



# FLOWER SHOW flowers

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VOLUME 10    Fall 2018

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*In York, Maine*



*Dear Friends,*

Now that Summer is behind us we can reflect on the many summer flower shows that we visited. In the pages of **FLOWER SHOW flowers** we have shows from the summer of 2017 through the winter of 2018 and onto the summer of 2018.

We are exploring the relationship of Art and Flowers and how art is interpreted with flowers. We visited shows in Texas, Connecticut and Massachusetts for these samplings. Hints on the best way to portray your artwork are addressed employing the Elements and Principles of Design.

In 2017 we visited Litchfield CT for a delightful flower show celebrating the US National Parks. Parks from all over the US were represented in flowers. Imagine the geyser at Yellowstone Park or the Everglades through flowers. Each design was quite unique. From Litchfield, we jaunted to Maine for *By The Sea*. One flower show class was captured here for the magazine.

For all who enjoy Ikebana, we went to Tower Hill Botanic Garden for an Ikebana show. The Sogetsu School of Ikebana is featured here. Before I close, I want to mention that we have some helpful hints on arranging garden flowers and our Floral Design Sampler. Enjoy and Happy Autumn to all.

MaryEllen O'Brien  
Editor

interpreting

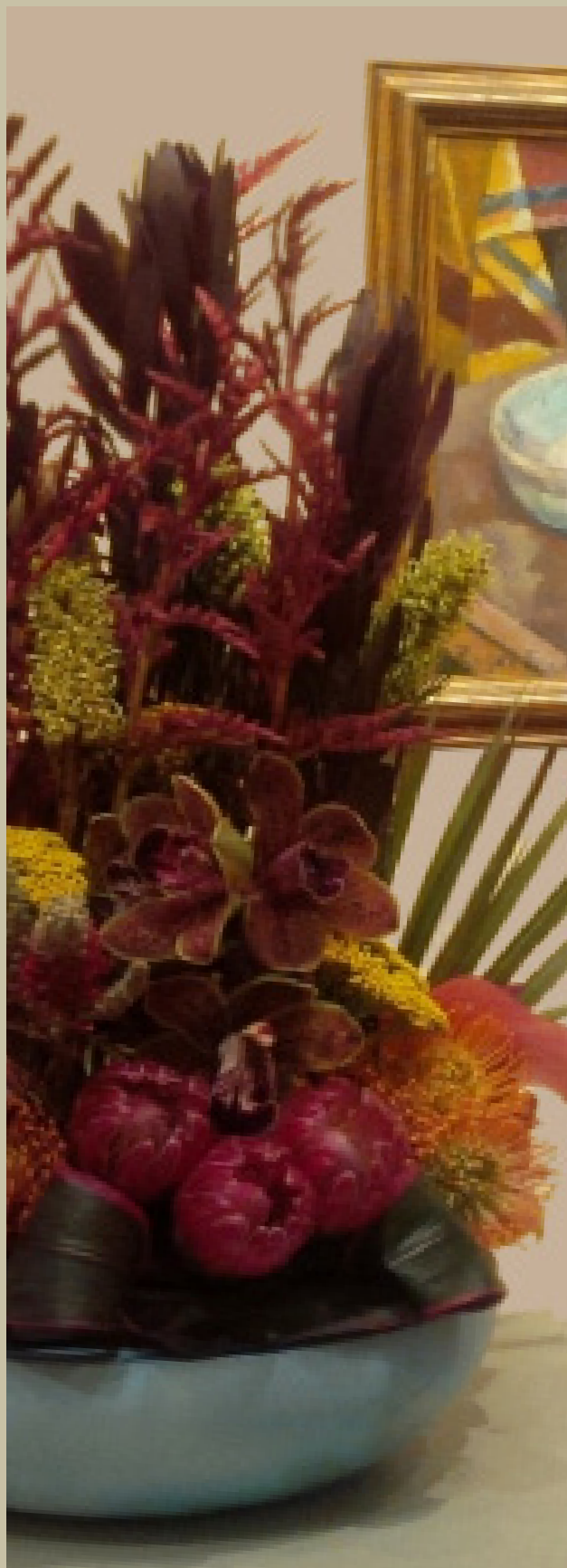
MaryEllen O'Brien  
Photos © MaryEllen O'Brien 2018

Art  
with flowers

Enjoy the following photos and artwork of some very creative interpretations of art by some very creative floral designers. Be sure to read the hints on creating your own sculptural designs.







# FLOWER SHOW flowers

MaryEllen O'Brien  
Editor

Layout & Design  
MaryEllen O'Brien

FLOWER SHOW flowers  
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memo.obrien@hotmail.com  
Subject Line: Permission Request  
For FLOWER SHOW flowers

## interpreting Art with flowers

Interpreting a piece of art with flowers can be a daunting task. While it is best not to replicate the art itself...designers should carefully study the art that they wish to interpret for the Elements and Principles of Design. The artwork can be distilled by the line, color, texture, pattern, rhythm and contrast. Most often it is a case that "less is more" when understanding the design of the artwork.

LINE: may be two-or three-dimensional, descriptive, implied, or abstract.

COLOR: is made up of three properties: hue, value, and intensity.

- Hue: name of the color.
- Value: the lightness or darkness (a color's value changes when white or black is added).
- Intensity: is the quality of brightness and purity (high intensity means color is strong and bright; low intensity color is faint and dull).

TEXTURE: refers to the way things feel, or look as if they might feel if touched.

PATTERN: repetition or duplication of shapes.

CONTRAST: the technique of placing opposite elements next to each other.

RHYTHM: used to create the look and feeling of action and to guide the viewer's eye throughout the work of art.

For instance: if there is strong line with the art this can be translated into a floral line. When a strong area of color exists; a block of color can be incorporated into the floral design; likewise for textures and patterns. Look through the following design alongside their artwork to see some creative approaches to interpreting art through flowers.























# OUR NATIONAL PARKS *America's Best Idea*

Presented by:  
The Litchfield Garden Club  
Litchfield, Connecticut  
June 2017

Photos © MaryEllen O'Brien 2018

Class 6:  
Haleakala National Park, Hawaii  
Best in Show





**Class 6 Haleakala National Park, Hawaii, 1961**

Some of the rarest birds, plants and invertebrates are protected as the land rises over 10,000 feet from the shoreline to the rim of the crater. A design staged on a pedestal 38" h x 15" in diameter against a light yellow wall. Design may not exceed 20" in width or depth. No height restriction. Viewed from three sides.



**Class 5 Yellowstone National Park**



**Class 6 Haleakala National Park, Hawaii, 1961**

Some of the rarest birds, plants and invertebrates are protected as the land rises over 10,000 feet from the shoreline to the rim of the crater.  
A design staged on a pedestal 38" h x 15" in diameter against a light yellow wall. Design may not exceed 20" in width or depth. No height restriction. Viewed from three sides.



**Class 2 Everglades Park, Florida, 1934**

This park of over one and a half million acres is the largest tropical wilderness in the U.S. A design created by an individual exhibitor of predominantly fresh plant material staged in an area 10" wide x 10" deep with a gray backdrop. The exhibitor must have grown all plant material. Viewed from the front.





### Class 1 Creation of the Parks, 1903

President Theodore Roosevelt met with John Muir in 1903 at Yosemite Park in Wyoming to explore the idea of creating a national park system to both inspire visitors and preserve places of unique beauty.

A functional breakfast table for two men staged on a table 29" high and 36" in diameter. Viewed from the front.





Class 5 Mesa Verde Park



Class 5 Mesa Verde Park (Close-up)





**Class 2 Everglades Park, Florida, 1934**

This park of over one and a half million acres is the largest tropical wilderness in the U.S. A design created by an individual exhibitor of predominantly fresh plant material staged in an area 10" wide x 10" deep with a gray backdrop. The exhibitor must have grown all plant material. Viewed from the front.



**Class 4 Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, 1929**

This 309,994 acre preserve is one of the most majestic of the parks, covering much of the Jackson Hole Valley, the Teton National Forest, several glacial lakes, rivers and wetlands.

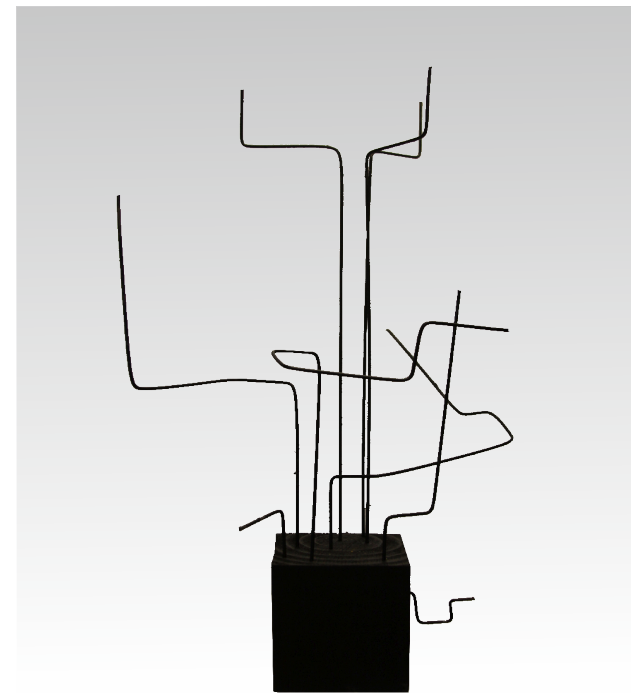
# Floral Design Sampler

Tools • Supplies • Suggested Plant List • How To Techniques

MaryEllen O'Brien  
Photos © MaryEllen O'Brien 2018



Design by: MaryEllen O'Brien



## Tools

Power Drill

## Supplies

1 Block of wood 4"x4"x6"

12-15 heavy gauge flat  
wires

Spray paint

Water tubes

Thin metallic wire

Midellino orbs

## Plant Materials

4-5 Calla Lilies

2-3 Pincushion Proteas

5-10 Key Limes

# Mid Century Modern

## Technique

1. With your power drill and a small drill bit, drill 12-15 holes randomly into the top of your wooden block. For this design, the holes were drilled at a 90 degree angle to the block. Angled drills could create interest for a different effect.

2. Bend your heavy gauge wires and place directly into the block into drilled holes. Be sure that you have a snug fit.

3. Spray paint the wood and the wires.

4. Securely attach flowers in water tubes to the wires using thin metallic wire.

5. Add Midellino balls.

6. Add water tubes to your flowers and attach onto the form. Incorporate your citrus fruit into the tips of the wires. Key Limes and Kumquats work nicely. Other choices might be Brussels Sprout, Seckel Pears, Crab Apples or small colored Peppers.





Here the Mid-Century Modern style design is placed on a mirror. The design instantly is elongated and a playful aspect is present.

Photos © MaryEllen O'Brien 2018



Another Mid-Century Modern style design with different plant material using the same mechanics and framework.

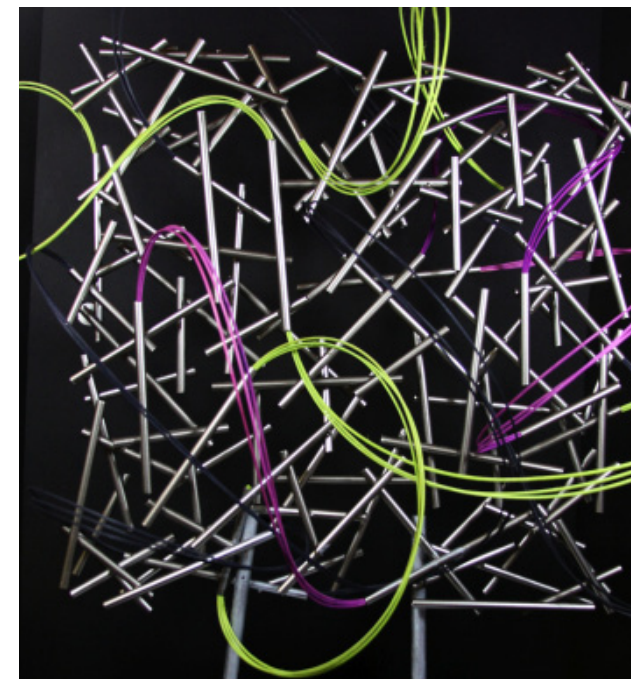
Photos © MaryEllen O'Brien 2018



# Yoga Moves

## Technique

1. Build or buy your frame and attach legs and a base to support the structure.
2. Spray paint your structure outdoors. Design Master silver spray paint was used here. Let dry according to directions.
3. Randomly add Midellino Reed of various colors to the frame. The ends of the reed were inserted into the tube ends. Here 3 pieces fit snugly into the metal tubes.
4. Water pick your flowers. Leave some stems long and cut others short.
5. Begin attaching water picked flowers to the frame as desired.
6. This particular design was done for an open house at a Yoga Studio.



## Supplies

Metal Tube Frame  
Spray Paint  
Water Tubes  
Thin Metallic Wire  
Midellino(various colors)

## Plant Materials

Mixed Flowers and Foliage



Photos © MaryEllen O'Brien 2018





**International Floral Art  
2018-2019**

Hardcover

Available at:

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

\$85.00 plus tax and shipping

DUE OUT:

November 1, 2018

This is another in a series of  
***International Floral Art.***

Over the years, this series  
has become popular to all  
who enjoy designing with  
flowers and those who love  
to look at floral designs.  
Contemporary floral designs  
that are sure to surprise and  
amaze.

**Fall Garden  
*Picks***

***Floral designs with picks from your garden***

MaryEllen O'Brien  
Photos © MaryEllen O'Brien 2018



The floral designs on  
the following pages  
were created with  
minimal amounts of  
plant materials that  
create a BIG impact.  
Plant material place-  
ment, color and the  
negative space in the  
designs make a  
dynamic design.



One of my favorite containers purchased at a pottery sale at an Ikebana Show. It is stoneware, wheel thrown and could possibly be two containers joined together to form one vase. The color and center ridge has the appearance of bamboo.

The vendors all had wonderful vessels. It was really a difficult decision; but, this one caught my eye because the container could easily be inverted making the bottom the top and vice versa. It was two containers for the price of one and who doesn't love a bargain.

All the design in this story on Fall Garden Picks will use this container. It is a challenge to use this container in several ways. A great exercise to improve anyone's design skill set. Think about doing this yourself. Take your favorite container and see how many different ways you can use it with flowers.



Dahlias  
Miscanthus Grass  
Typha foliage and  
Castor Bean Leaf

Photos © MaryEllen O'Brien 2018





Mums  
Striped Acorn Squash  
Dried Leaves and  
Shaved wood strip  
for a little drama

Photos © MaryEllen O'Brien 2018

# Hints for Garden *Picks*

Designing with Flowers from your Garden

1. Cut the flower stems in early morning. Cooler temperatures and the morning dew will naturally refresh the stems from a previously warm, dry day.
2. Use sharp clippers, Japanese ikebana scissors, or jack knife to cut your stems. Wipe clippers or knife blades with an alcohol swab to remove any bacteria before use.
3. Cut stems as long as possible and immediately place into a clean, sanitized bucket of warm water with floral preservatives. The sooner the stems get into water the stronger they will be. Each cut stem has slightly different requirements for care. Please refer to F.A.Q. from Flower Show Flowers...Go to: (<http://www.flowershowflowers.com/faq.html>)
4. Cut stems at the proper stage of bloom at a 45 degree angle. Flowers with multiple buds should be harvested when strong color is present on the first bloom on the stem. (for example: Liatrus, Larkspur, Delphinium etc.) Flower stems with single flowers should be close to full bloom when harvested. (for example: Daisies, Black-Eyed-Susan's, Zinnias, etc.)
5. After hydration is complete...Arrange your flowers:
  - a. Don't overcrowd your stems in the design.
  - b. Replace water daily. Discard old water with fresh.
  - c. Keep floral design out of direct sunlight and cold drafts.
  - d. If stems wilt...they may need to be re-cut and/or discarded.



# MORE SUPER MARKET DESIGNS

MADE WITH  
GROCERY STORE ITEMS

FEATURING  
FRUITS  
VEGGIES &  
SUPERMARKET  
FLOWERS

MaryEllen O'Brien  
Photos © MaryEllen O'Brien 2018





**LIKE A SHOOTING STAR**  
Pincushion Protea star here with Anigozanthos (Kangaroo Paws), Typha latifolia (Cat-o-Nine Tails) are the tails in this celestial event.

Photos © MaryEllen O'Brien 2018

ASTEROID - 3 Leucospermum (Pincushion Protea), 3 Leucadendron, 3 stems of Anigozanthos (Kangaroo Paws), 3 Cordyline leaves and some Typha (Cattail) foliage.



**INSIDE WIRE CONSTRUCTION**  
A squash and star fruit and ginger are placed to create a very modern contemporary design.

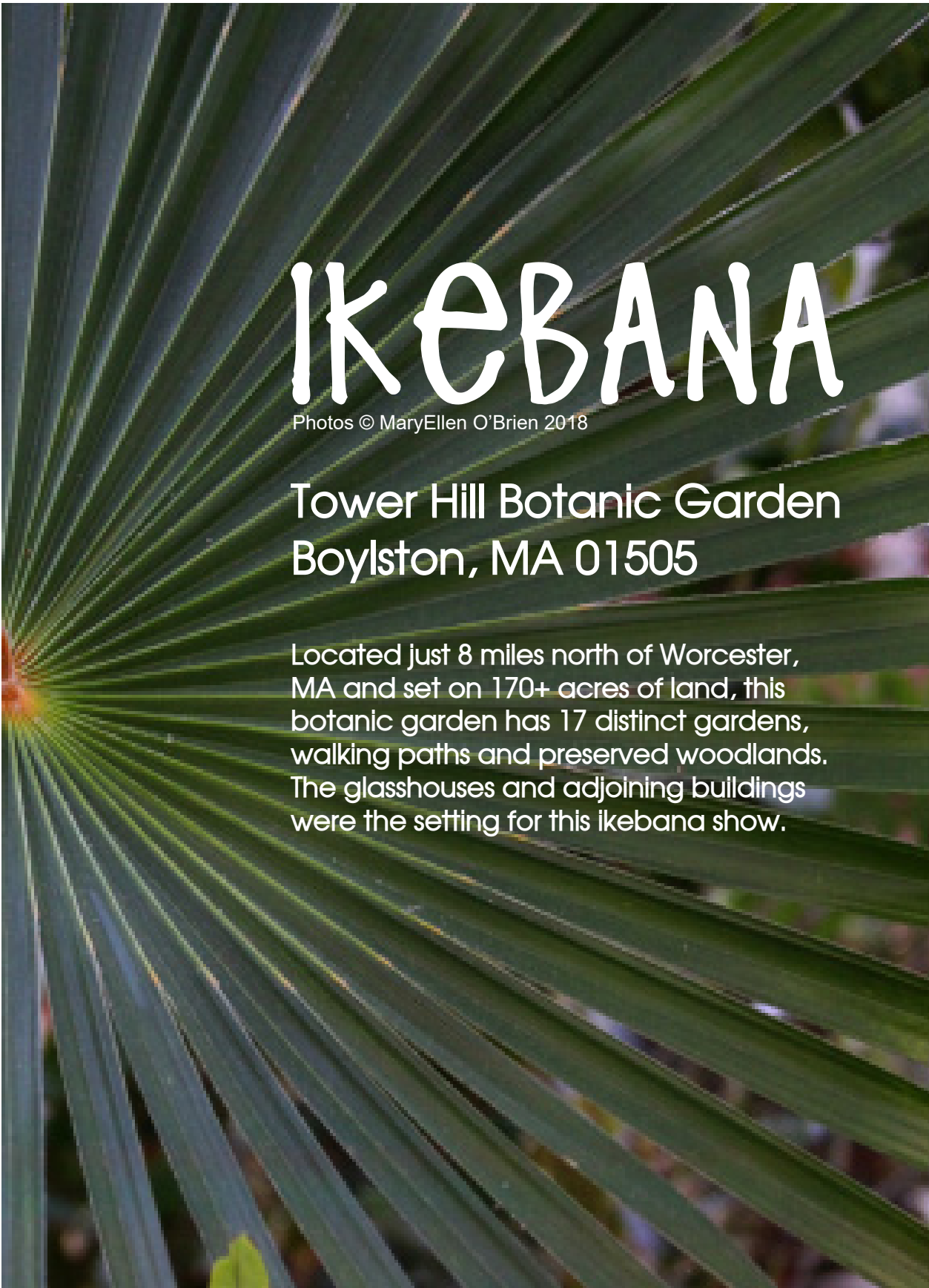
Photos © MaryEllen O'Brien 2018

FLOWER SHOW flowers



**MAGIC BALANCING ACT**  
is made with a Squash and Sar Fruit atop  
an Aloe leaf. Ginger root, Craspedia and a  
dried Strelitzia counterbalance the squash  
on top of this stoneware pot.

Photos © MaryEllen O'Brien 2018



# IKEBANA

Photos © MaryEllen O'Brien 2018

**Tower Hill Botanic Garden**  
**Boylston, MA 01505**

Located just 8 miles north of Worcester,  
MA and set on 170+ acres of land, this  
botanic garden has 17 distinct gardens,  
walking paths and preserved woodlands.  
The glasshouses and adjoining buildings  
were the setting for this Ikebana show.



























# The Decorated Wreath



## Autumn is a perfect time for a Wreath

### WHERE IS THE BEST LOCATION TO PLACE MY WREATH OR SWAG?

Interior doors and walls are the best location for your dried or permanent wreath. Inside your home offers your wreath protection from rain, wind and damage from UV light. Consider placing your wreath on the inside of your front door, your closet door, an alcove, den, office or hallway. Arched swags look great in your bedroom over your bed headboard or a fireplace mantle or above a painting. L-Shaped swags are perfect for framed wood trimmed doorways and passageways.

fall 2018



## BY THE SEA

presented by Piscataqua Garden Club

York, Maine

June 2017

Class Name - Sea Swells, Rolling Waves

A design to be staged on a robin's egg blue pedestal, 39"h x 14"square.

Photos © MaryEllen O'Brien 2018

fall 2018





# fstrecipes

to Condition Your Flowers - Featuring the letter "F"

**FERNS:** Pick mature stems after spores cases turn brown. Submerge overnight in cold water. Remove and place stems in water until ready to arrange.

**FEVERFEW:** Split stems. Condition overnight in warm water.

**FORGET-ME-NOT:** Dip stems in boiling water. Condition overnight in cold water.

**FORSYTHIA:** Split or pounds woody stems. Place in hot water for one or two minutes and then remove to warm water over night.

**FOXGLOVE** (digitalis): Place cut stems in warm water and let stand overnight.

**FREESIA:** Place in room temperature water for several hours.

**FUCHSIA:** Place stems in boiling water for a few minutes. Condition overnight in room temp water.



## US

### February 21-24, 2019

Connecticut Flower & Garden Show 2019

Connecticut Convention Center  
100 Columbus Blvd  
Hartford, CT 06103

Hours:

Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

### March 2-10, 2019

PHS Philadelphia Flower Show, *Flower Power!*

Pennsylvania Convention Center  
12th & Arch Streets  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Saturday, March 2 -

Sunday, March 10, 2019

### March 13-17, 2019

Boston Flower Show-

*The Beauty of Balance*

Seaport World Trade Center  
Boston, MA

## UK

### April 25-28, 2019

Harrogate Spring Flower Show featuring beautiful show gardens, great shopping, live entertainment and the biggest exhibition by florists and flower arrangers in the country.

### May 21 - 25, 2019

RHS Chelsea Flower Show  
Be dazzled by colorful flowers, innovative garden designs and amazing horticultural exhibits at this prestigious flower show. And find out how else to soak up the atmosphere around Chelsea.

### June 5-9, 2019

RHS Chatsworth Flower Show  
Chatsworth is home to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, and has been passed down through 16 generations of the Cavendish family. It is a family home, a working farm and a living landscape.



BUDDING  
STORIES  
FOR  
OUR  
NEXT  
ISSUE







FLOWER SHOW  
**flowers**  
Volume 10  
Fall 2018



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