



## SHOWTIME

### OHA JUDGING COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER VOLUME 2 - 21

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#### Editor's Message

Welcome to the second edition of the SHOWTIME newsletter. I would like to introduce myself as the new editor. I am Linda Bartlett, a member of the Perth & District Horticultural Society since 2006, presently serving as the President. I am also a member of the Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society and serve as Treasurer for that society. I have been a certified OHA Judge since 2010. I participate in most of the District Flower Shows in both horticulture and design. I have helped organize Judging Updates for District 2 since becoming a judge. I have had some great experiences judging District, Society and Fair Flower shows. My career background involves design of both print and electronic publications including newsletters and websites. It was an honour to be asked by the OHA Judging Committee to become the Newsletter Editor. Our goal is to provide an interesting and informative newsletter for everyone to enjoy. If you have any suggestions for articles for future newsletters, please send them by email to [ohajudges@gmail.com](mailto:ohajudges@gmail.com)

#### JUDGES REMINDERS

*from the OHA Judging Committee*

Judges, we want to keep you updated on a few changes that you need to keep track of for renewals.

The forms for judge's renewals have been revised (April 25, 2021) and have been posted on the OHA website. Please make sure you use a current copy of the renewal form to keep track of your information.

Things to note are:

- ▶ The two required entry credits must be from two separate shows that are written as a standard. Preferably one in Design and one in Horticulture.
- ▶ For 2020-2021 we are allowing you to do workshops, seminars, demonstrations, etc. virtually.
- ▶ For 2020-2021 you can count one virtual show as an entry credit.

Also, if your address, email or phone number changes, you are responsible to send it to Sharon Nivins, Judges Registrar by email at [ohajudges@gmail.com](mailto:ohajudges@gmail.com) or by mail at 84956 Tower Line, RR #7, Lucknow, ON N0G 2H0. If Sharon does not have current contact information, then she cannot update the Judges list and Societies may not be able to find you. Please let her know if you become aware of a judge who has passed away so their name can be removed from the list in a timely manner.

Judges without email should check the newsletter "SHOWTIME" either on the website or through their Society. Do not forget to contact us at [ohajudges@gmail.com](mailto:ohajudges@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns. We are here to help you and would love to hear from you with ideas and suggestions.

# New Floral Designs

In the last revision of *OJES* (2019), a few new designs were added to the repertoire. We will be highlighting some of them in the next few newsletters to give you some background on the design concepts and a few photos for inspiration.

## Stretch Design

Stretch Design is a defined design style created in the late 20th century in the USA and is one type of Contemporary Design. In Ontario, the term 'Contemporary Design' covers a wide scope, including European styles and "any current or recent fashion."

**Definition:** (*Handbook for Flower Show, National Garden Clubs, Inc., 2007 edition*)

1. A Creative Design in two units, one smaller than the other, having a prominent component connecting the two units and referred to as the "stretch component."
  - a. The length and strength of the stretch component must be appropriate to the other components and its prominent role in the Stretch Design.
  - b. The "stretch component" may extend in any direction, diagonal, vertical, or horizontal, and may minimally extend beyond the units.
  - c. The Stretch component must be imaginative and appear to create a dynamic tension between the two units.
  - d. Units should follow the directional movement of the stretch component to enhance tension as the smaller unit is placed to appear to have forcefully pulled away from the larger unit.
  - e. Tension is greatly diminished if the two units are created with a strong vertical emphasis, and the stretch component is placed diagonally or horizontally between them.
2. Overall design concept gives the appearance of a bond between the two units through the placement of the units, strength of the coiled or stretched connective, and some repetition of forms, colors, textures, etc., in the second unit.
3. Staging is best on a table or pedestal without a background panel as there would always be a large area void of design before a rectangular background. Only if the overall design emphasis is vertical or near-vertical should a precise vertical dimension be given in the schedule.

## Dynamic Tension

Creating a feeling of tension creates visual interest. The building and release of tension is a pattern we are all familiar with in other art forms like music, literature, and theatre.

### *What is tension in a design?*

- ▶ a visual force created through perceived stretching or pulling
- ▶ the interplay of conflicting elements
- ▶ a balance maintained between opposing forces and elements
- ▶ adds visual interest and energy
- ▶ gives exciting rhythm and interesting balance

### *Ways to achieve dynamic tension:*

- ▶ contrast – of colour, texture, size, form
- ▶ angular lines are more forceful than horizontal or vertical lines
- ▶ asymmetrical placement of components of the design itself



*Design and Photo by Ursula Eley*

- ▶ placing components further away from the imaginary axis
- ▶ careful use of space
- ▶ piercing space
- ▶ while curved lines make a connection look relaxed rather than stretched, it is possible to use a tightly coiled line resembling a spring under tension

#### ***How to get the maximum 'Stretch' effect:***

- ▶ 2 design units look like they were once one or very similar (colour, texture, form)
- ▶ relative size of units – 1 taller than the other
- ▶ distance between units
- ▶ some repetition of forms, colours, and/or textures in the materials used in the second unit
- ▶ using a straight linear material as the stretch component
- ▶ avoid curved, viney, or looped material as stretch component
- ▶ use a stretch component that narrows in the middle and flares out more at either end (like a stretched piece of gum)
- ▶ scale of stretch component is important
- ▶ 2 design units can be angled to look like they are pulling apart
- ▶ units can be facing each other, or with one or both facing away from the other
- ▶ check your design from several angles to see which gives the best visual stretch



*Small Design courtesy of Pinterest.ca*

#### **From Designing by Types:**

The term “units” is used when referring to a Stretch Design so that the designer has the freedom to use containers or create on bases, sculptural forms, table/pedestals or cubes. The connection between the two units must have a dynamic impact and suggest tension. It must play a significant role.

It is also suggested that the two units be placed at different distances from the front of the exhibiting area so there will be a diagonal movement that will enhance the sense of depth.

We hope you enjoyed this article and that you will try your hand at constructing one in a virtual show or when flower shows resume in person. Also, try to include one in your Society/Club flower show schedules, especially in June and September, when there is an abundance of flowers in our gardens. Perhaps even in October and encourage use of dried materials. Although some Societies may have limited space, perhaps have this design as a feature and limit the number of classes.

We encourage your members to try them out. The next article will be on Transparency Design.

#### **References**

*Flower Show Handbook*, National Garden Clubs Inc., 2007 edition  
*Designing by Types*, H. Osborne editor, National Garden Clubs Inc., 2008  
*Garden Club of Virginia Flower Show Handbook*, Garden Club Study Group, 2011  
*Charlevoix Area Garden Club Design Group* [www.cagcdesign.wordpress.com](http://www.cagcdesign.wordpress.com)

Courtesy of notes by Ursula Eley and conversations with Celia Roberts, both members of Garden Club of Toronto.

Anne Harbord,  
 Certified OHA Judge and accredited Judge of Floral Design (GCO) and Horticulture (RBG)

## **New OHA Virtual Flower Show Guidelines: Organizing, Judging, Exhibiting**

We now find ourselves having to engage virtually in response to COVID-19. To help, the OHA Judging Committee has just released guidelines on how to organize, judge and exhibit in a virtual flower show. The guidance draws on the content provided on the OHA website under the Shows tab ([gardenontario.org/shows/](http://gardenontario.org/shows/)), in the recently revised edition of the *Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards for Floral Design and Horticulture* (OJES 2019) and from those who have been holding virtual shows at the time of writing.

OJES (2019) includes everything you need to know about staging a traditional, in-person flower show, how to prepare your entries and what a judge will be looking for to assess the quality of exhibits and the awarding of prizes. OJES (2019) is available for purchase from the OHA Supplies Coordinator ([gardenontario.org/resources/#gardenshop](http://gardenontario.org/resources/#gardenshop)). You can also check with your local Horticultural Society/Club, as they should have a copy to purchase as well.

If the virtual Flower Show is to be judged, organizers are encouraged to select someone from the OHA Judges Registry accessible on the OHA website ([GardenOntario.org/judges-listing/](http://GardenOntario.org/judges-listing/)).

These guidelines may also be useful in organizing other types of virtual competitions such as Photography, Arts or Youth. Judging criteria for these other types of competitions are not covered in OJES (2019). Show organizers should make an effort to find other qualified judges for these competitions. Schedules for OHA Convention competitions (Photography, Art, Creative Writing, Publications, Youth) typically include a scale of points for judging. In our experience as OHA Certified Judges in Horticulture and Floral Design, we are also sometimes asked to judge photography classes. To help with that, the OHA Judging Committee has recently produced more detailed *Photography Judging Guidelines* (January 2021).

The guidelines for Virtual Flower Shows provide detail and examples for organizing, judging and exhibiting. They were co-authored by OHA Judging Committee members Kathryn Lindsay and Anne Harbord, with input from available sources, contributors, reviewers, and other members of the OHA Judging Committee.

Both the *Virtual Flower Show* and the *Photography Judging Guidelines* are available on the OHA website ([GardenOntario.org/shows](http://GardenOntario.org/shows), click on Useful Guides for Judges & Competitors). They will also be presented at the upcoming OHA Virtual Convention in the Judges on Judging session on Friday, July 16th, from 3-4 p.m. Attendance will count as a credit towards OHA Judges Registry re-certification.

Given the recent rise in virtual flower shows, these guidelines are clearly a work in progress. We would appreciate learning about your virtual shows, along with your feedback and suggestions for additions and improvement, as we all gain more experience. Please send your input to [ohajudges@gmail.com](mailto:ohajudges@gmail.com)

### **OHA 2021 VIRTUAL CONVENTION – “Judges on Judging” Update Sessions**

Judges and competitors, please mark the following dates and times on your calendars. On Friday, July 16, from 3:00-4:00 p.m., join Judges Jim Mabee, Kathy Lindsay, and Penny Stewart for a Judges on Judging session. They will present “OHA Guidelines for Virtual Shows and Photography Judging,” including Questions and Answers.

On Saturday, July 17, from 3:30-4:30 p.m., join Certified Rose Judge Anne Harbord as she updates us on Roses and Judging them.

Both these sessions will count as credits towards your judging renewal. Check out the OHA website for all the other great speakers, tours, and events. Take advantage of the early-bird registration rates. Looking forward to seeing you.