



GARDEN CLUB  
OF VIRGINIA

# *Daffodil Day*

## *Photography Division*

*America the Beautiful*

by

Katharine Lee Bates

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.

### *March 25, 2026*

**Class One: American Mountains Under Spacious Skies – Distant Landscape,** (color). Capture the vast beauty of mountains and majesty found in many American landscapes. Daffodils do not have to be included but are encouraged; mountains must be in US.

***“Distant” Landscape photography*** – a genre of photography which focuses on the art of capturing the beauty and spaces **of the natural world on land**– without people, or objects ([stevenmichaels.net](http://stevenmichaels.net)) – scenery of any kind from wilderness vistas; the primary subject is scenery ([from pentaxforums.com](http://pentaxforums.com)) in a way that invites the viewer into the scene. The primary subject is the scenery, and the scenery must dominate. The image may contain secondary elements such as animals, or objects.

**Class Two: Amber Waves – Creative (color).** Daffodils exhibiting a sense of motion.

***Creative photography** – a photographic technique that uses manipulation at any stage of the photographic process to achieve an effect that renders the final image very different from the original image.*

**Class Three: Reflections of American History – Composed Still Life (color).** A mirror or reflective surface must be included to capture the reflection of a daffodil or daffodils in part of the image.

***Composed Still Life photography** – a genre of photography where the image is an intentionally composed arrangement of inanimate objects.*

**Class Four: American Bird(s) – Portrait (color).**

*On June 20, 1782, the [Continental Congress](#) adopted the design for the [Great Seal of the United States](#), depicting a bald eagle grasping 13 [arrows](#) and an [olive branch](#) with 13 leaves with its talons. (Wikipedia)*

From the regal bald eagle to state birds, to songbirds in the garden, these feathered creatures add beauty to our lives. Capture a portrait of a bird or birds photographed in the US. Daffodils do not have to be in the portrait.

***Portrait photography** – a genre of photography where the photograph concentrates on the subject and often tells a story about the subject.*

**Class Five: Vintage America the Beautiful – Street Photography (monochrome).** Capture the past of America in a streetscape sepia monochrome. Daffodils are encouraged.

***Street Photography** - Street photography is about capturing slices of life that happen in common areas in a city, such as parks and sidewalks. Good street photos find meaning and purpose in seemingly ordinary moments or interactions, making viewers think about something they would otherwise pass by. (Spencer Cox, 25 Types of Photography You Should Know in 2025; photographylife.com) No children or pets.*

***Monochrome photography** - a photographic technique that shows variations of just one color and can be created with any color other than black and white, but note that black and white is considered to be a type of monochrome.*

**Class Six: Sea to Shining Sea –Waterscape (color). NOVICE CLASS.** Objects such as boats or buildings may be included in a sunrise or sunset picture. Daffodils do not have to be in the picture but are encouraged.

***Waterscape** – Water appears in the scene but need not totally dominate the image.*

*A novice is someone who has never won first place in a GCV photography show or any other photography show.*

## PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDELINES

- 1. Who can enter:** The Photography Division is open to all members of the Garden Club of Virginia.
- 2. How to enter:** Advanced Registration is required. Registration for each photography class will open January 6th, and will close on February 23rd, or when classes are full. Members may only submit one photograph but may indicate their interest in submitting a second image if space becomes available. Registrants will receive a confirmation of registration email.
- 3. Digital Photograph:** Digital images, must be sent by email to [photography@gcvirginia.org](mailto:photography@gcvirginia.org), and are required for each entry and are **due no later than March 1st**. Follow these steps to send in digital image: (a) **rename your photo file** as follows: Class #\_District #\_Your Last Name\_First Initial. (e.g. Class 1\_D 2\_Smith\_P.); (b) **make sure your image is between 2 and 6 MB** in size and attach the image as “actual size” to your email. **Check again before sending to ensure the image size has not been reduced to below the minimum of 2 MB**; (c) make the **subject line of your email** Daffodil Day-Class (add class number)- District; (d) email your image to [photography@gcvirginia.org](mailto:photography@gcvirginia.org). (e) include your district, class and name in the body of the email.
- 4. Photograph must be exhibitor’s work:** Each photograph must be the work of the exhibitor. All editing must be the work of the exhibitor. This includes enhancement for color or clarity, removal of a part of the image, combining images, or distorting the original subject.
- 5. The digital images will be evaluated to verify that class specifications have been met and will be passed if those requirements are met.** If a photograph is not passed, the exhibitor will be notified and allowed, if time permits, to send a replacement digital image. The Photography Division Chairmen may reclassify an entry, but only with the permission of the exhibitor. Please be advised that once an image has been submitted digitally, no further changes, however minor, are allowed prior to print. For technical questions please contact Susan Morris ([morrisandmorrisdds@gmail.com](mailto:morrisandmorrisdds@gmail.com).)
- 6. If forced to withdraw:** If forced to withdraw, an exhibitor must notify Photography chairman, Susan Morris, by phone or by email. Unless there is a waiting list, the withdrawing entrant is responsible for finding a substitute.

**7. Passed entries must be printed, mounted, and mailed:** Passed entries must be printed and mounted for display at the show. Finalists will be notified as quickly as possible in early March. Printed images must match the digital image that was emailed! Images should be printed to a size no smaller than 36" in perimeter and no larger than 60" in perimeter and mounted on Black Foam Core cut to the exact size of the image. Tip: The larger the printed image the better for “display and judging purposes.”

Your printed and mounted photographs, along with entry forms, must be mailed ahead of time to be **received no later than March 18th**. Send mounted images to: Mary Queitzsch, Greenway, 48 Madison Mills Lane, Madison Mills, VA 22960 -5002.

Two printed ENTRY FORMS should be included with each photograph submitted. These forms will be emailed in the confirmation of registration email. For each photo being mailed to Mary Queitzsch, attach one form to the back of the mounted photo and include the second form loose in the mailing packet. A title and statement of intent (25 words or less) **must** be included on each entry form(s). The attached form must show TOP OF PHOTO.

**8. Mailing and return requirements:** To avoid having photographs bent or damaged when mailing, it is recommended to use two 15" x 19" bubble wrap envelopes, or a reusable mailing box. Wrap the mounted image between two suitable pieces of foam core or non-bendable cardboard, which will be reused for return. Place the wrapped image inside the reusable mailing box, or inside the mailing envelope along with a folded, self-addressed return envelope. If images are to be returned to the owner, an appropriate self-addressed padded envelope (ideally 15" X 19") with postage applied. Padded envelopes need to be large enough to accommodate protective packaging. Boxes are permitted and can be reused provided a pre-purchased stamp to cover the cost to mail the box back to the owner has been included. **No checks will be accepted.** *Photographs may also be picked up at the close of the show.* **Entries MAY NOT be removed on Wednesday, March 25th before 4 p.m.**

**Awards:** Awards will be given for first, second and third place in each class. Honorable mention will be at the discretion of the judges. In addition, “special awards” will be given for Best in Show and the Novice Award for best image by a novice. A novice is someone who has never won first place in a GCV photography show or any other photography show.

Judging will be based on the following criteria:

Creativity	25
Composition	25
Technical Skills	20
Conformance/Interpretation	20
Distinction	10
Total Points	100

## **GCV Photography Perpetual Awards**

### **Claire Smithers Mellinger Award**

Established by the Albemarle Garden Club, this award is given to an entry of exceptional visual appeal that reflects the spirit of photography with joy and enthusiasm. This award is given annually by the Garden Club of Virginia.

### **Dr. David and Dr. Susan Morris Best in Show Award**

This perpetual award established by Dr. David and Dr. Susan Morris is given in honor of The Martinsville Garden Club. This award is given annually by the Garden Club of Virginia.

### **Garden Club of Virginia Photography Novice Award**

This perpetual award established by Susan Carey Lendermon is given in recognition of a novice entry of exceptional quality and is given to encourage growth and emerging talent of a photographer.

The award is given annually by the Garden Club of Virginia.

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### **Creativity Award (ribbon)**