

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

Lisa Robinson, President 2025-2027

MAAJ: Mary Jo McElroy, Chair

Flower Show Symposium Chair

Pat Bazany: Cell 616-566-8327
Email: bazanyp@yahoo.com

Local Symposium Chair

Monica Taylor
Cell 616-607-8264
Email:
jmtaylor1976@hotmail.com

REGISTRAR:

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

Hotel Accommodations and Symposium Location:

Church of the Dunes

717 Sheldon Road
Grand Haven, MI 49417
616-842-7980

Best Western Beacon Inn

1525 S Beacon Blvd.
Grand Haven, MI. 49417
Request Room Block for
Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
Room Rate:
(inside) \$162.00 + tax
(outside) \$144.00 + tax
Phone: 616-842-4720

Hotel Reservations Deadline:

Friday, July 10, 2026

Horticulture Instructor:

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 1 dog and 2 cats.

Design Instructor:

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.

Out-of-State Judges:

PRIOR to registering have your State Judges Chair mail **Form 18** six (6) weeks in advance (by June 30, 2026) to: Sue Wittick, 4103 Breakwater, Okemos, MI 48864 517-242-8259 witticks@gmail.com

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, revise 2017-2nd Edition* with updates and corrections noted (online www.gardenclub.org) All lectures must be attended to receive credit.

LATE REGISTRATION & REFUNDS:

No Refunds after July 12, 2026*. Refunds prior to July 12 will be assessed a 10% Processing Fee. After July 12, 2026 there will be a 10% late registration fee.

Contact: Sue Wittick, Registrar

Michigan Garden Clubs

61st Flower Show Judges Symposium



Sponsored by

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. & MAAJ (Michigan Association of Accredited Judges)

Tues., August 11, 2026

Wed., August 12, 2026

Location

Church of the Dunes

717 Sheldon Road

Grand Haven, MI 49417

616-842-7980



REGISTRATION FORM

Symposium August 11-12, 2026

Judging credentials must be approved before registering.

Deadline is July 12, 2026

See: "To Keep in Good Standing" bottom of next column.

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, _____

Zip+4 _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Current Date of "Good Standing" _____

Credentials Approved:

Yes _____ No _____

Taking Point Scoring Exam

Yes _____ No _____

Master Judge Auditing

Yes _____ No _____

(Reserved seating in front rows if taking exam)

Full Course \$150.00
includes, 2 lunches

Horticulture \$75.00
(Tues. only) includes lunch

Design \$75.00
(Wed. only) includes lunch

Name any dietary restrictions _____

PAYMENT will be accepted on-line when you register.

(<https://migardenclubs.org/>) If you are unable to pay on-line, you may request to pay by check (**but you must still register on-line**). Email Ronalee Polad for instructions: rpolad@migardenclubs.org

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

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

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. (2 hours allowed)
Horticulture Point Scoring Exam

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

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 **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 (4) weeks **prior** to the symposium (**by July 14, 2026**). **Mail to:** Sue Wittick, Credentials Chair.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

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

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. (2 hours allowed)
Design Point Scoring Exam

IMPORTANT:

Course Outlines

will be emailed to you. Each registrant is responsible for printing, reviewing and bringing the outlines to the Symposium.

PLEASE NOTE: 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.