Birdhouses at the Gardens Competition & Exhibit

IMPORTANT DATES

Registration Deadline: March 31, 2020
Birdhouse Drop Off: April 15, 2020 by 4:30 p.m.

Birdhouses will be judged for awards throughout installation. Voting for People’s Choice runs through May 31, 2020. Birdhouses will remain installed all season, quality and condition allowing. There is no fee for entering.

COMPETITION GOALS

The goals of this birdhouse competition and exhibit are to:

• Demonstrate ways to attract wildlife by creating unique backyard habitats
• Encourage the use of environmentally sensitive materials
• Inspire creativity in backyard habitats
• Encourage artistic and hand-crafted approaches to birdhouse design

RULES FOR ENTRY

All birdhouses must be original works created by the exhibitor. Commercially produced and assembled kits can be used as your entry, but participants are encouraged to decorate these (as per guidelines) in a way that reflects the entrant’s personality and creativity. CMBG reserves the right to refuse submissions. There is no fee for entering. Consider DURABILITY when designing your creation. CMBG encourages the use of recycled, reclaimed or sustainable building materials. Please consider the environment when choosing your materials.

Exhibitors are reminded that birdhouses submitted in the “For the Birds” category will be installed outdoors and subject to wind, rain, sun and severe weather. By entering the exhibition, the exhibitor accepts responsibility for displaying his or her birdhouse under these conditions. Works are not insured, and Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens accepts no responsibility for loss, theft or damage.
Categories

FOR THE BIRDS

Functional birdhouses designed to house native species here at the Gardens, these entries should be tailored toward one of the bird species listed below. These entries can call on your creativity, but they are primarily considered “working birdhouses” – i.e., weather-durable and made of non-toxic materials. Do not paint or stain the inside of the birdhouse.

- Must be of non-toxic and all natural materials (no plastics, metals, glass, Plexiglas or exterior-grade plywood or pressure-treated lumber).
- Must have mount (provided by the Gardens) centered securely on the bottom of the house.
- Must include drainage holes, ventilation, and an easily removable section for cleaning.
- Must be of durable and weather-proof construction.
- Perches provide easy access for predators; please do not include them in your design.
- Light or natural colored houses, or houses covered in natural materials, are preferred by most bird species.
- Must weigh no more than four (4) pounds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bird species</th>
<th>Interior Floor Space</th>
<th>House Height</th>
<th>Entrance Hole Diameter</th>
<th>Entrance Hole Height From Floor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eastern bluebird</td>
<td>4” x 4”</td>
<td>10”</td>
<td>1 ½”</td>
<td>8”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickadee</td>
<td>4” x 4”</td>
<td>9”</td>
<td>1 ⅛”</td>
<td>7”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuthatch</td>
<td>4” x 4”</td>
<td>9”</td>
<td>1 ⅜”</td>
<td>7”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downy woodpecker</td>
<td>4” x 4”</td>
<td>7”</td>
<td>1 ⅝”</td>
<td>7”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree swallow</td>
<td>5” x 5”</td>
<td>7”</td>
<td>1 ½”</td>
<td>5”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House wren</td>
<td>4” x 4”</td>
<td>7”</td>
<td>1”</td>
<td>5”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FLIGHTS OF FANCY

Whimsical and unique pieces of garden art, these creations are imaginative and feature distinctive use of color, form, texture, and composition. While they should still function as birdhouses, since they are for decorative purposes only, requirements are more relaxed—in this category, creativity is king. Please strive, however, to use non-toxic, ecologically friendly and recycled or sustainable materials.

- Must be no larger than 18”x18”x18” or heavier than 10lbs.
- Must have a sturdy hook for hanging or ability to be placed flat on a table.
- Must include drainage holes and an easily removable section for cleaning.
- Must be of durable construction.

Specifications courtesy of Mass Audubon
# Entry Form

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRY: MARCH 31, 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category: [ ] For the Birds (functional) [ ] Flights of Fancy (creative)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company/School/Organization (if applicable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email Address (required)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signature

I understand and agree to the Rules & Guidelines.

Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens reserves the right to photograph any entry and use photos for promotional purposes without compensation.

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## Awards

**PEOPLE’S CHOICE**

On site visitors from April 18-May 31, 2020 will be able to vote for their favorites in both categories.

**MOST SUSTAINABLE**

Most innovative use of reclaimed and recycled materials.

**BEST KID’S ENTRY**

Our panel’s favorite among entries from ages under 18.

**BEST MAINE SPIRIT**

A celebration of Maine’s Bicentennial in 2020—show us your best state spirit through use of Maine-centric materials or themes.

Winners of each award in both categories will receive 20 Gardens admission passes, valid during the regular season through October 31, 2020.

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RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO: Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens P.O. Box 234 Boothbay, Maine 04537
info@mainegardens.org

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COASTAL MAINE Botanical Gardens