

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Presents the

61st Flower Show

JUDGES SYMPOSIUM

Tuesday, August 11, 2026
and Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Grand Haven, Michigan



Photo attribute: FA Project



The Judges Symposium
is sponsored by



Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

Michigan Association of Accredited Judges



NGC Central Region

Location



CHURCH OF THE DUNES

717 Sheldon Road Grand Haven, MI 49417

616-842-7980

SUGGESTED OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS

Best Western Beacon Inn

1525 S Beacon Blvd. Grand Haven, MI. 49417

616-842-4720

Request Room Block for Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

Room Rate:

(inside) \$162.00 + tax

(outside) \$144.00 + tax

Hotel Reservations Deadline: Friday, July 10, 2026



Program Schedule

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11TH

8:00 a.m.

Registration/Coffee

8:30 a.m.

Welcome MGC President

Lisa Robinson

8:45 a.m.

Allied Topic: "Judging Ethics"

Instructor: Sue Kirkman

9:45 a.m.

Break

10:00 a.m.

Horticulture: Dahlias & Ferns

Instructor: Sue Kirkman

Photo attribute: Iftikhar Alam



Program Schedule

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11TH

12:00 p.m.

Break & Box Lunch

12:45 p.m.

Lecture Continues &
Practice Point Scoring

2:45 p.m.

Break

3:15-5:15 p.m.

Horticulture Point Scoring Exam
(2 hours allowed)

Dinner on your own



Program Schedule

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12TH

8:00 a.m.

Registration/Coffee

8:30 a.m.

Welcome MGC President

Lisa Robinson

8:45 a.m.

Allied Topic:

“Comments – Be Specific”

Instructor: Frances Thrash

9:45 a.m.

Break

10:00 a.m.

Design: “Floral Design Study”

Creative & Abstract Designs

Instructor: Frances Thrash



Program Schedule

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12TH

12:00 p.m.

Break & Box Lunch

12:45 p.m.

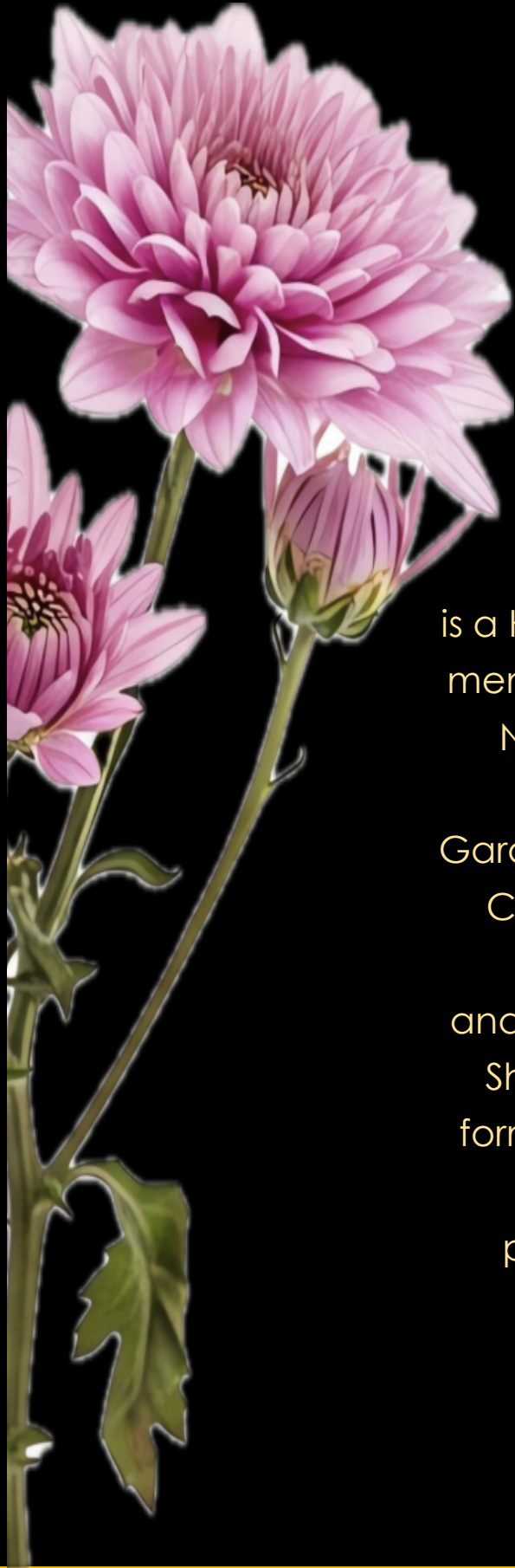
Lecture Continues &
Practice Point Scoring

2:45 p.m. Break

3:15-5:15 p.m.

Design Point Scoring Exam
(2 hours allowed)

Photo attribute: Harnim Fadilah



Instructors

HORTICULTURE

SUE KIRKMAN

is a Horticulture and Symposium instructor, member of the Garden Club of Frankfort, NGC Horticulture Symposium Chair; NGC Master Flower Show Judge, Gardening Consultant, Landscape Design Consultant, Master Gardener, former American Iris Society Judge and a member of several plant societies. She is a retired college instructor and former state of Kentucky aging director.

Sue and her husband live in a pre-Civil War farmhouse along with one dog and two cats.



Photo attribute: Iffikhar Alam

Instructors

DESIGN

FRANCES THRASH

is president of the Richmond Designers Guild and serves as VA Flower Show Schools Chairman. She is a Master Judge and a Design & Flower Show Procedure Instructor for both flower show schools & symposiums. She is a board member of CFAA (Creative Flower Arrangers of the Americas) as well as an FTD Master Designer and runs her own small business (Seascapes) out of her home doing weddings, meetings, and flowers for churches and individuals.



Cost

Full Course: \$150
Includes two lunches

Horticulture: \$75
Tuesday only, includes lunch

Design: \$75
Wednesday only, includes lunch

Payment will be accepted online
when you register.

If you are unable to pay on-line,
you may request to pay by check,
but you must still register on-line.

Please email Ronalee Polad for instructions:

rpolad@migardenclubs.org



Fees

LATE REGISTRATION AND REFUNDS

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
JULY 12, 2026**

After July 12, there will be
a 10% late registration fee.

No refunds after the registration deadline.

Refunds prior to July 12 will be assessed
a 10% processing fee.

Contact Sue Wittick, Registrar
witticks@gmail.com 517-242-8259



An Important Note

Lectures are open to the public for the fee stated on the registration form. Only NGC Judges are eligible to take this course for credit; and must bring a printed or digital version of:

THE HANDBOOK FOR FLOWER SHOWS

*Revised 2017, 2nd Edition
with updates and corrections noted.*

Available online:
www.gardenclub.org

All lectures must be attended to receive credit.

Photo attribute: Harnim Fadilah



TO KEEP IN *Good Standing*

All Accredited, Life, and Master Judges,
and NGC instructors must continue their
judging education by attending a
symposium every three years.

Accredited and Life Judges
must take exams.

Only Master Judges audit for credit.



Renewals and Audits

Renewals and audits **must include** exhibiting and judging evidence as required on the appropriate application form:

Accredited Judges - Form 13.

Life Judges - Form 15L.

Master Judges - Form 15M.

Submit complete application for renewal or audit to the Judges' Credentials Chair for approval at least four weeks prior to the symposium, (by July 14, 2026).

Mail to: Sue Wittick, Credentials Chair:

4103 Breakwater Okemos, MI 48864

517-242-8259

witticks@gmail.com

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Out-of-State Judges

PRIOR TO REGISTERING

have your State Judges Chair

mail Form 18

six weeks in advance

(by June 30, 2026)

Mail to: Sue Wittick

4103 Breakwater Okemos, MI 48864

517-242-8259

witticks@gmail.com



Committee

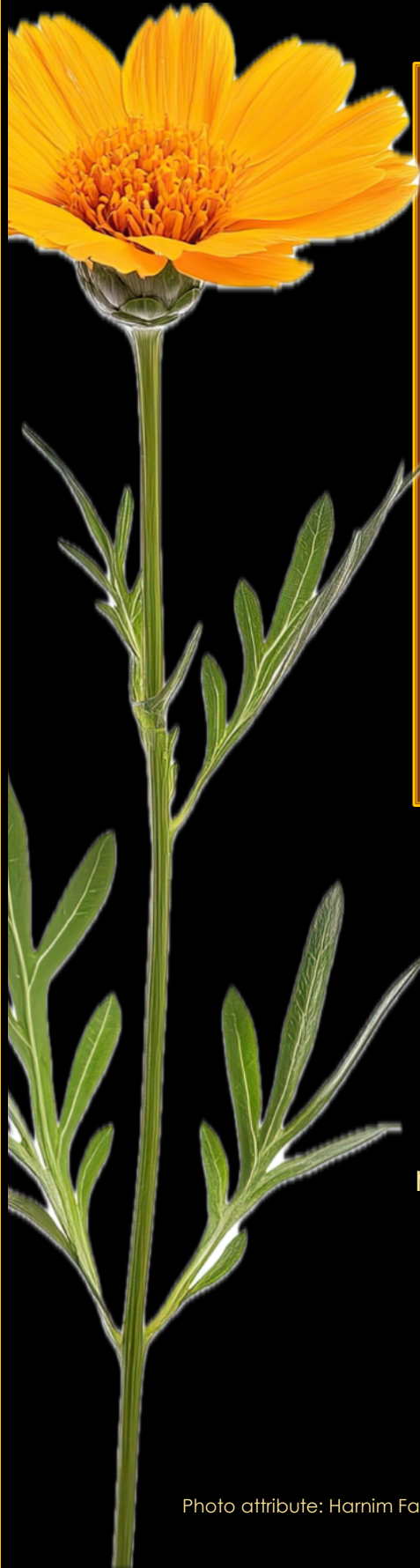
MICHIGAN GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Lisa Robinson, President 2025-2027

MAAJ
Mary Jo McElroy, Chair

FLOWER SHOW SYMPOSIUM CHAIR
Pat Bazany
616-566-8327
bazanyp@yahoo.com

LOCAL SYMPOSIUM CHAIR
Monica Taylor
734-347-0200
jmtaylor1976@hotmail.com

REGISTRAR:
Sue Wittick
4103 Breakwater,
Okemos, MI 48864
517-242-8259
witticks@gmail.com



Course Outlines

IMPORTANT

COURSE OUTLINES

WILL BE EMAILED TO YOU.

EACH REGISTRANT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR
PRINTING, REVIEWING AND BRINGING
THEIR OUTLINES TO THE SYMPOSIUM.

Photography

Any photos taken at this event
may be used in upcoming informational
and promotional materials.

If you do not want your photo used,
please notify the Symposium Registrar
when you check in.

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Register

If you wish to register,
please click on the pink box below.

You will be re-directed to
Michigan Garden Clubs website
to complete your registration.

Register for the
JUDGES SYMPOSIUM
by clicking here

By clicking the registration box,
you acknowledge that you understand
the information presented
in this brochure, and wish to register.