

Information on BCCGC Flower Arranging Workshops

Hello to Interested Individuals and Clubs!

Just to clarify some information:

Several years ago BC Council of Garden Clubs (BCCGC) formed 2 standing committees, the Floral Design Judges Committee and the Horticultural Judges Committee.

The projects of the Floral Design Judges Committee include:

- Creating the BCCGC Floral Design Judging and Exhibiting Standards Manual.
- Developing and rolling out the Floral Design Judges course.

Now we are working on developing and rolling out a series of Flower Arranging workshops in order to create interest in Floral Design as a hobby. So far we have developed and are rolling out **Level 1: Introduction to Traditional Design** and **Level 2: Introduction to Contemporary Design**. We are in the process of developing and rolling out Levels 3 - 8. The workshops will be taught by BCCGC Certified Floral Design Judges who have been taught, approved and assigned by the committee.

The idea of the program is that all students are taught the same material, the same way and are given certificates from BCCGC for each Level. Each level is a pre-requisite for the next level. Eventually the BCCGC Floral Design Judges students will be required to take all the levels prior to taking the Judges Course. And, hopefully, possibly, eventually the program will include an Instructors course and a Demonstrators course similar to what NAFAS has in England.

The goals of this program are to:

- Encourage interested people to learn Floral Design in an economical, fun and friendly atmosphere;
- Give students the confidence to enter exhibits in shows;
- Teach the students:
 - The BCCGC 'rules' for each of the design types in the Floral Design Manual
 - The Elements and Principles of Design etc.
 - Have consistent levels of knowledge so there are less 'skill gaps' among Floral Designers (all students are taught the same material, the same way and are given Certificates from BCCGC for each Level)
 - Give Floral Design more exposure to more people
 - Hopefully create more Floral Design clubs in the future

The only way this program is going to work is if the information given is consistent throughout the province no matter who is teaching it or where it is being taught.

- It is very helpful if the workshops are taught by two people, especially for larger groups.
- The courses must be approved by BCCGC for insurance purposes and to qualify for Certification and acceptance into the next level.
- The students must register through the 1st Vice President of BC Council of Garden Clubs who will organize the workshops, instructors and workbooks, as student requests are received, where and when needed.
- The cost of the course must be covered by the students of that course not by BCCGC, therefore the more students to share the cost, the less each student has to pay.
- The students are responsible to bring their own plant materials, supplies, containers etc.

Other projects being worked on by the Floral Design Judges Committee are:

- Phase 2 of the BCCGC Floral Design Judging and Exhibiting Standards Manual which will include more pictures of Design types.
- Creating workbooks to go with each of the Flower Arranging Workshop Levels in order to make sure that the information taught in each Level is consistent and to make sure that each student is given the same information no matter where they take the course or who is teaching it. The pictures will also be helpful as teaching guides and examples for students to follow when they are learning a new design style.

If you have any questions or would like more information about any of these projects, please contact me at 1vicepresident@bcgardenclubs.com

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