

RULES FOR ENTERING THE 2026 WEED SHOW:

1. You may have only **ONE** entry per category.
2. Category 1 is an arrangement with fresh plant material only, not necessarily native, using perfect translucent glass, which has been turned purple by the sun.
3. Categories 2-13 are compositions which may include fresh desert plant material along with dried desert plant material in it's natural state. Paint or varnish modifications are allowed on any accessory element.
4. Each entry **MUST** have an accessory to fit the category as indicated where the accessory is assigned
5. ***PLEASE READ* The maximum size for entries is 16" x 16" and no more than 24" tall with a maximum weight limit of 10 lbs, except for 3 & 12.** Larger and heavier entries will automatically be placed in Category 12 outside.
6. No parts or anything produced from or by an animal living or dead are allowed, such as skins, feathers, droppings, bones or eggs, with the exception of leather.
7. Minimal use of adhesive is allowed. Part of the judging will be on the discreet use of all adhesives.
8. Due to not knowing how many entries may come in, your entry must be stable enough to be moved. A solid base is highly recommended and construction paper or mat board may be used to complement your entry.
9. Entries must be brought to Founder's Hall on Thursday, November 5, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm, Friday, November 6, from 4:00 to 7:00 pm or Saturday, November 7, from 7:00 to 9:00 am. **NO** late entries will be accepted. All entries must be assembled and in place by 9:15 am. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Judging is from 9:30 am to noon on Saturday.
10. The Weed Show is open to the public Saturday, November 7, from noon to 4:00 pm and on Sunday, November 8, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.
11. Entries **MUST** be picked up on Sunday, November 9, from 4:15 to 5:00 pm. **NO EARLY PICKUPS WILL BE ALLOWED!** If you have someone else picking up your entries, make sure the Weed Show committee is notified.

The Twentynine Palms Historical Society

Presents

THE 86th WEED SHOWSM

G.O.A.T.

GREATEST OF ALL TIME

Sat, Nov 7, 2026 Noon to 4:00 pm
Sun, Nov 8, 2026 10:00 am to 4:00 pm



In Founder's Hall at the Old Schoolhouse Museum
6760 National Park Dr.
Twentynine Palms, CA

THE WEED SHOW IS FREE TO ENTER AND FREE TO ATTEND!

2026 Weed Show Categories

Category 1 – “Greatest Night Sky” Inspired by high-desert stars, constellations and moonlit magic, must use perfect translucent purple glass (see rules on back). **FRESH PLANT MATERIAL ONLY**

Category 2 – “Greatest Desert Survivor” Inspired by perseverance in harsh conditions, must use translucent purple glass (broken or imperfect).

Category 3 – “Greatest Small-Town Tradition” Miniature 6”x6”x6” overall. Inspired by parades, festivals and community spirit.

Category 4 – “Greatest Desert View” Inspired by Joshua Tree National Park.

Category 5 – “Greatest Local Art” Inspired by the artistic spirit of the community.

Category 6 – “Greatest Highway Memory” Inspired by roadside nostalgia and desert travel.

Category 7 – “Greatest Military Pride” Honoring the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center.

Category 8 – “Greatest Sand & Stone” Inspired by boulders, washes, geology and rugged desert textures.

Category 9 – “Greatest Piece of Local History” Inspired by local landmarks.

Category 10 – “Greatest Desert Sunrise or Sunset” Inspired by the brilliance of the desert sky.

Category 11 – “Anything G.O.A.T.S.” Inspired by the heart of Twentynine Palms.

Category 12 – “Greatest Oasis Dream” Oversized entries. Inspired by historic springs, palms and imagined desert waters. These entries exceed the length, width, height, and/or weight limitations set out in the rules and remain outside for the duration of the Weed Show.

Category 13 – “Greatest Sports & Recreation moments” Children's category ages 12 and under. Inspired by play and outside activity.

Weed Show Workshop (separate event from Weed Show)

Attend a free workshop for all ages to learn how to create eye-catching Weed Show compositions

Date: Saturday, October 3, 2026

Time: 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Where: Founder's Hall at The Old Schoolhouse museum

What Is Purple Glass?

From the late 1800s to World War I, manganese was used in the manufacture of glass. When exposed to the sun, this glass turns purple. It is called sun purple and is considered prized in the Southwest.

What Is The Weed Show?

The Weed Show is one of Twentynine Palms' oldest and most unique artistic traditions. This annual display features artistic arrangements / compositions of indigenous desert vegetation as well as found objects, both natural and man-made. It is a desert rendition of the traditional concept of floral display. The Weed Show highlights the beauty of the local flora and the inventiveness of participants, along with the history and culture of Twentynine Palms itself. Each show follows a specific theme. Entries are judged on subject matter, use of desert vegetation, use of accessories, artistic composition and originality. Awards are granted in thirteen categories, with a “People's Choice” award to be decided by visitors attending the exhibition, and three “Judge's Favorites”.

The show's roots go back to July 1940, when the Women's Club of Twentynine Palms invited Pasadena print maker Mildred Bryant Brooks to deliver a lecture on "The Art of Etching." Legend has it that the local ladies, ever mindful of etiquette, were deeply embarrassed by the lack of fresh flowers with which to decorate the podium and honor their esteemed guest. The ladies expressed their apologies to Brooks, who is then reputed to have said, "Why do you need fresh flowers when you have so many beautiful weeds?" The ladies then dispatched two of their members to gather sun-dried desert flora from the grounds of the 29 Palms Inn, which they brought back for Brooks to arrange.

The Weed Show made its official debut the following year in 1941. Initially held in private homes, its popularity soon grew to the point where it became a bonafide community event. After the Women's Club disbanded in 1976, sponsorship of the show passed to the 29 Palms Gardening Club, then when the Gardening Club disbanded, the Twentynine Palms Historical Society revived the show, which has been going strong ever since.

What Is A Weed? (A definition by Pat Rimmington)

The dictionary defines a weed as a plant that grows wild and a plant not valued for use or beauty. It is true that the flora used by the competitors in this years-old Twentynine Palms show are the native plants that grow wild on the Mojave Desert. However, these plants were essential to the existence of the Native American tribes who inhabited this desert region. Nature provided the food and medicine, as well as the materials used for basket weaving, hunting equipment and for building shelters. The displays in the Weed Show aim to bring out the often overlooked, hidden beauty of the local vegetation in a whole new light.

2026 Weed Show Chairman: Melodie Allen 760-819-2750

29 Palms Historical Society President: Dana Bowden

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See past entries at: www.29palmshistorical.com

For current info, please follow us on Facebook: 29PalmsHistoryFanPage