

On Tuesday, March 28, the flower show committee had a final wrap-up meeting.

Expenses for the show were \$4682.96, which was \$317.04 under the original \$5000 allotted by the GCS. An extra \$500 was donated by Sandhill Cove, and \$150 by the GC Circles, for a total of \$650. In all \$967.04 was returned to the Garden Club. Six hundred twenty-five people attended the show, and the show received 95+ points from the judges' evaluation committee making us eligible to apply for an award from FFGC.

There were 48 designs entered, 12 Botanical artistic designs, two educational exhibits, and 16 photographs. Of the 320 pre-registered horticulture entries, 226 were brought in and displayed. In all this made the show quite large and of varied interest. Comments from the judges and the public were quite positive and the show was well received.

Each committee member turned in a final report stating what they felt went well and adding suggestions as to how to make improvements. I am including some of these suggestions in this report. The comments of the committee will be available in the final book that is kept in the storage unit and hopefully will be helpful to the next FS team.

Overall Comments from FS Chair, Judges, and Committee Members:

Read and reread Handbook for Flower Shows. For clarification contact a judge. The Handbook is available for free on the FFGC website. Every one can download the pages that apply to them and have the same resources the FS chair has.

Every committee chair must know exactly what her job is and sticks to her own job. Ask questions whenever necessary for clarification. Don't try to do someone else's job. If jobs overlap, be sure each person understands the overlap and what is expected from each person.

Try to get an "expert" in each section. For example, a master gardener in horticulture classification and a judge in design classification.

Consider switching tri-folds to 36" high rather than the 42" and 48" high that has been used in the past. It is difficult for the designer to fill the space and impossible to replace, even online, as most companies have stopped making them.

Encourage GCS to offer Design classes or workshops explaining the types of designs prior to the flower show. A workshop in horticulture may also be helpful.

Talk to people who have participated in previous shows to get help. They are invaluable.

Consider having exhibitors bring their own containers for cut flowers. This would save much time in entering. (The containers would be of a certain type or types to be determined)

The format used this year for entering horticulture worked well and avoided long lines forming..

There was a table set up outside to "clean up" plants before going through entry. That worked well. Review the format as stated in final book.

Have horticulture and design entries brought in as separately as possible to cut down on activity in main room.

Horticulture should have another Class titled Any other entry not listed above.

The plant name must be underlined on the entry cards.

The planning and execution of the FS was a wonderful, if at times trying, experience but one that leaves me with a deep sense of satisfaction. I am proud to have worked with so many dedicated and talented garden club members and encourage everyone to do the same.

Respectfully submitted.

Mary Neal, FS Chair, 2023