

## **Naples Orchid Society Orchid Show Hobby Container Exhibit LC and SC Guidelines and Regulations**

### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Open to Naples Orchid Society Members only.
2. Ribbons and trophies will be awarded for First, Second, and Third Place (depending upon the number of entries).
3. Exhibitors to furnish their own containers (basket, ceramic dish, etc.).
4. Size—Two categories—“**Small**” Containers, to a maximum of 18” wide by 18 inches long x 36 inches height from the top of the table. “**Large**” Containers larger than “small containers” up to a maximum of 24” wide x 24” long x 48” maximum height from the top of the table; and Container and plant material may not be extended beyond these dimensions. (This will be enforced, NO EXCEPTIONS)
5. Maximum of 7 orchid plants per container.
6. Plants used in Hobby Container exhibits may be borrowed or purchased for the exhibit. If plants are borrowed from an NOS member, that person (the owner) may enter that plant(s) for an award. If an award is received it will belong to the owner of the plant, and not the owner of the exhibit. If plants are newly purchased especially for the exhibit, and owned for less than six months, they may not be entered for NOS Hobby awards or trophies, but may be used in the exhibit.
7. All Plants must be correctly and prominently labeled.
8. Wood, stone, metal, ceramic and glass accessories, and small battery powered electric lights contained within the exhibit (Those are lights powered by dry cell batteries that would typically be found in a watch or hearing aid or 9 volt, AAA, AA, A, C, or D only.) are permitted.
9. The following materials are **not permitted** in container exhibits: No cut flowers; No artificial or dyed plant material; No water displays; No flowering plants other than orchids; No electric lights or other features.
10. The Exhibit **MUST BE NAMED!** Please submit the Exhibit Title with the Exhibit Entry on Thursday, Registration Day, the day before judging.
11. Exhibit Title should be displayed on a placard in front of the exhibit. Exhibitor’s name should be displayed only after judging is completed.
12. All exhibitors are asked to be familiar with the general show and exhibition rules as published in the NOS Show Schedule. All general and NOS rules will apply to all exhibit and plant entries.
13. Precaution will be taken for the safety of plants and accessories, however, the society will not be responsible for damage or loss.

### **HOBBY CONTAINER EXHIBIT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

1. All Hobby Container Exhibits must be registered by completing a green registration form and presenting it to the Registration clerk at the Registration Table on Thursday, Registration Day between 9:00 AM and 5:00PM. **Absolutely no entries after 5:00PM.** All entries must remain in place for the duration of the show.
2. **Show Chairperson must be notified if any entry is removed for the space entered!**

**Preparing an Orchid Exhibit.** The following information, adapted from an article on the Internet ([www.orchidworks.com/showguide/exhibits/poinscal.htm](http://www.orchidworks.com/showguide/exhibits/poinscal.htm)) may help you in preparing an orchid container exhibit.

The American Orchid Society Handbook on Judging and Exhibition provides the following point scale for judging *Groups of Plants or Cut Flowers Arranged for Effect*. This point scale is similar to ones used by horticultural organizations throughout the world and is used for scoring exhibits for show trophies and ribbons.

<b>General Arrangement (Design) which includes Balance, Contrast, Dominance, Proportion, Scale &amp; Rhythm</b>	<b>35pts</b>
<b>Quality of Flowers</b>	<b>35pts</b>
<b>Variety</b>	<b>20pts</b>
<b>Labeling</b>	<b>10pts</b>
<b>T O T A L</b>	<b>100pts</b>

Let's look at these four areas separately and see how they relate to planning an orchid exhibit. Starting from the bottom up...

### **LABELING**

Any AOS judged orchid show requires that all orchids be accurately and legibly labeled. A full ten points of the score is allotted for labeling. There is no excuse for not getting the full ten points. If you are putting in an exhibit for a society where the plants come from many sources be sure you know the name before accepting a plant for consideration. Be sure to check the spelling from a reliable source. Typically, labels are done on poster board cut into strips then the individual labels are cut out. . A piece of floral wire with a "u" bent into it is taped to the back of the label. This light gauge wire can be inserted into a pot or bent to hang from a branch of foliage. For many years black poster board with a gold pen was popular. I have used a stone-gray and black calligraphy marker with good success. Greens, especially olive, are also popular. Just be sure that the labels are discreet and do not draw attention from the orchids themselves. They should be big enough to read but no bigger. The "typical size of a label is approximately ½" to 1" by 2 to 3 inches. I have seen exhibits with bright green labels that looked atrocious. Be sure that you use good penmanship or type the names on a computer and glue them to the poster board back.

### **VARIETY**

Variety, which accounts for 20 points, may sometimes be difficult for the hobbyist to control. If you are a hobbyist putting in your own exhibit you only have your own plants to work with. It is important to know what plants you will have a few days before you actually begin putting in the exhibit. This will give you ample opportunity to solicit additional plants in any areas that are deficient. Variety in an orchid exhibit can be many things: variety of color within a genus (such as many different colored Phals.), variety of flower sizes within a single genus, even variety of colors within a single species. The glossary of the Handbook on Judging and Exhibition defines "variety" as "Both as numbers of different genera and variety within one or a few genera". Unusual species

can add interest to any group of plants. Obviously, judges find evaluating exhibits with a great variety of genera to be easier than evaluating those with variety of other types.

**QUALITY OF FLOWERS.** This pretty much speaks for itself. An exhibit with high quality flowers will almost always score higher than one that may excel in other areas. The exhibit with healthy, well-flowered plants will always catch the judges' eyes. Do not use diseased or otherwise unhealthy orchids. Do not use flowers that are past their prime or not fully opened. Do not, under any circumstances, use any artificial plant material. Do not manipulate flowers in any way (other than staking) to improve their appearance. Choose the highest quality hybrids and best species clones that you can possibly find. Flower quality counts for 35 points.

**GENERAL ARRANGEMENT** This may be the hardest area for the average person to grasp...this is the "artistic" part. It accounts for a full 35 points of the total score. Let's look at the components of "General Arrangement" one by one. As you will see, they all interact with each other. Keep in mind that we are discussing the whole exhibit, not just the flowers. **BALANCE** refers to the *visual weight* of one side of an exhibit compared to the visual weight of the other side. An easy way to evaluate the balance of your exhibit is by squinting your eyes and comparing the visual weight of the left side to that of the right side. The heavier side will appear as a more dominant blob than the less heavy side. A small grouping of light-colored flowers can have the same *visual weight* as a large grouping of dark-colored flowers. A balanced design is satisfying to look at so try to keep your exhibit visually balanced. **CONTRAST** is the difference between various elements in an exhibit. This could be a grouping of pink flowers against a dark foliage background or a small yellow spray *Oncidium* grouped with some large yellow *Cattleyas*. Contrasting elements can be different sizes, colors or forms. Contrast adds interest and texture to an exhibit. It is a good idea however, to use contrast sparingly. Indiscriminate contrasting elements can create a confused appearance that is uneasy to look at. Judges particularly frown upon color contrast. **DOMINANCE** refers to the attention getting qualities of certain elements against the other elements of a design. Dominance can be a result of size, form or color. A few orange *Cattleya* hybrids would be a dominant element in an exhibit of mostly pink and white *Phalaenopsis*. It is easy to unintentionally make our props the dominant element in our effort to make a statement. Keep in mind that we are doing an orchid exhibit...*orchids must predominate*. **PROPORTION** refers to the relationship between elements of a design; a group of dark *Vanda* flowers may be twice as big as the group of lavender *Cattleyas*, the *Vanda* flowers may be half as bright, they may have equal balance. Proportion lends coherence and serves to tie all the elements of a design together. **SCALE** is the specific proportion of size relationships of different elements. **RHYTHM** is the lifeblood of a design. Without rhythm an exhibit is static and lifeless. Rhythm is created by the use of the above components in various combinations to create movement within a design. Repetition of color or form, gradual change in form, size or color and diagonal or serpentine lines are all used to create rhythm in an exhibit. A frequently used device is a pathway to lead the eye into the exhibit and create rhythm and movement. **COLOR FLOW** usually begins with white flowers as the beginning point and then flow up or down (depending upon the display), right or left, with yellow to orange to red on one side; pink to purple on the other side and neutral colors in the middle.

To the novice exhibitor these principals of design may seem ethereal and difficult to grasp. There are no yardsticks with which to measure balance or contrast. Let's stand back and look at the exhibit as a whole and try to see what our overall objective is.

A successful orchid exhibit should be pleasing to look at providing a variety of flowers that may contrast with each other yet are grouped so they work well together. Any props should reflect the show theme yet not dominate the orchids. This exhibit would have rhythm so that the eye would follow the different elements throughout the design. All elements would be balanced and in proportion so that no one thing was dominant. If you squint your eyes and one element is perceived as jarring then it should be removed, subdued or balanced with a similar element. If, as you plan your orchid exhibit, you lack ideas then look to nature. The natural world has a harmony that can always provide inspiration.