

Seattle Garden Club Baird Boards

Baird Boards are named for Marjorie Wetherill Baird, a long-standing Seattle Garden Club member until her passing at age 92 in 2004. Marge was a knowledgeable horticulturalist, a rhododendron hybridizer, an avid conservationist and a mentor to many Club members. Along with her sister, she donated the property for the Wetherill Nature Preserve on Yarrow Point, where SGC holds a yearly work party on Earth Day. Marge instigated the idea for Baird Boards, and her husband Hugh made them.

Baird Boards are a tradition unique to SGC, and in more recent years, others with woodworking skills have been recruited to make them. Every new SGC member is given one and is encouraged to enter Flower Shows. This tradition is over 40 years old!

Informally, members often use their Boards to display cuttings from their garden for Hort Share. For Flower Shows, however, a set of guidelines must be followed.

Each of the five bottles of the Baird Board must contain a different, single cut specimen grown by the exhibitor. Duplicates are not allowed (different species or cultivar required), and there is typically a pattern or unifying element, such as color (varied or similar). The cuts should not touch one another and will be viewed by the judges individually and as a collection. Exhibitors identify their cuts by Botanical and common names on a special entry card.

Baird Boards may be entered in SGC Flower Shows in one of two classes:

- A collection of five different specimens no higher than 6" above the rim
- A collection of five different specimens between 6" and 12" above the rim

They are judged according to the following scale of points:

Cultural perfection	50
Scale, balance and design	35
Distinction	10
Key card	<u>5</u>
Total	100

Enjoy your Baird Board and this special SGC tradition!

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