

Hello Fellow Stuart Garden Club Members and welcome to the website for the upcoming Flower Show. The flower show will be March 3 & 4 at the Indian River State College. Much work must be done yet and we, the committee, thank you for stepping up and helping.

The flower show schedule is included and should be printed out so you can read the rules carefully and choose wisely what you want to do. All rules come from the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, and as such, from the National Garden Clubs, Inc. These rules are not arbitrary so please look them over carefully.

The name of the show is "A Symphony of Beauty" and is themed throughout with pieces of classical music. Each section and class have a title relating to a piece of music and that should be used as an inspiration for that section. For example, "Blue Danube" may evoke a color, a movement, a certain rhythm, a calmness, etc. to be used in a design. It does NOT mean you should literally mimic the Blue Danube. Use the theme as inspiration.

The schedule is broken up into 5 parts: Design, Horticulture, Artistic Crafts, Photography, and Education. It is designed to educate the public as to the purposes of garden clubs, as well as share with the community the talents of the members of the GCS. The schedule is self-explanatory, but I want to mention some things about design and horticulture especially.

**Design:** Design refers to flower arranging. It is a challenging section because we have chosen to include 48 designs. EVERY design must be filled for the show to proceed. We have included designs with varying levels of difficulty so that everyone can participate. For each design there is a Design Consultant that you can contact for help. There will be a sheet at the general meeting for you to sign up for a design. We already have half of the designs accounted for..... a truly wonderful thing already. But we NEED to get the rest filled. There will be examples on-line for each type of design. You can type in the kind of design you want to do. There are lots of examples of each type. Do not be put off if some of these designs look quite extravagant. Break them down into basic parts and they are not so overwhelming. Feel free to use these designs as inspiration. There is no way you can really "copy" a design

because it is hard to match flowers used or containers, but you can use these designs as guides.

There is a booklet on-line, "Principles of Floral Arrangement," published by the Master Gardeners, that is very basic but a really good guide. The site is <https://www.baxtercountymg.com/>. Where to get flowers: flower shops, Publix, Fresh Market, Trader Joes, Whole Foods, etc. They usually have basic types but can have some nice surprises seasonally. Many of these places will order flowers for you. Start out with inexpensive ones for practice. Also ask the florist which flowers hold up well. And ask for help if you need it.

Horticulture: Read the section on horticulture CAREFULLY. Most of the names are Latin names so be sure to look them up so you know what plants they are. If you have a plant you want to enter, do the reverse. Look up the Family and Latin name so you know that it can be entered. Many plants have a place on the schedule but not all plants do. Also check heights, sizes of pots, etc. Any questions call Ali Hooker. You can print out the horticulture form from the web site and list as many plants as you want on the form. BUT remember you may enter only 5 container plants and 7 cut specimens into the show. And they must be taken from the form you already turned in. DECEMBER 3 is the last date you can buy a plant to be entered. It must be in your possession for 30 days prior to the show.

Please contact me or the committee chair in charge of the section your question alludes to. Relax and enjoy the process of entering the flower show. Everything is a learning process. And it should be fun. I am so looking forward to the show and all your entries.

Mary Neal  
Flower Show Chair