

The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts  
and its Northern and Northeastern Districts  
Present

*wandering through Essex County*



## At the Topsfield Fair

An NGC Small Standard Flower Show  
*(preliminary Schedule)*

**September 29 – October 9, 2023**

*Member of:*

*National Garden Clubs, Inc*

*And New England Garden Clubs, Inc*

Topsfield Fairgrounds 207 Boston Street, Route 1 North  
Topsfield, MA 01983



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scan code for a free digital version of the **Handbook for Flower Shows**



scan code to access SignUp Genius and enter Division II Design



### ***In memory of Mary Huntoon***

The 2023 Topsfield Fair Flower Show, Wandering Through Essex County, is dedicated to Mary Huntoon. Mary was a long time member of the North Shore Garden Club and the Hamilton-Wenham Garden Club. Within the Hamilton-Wenham Garden Club, Mary held numerous board positions, including Past President.

Mary was a Design and Horticulture Judge for the Garden Club of America and a Master Judge for the National Garden Club. In addition to being a judge who traveled to many flower shows, Mary was an instructor of design for the NGC Flower Show School traveling throughout the United States to teach.

For many years Mary entered in the Design Competition and the Horticulture Competition at the Topsfield Fair Flowers Shows. She was on the Committee for the Topsfield Fair Flower Show serving in many capacities over the years. Mary was called upon on several occasions to be on a panel of judges for the Topsfield Fair Flower Show.

Mary was a mentor, advisor, and a friend to all. Her creative design talents inspired many who wanted to learn the art of design. Mary will be greatly missed, but remembered for her significant accomplishments and contributions within her garden clubs and flowers shows.



## **Committee**

General Chair: Pat Fleming	fleming.3patricia@gmail.com
Awards: Julianna Kallas	jkallas27@gmail.com
Clerks: Lisa Harrison, Mardi Lowry, and Nancy Walke	
Design Schedule: Suzanne McCance	suzannebmccance@gmail.com
Advisor: LuBeth Kuemmerle	lubethk@comcast.net
Design Entries: Joanne Kennett	jkennett28@comcast.net
Nancy Mann / SigUp Genius and tech support	nancy.mann@gmail.com
Design Classification: Joy DiMaggio	jmarykay2@outlook.com
Graphic Designer: Max King	max@maxlking.com
Hospitality:	
Hostesses: Kim Edwards	kimedwards098@gmail.com
Horticulture Chair: Meredith Smith	smithmeredithe@gmail.com
Horticulture Assistant: Meredith Smith	smithmeredithe@gmail.com
Horticulture Schedule: Meredith Smith	smithmeredithe@gmail.com
Judges: Kathy Leva	kathryn.leva@gmail.com
Staging: Suzanne McCance	suzannebmccance@gmail.com
Kim Edwards	kimedwards098@gmail.com
Typing/Clerks: Juliana Lloyd	lloyd.juliana@gmail.com
Northern District Director: TBD	
Northeastern District Director: TBD	

***Special thanks to the personnel of the Topsfield Fair***



## 'Wandering Through Essex County'

### **General Rules:**



1. This Small Standard Flower conforms to the standards established by National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC). The *Handbook For Flower Shows (HB) Revised 2017/2022* with revisions printed published in *The National Gardener* (online) magazine (TNG) is the authority for all issues not covered by the schedule, which is the Law of the Show. (For an online version of the *Handbook For Flower Shows*, scan the QR code or go to: [https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/ngc-handbook-for-flower-shows-january-2022-revision\\_0.pdf](https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/ngc-handbook-for-flower-shows-january-2022-revision_0.pdf))
2. Division I and Division II and are open to members of National Garden Clubs, Inc.
3. All exhibits must be the work of individual exhibitors.
4. Entry cards for horticulture will be available at the time of entry.
5. Entry dates for Horticultural and Design are Friday, September 29, and Wednesday, October 4th. Entry times for **Horticulture** are from 7- 9 am, for **Design** from 7-10 am. Designs must be completed by 10:00 am. NOTE: If one is entering both Horticulture and Design, they **MUST** enter their Horticulture first. **Judging will begin at 10:00 am on both entry days.**
6. An exhibitors' meeting will be held at the Fairgrounds in the Flower Barn, **Thursday August 31, 2023 at 10 am.**
7. There must be an emphasis on FRESH plant material. Artificial plant material is not allowed in any division.
8. The General Chairman and the Classification Chairmen for each division are available during judging for possible consultation. They, along with the judges and clerks, are the only personnel allowed on the floor during judging
9. **Before the exhibitor leaves the show area, the Classifications Chairmen for each Division checks for conformity of the schedule prior to judging.** Final determination of conformance is the judges' responsibility.
10. The decisions of the judges are final. Awards may be withheld if not merited. Judges are required to consider non-blue-ribbon winners for 90+point recognition.
11. Wild collected plants of species listed by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program may not be exhibited in Standard Flower Shows of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc. or its member clubs. Cultivated plant material appearing on the list may be exhibited if the exhibitor provides a typed card noting that it has not been collected.
12. Plants listed in the Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List are not permitted in any Division. A current list may be found: [www.Mass.gov/MassachusettsProhibitedPlantList](http://www.Mass.gov/MassachusettsProhibitedPlantList)



13. All entries from **Day 1** must be removed by 8:00 pm on Tuesday, October 3. Entries from **Day 2** must be removed on Tuesday, October 10 between 9 am and 2 pm. No designs will be allowed to be stored overnight in the Flower Barn.
14. The Committee, The Garden Club of Massachusetts, Inc. and The Topsfield Fair will endeavor to protect all exhibits but cannot be responsible for loss or damage to the Exhibitor's property.
15. In all Divisions, the Committee will provide staging. All staging is on a platform/riser 6" high from the barn floor. All staging is painted 'sage green' (ex: Benjamin Moore 458-460)
16. Exhibitors are responsible for keeping their exhibit in good condition fro the duration of the Show. An exhibit may be removed at the discretion of the Committee.
17. It is the Exhibitor's responsibility to find a replacement if unable to fulfill assignment.

### ***The Standard System of Awarding***

- ❖ ***First Place*** (one – 90 points or above),
- ❖ ***Second Place*** (one – 85 points or above),
- ❖ ***Third Place*** (one – 80 points or above), and
- ❖ ***Honorable Mention*** (one or more – 75 points or above in each class). A design, if merited, may receive 90+ recognition.

*Above awards are judged by the scale of points in the Handbook For Flower Shows, Revised 2017/2022*



## Horticulture Division Top Exhibitor Awards

**Section Awards-** For complete requirements, refer to the *Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017 Edition*, pp 40-41

AWARD of MERIT is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon winner in sections A and B

GROWER'S CHOICE AWARD is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon winner in section C.

ARBOREAL AWARD is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon winner in sections D.

### Division Award

AWARD OF HORTICULTURAL EXCELLENCE is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon winner in the entire Horticulture Division for each entry date.

## Design Division Top Exhibitor Awards

All Design Division blue ribbon winners must score 95 points or more to be eligible. For complete requirements refer to the *Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017 Edition*, p42 -43

GEORGIA McHUGH AWARD A plaque is given annually to the Novice with the highest point score in the Design Division at the Topsfield Fair. An exhibitor who has never won a blue ribbon in an NGC Standard Flower Show is considered a Novice. All classes are eligible.

PAULINE D BOWDEN AWARD The designer receiving the highest scoring Blue Ribbon Design each day using the scale of points will be eligible for the Pauline D. Bowden Award.

All classes are eligible.

Scale of Points for the Pauline D. Bowden Award

Design 40

Color Selection 25

Creativity 20

Distinction 15

Total 100



## DIVISION 1: HORTICULTURE "Growing Up in Essex"

### **Horticulture Rules**

1. The NGC Horticulture Policies are printed in the *Handbook For Flower Shows (Hb), Revised 2017/2022*, Chapter 6, and the *Horticulture Exhibiting And Judging Supplement*.
2. The rules for a single species or container grown specimen are listed in the *Handbook For Flower Shows (Hb), Revised 2017/2022* and the *Horticulture Exhibiting And Judging Supplement*.
3. All exhibits must be fresh and grown by the Exhibitor for at least 90 days. Maximum length of a branch is 30" for Section B.
4. Exhibitors will submit their entries in their own appropriately sized, clean, colorless glass containers. Wedging material (small scale bubble wrap or plastic wrap) is permitted. Anchoring is not permitted.
5. Cut specimens should not have foliage below the water line.
6. Foliage plants may flower but should be exhibited as foliage plants if they are grown for their leaves.
7. Specimens with a class designation in the schedule may not be entered in the "any other worthy specimen class."
8. The Classification Chairman and/or General Show Chairman are free to subdivide classes by color, form, size, cultivar, variety or other distinguishing characteristics.
9. In order to receive an NGC Top Exhibitor Award, the exhibitor must identify her/his entry by its binomial name or currently acceptable scientific designation.
10. Entry cards are to be filled out in advance, if possible. Cards are to be typed, or printed, using waterproof ink or pencil. Refer to the *Handbook For Flower Shows (Hb), Revised 2017/2022*, Chapter 6, for a correctly filled out entry card.
11. Due to space limitations, exhibitors may be limited to a maximum of four entries at the discretion of the horticulture Chair. Exhibitors will be allowed to choose submitted entries if over the limit allowed.
12. Double potting is permitted, but the inner pot must not be visible.
13. All entries must be approved for conformance to the schedule by a Classification Chairman before placement by the Committee.
14. Division II Exhibits are eligible for the Award of Horticulture Excellence. One award may be given, if merited, to the highest scoring exhibit with a score of 95 or more in the entire Horticultural Division.
15. Horticulture entries will be judged by the appropriate Scale of Points found in Chapter 14 of the *Handbook For Flower Shows (Hb), Revised 2017/2022*.



## **Division I: Horticulture**

### **Section A: LONG HILL MEADOWS**

*Eligible for Award of Merit*

Flowering Perennials: - Single Stem, Cut-Specimen

Class 1: Chrysanthemum

Class 2: Echinacea

Class 3: Rudbeckia

Class 4: Any other worthy specimen

### **Section B: PLUM ISLAND PLUMAGE**

*Eligible for Award of Merit*

Flowering Annuals: - Single Stem, Cut-Specimen

Class 5: Aster

Class 6: Dahlia

Class 7: Viola

Class 8: Zinnia

Class 9: Any other worthy specimen

### **Section C: WITCHES BREW**

*Eligible for Award of Merit*

Fruit and Vegetables: Displayed on 10" Committee provided white paper plate

Class 9: Capsicum (pepper)

Class 10: Cucurbita pepo (mini pumpkins)

Class 11: Solanum lycopersicum (tomato)

Class 12: Solanum melongena (eggplant)

### **Section D: COASTAL CONTAINERS**

*Eligible for Grower's Choice Award*

Cactus and Succulents: Container Grown (Container not to exceed 10" in diameter)

Limit one entry per exhibitor due to space.:

Class 13: Aloe

Class 14: Cactaceae

Class 15: Sedum

Class 16: Any other worthy specimen

### **Section E: WOODLAND WALK**

*Eligible for Arboreal Award*

Needled Evergreen: Cut specimen, one branch, not to exceed 30" in length

Class 17: Abies (fir)

Class 18: Juniperus

Class 19: Pinus





## DIVISION II – DESIGN ‘Stops Along the Way’

### Design Division Rules

1. Entries, the work of ONE exhibitor, are open to members of an NGC Club.
2. All entries are made through SignUp Genius.  
To Sign up, scan the QR code below with your smart phone or go to [www.signupgenius.com/go/](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/) NEW NUMBER
3. All designs must be completed in the show area.
4. The exhibitor is required to conform to the stated Class description and limitations of the Design Type if named in the class as stated in the *Handbook for Flower Shows, Revised 2017/2022*, Chapter 7.
5. An entry card listing all plant material by common name, in the design must be given to and initialed by the Classification Chairman before the exhibitor leaves the show area. The exhibitor need not grow plant material.
6. Fresh plant material may not ever be treated in any manner. Dried plant material may be treated.
7. Rules for Design Types are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows, Revised 2017/2022*, Chapter 7.
8. Exhibitors are responsible for keeping their designs in good condition for the duration of the show.
9. If a designer is unable to fulfill their assignment, it is the designer’s responsibility to find a replacement. Designs may not be a copy of a preciously entered or judged entry in an NGC Flower Show.



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scan code to access SignUp Genius and enter Division II Design



## Division II: Design

**Class 1: ANTIQUING IN ESSEX:**

Line Mass Design – Novice Class\*

Design staged on a 17" square pedestal 37" tall. Design may extend 2" on either side. See p.71 of *Handbook for Flower Shows, 2022 edition*.

Accessory(ies) permitted provided they are subordinate to the design.

**Class 2: PICNIC AT THE CASTLE HILL CONCERT:**

Alfresco Table for Two

Design staged in a (sage green) niche (40" wide, 35" deep, 5' high) on a 30" round, 30" tall table. Committee to provide white table covering

**Class 3: CATCHING THE SUNSET AT HALIBUT POINT:**

Reflective Design

A Creative design containing reflective materials 'giving back images of light' to the viewer. Design staged on a 'sage green' 17" square pedestal, 37" tall

**Class 4: SAILING OFF OF CAPE ANN:**

Abstract Design

A design suspended within a 32" round black iron hoop attached to a 6"x 8" black wooden base, staged on a pedestal 14" square 37" tall.

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\*Novice Class: Only those entrants who have never won a Blue Ribbon in a GCFM sponsored flower show are eligible to enter

- Hoop is 'in place'. Completion and affixing design is 'on premise'
- All designs are staged on a 6" riser
- All staging is painted "sage green" (ex: Benjamin Moore 458, 460)

**Required: 4 Classes, each with 4 entries**

**There are two entry dates** for Design: Friday, September 29, and Wednesday, October 4.



**To Enter**, please scan the code below with you smart phone  
to go to **SignUp Genius**



or enter >

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E48ACAA29A6FCC07-wandering>

in your browser tab

**Entry Day 1** - Friday, September 29th. Design entries accepted from 7 - 10 am. Horticulture entries accepted from 7 - 9:15 am. Removal is October 4th by 8 pm.

**Entry Day 2** - Wednesday, October 4th. Design entries accepted from 7 - 10 am. Horticulture entries accepted from 7 - 9:15 am. Removal is October 11 from 9 am - 2 pm.

For questions or help completing the SignUp Genius form, call or text Nancy Mann at 978-430-2743 or email [flowershowcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:flowershowcommittee@gmail.com), or Joanne Kennett, [jkennett28@comcast.net](mailto:jkennett28@comcast.net).