

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

A good educational exhibit is much like a good design. It shows distinction, is attractive and catches the eye. It shows good use of elements and principles of design. Is it balanced? Is there contrast? Does it have rhythm? Does the eye travel throughout the exhibit. Space is important – the eye needs to rest - in other words it should be uncluttered.

How many of you are like me and keep poking flowers into a design when you had a better design a few flowers back? Sometimes “Less is more.” Repeat colors - limit your borders to one or two colors.

Follow the scorecard on page 64 of the E&J handbook when planning an exhibit. Choose a subject that will be interesting to the viewers that will be attending the show. Give correct facts. Always include handouts and a background. The background is a good tool for your display. Stand back from your display and give it a critical eye.

Examples might be: A creative design with description of that particular design. The illuminary is always an eye catcher. Show different ways to incorporate the light in a design. The vibratile is another example. It invites participation of the viewer.

Some clubs include small gardens in the show. That can be an educational exhibit. Be sure to label plants and have those handouts -perhaps the source for purchasing the plants or how and when to plant them. It is an educational exhibit after all.

Plant societies are a good source for educational exhibits. Parks and Recreation Departments are another source. It is a good way for them to inform the community what is available. Create an exhibit that will make you proud and display it in a prominent spot.

Nancy Annis
Flower Shows Chair

MASTER DESIGN CLASS SEPTEMBER 22, 2008 6:30 pm at E & J School

All those wanting to continue the study of floral design, not just judges, are invited to attend and participate in the Master Design Class, Sept. 22, if space is available. If interested, send the \$15.00 registration fee to Jo Ann Graham when registering for E & J School. If the class is full, your fee will be returned.

At this class we will be studying creative abstract design. Each participant should be prepared to construct an abstract design of their choice providing the materials. One can review the E & J Handbook starting on p. 354 regarding abstract designs. Further information can be acquired at the Design Study Clinic on Tuesday morning at the Convention or contact Juanita Wilkins at 419-738-3345 or jwilkins@oagc.org.

WETLAND INVADERS

There is an invasion going on in our Ohio Wetlands. These natural areas are sanctuaries for many rare plant species and, in many ways, serve as living museums. Non-native invasive plants lack natural predators to control their spread. This can result in displacement of the native species, often allowing the non-native invader to become the dominant vegetation.

Early detection and eradication are crucial to managing non-native invasive aquatic plants. The main culprits to watch out for are:

- Common reed grass
- Purple loosestrife
- Narrow-leaved cattail
- Hybrid cattail
- Glossy buckthorn
- Flowering rush

Purple loosestrife is frequently used in the home landscape, providing a striking, long blooming shot of color. The temptation to allow it to remain in our yards may result in damage to wetland areas miles from our homes. Several of the other plant varieties listed are sold to the backyard water gardener. Please dispose of unwanted plants properly, so as to curtail their spread.

Babs Sabick
OAGC President

PUBLICITY REMINDER

We have really enjoyed the wonderful publicity books entered into contest, and we encourage more clubs to enter the current year's book by December 15. Take a few minutes now to review the OAGC Handbook to check whether you are meeting the criteria. There may still be time to “catch up” and upgrade your club's publicity!

Keep this point in mind. The contest's purpose is to be an incentive to best publicize your club's service projects and other activities—not to compete with other OAGC clubs. After all, each club has an equal chance of achieving a superior score!

Even if your club chooses not to enter the publicity book contest, we hope you are keeping a detailed scrapbook to document its history—an invaluable gift to future members.

Nancie Cochensparger