

# 2015 TGOA-MGCA Photography Manual

*The Gardeners of America  
Men's Garden Clubs of America, Inc.*



**Submit entries to:**

**Shirley Winnes, Chairman  
301 David Drive  
Green Bay, WI 54303  
920-499-4441  
sawrrw@hotmail.com**

**Deadline: February 25, 2015**

## TGOA/MGCA PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION INFORMATION AND RULES

The competition is meant to encourage good photography and continual education in horticulture in conjunction with home gardening and other interests of the TGOA/MGCA membership. Be sure to read ALL of the competition rules which are as follows:

1. The competition is open to all members of The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America and members of the American Horticultural Society.
2. The deadline for the competition is a floating date of 120 days prior to the yearly convention. The deadline date is February 25, 2015.
3. An entry once entered for the Photography Competition by an entrant cannot be entered again in another year's competition.
4. **All competition entrants MUST use the Official Entry Form.** *The form must be completed in its entirety* and all of the entries must comply with all of the following requirements. Any requirement that is NOT fully complied with may require that the specific entry be disqualified. The disqualified entry will be returned to the entrant along with the qualified entries at the conclusion of the competition.
  - 4.1 A maximum of twenty (20) entries may be submitted for the competition. This maximum includes Section M, Class 1 (a series of three (3) to six (6) entries) as a single entry; obviously, more than twenty (20) *entries* (slides/digital photos) can be submitted according to the aforementioned statement within that maximum.
  - 4.2 **Entries may be made as physical slides and/or in digital format.**

### Slides:

- a) All slides must be in two-inch by two-inch (2" x 2") mounts.
- b) Duplicate slides should be entered to avoid the possibility of losing original slides. (We recommend that you do NOT mail original slides.)
- c) Slides will be returned after the selection of photos to be used in the TGOA/MGCA calendar.
- d) Slides must be labeled with image verification and photographer's name. An example is on p. 5.

### Digital:

**Please keep your disks simple with only the images you are submitting for the competition. Do not send CDs with automatic slideshow programs. Some disks have been sent with many images or folders that are not related to the photography competition or multiple copies of the same image; please put only the 1 through 20 entries on the disk.**

- a) All entries must be on a CD-R or CD-RW and in .jpg or .tiff format. Name your photos (files) with the Section No., genus, species, cultivar (exactly as you list them on the entry form). Use a space after the Section except for Section M where the letter "M" and class number should be joined without a space. Please space between all words of the descriptions. Several hundred photos are entered—please help the committee to organize files for judging by following these directions. See p. 5 for an example of a file listing which will be identical to the entry form listing. Submit the disk in a protected envelope or case.
- b) **The maximum size for any image is 8 x 10 inches.** The size must be physically reduced by a committee chairman if selected for the slideshow.
- c) **The recommended resolution is between a minimum of 150 ppi and a maximum of 300 ppi.** If the resolution is too small, the image may appear grainy and fuzzy when projected for judging, the slideshow, and especially calendar printing. If it is more than 300 ppi, then the



file size will be too many mb's. Higher than 300 ppi is not necessary for projection or calendar printing.

- d) **A printed contact sheet of each image submitted is required.** The contact sheet should be on an 8 x 10 sheet of paper (or smaller if only a few images are submitted). Each image should be identified with the Section No., genus, species, cultivar (exactly as you list them on the entry form. In addition, place the entry number next to the photo. An example of a contact sheet is located on p. 5.
  - e) A duplicate disk may be included to avoid any possible damage or difficulties in opening a digital file.
  - f) All photographs must be original color or black & white and **cannot be digitally altered in any way with the exception of cropping, contrast, brightness, and hue (with the exception of Section M, class 64)**. You may not alter any forms or shapes in the photographs by moving, adding, or deleting (except by cropping). Entries are subject to disqualification if there appear to be alterations.
  - g) Disks will be returned after the photos to be used in the TGOA/MGCA calendar have been chosen if you wish to have them returned.
5. If a recognizable person appears in an entry, a model's release must be submitted by the subject stating that he/she has no objection to the entry being displayed and/or published and include his/her phone number. If children appear, submit a release signed by either a parent or guardian with their phone number.

#### **Official Entry Form Information:**

1. All plants are **REQUIRED** to be identified by *Genus* and if possible, by *Species* and Cultivar. A common name is also helpful.
2. **If the Genus of plant is incorrect or if the Genus name is not included, the entry may be disqualified.**
3. The appropriate Section (A, B, C, etc.) must be listed.
4. **If the entry has been entered into the wrong Section, the committee has the authority to move it to the proper section, or the entry may be disqualified; the decision is subject to the committee processing the images.**
5. Name, address, and phone number of the entrant must be on the entry form.

#### **Entry Identification:**

1. The appropriate Section (A, B, C, etc.) **must** be on each slide and/or digital photograph.
2. **The plant identification and entry number must be on each slide and/or printed photographs for digital files.** This is requested since numerous varieties can be entered in one category and it is difficult and time consuming to identify all of the different species or varieties of a genus for the different entries.
3. Name of the entrant on each slide and/or disk.
4. **See p. 5 for an example of marking your slides for identification and/or how to complete the contact sheet to identify digital photos.**

#### **Processing and mailing of entries:**

1. For slide entries, submit slides in a twenty (20) pocket (8½" x 11") plastic filing sheet. If you do not have or cannot purchase a pocket sheet, you can use other appropriate means of shipping if necessary. For digital entries, submit the disk in a protected envelope or case. Be sure to include a

contact sheet of all entries for identification verification. Entries should be mailed to Shirley Winnes, 301 David Drive, Green Bay, WI 54303.

2. Include a properly self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) for return of the entries. **Not all entries will be used for calendar selection but to reduce the cost of postage, all entrants' slides and/or digital files will be held until all selections are made. At that time, all entries will be returned except the images selected to be used in the TGOA/MGCA calendar. These will be returned after the calendars are printed. If you do not want the CD returned, please indicate so and the SASE will not be necessary.**
3. It is recommended but not required that the entries be sent via certified mail or another type of confirmed form of mailing for verification of receipt.

The entries will be handled with care, but TGOA/MGCA cannot be responsible for any loss or damage to the entries, so be sure to protect them as best as possible for your own comfort level.

Entries will be judged on the basis of horticultural excellence, creativity, photographic quality, and effectiveness. See pp. 9-10 for judging criteria.

The photography judges are volunteer professional photographers.

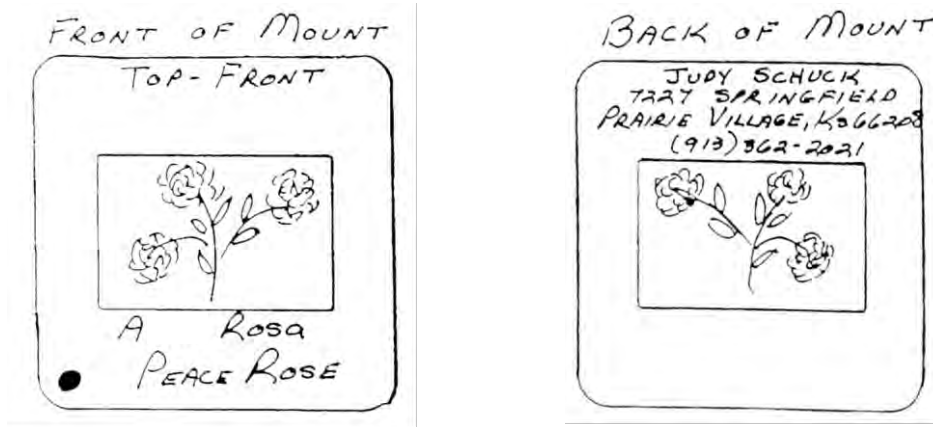
**Copyright Release Form.** TGOA/MGCA reserves the right to use selected entries for promotional and publicity purposes. This includes appearances in the TGOA/MGCA calendar, copies of the annual presentation at the National Convention and website usage; therefore, the release form on p. 13 must be signed and returned with entries entered for TGOA/MGCA national competition. The release is required due to the fact that copyright rules do not allow reproduction of entries that are not owned by the individual requesting the reproduction and this copyright rule is now being strictly enforced by photography and film/video companies.

**Awards.** Plaques are awarded to Sweepstakes, Best of Show, First Runner-Up, and Second Runner-Up winners. The Sweepstakes award is presented to the entrant having the highest combined score of all entries. Best of Section certificates are awarded for the entry that wins the highest score in each section. Participation certificates are presented to each individual with entries in the competition. All of these awards are presented to the entrants at the national convention. Appearance at the national convention is not required but is requested. Any and all awards will be mailed to the entrant not attending the convention at its conclusion.

**MARKING YOUR SLIDE FOR TGOA/MGCA  
PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST**

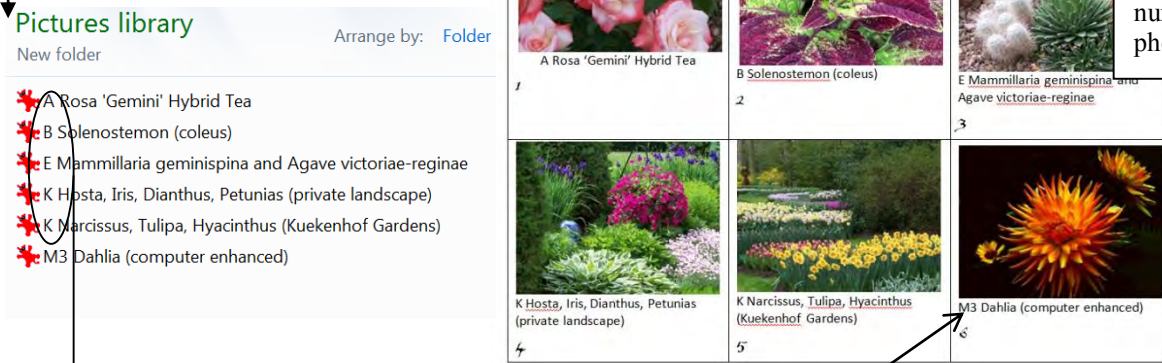
1. Hold the slide up to the light to view the subject as is should be seen.
2. On top of the slide mount, mark “TOP” and “FRONT”.
3. In the lower left hand corner of the mount, put a small dot.
4. On the bottom of the mount, put information identifying the subject including Section and slide description.
5. On the back of the slide mount, put your name, address, and phone number.

**Example of a slide and labeling  
(Be sure the images & names are legible)**



Your directory listing (not necessary to print) of file names on your CD should look like this—identical to your entry form listing.

**Example of a digital contact sheet with file names  
(Be sure the images & names are legible)**



This shows a partial contact sheet—each photo should be in order as shown on your entry form and directory listing on your CD. Names can be handwritten (legibly). Also hand-write or type the entry number next to the photo.

Please use a space after the section letter except for Section M which should have a class number immediately following the letter. Also, please space between words as illustrated. This is necessary to be able to sort and/or filter over 200 photo entries!

## ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION SECTION AND CLASS GROUPINGS

In order to place your entries in the proper section (and class where necessary), please read the information for each section before completing the entry form.

**Each entry must be identified with the genus name and if possible the species and cultivar when available. Also include the common name. The following information gives definitions for genus, species, and cultivar applying them to the kingdom of *Plantae* (plants). Also included are tips for recognizing how the names are identified in printed works. An entry of a common name into a computer search engine such as Google can quickly give you the Latin botanical names needed to identify your plants.**

1. **Genus:** An important subdivision of a family of plants usually consisting of one or more species, for example, *Tagetes* (marigold). The genus name is always capitalized and italicized in printed works.
2. **Species:** A subdivision within the classification of genus; makes a distinction of some characteristic within the genus, e.g., *Tagetes patula* (marigold, French). The species name is lower case and italicized in printed works.
3. **Cultivar/Subclass:** A variety of a plant species originating and continuing in cultivation and given a name in a modern language, e.g., Sonja French marigold. The correct botanical name is written as *Tagetes patula* 'Sonja'. The cultivar name is enclosed in single quotation marks, is capitalized, but not italicized in printed works.

The following are the sections that may be entered. **In each section you may enter a photo or photos of the entire plant or any part of that plant including close-ups. Please note separate Section L for specimen images.**

### **SECTION A – ROSES**

### **SECTION B – ANNUAL PLANTS**

*These are plants that are not winter hardy in a particular region and are grown each year from seed or cuttings (e.g., asters, marigolds, fibrous begonias, petunias, etc.).*

### **SECTION C – HERBACEOUS PERENNIAL AND BIENNIAL FLOWERS EXCLUDING BULBOUS PLANTS**

*These are plants that are winter hardy in a particular region and bloom for one or more years (e.g., hollyhocks, lupines, columbines, hostas, daylilies, etc.)*

### **SECTION D – BULB-LIKE PLANTS**

*Any flowering plant that grows from a bulb, corm, rhizome, fleshy root, or tuber (e.g., daffodils, dahlias, tuberous begonias, lilies, water lilies (*Nymphaeas*), lotus plants (*Nelumbo nucifera*), etc.)*

## **SECTION E – SPECIALTY PLANTS**

*Any member of the cacti or succulent families, orchids, fungi (including but not limited to mushroom, lichen, and molds), tropical plants, or similarly related flowers.*

## **SECTION F – TREES, SHRUBS, AND WOODY VINES**

*These can include images from all seasons.*

## **SECTION G – EDIBLE FRUITS AND NUTS**

*Can be displayed on plants, parts of plants, or harvested.*

## **SECTION H – VEGETABLES**

*Can be displayed on plants, parts of plants, or harvested. Includes flowering cabbage and flowering kale.*

## **SECTION I – BOUQUETS, ARRANGEMENTS, PLANTS GROWN IN CONTAINERS OR HANGING BASKETS**

*If photo is an image of a flower or plant part, it should be entered into the proper annual, perennial, or bulbous section; the image must include an obvious container.*

## **SECTION J – WILDFLOWERS**

## **SECTION K – LANDSCAPES**

*Includes private (family homes), public (botanical or public gardens), natural (state or national parks). A landscape is defined as an extensive area of land regarded as being visually distinct. If your photo is of a grouping of plants, enter it in the appropriate section by choosing the predominant type of plant. Water landscapes may also be entered.*

## **SECTION L – SPECIMEN PHOTOGRAPHY**

*This is for close-ups of a single horticultural subject with a solid color background—no other flower or plant should be visible in the background.*

## **SECTION M – MISCELLANEOUS**

*Only one entry in each class of this section is permitted.*

Class 1. Series of three (3) to six (6) entries **showing development and/or growth of a subject.** *NOTE: A series is considered only one (1) entry within the twenty-entry limitation. Multiple photos of the same subject do not constitute a series. It must show development or growth.*

Class 2. Nature subject (e.g., insects, animals, birds, etc.) with some type of living plant life.

Class 3. Photo Enhancements—a digital or slide entry showing some type of living plant and/or nature subject that has been manipulated beyond previous section rules. The only requirement is the plant life or nature subject is identifiable.

Class 4. National convention entry, any subject. This entry must be from the convention held the previous year.

Class 5. Local TGOA/MGCA project, any subject. This must be from a TGOA/MGCA project from the previous year.

Class 6. Any horticulture subject that **ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY WILL NOT FIT IN ANY OF THE PRECEDING SECTIONS OR CLASSES.**



## **PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION JUDGING CRITERIA**

The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America (hereafter classified as 'we') conducts a photography competition each year. Over 200 entries are usually entered from all over the country with a voluntary judging committee made up of professional photographers.

We have put together a few elements that should be observed for each entry that is judged so that a common ground is established to standardize the judging process as far as possible within such a subjective area.

Please note that some of the elements are common to other types of art forms, but some are technical photographic techniques that are always seen, but not necessarily observed in great detail. If you have any additional recommendations that should be included, please feel free to communicate these thoughts to the Photography Committee Chairperson.

As each entry is viewed, please make a substantial effort to specifically observe all of the listed judging elements. Since all of the voluntary judging committee members are competent in the photography field, they will automatically observe all of the elements, but may put a little more emphasis on some elements that they consider more significant.

### **1. COMPOSITION**

This item is a basic element, of course, but other facets of the entry may affect it. Some items of note could include:

- a) Does the total picture 'grab' you? How does it make you feel? Are you drawn 'into' the picture?
- b) Is it composed so as to draw your eyes to the focal point?
- c) Can you tell what the photographer was trying to accomplish?
- d) Are there distracting light spots, dark spots, or unnecessary people?
- e) Does it have any unique lighting and/or backlighting?
- f) Is the subject in focus? In this competition, the subject must be in proper focus for the entry to be considered.

### **2. DEPTH OF FIELD OR DEFINITION**

Depth of field is a measure of zones of acceptable focus. It is the distance from the nearest object in good focus to the farthest object in good focus. Improper use of the depth of field is so common that it should be observed very critically in all elements of judging. Even small adjustments can have dramatic effects on the picture. Some specific items of note could include:

- a) Is this depth of field correct for the obvious intent of the photographic effort?
- b) Is the background totally out of focus? If the background is out of focus, was that the plan of the photographer?
- c) Are all petals of the flower or parts of the plant clearly in acceptable focus as can be obtained by perceptive use of depth of field techniques?
- d) In short, did the photographer pay attention to proper use of the depth of field?

### **3. COLOR**

The time of day a color picture is taken is important. Note the light intensity. Some items of note could include:

- a) Do the flowers, leaves, trees, and/or grass show the proper color?
- b) Is it apparent that overcast light or subdued light was used to obtain good color and color effect?
- c) Was innovative lighting used to obtain impressive color effects, i.e., specimen photography?
- d) Do some parts of the entry appear to have ‘washed out’ colors?
- e) In general, are the colors pleasing throughout the picture?

#### **4. UNUSUAL OR DRAMATIC EFFECTS**

- a) Was the entry taken from a different vantage point? With what type of effect?
- b) Is the subject ‘framed’ in some particularly pleasing manner?
- c) Has some outstanding special effect been achieved? Reflections? Highlights?
- d) Are attempted special effects actually achieved?

#### **5. LIGHTING**

- a) Was direct sunlight used when it obviously should have been diffused light? Or vice-versa?
- b) Are the dark areas properly lighted in contrasting light?
- c) In short, is the light proper for attempted composition?

#### **6. FOCUS**

In flower and garden photography, subject detail is essential. It is imperative for all judging committee members to note the quality of focus of the subject in any picture being considered for an award. In other words, fuzzy focus of the subject in any entry being considered for a blue “ribbon” award is not acceptable. Refer to the definition of ‘depth of field’ when considering focus.

#### **7. HORTICULTURAL EXCELLENCE**

In any type of photography, the excellence of the subject is required. This element is the same in natural scenery, flora, fauna, and even modeling. If there is a blemish on an individual, it is usually covered up or hidden. If a horticulture subject has a dead flower, a seed head, trash, etc. that distracts from the overall picture, then it should not be considered for a blue “ribbon” award. The object of the competition is to promote excellent horticulture, not mediocre or poor horticulture.

Obviously, the seven above listed elements are not exhaustive. However, it is felt that if these items are carefully considered in the judging process, the standardization of the overall judging and the quality of entries that are awarded blue “ribbons” will definitely give a better overall representation of the photography competition.

**PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION - OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM**

**Deadline: February 25, 2015**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF ENTRIES SUBMITTED: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL IMAGES SUBMITTED: \_\_\_\_\_ (See Competition Rule 4.1, p. 2)

**Please place your entries in proper Section Order (i.e., A, B, C . . . )**

**Be sure that the *genus* and, if possible, *species* name of each plant is correctly written below. Remember this is a requirement which must be followed – if this requirement is not followed, the entry may be disqualified.**

1. Section \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ *Note: Class groupings are only used within Section M—leave blank for Sections A-L.*

Entry \_\_\_\_\_

2. Section \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Entry \_\_\_\_\_

3. Section \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Entry \_\_\_\_\_

4. Section \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Entry \_\_\_\_\_

5. Section \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Entry \_\_\_\_\_

6. Section \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Entry \_\_\_\_\_

7. Section \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Entry \_\_\_\_\_

8. Section \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Entry \_\_\_\_\_

9. Section \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Entry \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM, continued**

10. Section \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Entry \_\_\_\_\_

11. Section \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Entry \_\_\_\_\_

12. Section \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Entry \_\_\_\_\_

13. Section \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Entry \_\_\_\_\_

14. Section \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Entry \_\_\_\_\_

15. Section \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Entry \_\_\_\_\_

16. Section \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Entry \_\_\_\_\_

17. Section \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Entry \_\_\_\_\_

18. Section \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Entry \_\_\_\_\_

19. Section \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Entry \_\_\_\_\_

20. Section \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Entry \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit (1) slides in appropriate protector sheet, (2) official entry form, (3) copyright release form, and (4) self-addressed envelope with appropriate return postage.**

**Submit (1) digital photographs on a CD in a protected envelope, (2) official entry form, (3) printed contact sheet, (4) copyright release**

**form, and (5) if return is desired, a self-addressed envelope with appropriate return postage to:**

**Shirley Winnes, Chairman  
301 David Drive  
Green Bay, WI 54303**

**Non-Exclusive License to Use Copyrighted Works**  
**This form must be signed for your images to be considered for the Calendar!**

For One Dollar (\$1.00) and other valuable consideration, the receipt of which is acknowledged, the undersigned grants to The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America, the following non-exclusive rights in the works described below.

The rights granted include:

- To reproduce the work.
- To prepare derivative works.
- To distribute copies to the public by sale or other transfer of ownership, or by rental, lease or lending.
- To perform the work publicly.
- To display the work publicly.

The rights checked above are unlimited, including the right to authorize reprints of the work.

The works covered by this license are the original pictorial, graphic and sculptural work(s) of authorship by the undersigned, which are described below, and/or copies of which are attached.

The contents of the photo(s) include: Entries for the 2015 Photography Competition

It is warranted that ownership of the described work(s) and licensed right(s) is in the undersigned and there are no prior transfers or licenses, which restrict the authority of the undersigned to grant this license.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Owner/Author

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_