



# SIMPLY SPRING

A Bench Show presented by

**THE GARDEN CLUB OF ORANGE & DUTCHESS COUNTIES**

Tuesday, May 12, 2026  
Calvary Presbyterian Church  
120 South Street  
Newburgh, New York 12550





# SIMPLYSPRING

A Bench Show presented by

## THE GARDEN CLUB OF ORANGE AND DUTCHESS COUNTIES

### DATE

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

### LOCATION

Calvary Presbyterian Church  
120 South Street  
Newburgh, New York 12550

### SCHEDULE

9:00 am:	Set-up
10:00 am:	Member arrival and placement of exhibits
10:30 am:	All exhibits in place
10:45-11:15 am:	Judging - during judging: short business meeting (approximately 30 minutes). Following the business meeting, members will be invited to return to the exhibits to review the bench show results, and discuss observations and insights.
1:00 pm:	Clean-up

### HOSPITALITY

Light refreshments, including coffee and pastries, will be available throughout the morning. As the space will be arranged for the bench show, and will not include a seating area, we plan to conclude the show before lunchtime.

### PURPOSE

Simply Spring is a Bench Show designed to prepare our club for our 2027 Flower Show. Through the four divisions of Floral Design, Horticulture, Photography, and Conservation, the show provides members with an opportunity to become familiar with elements of a flower show in a welcoming, supportive setting. Participation is encouraged from both newer and more experienced members.



## WHAT IS A BENCH SHOW?

A Bench Show is an informal show used for practice, staged at a club meeting, and may be as informal as entries shared for interest or more formal with classes announced in advance and posted on the club website. Generally, classes are not passed; there may be several blue ribbons, and a club member(s) may informally judge or local GCA judge(s) and /or judges from another organization, or experts in the discipline may be asked to judge. A Bench Show is used to encourage exhibitors in all disciplines in the process of preparing an entry. There are no minimum class requirements, numbers, or classes.

*Source: Garden Club of America, Flower Show & Judging Guide (Yellow Book #5)*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Entries are open to all Garden Club of Orange and Dutchess members.
2. Members may enter in one class each for Floral Design and Photography, and multiple classes for Horticulture.
3. Exhibits will not be passed.
4. Entry cards should be completed in advance of arriving at the show, but help completing entry cards will be available day of along with entry placement on the exhibit tables.
5. Judging will be performed by O & D members and experts in each division.

## COMMITTEE

**Michele Lindsay** ~ Club President

**Elinor Hart** ~ Committee Chair

**Colleen Fogarty** ~ Floral Design Chair

**Sue Gillinder and Linda Onofry** ~ Horticulture Chairs

**Gail Simon** ~ Photography Chair

**Terryanne Maenza-Gmelch** ~ Conservation Chair

*Our Simply Spring show celebrates participation, curiosity, and shared learning.  
Whether this is your first time entering, or one of many,  
we hope you will join us at the bench..*



## DIVISION I - FLORAL DESIGN

### **Class 1: Miniature Arrangement - Novice Class - Unlimited Entries**

A diminutive arrangement which, with all its components, is not more than 5 inches in height, width, or depth.

*Novice: an exhibitor who has not won first place or GCA Special Award in the division entered at the show, or any 'higher' show (i.e., club to GCA to Major) is considered a novice in that division.*

*Source: Garden Club of America, Flower Show & Judging Guide (Yellow Book #5).*

### **Class 2: Interpretive Design - 6 Entries**

An arrangement in which components are selected to portray the arranger's idea of a theme, idea, mood, or atmosphere based on a photo or painting of a spring landscape which must accompany any the design.

### **Class 3: Parallel Design - 6 Entries**

Plant material is placed in strongly parallel grouping with open space between them. May be vertical, horizontal, or diagonal. Additional components may be placed at any angle at the base as connectives. Multiple containers may be used but must appear as a single unit.

### **Floral Design Guidelines:**

1. If exhibiting in Floral Design, please email your interest to Colleen Fogarty at [jcmfogarty@aol.com](mailto:jcmfogarty@aol.com) by Friday, May 1st.
2. A GCA Floral Design Entry Card is required for each entry.
3. All arrangements will be staged on a rectangular table 29" from the floor.
4. Classes 2 and 3 can be entered individually or as a collaboration between a novice and more experienced member.

## DIVISION II - HORTICULTURE

### **SECTION A: CUT SPECIMENS (Classes 1-30)**

Cut Specimen entries must have been owned and grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of six months. One stem not to exceed 25" in length for the lip of the container to the tip of the stem (lip to tip rule), to be exhibited in an appropriately sized clear glass container. Foliage, if present, must attach above the water line. Wedging material for cut specimens may include cork, compostable plastic wrap, or other sustainable material.



## DIVISION II - HORTICULTURE

### SECTION A: CUT SPECIMENS (Classes 1-30)

#### Classes 1-13: PERENNIALS (one stem in bloom or bud)

1. Amsonia
2. Aquilegia
3. Campanula
4. Convallaria
5. Helleborus
6. Lamprocapnos (formerly Dicentra)
7. Iris germanica
8. Iris sibirica
9. Iris others
10. Packera
11. Primula
12. Sisyrinchium
13. Other

#### Classes 14-18: BULB and CORMS (one stem in bloom)

14. Allium
15. Narcissus
16. Hyacinthoides
17. Tulipa
18. Other

#### Classes 19-30: WOODY PLANTS (one stem in bloom or bud)

19. Aesculus
20. Amelanchier
21. Cercis
22. Cornus/Benthamidia
23. Ilex
24. Kalmia
25. Magnolia
26. Rhododendron
27. Syringa
28. Viburnum
29. Conifers
30. Others



## DIVISION II - HORTICULTURE

### SECTION B: CONTAINER-GROWN PLANTS

#### Class 31: PAR

Entries in the Par class must have been owned and grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of one year. Cut specimens and hanging baskets are not permitted. Containers should be clean, unobtrusive, and may not exceed 10" measured at the diameter or the diagonal of the widest part on the inside of the rim at the soil line.

#### Horticulture Guidelines

1. If exhibiting in Horticulture, please email your interest to Sue Gillinder at [shgillinder@gmail.com](mailto:shgillinder@gmail.com) by Friday, May 1st.
2. A GCA Horticulture Entry Card is required for each entry and should be filled out in advance of the show.
3. If the entry is known to be a native species, check the native species box on the entry card. New York State Native Species can be found on the [USDA website](#).
4. In addition to the Horticulture Entry Card, all entries propagated by the exhibitor should also include an accompanying Propagation Card.

## DIVISION III - PHOTOGRAPHY

#### Class 1: The Joy of Spring Bulbs

A color photograph capturing the beauty of spring bulbs in bloom. The image may feature a close, detailed study of a single flower, highlighting texture and form, or a broader view of multiple blooms creating a tapestry of color. The photograph should emphasize the distinctive textures and vibrant colors characteristic of spring bulbs.

#### Class 2: Spring Awakening

A color photograph depicting the emergence of new growth in early spring. Subjects may include shoots of flowers breaking through the soil, unfurling leaves, or budding tree blossoms. The image should convey the sense of renewal and transition from winter dormancy to the vitality of spring.

#### Photography Guidelines:

1. If exhibiting in Photography, please email your interest to Gail Simon at [cowrglgail@aol.com](mailto:cowrglgail@aol.com) by Friday, May 1st.
2. A GCA Photography Entry Card is required for all entries.



## DIVISION III - PHOTOGRAPHY

### Photography Guidelines (continued):

3. All photographs will measure 5x7 inches.
4. The name of the exhibitor should be written on the back of the photograph.
5. All photographs will be inserted into committee-provided white matting the day of the show. No mounting of photograph is required.
6. Each photograph must be the work of the exhibitor under whose name it is registered.
7. A photograph previously entered in any GCA, GCA Major, Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show, or a GCA *Focus* online contest may not be entered again even with slight alterations and/or reprinting.
8. Any editing at any stage 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.

## DIVISION IV - CONSERVATION (EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT)

The Conservation Committee will present an educational poster exhibit featuring photographs and examples of ways members are supporting water conservation in their own yards, aligned with this year's conservation themes.

Water conservation themes this year focused on two areas:

Theme 1: keeping water clean as it flows from our properties toward local streams and rivers by reducing the use of pesticides, fertilizers, microplastics, and salt and/or by planting native wetland plants in naturally wet areas to help absorb pollutants.

Theme 2: reducing the need for watering through capturing rainfall and planting drought-tolerant, climate-appropriate plants.

### Conservation Guidelines:

1. If exhibiting in Conservation, please email your photographs to Terryanne Maenza-Gmelch at [tmaenzag@gmail.com](mailto:tmaenzag@gmail.com) by Friday, May 1st.
2. Before and after photos tell the best story, but any photos are welcome.
3. Please include a few sentences explaining how your project aligned with this year's conservation themes.

