

CALADIUM FESTIVAL

Caladium Festival Creativity Blooms!

The Lake Placid Caladium Festival, held July 24–26, once again showcased the incredible creativity, talent, and determination of our members. Behind every beautiful arrangement was a table covered with leaves, flowers, ribbons, wire, glue, and perhaps a few moments of, "Why won't this stay where I put it?"

Taking **First Place** was entry #7 **FLORA & FAUNA** presented by Missy Phelps with a spectacular **peacock arrangement** featuring brilliant multi-colored caladiums forming the bird's magnificent fanned tail. It was a breathtaking design that captured the beauty and elegance of Lake Placid's famous caladiums while leaving many of us wondering if the peacock had secretly posed for the artist!

Second Place was awarded to entry #2 **WEEKEND GETAWAY** presented by Gayle Wilkins.

Third Place went to # **ORANGE JULIUS** presented by club member Jan Vedernjak.

The coveted **People's Choice Award** was presented to **Gayle Wilkins** for **WEEKEND GATAWAY** proving once again that visitors enjoy casting their votes just as much as they enjoy admiring the exhibits.

Of course, every entry had its own story. Some designers spent weeks planning every detail, while others may have experienced a last-minute burst of inspiration accompanied by a frantic search for "just one more perfect leaf." There were probably a few stems that refused to cooperate, a ribbon or two with a mind of its own, and perhaps an occasional glue gun that seemed determined to become part of the arrangement. Yet that's all part of the fun!

Whether you brought home a ribbon or simply enjoyed the challenge of creating something unique, every participant helped make this year's exhibit a colorful success. It takes imagination, patience, and a good sense of humor to transform nature's beauty into works of art. The smiles, laughter, and friendly competition reminded us that the true prize is sharing our talents and celebrating one another's creativity.

Congratulations to all our winners and heartfelt thanks to everyone who entered. Your enthusiasm and artistic spirit helped make the 2026 Caladium Festival another event to remember. We can hardly wait to see what wonderful creations bloom next year!



1st place Flora & Fauna by Missy Phelps



2nd place Get Away Weekend by Gayle Wilkins



3rd place Orange Julius by Jan Vedernjak

