

## FAQ May, 2017

### **Q. May a Judges Council run a Flower Show?**

A. Yes. They have been allowed that opportunity for many years. Judges Councils are encouraged to have a Standard, Small-Standard, Horticulture Specialty or Design Specialty Flower Show for members to earn judging credits and exhibiting ribbons.

### **Q. Can we have consultants for the Education, Youth, and Botanical Arts Divisions?**

A. Yes. It's a great idea, especially for Education Division. The consultant can explain the requirements and limitations, such as no artificial plant material, to outside organizations that might exhibit. HB, P 17

### **Q. Must the recipient of the Educational Top Exhibitor Award be a member of an NGC club?**

A. Any person or organization can receive the Educational Top Exhibitor Award. He/she does not have to be an NGC club member. In fact, no NGC awards in the show are limited to garden club members. If the flower show is open to the public, all who enter can win any award.

### **Q. The HB P 115 states Student Judges must judge 5 flower shows with a minimum of 3 classes in Design and 3 classes in Horticulture. To get credit, does this mean he/she must judge 3 classes in both Design and horticulture each time a judge or student judges in an NGC Flower Show or is this cumulative over 5 shows.**

A. Currently, they must judge the 3 classes in Design Division and 3 classes in the Horticulture Division in each shows if he/she is seeking a judging credit. It is not cumulative. However, to get a judging credit, he/she can judge just 6 classes in a Design Specialty or Horticulture Specialty Show. Remember, if a judging credit is not needed, the Judge does not need to be assigned to three classes. The Judges Chairman should ask the Judge if he/she is seeking judging credit before deciding the judging assignment.

### **Q. When does the above requirement take effect?**

A. Beginning January 1, 2018, to refresh, a Judge must earn a judging credit by judging 6 classes in one show (3 in design and 3 in Horticulture or 6 in a specialty show.) Judges must exhibit to earn one ribbon in each Horticulture and Design to fulfill part or all of each exhibiting requirement depending on the level of the Judge.

### **Q. Do ribbons earned in the Botanical Arts Division count toward exhibiting credits?**

A They do for Accredited and Accredited Life Judges. HB P117 #of chart, P. 119 VI B.

### **Q. To become an Emeritus Judge, one must first achieve the level of Accredited Master Judge. May the MJ seeking Emeritus status ask the Judges Council President to notify NGC Headquarters of his/her intent, or must that request come directly from the one seeking Emeritus status?**

A. Ideally the MJ seeking Emeritus level recognition notifies NGC directly. However, if circumstances don't allow this, the JC President should draft a letter requesting the change and secure the signature of

the MJ granting his/her permission. Under no circumstances may anyone arbitrarily decide that a certain Master Judge should “retire” and request this status without his/her knowledge.

**Q. P 5 HB advises to be consistent in awarding EITHER ribbons OR seals through-out the flower show in all Divisions. What is the rationale for this? We like to use ribbons for designs and seals for horticulture because they are in better scale with the exhibit. What is wrong with doing this?**

A. The statement was made considering the impression viewers and inexperienced exhibitors might have. That is, that ribbons are “worth more,” “ more difficult to win,” or more “prestigious” than stickers. Experienced flower show participants know this is not true, but others don’t. Awards Chairman may have “petite sized” ribbons for petite designs and horticulture, but all the others should be identical. If cost is a factor and seals are used, the committee should have available a few ribbons if any exhibitor requests a replacement for a sticker. Appearances are important!

**Q. P 13 Plant list cards are required to accompany all designs. Is there any standardization to this requirement as to size, placement, printed or hand-written, or who furnishes?**

A. The HB requires the plant list for educational purposes only. How the Show Chairman or Staging Chairman decides to handle this is up to them. To be non-intrusive, yet large enough to be easily read, the HB suggests 3”X5” index card. It can be plain, lined, of a color to enhance theme, imprinted with the show’s logo, pre-printed with plant list furnished ahead of time by exhibitor or filled out at the entry table by exhibitor. The details are left up to the show personnel. Hopefully they will be uniform in size and color. NGC’s concern is the educational value.

**Q. What is meant by the term “naturalistic accessories?”**

A. P 59 This term is used to describe the type of components permitted in a Combination Planting other than the plants themselves. Rocks, twigs, pebbles, moss, weathered wood come to mind....things that would be found in nature and of realistic size as opposed to what could be used in a “Fairy Garden” such as figurines, manufactured houses, bridges, benches, etc.

**Q. Can you have a design hung in a hoop in the Design Division?**

A. Yes, but you can’t label it in the schedule as a HANGING DESIGN, as those now are placed in the Botanical Arts Division. HB, P 93

**Q. May a Student Judge sign an entry tag of a blue ribbon or 90+ exhibit?**

A. Never. However, Student Judges may sign and date the entry tags of all other exhibits that placed. The entry tags of non-winning exhibits must be initialed by anyone on the judging panel. HB, P 6

**Q. Can we have Novice Classes?**

A. Yes. However, you MUST define what makes a Novice. Is it someone who’s never before entered a Flower Show? Never won a blue ribbon? Never won a Top Exhibitor Award? The schedule will set the parameters of the category. A novice class can be eligible for all awards, if so stated in the schedule.

**Q. Is it permissible to use the definition of a Cascade Design in the Flower Show Schedule?**

A. Yes. Definitions can always be listed; an alternative would be to list the corresponding page in the Handbook.

**Q. Students are eligible to count exhibiting credits after completion of Course I and any other course. Does the “and” mean Course I plus any other course, or is it any two courses HB? HB P 114**

A. To get the foundation for exhibiting and judging, the new curriculum states the student MUST take Course I first. After Course I is taken, a student can take Courses II, III and IV in any order he/she desires.

**Q. The HB states “a minimum of 75 for all exams for Course I and the other 2 courses of the three remaining? Does this mean they don’t have to score 75 on the 4<sup>th</sup> class?**

A. No. This section refers to “becoming a Student Judge.” Once they take Course 1, and then two (2) more courses, they will be “Student Judges.” They must pass those with a minimum of 75. However, page 114 IV.A.2 at the bottom spells out what they must do to move from Student Judge to Accredited Judge.  
HB, P, 114, III.B

**Q. Will the Books of Evidence be digital?**

A. Currently they can be submitted in digital format on a CD or memory stick. Hopefully, in the future, you will be able to submit them digitally to the appropriate NGC website.

**Q. Can we now use *Finishing Touch* or *Crowning Glory* (prevents dehydration of cut flower) in a Flower Show?**

A. Use of these products is NOT a physical embellishment prohibited by the HB. Their discriminate use is allowed.

**Q. Gardens must be the work of one individual. What about hired help who tend the garden?**

A. Gardens can be an individual member’s project, which means hired help is “part of that project.”