



Iron Ikebana Forum Report NCAR Advocate Committee

19th North and Central American Regional Conference, Philadelphia
Sunday, October 13, 2024

Patterned after the Iron Chef — a 1990's Japanese cooking show — which featured guest chefs in a cooking challenge, in **Iron Ikebana**, the participants were instead challenged with flowers.

- Four panels of four Ikebana artist volunteers* from chapters throughout NCAR participated.
- Each panel was represented by four different schools – Ikenobo, Ohara, Sogetsu and Ichiyo – often including at least one sensei or advanced student.
- Each panelist had pre-selected their container.
- The plant material selection was the same for a given panel of four participants.
- Each panel had different plant materials and were not revealed until it was their turn.
- Each panel had ten minutes to prepare their arrangement.
- The program lasted 1.5 hours.

During the challenge, the emcee (Ellen Kelley, Harrisburg #18), listed the plant materials as they were revealed. While the participants were making their arrangements, she provided a brief bio of each participant.

The plant material** had been wisely selected by Susan Cano (Asheville #74) prior to the conference. Stephanie English (Naples #160) and Elizabeth Biddle (Washington DC #1) aided in coordinating and distributing the flowers for each of the panelists. The arrangements were all beautifully crafted during the short, allotted time.

The minimal cost of the program—limited to the expense of plant materials—far outweighed its entertainment and engagement value. As the opening event of the conference, with over 150 attendees, *Iron Ikebana* set a lively tone, providing a enjoyable start to the week. Participants also appreciated the complimentary drinks from the cash bar, generously provided by the Stephanie English Diamond sponsorship.

Organized by: NCAR Advocate Susan Cano (Asheville #74)

* Panelists (Attached)

** Plant Material List (Attached)



PARTICIPANTS

PANEL 1:	Ikenobo	Diane Schmidt	Naples #160
	Ohara	Ginger Truschke	San Diego #119
	Sogetsu	Leslie Ann Rosinski	Detroit #85
	Ichiyo	Myrtle Halsall	St. Andrews #156
PANEL 2:	Ikenobo	Flora Soto	Philadelphia #71
	Ohara	Ellen Weston	Miami #131
	Sogetsu	Analisa Colom-Todd	Individual Member
	Ichiyo	Alka Bhargava	San Francisco #31
PANEL 3:	Ikenobo	Laura Felt	Asheville #74
	Ohara	Chung Un Kim	Philadelphia #71
	Sogetsu	Shelley Galloway	Chicago #27
	Ichiyo	Karen Napoli	Rochester #53
PANEL 4:	Ikenobo	Barbara Tinius	Honolulu #56
	Ohara	Lidia Villalobos	Mexico City #228
	Sogetsu	Nana Bellerud	Portland #47
	Ichiyo	Jeanne Houlton	St. Petersburg #65

MATERIALS

PANEL 1

Each participant will receive:

G1048 Eucalyptus Silver Dollar 2 bunches	4 Stems
27850 Celosia Coxcomb Burgundy	2 Stems
21025 Gypsophila Million Stars	2 Stems
29623 Aster Yellow Solidago Golden Glory	2 Stems
G1224 Aspidistra Variegated 2 bunches	4 Stems

PANEL 2:

Each participant will receive:

36101 Leucadendron Safari Sunset Bronze	2 Stems
60876 Alstroemeria Orange Queen	2 Stems
21954 Mum Yellow Chrysanthemum 2 bunches	4 Stems
G1716 Steel Grass 2 bunches	5 Stems
G1001 Aspidistra 2 bunches	4 Stems

PANEL 3:

Each participant will receive:

28262 Branch Kiwi Vine Dried 2 bunches	1/3 of bunch
21651 Sunflower Yellow DC5 Local 2 bunches	4 Stems
68361 Hypericum Red Illusion 2 bunches	4 Stems
22144 Astilbe White Dutch	2 Stems
10172 Leaf Ti Red 2 bunches	5 Stems

PANEL 4:

Each participant will receive:

G2273 Ruscus Italian Bleached White	2 Stems
27332 Grass Variegated Miscanthus 2 bunches	5 Stems
31479 Yarrow Yellow Peru	2 Stems
29196 Limonium Pink Sinensis	2 Stems
12924 Ilex 18 inch 10 stem Orange	2 Stems



Diane Schmidt, Ginger Truschke, Leslie Rosinski, Myrtle Halsall



Flora Soto, Ellen Weston, Analisa Colom-Todd, Alka Bhargava



Laura Felt, Chung Un Kim, Shelley Galloway, Karen Napoli



Barbara Tinius, Lidia Villalobos, Nana Bellerud, Jeanne Houlton