Photography Criteria

Conformance 5
Interpretation of Class Title 10
Composition 25
Artistry/Creativity 25
Technical Achievement 25
Distinction/Impact (Wow Factor) 10
Total 100
Entry 73-Within A Water Drop – DIANNE ROBERTS
Garden Club of Madison, CT 1st

NGC Botanical Arts Photography Award - to the highest scoring Blue Ribbon winner

Using the drops as lenses to put the blurred background flower into the foreground was fantastic! Great color contrast work
Elegance personified. Excellent choice for angle of view. Lighting enhances volume of the flower. Positive and negative spaces are handled with distinction.
Class 1A Near-sighted
Close-up & Macro
Entry 51 Perfection

Nancy Ann Binger
Dix Hills GC, NY
3rd

Well focused image with exciting color contrast between the flower (warm colors) and the background (cold colors)
Class 1 A Near-sighted Close-up & Macro

Entry 44-Morning Violet After The Evening Rain

Nancy Reid, Reading GC, MA
HM
A well composed image. The flower and the water drops are clearly in focus. The colors seem over saturated which limits distinction.
Class 1 A – Near-sighted - Close-up & Macro
Entry 29 He Loves Me He Loves Me Not –

Linsey Duffy - Dell Rapids Area GC, SD

• The Intriguing angle of the crop accentuates the dynamic pattern. All parts of the flower are crisply focused, and properly lit so that there is detail in the highlight sall of which adds to its technical superiority.
Class 1 A Near-sighted - Close-up & Macro
Entry 32- Hydrangea
Loan Tran, Catonsville GC, MD

• A splendid macro, with a well-placed focal point and excellent choice of focal length
Class 1 A Near-sighted Close-up & Macro

Entry 50-Pastel Peony
Kathleen Sybert,
Hanover GC, PA

the softness and pastel tones are enhanced by the lighting. The patterns of the swirling petals enhances rhythm and depth. Some highlights lack detail
Class 1A
Near-sighted
Close-up & Macro

Entry 66 – Sunflower Swirl –

Linda Taft
Anniversary GC, Greensboro, NC

Very interesting exploration of the geometry of the flower's core. The over exposed white petals draw the viewer's image out of the focal area as they are so light and bright, and this decentralizes your composition and detracts from the exciting geometric effect you have captured.
Class 1B
Near-sighted
Close-up & Macro

Entry 65-Sunbathing Hawaiian Anole

-Deborah Wyght
Oakley GC, Cincinnati OH
1st

Excellent capture. Strong composition. Your exploration of the shadows gives volume to the lizard.
Class1B
Near-sighted
Close-up & Macro

Entry 68-SweetNector

Debbie Shaver,
Dayton GC, TN

2nd
Lovely image, showing exploration of colors and their contrasts, and successful depth of field.
Class 1B
Near-sighted
Close-up & Macro
Entry 3 –Hidden Future Butterfly

Deana Dossey Schafer
Violet Crown & A&M GC, Austin, TX
3rd

A well composed image, crisply focused, with balanced colors, and an artistic angle of view
Great capture! The bee is clearly in focus, and the details are astonishing! The composition, with the bee placed above the center, conforms with the rule of thirds convention. The colors appear to be over saturated.
• This beautiful flower is competing for the viewer’s attention with the other items in your composition. The subject in a macro or closeup image generally stands out against a softly focused background – which would have been achieved here by using a wider aperture and a precise focal length, so that the background would blur, enhancing the details of the flower and its rich colors.
A lovely butterfly on a colorful flower. The butterfly and the flower are in crisp focus. The background area at top (grey and black) is a distraction. A slightly higher point of view - framing the flower and the butterfly against only green as a background, would have a more impactful result as we could examine the insect and the flower more closely.
Class 1B
Near-sighted
Close-up & Macro
Entry 13 Butterfly Below Buttonbush

- Janeen Grohsmeier –
Franklin GC, KY

Excellent capture, the photographer was positioned well to frame the butterfly and flowers against the gray clouds in the background.
A fine macro that is well composed, and artistically cropped giving us a dynamic angle of view. The striking colors and depth of field, enhance the impact. The framing and the focal point (on the bee) are properly handled.
Class 1B
Near-sighted
Close-up & Macro
Entry 12-Butterfly And Orchid

SHARON BOLINGBROKE
Milwaukee Art Museum GC, WI

Note: Judges considered this entry to have the BEST COMPOSITION

The combination of the high-key background and the vividly colorful and flowing orchids along with the silhouetted butterfly creates a very strong composition
You have captured an extraordinary moment. However, being at this safe distance from the bear, the potential of the scene and your camera’s ability to capture it more dramatically was not fully explored.
Class 2 Far Sighted
Landscapes, Seascapes, Dreamscapes

Entry 96-Silvermine River

Penelope Ross
Fairfield GC, New Canaan CT

1st
Stunning! A Well-taken photograph, with well-balanced tonal values, and rich details despite a narrow color palette.
Class 2 - Far Sighted Landscapes, Seascapes, Dreamscapes

Entry 92-Peggy’s Cove Light House
Halifax Canada

Richard Pelikan –
Rake And Hoe GC, Westfield, NJ
2nd

An interesting scene and creative composition. The angle of view, balanced colors and creative structure, result in a particularly fine image - All lines lead us to/point to the lighthouse.
The light – the brilliance, the brightness is captured! - you can see the humidity in the air. The image is well composed and the repeating triangles add interest, drawing your eye through the scene.
Class 2  Far Sighted
Landslapes, Seascapes,
Dreamscapes
Entry 91-
Peace And Solitude —
Margot Partridge
Rake And Hoe GC, Westfield, NJ
HM
The scene with its balanced colors, details in the foreground mid ground and background is well captured and creatively framed.
Entry 28-Harvest Moon

Anne Green
Greenwich GC CT & Mt Desert GC ME

Extremely creative concept. The scene is successfully distilled down to its minimal details. There is additional potential here. The photographer could have better explored the camera's features, such as aperture and shooting speed, to show the surface details of the moon.
Class 2  Far Sighted-Landscapes, Seascapes, Dreamscapes
Entry 78- Crater Lake

Susan Andrews
Belgrade Bloomers GC, Bozeman MT

The scene is well captured and successfully framed, with depth of field and crisp focus throughout and well-balanced colors.
Class 2 - Far Sighted 
Landscapes, Seascapes, 
Dreamscapes
Entry 84 Hemme Gardens - 
Lily Pond –

Sharron-Hemme
Petoskey Area Garden Club, 
Inc., MI

Lovely capture, showing 
balanced colors, and strong 
structural interest 
throughout. The rocks in 
the background compete for 
the viewer’s attention with 
the flowers.
Class 2
Far Sighted
Landscapes, Seascapes, Dreamscapes

Entry 104
Through The Looking Glass

Grant Kniedler –
Milwaukee Art Museum GC, WI

A very interesting and creative effect - the leaves of the plants look like birds flying. Vignette effect adds to the drama.
The significant creativity of. This scene is comprised of the very colorful red flowers, the monochrome leaves, and the vignette view of the city.
Class 2 - Far Sighted Landscapes, Seascapes, Dreamscapes

Entry 13-January Full Moon

Christine Swanson
Mt. Airy Garden Club, MD

Extremely interesting concept. The graphic technique used, makes an intriguing pattern, but the moon is over exposed and lacks detail.
Class 3
Astigmatic
Depicting Motion
Entry 11 Hummingbird In Flight

Loan Tran,
Catonsville GC, MD
1st

Excellent stop motion image! Good job with depth of field, with color balance and with contrast
Class 3
Astigmatic - Depicting Motion

Entry 116- Taking Flight

Kathleen Sybert,
Hanover GC, PA
2nd

You caught the moment with balanced colors, and correct shutter speed. If cropped more creatively to remove the excess of negative space in front of the subject, the impact would even stronger.
Class 3
Astigmatic
Depicting Motion
Entry 110 Hello Buddy

Grant Kniedler –
Milwaukee Art Museum GC, WI
3rd

Interesting contrast between city and nature, good job with focal length, but pale colors (perhaps an inadequate white balance setting) limits the potential of the shot.
Class 3 Astigmatic
Depicting Motion
Entry 108-Cranberry Waters

Anne Green
Greenwich GC CT & Mt Desert GC ME

Note: Judges considered this to be the MOST DISTINCTIVE

The muted brown streaks throughout the scene add emphasis to the crashing tips of the wave in this very distinctive image.
What a moment you have captured! The image is well focused throughout so that we can enjoy the details of the bird’s feathers feet too. The bird is looking at us/communicating. Very good job with depth of field, color balance and contrast.
Class 3
Astigmatic
Depicting Motion
Entry 11-Snowy Egret Fishing

Deborah Wyght
Oakley Garden Club, Cincinnati, OH

• Beautiful picture, showing good technique, but the highlights on the bird are over exposed and do not contain data/details.
Class 3
Astigmatic
Depicting Motion
Entry 118-Waterfront Smokestacks

Marie Mueller
Pleasant Hills GC, Pittsburgh, PA

An extremely interesting effect, showing lights moving across the stacks.
Class 3
Astigmatic- Depicting Motion
Entry 119  Wild Geese Flying

Mary Rogers
Berlin Hts. GC, Wakeman, OH

The blurring of details on the flying geese enhances the sense of motion. The image appears to be over exposed/dark so we cannot see the details.
The rushing water of the stream and the stillness of the fallen leaves show us the contrasts inherent in the woods in autumn. The angle of view, looking down, flattens the scene and limits the creative potential.
Class 4 Color Blind -
Monochrome Image

Entry 129-Gerbera Daisy

DIANNE ROBERTS Garden Club Of Madison, CT

1st

Splendidly luminous - expressing well the softness of the petals, their delicacy, supported by the most robust stem (dark tones)

This image is exceptionally well done: the use of light, texture, perspective and detail are “spot on”.

1st
Class 4 Color Blind - Monochrome Image
Entry 125- Curve Appeal

Rochelle Darby, Sulphur GC, LA
2nd
Abstract and mysterious because of the angle of view

The light accentuates the tonal values and textures. Very 3 dimensional!
Class 4
Color Blind
Monochrome Image
Entry 122-
Allerton Garden Kauai

Penelope Ross
Fairfield GC, New Canaan CT
3rd
NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS President,
Gay Austin’s PRESIDENT’S CHOICE

A very creative image showing
sinuous rhythms and strong
contrasts in the tonal qualities and
values. Detail lacking in some of
the shadows and lighter areas
resulting in areas that appear to
lack texture.
Class 4 - Color Blind

Monochrome Image
Entry 121-All Ears

Lori Lucas
Community GC Of Hunterdon Co.,
Whitehouse Station, NJ
HM

- The contrast between the lines and smooth areas on the leaf are captured successfully with clarity. The image appears to be over exposed. Dark, so that we cannot experience the finer details of the textures.
Class 4 Color Blind - Monochrome Image
Entry 137 Night Birch –
Barbara Spellmeyer
Rake & Hoe GC, Plainfield, NJ

Note: Judges Considered this to be superior in Technical Achievement

• Capturing the shapes, textures and tones of the birch’s various peelings in relatively low light was an excellent technical achievement.
Class 4 - Color Blind
Monochrome Image

Entry 140-Snow Covered Tree At Bradford Beach

RUBY KERR
Milwaukee Art Museum GC, WI

Very successful work with the contrast, which shows us the hardness and dryness of the tree branches silhouetted against the sky. Dramatic angle of view, with the dynamic energy of the composition going from the bottom left to the upper right.
Photography Competition Coordinators
Arabella Dane NGC Flower Show Committee
David Robson NGC Flower Show Instructor and NGC Plant America Chairman
Charlie Burke Past President Photography Society of America

Special Thanks to our judges for selecting the Semi-finalists
• Sara Salomon
• Sally DeWees
• Vicki Saltonstall – GCA Photography Judge
• Phyliss Meinke
• Gay Estes – Former Chairman GCA Photography Committee
Photo Competition Coordinators
Arabella Dane
David Robson
Charlie Burke

Special Thanks to our Ribbons, Awards and Commendations Judges
• Crissie Cherry, IL, GCA Flower Show Chair and former GCA Photography Chairman
• Roy Killen, Australia, Photography Society of America Membership Chairman
• Eduardo Armaral – Brazil http://www.prodigitae.com.br/site/sobre_nos/
• Charlie Burke, PSA Past President
• Gay Austin, NGC President