

JUDGES CORNER

OHA JUDGING COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER Sept 2015 Vol2



Dear OHA Judges

A full a year and a lot of gardening, flower shows and judging has passed since our inaugural newsletter .We hope you found it informative. The 2015 Convention Judges Update had 3 sessions. New for this year was a hands on Design Workshop presented by Celia Roberts and company on Parallel Design. It was very well attended. In addition Anne Clark-Stewart talked on Judging Lilies and our third time slot at Convention was a session that was a reminder on best practice of Comment Writing while Judging but also had a very good panel question and answer period. So for this newsletter we will present those questions and the answers. It was a good informative session

Q: What happened to the Newsletter? I have only received one since last September?

A: It is new and the number of times to be published is still being worked on. We will have one after the Convention for sur ,Fall seems a good time to follow up after convention and after vacations are over. A second volume in spring will be considered if we have enough additional information or requests for specific topics to be covered.

Q: How do you judge a “child’s” arrangement when it looks very much like an adult has done most of it?

A: This is a very difficult question. You don’t want to discourage children who have done all the work themselves but you also don’t want to be accusing a child of getting too much help. As with adults, if it is on the table and was passed by the show committee then you have to judge it. There is no easy way other than to have a quiet word with the Show Chair afterwards.

Q: How do I judge a design with artificial flowers or foliage?

A: Read the schedule carefully. If it is permitted in the rules ,then you judge based on the principles and elements. If the schedule indicates no artificial or says follow OJES then you would have to disregard the design but add a very kind comment that lets them know that either the schedule and or OJE does not permit artificial materials. Some fairs do have a section for a design done with artificial flowers and here again the elements and principle applies just like a design with live plant materials.

Q: Are there any sanctions in place for judges found not complying with good judging ethics? Can a Society put questions of this nature to the OHA Executive?

A: There is no formal complaint mechanism set up by the OHA to deal with Judging Ethics. However, the OHA now has a Judging Committee so the concern could be communicated to the Committee for its consideration. The easiest way is to make sure you do not ask the Judge in question to judge again. Word does get around about a Judges reputation.

Q: When Judging scented Roses how do you prevent scents from overcoming your sense of smell and making it difficult to select?

A: Bring a few coffee beans in your pocket and smell them between the different entries. It helps to clear your nose.

Q: If a photography class asks for flowers , should it be interpreted as more than one?

A: A photo with just one flower should not be disregarded. Again you are looking for overall artistic merit of the entries.

Q: How do you judge a sunflower seed head?

A: It is a single horticulture specimen, to be judged according to OJES under Vegetables and/or Fruit, One Entry (p. 68) with scale of points –Condition (freedom from blemish) 40 Form and Colour 30 Size (typical of cultivar) 20 Distinction 10.

The Alberta Judging & Exhibiting Standards

([http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex19/\\$FILE/200_47_2012.pdf](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex19/$FILE/200_47_2012.pdf)) has a lot of guidance for judging fruits and vegetables although not for sunflowers specifically.

Q: When will there be another Judging School Update in District 18?

A: Check with the Judging School/Updates Coordinator or your District Director. Perhaps he/she can help to get one planned. You could also consult with fellow Judges in D18 and as a group plan one. OHA has funding to support Judges' Updates. Again, consult with the Judging School/Updates Coordinator.

Q: Once a judge has made a decision, it has been recorded by the clerk, ribbon placed, and the winner announced would it be unethical for the judge to change their mind the next day and change the prize list.

A: Yes it would be unethical and unprofessional. As a Judge you need to carefully make a choice and once that choice has been recorded and announced you should not change your decision.

Q: Should a Judge be soliciting judging jobs?

A: No OJES is clear on page 17 Judges should NOT solicit assignments.

Q: How do we deal with Fairs where Designs are moved for Judging?

A: In some cases Designs are very closely packed and behind wire screens etc so it is very difficult to judge them in place. If this is common practise then you have to go along with it but use extra care when you look at the design try and make sure you carefully look at various angles. Keep in mind all competitors are at the same disadvantage in having their designs moved. If space permits you could ask to judge them in place and tell them why you as a Judge prefer that.

As an aside, OHA does encourage Agricultural Society Judges to come to our updates.

Q: In an "Any other Perennials" class at a fair, the following specimens were entered: Hydrangea, Spirea, Butterfly Bush and a bedraggled heliopsis? Are Hydrangea, Spirea and Butterfly Bush considered Perennials?

A: Hydrangea, Spirea, and Butterfly Bush are all Shrubs. Shrubs are defined as woody perennial plants. So yes, they qualify as an "Any other Perennial". You would also have to look carefully at the schedule to make sure there was no other class such as Flowering Shrub that they should have been entered in. Often an "Any Other Perennial" class is listed as Any Other Perennial (not listed above). It could be specified as "herbaceous" or "woody".

Q: Should Clerks be talking while judging is on going?

A: OJES Page 18 states that clerks should not offer advice or unwanted information and should not follow judges too closely unless invited. The Show Chair or designate should be available. If a clerk is distracting you, politely ask them to stay back a bit and refrain from comment as it distracts you from giving full attention to your job at hand. A quiet word with the Show Chair afterwards may help in making sure the Clerk does not distract in the future.

Q: Is it ethical for a Judge to judge one Division and enter another Division.

A: OJES Page 17 states Judges should not have entries in the Division they are judging but this implies it is OK to enter another Division. However, this raises the question of whether or not a Judge can stay objective if they, when placing entries in one Division can see entries being placed in the Division they are judging. They may in walking in see an entry being carried in and recognize the competitor or a container. This is why it is likely best to have a Judge who has no knowledge of the venue or who is competing. This is why Judges are instructed at Judging School to arrive only a few minutes before and stay out of the competition area until they are asked to enter. This way there can be no perception of any bias.

Q: Why haven't I received any information about re-registering as a Judge?

A: Renewal notices are sent out by mail. If no response is received, follow up is done by email. We can only communicate if we have both a mailing address and an up to date email address. It is imperative that **if you change your mailing address and/or your email address that you let the Judges' Registrar (Judges@gardenontario.org) know as soon as possible.**

- **What's happening with OJES?** The project to update the Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards send out a survey to all OHA Judges and Societies in the spring of this year. The next phase is to have all the survey data reviewed. Subcommittees have now been set up and are being chaired by OHA and GCO Judges' Council judges and experts in the field of Horticulture and Design. The subcommittees will digest all the information and make recommendations and the final step will be to combine the work of all the subcommittees and have a final redraft ready for final editing. It is a time consuming process but the end result will be a better resource for all of us to use.
- **How to find a Judge?** The OHA web site www.gardenontario.org has listed the names of all OHA certified judges that are willing to have their names published in the OHA Registry (from the home page, under the Resources tab/Judging; scroll to the bottom of the page). This list is kept up to date by the Judges' Registrar. The list of Garden Clubs of Ontario Judges' Council GCO/RBG judges is also provided at the bottom of the page.
- **Judging Updates when and where?** Our Judging School/Updates Coordinator (JudgingSchoolCoordinator@gardenontario.org) has information on judging schools and updates that are posted on the OHA website under Resources/Judging. Having an update in your area? Let the Judging School/Updates Coordinator know so it can be posted on the web. Is there a topic you would like covered as a Judges Update at the 2016 Convention? Let us know so we can plan ahead.
- **(Re-)Registering** You will receive a notice by regular mail from the Judges' Registrar requesting you to submit the form with the necessary information and \$10.00 fee. The forms for (Re-) Registering are now available on-line .Print it off, fill it in and send it in. If you don't register by the deadline your name will be removed from the website. Just a reminder we will not be sending out the small green card with your name .The website list will be the official list of OHA certified judges in good standing with the OHA .You can contact the Judges' Registrar (currently Sharon Nivins) at Judges@gardenontario.org

- **Have a Question? Looking for information?** Are there topics you would like covered at Updates? Are there judging dilemmas you would like discussed? Contact us by Email at ohajudges@gmail.com .The committee is made of up of a number of OHA Directors and members with Judging experience. Current committee members are Penny Stewart(Chair), Kathryn Lindsay (Vice Chair) Jim Mabee (Judging School/Updates Coordinator), Sharon Nivins (Judges' Registrar), Jane Mc Donald, Roland Craig and Sandra Hartill.
- **Lost your Judges Pin?** New ones are available from OHA supplies for just \$5.00. Order forms are available on line supplies@gardenontario.org

We look forward to hearing from you.

Penny Stewart
On behalf of the OHA Judging Committee