

OUR FEATHERED GARDEN HELPERS

Highlighting the many ways garden birds contribute to
our garden pleasures in SW Florida



A NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. STANDARD FLOWER SHOW

PRESENTED BY

GULF COAST GARDEN CLUB

AT

BONITA SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY

10560 REYNOLDS STREET

BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34134

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026: 1 P.M. TO 4:15 P.M.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026: 9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

**Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC); Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.;
Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.; District IX; Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council**

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FLOWER SHOW COMMITTEE

(Consult GCGC Directory for contact information.)

FFGC President	Christie Linke
Director, FFGC District IX	Susan Lawson
GCGC President	Laura Sullivan
Flower Show General Chairman	Dale DeFeo
Awards	Nancy McPherson
Clerks	Nancy McPherson
Design Entries/Classification	Lorna O'Hara
Horticulture Entries/Classification/Placement & Botanical Arts Horticulture	Rosemary DiLorenzo & Kathleen "Capp" Morris
Judges & Judges Hospitality Chairman	Dale DeFeo
Publicity	Laura Sullivan
Schedule	Anina Bachrach
Staging & Signage	Dale DeFeo
Treasurer	Ann Marie Dooley
Photographer	Pat Townsend
Education Division	Anina Bachrach
	Rose Ford & Zoe Shutka

GENERAL RULES

1. This Flower Show conforms to the standards established by National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC). THE HANDBOOK FOR FLOWER SHOWS (HB), 2017 edition, with any revisions posted on the NGC website (gardenclub.org) is the authority for all issues not covered by the Schedule, which is THE LAW OF THE SHOW and conforms to the NGC HB.
2. The NGC Standard System of Awarding (see HB pg. 25) will be used throughout the show.
3. Only Gulf Coast Garden Club members may enter the show.
4. Staging/Show set-up will take place on Thursday, February 25, 2027, from 12:00-2:30 p.m.
5. Entries (Design & Horticulture) will be accepted between 2:45-4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 25 and between 9:00-10:30 p.m. on Friday, February 26, 2027. We MUST exit the Library by 4:20p.m.
6. The Classification Chairman for each division will check exhibits for conformity to schedule requirements prior to judging. Final determination for conformance is the judges' responsibility.
7. The General Chairman and Classification Chairmen shall be available during judging for consultation. They, plus Judges and Clerks are the only ones allowed on the floor during judging.
8. The decisions of the Judges are final.
9. Judging will commence at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, February 26, 2027
10. Emphasis must be on FRESH plant material. No artificial plant material is permitted in any exhibit in any Division.
11. Each exhibitor is limited to one entry per class in Division I: Design.
12. Neither Lee County Library System, Bonita Springs Library or Gulf Coast Garden Club will be responsible for damage or loss of property.
13. Plants listed on the FLORIDA EXOTIC INVASIVE PLANT LIST are prohibited in the show. List is available at [HTTP/FRESH](http://FRESH) from Florida Plants.
14. All exhibits MUST be removed between **3:00-3:45 p.m. on Saturday, February 27, 2027.**

AWARDS

NGC Standard System of Awards will be followed: HB pg. 5.

1 Blue – 90+; 1 Red – 85+; 1 Yellow – 80+; 1 or more White (Honorable Mention) 75+

Top Exhibitor Awards: (See HB Chapter 5, 39-48 pp. for complete details).

Division I: Design: 1 Best in Show, Design Division.

Division II: Horticulture: 1 Award of Horticultural Excellence (best in Horticulture Division).

Section Awards:

Arboreal Award - 1 offered in each of Sections G & H (total of 2 offered).

Award of Merit - 1 offered in each of Sections D, E & F (total of 3 offered)

Growers Choice Award – 1 offered in each of Sections A, B & C (total of 3 offered).

Division III: Botanical Arts Horticulture: 1 Botanical Arts Horticulture Award offered.

Division IV: Education: 1 Educational Top Exhibitor Award offered.

“FEATHERED FRIENDS”

DESIGN RULES:

1. Design entries must be pre-registered with Lorna O’Hara by February 10, 2027.
2. All designs **MUST** contain some fresh plant material.
3. Designs must be the work of one individual.
4. Design classes are limited to four entries each.
5. Exhibitors may enter only one exhibit per class but may enter more than one class.
6. Fresh plant material may not be treated. Dried plant material may be treated/painted.
7. The Scale of Points for Design is listed on page 130 of the HB.
8. Entries will be accepted between 3:00-4:40 p.m. on Thursday, February 25, 2027 and 9-10:30 a.m. on Friday, February 26, 2027.
9. All entries must be removed between 3:00-4:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 27, 2027.

ENTRIES:

One BEST IN SHOW AWARD will be offered in the Design Division.

Design Entries/Classification: Lorna O’Hara 732-331-0267.

NOTE: All staging furnished by Committee unless otherwise indicated.

Class 1. **Pollinators:** Ruby Throated Hummingbird, Oriole, Goldfinch **4 entries**

Petite design featuring jewel tone colors, not to exceed **5” in height, width, depth.**

Staged on a white 8x8” background panel and 8x8” underlay placed on table with riser, all furnished by Committee. Design **MUST** provide background panel and underlay in proportion to design to be placed on provided staging.

Class 2. **Pollinators:** Pine Warbler, Sparrows, Catbird **4 entries**

Petite design must be between **8-10”** in height and **6-8”** in width or depth. Staged on a 12x12” background panel and 12x12” underlay placed on table with riser, all furnished by Committee. Designer must provide background panel and underlay in proportion to Design, to be placed on provided staging.

Class 3. **Insectivores:** Woodpeckers, Flickers, Shrikes **4 entries**

A creative design incorporating weathered wood. Staged on 44” high pedestal with a 24” square top. Underlay may be used but is not to exceed the 24” square top. Viewed from all sides.



Class 4. **Natural Seed Dispersers:** Cardinals, Blue Jays, Cedar Waxwings **4 entries**

A Cascade design with emphasis on a downward rhythmic movement. Downward lines may be curved, straight, zigzag, interrupted or may be a combination. Staged on half of a 6x2' table (3x2' design space) covered in ivory cloth. A 36"x24" trifold panel must be used and provided by exhibitor.



“BIRDS ALL AROUND US”

HORTICULTURE RULES:

NGC policies are in the HANDBOOK FOR FLOWER SHOWS (HB), Chapter 6, page 65, and in HORTICULTURE EXHIBITING AND JUDGING (NGC 2012).

1. See pages 27-28 and pages 33-34 in HB for specific requirements.
 - a. General Rules of the Flower Show Schedule apply.
 - b. Horticulture specimens must be fresh.
 - c. All plant material must be grown by the exhibitor.
 - d. Cut specimens must be exhibited in clean, clear container furnished by exhibitor.
Exception: Sansevieria and evergreen branches may be exhibited without a container.
 - e. Water should be clean and without debris.
 - f. Clear plastic (ex. Saran Wrap or bubble wrap (for large stems) may be used as wedging and will be furnished by the exhibitor.
 - g. Container-grown specimen containers should be clean and unobtrusive. Decorative containers should not dominate the specimen.
 - h. Staking is permitted but should be unobtrusive.
 - i. Double potting is allowed but the inner container rim should be below the top of the outer container.
2. Horticulture entries must be accompanied by an entry card completed by the exhibitor.
 - a. Entry cards will be made available in advance at general meetings.
 - b. Botanical names must be used on the entry card. If assistance is needed, please contact a Horticulture Classification Committee member prior to the show. Entry times are very limited at the show and extensive help cannot be given then.
 - c. Entry card completion will be reviewed prior to the show.
3. Horticulture entries will be received between 2:30 p.m - 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 25, 2027 and 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. on Friday, February 26, 2027. We must exit the building by 4:15 p.m.



“BIRDS ALL AROUND US”

ENTRIES

SECTION A. “Eastern Bluebirds”

Container-grown flowering plant. Container not to exceed 12” in any dimension. Eligible for a Grower’s Choice Award.

- Class 1. *Bromeliad*
- Class 2. *Euphorbia*
- Class 3. *Kalanchoe*
- Class 4. *Orchidaceae*
- Class 5. Any other worthy specimen

SECTION B. “Catbirds”

Container-grown foliage plant. Container not to exceed 12” in any dimension. Eligible for a Grower’s Choice Award.

- Class 6. *Bromeliad*
- Class 7. Cacti
- Class 8. *Coleus*
- Class 9. *Dracaena*, including *Sansevieria*
- Class 10. Herbs
- Class 11. *Pothos*
- Class 12. Succulents (except bromeliads and cacti)
- Class 13. Any other worthy specimen

SECTION C. “Eastern Meadowlark”

Combination plantings in a container not to exceed 16 inches in any dimension. Eligible for a Grower’s Choice Award.

- Class 14. Dish garden
- Class 15. Planter
- Class 16. Terrarium

SECTION D. “Brown Thrasher”

Cut specimen of herbs – single cut specimen in a clear glass container furnished by exhibitor. Specimen not to exceed 16 inches in length. Eligible for an Award of Merit.

- Class 17. Basil
- Class 18. Parsley
- Class 19. *Rosmarinus* (Rosemary)
- Class 20. Any other worthy cut herb specimen

SECTION E. “Mourning Doves”

Cut foliage specimen, excluding trees and shrubs – single cut specimen in a clear glass container furnished by exhibitor. Specimen not to exceed 18 inches in length. Eligible for an Award of Merit.

- Class 21. *Cordyline* (ti plant)
- Class 22. *Dracaena* (except sansevieria)
- Class 23. *Dracaena* sansevieria
- Class 24. *Polypodium* (ferns)
- Class 25. *Solenostemon* (coleus)
- Class 26. Any other worthy cut foliage specimen

SECTION F. “Painted Buntings”

Cut flowering specimen, annuals or perennials – single cut specimen in a clear glass container furnished by exhibitor. Specimen not to exceed 18 inches in length. Eligible for an Award of Merit.

- Class 27. *Asclepias* (Milkweed)
- Class 28. *Gaillardia* (Blanket flower)
- Class 29. *Odontonema* (Firespike)
- Class 30. *Pentas*
- Class 31. Any other worthy cut flowering specimen.

SECTION G; “Pine Siskins”

Cut foliage specimen from tree or shrub – cut specimen of tree/shrub grown for foliage, exhibited in a clear glass container furnished by exhibitor. Must include apical tip. Not to exceed 30 inches in length from apical tip to cut end. Eligible for an Arboreal Award.

- Class 32. *Aucuba*
- Class 33. *Codiaeum variegatum* (Croton)
- Class 34. Magnolia
- Class 35. Needled Evergreen
- Class 36. *Schefflera*
- Class 37. Any other worthy cut foliage specimen from tree or shrub

SECTION H. “Blue Jays”

Cut flowering specimen from tree or shrub – exhibited in a clear glass container furnished by exhibitor. Must include apical tip. Not to exceed 30 inches in length from apical tip to cut end. Eligible for an Arboreal Award.

- Class 38. *Allamanda*
- Class 39. *Hibiscus*
- Class 40. *Ixora coccinea*
- Class 41. *Jatropha*
- Class 42. Any other worthy cut flowering specimen from tree or shrubs

"Birds of a Feather"

BOTANICAL ARTS HORTICULTURE RULES:

1. All Botanical Arts exhibits must be grown by the exhibitor.
2. All exhibits must be correctly named by the binomial or currently accepted scientific designation.
3. No artificial plant material is permitted."

SECTION A. BOTANICAL ARTS HORTICULTURE

Container-grown specimens that have been manipulated in some way. Container size not to exceed 12 inches in any dimension. Must be in exhibitor's possession for 6 months. Manipulation does not have to be done by exhibitor.

- Class 1. "Flocks of Colorful Birds." Collection of container-grown flowering or foliage plants (may include Grafted plants). Individual containers not to exceed 8 inches in any dimension. At least 5 individual specimens. Staged on ¼ of 6'x2' table.
- Class 2. "Birds Have Friends, Too." Collection of cut flowering or foliage plants. Exhibitor to furnish appropriate containers. Must contain at least 5 individual specimens. Staged on ¼ 6'x2' table.
- Class 3. "Birds are Interesting to Observe." Braided *Dracaena sanderiana* (Lucky Bamboo). Container not to exceed 8 inches in any dimension.
- Class 4. "Some Birds Mate for Life." Grafted Cactus

DIVISION IV: EDUCATION

"Learning More About Our Birds"

Eligible for the Educational Top Exhibitor Award, a Division Award.

EDUCATION DIVISION RULES:

1. Schedule must list exhibit titles and briefly describe each subject.
2. If exhibitor is seeking exhibiting credit, the work must be done by an individual.
3. Plant material is not required, although NGC encourages the use of plant material where appropriate.
4. No artificial plant material is permitted in an Educational Exhibit.
5. Standard Flower Show, Small Standard Flower Show or Specialty Flower Show minimum of 18 square feet required.
6. Staged on half of a 6 ft. x 24-inch deep table.

EDUCATION EXHIBITS:

- Exhibit 1. "Feathered Insectivores in our SW Florida Gardens"
Highlighting birds that help keep our gardens free of unwanted pest
- Exhibit 2. "How to Naturally Attract Birds to Our Gardens in SW Florida."
Native plants and trees and water that attract feathered friends to our gardens.

