



## SHOWTIME

### OHA JUDGING COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER VOLUME 3 - 21

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#### **EDITOR'S MESSAGE**

Welcome to the third edition of the SHOWTIME newsletter. Hard to believe it is fall already. Summer just flew by. I have judged a few flower shows at fairs this month. It felt good to put my judging skills to use. One of the shows was fairly large and I had the pleasure of co-judging it with another OHA judge. It was a great experience for both of us to get back into the swing of things and we learned a lot from each other. I think the opportunity to co-judge shows is a rewarding experience and should be encouraged for large shows.

**What are you going to do this fall?** I am going to plant over 300 tulip bulbs, all colours, mostly the double peony varieties and some parrot tulips as they are unusual and put on a spectacular show in the spring. A trick I learned is to plant daffodils around the tulips and this keeps the squirrels away.

We will issue four newsletters per year, so if you have any suggestions for articles for our newsletters, please send them by email to [ohajudges@gmail.com](mailto:ohajudges@gmail.com).

#### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION THEY ARE IMPORTANT**

We are sure if you look around your society or club you would no doubt recognize people who have been steadfast year after year in helping with shows, always exhibiting, helping teach how to show, etc. Volunteers are the backbone of our groups, and we should be recognizing them for all that they do.

Can you think of someone who deserves a **"Judging and Exhibiting Service Certificate?"**

The Judging/Exhibiting Service Certificates are supplied free of charge and are inscribed by the OHA. The criteria are:

- ▶ Ten or more years of active membership in Societies.
- ▶ Service on Society committees, contributing time or effort to organizing and/or exhibiting in flower shows or photo competitions, or in judging shows.
- ▶ Encouraged participation in exhibiting and showing by demonstrating expertise in organizing shows, floral design, horticultural exhibits, or horticulture/floral design photography.
- ▶ Inspired judging, shows, and/or exhibiting efforts of either individuals or groups.
- ▶ Showed sincere interest in and supported shows and judging of a Horticultural Society/Club.

Please forward the name of some you think should be recognized to the attention of your Society/Club President or a Board member.

Applications are available on the Garden Ontario website at [www.gardenontario.org](http://www.gardenontario.org).

# NEW FLORAL DESIGNS

This issue we are highlighting:

## *Transparency Design*

Although Transparency Design is relatively new to our Design categories, it was developed in the mid 20th century. It has been in use in international shows for several years now and at Canada Blooms.

There are many differences with this type of design, which include:

- ▶ the transparent element must be easily seen through
- ▶ there is no fixed way to do a transparency design
- ▶ there are no detailed rules
- ▶ there are many degrees of transparency
- ▶ the transparency element adds a sense of mystery

The design element should be pared down, however, everything that is used should form an integral part of the design. The aim is to see something through something else. Placing some elements in front of and behind the transparency element also adds depth to the design.

Some examples include the following approaches:

1. In a low, round, clear glass bowl filled with water, lay sticks in a random fashion.
  - ▶ Place Cymbidium Orchids in the grid, using the branches to position the blooms (use 3-5 blooms)
  - ▶ Construct a thin veil of lime green sisal and place it on top of the design, providing a cloud-like appearance.
2. Using two rectangular or square containers, place Catalpa pods over the top to form a grid. Glue in place.
  - ▶ Add about 10-12 parrot tulips, Astilbe blooms, Clematis blooms or other blooms appropriate to the season,
  - ▶ Using Lily Grass or Snake Grass, form into loose loops and place over the top to create a bit of a veil.

This design gives a designer the opportunity to forget about rigid rules and create an interesting and intriguing design with an emphasis on the use of space.

I have included a photo found on Pinterest.ca which is an excellent example of a Transparency Design.

As we get back to having Flower Shows, either in-person or virtual, consider including one of the newer design types in the Show Schedule.

The Definition of a Transparency Design is on page 154 of the Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Handbook (2019).

With many thanks to Ursula Eley for notes from a Transparency demonstration by Trudy Grantham in 2006.

*Anne Harbord UE MBA  
OHA certified Judge  
GCO Design Judge*



*Design from Pinterest*

# HYDRANGEA TIDBITS

Since Hydrangeas were a new addition to the OJES in 2019, we've come up with a few useful tidbits that will help when showing or judging them.

**Bract:** A bract is a much-reduced leaf and is usually associated with a flower or inflorescence. Generally, bracts are small and inconspicuous, but some are brightly coloured and petal-like as seen in Hydrangeas. Although technically not a flower, in this instance a bract will be considered as a flower as it contributes to the overall effect.

## Sealing Cut Hydrangeas:

When cut, some Hydrangeas must be sealed immediately at the cut end to stop bleeding.

- ▶ To seal, char the end of the stem by candle flame, hot burner, open flame or dip stem end into boiling water, or alcohol. Protect bloom while sealing.
- ▶ For the bleeding type, unwanted foliage should be removed several days before severing the stem from the plant to allow self-healing.
- ▶ Resealing is necessary for the bleeding type every time the stem is cut. Needlepoint holders (kenzans) should not be used for bleeding types since they will break the seal.
- ▶ Judging Considerations, to accompany General Points on Page 46 to 48 of OJES:
- ▶ Climbing hydrangea such as *H. anomala* (formerly *petiolaris*), are exhibited and judged as a vine. Most others are judged as a branch.
- ▶ Compact flower heads with no large voids or severely overlapping bracts.
- ▶ Foliage in proportion to bloom and subordinate to bloom.
- ▶ Stem length in proportion to bloom and typical of cultivar or species.
- ▶ A specimen should be only minimally faulted if the fertile true flowers are past prime. The fertile flowers are usually innermost and less conspicuous.
- ▶ Flower heads should not have any flat sides. The round shapes should look like a ball. The lacecap types will be flattened and much wider than deep, but still have a round shape. The panicle shapes should be cone-shaped. In all types, the florets should be almost level at the base of the flower head.



*Hydrangea macrophylla*

## Colour Manipulation:

Mostly seen in *Hydrangea macrophylla* and *H. serrata* and highly influenced by cultivar, flower colour changes are based on the pH in the soil. Soil with a pH of 5.5 or lower will sprout blue hydrangeas because the aluminum ions are made readily available. A pH of 6.5 or higher will produce pink hydrangeas as the aluminum ions are tied up and not available. A soil in between 5.5 and 6.5 will have purple bracts. White hydrangeas can not be manipulated by soil pH and will always be white because they do not contain any pigment for colour.



*Hydrangea paniculata* leaves

## TYPES OF HYDRANGEAS COMMONLY GROWN IN NORTH AMERICA

- ▶ **BIG LEAF** - *Hydrangea macrophylla* - also known as florist's hydrangea, hortensia, mophead, or lacecap. Hardy to zone 5. Bloom on old wood, do not prune, protect during winter. Includes 'Abracadabra' Series, 'Cityline' Series, 'Let's Dance' Series, etc.
- ▶ **PANICLE** - also known as 'Peegee' hydrangea or *Hydrangea paniculata*. Hardy to zone 3. Bloom on new wood, prune in late winter/early spring. Includes 'Bobo', 'Limelight', 'Little Lamb', 'Pinky Winky', 'Quick Fire', etc.
- ▶ **SMOOTH** - also known as 'Annabelle' hydrangea or *Hydrangea arborescens*. Hardy to zone 3. Bloom on new wood, prune in late winter/early spring. Includes 'Incrediball' Series, 'Invincibelle', 'Spirit II', etc.
- ▶ **CLIMBING** - *Hydrangea petiolaris* is hardy to zone 4. Bloom on old wood, do not prune. Includes 'Rose Sensation,' etc.
- ▶ **MOUNTAIN** - *Hydrangea serrata*. Hardy to zone 5. Bloom on old wood, do not prune. Includes 'Tuff Stuff' Series, etc.
- ▶ **OAKLEAF** - *Hydrangea quercifolia*. Hardy to zone 5. Bloom on old wood, do not prune, protect in winter. Includes 'Gatsby' Series.



*Hydrangea arborescens (Annabelle)*



*Hydrangea Aspera ss. sargentiana lacecap*



*Hydrangea Quercifolia*

Article submitted by Jim Mabee.

Dear Societies/Clubs and Show Committees

We have a favour to ask of you. Can you please write your 2022 Show Schedules as Standard Shows. This means a minimum of two divisions that should include Horticulture and Design. The Horticulture and Design Divisions must have a minimum of 5 classes in each. Other divisions like youth, novice, etc., can also be included. See OJES page 15 for information. This is a big help to all of your judges and other local judges as they need Standard Shows to enter every year to keep up their judging credentials.

Any questions contact us at [ohajudges@gmail.com](mailto:ohajudges@gmail.com).

Thank you so very much.