

## **The Role of the Flower Show Committee**

The Flower Show Committee consists of a Chair, and SHS members volunteering in the running of Flower Shows. The Committee prepares annual Flower Show Schedules, reviews and updates Flower Show Rules as required, and runs the Flower Shows.

Various Flower Show Committee Members may assume the role of Convenor for the various shows.

### **Goals of Flower shows:**

To encourage and educate society members in Flower Show Horticultural and Design entry, stimulate interest in Horticulture, and provide an outlet for creative expression.

### **The qualifications of the flower show convenor:**

Show Conveners have good knowledge of a variety plant species, cultivars, and their common and Latin names. Knowledge of the O.J.E.S. Rules and Standards is necessary as well as experience in Flower Shows and an understanding of show terminology.

### **Scheduling**

The Committee prepares and approves a yearly show Schedule with two divisions, Horticulture and Design, which conform to Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards (O.J.E.S.). The Schedule must use specific wording to include all essential details of the shows. The society should endeavor to have standard shows. A standard flower show has a minimum of five classes in each division with a minimum of four exhibits in each class. The show should always strive to encourage learning.

The Schedule should conform to the seasons, including flowers, fruit and vegetables that are expected to be in peak condition at the time of the show. Once the dates, classes and themes for design have been set, the Schedule is printed and made available to all members.

Special classes may be added (eg. Novice, Seasonal themes, Member judged), to encourage more members to participate.

The Schedule and accompanying rules become the "Law of the Show". All exhibitors and Judges are bound by its requirements. If there is a conflict between O.E.J.S. and the schedule, the Schedule is the one that prevails. For this reason it is important that the Schedule be carefully written and adheres to the standards of the O.J.E.S.

### **Staging**

Staging is handled by the Show Convener and Flower Show Clerks prior to each show. Neutral coloured tables must be set up at a standard height, divisions identified, dividers placed between classes, and correctly sized niches provided for standard and

miniature designs. Extra lighting may be provided for judging. Flower show entry tags must be made available to exhibitors both prior to as well as at the show.

## **Placement and Classification**

The Show Convener and Clerks help exhibitors fill in exhibit entry tags and with the placement of their specimens for cultural or design classes if needed.

Prior to judging, the exhibit area is closed to members to allow the Show Convener to check for the correct placement of exhibits, moving those that may have been placed in the wrong section and removing those that do not conform to the schedule, i.e., the wrong type of flower. For example, if the Schedule includes a cactus dahlia and a collarette dahlia was placed, the Show Convener may find another suitable class, i.e., AOV, in which to place it. If no alternative is on the Schedule, the entry will be disqualified.

Show Conveners may help members in the grooming of dead foliage or blooms prior to the show when necessary. For example, removal of a bud from the stem on a specimen entered in a class that asks for one bloom to avoid disqualification.

If a class attracts a large number of entries the Show Convener may subdivide that class. i.e., tulips subdivided into large bloom tulips and small bloom tulips. There should be a minimum of three specimens in each subdivision.,

The Show Convener must ensure that members adhere to the timetable for placement of their exhibits. Members need to place their exhibits within the time allotted in the Schedule so the Show Convener can check to ensure that all the exhibits are in the proper classes and conform to the Schedule prior to judging. Judges do not disqualify exhibits - that's the responsibility of the Show Convener prior to the Judges' arrival. (O.J.E.S. 2003 Edition), however, Judges may draw attention to misplaced entries and suggest to the Show Convener that they need to be moved to the correct class.

## **Judges**

The Flower Show Chair will select and invite a Judge or Judges in advance of the show. The Show Chair must provide the Judge with the address, show Schedule, and Rules of the show prior to the event. If the Judge has any questions the Convener must be available to answer them. A reminder call or email a week before is advisable. The Show Chair has a list of accredited Judges and their location to choose from. It is normal practice to use a variety of Judges. The choice of Judge is based on their training qualifications. Some Judges have both Horticultural and Design accreditations, while others have one or the other.

A Judge with both qualifications can be used for a small show. It may be necessary to book two Judges for a show with more classes, especially in months with an abundance of Entries. In this event, one Judge may be booked for Horticultural classes and the other for Design.

The Board of the Society agrees upon an honorarium which includes travel expenses. The Show Convener provides the Treasurer with the name of the Judge

and the amount of the cheque prior to the show. The Show Convener hands the Judge/Judges a thank you note and the cheque after the judging is completed.

The Show Convener allows time for briefing the Judge prior to starting judging. Rules specific to the society will be clarified at this time, i.e., is more than one HM given? Does each division have a Best in Show and Judge's Choice award? Are there any specialty awards to be given?

If the Judge has any questions regarding the Schedule, the Convener must be able to answer them.

Only the Show Convener and Clerks may be present while judging takes place. The Show Convener accompanies the Judge to answer any further questions that may arise during judging. The Show Convener requests that the Judge write clear and concise comments on the entry tags to educate and encourage members and provide helpful feedback.

The Judges' decisions are considered final however any protest must be made in writing and submitted to the Show Convener.

### **Awards**

Annual Flower Show awards are given to members at the Annual General Meeting and are presented by the Show Chair or delegate.

### **Education**

If any member has questions regarding the show Schedule or needs assistance with understanding the rules, the Show Convener and clerks will assist.

The Flower Show Chair prepares an annual report for the Annual General meeting. This report summarizes the year's shows and awards.