**Some notes taken at FSS Course III:**

**DESIGN**

Definition of color – what the eye sees reflected off an object

Light is the reflection of an object – no color without light

Red is reflected off object, as other colors are absorbed…

Texture – Shiny, rough, smooth, glossy, dull, soft or hard need contrast

Effects of texture – too many textures give a busy look, lack of dominance

Pattern – designed formed by solids and spaces between them

Size – visual dimensions, illusion and a comparison

A frame of reference determines dimensions to work in. The space you have to work within, height, width and depth. Too small or too large, would be very chaotic, like it wasn’t planned well.

An example would be a table with a flower design – a third to a fourth of table size can be used for a flower arrangement design. Using too much space would overwhelm; not enough space used would look unplanned.

The 6 principles organize the 8 elements. Mention each of the principles on the point scoring sheet, along with the element effected.

**HORTICULTURE**

**Terrariums** are best to be exhibited with lids off, to allow for better viewing. Accessories permitted.

A **dish garden** is a miniature landscape in an open container – can be any shape, does not have to be a dish. May include accessories, such as paths, figurines, rocks, etc. to be in scale with planting.

A **planter** is a group of plants, not a landscape, only plants allowed, no accessories permitted.

**Trough** is a miniature landscape in a container such as stone or hypertufa that withstands year-round outdoor conditions. Container may be dominant. Only natural accessories permitted.

**Fairy Garden** is not an official NGC term. Judge these using same judging considerations as for dish gardens.

For combination plantings list plant names on an index card attached to entry tag. On tag write, “See attached”.

The **Aboreal section** of a flower show is to be exhibits that are cut specimens only. Do not exhibit container grown plants in the aboreal section.

Deduct points if **conifers** do not have an apical tip. Branches should be at maturity. Cones present will be a plus.

Did you realize that ginko is a conifer?

Bonsai are to be judged as a container foliage plant (as we are not trained in bonsai judging).

It is best not exhibit evergreen specimens in bottles, but laid on table as they tend to fall over. Clerks may lift branches for judges to examine both sides.

Plant leaves may be groomed to remove damage portions using pinking shears, etc. and sculpted to leaf shape.

Do not remove insignificant flowers from foliage container plants to exhibit…as this indicates plant maturity.

If using moss covering in combination planters, if you use moss, as a soil enhancement, it must be alive and growing. Aquarium gravel, wood mulch, etc. is fine to use.

Container plants may be staked, but stake should be not higher than top of the plant. Use of ties or clips to stalk should be small and not obviously noticeable. Perhaps spray paint your clips and stake to match!

**The Golden Ratio**: Plant material ratio should be 1:1.6 to container height. Example – a 10 inch high container should have 16 inches plant material that is 16 inches high.

No plant identification tag – minus 5 points.