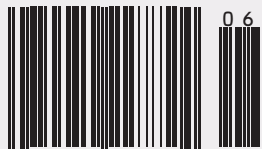


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Creativity in Bloom

An annual event in Jackson features floral interpretations of various artworks.

Every spring, Jackson's Mountain Garden Club shares its creativity with the community through Art in Bloom, a free event showcasing member-created floral arrangements inspired by art. Up to fifty arrangements and accompanying artworks are displayed at multiple locations during the event, creating an artistic walking tour through Jackson.

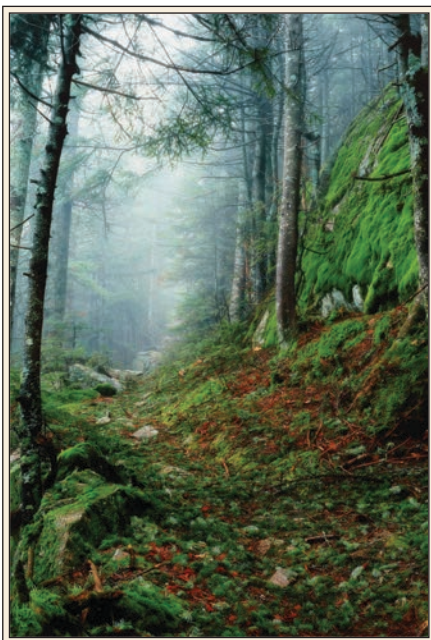
Art in Bloom is a highlight for garden club members, says Betsey Harding, of Jackson, event chair. "The event really brings out people's creativity," she says.

Participants choose an artwork and use its form, colors or subject matter to inspire their floral creations. Arrangements often feature blooms from members' gardens, or area meadows and woods, supplemented with store-bought pieces. The arrangements showcased in last year's event are as varied as the people who created them. **NHH**



*Painting by Frank Libby
Arrangement by Betsey Harding*

Betsey Harding's work was inspired by *Danforth Bay*, an ethereal watercolor by Frank Libby. Her selections evoke the artist's depictions of mist and purple-blue mountains, and include hosta, lupine, lady's mantle and peonies, all found in her garden.



*Photograph by Dana Clemons
Arrangement by Pat Mason*

A photograph by Dana Clemons of a misty woodland trail inspired this whimsical fairy garden by Pat Mason of Jackson. "I decided to create something for children who come on the tour to enjoy, and I thought a fairy garden would appeal to them," Mason says. The delicate glass container is lined with Spanish moss and soil. Mason added winter berries she found on a walk in the woods as well as lacy maiden fern. A small fairy hides near a dried mushroom.

Floral Arranging Tips

Many Art in Bloom participants find inspiration for their work during workshops led by Jackson florist Carrie Scribner, owner of Dutch Bloemen Winkel. Here are her suggestions for creating winning arrangements:

- Place freshly cut flowers in fresh water as soon as possible.
- Cut at least a half-inch off stems at a sharp angle, which allows the flowers to hydrate.
- Put cut flowers in shade, not sunlight.
- Refresh water daily.
- Be creative and use natural elements, including foliage from around your home, as well as fruits and vegetables. Scribner uses apples, blueberries, herbs, branches, dried grasses and other elements she finds outdoors.
- Keep it simple: use one color in your arrangement. If you're mixing colors, Scribner suggests limiting to no more than three colors. "It's more visually pleasing," she says.
- When selecting a container for your arrangement, make the arrangement at least double the height of the container.
- Add greenery and the most durable elements to your container first. "Start arranging with larger flowers as they visually anchor an arrangement, then you can fill in with your remaining smaller blooms," Scribner says. "Don't be afraid to drape elements around your container, too."



Members of the Mountain Garden Club are shown from the left. Front row: Marge Huemmler, Debbie Bryant and Deb Holmes. Second row: Suzanne Scolamiero, Betsey Harding, Carol White and Norma Whitmore. Third row: Pat Mason, Annie Ficke, Kathy Koziell, Cal Minton and Lisa Lee. Fourth row: Milly Pereira, Susan Van Tuyl, Judith Thompson and Magie Driscoll. Top row: Deb Carney, Wendy McVey, Sheila Mosson and Len Whitmore.



*Painting by Linda Gray
Arrangement by Betsey Harding*

Based in the White Mountains, artist Linda Gray paints scenes of Maine and New Hampshire. Betsey Harding selected Gray's oil on canvas *Fire in the Sky #2* because "I love her work," Harding says. Betsey Harding's arrangement included field grasses, lady's mantle, juniper, yellow roses and daylilies. "To me, these flowers really evoke the colors in the painting," Harding says.



*Fabric art by Jeanne M. Stevens
Arrangement by Deb Holmes*

Deb Holmes, vice president of the Mountain Garden Club and a resident of South Gardiner, Maine, turned to family for inspiration. Her sister-in-law, Jeanne Stevens, of Standish, Maine, is a fabric artist. Stevens's *On Pleasant Pond* reminded Holmes of the Maine camp her family owned. She picked up the dish for her arrangement at an antique shop and anchored her arrangement with blue-tinged hydrangeas, representing sky, clouds and water. She complemented the flowers with ferns, viburnum, white native yarrow, wheatgrass and wild turkey feathers collected during a walk in the woods.



More Art in Bloom

This year's event on June 24 showcases Mountain Garden Club member-created floral arrangements inspired by art. Up to fifty arrangements and accompanying artworks are displayed at multiple locations, creating an artistic walking tour throughout Jackson. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. www.mountaingardenclub.org



*Painting by Nancy Keenan Baron
Arrangement by Deb Holmes*

Deb Holmes's arrangement is based on an acrylic and mixed-media work by Nancy Keenan Baron, called *Constant Companions* (Baron is Holmes's neighbor in South Gardiner, Maine). "There's a lot of energy in her work," Holmes says. She chose baby's breath, pink freesia, liatris, daisies, wheat and horsetail grass to make the arrangement appear more fluid. "This arrangement is like picking a wildflower bouquet," Holmes says.



*Painting by Arne Hagen
Arrangement by Magie Driscoll*

Romance permeates this arrangement by Magie Driscoll of Jackson, who was inspired by a painting by greeting card artist Arne Hagen, a distant relative. "I wanted to create an arrangement that evoked a romantic evening for a young woman in Venice," Driscoll says. A string of pearls, a black straw gondolier's hat, a pair of kid gloves, a dance card, and a small nosegay of white, pink and red roses created a romantic tableau.





*Painting by Ellen Farrington
Arrangement by Beverly Sarapin*

Beverly Sarapin, of Glen, selected local artist Ellen Farrington's work because "it's such a New England image," Sarapin says. Inspired by the painting's nautical theme, Sarapin used blue glass aquarium marbles to represent the ocean, and sand and shells for the beach. The focal point of her arrangement is a large pink lily, supplemented by mums and pom poms. The daisies, lupine and greens are from her flower garden.



*Painting by Cecil Snow
Arrangement by Deb Carney*

Deb Carney, of Hale's Location, found inspiration for her arrangement at the Mount Washington Valley Art Association. *Trees in Winter*, a watercolor by Glen artist Cecil Snow, was propped on the floor when she visited. "I found a dead rose bush root in my garden that looked just like the tree in the painting," Carney says. "So that's the artwork I selected." Carney's simple arrangement included three plantings: the rose bush root; astilbe to represent the tall trees in the foreground of the painting; white snow drops and tufts of Elijah Blue fescue. White marble chips represent snow.

RESOURCES

Dutch Bloemen Winkel (603) 383-9696
www.dutchbw.com

Mount Washington Valley Art Association
(603) 356-2787 • www.mwvarts.org

Mountain Garden Club
www.mountaingardenclub.org