RIFGC Design Specialty Flower Show held at the RI Convention Center 1 Sabin St Providence April 10-12, 2026.

This is for pure enjoyment. Each year I am so impressed with our organizations and how the talents of everyone brings this show to new heights. This includes designers, judges, and 'You The Volunteers'.

Fun Facts

- 64 Entries in Design and Botanical Arts Divisions.
- Designers from RI, NH, VT, CT, MA, OH, CA., with *30 entries from RI in Div I & Div II*. (5 Novice Designers)
- 19 Entries were awarded 90+ in the entire show.
- Div. I Designs 5 out of 21 RI Designs awarded 90+
- Div. II Botanical Arts 5 out 9 RI Designers were awarded 90+.
- Div. III Youth (75) youth participated in the Botanical Arts ~ Artistic Craft and Design. 4 Youth Top Awards
- Div. IV Education All 3 Exhibits were entered by members of RIFGC. Two 90+ were awarded and Education Award
- (45+) hostesses were on hand for the 3 days.
- (34+) members worked on staging .
- *18 RI Clubs out of 23 participated in the event.*
- 21 Judges from RI, NH, VT, CT, MA, S.C., and OH.
  - *5 RI Judges participating with 2 being student judges*

Save The Date! RIFGC an NGC Design Specialty Flower Show April 9-11 2027. I encourage your participation in Design Study Workshops, hosting a "Flower Show in a Box" or an "Art in Bloom" show, or scheduling design workshops during club meetings. We all have a starting point, Health Warning: You may just fall in love and get the 'Design Bug'. *Best, Judy Gray General Chair*

Class 1. 'Something Old'

An American Traditional Line, Line-Mass or Mass Design, using all fresh plant material staged on a grey pedestal 42" high with a 24" square top in front of a black background. Design not to exceed 16" from the center of the pedestal. Height not to exceed 54" from top of pedestal.

Class 1. 'Something Old'

Kathleen Duffy, Edgewood Garden Club **Second 90+**

Judges' Comments: Exquisitely successful balanced traditional design placement. Placement of two central carnations disrupts rhythm.

Class 2. 'Something New'

A Creative Design using all fresh plant material staged on a grey pedestal 42" high with a 24" square top in front of a black background. Design not to exceed 16" from the center of the pedestal. Height not to exceed 54" from top of pedestal.

Class 2. 'Something New'

Ann Huntoon, Gentian Garden Club **First and Judges' Award**

Judges' Comments: Bold simple perfection.

Class 2. 'Something New'

Jarrod Broccoli, Edgewood Garden Club **Second 90+**

Judges' Comments: Great energy and rhythm. Powerful upward spiral. Mini orchids at top of design out of scale with other plant materials.

Class 2. 'Something New'

Priscilla DiMarco, Hameho Garden Club **HM**

Judges' Comments: Strong water line breaks rhythm. Selection of unique components evoke the seaside.

Class 3. 'Something Borrowed'

An all-white design incorporating one or more borrowed accessories using all fresh plant material. Design may include some green or variegated foliage. Staged on a grey pedestal 42" high with a 24" square top in front of a black background. A Statement of Intent is required by the designer.

Class 3. 'Something Borrowed'

Heather Fraga, Hattie Ide Chaffee and W.Cranston Garden Clubs **Third**

Judges' Comments: Lovely contrast in form of selection of plant material. Placement of orchids disturbs the rhythm.

Class 4. 'Love

A Petite Design not to exceed 5" in any direction. The white front panel has a 6 1/2" round opening which begins 1/2" from the base of the niche.

Class 4. 'Love'

Vera Bowen, Bristol and Bayberry Garden Clubs **Second**

Judges' Comments: Placement of dianthus disturbs rhythm and balance.

Class 4. 'Love'

Deborah Clickner, Hameho Garden Club **HM**

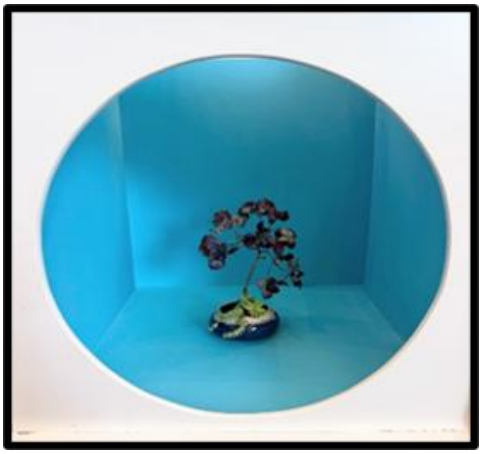
Judges' Comments: Lovely color harmony. Overall proportion of design too large for space.

Class 5. 'Honor'
A Petite Design of analogous color not to exceed 7" in any direction. The white front panel has a 9 1/2" round opening which begins 1/2" from the base of the niche.

Class 5. 'Honor'

Vicki Iannuccillo, Bristol and Bayberry Garden Clubs **Third**

Judges' Comments: Well-executed creative design with excellent rhythm and depth. Incompatible selection of colors for an analogous color design



Class 5. 'Honor'

Susan Escherich, Hameho and Barrington Garden Clubs **HM**

Judges' Comments: Proportional to space. Inadequate grooming of plant material distracts from overall design.

Class 6. 'Cherish' A Multi-Rhythmic Petite Design not to exceed 8" in any direction. The white front panel has a 9 1/2" round opening which begins 1/2" from the base of the niche.

Class 6. 'Cherish'

Maggie Rezendes, Bristol Garden Club **Third**

Judges' Comments: Clever use of heart shaped Aspidistra. Two-toned container distracts from design.

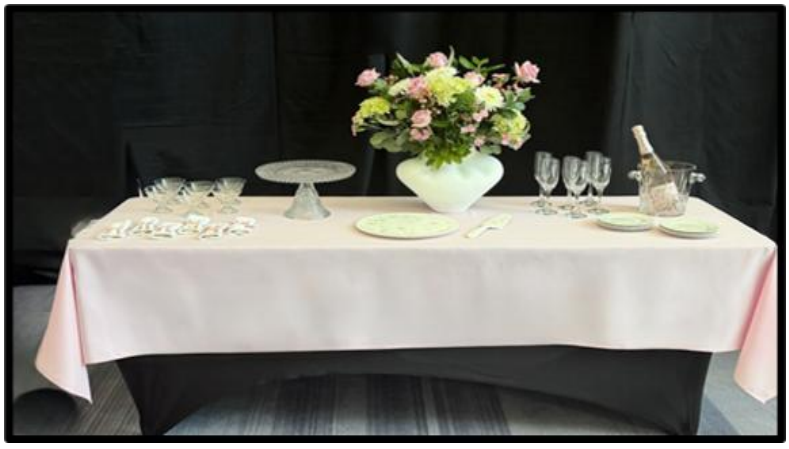
Class 7. 'Just Desserts'

A Buffet Table for six (6) including a decorative unit. Staged on a 6'x 2' x 29"H table with black underlay provided by the committee in front of a black background. Coverings are optional and may not hang more than 15" over the edge.

Class 7. ' Just Desserts'

Maria Kallis, Barrington Garden Club **First**

Judges' Comments: A rhythmic journey for the eye!



Class 7. 'Just Desserts'

Joan Silva, Hameho Garden Club **Second**

Judges' Comments: The design is out of scale to the other components. A pleasing rhythm is created with the combination of pink and white throughout the design.

Class 7. 'Just Desserts'

Deborah Clickner, Hameho Garden Club **HM**

Judges' Comments: A static placement of components affects the rhythm. Well-conditioned plant material.

Class 8. 'Black Tie' A Functional Semi-formal Table for two(2) including a decorative unit. Staged on a 30" tall table 36" round, to be viewed from all sides. White floor length underlay provided by the committee. Coverings are optional.

Class 8. 'Black Tie'

Gina Natalizia Huntoon, Gentian Garden Club **First, Table Artistry Award, and Novice Award**

Judges' Comments: Unexpected marriage of shape, color and form are cause for a rich celebration.

Class 8. 'Black Tie'

Linda Sheehan, Bristol Garden Club **Second 90+**

Judges' Comments: Gold color and varied textures unify and create a strong rhythm throughout the design. The size of the floral arrangement is slightly large for space.

Class 8. 'Black Tie'

Patricia Padula Morgan, Plum Beach Garden Club **HM**

Judges' Comments: A harmonious color palate. The number of selected components created a lack of dominance.

Class 9. 'Breakfast in Bed' A Tray for one(1) person, to be staged on a black pedestal 24"x24"x 25"H in front of a black background. Decorative unit to be exhibitor's choice. All components must be on the tray.

Class 9. 'Breakfast in Bed'

Maria Kallis, Barrington Garden Club **First**

Judges' Comments: Elegant simplicity! Muscari in center of floral design disrupts rhythm.

Class 10. 'Great Chemistry' A Spatial Thrust Design using fresh and/or dried plant material staged on a black pedestal 42" high with a 20" round top, in front of a black background. Design not to exceed 20" from the center of the pedestal. No height restriction.

Class 10. 'Great Chemistry'

De Feldman, Barrington Garden Club **Second 90+**

Judges' Comment: Flowers are artistically crafted and exude the excitement of a wedding. Thrust elements do not completely reinforce each other.

Class 10. 'Great Chemistry'

Linda Kirkpatrick, Portsmouth Garden Club **Third**

Judges' Comment: Creative use of "nosegay" bouquet is a clever way to incorporate the theme into the design. Thrust elements are on one plane, creating a distraction.

<u>Class 11 'Sparks Flying'</u> A Floor Design using fresh and/or dried plant material staged in front of a 4'x8' black staging panel. May be viewed from three sides, underlay is optional. Design should be staged within the allocated space allowed 4'w x 4'deep x 8'H.

Class 11. 'Sparks Flying'

Blakely Szosz, Barrington Garden Club **First, Design Excellence Award, President's Award, Ruth Anderson Award, The Blakely Szosz Award of Sustainability, Designer's Choice Award, and People's Choice Award**

Judges' Comment: "Sparks Fly" ! Expert manipulation of plant material. Slight imbalance from top to the base. Empty tube distracts the eye.

Class 11. 'Sparks Flying'

Judy Gray, Bayberry and Edgewood Garden Clubs **Third 90+ and RI Home Builders Association Award.**

Judges Comment: Whimsical showcasing of a variety of plant material for a special occasion. Large mass of plant material at the base interrupts the rhythm of the delicate design.

Class 14. 'Something Blue' A Garter staged on a nylon-covered mannequin leg, measures 32.3" tall & 15 ¼" top c., ¾ view (facing 7 O'clock). Staged on a black stand 16"x 16" x 29". To be viewed from three sides at 56" high in front of a black background. Exhibitor is to provide nylon(nude sheer only) stocking.

Class 14. 'Something Blue'

Candace Morgenstern, Newport Tiverton Garden Clubs **First and Artistic Crafts Award**

Judges Comment: Well executed design with texture, form and rhythm.

Class 14. 'Something Blue'

Blakely Szosz, Barrington Garden Club **Second 90+**

Judges Comment: Neat and clean execution. White eucalyptus leaf on band lacks texture.

Class 14. 'Something Blue'

Janice Panoff, South County Garden Club **Third**

Judges' Comment: A realistic interpretation of a garter. Inconsistency of craftsmanship deters from distinction.

Class 14. 'Something Blue'

Patricia Fernandnez, Newport Garden Club **HM**

Judges' Comment: Manipulation of aspidistra leaf creates realistic lace. Underside of design impacts overall quality.

Class 15. 'With This Ring' A Ring Box including a Ring not to exceed 4" in any direction. Staged on a 5" square, clear-acrylic riser, set on a white pedestal 42" high with a 20" round top. To be viewed from three sides in front of a black background.

Class 15. 'With This Ring '

Allison Spadone, Perennial Planters Garden Club **Second 90+**

Judges' Comment: Black "onyx" ring shows meticulous craftsmanship. Colorful hydrangea background competes with this stunning ring.

Class 15. 'With This Ring'

Bernie Larivee, Edgewood Garden Club **Third 90+**

Judges' Comments: Placement and color of stones are well balanced for the ring. Scale of the ring exceeds the size of the box.

Class 15. ‘With This Ring’

Joanne Duval, Hameho Garden Club **HM**

Judges’ Comment: Artistry displayed on box reminds one of Francoise Weeks. Use of synthetics, such as the pearls and crystal, do not conform to the concept of "botanical arts" class.

Class 16. ‘The Blushing Bride’ A Bridal Headpiece staged on a white mannequin head measuring 11.5’’tall x 19¼”c., ¾” view (facing 7 O’clock). Staged on a 9”x 9” x ¾” white stand on a white pedestal 38¾” high with a 12” square top. Design may not exceed 6” from edge of pedestal and drape no more than 24”. To be viewed from three sides in front of a black background.

Class 16. ‘The Blushing Bride’

Linda McHugh, Rehoboth Garden Club **Second 90+**

Judges’ Comment: Unique simplicity of design is well executed.

Class 16. ‘The Blushing Bride’

Eileen Dennis, Hameho Garden Club **Third 90+**

Judges’ Comments: Dynamic rhythm with stunning use of color and texture.

Exhibit 1 'Unexpected Guests'

Julie Mankewicz, Eileen Moser, and Joan Reilly, Sogkonate Garden Club
Education Award

Judges' Comments: Complete educational exhibit in all ways!

Exhibit 2 'Happily, Ever After'

Heather Fraga, Hattie Ide Chaffee Garden Club
Second 90+

Judges' Comments: Collaboration and community is so vital. Space is not fully utilized.

Exhibit 3 'A Marriage Made In Heaven'

Carol Horta, Gentian Garden Club **Third 90+**

Judges' Comments: Carries out theme of the show in very distinctive ways.

AWARDS

THE NGC STANDARD SYSTEM OF AWARDING IS USED:

Only one first place (blue) ribbon per class.
Must score 90 points or more.
Only one second place (red) ribbon per class.
Must score 85 points or more**.**
Only one third place (yellow) ribbon per class.
Must score 80 points or more.
One or more Honorable Mention (white) ribbon as merited.
Must score 75 points or more.

Judges are asked to consider non-blue-ribbon winners for a 90+ recognition.

NGC TOP EXHIBITOR AWARDS

All Top Exhibitor Awards must be blue-ribbon winners scoring 95 or above

DESIGN DIVISION

***Award of Design Excellence: A Division Award*:** Only one award may be offered to the highest scoring 95+ blue ribbon exhibit in the entire Design Division I. This award is a rosette of gold ribbons. (HB p.42)

Section Awards

Must have a minimum of three classes with four exhibits in each section.

Designer's Choice Award: Exhibitor has the freedom to select components, within the NGC policies. Section D is eligible for this award, a rosette of purple ribbons. (HB pg. 42)

Petite Award: May be offered to the most outstanding petite design. Section B is eligible for this award, a small rosette of blue and white ribbons. (HB pg. 43)

***Table Artistry Award*:** This award is available for Functional and Exhibition Tables. Section C is eligible for this award, a rosette of burgundy ribbons. (HB pg. 43)

***Tricolor Award*:** This award requires that all plant material used in the designs must be **fresh**. Section A is eligible for this award, a rosette of red, yellow and blue ribbons. (HB pg. 43)

BOTANICAL ARTS DIVISION

Botanical Arts Artistic Crafts Award: This section must consist of at least three (3) classes with at least four (4) exhibits in each class. Winning exhibit must contain some plant material. Section A is eligible for this award, a rosette of yellow and orange ribbons. (HB p. 44)

EDUCATION DIVISION

Educational Top Exhibitor Award: Must have a minimum of two (2) exhibits. Must use a minimum of 18 square feet of surface space. This award is a rosette of brown and white ribbons. (HB p. 43)

YOUTH DIVISION

Youth Top Exhibitor Awards – Botanical Arts and Design: One(1) award may be given to the best exhibit in each of the three(3) age groups. Sec A - Artistic Craft and one (1) age group in Sec B – Design. The exhibit must score 90 or more points. These awards are a rosette of red, white, and blue ribbons. (HB p.44)

Further information on the above awards can be found in the Handbook for Flower Shows p.42-44

ADDITIONAL AWARDS

Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Awards

Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs' President's Award: This award winner is selected by the President of RIFGC from among the blue-ribbon winners in the Division I Design. This award is a rosette of green and white ribbons.

Flower Show Judges' Award: This award may be given to the exhibit in the Design Division that best depicts its class title. The winner need not have earned a blue ribbon. This award is a rosette of pink ribbons.

The Ruth Anderson Award: This award will be presented to a design in the Design Division exhibiting the best use of color. This award is a rosette of fuchsia ribbons.

The Blakely Szosz Award of Sustainability: This award is given for the best use of sustainable components in a design. Environmentally friendly mechanics, upcycling, and/or fully compostable materials will be judged in equal proportion to the overall design. A statement of intent by the designer is required to any exhibitor interested in competing for this award. May be given to a non-blue-ribbon winner. This award is a rosette of medium green and lime green ribbons.

The Novice Award: This award will be presented to a novice exhibiting in any Class in the Design Division who has not won a Blue Ribbon in a Major Flower Show. This award is a lavender ribbon.

The Rhode Island Builders Association Award

The Rhode Island Builders Association Award: This award is selected by members of the RI Builders Association. This award is a rosette of navy-blue ribbons.

People's Choice Award: This award is given to the exhibit that earns the most votes from those attending the show. The award is chosen by ballot. The winner receives a rosette of yellow ribbons.