



THE AKRON GARDEN CLUB
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www.akrongardenclub.org

PRESS RELEASE

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AKRON GARDEN CLUB ANNOUNCES 2018 FLOWER SHOW WINNERS

Winners in floral design, horticulture, photography, botanical arts and conservation were named after the judging of 265 entries in The Akron Garden Club's (AGC) *Art Blooms 2018: Akron*, a Garden Club of America (GCA) flower show held at Akron Art Museum June 15-17.

The flower show featured 20 artistic designs inspired by works at the museum, arrayed throughout the galleries. Akronites Elaine Edminister Fiocca and Colleen Wernig received the Edna R. Sewell Bowl for Best in Show in floral design for their creation evoking a painting by Brinsley Tyrrell entitled *Flooding*. Fiocca and Wernig's design also won the Akron Art Museum Director's Award for floral design, chosen on behalf of Mark Masuoka, executive director and CEO.

Donna Bender of Akron received the GCA's Dorothy Vietor Munger Award, recognizing creative work of outstanding beauty, for her design complementing *Wall Drawing #1240* by Sol LeWitt. Another design focused on the LeWitt image, by Robin Hardman of Akron, won the AGC's True Colors Award for most captivating use of color.

A design by Akron resident Marguerite Tremelin interpreting *Man Eating Trees* by John Sokol garnered the GCA's Harriet DeWaele Puckett Creativity Award, recognizing a uniquely skillful and creative response. Fern MacMillan of Hudson won the GCA's Sandra Baylor Novice Floral Design Award for her design inspired by *Dual Glare* by Julian Stanczak.

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There were 25 classes of houseplants, terrariums, container gardens and seasonal cut horticultural specimens from local gardens, including annuals, perennials, hosta, shrubs and trees, displayed in the Beatrice Knapp McDowell Grand Lobby. The Edna R. Sewell Bowl for Best in Show in horticulture went to a container garden of succulents grown by Dedee O'Neil of Seville. This entry additionally received the GCA's Clarissa Willemsen Horticulture Propagation Award for "prime condition, flawless grooming and difficulty of propagation." O'Neil also won the GCA's Catherine Beattie Medal for an *Echeveria* 'Blue Butterfly,' recognizing the succulent as "distinguished by its vibrancy, prime condition and perfection of grooming," according to the GCA. The *Akron Blooms 2018: Akron Horticulture Sweepstakes Award* went to O'Neil as well, the exhibitor accumulating the most points for entries in the Horticulture Division.

Patti Sinar of Richfield received the GCA Novice Award in Horticulture, for an outstanding entry by an exhibitor not previously winning a first-place award, for propagation of *Stapelianthus pilosus*, rooted from a cutting of a succulent owned by O'Neil that won best in show at 2011 and 2015 AGC flower shows. Tracy Wiesner of Hudson won the GCA's Rosie Jones Horticulture Award for a terrarium of "exceptional visual appeal that reflects the spirit of growing with joy and enthusiasm and inspires others to propagate, grow, show and share horticulture," according to the GCA. A terrarium owned by Beth Brumbaugh of Bath Township received the Akron Art Museum Director's Award for horticulture, chosen on behalf of Masuoka.

Pam Mahoney, member of Indianapolis Garden Club, won the Photography Division GCA Best in Show Award for an image in the *Timeless Landscapes* sepia class. A photograph in the still life class *A Few of My Favorite Things*, by Lisa Reeder of Garden Club of Dayton, received the GCA Photography Creativity Award. Charlotte Reed of Seattle Garden Club received the Museum Choice Photography Award, selected by the museum staff.

Floral design winner Fiocca also won the GCA Novice Award in Photography for an image in the still life class. Laura Simpson, Lake Geneva Garden Club in Wisconsin, received the AGC's Botanical Photography Award for her entry in *Good Things Come in Threes*, a triptych class.

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In the Botanical Arts Division, Debby Bauman of Bath Township won the GCA's Botanical Arts Creativity Award for an art deco necklace of "excellent craftsmanship and creative response to the flower show theme," according to the GCA. For her embellished paintbrush and palette, Kathy Reed of Akron received the GCA Novice Award for an outstanding entry by an exhibitor not previously winning a first-place or special award. Art deco earrings designed by Akronite Pam Wharton received AGC's Neophyte Award for the most distinctive entry by a first-time botanical arts exhibitor.

The Botanical Arts Division was distinguished by the involvement of Sarah Boynton of Hingham, Massachusetts, a renowned expert and teacher in the field, whose designs have won numerous awards at leading shows and been featured in magazines. She sought to participate in Akron's show, and her art deco necklace received Botanical Arts Best in Show. She is a member of Cohasset Garden Club.

The GCA's Marion Thompson Fuller Brown Conservation Award, recognizing an exhibit of "exceptional educational and visual merit that increases knowledge and awareness of the environment," was presented to AGC for its display about *Akron Waterways Renewed!*, the city's billion-dollar water-quality improvement project.

GCA flower shows are known for their exceptional floral designs and *avant-garde* use of flowers. Entrants in the show came from GCA clubs in Akron, Cleveland, throughout Ohio and as far away as Rhode Island, Dallas, and Seattle. The show was judged by 23 GCA-accredited judges from six states and nine GCA clubs located in three of the 12 GCA geographic zones. The three-day show attracted 716 visitors.

Akron Garden Club (AGC) is a private nonprofit service organization, founded in 1924. The purpose of AGC is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening and to improve and protect the quality of the environment through programs and action in the fields of horticulture, conservation, civic improvement and education. The Garden Club of America (GCA) is a nonprofit national organization composed of 200 clubs with nearly 18,000 members who devote energy and expertise to projects in their communities and across the nation. AGC is one of three GCA clubs in Northeastern Ohio, along with Garden Club of Cleveland and Shaker Lakes Garden Club.

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