



MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS

ENTERING A SOCIETY EXHIBIT IN AN ORCHID SHOW

Introduction

Orchid shows throughout Mid-America use the MAOC Show Schedule as the basis for their individual society show schedule. Therefore, first rule of business is **READ THE SHOW SCHEDULE** – even though the society has entered plants in a previous show, some of the rules may have changed.

Preparing plants to be entered in the Society Exhibit

- From your collection, select plants in flower that can be used in the society exhibit*
- List plants with complete name – include cross for hybrids, and any previous awards to the plant
- Label plant container with name of exhibitor, preferably on bottom of container
- If you do not wish to have your plant(s) AOS judged, place label on the plant(s) that says, “**Not for AOS Judging**” – all plants in a show are considered eligible for AOS judging unless otherwise marked
- Make sure plants are clean, free of any type bugs, and in the best presentable condition
- *Keep with your design theme – there is no need to use every plant sent if they don’t add to the design – society members should never take this personally)

Registration and Classification Procedure for Ribbon Judging

- Obtain your **Exhibit (Space) Number** and **Exhibitor Number(s)** at the Registration Desk – you will need to enter this information on each **Entry Tag**.
- **Each exhibitor** in a society exhibit has an **individual number** – for ease of entry, this can be your space number followed by a, b, c, etc. Be sure to keep a master list containing the name, address, telephone number, and email address for each exhibitor.
- **Class #** - for **each plant** entered in an exhibit, fill out a separate **Entry Tag**. Use the show schedule and the most current edition of the *Mid-America Classification List*, available at the Registration Desk, to determine appropriate class, and record this on the Entry Tag. Current edition is dated **July 1, 2017**, and incorporates changes made by various taxonomists since previous edition. Names of the various genera and their appropriate classes are in accordance with registration by the Royal Horticultural Society. (Note: Enter plant in **first** applicable class; judges may choose to move the plant to another class that has not already been judged-cannot move to class that has already been judged.)
- **Complete the Entry Tag (in duplicate)** and return to the show registration desk where a **tag number** will be assigned. One copy of the tag remains with the registration team; the other you physically attach to the appropriate plant. Do not indicate anywhere on the tag the name of the owner of the plant. See attached sample entry tag.
- **Labeling is extremely important**. In the shows where tags are still used, electronic name tags are NOT generated. Be sure you have your own tag for each plant in the exhibit – names should be clearly **printed** to enable judges to locate the plant during ribbon judging of each class.

ENTRY TAG FOR RIBBON JUDGING - SAMPLE

O

Class #
From Show Schedule

Tag #
Assigned at Registration

Owner #
Exhibitor of Plant

Exhibit #
Location/Space #

Name

Registered name of plant – includes clonal name and award, if applicable

Cross

Pod parent

X

Pollen Parent

Award

1

2

3

JC

Spec.

Notes:

- Enter plant in first applicable class
- If plant is a species, write the word "species" where it says cross
- If plant is a hybrid, list parents as registered in *Sander's*
- Leave award information blank
- After Tag # is assigned at registration, copies will be separated; **white copy** will go into judging folder; **yellow copy** is attached by exhibitor to entered plant
- **It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to correctly enter the plants.** Judges may choose to reclassify a plant during ribbon judging if they can, but they are not obligated to do so. **Take time to enter your plants correctly and legibly.**



Staging the Society Exhibit

- Exhibits are judged on four criteria: General Arrangement – 35 points; Quality of Flowers – 35 points; Variety – 20 points; and Labeling – 10 points. Good color flow is critical to the design of the exhibit, with like colors grouped to the extent possible.
- Accessories may be used if they enhance the exhibit, but – **ORCHIDS MUST DOMINATE THE EXHIBIT**
- It is helpful to have different heights within the exhibit; plants placed on the floor are often overlooked simply because the judges can't see them.
- Lights and an appropriate backdrop often add to the overall appearance of the exhibit; use of these is encouraged.

Other

- Society members who have agreed to setup and take down the exhibit should have a copy of the society roster and/or master list of exhibitors with them. This is extremely helpful when a plant receives an AOS award – the show chair knows who to contact for additional information.
- If no one from the society will be available during judging, make sure the Show Chair has a copy of your list of exhibitors and their contact information. This is especially helpful when time comes to return the plants to the exhibit in the event one or more has been pulled for AOS judging.

Summary

- **READ THE SHOW SCHEDULE** – if in doubt about a particular class, ask members at the registration desk. Also, there is usually a computer available to look up parentage of hybrids and to verify all plant names are spelled correctly. Don't be afraid to ask for help!
- Responsibility for entering a plant in the right class rests with the **exhibitor**-not with those setting up the exhibit nor with those working registration.
- Rule of thumb – enter plant in first applicable class. There is a logical reason for this: Judges have the option to move plants to a different class if they feel the one in which plant is initially entered is incorrect – but – they can only move **DOWN** – a plant cannot be moved to a class that has already been judged

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