

III. HOSTA SHOW JUDGING AND JUDGES' REQUIREMENTS

Hosta Show Judges are selected based on a series of qualifications. Knowledge of hostas and competence in evaluating them are indispensable qualities in a judge, but equally important in the judge's behavior in applying this knowledge. Personal integrity must be beyond question and a judge must work effectively and harmoniously as a member of a team. Responsibility for training of judges belongs to the AHS Judges Training Chair. Each region should work with the AHS Judges Training Chair and have programs in place to train judges and insure that enough judges are available to satisfy needs of hosta shows within the region.

III-A. Basic Qualifications

Persons who are considering becoming a Hosta Show Judge should:

- Have a good knowledge of existing hosta species and cultivars, and a general knowledge of hybridizing trends.
- Have a long-term commitment to serve as a show judge.
- Be eager to expand their knowledge. Knowledge and desire to learn is essential.
- Be able to work well with others while still being able to make independent judgments and maintain a point of view.
- Maintain high standards of personal integrity and ethics and avoid any conduct which could be construed as unethical by an observer. A Hosta Show Judge is a representative of The American Hosta Society and must act accordingly.
- Be committed to the Hosta Show judging system and to its orderly evolution. Criticisms should be constructive and aimed at improving the quality and uniformity of the judging process.
- Demonstrate evidence of potential leadership.
- Be able to meet the requirements of the judging system with respect to available time, ability to travel, physical and mental fitness, and participation in training and judging activities.

III-B. The Four Levels of Hosta Show Judge and Requirements for Attaining and Maintaining Each Level

There are four levels of Hosta Show judging. Each level builds on the experiences gained at the previous level. In addition as of 2012, all show judges are automatically added to the roll of Benedict Garden Performance Judges.

III-B-1. Provisional Judge

The Provisional Judge is the first level of Judging and is considered a temporary position. A Provisional Judge should make every effort to advance to the next level (Senior) within four years in order to remain an AHS Show Judge. **A Provisional Judge is authorized to judge only Division I - Horticulture.**

To become a Provisional Judge, a candidate must:

- Be a member of AHS in good standing for at least 2 consecutive calendar years and maintain active membership.
- Possess the current edition of The AHS Handbook for Hosta Shows and Judging (hereafter referred to as the Judges Handbook).
- Be willing to serve on judging panels at AHS accredited shows.
- Exhibit in two shows and work in clerking or placement in two shows during the past four years.
- Complete Judging Clinic I
- Submit evidence of completion of the above requirements to the AHS Judges Training Chair or Vice President – Judging and Exhibitions.

Provisional Judges are expected to make a good faith effort to complete requirements for becoming a Senior Judge within four years of appointment to Provisional Judge.

III-B-2. Senior Judge

The Senior Judge is the first permanent level of judging. A Senior Judge may stay at this level indefinitely, provided the minimum requirements for maintaining this level are met. A Senior Judge may judge any division and section in an accredited AHS show except Division VI – Artistic Design.

To become a Senior Judge, a Provisional Judge must:

- Be a member of AHS in good standing.
- Be a Provisional Judge for a minimum of two years.
- Judge twice at accredited AHS shows within four years of being appointed a Provisional Judge. Serving as Chair of an accredited show or being Classification Chair or Judges Chair may be counted as one judging credit.
- Exhibit in two shows within the four-year period.
- Complete Clinic II within the four-year period.
- Submit evidence of completion of the above requirements to the AHS Judges Training Chair or Vice President – Judging and Exhibitions.

If a Provisional Judge feels there are not sufficient opportunities within his/her Region to meet these requirements for becoming a Senior Judge in the maximum four year time period, he/she may request time extensions in writing to the AHS Judges Training Chair or Vice President – Judging and Exhibitions.

To maintain the Senior status, a Senior Judge must:

- Be a member in good standing in AHS.
- Judge a minimum of two accredited AHS shows every four years. Serving as Chair of an accredited show or being Classification Chair or Judges Chair may be counted as one judging credit.
- Exhibit in two accredited shows within the four-year period.
- Attend Clinics I, II or III, at least once, within the four-year period.
- Submit evidence of completion of the above requirements to the AHS Judges Training Chair or Vice President – Judging and Exhibitions once **every four years**. In case of insufficient opportunity within his/her Region to meet these requirements, a Senior Judge may request a waiver of any portion of the requirements needed to maintain status in writing to the AHS Judges Training Chair or Vice President – Judging and Exhibitions.

III-B-3. Master Judge

Master Judge is the highest level of attainment for AHS judges. A Master Judge may judge any division and section in an accredited AHS show except Division VI – Artistic Design. A Master Judge will lead all panels of judges at accredited AHS shows (unless this requirement is waived by the AHS Show Chair for lack of available Master Judges only). Master Judges may conduct any of the Judging Clinics with approval of the AHS Judges Training Chair.

To become a Master Judge, a Senior Judge must:

- Be a member of AHS in good standing.
- Be willing to conduct clinics.
- Serve as a senior judge for a minimum of three years.
- Judge two AHS accredited shows within a four-year time period.
- Serve as Show Chair, Classification Chair, or Judges Chair within the four year period
- Exhibit in two accredited shows within the four-year period.
- Attend or teach Clinic I at least once within the four-year period.
- Submit evidence of completion of the above requirements to the AHS Judges Training Chair or Vice President – Judging and Exhibitions

To maintain the Master status, a Master Judge must:

- Be a member in good standing in AHS.
- Judge a minimum of two accredited AHS shows every three years. Serving as Show Chair, Judges Chair, or Classification Chair of an accredited show may be counted as one judging credit.
- Exhibit in two accredited shows within the three-year period.
- Attend or conduct Clinic I at least once within the three year period.
- Submit evidence of completion of the above requirements to the AHS Judges Training Chair or Vice President – Judging and Exhibitions once **every three years**. In case of insufficient opportunity within his/her Region to meet these requirements, a Master Judge may request a waiver of any portion of the requirements needed to maintain status in writing to the AHS Judges Training Chair or Vice President – Judging and Exhibitions.

III-B-4. Judge Emeritus

The Judge Emeritus status is reserved for long-term judges who can no longer maintain the requirements for being a judge due to age or health. Such status recognizes the contributions of a judge to AHS over many years.

To become a Judge Emeritus, a judge must:

- Be a member of AHS in good standing
- Be a Master Judge in good standing.
- Have participated in judging activities for at least 10 years and be unable to continue to perform the duties of Master Judge due to age or health.
- Petition the AHS Vice-President – Judging and Exhibitions in writing for a change in status. Petition will be accepted by simple majority vote of the AHS Board at the request of the AHS Judges Chair.

All Hosta Show Judges serve at the pleasure of The American Hosta Society. With the exception of Judge Emeritus, the Vice President – Judging and Exhibitions may dismiss any judge for failure to maintain the requirements of the position or for failure to represent The American Hosta Society responsibly and honorably.

Hosta Show Judges are required to maintain a record of their show and judging activities. A Judge's Record of Activities form is provided for this purpose (page III-24 of the Judges Handbook). Provisional and Senior Judges must provide this record of show activity a minimum of once every four years to the AHS Judges Records Chair and Master Judges must provide this record to the Judges Records Chair a minimum of once every three years. **Judges who fail to provide their records of activity will lose their judging status.**

III-C. Judging Ethics

For proper conduct of the show judging process, a hosta show Judge is expected to exhibit certain behaviors and to act in appropriate ways. Above all, judges should always conduct themselves in a manner which will never bring their, or the system's, integrity into question. Points of judging ethics are listed below:

- AHS strongly recommends that all judges be invited to judge in all AHS accredited shows. If more judges accept the invitation than are needed for the show, the judge may be offered other jobs in the show. The Show Chair or Judges Chair shall extend a written or electronic invitation to all judges along with a request for reply. For any invitation received, a judge must respond to the invitation in a timely manner but no later than one month after receipt of the invitation. If a judge is unsure whether or not he/she will be able to accept the invitation, he/she should advise the Show Chair and request additional time to respond.
- Once an invitation to judge in a show is accepted, the judge is expected to keep the commitment. Failure to keep the judging commitment may result in extensive hardship for the show committee. Should it become absolutely necessary to rescind the commitment to judge, the judge should contact the Show Chair or Judges Chair immediately.
- Some show host societies may offer financial gratuities to judges. A judge may accept a financial gratuity for judging (beyond normal appreciation gifts) if offered. However, a judge must never demand a financial gratuity as a condition of judging.
- Judges are expected to report for judging on time at the time required by the Judges Chair.
- A judge is allowed to exhibit in shows in which he/she judges. In such cases, the judge should work with the Judges Chair to be given assignments which will result in the least exposure to sections in which he/she has entries. **A judge is not allowed to participate in any way in the judging of any entry which he/she has entered in the show and must quietly step back from the panel during the judging of the entry if such entries are encountered in the course of judging the show.** A judge should also refrain from judging any entry in which he/she may have any relationship that might be construed as interfering with his or her impartiality.
- A judge is expected to maintain a harmonious relationship with the Show Committee and workers, exhibitors, other judges, and the public during the course of judging a show.

- A judge is expected to freely express his/her opinions to the panel when judging an exhibit. However, a judge is also expected to accept the opinions of the majority of the panel when a decision has been reached. A judge should never publicly disagree with the final decisions of the panel. Should a judge have any concerns about the way a panel is conducting the judging, he/she should privately express those concerns to the Judges Chair who will determine the proper course of action.
- A judge should never leave the show floor until the judging is complete and he/she has been dismissed by the Judges Chair.
- A judge is expected to honestly and accurately self report information regarding judging activities and other show related activities by completing and submitting the Record of Activity (page III-24) to the Judges Training Chair or Judges Records Chair at specified times in order to maintain his/her status as a Show Judge.

III-D. Judges Clinic Structure and Clinic Contents

AHS Master Judges will conduct Judges Clinics. Senior Judges may assist. All clinics are to be arranged with the guidance and approval of the Judges Training Chair, including the selection of the Clinic Instructors, using current Clinic Guidelines and tests. Clinics I, II and III must be conducted at every AHS National Convention unless the President of AHS approves deletion. Any of the clinics may be arranged and conducted at local and regional meetings. The Judges Training Chair will provide packages of instructions, materials and necessary forms for conducting clinics. All Clinic Final Report Forms are to be forwarded to the Judges Training Chair and the Judges Records Chair upon completion of the Clinic by the Clinic Instructor. The following information will be covered in each clinic.

III-D-1. Clinic I (Basic) Estimated time - 2 hours (self-guided) + 2 hours in person

The following subject matter will be covered in Clinic I:

1. The Judging and Exhibitions Organization – General Duties of VP and Committee Chairs.
2. The Judges Handbook – Outline of information contained in the Handbook
3. The Hosta Show – General information regarding the purposes of shows, show committees, staging, show procedures, the show schedule.
4. Becoming a Judge – Basic Judging qualifications and ethics, the four judges levels and specific requirements to attain and maintain each.
5. Basic Judging Procedures
6. Judging entries for Division I – Horticulture. Covers point scales for judging registered hostas and species, seedlings and sports, and unregistered named hostas as well as the definition of terms (form, size, color, pattern, texture, substance, condition and grooming, and distinction) used in point scales. Includes practice judging leaves as a panel.

Clinic I will include a final test and leaf judging exercise to be successfully completed by each individual participant in order to successfully complete Clinic I. Upon successful completion of Clinic I, the participant will be qualified to judge cut leaf entries of registered cultivars and species **in Division I - Horticulture only** provided all other judging qualifications are met (see III-B-1 Provisional Judge). The candidate must submit their application to become a Provisional Judge on page III-21 to be approved by the Judges Training Chair or VP Judging and Exhibitions.

III-D-2. Clinic II (Advanced) Estimated time – 2 hours

The following subject matter will be covered in Clinic II:

1. Review of Clinic I
2. Specific Duties of the Show Chair.
3. Judging of Container Grown Hostas – Point Scales, definition of terms.
4. Judging of Trough/Container Gardens Arranged for Effect – Point Scales, definition of terms.
5. Judging Educational Displays – Point Scales, definition of terms.
6. Artistic Design - Requirements for having an Artistic Design Division
7. Specialty Divisions – The purposes of special divisions and requirements for offering Specialty Divisions in AHS Hosta Shows.

Clinic II will include a final test and may include judging exercises using live exhibits or pictures of exhibits. Upon completion of Clinic II (and assuming prior completion of Clinic I), the participant will be qualified to judge all entries in all divisions of an AHS sanctioned hosta show, except Division VI – Artistic Design, provided all other judging qualifications are met. (See III-B-2 – Senior Judge.) The Provisional Judge must submit their application to become a Senior Judge on page III-22 to be approved by the Judges Training Chair or VP Judging and Exhibitions.

III-D-3. Clinic III (Discussion Forum) Estimated time - 2 hours

Clinic III is open to all judges as well as individuals who are actively working towards becoming a judge.

Clinic III is conducted as an open forum where judges can come together to discuss topics selected to improve the judging process and/or individual judging skills. ALL judges should be encouraged to participate in discussions and freely express their opinions.

The clinic instructor will record participant feedback, complaints, and questions and provide to the VP – Judging and Exhibitions and Judges Training Chair.

III-D-3-a. Clinic III Discussion Topics

By February 1 of each year, the Vice President – Judging and Exhibitions and the Judges Training Chair will prepare a list of talking points for that year’s Clinic IIIs. The list should include any previous year’s changes in judging requirements and procedures, show requirements and procedures, any Handbook changes, and any other specific items that need to be covered as deemed necessary by the Vice President and Judges Training Chair. The list of talking points may be updated throughout the year. The list of talking points will constitute the basic subject matter for Clinic III. However other subjects may be added and discussed at the discretion of the Clinic Instructor and participants.

III-E. THE AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY POINT SCALES FOR JUDGING HOSTA SHOW EXHIBITS

Hosta Show judging requires a methodical way to evaluate entries. The American Hosta Society employs a Point Scoring System as the method for evaluating exhibitors’ entries. The Point Scoring System defines the important attributes that are to be judged, and uses a Scale of Points to provide the assigned weight for each attribute. Each division of the Hosta Show, and in certain cases sections within the division, have Point Scales developed for the judges to use in determining the quality of a given entry. Each scale in the AHS system is based on a total of 100 points. Entries receiving the most points are considered the best entries.

One of the most important requirements for any judge is that the judge has a thorough knowledge and understanding of the AHS Point Scoring System and that the judge applies the Point Scoring System when judging entries in the Hosta Show. In order to be successful in winning awards at a Hosta Show, exhibitors must also be aware of the Point Scoring System when choosing leaves to exhibit.

It is not expected that judges formally point score each and every entry in a show. With many entries, a quick visual evaluation may immediately indicate that an entry lacks the quality, based on the assigned Point Scale, to meet minimum points needed for awarding a particular ribbon award. If judges on the panel are in agreement, it is not necessary to proceed any further in judging that exhibit. However, it is important that formal point scoring occur when judges are in disagreement and it is extremely important that the panel determines that any entry being considered for class, section, and division awards scores the minimum points required for those awards (95 points or higher). Entries vying for Best or Show and Best Seedling or Sport awards must be formally point scored (Ballots on page II-42 and Page II-43).

Listed on the next pages are the approved Point Scales for Judging Hosta Shows. Following the Point Scales are the definitions of each of the attributes comprising the scales.

It is important to note that certain attributes that may appear in several of the Point Scales may also have varying definitions depending on the Section or Division being judged. For instance, Color and Pattern, as defined for Registered Cultivars and Species entries, is judged in large part on the comparison of the exhibit's color and pattern to the typical color and pattern of the cultivar based on its registration data. However, with the Point Scale for Judging Unregistered Seedlings and Sports, Color and Pattern is defined more in terms of overall color clarity and pattern harmony of the exhibit itself since there is no defined description or registration data available for comparison for a Seedling or Sport entry.

Please also note that similar attributes may be given different weights in different judging categories. For example, Color and Pattern accounts for 30 points in the Point Scales for Judging Registered Cultivars but accounts for only 15 points in judging Seedlings and Sports.

III-E-1. AHS Approved Point Scales for Judging Hosta Show Exhibits

REGISTERED CULTIVARS AND SPECIES DIVISION I, SECTIONS I – V and SECTION XI

Form and Size	30 points
Color and Pattern	30 points
Texture and Substance	20 points
Condition and Grooming	20 points
TOTAL	100 points

UNREGISTERED NAMED HOSTA CULTIVARS DIVISION I, SECTION XII

Form and Size	30 points
Color and Pattern	30 points
Texture and Substance	20 points
Condition and Grooming	20 points
TOTAL	100 points

UNREGISTERED SEEDLINGS AND SPORTS DIVISION I, SECTIONS VI – X

Distinction	40 points
Form and Size	15 points
Color and Pattern	15 points
Texture and Substance	15 points
Condition and Grooming	15 points
TOTAL	100 points

CONTAINER GROWN HOSTAS DIVISION II

Form and Size	25 points
Color and Pattern	25 points
Texture and Substance	25 points
Condition and Grooming	25 points
TOTAL	100 points

TROUGH/CONTAINER GARDENS ARRANGED FOR EFFECT DIVISION III

Variety	20 points
Condition	30 points
Arrangement	30 points
Container Relative to Arrangement	20 points
TOTAL	100 points

EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS DIVISION IV

Educational Value	60 points
Theme, Originality, Effectiveness	
Staging	40 points
Arrangement, Attractiveness, Neatness, Materials Used in Exhibit	
TOTAL	100 points

NON-COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS DIVISION V Not Judged – No Scale of Points

ARTISTIC DESIGN DIVISION VI

Conformance	14 points
Design Principles	48 points
Selection of Components	8 points
Organization of Components	8 points
Expression	8 points
Distinction	14 points
TOTAL	100 points

(this scale conforms to the current NGC Point Scale for Judging Design)

III-E-2. Definitions of Point Scale Attributes

Following are definitions of various attributes that make up the Point Scales used to judge hosta exhibits in Divisions I – VI. Please note carefully that the definition of a particular attribute may vary depending on the Section or Division being judged.

When judging Registered Cultivars and Species entries, the exhibited leaf (or entire plant in the case of a container exhibit) is normally judged in comparison to the registration data on record for the variety exhibited. However, in cases of known inaccuracies in registration data, the judge may rely on knowledge of what is typical for the variety, well grown, when judging the exhibited leaf. The same is true in local shows where typical local growing conditions may be taken into consideration when judging attributes such as leaf size.

There is no registration data, of course, for Unregistered Seedlings and Sports. When judging Seedling and Sport entries, each entry must stand on its own in terms of perceived quality of each attribute judged.

There is also no registration data for Unregistered Named Hosta Cultivars. Absent knowledge of what is typical, the judge must use standards, which are more typical of the standards set for Unregistered Seedlings and Sports. The judge may, however, apply knowledge of what is typical for the variety, well grown, **if known**, when judging Unregistered Named Hosta Cultivars. Due to the uncertain nature of what is typical of the variety as would be normally determined by registration data, entries in this section are not eligible for Best of Show awards.

The Artistic Design Division VI has distinctly different attributes that Hosta Show Judges are not presently trained to judge. For that reason, judging in this division requires National Garden Club Flower Show Judges specifically trained in judging artistic designs.

FORM (Divisions I and II)

For all Registered Cultivars and Species, leaf form is the overall shape of the leaf and petiole. When judging Form, the judge should determine if the leaf is graceful, attractive, and true to variety as indicated by its registration data. The leaf should be fully developed, not frail or immature. The leaf form should not be abnormally crumpled, creased, crimped, sagging or twisted. It should be typical of the variety.

For Unregistered Seedlings and Sports and Unregistered Named Hosta Cultivars, leaf form is also the overall shape of the leaf and petiole. When judging Form, the judge should determine if the leaf is graceful and attractive and if the leaf and petiole dimensions have a pleasing and harmonious relationship to each other. The leaf should be fully developed, not frail or immature.

SIZE (Divisions I and II)

For all Registered Cultivars and Species, the leaf size should be typical of a well-grown specimen and true to variety as indicated by its registration data. For Division II - Container Grown Hostas, the plant should be typical of a well-grown mature specimen of that particular variety **which has been grown in a container**.

For Unregistered Seedlings and Sports and Unregistered Named Hosta Cultivars, the size of the leaf should be within the appropriate allowable dimensions for the section in which it is entered. If the judges are familiar with the plant habits of an Unregistered Named Cultivar, the leaf being judged should be typical of the cultivar.

COLOR AND PATTERN (Divisions I and II)

For all Registered Cultivars and Species, the leaf color and the pattern of the leaf should be typical of the variety as compared to its registration data. Discoloration for any reason including sunburn, irregular light exposure over the leaf surface, and immaturity or over maturity should be considered faults. Pattern is a part of color but is listed separately to emphasize its importance. Pattern is the marking of color variations - the amounts, the distribution, the design and clarity. If an entry is a variegated cultivar, the pattern should be typical of variety. For example, if the entry displays a wide creamy edge but the registration indicates the cultivar should have a narrow white edge this would be a pattern fault and a color fault. If a variety is variegated, color and pattern should each determine 15 points in this category. If the variety is of one color (monochromatic), the color would account for the entire 30 points.

For Unregistered Seedlings and Sports and Unregistered Named Hosta Cultivars, color should be pleasing and clear. Dingy, muddy, flat and dull color should be considered faults. Discoloration for any reason including sunburn, irregular light exposure over the leaf surface, and immaturity or over maturity should also be considered faults. Pattern is the marking of color variations - the amounts, the distribution, the design and clarity. All this must be considered and combinations must be evaluated on the basis of the overall pattern harmony. Markings of pattern and contrasts should be clean and eye appealing. If a variety is variegated, color and pattern should each determine one half of the points in this category. If the variety is monochromatic, the color would account for the all the points.

TEXTURE (Divisions I and II)

Texture is the surface quality of a leaf such as ribbed, puckered, waffled, smooth and ruffled. Texture also includes the appearance of the surface – whether dull, flat or glossy, and the presence of “bloom” in the glaucous varieties.

For Registered Cultivars and Species, the entry’s texture should match the registration data of the variety. Any lack of normal feel or appearance should lose points for specimens. It is important to know what the texture of the particular variety being judged should be.

For Unregistered Seedlings and Sports and Unregistered Named Hosta Cultivars, the displayed texture should be pleasing and in harmony with the total overall appearance of the entry.

SUBSTANCE (Divisions I and II)

This is the quality of firmness and rigidity of the leaf and petiole which enables it to retain its characteristic form, overall freshness, and resistance to environmental damage. Typical terms used to describe the leaf substance are strong, firm, and crisp. Substance makes leaves last longer, hold their shape, and withstand adverse conditions. Turgidity will be high when a specimen is in its prime. A judge should refrain from touching or feeling leaves between fingers to determine substance. The heat and oil of the hands hasten deterioration. **A pencil or pen may be used, if necessary, and carefully run under the leaf and shaken to ascertain the presence of a crisp, turgid substance.**

For Registered Cultivars and Species, substance varies with varieties and species. Substance should be typical of the variety, well grown.

For Unregistered Seedlings and Sports and Unregistered Named Hosta Cultivars, substance should be pleasing and sufficient to support good plant form, overall freshness, and resistance to damage.

CONDITION AND GROOMING (Divisions I and II)

The overall condition of the exhibited leaf or plant is determined by observing its health, maturity, and any damage due to insects, disease, or environmental factors. Condition faults would include wilting, signs of disease or insect damage, tears and holes, chewed edges, malformed stems, immature or past mature leaves, etc.

Grooming faults include the presence of dirt, insects, or other foreign matter on leaves or petioles; presence of spray residue; and damage due to cleaning and transporting. Extra care must be taken in cleaning leaves to avoid damage to the “bloom” of some varieties or the delicate surface of others.

Condition and grooming should be considered together in evaluating exhibits. In deducting points for faults under this section, the severity of any faults should be determined by the effect on the exhibit’s overall presentation and proper staging. When evaluating exhibits in Division I, only the portion of the exhibit above the rim of the container is to be considered when judging.

DISTINCTION (Division I – Sections VI - X – Unregistered Seedlings and Sports)

Distinction is the major attribute to be considered in judging Unregistered Seedlings and Sports. Distinction is that quality of a hosta that makes it superior, easily recognizable, and unmistakably different from any other hosta cultivar. In judging seedlings for distinction, the purpose is to encourage new introductions only if they are superior to cultivars already in commerce. Distinction may come from any attribute or combination of attributes – form, size, color, pattern, substance, texture – already being judged or may come from other attributes displayed by the entry. Distinction implies difference, not necessarily beauty, but beauty may also contribute to the cultivar’s distinction.

VARIETY (Division III - Trough/Container Gardens Arranged for Effect)

Trough/Container Gardens Arranged for Effect may contain few or many varieties of hostas or other plants, and a variety of accessories and ground cover material. In judging this attribute, the judge must determine if the overall selection of plant material, accessories, and ground covers are appropriate for the overall display. Faults would be too much or too little material, too much or too little textural contrast, or too little focus on hostas as a primary theme.

CONDITION (Division III - Trough/Container Gardens Arranged for Effect)

Both the condition of plants and the condition of the accessories and other materials as well as the container are to be considered here. Plants should be evaluated for freshness and cleanliness as well as for absence of disease and environmental or insect damage. Plants, including hostas, **do not** have to be mature specimens for Trough/Container Gardens. Accessories and other non-plant material should be clean. The trough or container should also be free of loose dirt and other debris. Naturally growing mosses on the container and natural container patina are not to be considered when judging the condition of the container but rather should be considered when judging Container Relative to Arrangement.

ARRANGEMENT (Division III – Trough/Container Gardens Arranged for Effect)

The arrangement of all the components within the Trough/Container Garden into a visually unified exhibit is perhaps the most important aspect of these exhibits. Even the most interesting materials may not present themselves well if not properly arranged. The arrangement of the plant and other materials with respect to each other should be visually pleasing and harmonious. Plant and accessory material should be in harmony with respect to size and there should be no visually disturbing color contrasts. **The hostas in the display should be arranged in such a way as to be the strong focal point of the exhibit.**

CONTAINER RELATIVE TO ARRANGEMENT (Division III)

The container is an integral part of the Trough/Container Garden. Its colors, texture, patina, and size relative to the materials within the exhibit should enhance the overall appearance of the total exhibit. Faults would include containers too large or too small with respect to the rest of the material in the exhibit, or container textures and colors that do not properly blend with or provide accent to the other materials of the exhibit.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE (Division IV – Educational Displays)

The total educational value of an Educational Display depends on the selection of an original and interesting theme for the display and how effectively that theme is conveyed to the observer. The theme should relate strongly to the genus *Hosta*. The judge should first consider the originality of the theme and then determine the overall effectiveness of the entire display. The selected materials should have a strong relationship with the theme of the exhibit and should be clear in meaning.

STAGING (Division IV – Educational Displays)

Staging is the arrangement and pleasing presentation of the materials used in the Educational Display. In judging staging, the judge must first look at the materials selected to support the overall theme and then the attractiveness, arrangement, and overall neatness of the exhibit. The staging of the materials used in the exhibit should lend emphasis to the overall theme of the exhibit while focusing on the genus *Hosta*. There should be a uniform appearance to the signs, labeling, illustrations, photographs or other materials used in the exhibit.

The following six attributes are associated with the judging of entries in Division VI - Artistic Design and are judged by accredited National Garden Club Flower Show Judges

CONFORMANCE (Division VI - Artistic Design)

This refers to conforming to the Schedule. The Show Schedule will outline certain items required in the design. One requirement in all AHS Hosta Show Design divisions is that the hosta foliage is used **predominantly** in the design. There will be other requirements for size, backdrops, accessories, etc. and the NGC judges need to decide if the design conforms to the requirements set in the Show Schedule.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES (Division VI – Artistic Design)

Design is judged according to the Elements of Design and the Principles of Design as outlined in the Handbook for Flower Shows by the National Garden Clubs, Inc. The Elements of Design are Space, Line, Form, Size, Color, Texture, Pattern, and Light. The Principles of Design are Balance, Proportion, Scale, Rhythm, Dominance, and Contrast.

SELECTION of COMPONENTS (Division VI – Artistic Design)

Refers to the designer's ability to select components that contribute to the design and the total creative effect.

ORGANIZATION of COMPONENTS (Division VI – Artistic Design)

This refers to the ability to plan and construct an appropriate design.

EXPRESSION (Division VI – Artistic Design)

Expression is defined as the interpretation of the Design Class by the exhibitor.

DISTINCTION (Division VI – Artistic Design)

In judging distinction, the judge looks for marked superiority of the overall design. Condition of plant materials and all other components as well as careful workmanship and mechanics are considered here. Is this a design which holds the attention of the viewer?

III-F. Judging Procedure

III-F-1. Accepting Assignments

AHS encourages that all judges, regardless of the judging level or region, be invited to participate in all AHS accredited shows. The Judges Chair should obtain a current list of all eligible AHS Show Judges from the Judges Records Chair.

Should more judges accept invitations than can be accommodated, judges may be assigned to other show duties (with their prior consent) and still receive credit for serving. The Judges Chair should try to make assignments based on the individual needs of judges to satisfy requirements for maintaining their level and advancement when possible.

For National Convention shows, the judges indicate their desire to judge on the convention registration form.

The invitation to judge must include RSVP information for accepting or declining the invitation. The invited judge should respond to the invitation as soon as possible but no later than one month after the invitation is extended.

On the day of the show, judges should present themselves to the Judges Chair and assure they are on the list of judges to be sent to the Hosta Shows Chair with the Final Show Report.

III-F-2. Floor Procedures

The Judges Chair will appoint panels of three to four judges, including at least one Master Judge per panel, who will act as Panel Leader. If any panel has more than one Master Judge, the Judges Chair will appoint the Panel Leader. Three judges is the optimum number of judges per panel.

All judges on a panel should actively participate in the judging of each entry. However, a judge should **never** judge his/her own entry. In the event that a judge is on a panel that is judging one's own entry, the judge is required to **quietly step aside** while it is being judged.

Judges will apply the principles of the AHS Point Scales for Judging in determining an entry's score. The AHS Point Scales for Judging for each Division offered in the show should be printed in the Show Schedule and be available at the show. All entries do not have to be formally point scored. Often, the determination of an award may be obvious to the panel. Only when entries appear to be close in quality, or if an entry is perceived to be on the borderline between two awards, is formal point scoring necessary. The Panel Leader will make the decision as to when this should be done.

Judges should be thoroughly familiar with and apply the rules for awarding ribbons listed in Section II-E AHS Show Requirements for Conducting an Accredited Show (page II-16 through page II-18) and II-F-4 Standard Awards for Shows (page II-22). When sections contain classes, Class Awards should be selected first. Section Awards should then be selected from the Class Award winners. When multiple panels judge different classes of the same section, the panels will come together to select the overall Section Award winner.

Each panel shall be the final authority for each class, section, or division it judges with the exception of Division I. In Division I, Best of Show and Best Seedling or Sport Awards will be selected by vote of all the judges.

In balloting for the Best of Show Award and the Best Seedling or Sport Award, the Judges Chair will provide each judge with a ballot for each award. The panel(s) that selected the Section winners eligible for the award will advise the other judges as to the specific merits and faults of the entry. The judges will then individually judge each entry eligible for the award and enter scores on the ballot. The ballots are to be used to record points deducted (negative point scoring). Each judge should remember that the Section Award winners that are eligible for these awards have already been judged by a panel to have scored **at least 95 points**. Therefore, no more than five total points should be deducted from each entry's final score. The Judges Chair will then collect the ballots and tabulate the results to determine the award winners. The entries with the best scores for each award, the least total number of points deducted on the combined ballots, will then be declared the winner, providing that the entrant is a member of the AHS.

Judges do not disqualify entries. This is done by the Show Chair or Classification Chair. Should the judges discover an entry placed incorrectly, the clerk should be asked to return it to the Classification Chair for reclassification. If the proper class for the entry has already been judged, the entry should be pointed out to the Panel Leader of that section who will determine if the class or section should be re-judged. If an entry is determined to be mislabeled, the panel may at its discretion either place a note on the entry regarding the nomenclature problem or have the clerk return the leaf to the Classification Chair. Entries found to have been obviously altered to change the appearance of the entry should be referred to the Show Chair for disqualification and removal from the show.

Each entry judged should either be marked at the bottom of the entry tag with the award given or, if the entry does not receive an award, be marked with a check mark in the upper right hand corner of the tag to indicate that the entry was judged. The Panel Leader may punch the award on the bottom stub or instruct the clerk to punch the award designations. Before leaving each class or section judged, the Panel Leader should assure that all tags in the class are punched for the award given before moving to the next class or section.

When an entry wins a Class or higher award, the special awards section at the bottom of the entry tag should be marked and punched, and the name of the award should be written on the stub portion of the tag.

The panel may write short comments on the back of an entry card when warranted for educational purposes. As an example, the panel may note that a particularly good specimen may have received a higher award had grooming been better. Judges' comments are particularly encouraged for entries in Division I Section XI - Youth Exhibits of Registered Cultivars and Species. All comments should be tasteful and as positive as possible in order to encourage and educate the exhibitor.

A limited amount of handling of entries by judges is acceptable. However, the judges should rely heavily on the clerks to move and adjust entries when possible.

At all times, judges should proceed at reasonable speed without reduction in ethical and courteous behavior. Judges should always be aware of their unique position as mentors.

A judge should never leave the judging panel (with the exception of quietly stepping back in the event of judging a personal entry) without express permission from the Panel Leader and should not leave the show floor until dismissed by the Judges Chair.

III-G. FORMS FOR JUDGES AND JUDGING

III-G-a.

**APPLICATION FOR HOSTA SHOW JUDGE
PROVISIONAL JUDGE**

Prior to applying to become a Provisional Hosta Show Judge, the applicant should obtain a copy of the current AHS Judges Handbook and become familiar with the basic qualifications for becoming a Hosta Show Judge and the specific requirements for becoming a **Provisional Judge**.

Please provide required information below.

To become a Provisional Judge, a candidate must:

- Be a member of AHS in good standing for at least 2 consecutive calendar years and maintain active membership. **Requirement met?** _____
- Possess the current edition of the AHS Judges Handbook. **Requirement met?** _____
- Be willing to serve on judging panels at accredited shows. **Indicate affirmative** _____
- Exhibit in **two** shows **and** work in clerking or placement in **two** shows during the past four years.

Year	Show Location (City, State)	Activity Accomplished
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

- Complete Judging Clinic I. **Year Completed** _____ **Location** _____
- **Send application to AHS Judges Training Chair for processing and approval.**

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____ Email _____

Signature: _____

Date Submitted: _____ **Date Approved:** _____

III-G-b.

**APPLICATION FOR HOSTA SHOW JUDGE
SENIOR JUDGE**

Prior to applying to become a Senior Hosta Show Judge, the applicant should check the AHS Judges Handbook and become familiar the specific requirements for becoming a **Senior Judge**.

Please provide required information below.

To become a Senior Judge, a Provisional Judge must:

- Be a member of AHS in good standing. **Requirement met?** _____
- Be a Provisional Judge for a **minimum** of two years. **Requirement met?** _____
- Judge twice at accredited AHS shows within four years of being appointed a Provisional Judge. Serving as Show Chair of an accredited show or being Classification Chair or Judges Chair may be counted as one judging credit.

Year	Show Location (City, State)	Activity Accomplished
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

- Exhibit in two shows within the four year period.

Year	Show Location (City, State)	Activity Accomplished
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

- Complete Clinic II within the four year period. **Year Completed** _____
Location of Clinic _____
- **Send application to AHS Judges Training Chair for processing and approval.**

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____ Email _____

Signature: _____

Date Submitted: _____ **Date Approved:** _____

III-G-c.

APPLICATION FOR HOSTA SHOW JUDGE
MASTER JUDGE

Prior to applying to become a Master Hosta Show Judge, the applicant should study the AHS Judges Handbook and become familiar the specific requirements for becoming a **Master Judge**.

Please provide required information below.

To become a Master Judge, a Senior Judge must:

- Be a member of AHS in good standing. **Requirement met?** _____
- Be willing to conduct clinics. **Indicate affirmative** _____
- Serve as a Senior Judge for a minimum of three years. **Requirement met?** _____
- Judge two AHS accredited shows within a four year time period.

Year	Show Location (City, State)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- Serve as Show Chair, Classification Chair, or Judges Chair within the four year period

Year	Show Location (City, State)	Activity Accomplished
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

- Exhibit in two accredited shows within the four year period.

Year	Show Location (City, State)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- Attend Clinics I, II or III at least once within the four year period.

Year Completed _____ **Location of Clinic** _____

- **Send application to AHS Judges Training Chair for processing and approval.**

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____ Email _____

Signature: _____

Date Submitted: _____ **Date Approved:** _____

III-G-d.

**AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY
JUDGE'S RECORD of ACTIVITY**
Copy as needed. Please PRINT all information.

Hosta Show Judges are required to maintain this record of show activity. In order to maintain accreditation as an AHS Show Judge, Provisional and Senior Judges must provide this record of show activity a minimum of once every **four** years to the AHS Judges Records Chair, and Master Judges must provide this record to the Judges Records Chair a minimum of once every **three** years.

Years Covered _____ through _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Shows Judged

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location (City, State)</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Shows in Which You Exhibited

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location (City, State)</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Other Judging Activity

<u>Date</u>	<u>Judging Activity</u>	<u>Location (City, State)</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Judges Clinics Completed

<u>Date</u>	<u>Clinic #</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Clinic #</u>	<u>Location</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

III-G-e.

**AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY
Clinic Point Scoring Work Sheet**

Registered Cultivars and Species

Student Name _____

Please enter points deducted per attribute and add comments in space provided.

Attribute	Exhibit I		Exhibit II		Exhibit III	
Form and Size 30 Points						
Color and Pattern 30 Points						
Texture and Substance 20 Points						
Condition and Grooming 20 Points						
Total Points Deducted						
Class Average or Instructors' Score						

III-G-f.

**AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY
Clinic Point Scoring Work Sheet**

Unregistered Seedlings and Sports

Student Name _____

Please enter points deducted per attribute and add comments in space provided.

Attribute	Exhibit I	Exhibit II	Exhibit III
Distinction 40 Points			
Form and Size 15 Points			
Color and Pattern 15 Points			
Texture and Substance 15 Points			
Condition and Grooming 15 Points			
Total Points Deducted			
Class Average or Instructors' Score			