

“Town Crier to Twitter” Litchfield Garden Club Flower Show

The purpose of the Litchfield Garden Club (LGC) is to educate members and the public in scientific and artistic methods of gardening, stimulate interest in horticulture, encourage and assist in civic beautification, raise environmental awareness and protect and conserve our natural and historic heritage. With that mission in mind, the LGC presented an in-club flower show, "Town Crier to Twitter" to celebrate the town's Tercentennial celebration on September 20-21, 2019. Chaired by Ronnie Schoelzel, the event was held at the White Memorial Foundation Carriage House and Shed on Whitehall Road in Litchfield.

There were four Divisions in the show: Floral Design, Horticulture, Photography and Conservation. Entry in designated classes in Floral Design, Horticulture and Photography was open to the public.

The eight Floral Design classes featured designs that interpreted people, places, and events through the centuries: Class I Colonial Quilt, Class II Melting the Statue of King George III, Class III Beecher Family Residents, Class IV Fire Bell in the Night, Class V Camp Dutton (men's class), Class VI Picnic by Bantam River, Class VII Topsmead Summer Cottage and Class VIII From Parchment to Pixels.

The seven sections in the Horticulture Division included cut specimens, container-grown plants, vegetables and fruits: Section A. Victory Garden – a collection of vegetables and/or fruits, Section B. Mary Floyd Tallmadge's Potager – cut specimens, Section C. Oliver Wolcott's Orchard – fruits, vegetables and herbs, Section D. Farmer's Market – Challenge Classes – dahlias and pumpkins, Section E. Mrs. R.H. Liggett's Garden – trained plants, Section F. Miss Sarah Pierce's Parlor – a container-grown plant of outstanding horticultural merit and Section G. White's Woods – needled, broadleaved and deciduous branches.

The six classes featured in the Photography Division: Class I Lure of the Litchfield Hills, Class II Bantam Lake, Class III Native Trees, Shrubs and Flowers, Class IV White Memorial Foundation, Class V Architectural Legacy of Litchfield and Class VI At Work Today. Entry in two of the classes were open to the public and one class was open to Litchfield students in grades 5-12.

The Conservation exhibit displayed twenty-five years of the LGC project, "Treescape for Litchfield."

The Garden Club of America (GCA) and National Garden Club (NGC) judges were impressed with the forty Novice entrants exhibiting across all three Divisions. In addition to the many club members garnering top Novice awards, High School Sophomore Luis Alejandro Hurtado won the Photography Novice Award.

Proceeds from Friday evening's successful Preview Party went directly toward the club's Civic Projects.

A children's activity table was set up at the entrance to the shed. Supplies including a succulent plant, pot and soil were provided free of charge for children 13 years of age and younger. More than twenty children were instructed by club president Annie Borzilleri on caring for the new plants in their homes.

Doreen Tango Hampton, Publicity Chair