have been grown by the exhibitor.
3. Plant material must be in its natural state and may not be altered by application (treatment) of oil, commercial "shine" products, etc. that change the natural appearance. No wiring of specimens is permitted.
4. Only foliage and/or flowers naturally grown and still attached to the specimen are permitted in the show. Unattached foliage is never included with a cut bloom specimen.
5. All plant material must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for 90 days with the exception of arboreals (woody ornamentals) that must be in the possession of the exhibitor for 6 months.
6. The rules for a single species cut or container-grown specimens are listed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows* or its supplement, *Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging*.
7. In order to receive an NGC Top Exhibitor Award, the exhibitor must correctly identify their entry by its botanical binominal name or currently acceptable scientific designation with genus, specific epithet, and cultivar (if available).
8. Entry cards are to be filled out in advance, if possible, in either pencil or waterproof ink. Address labels printed with the exhibitor's name/address may be used on entry cards. Refer to the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 6, for a correctly filled out entry card. Entry cards will be available from the Horticulture Entries Chair, Pat Getz (getzpatricia25@gmail.com), starting May 1, 2026.
9. Cut specimens should not have foliage below the water line, except for *Gladiolu*s.
10. 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 a foliage plant if they are grown for their leaves.
11. Specimens with a class designation in the Schedule may not be entered in an "any other worthy named specimen" class.
12. The Horticulture Entries and Classification Chair and/or the General Show Chair are free to subdivide classes by color, form, size, cultivar, variety, or other distinguishing characteristics.
13. Cut specimens must be exhibited in a clean, transparent, colorless, label-free glass bottle provided by exhibitor. Any imprint on the glass bottles should not interfere with judging the specimen's stem inside the bottles. Clear glass marbles may be used at the bottom of the bottle to balance a heavy specimen. If wedging is needed to improve the poise of the specimen, plastic food film or bubble wrap is permitted and provided by exhibitor.
14. Specimen bottles should be filled with water to the top. Committee will refill bottles as necessary. Stems should be visible below the water line.
15. A list of horticulture entries submitted must be provided by exhibitor with registration form provided by Committee. The form is attached to the schedule and will be available from Horticulture Entries Chair.

16. Scale of Points for All Cut or Container-Grown Horticulture Specimens:

Criteria	Points
Conformance	5
Plant Identification	5
Peak of Perfection	
Form	20
Color	20
Maturity/Size	20
Condition/Blemishes	15
Grooming	10
Staging	5
Total	100

HORTICULTURE SECTIONS AND CLASSES

All exhibits in Division I are eligible for the NGC Award of Horticultural Excellence and NCAGC Horticultural Recognition Award.

Section A: "Yankee Doodle, Keep It Up"
Eligible for the NGC Award of Merit (Section Award)
Bulbs, Corms, Rhizomes, or Tubers – One cut specimen staged in a transparent, colorless glass bottle provided by exhibitor. Iris specimens must have spathe. Tulip specimens must have two attached leaves.

Class 1. *Allium*
Class 2. *Hyacinthus orientalis* (Garden hyacinth)
Class 3. *Iris*
3a. *Iris germanica* (German bearded iris)
3b. *Iris siberica* (Siberian iris)
3c. *Iris ensata* (Japanese iris)
Class 4. *Paeonia* (Peony)
Class 5. *Tulipa* (Tulip) – Specimen must have two attached leaves
Class 6. Any other worthy named specimen

Section B: "Went to Town Riding on a Pony"
Eligible for the NGC Award of Merit (Section Award)
Herbaceous Flowering Perennials – One cut flowering specimen staged in a transparent, colorless glass bottle provided by exhibitor (one stem, unless otherwise noted).

Class 7. *Aquilegia* (Columbine)
Class 8. *Dianthus* (Pinks)
Class 9. *Mertensia virginica* (Virginia bluebells)
Class 10. Any other worthy named specimen

Section C: "Stuck a Feather in His Cap"
Eligible for the NGC Award of Merit (Section Award)
Herbaceous Perennials Grown for Foliage – One cut foliage specimen staged in a transparent, colorless glass bottle provided by exhibitor (one stem, unless otherwise noted).

Class 11. *Ferns*
Class 12. *Polygonatum* (Solomon's seal)
Class 13. *Heuchera* (Coral bells)
Class 14. Any other worthy named specimen

Section D: "Called It Macaroni"
Eligible for the NGC Award of Merit (Section Award)
Hosta – One cut foliage specimen staged in a transparent, colorless glass bottle provided by exhibitor (one stem).

Class 15. Giant (leaf is 8 inches or more across)
Class 16. Large (leaf is 6 to 8 inches across)
Class 17. Medium (leaf is 3 to 6 inches across)
Class 18. Small/Dwarf (leaf is less than 3 inches across)

Section E: "Mind the Music and the Step"
Eligible for the NGC Grower's Choice Award (Section Award)
Container Grown Plants – Containers must not exceed 12 inches in diameter. May be double-potted. Inner pot should not be visible. Exhibitors must register with the Horticultural Entries Chair, Pat Getz (getzpatricia25@gmail.com), by May 1, 2026. Must be single specimens. No combination plantings.

Class 19. Cacti and succulents
Class 20. *Ferns*
Class 21. Flowering container-grown plants (Other than orchids)
Class 22. Foliage container-grown plants
Class 23. *Orchicadeae* (Orchids)
Class 24. Any other worthy named container grown plant

Section F: "As Thick as Hasty Pudding"
Eligible for the NGC Arboreal Award (Section Award)
Flowering Trees and Shrubs – One cut flowering specimen staged in a transparent, colorless glass bottle provided by exhibitor (8 inches minimum, 30 inches maximum). Specimen must have apical tip, several nodes and central leader.

Class 25. *Cornus* (Dogwood)
Class 26. *Kalmia latifolia* (Mountain laurel)
Class 27. *Pieris japonica*
Class 28. *Rhododendron* (Azalea)
Class 29. *Rhododendron* (Other than azalea)
Class 30. *Syringa* (Lilac)
Class 31. *Viburnum*
Class 32. Any other worthy named specimen

Section G: "Upon a Slapping Stallion"
Eligible for the NGC Arboreal Award (Section Award)
Needled Evergreen Trees or Shrubs – One cut needled evergreen specimen staged in a transparent, colorless glass bottle provided by exhibitor. Must have apical tip, several nodes and central leader. Minimum length is 8 inches and maximum is 30 inches.

Class 33. *Cupressus* (Cypress)
Class 34. *Juniperus* (Juniper)
Class 35. *Picea* (Spruce)
Class 36. *Pinus* (Pine)
Class 37. Any other worthy named specimen

DIVISION II - DESIGN

"STAR SPANGLED BANNER"

DESIGN RULES

1. The NGC Exhibit Policies are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 7, Exhibiting in the Design Division, NGC Policies and Guidelines, pages 79-80.
2. The Design Division may be opened to invited guests if classes are not filled by RSGC members by the registration due date of May 1, 2026.
3. Some plant material, fresh and/or dried, must be used in every exhibit.
4. An exhibitor may enter multiple classes within the Design Division, but only one exhibit per class.
5. An exhibit entered into the competition must be the work of only one (1) exhibitor.
6. If the designer cannot fulfill the assignment, it is the designer's responsibility to provide a substitute and notify the Design Entries Chair, Charlotte Benjamin (lottieb60@gmail.com). If the designer is unavailable to transport and/or set up her completed design, a substitute person may enter the exhibit for the designer. The designer may still receive exhibiting credit, if needed. This is permitted for completed designs only.
7. A single flower is not a design. Container-grown plants are fresh plant material and are permitted where appropriate but are never considered floral design.
8. Landscapes, scenes, or anything representing an actual item of clothing, person, animal, etc. are not considered acceptable in the Design Division.
9. Religious symbols used in a design must be displayed respectfully.
10. Actual flags are not permitted as a component in design while flag colors, designs, and shapes are permitted.
11. All plant material used in a design must be listed on a white 3" x 5" card as provided by designer or on a design entry card provided by Committee. Botanical and/or common name is acceptable. Card should have exhibitor's name and the date of the show on the back.
12. Advance registration with the Design Entries Chair, Charlotte Benjamin (lottieb60@gmail.com) is required by May 1, 2026.
13. Plant material and non-plant material permitted and not permitted in the Design Division are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 7, pages 80-81.
14. The exhibitor is required to conform to the stated description and limitations of the Design Type if named in the Schedule.

15. Rules for Design Types and Advanced Design Types are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 7.
16. The designer has the freedom to choose traditional or creative style with any design listed unless restricted by the Schedule.
17. Staging panel and underlay should match Frame of Reference for width, depth, and height.
18. Designer is on his/her honor that the design being entered has not been previously entered or judged in an NGC Flower Show.
19. Plant material used in designs need not have been grown by the designer.
20. The Scale of Points for All Designs:

Criteria	Points
Conformance to Type	7
Conformance to Schedule Requirements	7
Design Principles	48
Selection of Components	8
Organization of Components	8
Expression	8
Distinction	14
Total	100

DESIGN SECTIONS AND CLASSES

All designs are eligible for the NGC Holiday Excellence Award and the NCAGC Harlin G. and Muriel N. Turner Award. The RSGC Novice Award may be awarded to blue ribbons or 90+ point ribbons in any class to RSGC exhibitors who have not won a blue ribbon before in an NGC Flower Show.

Section A: "O'er the Ramparts We Watched"
Eligible for the NGC Top Exhibitor Designer's Choice Section Award

Class 1. "In the Rocket's Red Glare" (4 entries)
Creative Parallel Design – Staged on a table 90 inches wide, 30 inches deep, 30 inches high covered with a black tablecloth. Frame of Reference for total allowable space, including the staging panel and underlay, is 20 inches wide, 30 inches deep, and 30 inches high. Staging panel and underlay required (underlay may be less than 30 inches deep to accommodate staging panel supports).

Class 2. "The Bombs Bursting in Air" (4 entries)
Creative Illuminary Design – Staged on a table 90 inches wide, 30 inches deep, 30 inches high covered with a black tablecloth. Frame of Reference for total allowable space, including the staging panel and underlay, is 20 inches wide, 30 inches deep, and 30 inches high. Staging panel and underlay required (underlay may be less than 30 inches deep to accommodate staging panel supports).

Class 3. "In Full Glory, Now Reflected in the Stream" (4 entries)
Creative Cascade Design – Staged on a grey cylindrical pedestal 50 inches high with a 14 inches square grey top. Frame of reference is 4 inches beyond each side of the square top with unlimited height, and cascade may hang below the top of the pedestal. Design height should be proportional to the height of the pedestal. Staged in front of a white wall. Underlay optional.

Section B: "O' Say Can You See?"
Eligible for the NGC Top Exhibitor Petite Section Award

Class 4. "Whose Broad Stripes and Bright Stars" (4 Entries)
Creative Petite Multi-Rhythmic Design – Staged on a 12 inches square black wooden platform (½ inch thick) atop a 12 inches high clear plastic stand on a table 90 inches wide, 30 inches deep, 30 inches high covered with a black tablecloth. Frame of Reference for total allowable space, including the staging panel and underlay, is 12 inches wide, 12 inches deep, and 12 inches high. Staging panel and underlay required.

Class 5. "Through the Perilous Night" (4 Entries)
Creative Petite Reflective Design – Staged on an 8 inches square black wooden platform (½ inch thick) atop an 18 inches high clear plastic stand on a table 90 inches wide, 30 inches deep, 30 inches high covered with a black tablecloth. Frame of Reference for total allowable space, including the staging panel and underlay, is 8 inches wide, 8 inches deep, and 8 inches high. Staging panel and underlay required.

Class 6. "That Star Spangled Banner" (4 Entries)
Traditional Petite Mass Design – Staged on a 5 inches square black wooden platform (½ inch thick) atop an 18 inches high clear plastic stand on a table 90 inches wide, 30 inches deep, 30 inches high covered with a black tablecloth. Frame of Reference for total allowable space, including the staging panel and underlay, is 5 inches wide, 5 inches deep, and 5 inches high. Staging panel and underlay required.

DIVISION III - EDUCATION

"HAIL, COLUMBIA"

EDUCATION RULES

1. Education exhibits may be the work of more than one individual or organization. However, if a Student Judge or an Accredited Judge is seeking credit, the work must be done solely by the individual and entered accordingly.
2. An exhibit must occupy a minimum of eighteen (18) square feet. Eligible for Educational Top Exhibit Award.
3. Some fresh and/or dried plant material is required. A white 3" x 5" index card must list plant material on display.
4. Exhibits will be staged on a table 90 inches wide, 30 inches deep, and 30 inches high covered in black tablecloth.
5. Advance registration with the Education Entries Chair, Connie Richards (hcrrsgc@gmail.com) is required by May 1, 2026.
6. The Scale of Points for Education Exhibits is listed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 14.
7. Completed Education entry card will be provided by Committee.
8. Exhibits to be placed on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 or Thursday, May 21, 2026 before judging begins.
9. Handout materials add to the educational value but are not required.
10. Each part of the exhibit should contribute to the distinctive overall effect.
11. Exhibits should inform members and the public about the goals and objectives of National Garden Club, Inc.

12. The Scale of Points for Educational Exhibits:

Criteria	Points
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

EDUCATION SECTION AND EXHIBITS

Section A: "Hail Columbia, Happy Land!"
Eligible for the NGC Educational Top Exhibitor Award

Exhibit 1. "Let Independence Be Our Boast, Ever Mindful What It Cost"
A display to promote NGC's Blue Star Memorial Marker Program. The exhibit must occupy a minimum of eighteen (18) square feet in surface area staged on a table 90 inches wide, 30 inches deep, and 30 inches high covered in black tablecloth.

Exhibit 2. "Enjoy'd the Peace Your Valor Won"
A display to educate on Arlington National Cemetery's Memorial Arboretum. The exhibit must occupy a minimum of eighteen (18) square feet in surface area staged on a table 90 inches wide, 30 inches deep, and 30 inches high covered in black tablecloth.

DIVISION IV – BOTANICAL ARTS

"AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL"

BOTANICAL ARTS GENERAL RULES

1. All Botanical Arts Horticulture, Design, and Artistic Crafts exhibits must contain some plant material.
2. No artificial plant material is permitted in any exhibit.
3. The Scale of Points for judging Botanical Arts Horticulture, Design, Artistic Crafts, and Photography are listed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 14.
4. The General Guidelines for all Designs apply as printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 7, including a card provided by exhibitor listing plant material used in the design.
5. The rules for Photography are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 10.

BOTANICAL ARTS PHOTOGRAPHY RULES

1. The rules for Photography are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 10.
2. All Botanical Arts Division Photography Section entries must be pre-registered with the Photography Entries Chair, Kate Abrahams (cnabythesea@gmail.com), by May 1, 2026.
3. The Photography Section is open to RSGC members and invited guests.
4. Photographs must be taken in Washington, D.C., Virginia, or Maryland.
5. Photograph cannot have been entered in a previous NGC Flower Show.
6. Photographs must relate to horticulture, gardening, floral design, or other NGC goals and objectives (e.g., landscape, conservation, civic projects, preservation, ecology, environment, etc.).
7. Photographs must be 8”x10” and may be printed in landscape (horizontal) or portrait (vertical) orientation.
8. Photographs must be in color.
9. Photographs may be taken with film or digital equipment.
10. Each photograph must be the work of the exhibitor.
11. An exhibitor may enter only one exhibit per class.
12. A 11” x 14” white cardboard mat will be provided by Photography Entries Chair to exhibitors or Chair will mat submitted photos using provided white cardboard mats. Photos must not be double matted, under glass, or on foam core board.
13. Photographs must not contain any people.
14. Photographs may be enhanced by the exhibitor with cropping, filters, adjustments, and/or darkroom techniques. Photographic paper finishes are the choice of the exhibitor.
15. Photo must be delivered to Photography Entries Chair by May 18, 2026.
16. Each photograph must have a 3” x 5” card, provided by exhibitor, attached to the back with the exhibitor’s name, class of entry, and arrows pointing to the top of the photograph to show orientation (portrait or landscape).
17. Completed entry cards will be provided for exhibitors by the Committee.
18. Photographs will be staged on a black clothed panel. Committee will provide the staging materials and display the photographs.
19. Photographs will be returned after the show by Photography Entries Chair.
20. The Committee may reject entries that do not conform to the Schedule. The Committee reserves the right to determine if a photograph does not fit the entered class.
21. The Scale of Points for judging Botanical Arts Horticulture, Design, Artistic Crafts and Photography are listed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 14.
22. Scale of Points for Photography:

Criteria	Points
Conformance	5
Interpretation of Class Title	10
Composition	25
Artistry/Creativity	25
Technical Achievement	25
Distinction/Impact (Wow! Factor)	10
Total	100

BOTANICAL ARTS PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION AND CLASSES

Section A: "America, America"
Eligible for NGC Botanical Arts Photography Excellence Award

Class 1. "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" (4 Entries)
Color photograph of a sunset.

Class 2. "For Purple Mountain Majesties" (4 Entries)
Color photograph of a mountain landscape.

Class 3. "Till Paths Be Wrought Through Wilds of Thought" (4 Entries)
Color photograph of an unpaved walking path.

Class 4. "A Thoroughfare for Freedom Beat" (4 Entries)
Color photograph of a public garden with a monument.

Chorus for the Country

May 21, 2026

Record of Division I Horticulture Entries

Exhibitor's Entry Number _____

Division I – Horticulture		
Section	Class	Botanical Name
Example E	27	Heuchera 'Green Spice'

“Yankee Doodle Dandy”
(old folktune)

“Yankee Doodle” uses an old European tune with early lyrics predating the Seven Years’ War and the American Revolutionary War and is the state song of the Connecticut. It was originally sung by British officers to mock disheveled, disorganized colonial “Yankees” with whom they served in the French and Indian War. It became popular among the Americans as a song of defiance with verses added to hail George Washington as the Commander of the Continental army. By 1781, it had turned from being an insult into a song of national pride.

Yankee Doodle went to town riding on a pony,
Stuck a feather in his cap and called it macaroni.

Yankee Doodle keep it up, Yankee Doodle Dandy!
Mind the music and the step, and with the girls be handy!

Father and I went down to camp, along with Captain Gooding,
There we saw the men and boys, as thick as hasty pudding.

Yankee Doodle, keep it up, Yankee Doodle Dandy!
Mind the music and the step, and with the girls be handy!

There was Captain Washington, upon a slapping stallion,
Giving orders to his men – I guess there was a million.

Yankee Doodle, keep it up, Yankee Doodle Dandy!
Mind the music and the step, and with the girls be handy!

Then the feathers on his hat. They looked so very fine, oh!
I wanted desperately to get, to give my Jemima.

Yankee Doodle keep it up, Yankee Doodle Dandy!
Mind the music and the step, and with the girls be handy!



“Star Spangled Banner”
Lyrics by Francis Scott Key, September 14, 1814

American lawyer Francis Scott Key was moved to write a poem after witnessing the bombardment of Fort McHenry by the British Royal Navy during the Battle of Baltimore in the War of 1812. Key was inspired by the large U.S. flag with 15 stars and 15 stripes, known as the “Star-Spangled Banner”, flying triumphantly above the fort after the battle. Four verses from his poem are used as the lyrics for the national anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner.” Music is by British composer John Stafford Smith, 1773.

O’ say can you see, by the dawn’s early light,
What so proudly we hail’d at the twilight’s last gleaming.
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight
O’er the ramparts we watch’d were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket’s red glare, the bomb bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep
Where the foe’s haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o’er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning’s first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream,
‘Tis the star-spangled banner – O long may it wave
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore,
That the havoc of war and the battle’s confusion
A home and a Country should leave us no more?
Their blood has wash’d out their foul footstep’s pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave.
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand
Between their lov’d home and the war’s desolation!
Blest with vict’ry and peace may the heav’n rescued land
Praise the power that hath made and preserv’d us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto – “In God is our trust,”
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

"O Columbia, The Gem of the Ocean"

Music and lyrics by Thomas A Beckett and/or David T. Shaw, Philadelphia, PA, 1843

"Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean" was originally titled "Columbia, the Land of the Brave" and uses the melody to the British patriotic song "Britannia, the Pride of the Ocean." Authorship is disputed between two individuals but the song became very popular in the 19th and early 20th centuries serving as an unofficial national anthem.

O Columbia the gem of the ocean,
The home of the brave and the free,
The shrine of each patriot's devotion,
A world offers homage to thee,
Thy mandates make heroes assemble,
With her garlands of vict'ry around her,
When so proudly she bore her brave crew,
With her flag proudly floating before her,
The boast of the red, white and blue.

The boast of the red, white and blue,
The boast of the red, white and blue,
With her flag proudly floating before her,
The boast of the red, white, and blue.

When liberty's form stands in view;
Thy Banners make tyranny tremble,
When born by the red, white, and blue.
When born by the red, white and blue.

When born by the red, white and blue.
Thy Banners make tyranny tremble,
When born by the red, white and blue.
When war wing'd it's wide desolation,
And threaten'd our land to deform,
The ark then of freedom's foundation,
Columbia rode safe through the storm.

The wine-cup the wine-cup bring hither,
And fill you it true to the brim,
May the wreath's that have won ne'er wither,
Nor the star of their glory grow dim,
May the service united ne'er sever,
But they to their colors prove true,
The army and navy forever,
Three cheers for the red, white and blue.
Three cheers for the red, white and bue,
Three cheers for the red, white and blue,
The army and navy forever,
Three cheers for the red, white and blue
Red, white and blue.

"Hail, Columbia"

Music by Philip Phile & Lyrics by Joseph Hopkinson

The musical composition was first performed at George Washington's inauguration in 1789 with the title, "The President's March" composed by Philip Phile. Lyrics were added by Joseph Hopkinson with a new title, "Hail, Columbia." It became one of the country's unofficial national anthems before the "Star Spangled Banner" was officially adopted. It is officially the Vice President's entrance march, played when the Vice President arrives for events.

Hail, Columbia, happy land!
Hail, ye heroes, heav'n born band,
Who fought and bled in Freedom's cause,
And when the storm of war was gone
Enjoy'd the peace your valor won.
Let independence be our boast,
Ever mindful what it cost;
Every grateful for the prize,
Let its altar reach the skies.

Firm, united let us be,
Rallying round our liberty,
As a band of brothers joined,
Peace and safety we shall find.

Immortal patriots, rise once more,
Defend your rights, defend your shore!
Let no rude foe, with impious hand,
Let no rude foe, with impious hand,
Invade the shrine where sacred lies,
Of toil and blood, the well-earned prize,
While off-ring peace, sincere and just,
In Heaven's we place a manly trust,
That truth and justice will prevail,
And every scheme of bondage fails.

Behold the chief who now commands,
Once more to serve his country stands.
The rock on which the storm will break,
But armed in virtue, firm, and true,
His hopes are fixed on Heav'n and you.
When hope was sinking in dismay,
When glooms obscured Columbia's day,
His steady mind, from changes free,
Resolved on death or liberty.

Sound, sound the trump of fame,
Let Washington's great name
Ring through the world with loud applause,
Let ev'ry clime to freedom dear,
Listen with a joyful ear,
With equal skill, with God-like pow'r.
He governs in the fearful hour
Of horrid war, or guides with ease
The happier time of honest peace.

“America the Beautiful”
Lyrics by Katharine Lee Bates, 1895
and music by Samuel A. Ward, 1883

“America the Beautiful” is another unofficial national anthem in American patriotic songs. The original poem by Katharine Lee Bates was inspired by her visit to Pike’s Peak in 1893 and was later added to Samuel Ward’s earlier musical composition creating the popular song. Bates updated the lyrics several times over her lifetime, the final version appearing in 1911.

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!

America, America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!

America, America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife.
Who more than self their country loved
And mercy more than life!
America, America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness
And every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!

America, America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization that aims to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility and we help coordinate the interests and activities of state and local garden clubs in the U.S. and abroad.

Mission Statement

National Garden Clubs, Inc. provides education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility.

Conservation Pledge

"I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet earth and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, forest, land, and wildlife."

Rock Spring Garden Club

We are a nonprofit civic organization based in Arlington, Virginia made up of a group of people united by their shared interest in gardening, plants, floral design, and gardens. We engage in educational programs, share knowledge and experiences, and participate in community beautification efforts at Rock Spring Park and Ball-Sellers House.

Objectives

The objectives of this Club are to stimulate the study of the art of gardening, promote an interest in horticulture and artistic use of plant materials, conserve and protect our natural resources and support good conservation practices, and serve our community through programs and other forms of community outreach. The Club provides scholarships and other contributions as directed by the Executive Board.

Contact Us to Join

RockSpringGardenClub.com

RockSpringGardenClub@gmail.com