

Daffodil Day 2026
“America the Beautiful”
Artistic Design Schedule

The iconic song America the Beautiful, was originally a poem penned by Katharine Lee Bates, and later set to music in 1910. As we celebrate America 250 – our nation’s semi-quincentennial! – this year’s Artistic Design schedule honors not only this patriotic hymn, but also the unique wonder and beauty of America, while providing members exciting opportunities to showcase their skills and creativity!

Interclub Division

Exhibits in the Interclub division may be executed by a team of arrangers from a Garden Club of Virginia club. The exhibit is entered in the name of the club.

With the exception of Class 1, each interclub exhibit will be displayed on a 12-inch square, light grey pedestal, 42 inches high, viewed from three sides against a neutral background extending no more than 6 inches beyond any side of the pedestal with no height limitations. The base of the arrangement may not be more than 12 inches unless specified.

Daffodils must dominate in all classes!

Class 1

Purple Mountain Majesty – Floor Design Style
GCV Website: Contemporary Floral Styles, page 9

7 Entries

During a trip in 1893, Katharine Lee Bates was moved by the sweeping view from Pikes Peak in Colorado and by the mountain’s purplish hues at dawn and dusk, a sight she captured in the first verse with the phrase “purple mountain majesties.”

Create an arrangement in the Floor Design Style evoking the height and grandeur of a towering mountain peak.

Class 2

The Glory of Gloucester – Federal Style
GCV Website: Traditional Floral Styles, page 26

7 Entries

Gloucester is situated at the southern end of Virginia’s middle peninsula, where the York River and the Chesapeake Bay meet. As early as 1651, daffodils were introduced to the area by English settlers, who discovered soil and weather conditions ideal for cultivation. Today it holds the title of The Daffodil Capital of America – thanks in large part to friends of GCV and The American Daffodil Society: Becky and Brent Heath.

Create an arrangement in the Federal Style to honor Brent & Becky's Bulbs and their significant contributions to daffodil education and cultivation.

Class 3

Celebrate! 250 Years! – Illuminary Style

7 Entries

GCV Website: Contemporary Floral Styles, page 10

July 4, 2026, will mark 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. A hallmark of the Fourth of July holiday, the lighting of fireworks remains a classic tradition and a vibrant expression of celebration.

Create an exhibit in the Illuminary Style inspired by the drama and excitement of a fireworks display.

Individual/Partner Division

Exhibits in the Individual/Partner Division may be executed by a single person exhibiting individually or by a team of two partners working together. Exhibiting is open to MEMBERS of the Garden Club of Virginia only. Mentor/Novice teams are encouraged, and a special award will be presented for this category.

Daffodils must dominate in all classes!

Class 4

From Sea to Shining Sea – Stretch Style

7 Entries

GCV Website: Contemporary Floral Styles, page 16

Taken from the second stanza, the lyrics “from sea to shining sea” represent the great vastness and continental width of the country – from the Atlantic Ocean on the east coast to the Pacific Ocean on the west coast.

Create an arrangement in the Stretch Style that captures the awe-inspiring expanse of the continental United States. The use of seashells and other “oceanic” material is encouraged!

Class 5

A Salute to the Troops – Parallel Style

7 Entries

GCV Website: Contemporary Floral Styles, page 14

A salute is a symbolic gesture representing respect and honor for a senior officer, or the American flag. The freedoms and independence we enjoy today are thanks to the bravery and great sacrifice of our nation's military and their families.

Create an arrangement in the Parallel Style to represent military service members standing at attention.

Class 6

Amber Waves of Grain – Casual Contemporary GCV Website: Contemporary Floral Styles, page 6

7 Entries

Drawn from the song's opening verse, "amber waves of grain" refers to the Great Plains and evokes the image of sweeping fields of ripened wheat, symbolizing the abundance of America's heartland. The states of this region produce the majority of the nation's hard red winter wheat.

Create an exhibit in the Casual Contemporary Style which recreates the organic fluidity and wave-like movement of a "sea" of crops or plants moving with the wind.

Botanical Arts Schedule

Daffodils do not need to dominate!

Class 1

Let Freedom Ring – Embellishment

4 Entries

The front of the provided Liberty Bell must be 100% covered with ONLY DRIED plant material. Exhibits will be displayed on a wooden easel atop a 30" D x 42" H round cocktail table covered by a black tablecloth. Each entry will be viewed and judged from all sides. Upon registration, entrants will be mailed a 9"H x 1/4" thick flat wooden bell and a diagram of the display space.

Class 2

Stars & Stripes Forever – Botanical Jewelry

4 Entries

Create a functional brooch depicting the American Flag. Exhibit will be displayed on a 5" round black velvet pad; dimensions of exhibit not to exceed display pad. Each entry will be viewed and judged from all sides.

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No arranging will be allowed on the showroom floor.

Timeline:

Online Registration Deadlines:

*Botanical Arts
Friday, February 27, 2026, 9:30 am*

*Artistic Design
Friday, March 13, 2026, 9:30 am*

Tuesday, March 24, 2026, Noon – 5:00 pm: Workrooms open and arrangements may be passed and placed.

Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 7:00 am – 10:00 am: Workrooms open and arrangements passed and placed.

Judging will begin at 10:15 am

Awards Ceremony at 2:00 pm

Wednesday, March 25, 2026: Arrangements may be picked up no earlier than 5:00 pm. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to remove their exhibit at the conclusion of the show.

Questions?

Renee Gardner, Artistic Design Chairman reneespearsgardner@gmail.com

Carla Rice, Artistic Design Registrar crice111@icloud.com

General Information:

Artistic exhibits are PRE-Registered with the Artistic Design Registrar on the Garden Club of Virginia website. Registration is a first come-first served basis. A waiting list will not be compiled. You will receive a confirmation from the Registrar. Registration is a reservation of space and an OBLIGATION. If unable to complete the exhibit, the REGISTRANT is responsible for finding a substitute arranger and notifying the Registrar. Please contact the Artistic Design Committee Chairman with any unforeseen issues. Registration is open to Garden Club of Virginia Members only.

Artistic Design Rules & Specifications:

1. The Schedule is known as "The Law of the Show."
2. Inter Club classes allow a team of arrangers from a GCV Club to create the exhibit together. **However, only two arrangers will be allowed on the showroom floor during passing.**
3. Individual/Partner classes allow one person working individually or two people working in partnership to create and exhibit the design. An individual or partner team may enter as many classes as desired but only one entry per class.
4. Passing Judges must pass each exhibit before the exhibitor(s) leave the show floor. Passing Judges look to ensure that the exhibit meets the Schedule requirements including dimensions, floral materials list, Novice and/or Mentor status, Statement of Intent if included, exhibitors' identification (name, GCV Club), and compliance with design style. An exhibit may only be disqualified by consultation with the GCV Artistic Design Committee Chairman and the GCV Judging Coordinator(s). If disqualification is a possibility, every effort will be made by the Passing Coordinators to allow the exhibitor(s) to remedy the arrangement before the opening of the show.
5. Although arrangements may be viewed from all sides, arrangements will be judged from a distance of 3 feet from the front.
6. Designs will be judged according to the GCV Principles of Design: balance, dominance, contrast, rhythm, proportion, and scale and the Elements of Design: light, space, line, form, size, pattern, texture, and color. Creativity, distinction, conformance to and interpretation of the class and Schedule are also very important.
7. Please mark all containers and accessories with exhibitor number, name, and contact information.
8. Each exhibitor card **provided by the show registrar** will include a space for listing floral materials used. Garden grown materials should be identified with a "G" and florist found materials should be identified with an "F." A Pot-et-Fleur must include "R"

for rooted material or "C" for cut material. Plants on the Virginia Endangered Species list grown in an exhibitor's garden must also be noted.

9. Plants on the Endangered Species list protected by Virginia law <https://law.lis.virginia.gov> may be used only if grown in the exhibitor's garden. This should be noted with the exhibitor's floral materials.
10. Boxwood is not allowed at any GCV event.
11. Endangered and locally invasive plants (species intentionally or accidentally introduced by human activity into a region in which they did not evolve and cause harm to natural resources, economic activity, or humans) may **NOT** be included at this time, and the Garden Club of Virginia asks that members refrain from planting additional invasive species in their gardens. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/search/invasive%20species/listsplants> lists plants divided into high, medium, and low invasive status in the Commonwealth.
12. Seasonal, garden floral materials are preferred, and commercially grown flowers should be used with discretion.
13. Designs must include some fresh plant material.
14. Treating **fresh** plant material by the application of substances such as paints, dyes, etc. is not permitted. Plants may be stripped, clipped, bent, or otherwise manipulated.
15. The following are permitted unless prohibited in the show Schedule:
 - a. Accessories
 - a. Bases
 - a. Contrived flowers and/or forms made of fresh or dried plant material
 - a. *Cut fruit or vegetables sealed in some manner to discourage insects
 - a. Objects that add interest when tastefully used (for example, nests, feathers, coral, sponges, sea fans, starfish, antlers)
 - a. Container-grown plants in soil as part of Pot-et-Fleur or other appropriate classes
 - a. Dried and/or treated plant material
2. The following are not permitted unless specified in the Show Schedule:
 - a. Artificial flowers, foliage, insects, and fruit
 - a. Living creatures.
 - a. If there is a "Tablescape Class" included in the show schedule, there is no food or drink permitted on the table. Exception: empty Champagne, or other empty beverage bottles.
2. Several types of backdrops are used in the flower shows. No flower material may touch the sides, back, or roof if present. Arrangements will be judged in proportion to the size of the backdrops, if present.
3. For design guidance and information on the floral styles in this schedule, click on the following links:
 - a. [*Contemporary Floral Styles*](#)
 - a. [*Traditional Floral Styles*](#)
2. GCV Judges and Student Judges are encouraged to enter the flower show. Judges and Student Judges will not judge a class in which they have entered nor in which members of their GCV clubs have entered.
3. Wherever possible, please use alternatives to non-biodegradable floral foam, and absolutely refrain from using floral foam when the Schedule dictates that an alternative must be employed.
4. The base of the exhibit may not extend beyond the 12x12-inch pedestal unless otherwise specified in the schedule.

Artistic Design Procedures:

1. All Artistic exhibits must be pre-registered with the Artistic Design Registrar. Please remember that registration is a reservation of space and thus an obligation to be fulfilled. If unable to complete the exhibit, the registrant is

- responsible for finding a substitute arranger and notifying the Registrar. Please contact the Artistic Design Committee Chairman with any unforeseen issues.
2. Check in at Registration upon arrival. A completed exhibitor card must accompany the arrangement. Check it for accuracy including contact information, garden club, floral materials list. In the Individual/Partner Division, please add novice and/or novice/mentor status, if appropriate. *A novice is one who has not won a blue ribbon or a GCV novice award in a GCV Flower Show. A mentor is one who has won a blue ribbon or a GCV novice award in a GCV Flower Show.* Mentor-novice partners should check the appropriate box on the exhibit card.
 3. In both Inter Club and Individual/Partner Divisions, a Statement of Intent of **25 words or fewer** listed on a 3 x 5" card conveying the exhibitor's vision and message to the viewer is required, and accompanies each exhibit.
 4. The workroom is not adjacent to the show floor. Exhibitors may arrange in the workroom but not on the show floor unless allowed by the Schedule.
 5. Please be sure that your container does not leak. Please exercise care when watering in the exhibit space.
 6. Notify a Passing Judge when the exhibit is placed and ready to be passed. Passing Judges confirm that the exhibit meets the style specified in the Schedule, published space requirements, Exhibitor's information (including novice and mentor eligibility), and Floral Materials List / Key Card in Botanical Arts. An exhibitor whose exhibit does not meet the Schedule will be given an opportunity, if time allows, to correct it. An exhibit may only be disqualified by consultation with the GCV Artistic Design Committee Chairman and the GCV Judging Coordinator(s). Arranger(s) remain in the exhibit area until the exhibit is passed, and once passed, leave the show floor promptly. Except for watering and necessary maintenance, the exhibit must remain untouched following passing.
 7. The Artistic Design Committee may add or delete classes or adjust the number of entries within a class or classes.
 8. Exhibits **MUST** remain in place until the close of the show.

Botanical Arts Guidelines:

1. All Plant material used must be dried – this includes flowers, foliage, seeds, pods, nuts (in or out of shells), vegetables, twigs, vines, reeds, etc.
2. Only plant material, mechanics and their surface treatments (i.e., paints, nail polishes, varnishes, waxes, etc.) are permitted.
3. Artificial, endangered and locally invasive plant material may not be used. Figural forms must be assembled or judiciously carved by the exhibitor.
4. Any plant material may be cut, incised or shaped to enhance the artistic effect.
5. Non-plant material (i.e., cardboard, metal, twine, string, cording, etc.) may be used only for construction and may not show.
6. Anything not prohibited in the GCV rules, Botanical Art Guidelines or individual class descriptions is permitted.
7. Processed products may not be included in design (i.e., cork, raffia, tapioca, balsa wood, etc.)
8. A sample card must accompany the entry. An untreated sample of each plant material used in the design, correctly identified with Botanical and Common Names is affixed to a 5 x 8 white unlined card.
9. If an exhibit has won First Place or a GCV Special Award in a GCV flower show, it may not be entered in competition again. An exhibit which meets the schedule guidelines may be entered again if the piece is significantly altered.

Artistic Design Awards:

Inter Club Division

Mrs. Littleton H. Mears Trophy, Quad Blue, Best in Show
(Best Interclub Arrangement – Blue Ribbon required)

Individual/Partner Division*Tri-Color*

(May be won by either a single exhibitor or by two partners working together – Blue Ribbon required)

The Decca Gilmer Frackelton Award

(Best in Show by an Individual – Blue Ribbon required)

The Sandra Sadler Baylor Award

(Most Creative Arrangement in Individual/Partner Division – No Ribbon required)

The Hunter Hankins Savage Award

(Best Novice Arrangement – No Ribbon required)

The Mentor Award

(Best Mentor-Novice Partnership Arrangement—Blue or Red Ribbon required)