

Ribbon Judging as an Evaluation Tool

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Persons not involved in the AOS Judging program but who are “knowledgeable and experienced orchidists” (*Handbook on Judging and Exhibition*, p. 75, 3.9.1) can and should routinely be invited to participate as show (ribbon) judges in conjunction with AOS judging personnel. Already, judges for many nonAOS shows are selected this way. Interaction between the two groups of judges benefits both: In addition to the educational value, firsthand judging experience will help prospects decide whether they have an interest in pursuing the judging discipline further, and opportunities for further observation will help the AOS judges on the team in evaluating these persons as student judge material.

Some show judging chairs who are already aware that ribbon judges do not have to be AOS judges, assign the ribbon judging to entirely nonAOS-judging personnel.

Again, the separation from the working venue of the AOS judges additionally denies prospective candidates the learning advantage of interacting with the AOS judges, and lessens the opportunities for performance and knowledge evaluation by their AOS-judge team mates.

Perhaps not aware that this provision is in the *AOS Handbook on Judging and Exhibition*, some personnel within the judging program tend to relegate nonAOS-judging persons to roles as clerks. But since clerks often are held to the seen-but-not-heard rule, again valuable educational and informational opportunities are lost.

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