



THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA
FLOWER SHOW EVALUATION



Litchfield Community Center
421 Bantam Road Litchfield,
Connecticut 06759



Dear Nancy and Lee,

Our National Parks was Litchfield Garden Clubs best idea!!! Congratulations to you, your committee and The Litchfield Garden Club members for your outstanding efforts. Your inspiring and creative theme was integrated throughout the show. You immediately set the stage greeting us with delightful and clever ‘park-like” vignettes and the welcoming allée of trees.

The leadership, teamwork and gracious hospitality of your membership were apparent in every step of the show. There were so many highlights worthy of praise and discussion as detailed in this summary of the Judge’s evaluation. It is my pleasure to submit the following evaluation to you.

Pre-Show:

The communications leading up to the show was clear, timely and efficient. As one Judge remarked, “Excellent, complete, informative given in a regular and timely fashion.” Questions were responded to promptly and the pre show communication was given very high marks.

Schedule:

The Schedule was delightful, well organized and inspiring. The nostalgia evoked utilizing the antique Park posters and photographs were great fun and graphically pleasing. The schedule received a **commendation**. *“Creative and well written schedule with the theme thoroughly integrated creating great opportunity for interpretation.”*

Show Committee:

The show committee was available, informed, nice and helpful at every turn. Upon arrival the Judges were greeted with a most delicious and greatly appreciated lunch followed by the charging process, which was clear and concise. The judges complimented the clerks on their efficiency and timeliness. It was noted that a few more experienced clerks, preferably (if possible) in the judging program could have helped the process. Your committees *“exceptionally warm and welcoming hospitality throughout was much appreciated”* and received a well-deserved **commendation**.

Show Organization and Venue:

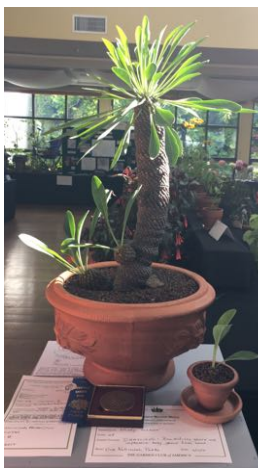
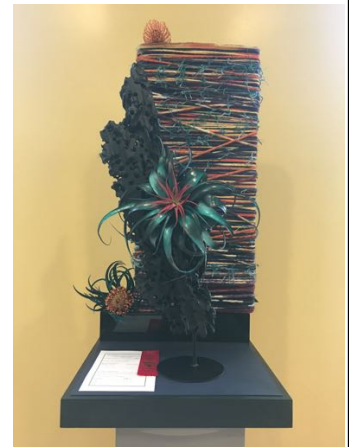
The Litchfield Community Center was a well-spaced, organized venue with an abundance of natural lighting. All the divisions were beautifully organized and the integration and balance of the show were excellent. The signage incorporating the antique national parks posters and photographs was creative, easy to read and well placed. Organization is key to a successful flower show and your attention to detail contributed in making “Our National Parks” run seamlessly.

Staging:

The judges appreciated the spacing and staging of each division leaving “enough room for them to move around and not get into each others way.” The staging was clean, sturdy and appropriate. The staging for the entire show received a **commendation**. *“The beautiful plant material and allée of trees set the “stage” for the well placed divisions and their classes in a perfectly suited venue.”*

Floral Design:

The Floral Design classes offered abundant opportunities for each exhibitor to express her creativity. The antique park posters used in the schedule conveyed the spirit of the show and your designers embraced it with great style! The entrants designs overall were “clever, impressive and very good.” Judges comments included, “exceptionally creative and outstanding designs!!” A much noted compliment and **commendation** “for successfully encouraging so many novice entries”. Your committee was cheerful, attentive and ready to help at all times. The exhibits were well spaced and well lit. One exception, in class 3, one overhead light created a “distracting reflection”. It was suggested that the Judges would have benefited from having a hard copy of the schedule. Class 1, “Creation of the Park” received a **commendation** for the “*exhibitors creative interpretation of a 1903 men’s table*”. The Puckett, the Munger, the Baylor Novice and Best in show were all awarded.



Horticulture:

The overall quality of the Horticulture was outstanding, with an impressive number of entries. The space was open and light filled with a great flow and the staging highlighted the display of color and plant diversity. “The Hort division was situated to anchor the show-beautiful and vibrant!” It was noted that some of the entries were placed in the wrong class and that a final walk through to correct misplaced entries may have helped. The Judges were extremely impressed and commended the number of novice entries throughout Hort. Due to the large number of novice entries in the trough class, they happily divided the class in 2. **Commendations** were given in **Class 4- Hosta, Class 14- Allium, Ornamental Onion, Class 28- Generations and Class 29- Troughs.**

The Best in Show, Horticulture Novice, Rosie Jones, Beattie and the Willemsen were all awarded.

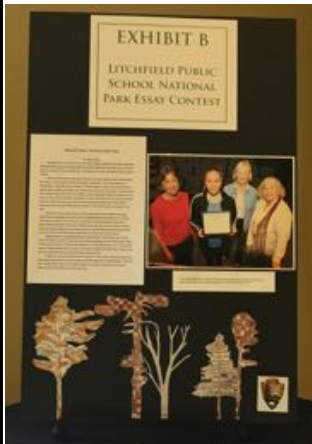
Photography:

The overall quality and response to the schedule was artistic, clever and inspired. A **commendation** was given to Class 3 , *“painterly images leave a timeless impression!”* The staging was commended as “simple, elegant and photos beautifully mounted at eye level.” The judges also noted and commended the number of novice entries. There were some minor mounting issues noted. The judges also suggested they would have like to have a hard copy of the schedule. Best in Show, Creativity and GCA Novice were all awarded.



Conservation and Education:

The Conservation exhibit, *Our National Parks, We are all Stewards of the Future* was beautifully staged and prominently placed. It was engaging, clever and fun, inviting great audience interaction with the map of the National Parks System. “Who knew there were so many, can’t wait to visit them all!!” The conservation exhibit explored the debate of land use in our National Parks. Educational and thought provoking! This exhibit received the Marion Thompson Fuller Brown Conservation Award. The Litchfield Public School National Parks essay contest was **commended** as *“an exceptional outreach program engaging the local school children in your community”*. The judges would have like to have seen the exhibit in a more prominent spot in the show. The Exhibit received the Ann Lyon Crammond Award. “A brilliant way of educating students about our national parks. This model should be an inspiration for all clubs to follow.”





Summary:

The Judges were united in their praise for the enthusiastic participation of the Litchfield Garden Club members! Your vision, hard work, creativity, and most gracious hospitality made this Garden Club of America flower show an outstanding success- it truly was Litchfield Garden Clubs BEST IDEA!!!!!! Each committee, with Nancy Post and Lee Reese at their lead, was successful in their efforts to present a cohesive, organized, thoughtful, integrated and beautifully presented show. The Litchfield Community Center provided the perfect venue for exhibitors and viewers alike. Your hard work was evident in every detail.

The judges enthusiastically complimented your efforts with an astonishing number of commendations;

Hospitality- *Exceptionally warm and welcoming hospitality much appreciated by the Judges.*

Schedule- *Creative and well written Schedule with theme thoroughly integrated creating great opportunity for interpretation.*

Signage- *Encouraged ease of view and enjoyment of the show.*

Staging- *The beautiful plant material and allée of trees set the "stage" for the well placed divisions and their classes in a perfectly-suited venue.*

Novice participation- *For successfully encouraging novice entries!!*

Outreach- *Exceptional Outreach Program with the Litchfield Public Schools*

In closing, I would like to say that it was my honor and privilege to have participated in this wonderful flower show surrounded by the gracious, hardworking and gifted members of the Litchfield Garden Club. Thank you for making it such a pleasurable experience to be involved with this memorable show.

Sincerely,

Bridget Bucknall

2016-2018 Zone II Flower Show Representative

Cc: Fleur Rueckert, National Flower Show Chair

Diane Stoner, President, Litchfield Garden Club