STANDARDS AND RESOURCES FOR ACHIEVING JUDGING COMPETENCY

Part A (“Resources for Judges” on aos.org lists references to resources to supplement this list)

Skills Judges Need

Goals for Judges’ Education

* Participation
* Research and study
* Analysis skills
* Judgment/reaching conclusions
* Communication: both oral and written
* Teamwork
* Leadership

1. First Year Student
2. The Handbook on judging
3. Expectations and requirements for students and associates
4. Ethics and conduct
5. Awards and what they are granted for (judging criteria)
6. The score sheet and judging scales
7. Judging Teams
8. How to evaluate & comment on an orchid or display
9. Who can nominate?
10. Whose score counts?
11. Research a species/grex, parents, previous awards, and its hybrids
12. How to use *OrchidPro*
13. How to use other databases including the World Checklist of Selected Plant Families; RHS Orchid Registry search
14. Further develop a personal library of books and journals for research
15. Award Descriptions
16. Proper order in descriptions
17. Form
18. Surface locations terms: apex, distal, proximal, inferior, superior, etc.)
19. Substance/texture (avoid good, average or typical!)
20. Botanical descriptions
21. Cultural award descriptions
22. Quality and other award descriptions
23. SITF (Species Identification Task Force): what awards go there; requirements for data & photos
24. Measurement (Handbook 7.5.1, 7.5.2)
25. What does the Handbook say? (Handbook 7.5.2)
26. Practical considerations
27. Basic concepts
28. What makes a good flower
29. Wow factor
30. Lateral vs vertical awards
31. Genus, species, grex, clone/cultivar nomenclature
32. Form
    1. flower/plant parts
    2. Floriferousness
    3. Arrangement
    4. Stem
33. Color
34. Descriptions vs photographs
35. ‘Color’ words to use or not to use
36. Substance & texture and how it affects color
37. Create a PowerPoint presentation (initial talk could be recent awards to a group with value added on species/grex with comparisons, parents, trends for awards to that species or grex—not more than 30 minutes
38. Additional things for students to do in first year
39. Practice *OrchidPro* and writing descriptions at home
40. Listen to at least four AOS webinars
41. Attend an out-of-centre judging/seminar if possible
42. Second Year Student
43. Exhibits
44. Understudy judging exhibits with an accredited judge who explains as they go along
45. Judging exhibits: what does the Handbook say?
46. Exhibit Design
47. Exhibit Awards
48. Exhibit descriptions
49. Role of ribbon judging team captain; instructions to a ribbon judging team
50. Measurement & description of more complicated genera such as *Stanhopea*, *Mormodes*, etc.
51. Nomenclature
52. General information
53. Concepts: accepted species, varieties & forma; synonyms; horticultural varieties and how they appear in plant names; genus, epithet, dates after names, clone/cultivar
54. Taxonomy and related concepts
55. The term DNA sequencing; clade
56. Basis for current classification system into species/genera
57. How changes affect judging: for ribbon judging classes or for AOS judging
58. Ploidy and Judging
59. Terms: aneuploidy, diploid, triploid, tetraploid, polyploid, chromosome count
60. Effect on judging flowers
61. How to recognize a tetraploid? *just looking it* or NOT; chromosome count
62. 2nd & 3rd Year Student
63. Major Genera Homework/Presentations
64. *Phalaenopsis*
65. *Cattleya* alliance
66. Paphs, Phrags and Cyps
67. *Vanda* alliance
68. *Dendrobium*
69. *Bulbophyllum*
70. *Oncidiinae*
71. *Cymbidium* alliance
72. *Catasetinae*
73. Pleurothallids
74. *Masdevallia & Dracula*
75. *Lycaste & Maxillaria*
76. Angraecoids
77. *Stanhopea* & related genera
78. Other miscellaneous genera
79. Things to do in 2nd & 3rd year Student
80. Analytical PowerPoint presentations, breeding trends, future trends: one per year
81. Attend out-of-region conferences or seminars: *take notes*!!!
82. Hopefully attend an AOS Members Meeting and meet more of the judging world
83. Demonstrate via presentations & homework the Four Steps in judging: Research, Analysis, Judgment & Communication
84. Late 3rd Year Student
85. Be a Ribbon judging team leader (with a mentor accredited judge on the team)
86. Get ready to be an AOS team leader as an Associate Judge (how to conduct; effective leadership; *RESPONSIBILITY* for accurate descriptions
87. Associate Judge
88. Continued study in species and hybrids; refine team leader skills for ribbon & AOS judging
89. Complete an *advanced*, in-depth project to demonstrate competency in research, analysis, judgment, conclusions, communications (hopefully in a publishable format with full reference lists, attribution of quoted or summarized information, email or verbal communication with out-of-center experts)
90. Understudy a Judging Chair at more than one show (provide instructions to judges, assist in making up teams & how to balance them, & *Review Descriptions!*
91. Accredited/Certified Judges responsibilities & continuing education
92. Read & research
93. Attend judgings, seminars and conferences both in and out of region
94. Present talks: it keeps you fresh and your skills up to standard!
95. Share your knowledge via mentoring, talks, and publishing articles
96. Travel including international shows and tours of greenhouses and orchids in the wild