

# World of WONDERS

Take a trip through the Naples Flower Show

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Grab your “passport” at the Naples Botanical Garden’s entrance and take a colorful and scented journey through the Naples Garden Club’s annual Naples Flower Show on April 5 and 6.

Held for more than 70 years, this event is the largest juried flower show in Southwest Florida.

“Going to a flower show is like going to a candy store to me,” says Polly Galliker, club vice president, flower show chair and winner of last year’s “Top Floral Design” award. “People come because they love plants, have friends who entered, and get exposed to design and horticulture.”

The show theme this year is “A World of Wonders.”

Galliker and a committee of about 40 club members chose the travel theme to help people move on from the pandemic and Hurricane Ian.

“I wanted to give people a place to explore, travel, take their mind off everything and enjoy a great time,” Galliker says.

At the event ticket booth, guests will receive a passport document with a map guiding them to exhibits in Kapnick Hall, the event plaza tent and around the botanical garden.



The Naples Garden Club’s annual Naples Flower Show on April 5 and 6 includes a botanical arts division that features displays such as decorated hats. Vendors will sell plants, garden supplies and more.

One of the first stops will be an artistic rendering of a globe made of flowers created by club members Kate Butler and Vicki Arkins. Galliker says flowers such as jasmine will be dyed to represent land elements and water. The globe is meant to show people’s connection to nature and the beauty of the planet.

Following the map and arrows stuck on the pathways, guests will pass the garden’s Circle of Friends sculpture, which will be enhanced with flowers by club members. They will travel on to Kapnick Hall where the first set of exhibits will be showcased.

The flower show has five divisions: horticulture, design, education, youth and botanical arts.

Some club members designed their entries around an “adventures of a lifetime” theme or antique-style travel posters featuring Cairo, Paris and Venice that were created by Tucker Aufranc, husband of a club member.



Others are “Exploring the World’s Gardens” or getting inspiration from movies such as “Out of Africa” and “March of the Penguins.” For certain entries, they were asked to incorporate a small collectible from their travels.

“We’re trying to make it fun,” Galliker says. “People will say ‘I went there’ or ‘I always wanted to go there.’ That type of feeling is what we are hoping for.”

There will be plants, cut flowers, flower arrangements, and displays that might feature ornamental vegetables, dried plant material and more.

The members’ challenge is a combination planting of five or more plants grown together for at least six weeks that include one species that would come from a garden outside the United States that they would like to visit.

The club also brought back the professional class, which is non-judged, to showcase the work of employees from Naples Botanical Garden and local garden centers. “The more horticulture and designs we show educates everybody,” Galliker says.



The largest juried flower show in Southwest Florida, the Naples Flower Show on April 5 and 6 at Naples Botanical Garden will have plants, cut flowers, flower arrangements and displays that might feature ornamental vegetables, dried plant material and more. NAPLES BOTANICAL GARDEN / COURTESY PHOTOS

Botanical arts, which Galliker says is “still a fairly new division,” has photography, wreaths, birdhouses, hats, and even a fairy garden.

The education area features four displays. ECHO Global Farm focuses on Feeding the World. Gore Nature Center presents “Getting Along,” about the symbiosis of plants. Bridge to Nature addresses “Saving our Planet.” Naples Botanical Garden focuses on climate-ready gardens in “Landscapes of Change.”

Students from Avalon Elementary School, which the club works with, will display potatoes they planted in grow bags designed as luggage tags. “Their travel is through their garden,” Galliker says.

Winners in all of the categories are selected by 21 trained judges. “It’s a serious show,” Galliker says. “You can count on everything following all the rules and you’re seeing the best of the best.”

In addition to the exhibits, educational presentations are held four times a day on topics such as creating beautiful blooms and making a terrarium. Naples Botanical Garden staff are recreating and will discuss their 2023 Chelsea Flower Show orchid conservation display.



Educational demonstrations during the show will focus on how to create beautiful blooms and make a terrarium. Naples Botanical Garden staff will recreate and talk about their 2023 Chelsea Flower Show orchid display.

Vendors in the tent will sell plants, garden supplies, and nature-themed jewelry, apparel and home décor.

“By the time you leave the garden, you should have a good sense of travel and where you want to go” Galliker says, “And, hopefully you had a wonderful, relaxing time at the show.” †

*In the KNOW*

### **Naples Flower Show**

- Presented by Naples Garden Club
- April 5-6, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Naples Botanical Garden, 4820 Bayshore Drive, Naples
- Free with garden admission of \$25/adults, \$10/ages 4-17
- [naplesgardenclub.org](http://naplesgardenclub.org)



Horticulture, design and botanical arts entries are a feast for the eyes. NAPLES GARDEN CLUB / COURTESY PHOTOS

### **EDUCATIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS BOTH DAYS:**

- 10 a.m. – How to Create Beautiful Blooms for your Home
- 11:30 a.m. – How to Make Your Own Terrarium
- 1 p.m. – How to Create Beautiful Blooms for your Home
- 2 p.m. – Highlights of the Naples Botanical Garden 2023 Chelsea Flower Show Orchid Conservation Display

### **VENDORS:**

- Bonita Bromeliads
- Dena Lyons
- Green Door Nursery
- Ma Belle Provence
- Mary Limont Design
- Nancy Norman
- Royal Palm Pottery
- So Orchids
- Tropiflora
- Vita's Healing Gardens Honey



Polly Galliker, this year's show chair, won the "Top Floral Design" in last year's Naples Flower Show for her monochromatic design that included radishes, roses, tulips and strawberries.

