

INSTRUCTORS

DESIGN AND ALLIED TOPIC

CLAUDIA BATES

Claudia is a nationally accredited Master Flower Show Judge, an NGC, Inc. Flower Show Schools Instructor in Design and Symposia and a certified Floral Design Instructor for the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Design Series developed by the late Bob Thomas. She is a former President of her Circle and Club (622 members), and a former President of FFGC, Inc. She is currently serving on the NGC Board of Directors as a member of the Flower Show Schools Committee. She has been awarded Life Memberships in Gainesville Garden Club, the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Deep South and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. She is a Pillar of Pride recipient and a member of the Hall of Fame and a Guardian of Gardening for FFGC. She is also a member of DAR and UDC Chapters in Gainesville, FL.

Claudia has presented Design Programs for CFAA, OFAD and several State Judges Councils and has taught Symposiums in 27 states and has devised and taught several Contrived Flower (now known as 'fantasy forms') and texturizing plant material workshops for CFAA and several judges' councils. Her designs have been published in the Vision of Beauty, NGC, Inc. calendar, the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs' calendar 16 times (2019 cover), the FFSJ Design Manual Just My Type and she has two designs featured in the Wafa book, Designing the American Way.

HORTICULTURE AND ALLIED TOPIC

DAVID ROBSON

David Robson is a National Garden Club Master Accredited Flower Show Judge and Flower Show School Symposium Instructor. David is a graduate of Iowa State University and University of Illinois. He is serving as NGC Flower Show School Vice-Chairman. He has taught for more than 43 years. David is a horticulture and pesticide safety specialist. He also serves on the NGC Board of Directors as the Liaison to Horticulture Instructors, Credentials, and State Chairmen, and has held many more positions on the National and Illinois State Boards.

CREDENTIALS

Lectures are open to all garden club members and to the public upon payment of fees. Submit complete application for renewal/audit to the Judges' Credentials Chair of your State for approval at least FOUR weeks prior for in-state judges, SIX weeks for out-of-state judges. Please request that your state Credentials chairman notify the MA Symposium Credentials Chairman of your eligibility.

Email to ycapella@comcast.net

Yvonne Capella
MA Judges Credentials
16 Bell's Brook Rd.,
Lakeville, MA 02347

**THE GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION OF
MASSACHUSETTS, INC.
JUDGES' COUNCIL
SYMPOSIUM**

www.gcfm.org

November 3 & 4, 2026



Donna Donnelly,
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
President

Kim Edwards,
The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc.
State President

Lisa Pattinson,
MA Judges' Council Chair

Yvonne Capella
Ruth Gorman
Kathy Hawes
Symposium Co-Chairs

**LOCATION:
Double Tree by Hilton
11 Beaver Street
Milford, MA 01757**

REGISTRATION FORM
SYMPOSIUM NOVEMBER 3 & 4, 2026

Name: _____

Address: _____

Garden Club: _____

E-mail: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Name for Badge: _____

Please indicate dietary needs: _____

Judging Status: _____

Good Standing Date: Dec 31, 20____

Full Course with exam or audit \$275 ____

Includes tuition, two lunches, am & pm refreshments. Reserved seating in order of receipt for all taking exams for credit.

Horticulture only Tuesday, 11/3/2026 \$150 ____

Design only Wednesday, 11/4/2026 \$150 ____

Paper copy of handouts \$10 ____

INCLUDE A \$25 LATE FEE FOR ALL REGISTRATIONS

POSTMARKED AFTER OCTOBER 15, 2026

TOTAL: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO GCFM, INC. AND MAIL COMPLETED REGISTRATION WITH CHECK BEFORE OCTOBER 15, 2026 TO:

KATHY HAWES
19 KATHLEEN GRANT ROAD
EASTON, MA 02375
KMH4383@GMAIL.COM

NO REFUNDS AFTER OCTOBER 15, 2026

All outlines and Point Score Sheets will be emailed directly to the registrants. Paper copies will be available for a \$10 fee.

Judges must bring **The Handbook for Flower Shows, 2026 revised**, clip board and pencils.

PROGRAM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026

8:00am **Registration and Coffee**
8:15 - 8:30 **Greetings and Announcements**
8:30 - 9:30 **Allied Topic**
 David Robson, Instructor
9:30 - 10:30 **Horticulture**
 David Robson, Instructor
10:30 - 10:45 **Break**
10:45 - 12:15 **Horticulture (cont.)**
12:15 - 1:00 **Lunch**
1:00 - 1:15 **Registration**
1:15 - 2:45 **Horticulture/Exam Instructions**
2:45 - 3:00 **Break**
3:00 - 5:00 **Horticulture Point Scoring Exam**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2026

8:00am **Registration and Coffee**
8:15 - 8:30 **Greetings and Announcements**
8:30 - 9:30 **Allied Topic**
 Claudia Bates, Instructor
9:30 - 10:30 **Design**
 Claudia Bates, Instructor
10:30 - 10:45 **Break**
10:45 - 12:15 **Design (cont.)**
12:15 - 1:00 **Lunch**
1:00 - 1:15 **Registration**
1:15 - 2:45 **Design/Exam Instructions**
2:45 - 3:00 **Break**
3:00 - 5:00 **Design Point Scoring Exam**

SUGGESTED ACCOMMODATIONS

Double Tree by Hilton
11 Beaver Street
Milford, MA 01757
(Exit 48 off Rte. 495)
(508) 478-7010

www.bostonmilford.doubletree.com
mention FSS for special rate
rooms are limited at this special rate
\$149.00 good until October 2, 2026

All are welcome to attend, but only those who are members of National Garden Clubs, Inc. and are taking the full course with examination are eligible for credit. In order to obtain credit, attendees must be present for all lectures and obtain passing grades for all Point Score exams in Design and Horticulture.

COMMITTEE

Co-chairs

Yvonne Capella, ycapella@comcast.net
Ruth Gorman, ruth.gorman3@gmail.com
Kathy Hawes, kmh4383@gmail.com

Registrar/Treasurer

Kathy Hawes, kmh4383@gmail.com

PAPER COPIES ORDER INFORMATION

Paper copies of all the handouts available to order and pick up at registration. Orders must be preordered and paid for at time of reservation.