



CELEBRATING THE PAST

TOASTING THE FUTURE

1913-2013

The Litchfield Garden Club Centennial

A GCA FLOWER SHOW

PRESENTED BY THE LITCHFIELD GARDEN CLUB

LITCHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER

421 BANTAM ROAD

LITCHFIELD, CONNECTICUT

FLOWER SHOW AND HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

JUNE 15, 2013

ZONE FLOWER SHOW EVALUATION

To: Sylvia Abbott -Flower Show Chair

Michele Bouchard and Mary Ellen Budny Co-Chairs

Drew Harlow- President, Litchfield Garden Club

Laura Haley- GCA National Flower Show Chairman

From: Elizabeth Montgelas,- Zone II Flower Show Representative

July 15, 2013

The Litchfield Garden Club is located in Litchfield, CT. There are approximately 90 members in the club.

Happy 100th Birthday to The Litchfield Garden Club!

The Judges join all of us in Zone II in wishing The Litchfield Garden Club a very **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** The Judges would like to **COMMEND** The Litchfield Garden Club for celebrating their Centennial with a Flower Show and a House and Garden Tour! What a wonderful birthday present for all of us!

The Judges were impressed that the Litchfield Garden Club was able to smoothly blend the multiple venues of a House and Garden Tour with a Flower Show. The Judges congratulate The Litchfield Garden Club for producing a distinctive and appropriate show to celebrate their centennial. The design classes, many staged in historic homes, created a welcoming showcase for the talented and hardworking members of the Litchfield Garden Club. The abundant and beautiful horticulture highlighted the horticultural abilities of the Litchfield Garden Club's membership. The high quality of the Design and Horticultural Divisions were balanced with equally strong entries in the Photography and Botanical Arts Divisions. The Conservation Exhibit was timely and informative.

Congratulations to the Flower Show Committee for creating a wonderful celebration of their last 100 years. Many Happy Returns of the Day! We are all looking forward to seeing what fabulous things The Litchfield Garden Club does in their next 100 years!

The Judges' thoughtful evaluation of the show emphasized their sense of appreciation for all the work and planning that goes into creating a show of this caliber. They respectfully offer the following thoughts that may be taken into consideration when planning your next show.

VENUE

The Judges applaud the choice of The Litchfield Community Center combined with historic homes as the venue for **Celebrating the Past... Toasting the Future.**

The Horticultural Division was shown to its advantage in the bright airy space at the Community Center. The Community Center was easy to locate and easy to access.

The Judges **Commend** the use of historic homes to showcase many of the Design and Botanical Arts Classes. Having the Designs and the Botanical Arts staged in these historic homes was a treat and added greatly to the visitor's experience. The decision to showcase much of the Design Division and the Botanical Arts in the lovely historic homes might have made the show difficult to navigate but it worked beautifully. The homes were welcoming and easy to find. There was adequate parking. Initial concern that because of the multiple venues, the Flower Show would be difficult to judge was quickly forgotten. The Clerks in the Design Division were wonderful and flexible chauffeurs. Their enthusiasm was contagious and made the navigation issues disappear.

COMMUNICATION- PRE-SHOW AND SHOW

The Judges felt communications both Pre-Show and during the Show were excellent. Emails were answered promptly and information was timely and clear. The Judges felt that the Flower Show Committee was readily available to answer all questions and resolve any issues. The Judges appreciated that The Litchfield Garden Club made every

attempt to reduce paper consumption by using email for Pre-Show communications. The Show Committee was available at all times before, during and after the judging. The Judging Chair was welcoming and well organized. The Division Chairs and Passing Chairs were equally helpful.

The Judges appreciated the hospitality, a delicious luncheon and refreshments and thank The Litchfield Garden Club for treating them to a wonderful day.

SHOW SCHEDULE

The schedule met the requirements for a GCA Zone Flower Show. Classes were filled. The Invitational Design Class inspired the participating Judges to create fabulous and inspirational designs.

The Judges **Commend** the exceptional schedule that told the centennial story of The Litchfield Garden Club. The vintage photographs and drawings were a wonderful addition to the schedule. It was felt that the history and information contained in this schedule set the tone for the entire Flower Show as well as the House and Garden Tour. It was a delight to read and clearly inspired the participants to a level of excellence! The theme was consistently integrated throughout the schedule. Congratulations to Litchfield on creating an innovative schedule.

PASSING

Passing seems to have gone well in all Divisions. The Judges felt that more attention to grooming on the part of the passers would have benefitted many of the entries in Horticulture. This was most especially evident in the Novice class. When possible, using GCA Judges for passing may help to improve the grooming issues noted by the Judges.

CLERKS

The Judges raved about the Clerks! The Clerks were well briefed and very helpful. In the Design Division and the Botanical Arts Division the Clerks were required to drive the judging panel from house to house to judge the various classes. They did this with good cheer and made it an adventure.

The Clerks were advised to keep the Judges moving in order to complete the Judging in a timely fashion. They did this gently and to the best of their ability kept everything moving smoothly. They were well equipped and ready to do their job. Many of the Clerks were in the Judging Program and the addition of a Judge Emeritus as a Clerk in the Design Division testifies to the great love and enthusiasm The Litchfield Garden Club's membership has for their club

Staging

The staging was effective and appropriate throughout the show. It was neat and clean. The staging showcased the exhibits rather than distracted from them.

The Layout of the show was as practical and as efficient as the various spaces would allow.

The Judges felt that turning the display case around in the brooch class would have improved the viewing for this Botanical Arts class.

SIGNAGE

Signage was adequate and appropriate. Additionally, there were a large number of volunteers directing and assisting visitors on the House and Garden Tour. This was extremely helpful as well as friendly and welcoming.

LIGHTING

The natural light in The Community Center was supplemented by even and consistent artificial light. Many of the Design Division and Botanical Arts classes were staged throughout historic homes where the lighting varied from home to home. One homeowner provided a standing lamp and a flashlight to assist the judges in her home. As stated above, the Judges felt that turning the display case around in the brooch class would have improved the lighting and viewing for this Botanical Arts class especially.

Division I, Flower Design

7 classes plus the Invitational Class, 31 Entries

All of the classes were filled. The Invitational Class was beautiful and inspirational. It was not judged but all three entries were exceptional and added an additional level of excellence to the Design Division.

The Show's theme and Class titles were appropriately interpreted. **The Munger** was awarded, testifying to the high level of beauty in this Division. **The Novice Award** as well as **The Best in Show** were also Awarded.

The plant material was in good condition and correctly identified.

The Judges recognized that the designs were appropriate, interpreted the schedule, and met the level of distinction expected in a GCA Flower Show.

On the one hand, it was unfortunate that the Judges were unable to see all of the designs in this division. On the other hand, having many of the designs in the historic homes on the House and Garden Tour added greatly to the charm and distinction of this Flower Show.

The Judges **Commend Class #7**, The Component Challenge Class, for an innovative and creative response to a challenging class.

DIVISION II, HORTICULTURE

33 CLASSES

The Judges were impressed with the abundance and beauty of the entries in the Horticulture Division. The Horticulture Division was effectively displayed in the Litchfield Community Center.

As previously noted, the Judges recommend that GCA Judges be used as Passers whenever possible. This will help eliminate the grooming issues that were noted by the Judges.

The Judges also noted that using glass containers with smaller openings would reduce the need for the large amounts of wedging used for many of the specimens. The quality of the Horticulture was excellent. The amount of Horticulture was remarkable given the difficult weather. The plant material was properly identified.

All Awards were given in this Division including, **The Catherine Beattie, The Clarissa Willemsen, and The Rosie Jones. The Best in Show and Novice Award were also given.**

Judges' Commendations were given to **Classes 27, The Novice Class, and 29, The Parent Child Class.**

DIVISION III, PHOTOGRAPHY

5 CLASSES, 20 Entries

The Judges greatly appreciated the high quality of the Photographs entered in this Division. The Photography Division was staged in The Litchfield Community Center. The plant material was correctly identified in the majority of photographs. **The Creativity Award, Novice Award, and The Best in Show were all awarded.**

The Judges **Commend** the **Photography Division** for the Photography Schedule and the entrant's response to the Photography Schedule

The Judges **Commend, Class 4, The Power of Pollinators,** for incorporating the GCA Conservation message into this Photography Class..

DIVISION IV, BOTANICAL ARTS

2 CLASSES, 8 ENTRIES

The Judges praised the high quality of the entries in the Botanical Arts Division. The creativity and craftsmanship was excellent throughout

The key cards were correctly filled out and the plant material was properly identified.

The **Best in Show** was awarded.

DIVISION V, CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION EXHIBITS

The Judges praised the Conservation Exhibit. It was thorough and very timely. The subject of buying and eating locally is of great interest to the public. The exhibit was created and presented by The Litchfield Garden Club's Conservation Committee. **The Marion Thompson Fuller Brown** conservation Award was given.

Two Certificates of Excellence were given to the Educational Exhibit. The Exhibit focused on The Litchfield Garden Club's contributions to the community and the club's various activities over the last 100 years.

SUMMARY

The Judges praised the Flower Show Committee and The Litchfield Garden Club for the fabulous Flower Show, **Celebrating the Past ...Toasting the Future.** This Flower Show and House and Garden Tour was a wonderful gift to the community. Kudos to The

Litchfield Garden Club! The attention to detail that was shown in every aspect of the show contributed to a beautifully staged and presented show. The memberships' love for their club and their community showed throughout the event. Their dedication, hard work and pride were evident in every aspect of this show.

The Judges were impressed with the high quality of entries in every Division. It was a balanced and nicely integrated show.

The Judges were most appreciative of the warm welcome that all members of the Litchfield Garden Club extended to them. From the coffee and breakfast treats to the delicious luncheon- no detail was overlooked -no effort was too much to make on their behalf. Thank you Litchfield for the opportunity to spend time in your beautiful town, at a beautiful flower show, with your gracious and hospitable membership. **Celebrating the Past....Toasting the Future** was a pleasure from start to finish!

A very Happy Birthday to you Litchfield! May you have many, many more!

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth D. Montgelas
Zone II Flower Show Representative

July 24, 2013

GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA AWARDS RECORD

DIVISION I, FLOWER DESIGN

**THE DOROTHY VICTOR MUNGER AWARD... Janice Gardner - Green Fingers
Garden Club**

THE SANDRA BAYLOR NOVICE AWARD... Jennifer Abbott- Litchfield Garden Club

**THE BEST IN SHOW FOR FLOWER DESIGN...Patricia Fernandez - Newport Garden
Club**

DIVISION II, HORTICULTURE

THE CATHERINE BEATTIE MEDAL...Gay Vincent -Canal -Washington Garden Club

**The Clarissa Willemsen Horticulture Propagation Award- Debbie Bussey- Garden
Club of Darien**

THE ROSIE JONES HORTICULTURE AWARD ... Trina Horine - Hortulus

**THE GCA NOVICE AWARD FOR HORITCULTURE...Ellen Oneglia- The Litchfield
Garden Club**

**THE BEST IN SHOW FOR HORTICULTURE...Wendy Pearson- Connecticut Valley
Garden Club**

DIVISION III, PHOTOGRAPHY

THE PHOTOGRAPHY CREATIVITY AWARD...Patti Spaght- Fairfield Garden Club

**THE GCA NOVICE AWARD IN PHOTOGRAPHY... Patricia Fernandez – Newport
Garden Club**

THE BEST IN SHOW FOR PHOTOGRAPHY...Sylvia Abbott -Litchfield Garden Club

DIVISION IV, BOTANICAL ARTS

**THE BEST IN SHOW FOR BOTANICAL ARTS...Mary Ellen O'Brien- The Lenox
Garden Club**

DIVISION V, CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION EXHIBITS

**THE MARION THOMPSON FULLER BROWN CONSERVATION AWARD- The
Litchfield Garden Club -Conservation Committee**

Award of Appreciation for Litchfield Garden Club History

Award of Appreciation for Garden History and Design

Sponsoring Club Awards:

**Elizabeth Miller Keith Flower Arrangement Award – Ronnie Schoelzel- The
Litchfield Garden Club**

JUDGES COMMENDATIONS:

**The Judges Commend: The Litchfield Garden Club for celebrating their
Centennial with a Flower Show.**

**The Judges Commend: the Schedule, “Celebrating the Past- Toasting the Future”
as a fine example of a club celebrating it’s history.**

**The Judges Commend the Venue, using the historic homes for many of the Design
and Botanical Arts Classes added a great deal of variety to the Flower Show and
was a rare treat.**

Division Commendation:

**Division III- Photography Division- for the Schedule and the response to the
Schedule**

Class Commendations:

Division I – Class 7, The Component Challenge Class, for an innovative and creative response to a challenging class.

Division II, Horticulture-Class 27 The Novice Class – Terrace Containers

Class 29 Parent /Child Class- Generations

Division III, Photography- Class 4- The Power of Pollinators- for its conservation message so in keeping with GCA's message.