



THE AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY
AWARDS MANUAL

(REVISED JUNE 2017)

I. AWARDS* OVERVIEW

Category	Award	Nominations Due Date	Selection Process	Selection Due Date	Award Type
III Merit	Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit	3/15	Appointed/Designated Committee	4/1	Wood Plaque
	Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Hosta		Awardees' Selection	4/15	
	Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer	3/15	Appointed/Designated Committee	4/1	Wood Plaque
	Eunice Fisher Distinguished Merit Hosta		Awardees' Selection	4/15	
IV Benedict Garden Performance	Honorable Mention	2/15 (year of vote)	Benedict Garden Judges Vote	4/1 (following year)	Certificate
	Award of Merit				Certificate
	Performance Medal				AHS Designed Medal
V National Convention Hosta Show	AHS President's Exhibitors Award		Hosta Show Judges	National Convention	Show Ribbon & Acrylic Plaque
	AHS Sweepstakes (<i>most blue ribbons</i>)		Hosta Show Chair or Designate Tally		
	AHS Kevin Vaughn Youth Achievement		Hosta Show Judges		Show Ribbon & Various Item / Sponsor Choice
	AHS Best Seedling or Sport				
	AHS Best Container Grown Hosta				
	AHS Best Trough/Container Garden Arranged for Effect				
	Best Educational Display		Flower Show Judges		
	Artistic Design				
VI Contribution	Shirley & Van Wade Convention Auction Contributor Award (highest total earnings from a single donator's auction contribution(s))		National Convention Auction Chair	National Convention	Acrylic Plaque
	AHS On-Line Auction:		On-line Auction Chair Tally	4/15	Certificate & Non-wood Plaque
	• Outstanding Auction Contributor (donor with highest revenue)				
	• Top Choice Donation (highest bid)				
	• Meritorious Donation (hosta earning >\$1000)				
• Donation of Distinction (hosta earning >\$500 to <\$1000)					

(Summary Table continued on next page)

Category	Award	Nominations Due Date	Selection Process	Selection Due Date	Award Type
VII Activity	AHS Photography Contest:	≈10/1	<i>The Hosta Journal</i> Photo Editor & selected committee.	3/1	Certificate
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1 – Best Hosta Close-up • Category 2 – Best Picture of an Entire Mature Hosta Clump • Category 3 – Best Landscape Picture Showing Multiple Clumps • Category 4 – Best Landscape Picture Involving Hosta • Category 5 – Artistic Impression 				
	AHS Best New Journal Author (optional)		<i>The Hosta Journal</i> and On-line Journal Editors plus two selected others	5/1	Certificate
	Local Society Newsletter	2/1	AHS Newsletter Coordinator & selected committee.	5/1	Certificate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Local Society Newsletter and Editor • Best Local Society Newsletter Author 					
VIII Service	Presidential National Citation		AHS President	3/1	Certificate
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifetime Service • Special Project • Hosta Enrichment 				
	Presidential Regional-Local Level	3/1	Local Society Selection (≈ two nominees/yr)		Certificate
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of Appreciation ** 				
AHS Executive Committee Award(s)	5/1	AHS Secretary		AHS Designed Pin	
AHS Presidential Plaque				5/1	Wood Plaque

*Award intended for delivery at National Convention is mailed to recipient if not in attendance.

** Certificate of Appreciation is mailed to local Hosta Society for their delivery to their nominated recipient(s).

II. AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY (AHS) AWARDS

The AHS has established a number of awards designed to recognize member achievement and to encourage activities that promote the genus *Hosta*. The awards fall into several categories including Merit Awards, Benedict Garden Performance Awards, National Convention Hosta Show Awards, Contribution Awards, Activity Awards, and Service Recognition Awards. These awards are sponsored and provided by the AHS or, with the approval of the VP Awards & Honors, may be sponsored and provided by regional, local, or other organizations associated with the genus *Hosta*.

A. ROLE OF VICE PRESIDENT – AWARDS & HONORS

The conduct of policies and procedures of the AHS with respect to Awards and Honors is the responsibility of the Vice President – Awards & Honors (VP Awards & Honors). This position is elected by a vote of the membership of the Society and is responsible to maintain a record of all AHS sponsored awards and the rules and requirements for each, and assures that all rules and requirements are satisfied as specified by the Society. The VP Awards & Honors is also responsible for presentation of AHS awards at the National Convention or at other designated events as well as for generating publicity for the awards in *The Hosta Journal*, on the AHS Website, or in other AHS Publications as designated by the Board of Directors.

In support of these responsibilities, the VP Awards & Honors may, with the approval of the President, create committees to assist in the conduct of the requirements of the office. Any member with questions or concerns regarding the AHS Awards & Honors is encouraged to contact the VP Awards & Honors.

B. AHS AWARD SPONSORSHIP

AHS awards may be sponsored by The AHS or, with the approval of the VP Awards & Honors, may be sponsored and provided by regional, local, or other organizations associated with the genus *Hosta*.

Organizations wishing to sponsor an AHS award should contact the VP Awards & Honors. Sponsorship is for a period of three to five years as agreed upon between the VP Awards & Honors and the sponsoring organization. The award being sponsored may be anything – plaque, trophy, bowl, etc. – that the sponsoring organization decides upon but the type of award to be presented must have the prior approval of the VP Awards & Honors. All costs associated with the award will be the responsibility of the sponsor. The VP Awards & Honors will set a price range for all sponsored awards. Sponsorships are renewable. Award sponsors will be recognized at the time of the presentation of the award, in *The Hosta Journal*, and on the AHS Website.

The VP Award & Honors will coordinate with sponsoring organizations to assure that awards are made available at the designated time of presentation.

III. MERIT AWARDS

A. ALEX J. SUMMERS DISTINGUISHED MERIT AWARD & AJS DISTINGUISHED MERIT HOSTA

These awards were established in 1982 in honor of one of the founding members and first president of the AHS, Alex J. Summers of Bridgeville, Delaware.



Alex J. Summers (AJS) Distinguished Merit Award - This award is the highest award offered by and sponsored by the AHS. It is awarded to a member of the Society in recognition of having given outstanding service to the AHS, the development of the genus *Hosta* or both. The recipient receives a large wooden plaque. The sponsor of this award is the AHS.

Alex J. Summers (AJS) Distinguished Merit Hosta - This award is for a hosta of distinguished merit and is selected by the recipient of the AJS Distinguished Merit Award. The merit of the selected *Hosta* is detailed in the acceptance address of the AJS Distinguished Merit Award recipient and the name of the *Hosta* appears on the recipient's plaque.

AJS Distinguished Merit Award Process and Procedures - The recipient is selected by a special award committee comprised of the VP Awards & Honors, the immediate Past President, and the two most recent AJS Distinguished Merit Award recipients. The VP Awards & Honors chairs the selection committee. In determining the recipient, the individual's entire body of service is evaluated. Elevation of the genus *Hosta* is a valuable consideration. Contributions in leadership, spirit, enthusiasm and commitment to the AHS are also important.

The recipient is selected from nominations received from the membership. A Call for Nominations is advertised in the last Hosta Journal each year and nominations must be submitted in writing to the VP Awards & Honors by March 15. Nominations should detail the achievement and contributions that make the nominee worthy of consideration for this prestigious award.

The VP Awards & Honors collects and submits all nominations to committee members. Committee members may also nominate other individuals if they choose. The VP Awards & Honors, as committee chair, votes only if there is a tie. The decision of the committee is final.

The recipient is notified by the VP Awards & Honors. The winner selects a *Hosta* to be designate the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Hosta. The *Hosta* selection is communicated to the VP Awards & Honors for inclusion on award plaque. The award is presented at the National Convention and the recipient presents a short acceptance speech, which includes their selected *Hosta*. This speech is to be presented in written form to the VP Awards & Honors prior to its deliverance at the convention. The VP Awards & Honors forwards the winner name, their selected *Hosta* and photos of both along with a copy of the speech to *The Hosta Journal* editor for publication. The recipient is also acknowledged on the AHS Website.

B. EUNICE FISHER DISTINGUISHED HYBRIDIZER MERIT AWARD & DISTINGUISHED MERIT HOSTA AWARD

These awards were established in 2006 in honor of a pioneer hosta hybridizer and founding member of the AHS, Eunice Fisher of Oshkosh, Wisconsin.



Eunice Fisher (EF) Distinguished Hybridizer Merit Award - This award is the highest award offered by the AHS in recognition of outstanding achievement in hosta hybridizing. It is awarded to a member of the Society who has truly advanced the genus *Hosta* through hybridization. The recipient receives a large wooden plaque. The sponsor of the award is the AHS. This honor may be awarded posthumously.

Eunice Fisher (EF) Distinguished Merit Hosta Award - This award is for the hosta that the recipient of the EF Distinguished Hybridizer Merit Award selects from among his/her own hosta hybrids as the recipient's favorite. The hosta selected is announced in the recipient's acceptance address and the name of the hosta appears on the recipient's plaque. The sponsor of the award is the AHS.

EF Distinguished Merit Award Process and Procedures

The recipient is selected by a special award committee comprised of the AHS VP Awards & Honors, the International Registrar – Genus *Hosta*, the two most recent EF Distinguished Hybridizer Merit Award recipients, and a hybridizer appointed by the President for a two year term. The appointed hybridizer should have extensive hybridizing experience. The VP Awards & Honors chairs the committee.

In determining the recipient, the committee should evaluate the individual's hybridizing accomplishments. The individual should be widely acknowledged as a hybridizer and should have created a significant number of registered hostas (excluding sports). The quality of the entire body of the hybridizer's work should be considered rather than a few individual plants. Advances in hosta cultivars with color combinations, leaf shapes, flower development and petiole colors are acclaimed. The nominee should also have demonstrated an advanced knowledge of the genus *Hosta* and a willingness to share that information with others.

The recipient is selected from nominations received from the membership. A Call for Nominations is advertised in the last *Hosta Journal* each year and nominations must be submitted in writing to the VP Awards & Honors by April 1. Nominations should detail the achievement and contributions that the nominee has made in the field of hybridizing hostas.

The VP Awards & Honors collects and submits all nominations to committee members. Committee members may also nominate other individuals if they choose. The VP Awards & Honors, as committee chair, votes only if there is a tie. The decision of the committee is final.

The recipient is notified by the VP Awards & Honors. The winner selects a *Hosta* to be designate the EF Distinguished Merit Hosta. The *Hosta* selection is communicated to the VP Awards & Honors for inclusion on award plaque. The award is presented at the National Convention and the recipient presents a short acceptance speech, which includes their selected *Hosta*. This speech is to be presented in written form to the VP Awards & Honors prior to its deliverance at the convention. The

VP Awards & Honors forwards the winner name, their selected *Hosta* and photos of both along with a copy of the speech to *The Hosta Journal* editor for publication. The recipient is also acknowledged on the AHS Website.

IV. BENEDICT GARDEN PERFORMANCE AWARDS

The Benedict Garden Performance Awards were established in 2003 by the AHS, is designed to recognize hostas that demonstrate superior garden performance – garden worthy plants that have



passed the test of time, that exhibit cultural superiority, and that can be appreciated in the landscape both from a distance and under close observation. These awards are named in honor of the late Dr. Ralph H. (Herb) Benedict, one of the great pioneers of improving the genus *Hosta* through hybridization, a long time promoter of hostas as the premier shade perennial and a strong supporter of the AHS.

The system provides for three levels of awards and winners of the awards are determined by the vote of AHS Garden Judges. The awards are presented annually at the National Convention to the originators of the winning cultivars. **The awards are limited to registered cultivars only** and must have been registered for at least three years.

The AHS sponsors three tiers of Benedict Garden Performance Awards:

- Honorable Mention
- Award of Merit
- Performance Medal

The Awards System - While the system may at first seem complicated, it is really quite simple. When the originator/hybridizer or registrant of a cultivar determines that his or her cultivar has sufficient distribution across the regions of AHS so that a large number of judges will be able to see it actually performing in gardens, he or she may then decide to nominate the hosta cultivar for consideration for Garden Performance Awards. Please note the nominated cultivar must have been registered for at least three years in order to be considered for these awards.

The originator/hybridizer or registrant may nominate as many as seven cultivars each year and nominations will be due in to the Garden Performance Chair by February 15 of each year. The Board of Directors of AHS may also nominate seven cultivars each year at its annual Fall Board meeting. The cultivars nominated each year then become eligible to receive the Garden Performance Awards as provided by the rules of the system.

- **Benedict Garden Performance Honorable Mention Award (HM)** is the first award that a newly nominated cultivar becomes eligible to receive. Once nominated, a cultivar goes on the Benedict Garden Performance Honorable Mention ballot and remains eligible to receive this award for five years. If during this five-year period, it does not win an HM Award, it is removed from the ballot. In order to win, it must receive a minimum of 10 votes from judges from at least two regions. A maximum of 15 HM awards may be awarded each year to the cultivars receiving the most votes. In case of a tie for the final spot, all tied cultivars will receive the award. If a cultivar wins an HM award, it is then becomes eligible for the next tier of awards, the Benedict Garden Performance Award of Merit.

- All HM award winners are automatically added to the **Benedict Garden Performance Award of Merit (AM)** ballot and remain eligible to receive this award for five years. In order to receive this award, the cultivar must receive a minimum of 10 votes from judges in at least three of the AHS regions. A maximum of 10 AM awards may be awarded each year to the cultivars receiving the most votes. In case of a tie for the final spot, all tied cultivars will receive the award.



- The top garden performance award is the **Benedict Garden Performance Medal (PM)**. For a *Hosta* to receive this prestigious award, it must truly be an outstanding garden performer across the country as evidenced by it having already received both the HM and the AM awards. Once a cultivar has received an AM award, it is added to the ballot for the Benedict Garden Performance Medal and remains eligible for the medal for five years. One *hosta* will receive the Benedict Medal each year. In case of a tie for the final spot, all tied cultivars will receive the award.

Procedures for Nomination of Cultivars - The following rules and procedures apply to nominations for these awards:

1. The *Hosta* cultivar must have been registered for at least three years prior to the year of nomination. Under this rule, nominations made by February 15, 2005 for inclusion on the 2005 ballot must be for cultivars registered in 2002 or earlier. A *Hosta* cultivar is to be considered registered on the date of approval of the registration by the Registrar.
2. Only the originator/hybridizer or registrant (as indicated in the registration data), or the Board of Directors may nominate a cultivar. The Board of Directors will only nominate cultivars whose originator and registrant are deceased.
3. Each originator/hybridizer or registrant may nominate a maximum of seven cultivars each year.
4. The originator or registrant must submit nominations in writing to the Garden Performance Chair by no later than February 15 of each year (date of postmark) for inclusion on that year's ballot. The Benedict Garden Performance Awards Nomination Form, provided in **Appendix C** may be reproduced and used to list nominations or the originator may provide the information, complete and legible, in letter form. The nomination should list the name of the cultivar and the year of registration. The Garden Performance Chair will acknowledge all nominations within three weeks of receipt. The Chair should be contacted immediately for any nominations not acknowledged within three weeks.
5. The Board of Directors will make nominations at its fall board meeting for inclusion on the next year's ballot. The Board may nominate a maximum of seven cultivars each year. The VP Judging and Exhibitions of AHS will then provide the list of nominations in writing to the Garden Performance Chair no later than two weeks following the conclusion of the board meeting.
6. A *hosta* cultivar can be nominated only once for Benedict Garden Performance awards.

In determining if and when to place a hosta cultivar in nomination for Benedict Garden Performance awards, the originator and the Board of Directors should take into account the distribution of the hosta, how widespread it is grown, as well as the quality of the cultivar. Distribution is very important since garden judges will be located throughout the country and can only vote for hostas they have seen growing in their own regions and at National Convention gardens. A hosta that is not widely grown is not likely to receive enough votes for an award regardless of its quality. This makes timing of the nomination critical and cultivars should not be nominated before they are well distributed.

REMEMBER that a cultivar can only be nominated once for Garden Performance Awards.

Garden Judges' Requirements and Procedures -

- **Garden Judge Qualifications** - In order to become an AHS Garden Judge, a person must have the following qualifications:
 1. Must be a member of the AHS for a minimum of three years.
 2. Must have an extensive demonstrated knowledge of hostas.
 3. Must have a demonstrated ability to visit a representative cross-section of gardens in his or her Region.

To apply to become a garden judge, complete the Garden Judge Application Form and send it to the Garden Performance Chair. The form is provided in **Appendix C**. Appointments are for five year terms. Garden judges may serve unlimited multiple terms provided they meet the requirements stated above and reapply at the end of each term. The Garden Performance Chair will be the final authority on all appointments for AHS Garden Judge.

- **Limitation of Number of Garden Judges per Region** - The number of garden judges is limited by region. No more than 15% of any Region's members may serve as garden judges at any given time. It is desirable to maintain the maximum level of garden judges in each region to insure that the vote reflects a representative sample of cultivar performance across the country for hostas winning Benedict Garden Performance awards.

Balloting Procedures - The Garden Performance Chair prepares ballots for the Benedict Garden Performance Awards in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Benedict Garden Performance Awards System and distributes the ballots to the garden judges by April 15 of each year.

Garden judges will complete the ballot, using the selection criteria and Point Scales for judging that are outlined above to make selections for the various awards. The ballot must be returned to the Garden Performance Chair by November 15.

The Garden Performance Chair will then compile the results and provide them to the VP Awards & Honors and the VP Judging and Exhibitions, *The Hosta Journal* Editor and the AHS Website Coordinator by April 1.

Although it is an honor to vote for the Benedict Garden Performance Awards, it also generates a responsibility for garden judges to view gardens and to observe as many cultivars as possible in order to be able to make an informed decision about garden performance. Voting for the Benedict Garden Performance Awards reinforces the importance of garden viewing, a requirement for all judges. Votes should be based on observed performance within one's own region and/or at National Convention tour gardens. A garden judge may reflect on previous years' observed

performance for consideration when voting, but must reinforce that perception with garden visits during the voting year.

Failure of a garden judge to vote in a timely manner without acceptable excuse will result in the person being removed as an accredited AHS Garden Judge. A judge so dismissed may reapply to be an AHS Garden Judge after a two year waiting period. Allowance for failure to vote due to illness or other extenuating circumstances during the year will be at the discretion of the Garden Performance Chair.

Benedict Garden Performance Awards Point Scales for Judging - The Benedict Garden Performance Awards System establishes specific criteria and point scales to be used by garden judges as the basis for selecting cultivars to receive votes for Benedict Garden Performance Awards. The attributes to be considered and the point weight each attribute holds follows:

Attribute	Points	Criteria to be Considered
Aesthetics	25	The attractiveness and general appeal of the cultivar, including its flowers, in the garden setting.
Distinctiveness	25	How unique the cultivar is; how it stands out among other hostas via size, coloration, patterns, form, etc.
Multi-seasonal Interest	20	Seasonal longevity and staying power; how well the cultivar maintains its look throughout the growing season.
Vigor	20	Ease of cultivation and resistance to disease and pests; how well the cultivar grows and multiplies under normal conditions.
Environmental Tolerance	10	Resistance to environmental stresses such as wind, rain, heat, drought, early frosts, falling pine needles, etc.

Presentation of Awards and Publicity - The VP Awards & Honors will secure and present the Benedict Garden Performance Awards at the AHS National Convention each year.

Benedict Garden Performance Award Tiers	Award
Honorable Mention (HM) Award	Winners are presented a recognition certificate.
Award of Merit (AM)	
Performance Medal (PM) Award	Winner is presented an AHS designed medal.

Award winners will be published in *The Hosta Journal* and on the AHS Website after presentation of the awards at the National Convention.

Appendix A contains Benedict Garden Judge Application Form, the *Hosta* cultivar Nomination Form.

V. NATIONAL CONVENTION HOSTA SHOW AWARDS

These awards are presented by the AHS to specified winners in the National Convention Hosta Show. These awards are in addition to any awards that may be provided by the National Convention host society as specified in the show schedule. Sponsors of these awards, other than the AHS, are not listed as they may change from time to time. Sponsors will be recognized during presentation of the awards at the National Convention by the VP Awards & Honors. Winners will also be acknowledged in *The Hosta Journal* and on the AHS Website. The following Hosta Show awards are presented.

AHS President's Exhibitors Award	This award, established in 1978, is presented to the exhibitor of the registered hosta or species selected as Best of Show in Division I by the show judges. The award is sponsored by the AHS and is an engraved acrylic plaque.
AHS Sweepstakes Award	This award, established in 2006, is presented to the exhibitor who receives the most blue ribbons in Division I. In case of a tie, red ribbons and then yellow ribbons (if necessary) will be counted to break the tie. The award is sponsored by the AHS and is an engraved acrylic plaque.
AHS Kevin Vaughn Youth Achievement Award *	This award, established in 2004, is presented to the youth exhibitor of the entry judged as Best of Section in Division I, Section XI (Youth Exhibits) by the show judges. The award is a hosta seedling or cultivar with hybridizing value.
AHS Best Seedling or Sport Award *	This award, established in 1992 (was formerly the Pauline Banyai Award), is presented to the exhibitor of the entry selected as Best Seedling or Sport (Division I) by the show judges.
AHS Best Container Grown Hosta Award *	This award, established in 2006, is presented to the exhibitor of the entry selected as the Best Container Grown Hosta in Division 2 by the show judges.
AHS Best Trough / Container Garden Arranged for Effect Award *	This award, established in 2006, is presented to the exhibitor of the entry selected as the Best Trough/Container Garden Arranged for Effect in Division III by the show judges.
AHS Best Educational Display Award *	This award, established in 2006, is presented to the exhibitor of the entry selected as the Best Educational Display in Division IV by the show judges.
AHS Artistic Design Award *	This award, established in 1980, is presented to the exhibitor of the entry selected as the Best Artistic Design in Division VI by the accredited flower show judges.

* These awards can be sponsored by local Hosta Societies or other AHS members. Sponsorship is acknowledged at the AHS National Convention at award delivery. Occasionally no award is presented if a category is no part of the show or there is no blue ribbon winner.

NOTE: The official details on process and procedure are defined in the AHS Manual Hosta Show section.

VI. CONTRIBUTION AWARDS

A. **SHIRLEY & VAN WADE CONVENTION AUCTION CONTRIBUTOR AWARD** - This award, established in 1986, recognizes the largest contributor to the auction at the AHS National Convention, based on the total amount obtained for the contributor's donated items. The recipient receives an acrylic trophy. The sponsor of this award is the AHS.

At the conclusion of the National Convention auction, the Auction Chair will provide the name of the individual with the highest total value of donated material to the VP Awards & Honors who presents the award to the recipient at the National Convention. The recipient is acknowledged in *The Hosta Journal* and on the AHS Website.

B. **AHS ON-LINE AUCTION DONATION AWARDS** - These awards, established in 2003, are sponsored by the AHS and recognize the contributors to the AHS on-line auction in four categories:

- Outstanding Auction Contributor
- Top Choice Donation
- Meritorious Donation
- Donation of Distinction

At the conclusion of the on-line auction, and no later than April 15th, the Auction Chair will provide the name of the individuals to receive an award and any other information specified per category to the VP Awards & Honors.

Outstanding Auction Contributor	To the donor contributing the largest revenue generating total. Note: Only donor name provided for this award's preparation.	One annually per year.
Top Choice Donation	Individual hosta with the highest bid at each AHS auction shall be honored.	One annually per year.
Meritorious Donation	Individual hostas with bids equal to or greater than \$1000 shall be honored.	Given when dollar amount is achieved. More than one each year is possible.
Donation of Distinction	Individual hostas with bids of \$500 or more but not reaching \$1,000 shall be honored.	

Each winner receives a certificate of gratitude and an acrylic plaque (or of similar material) that reflects the Donor Name, Hosta by Name or hybrid identification, the high bid and the auction year.

The VP Awards & Honors presents the award to the recipients at the National Convention. The recipients are acknowledged in *The Hosta Journal* and on the AHS Website.

VII. ACTIVITY AWARDS

A. **AHS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST AWARDS** - These awards were established in 2006 and are sponsored by the AHS and The Hosta Journal to encourage members to photograph hostas, hosta gardens, and hosta people AND to share these photographs with The Hosta Journal. All entries received become part of The Hosta Journal photographic archives and may be used at the discretion of the Editor of The Hosta Journal in any future Journal issue.

The Photography Contest award categories are:

- **Category 1** – Best Hosta Close-up
- **Category 2** – Best Picture of an Entire Mature Hosta Clump
- **Category 3** – Best Landscape Picture Showing Multiple Clumps
- **Category 4** – Best Landscape Picture Involving Hosta
- **Category 5** – Artistic Impression

Photography Contest Process and Procedures - Winners of the Photography Contest awards are selected by a special award committee comprised of the Photo Editor of *The Hosta Journal* who chairs the committee and two other members appointed by the Photo Editor. The appointed members must have a background in photography.

Each year, a request for entries for the Photography Contest will be advertised in *The Hosta Journal*. The Photo Editor will specify the closing dates for entries to be received (usually October 1), and the maximum number of entries that will be accepted from each individual per category.

Digital photographs must be submitted as specified by the Photo Editor. Entries should be sent to the Photo Editor. Entries will not be returned and become the property of *The Hosta Journal*.

Entries should be labeled with the entrant's name, address, and telephone number. On each entry, the entrant should also specify the category in which it is to be entered, the subject of the entry, the location of the entry, and any additional information available such as the camera and lens used, film speed, time of day, etc., to be used in captioning of the photo should it be selected as a winner. All entries submitted in the two previous years prior to the award year remain eligible, whether published in *The Hosta Journal* or not.

The Photo Editor will assemble all eligible entries and provide them to the other members of the committee. The committee will select the winner(s) in each category and the Photo Editor will notify the winners. The Photo Editor will also provide the VP Awards & Honors and the AHS Website Coordinator with the names of the winners and a digital copy of each of the winning pictures. This is to be completed by **May 1**.

The winners will have their winning entries displayed at the National Convention and each entrant will receive a certificate award. The winning entries will also be published in *The Hosta Journal* and on the AHS Website after publication in *The Hosta Journal*.

B. AHS BEST NEW JOURNAL AUTHOR AWARD - This award was established in 2006 and is awarded to a new author of the best original article printed in *The Hosta Journal* or the On-line Journal as selected by the judging committee. It is in recognition of the importance to share information of interest to AHS membership. Published articles within the last three years will be considered. The award is a certificate presented at the National Convention. The recipient is also acknowledged in *The Hosta Journal*, in the AHS On-line Journal and on the AHS website. (Note: This award may not be issued every year as “new/first time” author is part of the criteria.)

Award Process and Procedure - The winner of this award is selected by a committee comprised of the AHS Journal Editor, and/or On-line Journal Editor and two other members selected by mutual agreement of the Editors. The other members should have journal writing experience. Either Editor

may serve as Committee Chair.

All first time authors published in *The Hosta Journal* or On-line Journal within the last three years will be considered. For example if selecting a winner for presentation at the 2016 AHS Convention, new authors published in 2013, 2014 and 2015 publications would be considered.

The Committee Chair coordinates review of applicable articles with the other committee members. The committee selects the winners. The Committee Chair notifies the VP Awards & Honors of the winner by May 1. He/she also secures a digital picture of the winning author. The picture and a copy of the article are provided to the VP Awards & Honors. The winning author is recognized and presented with a certificate award at the AHS National Convention. The winner will be acknowledged in *The Hosta Journal*, in the AHS On-line Journal and on the AHS website.

C. LOCAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER AWARDS – These awards were established in 2006.

- **Best Local Society Newsletter and Editor Award** - This award is given to the local editor and society of the best newsletter (individual copy) as selected by the judging committee from newsletters entered by local societies. The award is a certificate presented at the National Convention. The recipient is also acknowledged in *The Hosta Journal* and on the AHS website.
- **Best Local Society Newsletter Author Award** - This award is given to the author of the best original article printed in a local society newsletter as selected by the judging committee from articles entered by local societies. The award is a certificate presented at the National Convention. The recipient is also acknowledged in *The Hosta Journal* and on the AHS website.

Newsletter and Editor Award and Newsletter Author Award Process and Procedures - The winners of these awards are selected by a committee comprised of the AHS Newsletter Coordinator and two other members selected by the coordinator. The other members should have newsletter writing experience. The AHS Newsletter Coordinator serves as chair.

In order to enter, local societies must participate in the National Newsletter Exchange. All newsletters produced in the last calendar year and all original articles contained in these newsletters are eligible. Only one newsletter and one article may be entered per local society each year. Articles submitted may be from the newsletter submitted or may be from different newsletters. A request for entries will be published annually by the Newsletter Coordinator on or before February 1. Entries should be sent to the Newsletter Coordinator by March 1 and must have clear identification of the local society and editor and/or article and author.

The Newsletter Coordinator provides copies of all entries for both awards to the other committee members. The committee selects the winners. The Newsletter Coordinator notifies the VP Awards & Honors of the winners by May 1. He/she also secures a digital picture of the winning newsletter editor and the winning author, and provides them and copies of the winning entries to the VP Awards & Honors, *The Hosta Journal* Editor and the AHS Website Coordinator.

The winning entries are displayed at the National Convention and the local society, editor, and author will be presented certificate awards at the convention. The winners will be acknowledged in *The Hosta Journal* and on the AHS website.

VIII. SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARDS

A. **PRESIDENTIAL CITATION AWARDS – NATIONAL LEVEL** - These awards are made at the choice and discretion of the reining President of The AHS. There are two categories of awards, National Level and Local Level.

Recipients of these awards are selected by the President to reward outstanding service to the AHS on the national level. The AHS President submits his/her selection (if any) to the VP Awards & Honors by March 1 along with the supporting documentation for the award. The award is a certificate presented by the President at the National Convention. The recipient is also recognized in *The Hosta Journal* and on the AHS Website. The awards fall into three categories as follows:

- 1) **Lifetime Service Award** (for a long time dedicated worker on the national level)
- 2) **Special Project Award** (for work on a special assignment for the AHS)
- 3) **Hosta Enrichment Award** (for efforts to bring hosta acclaim)

B. **PRESIDENTIAL CITATION AWARDS - LOCAL LEVEL "Certificate of Appreciation"** -

Recipients of these awards are nominated by the local society leadership (e.g. President, Board designate) to recognize outstanding service at the local level. Two nominations per year can be submitted in writing to the VP Awards & Honors by March 1. The local Hosta Society solely determines if the award is to be made. The award is a certificate prepared by the VP Awards & Honors and sent to the local Hosta Society contact for presentation to their selected member(s). The recipient is also recognized on the AHS Website Wall of Honor. Recipient's name and nominating local Hosta Society are typically posted in January of the following year to allow the local society time to distribute the certificate.

C. **AHS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AWARDS** - The AHS elected AHS office holders (except the president), *The Hosta Journal* Editor, the Registrar, and individuals appointed to fill a term of a vacated position longer than one year are eligible for these awards. The purpose of these awards is to recognize the tremendous unselfish effort and unlimited amounts of time and service these volunteers give to AHS.



Recipients are recognized after their first two-years of service provided to the AHS. The award is an AHS designed pin presented by the President at the National Convention. The recipients are also recognized in *The Hosta Journal* and on the AHS Website.

Each year, the Secretary of the AHS compiles a list of qualifying recipients and provides the names to the AHS President and VP Awards & Honors by May 1.

D. **AHS PRESIDENTIAL PLAQUE** - This award is given to the President upon retirement in recognition of service to the AHS. The reward is a plaque commemorating the President's time of service. The plaque is secured by the VP Awards & Honors and is presented by the incoming President.

APPENDIX A - BENEDICT GARDEN PERFORMANCE AWARDS

PLAN / FORMS

AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY GARDEN JUDGE APPLICATION FORM

Prior to applying to become an AHS Garden Judge, the applicant should obtain a copy of the AHS Handbook and become familiar with the required qualifications.

Please provide the required information requested below.

To become an AHS Garden Judge, a candidate must:	Indicate the Affirmative
1) Be a member of AHS in good standing for at least 3 consecutive calendar years and maintain active membership.	Requirement 1 met? ___ Yes ___ No
2) Possess the current edition of the AHS Handbook.	Requirement 2 met? ___ Yes ___ No
3) Have an extensive demonstrated knowledge of hostas and individual hosta cultivars	Requirement 3 met? ___ Yes ___ No
4) Have the desire and ability to visit a representative cross-section of gardens in his/her Region	Requirement 4 met? ___ Yes ___ No

Number of Cultivars grown in own garden _____

Approximate number of Cultivars added to garden during last five years _____

List gardens visited in your own Region and at AHS National Conventions during the previous two years. Limit list to a maximum of 15 gardens.

Year	Garden/Location	Year	Garden/Location

Send application to AHS Garden Performance Chair for processing and approval.

Name:			
Address:			
Telephone #:		Email:	
Signature:		Date:	

**THE AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY
BENEDICT GARDEN PERFORMANCE AWARDS
NOMINATION FORM**

To be eligible for nomination for Benedict Garden Performance Awards, hosta cultivars must meet the following criteria:

- The cultivar must demonstrate superior garden performance.
- The cultivar must be named and registered.
- The cultivar must have been registered for at least three years.
- The cultivar must not have been previously nominated.

Only the originator of the cultivar or the Board of Directors of the AHS may nominate hosta cultivars for these awards. Each may nominate a maximum of seven cultivars each year.

To nominate hosta cultivars for Benedict Garden Performance awards, please complete this form, listing the cultivars you desire to nominate. Return this form by February 15 (date of postmark) to The AHS Garden Performance Chair. The Garden Performance Chair will acknowledge receipt of this nomination form within three weeks of receipt. Should acknowledgement not be received within three weeks, please contact the Garden Performance Chair immediately to insure nominations are properly recorded for this year's ballot.

(Please print all information legibly.)

#	Cultivar Name	Originator	Year of Registration
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			

Signature of Originator:		Date:	
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