The American Hosta Society

Founded 1968

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Handbook for

Hosta Shows and Judging
Benedict Garden Performance Plan

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Organization and Responsibilities of the Vice-President – Awards and Honors and the Vice President – Judging and Exhibitions.

I-A. Vice President – Awards and Honors

I-B. Vice President – Judging and Exhibitions
- I-B-1. Hosta Shows Chair
- I-B-2. Judges Training Chair
- I-B-3. Judges Records Chair
- I-B-4. Show Classification List Chair
- I-B-5. Benedict Garden Performance Chair

II. Hosta Shows

II-A. Show Purpose and Objectives

II-B. Show Planning and Management
- II-B-1. Setting the Show Date
- II-B-2. Securing the Show Location
- II-B-3. Appointing Committee Chairs
- II-B-4. Securing AHS Hosta Shows Chair Assistance for AHS Show Accreditation
- II-B-5. Preparing a Show Budget
- II-B-6. Establishing a Show Planning Time Line Chart

II-C. Show Chair and Committee Chair Duties
- II-C-1. Show Chair
- II-C-2. Show Co-Chair
- II-C-3. Awards Chair
- II-C-4. Classification Chair and Committee
- II-C-5. Clerks Chair and Committee
  - II-C-5-a. Specific Instructions for Clerks
- II-C-6. Artistic Design Chair
- II-C-7. Hospitality and Membership Chair and Committee
- II-C-8. Judges Chair
- II-C-9. Placement Chair and Committee
- II-C-10. Publicity Chair
- II-C-11. Registration-Exhibitor Assistance Chair
- II-C-12. Schedule Chair
- II-C-13. Staging and Dismantling Chair and Committee
- II-C-14. Tabulation Chair and Committee

II-D. Show Accreditation Procedures

II-E. AHS Requirements for Conducting an Accredited Show

II-F. The Hosta Show Schedule
- II-F-1. Show Schedule Contents
- II-F-2. Interpretation of the Rules
- II-F-3. The AHS Standard Show Schedule Divisions
- II-F-4. Standard Awards for Shows
- II-F-5. Sample Show Schedule

II-G. Preparation of Hosta Leaves for Show
- II-G-1. Knowing which Leaves to Select
- II-G-2. Cutting and Grooming Entries
- II-G-3. Entering Specimens

II-H. Table of Leaf Sizes Used in AHS Hosta Shows

II-I. Hosta Show Forms
- II-I-a. Hosta Show Registration Form
- II-I-b. Exhibitor Registration Form
- II-I-c. Individual Tally Sheet
- II-I-d. Final Show Report Form
- II-I-e. Best of Show Ballot
- II-I-f. Best Seedling or Sport Ballot

III. Hosta Show Judging and Judges' Requirements

III-A. Basic Qualifications

III-B. The Four Levels of Hosta Show Judge and Requirements for Attaining and Maintaining Each Level
- III-B-1. Provisional Judge
- III-B-2. Senior Judge
- III-B-3. Master Judge
- III-B-4. Judge Emeritus

III-C. Judging Ethics

III-D. Judges Clinic Structure and Clinic Contents
- III-D-1. Clinic I (Basic)
- III-D-2. Clinic II (Advanced)
- III-D-3. Clinic III (Discussion Forum)
  - III-D-3-a. Clinic III Discussion Topics

III-E. The American Hosta Society Point Scales for Judging Hosta Show Exhibits
- III-E-1. AHS Approved Point Scales for Judging Hosta Show Exhibits
- III-E-2. Definitions of Point Scale Attributes

III-F. Judging Procedures
III-F-1. Accepting Assignments
III-F-2. Floor Procedures

III-G. Forms for Judges and Judging
III-G-a. Application for Hosta Show Judge – Provisional Judge
III-G-b. Application for Hosta Show Judge – Senior Judge
III-G-c. Application for Hosta Show Judge – Master Judge
III-G-d. Judge's Record of Activity
III-G-e. Clinic Point Scoring Work Sheet – Registered Cultivars and Species
III-G-f. Clinic Point Scoring Work Sheet – Unregistered Seedling and Sports

IV. Benedict Garden Performance Awards Plan

IV-A. Purpose of the Benedict Garden Performance Awards Plan

IV-B. Benedict Garden Performance Awards

IV-C. The Awards System

IV-D. Procedures for Nomination of Cultivars

IV-E. Benedict Garden Performance Awards Voting Requirements and Procedures
IV-E-1. Voting Requirements
IV-E-2. Balloting Procedures

IV-F. Presentation of Awards and Publicity

IV-G. Benedict Garden Performance Awards Nomination Form

Section I

Organization and Responsibilities

Vice President – Awards and Honors

Vice President – Judging and Exhibitions

I. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENT – AWARDS AND HONORS and VICE PRESIDENT – JUDGING AND EXHIBITIONS

I-A. Vice President – Awards and Honors

The conduct of policies and procedures of The American Hosta Society with respect to awards and honors is the responsibility of the Vice President – Awards and Honors. The Vice President is elected by a vote of the membership of the Society. The Vice President maintains 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 Vice President 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 Vice President 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 American Hosta Society awards and honors is encouraged to contact the Vice President – Awards and Honors.

All information regarding the AHS Awards and Honors can be found in the AHS Awards Manuel at the AHS website: americanhostasociety.org

I-B. Vice President – Judging and Exhibitions

The conduct of policies and procedures of The American Hosta Society with respect to hosta shows, the Benedict Garden Performance Plan for evaluating hostas in the garden, and show and garden performance judging is the responsibility of the Vice President – Judging and Exhibitions. The Vice President is elected by a vote of the membership of the Society. In support of these policies and activities, the Vice President has several committee chairs appointed by the President. Any member with questions or concerns regarding The American Hosta Society hosta shows, the Benedict Garden Performance Plan, or judging is encouraged to contact the Vice President – Judging and Exhibitions or any of the committee chairs.

The Committee Chairs and their responsibilities are listed below.

I-B-1. Hosta Shows Chair

The Hosta Shows Chair is responsible for the coordination of all American Hosta Society accredited hosta shows. This includes providing local clubs the forms needed to gain AHS approval for shows and the forms needed to report the results of the show to AHS. The Chair also maintains the inventory of AHS show entry tags and provides them as requested to local show chairs. Local, regional, and national show chairs should contact the Chair no later than three months prior to a show's date to ensure accreditation of the show. In order for a show to be accredited by AHS, the Chair must first have approved the show schedule. The Chair will assist show chairs and judges with any questions regarding hosta shows, and is responsible for collecting final show reports from all accredited shows. The Chair is also responsible for providing the show results to other AHS leaders, including the Hosta Journal Editors, both online and printed, as the President deems necessary.

I-B-2. Judges Training Chair

The Judges Training Chair is responsible for processing applications for show judges and for providing updated information to the Judges Records Chair. The Chair will inspect the current list of show judges at least twice each year and advise the Judges Records Chair of any needed corrections or updates. The Chair is also responsible for judges clinic content. The Chair coordinates clinics at the National Convention with the Convention Chair. The Chair also assists local and regional organizations in conducting clinics including securing qualified instructors and providing all handbooks, tests and other necessary forms. The chair is responsible for notifying all clinic attendees of their performance scores and for providing the Judges Records Chair with lists of clinic attendees who successfully complete the courses.

I-B-3. Judges Records Chair

The Judges Records Chair maintains an up-to-date record of all AHS Show Judges and their activities, and provides lists of show judges to local, regional and national organizations when requested. The Chair provides an updated list of Show Judges monthly, provided there are changes, to the AHS web site coordinator. The Chair is responsible for assuring that all Show Judges are kept aware of their status, including the need for training or judging activity in order to maintain status. Show Judges will be advised once a year of their current status.

I-B-4. Show Classification List Chair

The Show Classification List Chair is responsible for the annual update and publishing of the AHS Hosta Show Classification List. The Classification List contains the predetermined show classification information for all registered hosta cultivars and species leaves entered in Division I of a hosta show.

Each year by February 1, the Chair will receive two lists from the Registrar, one a comprehensive listing of all registered cultivars recognized species including those added through the previous year and one an addendum listing only the cultivars added from the previous year's registrations, in a format previously agreed upon by the Registrar and the Vice President – Judging and Exhibitions. The Chair will determine and add the size and color classification for added cultivars and will revise and correct and errors found in the previous list. The Chair will then edit the list formats to assure page brevity, add updated cover sheets to both lists, and provide the new lists to the Registrar in the agreed upon format (usually Excel).

The Chair will then convert both updated lists to a pdf format, provide these lists to the AHS Website Coordinator by March 15, and assure that the updated files are available on the Website before April 1 of each year.

I-B-5. Benedict Garden Performance Chair

The Benedict Garden Performance Chair is responsible for all aspects of the Benedict Garden Performance Plan including preparation and mailing of the annual ballot, compilation of the results and for providing the results to the President, the Vice President - Awards and Honors, and to others as provided by the Plan.

Section II

Hosta Shows

II. HOSTA SHOWS

II-A. Show Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of a hosta show is EDUCATION. The show is an excellent opportunity to introduce the viewing public to the genus *Hosta* and to expand its knowledge of the full scope of the genus. Hosta shows also provide an opportunity to solicit new members for local societies as well as for The American Hosta Society.

The show provides an opportunity to further educate the AHS membership about hostas while providing hands-on training for those members who work in the show. It is also a training ground for both exhibitors and judges. In order to provide the best educational opportunities, and to make the show a less stressful and more pleasant experience, the responsibility and workload of a show is best shared by as many members of the host society as possible. The show should be a pleasing experience for all involved in order to encourage future show participation.

II-B. Show Planning and Management

Well run shows are the result of early planning and careful management. The host society should appoint a Show Chair at least a year in advance of the show if possible. The Show Chair **must be an AHS Master or Senior Judge** (see II-C-1) and should have good organizational and leadership abilities as well as extensive show experience. The Show Chair should complete the following activities as soon as possible:

1. Setting the show date.
2. Securing the show location.
3. Appointing Committee Chairs.
4. Securing AHS Hosta Shows Chair assistance for AHS show accreditation.
5. Preparing a show budget.
6. Establishing a show planning time line chart. The time line chart may be completed first and may include the previous five items.

II-B-1. Setting the Show Date

The most important consideration in setting a show date is the selection of a date that corresponds with the time period when hostas are at peak performance levels in the geographic area of the show. This is the period when most hostas have just reached leaf maturity in terms of both size and color. There is generally a period of approximately one month in any given area when hostas look their best.

Other considerations should include availability of the show location as well as dates of other potential nearby shows. Shows being conducted in close proximity to each other, especially in the same region, should be coordinated as much as possible with the other host organization(s) and the AHS Hosta Shows Chair to avoid the possibility of having multiple shows on the same dates. This is desirable in order to minimize conflicts, allow greater participation, and reduce the potential problem of securing sufficient judges when multiple shows are conducted at the same time.

II-B-2. Securing the Show Location

Selecting an appropriate show location is one of the most important aspects of insuring a successful show. Suitable show sites are often in great demand and are often booked as much as a year in advance. This should be one of the first activities completed by the Show Chair.

The show site should be a location that can be open to the public and easily accessible by both the show participants and the general public. This may include shopping malls, hotels, large building lobbies, botanical gardens, local business meeting areas, church or local government building meeting rooms, or any other space that meets the locally established requirements for the show.

The show location should be large enough to include the necessary space for all the planned exhibitions, sufficient space for a preparation area for exhibitors, a staging area for classification, space for a head table for top award winners (may be the same space used earlier for exhibit preparation or classification), and an area for tabulation activities. It is also desirable to have storage space for bottles, boxes, and other show paraphernalia. The preparation, classification, and tabulation may be in separate rooms. It is preferable that all exhibitions and the head table be located in one large room if possible. In determining the space requirements for the show, it is important to provide sufficient isle space for judging and for viewing the exhibits without undue crowding. The show location should also contain an easily accessible water source for filling the bottles for the exhibits.

Proper lighting and temperature control are absolute musts for a show location. The show place should have bright lighting and diffused natural light from windows or skylights if possible. The lighting should be such that true colors are reflected and not distorted or dulled. Proper temperature control is important to maintain the freshness of the exhibits. Specimens last much longer in a uniformly cool and controlled atmosphere.

If a plant sale or other funding efforts are part of the show, space and props will also need to be secured for these activities. The Show Chair should NOT be responsible for such activities since his or her responsibilities are already substantial. However the Show Chair should work with the person in charge of plant sales to provide the facilities needed.

II-B-3. Appointing Committee Chairs

The Show Chair is responsible for building an organization of committee chairs as necessary to properly conduct the show and **must be an AHS Master or Senior Judge in good standing** (unless waived by the AHS Hosta Shows Chair) as must the Judges Chair (both confirmed current members of the AHS). It is also strongly encouraged that the Show Co-Chair, Classification Chair, Schedule Chair, and Placement Chair also be current members of The American Hosta Society.

Recommended committee chairs are listed below. Other committee chairs may be appointed, as the Show Chair deems necessary:

Show Co-Chair
Awards Chair
Classification Chair
Clerks Chair
Design Chair (if offering the Artistic Design Division)
Hospitality and Membership Chair
Judges Chair
Placement Chair
Publicity Chair
Registration-Exhibitor Assistance Chair
Schedule Chair
Staging and Dismantling Chair
Tabulation Chair

The specific duties of the Show Chair and the various committee chairs are detailed in this Judges Handbook, Section II-C (pages II-6 through II-14).

II-B-4. Securing AHS Hosta Shows Chair Assistance for AHS Show Accreditation

The Show Chair should contact the AHS Hosta Shows Chair early in the planning process (but no later than three months prior to the planned show date) to advise the AHS Hosta Shows Chair of the show being planned and to request the forms needed to secure AHS accreditation of the show. The AHS Hosta Shows Chair is also available to advise the Show Chair regarding any aspect of the show about which the Show Chair may have questions. The Show Chair may also order show entry tags from the AHS Hosta Shows Chair as well as secure sources for award ribbons and rosettes. See Section II-D - Show Accreditation Procedures for detailed information on show accreditation.

II-B-5. Preparing a Show Budget

One of the primary responsibilities of the Show Chair is preparing a budget and securing funding from the host society for the show. Hosta Shows, even small ones, can become costly if expenditures are not carefully planned and managed. At the beginning of the budgeting process, many expenditures may not be well known. For this reason, the initial budget should contain a substantial pad for unknowns and the budget should be revisited often throughout the show planning process. Listed below are some of the expenditures that may need to be considered in building a budget:

Show Location Rental
Table Rental
Insurance
Exhibition Containers
(Usually a one-time charge. Containers can be reused for future shows)
Leaf Prep Supplies (like cotton balls, paper towels, etc.)
Carts and Portable Watering System Rental (if a water source is not readily available)
Show Schedule Preparation and Printing
Classification List Printing
Show Entry Tags
Show Ribbons and Show Prizes
Judges' Appreciation Gifts and other Judges' Costs
(Please note that judges should not expect gifts of substantial value nor should judges demand travel and lodging compensation. The host society and the Show Chair decide what the value of judges' gifts should be and also decide if any additional compensation for travel and lodging is to be offered based on the society's ability to fund such costs)
Judges' Luncheon and/or Coffees
Table Coverings or Cleaning of Permanent Table Coverings after use
Show Educational Materials
After Show Dismantling and Janitorial Services
Miscellaneous Expenses – Postage, Clerks' Materials, Copying, etc.

II-B-6. Establishing a Show Planning Time Line Chart

The Show Chair should, as part of the planning process, create a Time Line Chart of show activities that need to be accomplished before, during, and after the show. This chart will act as a reminder of things needing to be done and also will become a schedule to assist the Show Chair. The Time Line Chart should be a dynamic document that is updated as necessary.

A sample Time Line Chart is shown below:

Time Line of Activities – Hosta Show – June 15, 2025

July-December, 2024	Set show date. Secure show location and sign contract. Secure committee chairs. Conduct organizational meeting(s) with committee chairs. Develop show budget and secure approval of budget. Contact AHS Hosta Shows Chair to start accreditation process. Request Show Packet from AHS Hosta Shows Chair.
January, 2025	Secure current list of judges from AHS Judges Records Chair Send invitations to judges with return card or RSVP instructions. The AHS recommends that ALL AHS Judges be invited to serve. Conduct show committee meeting. Write Show Schedule and submit to AHS Hosta Shows Chair along with initial show paperwork. Secure show insurance.
February, 2025	Make corrections to Show Schedule as recommended by AHS Hosta Shows Chair. Secure approval of corrected Show Schedule and show accreditation. Print Show Schedule. Assure that all committee chairs have committee workers secured. Conduct inventory of show supplies. Order ribbons, rosettes, and show entry tags as needed. Check status of budget and make changes as necessary.
March, 2025	Provide copies of Show Schedule to membership. Send copies of Show Schedule, maps, other instructions to judges who have agreed to judge. Contact AHS Hosta Shows Chair for assistance if enough judges have not been secured. Check show supplies again and secure needed supplies. Purchase show awards and judges gifts. Check planning progress with each committee chair. Check budget status.
April, 2025	Arrange judges luncheon and/or judges coffee. Download updated Hosta Show Classification List of Recognized Species and Registered Cultivars from the AHS Website and make copies as needed. Conduct show committee meeting. Check budget status. Secure NGC Flower Show Judges if offering Artistic Design Division.

May, 2025	Conduct show education. Review schedule with membership at society meeting. Explain show rules. Secure entrants for Artistic Design Division. Finalize show layout and provide to committee chairs. Confirm all judges. Final Budget Check.
Meeting Prior to Show	Provide final directions. Assure each committee is ready. Explain show forms.
Day Before the Show	Move containers and all supplies to show location. Complete show set-up. Make final check for supplies, awards, and paperwork. Begin accepting entries.
Show Day – June 15, 2025	Assure all judges available. Check final plans for judges' coffee and/or luncheon. Check all show activities to assure completion on time. Conduct final walk through of show area after show dismantling. Assure show supplies and paperwork are secured.
Post Show Activities	Send Final Show Report to the AHS Hosta Shows Chair within one month. Provide show results to local society officers. Inventory and secure all remaining supplies. Arrange delivery of all show awards. Send thank you notes to judges and committee members. Close books on show and prepare final budget report.

This Time Line Chart is just one example and may not include all local needs.

II-C. Show Chair and Committee Chair Duties

II-C-1. Show Chair

The Show Chair is responsible for, and must be in touch with, every aspect of the show. The Show Chair plans the show, secures the location, secures the funding, and sees to all aspects of the show – before, during, and after. The Show Chair must be a current AHS Master or Senior Judge in good standing (subject to availability). Exceptions must be pre-approved by the AHS Hosta Shows Chair after the local candidate demonstrates a thorough knowledge of the AHS standard show schedule and procedures.

After the date and location of the show are determined, the Show Chair should prepare a tentative Show Schedule. The chair then is responsible for contacting the AHS Hosta Shows Chair, providing the tentative show information and schedule necessary to start the process of receiving AHS accreditation of the show. The AHS Hosta Shows Chair should be contacted no later than three months prior to the date of the show and preferably much earlier. The AHS Hosta Shows Chair is available to the Show Chair to provide any assistance needed during and throughout the entire planning process.

The AHS Hosta Shows Chair provides all required report forms to the Show Chair upon accreditation by AHS. Upon completion of the show, the Show Chair must send the final report to the AHS Hosta Shows Chair including the show results. The Show Chair should keep a copy of the Final Show Report and the Exhibitor Tally Sheets for one year, but remember that the decision of the judges is final at the end of the show. The AHS Hosta Shows Chair must receive the final report no later than one month after the show date.

In order to properly manage the show, the Show Chair may appoint committees and delegate responsibilities for certain aspects of the show. Recommended committees are listed in Section II-B-3 (page II-3) of this Handbook. The duties of the various chairs, as set forth in this section of the Handbook, may be split or combined as the Show Chair sees fit in order to build an effective show management team.

II-C-2. Show Co-Chair

The Co-Chair should be a current member of AHS. The Co-Chair's job is to work with the Show Chair and provide any assistance the Show Chair may need, and to act as a backup to the Show Chair should he/she not be able to fulfill the duties of the Show Chair during the show planning and presentation process. It is strongly recommended to have a Show Co-Chair. Many societies expect the current Show Co-Chair to assume the duties of Show Chair for the following year's show, thus providing a training period and process for securing the upcoming Show Chair.

II-C-3. Awards Chair

The Awards Chair is responsible for securing all ribbons, rosettes, trophies or other prizes specified in the Show Schedule. On the day of the show, the Awards Chair assures that all awards are on premise and available for the show. He/she also works with the Tabulation Chair in recording all awards. Finally, the Awards Chair is responsible for providing the awards to the winners. Should some awards not be presented at the show, the Awards Chair should collect them at the conclusion of the show and assure they are presented to the winners in a timely fashion.

II-C-4. Classification Chair and Committee

The Classification Chair should ideally be a member of AHS. The Classification Chair and Classification Committee members must be knowledgeable in hosta horticulture and classification, and must be completely familiar with the Show Schedule.

Prior to the show, the Classification Chair must secure **current** copies of the AHS Hosta Show Classification List for use in classifying registered cultivars and species entries in the show. Copies of the List should also be provided in the exhibit preparation area for use by exhibitors in preparing their entry cards. This will reduce the number of classification errors reaching the classification table. The Classification Chair may also bring other hosta reference materials such as books and handbooks to the show that he/she deems appropriate to aid in classification.

Prior to the start of the show, the Classification Chair should ensure that sufficient space and tables for three distinct areas – entries awaiting classification, entries being classified, and entries already classified awaiting placement.

The Classification Chair should have copies of the AHS Table of Leaf Sizes and rulers available for measuring leaves and verifying the proper size classification of unregistered seedlings and sports in Division I, Sections VI-X. All seedling and sport entries should be measured for proper classification prior to placement.

The Classification Chair should check every entry tag to ensure all information is provided, including information on the lower portion of the tag that will be hidden during the judging process and later collected for tabulation (also referred to as the stub). If a tag is incomplete, it should be returned to the exhibitor to be corrected, **or** committee members may correct the information if the exhibitor is not available.

The Classification Chair must approve the classification information for all show entries to assure adherence to AHS and local show rules. Special emphasis should be placed on insuring that only registered cultivars and species are entered in the sections and divisions limited to registered cultivars and species. Classification errors should be corrected on the entry card prior to approval of the entry for placement in the show. **To signify approval, the Classification Chair should place a check mark on the upper left hand corner of each entry tag**. Entries that are found to contain incorrect cultivar names, or that do not meet the entry requirements for the show, should be referred back to the exhibitor, if available, or referred to the Show Chair for handling. Such entries may, at the discretion of the Show Chair, either be entered in Division V – Non-Competitive Exhibits or disqualified. Entries accidentally and significantly damaged to the point of being unattractive prior to or during classification and placement may also be disqualified. Entries that have obviously been altered to change the natural appearance (use of magic marker or paint to hide blemishes, use of appliqués to hide holes, use of leaf shine products, etc.) should be disqualified for entry in the show. The Classification Chair should also reject any leaf showing evidence of nematodes or disease.

Upon approval of an entry for placement, the Classification Chair should fold and secure the bottom portion of the tag to hide the exhibitor's name and move the entry to the Placement Table for placement in the show.

The Classification Chair should remain available on the show floor during the judging process should any classification errors be discovered and need correction prior to judging. Only the Classification Chair or Show Chair may change an entry's classification after an entry is placed in the show. The Classification Chair should also final check the classification data on all entries designated as section or division winners prior to the completion of judging to insure that there are no incorrectly classified major award winners.

II-C-5. Clerks Chair and Committee

The Clerks Chair is responsible for securing sufficient numbers of clerks for the show. Normally, there should be two clerks assigned for each judging panel. Unassigned roving clerks may also be used as runners to provide support for the assigned clerks.

It is also the Clerks Chair's responsibility to assure that all clerical supplies needed for the show are available on the show date. This includes pencils, hole punchers, staplers, paper clips, supplies trays and other supplies deemed necessary.

Prior to the start of show judging, the Clerks Chair should assemble the Clerks and provide detailed instructions including expected clerk conduct during judging, panel assignments, handling requests by judges for moving improperly placed entries, punching the awards on the entry tags, applying ribbons to entry tags, moving entries at judges' request for judging purposes, etc. Clerks should also be instructed to be extremely careful when handling entries in order to minimize any chance of damaging the entry.

II-C-5-a. Specific Instructions for Clerks

Clerks do not ask questions nor talk unnecessarily during the judging process but should answer any questions directed to them by the judges.

Clerks provide assistance as requested by the judges for referring classification mistakes to the Classification Chair, for moving entries, and for seeking assistance from other Show Committee members as needed.

Clerks should never repeat any of the conversations of the judges.

Once assigned to a judges panel, the clerk should remain with the panel at all times unless otherwise instructed.

Clerks are also responsible for keeping the immediate judging area clear of all people not involved in the judging process, including the public, if the show is open during the judging process. In dealing with the public, clerks need to remain courteous at all times but must be firm in keeping the area clear.

Clerks should stand aside while each class is being judged. For classes with large numbers of entries, it is acceptable to begin punching the checked awards at the bottom of the tag and attaching the ribbons to the entry tags, if this can be done without interfering with the judging process. At the conclusion of the judging of each class or section, the clerk should check all entries to assure they have been judged and marked appropriately. Each judged entry should either have a ribbon award indicated on the lower portion of the entry tag or should, in absence of an award being made, have a check mark placed by the judges in the upper right hand corner of the tag. Any entry not having one or the other indication that it has been judged should be immediately pointed out to the judges Panel Leader.

After each class has been judged, and the Best of Class has been selected and noted in writing on the bottom portion of the tag (stub), all the award designations should be punched at the bottom of the entry tag. The awarded ribbon(s) should then be attached to the entry tag, and all stubs removed from all entries, except the Best of Class entry, and delivered to the Tabulation Chair. All stubs should be thoroughly checked to verify that the required information is complete. The Best of Class entry should then be placed at the front of the class for further consideration by the judges for the Best of Section award. All other entries that may have been moved during the judging process should be returned to their proper places in their class.

Once the judges have selected the Best of Section winner, the clerk will record the award on the stub and move that entry to the head table. At that time, the rest of the stubs on the remaining Best of Class winners may be removed and delivered to the Tabulation Chair. The stubs on entries that go to the head table should be removed only after the final judging for the Best of Show and Best Seedling or Sport has been completed. The Clerks Chair should appoint one panel of clerks to remove all remaining stubs and ensure that all awards given have been correctly noted on each stub, keeping in mind that the Best of Show and the Best Seedling or Sport should each have four ribbons and four awards clearly punched on the entry card and stub.

At the conclusion of judging, the Clerks Chair should walk the show and verify that all stubs have been removed and delivered to the Tabulation Chair. Clerks should return all unused materials to the Clerks Chair at this point.

II-C-6. Design Chair

The Design Chair is responsible for all aspects of Division VI – Artistic Design. This includes coordinating with the Show Chair to select the theme of the division, determining the show space requirements, developing the design schedule and classes, securing National Garden Club (NGC) Flower Show Judges and exhibitors for the division, securing props for the division as required by the design schedule, and securing judges gifts. It is also the responsibility of the Design Chair to obtain NGC accreditation, if the exhibitors and judges are to receive NGC credit for their participation. On the day of the show, the Design Chair will coordinate all activities related to placement and judging of the Artistic Design Division.

For shows that do not offer Division VI, it is still desirable to have design displays on the show floor. The Show Chair may appoint a Design Chair to arrange for and coordinate such displays. In this case, the Show Chair will redefine the specific duties of the Design Chair to meet his/her objectives for the show.

II-C-7. Hospitality and Membership Chair and Committee

The Hospitality and Membership Chair assembles a committee responsible for attending to the public during the show. This includes providing manned information areas with hosta related educational materials that can be distributed to the public. A hosta show is an ideal place to recruit new society members so membership material for both the local society and The American Hosta Society should be on hand. Information booths or tables should be located in very prominent areas on the show floor and should be manned at all times while the show is open to the public.

II-C-8. Judges Chair

The Judges Chair must be a current AHS Master or Senior Show Judge. The Judges Chair is responsible for all aspects of judging the show with the exception of Division VI - Artistic Design (if offered). This includes securing the judges for the show, providing a list of the judges to the Show Chair, securing judges' appreciation gifts, assigning judges to panels, verifying that the judges are eligible to judge, selecting panel leaders, and providing judging assignments and instructions to the panels.

The Judges Chair should obtain the current list of AHS accredited Show Judges from the Judges Records Chair. The AHS recommends that all judges, regardless of level, be invited to judge in the show. Should more judges accept invitations than can be accommodated, some judges may be assigned other show duties (with their prior consent) and still receive credit for serving. For National Convention shows, judges indicate their desire to serve in advance by indicating their availability on the convention registration form.

At least one month prior to the show, the Judges Chair should verify attendance of all judges. The Chair should also provide judges with directions to the show location, the time judges are expected to be at the show location, and a copy of the Show Schedule. Immediately prior to the beginning of the judging process, the Judges Chair should meet with the judges and provide instructions regarding the show. The Judges Chair should also be on the show floor at all times to handle any questions or problems that may arise during the judging process.

The Judges Chair will coordinate the final judging at the head table to select the Best Seedling or Sport and the Best of Show. This includes providing the judges the necessary point scoring forms and tabulating the results of the head table judging. The Judges Chair should ensure that all entries that receive division awards are verified to be entered by AHS members before Best of Show and Best Seedling or Sport balloting. If an entrant is found not to be an AHS member, the Judges Chair will immediately refer it to the Show Chair for handling. If the exhibitor does not choose to become a member of the AHS, the Show Chair may direct the Judges Chair to re-judge any section that may be affected prior to final balloting to determine the overall winning entries.

II-C-9. Placement Chair and Committee

The Placement Chair should be a member of AHS. The Placement Committee sees that each entry is placed in the correct class/section/division on the correct exhibition table. It is also the committee's responsibility to adjust space allocated to classes and sections as necessary during the placement process to optimize the overall quality of the show display. Early in the show planning process, the Placement Chair should assist the Show Chair and Staging Chair in planning the layout of the show.

Prior to the start of placement, the Placement Chair should provide instruction to the committee with emphasis placed on the need to be alert for classification errors. All committee members should be completely familiar with the planned layout of the show divisions, sections, and classes.

The Placement Chair and committee should **check and recheck the entries** in each class to ensure they have been placed in the proper class. Additional care should be taken to ensure that entries of the same cultivar are placed together. Any entry that appears to be classified incorrectly should be referred back to the Classification Committee immediately for classification recheck prior to the beginning of judging. As entries are placed in the show, the Placement Chair should constantly inspect the divisions, sections, and classes and direct any necessary adjustments of allocated space for each. At the conclusion of placement, the Placement Chair should perform a final inspection of the entire show for any remaining possible classification errors and make any last minute adjustments of the displays.

With the exception of entries in the Division IV - Educational Displays, Division V - Non Competitive Exhibits, and Division VI - Artistic Design, only members of the Placement Committee may place entries in the show after the entry has been classified.

II-C-10. Publicity Chair

The Publicity Chair is responsible for publicizing the show to the general public. This includes developing and distributing flyers, generating newspaper coverage, and providing show information to other horticultural organizations.

II-C-11. Registration-Exhibitor Assistance Chair

This Chair works with the Show Chair in the planning process to assure that a proper entry preparation area is provided. The Chair also assures that the area is set up to allow exhibitors to efficiently prepare entries and that all supplies are in the preparation area when it is opened. This includes the containers and water, entry tags, pens and pencils, rubber bands to attach tags to the bottles, knives and scissors for cutting stems, cotton balls or other materials for staging the entry in the container, and paper towels for cleanup. Brooms and mops should also be available to keep the floor area clean and safe. The Chair should also insure that at least one copy of the current AHS Hosta Show Classification List is available for exhibitors to use to verify classification data for registered cultivars and species.

The Registration-Exhibitor Assistance Chair and committee should assure that all exhibitors sign the Exhibitor Registration Form (page II-37) providing all necessary information and obtain their Exhibitor Numbers. The committee should encourage any exhibitors who are not currently members of The American Hosta Society to become members prior to the show to ensure that awards can be made to section or higher winners. The committee should be willing to provide instruction, as necessary, on proper completion of the entry tags including the importance of providing AHS membership information, proper classification information, exhibitor number, and completion of the bottom portion of the tag. Committee members may also provide instruction on proper staging of leaves in containers for best display and tips on leaf preparation.

The Registration-Exhibitor Assistance Chair and committee are responsible for being sure each exhibitor fills out and hands in a completed Individual Tally Sheet (page II-38) which is then returned to the Registration-Exhibitor Assistance Chair to be handed in to the Tabulation Chair along with the Exhibitor Registration Form.

II-C-12. Schedule Chair

The Schedule Chair should be a member of the AHS. The Schedule Chair is responsible for writing and providing the Show Schedule to the Show Chair to obtain AHS approval, then printing and distributing it to exhibitors and other committee members in a timely manner. For National Conventions, the schedule must be made available to all members via inclusion in an AHS publication, or on the AHS Convention website.

The Schedule Chair is responsible for ensuring that all AHS rules regarding shows are included and that it adheres to the AHS standard Hosta Show Schedule. The Schedule should be completed early in the show planning process and submitted to the AHS Hosta Shows Chair for approval prior to being printed and distributed. In order to accomplish this, the Schedule Chair must work closely with the Show Chair and other committee chairs in developing the data that must be included in the schedule.

II-C-13. Staging and Dismantling Chair and Committee

The Staging and Dismantling Chair is responsible for staging the show and providing tables, covers, bottles, class dividers, class/section/division cards, and all other props needed for the show. This includes the exhibit preparation area, the classification area, the tabulation area, and the head table.

Working with the Show Chair and other committee members, the Chair should develop a layout for the show using experiences gained from previous shows and estimates for numbers of entries in this show to allocate space for the various divisions and sections of the show. Sufficient space should be allocated to cover miscalculations of expected entry numbers.

The Staging and Dismantling Chair will ensure that all props are delivered to the show location and set up as planned prior to the time set for accepting entries. The committee will work with other show committees before and during the show to adjust props as necessary to optimize the success of the show.

At the conclusion of the show, the committee will completely dismantle the show. The Chair is responsible for insuring that all rental property is returned, that all society property is returned to storage, that the show area is cleaned, and that all trash is removed.

II-C-14. Tabulation Chair and Committee

The Tabulation Chair and committee are responsible for recording the results of the show and providing to them to the Show Chair in a timely manner.

After the show entry phase is complete, the Tabulation Chair will secure the Exhibitor Registration Form (page II-37) and all Individual Tally Sheets (page II-38) from the Registration-Exhibitor Assistance Chair. The Tabulation Committee will receive all bottom stubs of the entry cards from the Clerks Committee as the judging is completed in each class, section and division. The Tabulation Chair should verify that all stubs have been provided to his/her committee before completing tabulation and releasing results.

Award data from each entry stub is then recorded on the Individual Tally Sheets for each exhibitor. If a stub is found to be incomplete, the stub should be returned to the Clerks Committee to determine the missing information, if possible.

At the conclusion of tabulation, the Tabulation Chair will record the winners of all awards specified by the Show Schedule and will return the results, the completed Individual Tally Sheets, the stubs, and the Exhibitor Registration Form to the Awards Chair. Both chairs should then verify the accuracy of all the major awards data before turning over the results and other items to the Show Chair.

II-D. Show Accreditation Procedures

In planning a show, the Show Chair is responsible for completing the necessary forms required by The American Hosta Society and providing the necessary information to the AHS Hosta Shows Chair.

To begin the process of securing AHS show accreditation, the Show Chair should prepare a tentative Show Schedule and complete a Hosta Show Registration Form (Form II-I-a, Hosta Shows II-36). These items should then be sent to the AHS Hosta Shows Chair at least three months prior to the show date. It is recommended that this be done much earlier, if possible, up to six months prior to the show date. Since some of the data may not be available at the beginning of the process, such as the judges' names, the registration process may be ongoing and require several revisions and resends of the Registration Form over the months leading up to the Show.

The AHS Hosta Shows Chair will check the tentative Schedule for accuracy and adherence to AHS hosta show guidelines, show the necessary corrections, and return it along with a packet of show forms and information to the Show Chair. The Show Chair should then make the necessary corrections to the Schedule, if any, and return it to the AHS Hosta Shows Chair for approval. The Show Schedule should not be printed until the Hosta Shows Chair has provided final approval. Once this is done, the Hosta Shows Chair will signal tentative accreditation status. A show is not considered AHS accredited until all requirements are met including the submission of the Final Report.

At any time before, during, and after the show, the AHS Hosta Shows Chair is available to provide assistance and answer questions. The Show Chair should always feel free to call for that assistance.

The packet that the Hosta Shows Chair sends to the Show Chair will include Exhibitor Registration Forms, Individual Tally Sheets, Final Show Report Form, Best of Show and Best Sport or Seedling ballots, and other information necessary such as recent changes in AHS requirements and ribbon ordering information and suggestions.

At the conclusion of the show, the Show Chair should gather the results of the show and prepare the Final Show Report (Hosta Shows II-39 through II-41). The Final Show Report must be submitted to the AHS Hosta Shows Chair no later than one month after the show date in order for the show to remain accredited. If the Show Chair encounters any problem in meeting the one-month deadline, he/she should immediately advise the AHS Hosta Shows Chair. The Hosta Shows Chair may grant additional time if warranted.

AHS Hosta Show Forms are included in this section of the Handbook (pages II-36 through II-43) and may be reproduced as needed.

II-E. AHS Requirements for Conducting an Accredited Show

The following requirements must be satisfied for conducting a hosta show accredited by The American Hosta Society:

1. The Show Chair and the Judges Chair must be accredited AHS Master or Senior Judges and current members of the American Hosta Society (unless waived by the AHS Hosta Shows Chair).

2. The AHS encourages individuals serving as Show Co-Chair, Classification Chair, Schedule Chair, and Placement Chair to be members of The American Hosta Society.

3. At least three (3) months prior to the show date, the completed Hosta Show Registration Form along with a tentative copy of the Show Schedule must be provided to the AHS Hosta Shows Chair. The Hosta Show Registration Form may be copied from the sample in this section of the Handbook (page II-36).

4. Anyone who wishes to exhibit may do so, however, **section and higher awards are limited to AHS members**. Any exhibitor who is not an AHS member and wins a section or higher award will be asked to become an AHS member. If the winner refuses membership, the Show Chair may either present the award to the next qualified entry or leave the award vacant. AHS members are eligible for all awards offered at any AHS accredited show and winners may not be restricted to local society members only.

5. Panels of at least three but no more than four AHS Show Judges shall do all horticulture judging. Each panel shall be the final authority for each section it judges. Each panel must have a Master Judge (unless this requirement is waived by the AHS Hosta Shows Chair for lack of available Master Judges only).

6. The Artistic Division will be judged by National Garden Club Flower Show Judges. (Try to use those who are also AHS members before asking non-members).

7. All decisions of the judges are final.

8. The name of **The American Hosta Society** is to be used on all publicity and schedules.

9. Divisions I, II, III, IV, V, and VI are required for National Convention Shows.

   Division VI – Artistic Design is optional for a local show, but is strongly encouraged.

   Division VII may be offered at National Convention shows and general local shows provided the Show Committee specifies the theme for the division in the Show Schedule along with proposed rules, awards, and point scales for judging the division; and provided the AHS Hosta Shows Chair approves the rules, awards, and point scales for judging the division.

   With approval of the AHS Hosta Shows Chair, Division VII may stand alone at AHS accredited specialty shows (such as First Look) as the only offered division provided the theme of the division and associated rules, awards, and point scales for judging are specified in the Show Schedule.

10. Judges must be provided a current Show Schedule at least one month in advance of show time.

11. During judging, the Show Chair, Show Co-Chair, Classification Chair, Judges Chair, Judges, Clerks Chair and Clerks are the only people permitted in the immediate judging areas. The public may be allowed in other areas of the show at the discretion of the Show Chair.

12. All entries designated as registered cultivars and species shall either be listed in the current year's AHS Hosta Show Classification List or shall have had registration data recorded in an official publication of The American Hosta Society by the date of the show in order to be considered registered for show purposes.

13. AHS show awards in Division I - Sections I through V, Section XI and Division II – Container Grown Hostas shall be restricted to registered hostas and recognized species.

14. There will be no prohibition against repeat winners of AHS National Convention Hosta Show Awards.

15. Awards will be presented to the exhibitor during the show or at a time specified by the Show Schedule.

16. Show awards as specified in Section II-F-4 (page II-22) of this Handbook must be offered in an accredited show. The show committee may, at its discretion, provide additional awards if desired. All awards, ribbons and rosettes specified by the Show Schedule will be furnished by the host society responsible for the show. AHS National Convention Show Awards will be provided by AHS or sponsors approved by AHS.

17. A Sweepstakes Award is given to the exhibitor who has the largest number of horticulture division blue ribbons. The host society may specify their own tiebreaker rules in their Show Schedule.

18. The American Hosta Society uses the AHS approved system for judging and for determining awards as specified in this Handbook. The AHS point scoring procedures specified in the Handbook will be used in breaking a tie and for determining the major award winners.

    - **First Place** entries must score **90 or higher** to receive a blue ribbon. To be awarded **Best of Class or better**, the entries must score **95 or higher**.
    - **Second Place** entries must score **85 or higher** to receive a red ribbon.
    - **Third Place** entries must score **80 or higher** to receive a yellow ribbon.
    - **Fourth Place** entries must score **75 or higher** to receive a white ribbon.

19. **For Division I** - Horticulture, provided entries score the minimum points needed, each sub-class is allowed the awarding of only one blue, one red, one yellow, and one white ribbon. In Division I, Sections I-V and Section XI, each registered cultivar or species constitutes a separate name sub-class. Each unregistered seedling or sport entry in Sections VI-X is a separate sub-class and is eligible for any ribbon. For Section XII, each unregistered named cultivar constitutes a separate name sub-class and exhibits are organized alphabetically.
    For Divisions II, III, and IV, each entry is eligible to receive the ribbon it deserves based on the point score it earns (blue, red yellow or white). Entries scoring 95 or higher will go on to vie for the Grand Award for that Division.
    For Division VI, each class is allowed the awarding of only one blue, one red, one yellow, and one white ribbon as long as it receives the minimum required point score.

20. **For Division I – Horticulture** (Cut leaf), an exhibitor may enter more than one horticulture specimen in a single class, provided each entry is of a different named variety/cultivar. Only one (1) leaf is to be entered per exhibit in Sections I through V, XI and XII; two (2) leaves must be entered in Sections VI through X. All horticulture specimens exhibited in the AHS accredited show must be grown by the exhibitor. Bloom stalks are not permitted. All leaves entered should be representative of the plant as a whole and should be taken from plants approaching maturity. Persons placing entries in Section XI – Youth Exhibits must be 18 years of age or younger as of the date of the show.

21. **Division II – Container Grown Hostas**, entries must have been grown by the exhibitor and must be established in the containers in which they are grown. **Only registered cultivars or hosta species may be exhibited in this division and only one mature hosta plant, which may consist of multiple divisions of that single plant, may be grown in each container**. The container must be clean, but otherwise has no bearing on overall judging of the entry. The plant should be centered in the container. Inner containers or container liners are allowed but must not be visible. Only one type of ground cover material is allowed per exhibit. Ground covers may be any natural non-living material such as bark chips or stones, or an indigenous moss of one variety only.

22. In **Division III – Trough/Container Gardens Arranged for Effect,** self-contained trough or container gardens of any size are entered as an arrangement. Multiple varieties of hostas and other plant material may be used. Hostas must be a strong focal point of the entry. No artificial plant material is allowed. Plants and container must be clean. Accessories are permitted. Individual plants need not be identified. However, if the exhibitor would like to identify the material, an identification ledger card to the side of the exhibit is acceptable.

23. In **Division IV – Educational Displays**, the displays must pertain to hostas.

24. Entries in **Division V – Non-Competitive Exhibits** are not judged. An exhibit in this division may be a single cut leaf, a hosta bloom scape, a container grown plant, or any other hosta-related display deemed to be of interest to the show observers. However, the plant material must be hosta predominant, the exhibit must be tastefully presented, and the material must be in good condition. The Show Chair may bar placement of any exhibit that does not meet these requirements.

25. In **Division VI – Artistic Design**, hostas must be the predominant foliage. No artificial, silk or painted material is permitted. An exhibitor can have only one entry per class. All design entries must be solely prepared by the exhibitor.

26. In **Division VII – Specialty Division**, a category of local interest (such as scape/bloom entries) or specialty show items (such as unique seedlings grown in containers) identified by the Show Committee with specific rules and point scales can be approved by the AHS Hosta Shows Chair as part of any hosta show or as a single division, stand-alone show.

27. The final show report must be submitted to the AHS Hosta Shows Chair within the month after the convention or show.

28. No responsibility shall be incurred by any person, group, or organization for any accidents, damages, injuries of any kind, thefts, omissions or commissions of any kind during an accredited hosta show of The American Hosta Society.

29. When awards are published, the name of the hosta, the originator (if known), and the exhibitor (recipient of the award) are to be listed.

II-F. The Hosta Show Schedule

The Show Schedule is the Law of the Show. It should be carefully read and followed by all of the committees and the exhibitors.

II-F-1. Show Schedule Contents

Below is a list of the items that should be clearly outlined in a Show Schedule. The first consideration in developing a Show Schedule is to be as specific as possible. AHS Requirements for Conducting an Accredited Show (page II-16) must be incorporated into the Show Schedule.

1. The host society
2. The show committee
3. The show date
4. The exact location of the show
5. The exact hours that entries will be accepted
6. Who may enter, including specific requirements for restricted Divisions or Sections (i.e. Youth exhibitors must be 18 years of age or less on the show date.)
7. Rules for entry (See AHS Requirements for Conducting an Accredited Show, page II-16)
8. The time judging will begin
9. Who may be in the show area during judging
10. The times the show will be open to the public
11. The date and time exhibits may/must be removed
12. The date and time awards may be removed
13. The divisions offered in the show
14. Any division specific rules (i.e. the specifics of Division VI – Artistic Design, including design rules, may be included in a separate design schedule. If there is a separate schedule for Division VI, the show schedule should reference it.)
15. Standards by which the show is judged including the AHS Point Scales for Judging
16. List of awards offered and award requirements
17. Statement that only AHS members may win Section, and higher awards.
18. A statement that the judges' decisions will be final
19. A statement that the show is accredited by AHS

II-F-2. Interpretation of the Rules

In spite of the most careful wording of the Show Schedule, some questions of interpretation or misunderstanding may arise. The Show Chair is the final authority on interpretation of the schedule and show rules. With questions regarding classification, the Classification Chair is the final authority. With questions regarding show judging, the decision of the judges is final, even if an error is made.

II-F-3. The American Hosta Society Standard Show Schedule Divisions

The following divisions, sections, and classes have been approved for use at all accredited American Hosta Society Shows:

DIVISION I – HORTICULTURE (Cut leaf)

Section I – Giant-Leaved Registered Cultivars and Species
Section II – Large-Leaved Registered Cultivars and Species
Section III – Medium-Leaved Registered Cultivars and Species
Section IV – Small-Leaved Registered Cultivars and Species
Section V – Miniature-Leaved Registered Cultivars and Species
Section VI – Giant-Leaved Unregistered Seedlings and Sports
Section VII – Large-Leaved Unregistered Seedlings and Sports
Section VIII – Medium-Leaved Unregistered Seedlings and Sports
Section IX – Small-Leaved Unregistered Seedlings and Sports
Section X – Miniature-Leaved Unregistered Seedlings and Sports
Section XI – Youth Exhibits of Registered Cultivars and Species
Displayed in Alphabetical Order
Section XII – Unregistered Named Hosta Cultivars
Displayed in Alphabetical Order

Entries in Sections I – V (Registered Cultivars and Species), Section XI (Youth Exhibits), and Section XII (Unregistered Named Cultivars) shall consist of one leaf.

Entries in Sections VI through X (Unregistered Seedlings and Sports) shall consist of two leaves. Sports shall be indicated on the entry tag as "Sport of (Name of Cultivar)". Seedlings shall be indicated on the entry tag as "Seedling (Hybridizer's Identifying Number)".

The following **Color Classes** are to be used within Sections I - X of Division I:

Class 1 – Green (All Shades)
Class 2 – Blue (All Shades)
Class 3 – Yellow (All Shades)
Class 4 – White Margined
- **a. Yellow, White, or Chartreuse Center**
- **b. Green to Blue Center**

Class 5 – Yellow Margined
- **a. Yellow, White, or Chartreuse Center**
- **b. Green to Blue Center**

Class 6 – Green or Blue Margined
- **a. Yellow, White, or Chartreuse Center**
- **b. Green to Blue Center** (distinct from margin color)

Class 7 – Streaked or Mottled
Class 8 – Others (including early season variants)

DIVISION II – CONTAINER GROWN HOSTAS

DIVISION III – TROUGH/CONTAINER GARDENS ARRANGED FOR EFFECT

DIVISION IV – EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS

DIVISION V – NON-COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS

DIVISION VI – ARTISTIC DESIGN

DIVISION VII – SPECIALTY DIVISION

Entries of Local Interest (such as scape/bloom entries) and Specialty Show Items (such as seedlings grown in containers) with specific pre-approved rules and point scales

Divisions I – VI are required for a National Convention Hosta Show.

Divisions I - V are required for accredited local shows, unless waived by the AHS Hosta Shows Chair.

Division VI – Artistic Design is optional for a local show but is strongly encouraged.

Division VII may be offered at National Convention Hosta Shows and general local shows provided the Show Committee specifies the theme for the division in its Show Schedule along with proposed Rules, Awards, Point Scales for Judging **and** provided the AHS Hosta Shows Chair approves the Rules, Awards, and Point Scales.

With approval by the AHS Hosta Shows Chair, Division VII may be offered as a stand-alone AHS accredited Specialty Show, such as First Look, provided the theme and associated Rules, Awards, and Point Scales for Judging are specified in the Show Schedule.

II-F-4. Standard Awards for Shows

The following awards are to be offered at all local and National Convention Hosta Shows:

Best of Show – Awarded to the best species or registered cultivar entry in Division I – Horticulture and is selected from the section winners in Sections I-V and Section XI. (Please note that entries in Section XII – Unregistered Named Cultivars are not eligible to receive this award.) *Suggested award is a large triple streamer blue and white rosette ribbon.*

Best Seedling or Sport Award – Awarded to the best seedling or sport entry in Division I – Horticulture and is selected from the section winners in Sections VI-X. *Suggested award is a large triple streamer green and white rosette ribbon.*

Best Artistic Design Award – Awarded to the best entry in Division VI – Artistic Design if the division is offered in the show. This award should be chosen from the Best of Class winners in the division. *Suggested award is a large triple streamer pink and white rosette ribbon.*

Sweepstakes Award – Awarded to the exhibitor who wins the largest number of blue ribbons in Division I – Horticulture. *Suggested award is a certificate or a medium triple streamer blue rosette ribbon.*

Grand Awards – Awarded to the best entries in Division II – Container Grown Hostas, Division III – Trough/Container Gardens Arranged For Effect, Division IV – Educational Displays, and Division VII – Specialty Division (if offered). Award winners must have scored at least 95 points. *Suggested awards are medium triple streamer purple rosette ribbons.*

Section Awards – Awarded to the Best of Section winners in divisions containing sections. All section awards must have scored at least 95 points. *Suggested awards are large single streamer purple ribbons.*

Class Awards – Awarded to Best of Class winners in divisions containing classes. All class award winners must have scored **at least 95 points**. *Suggested awards are single streamer green ribbons.*

The following ribbon awards are awarded in accordance with rules set forth by AHS:

First Place Blue Ribbons – Entries must score **90 or more** points to receive this award.
Second Place Red Ribbons – Entries must score **85 or more** points to receive this award.
Third Place Yellow Ribbons – Entries must score **80 or more** points to receive this award.
Fourth Place White Ribbons - Entries must score **75 or more** points to receive this award.

II-F-5. Sample Show Schedule

The following sample Show Schedule contains the basic information required for an AHS accredited show. The format shown is just one of many formats that may be used and host societies are encouraged to develop formats that work best for their shows. An editable version of a sample Show Schedule (in Word format) can be obtained from the AHS Hosta Shows Chair.

The important point to remember is to follow all the rules specified in Section II-E of the Handbook and to include all the information required as specified in Section II-F-1.

The

(Host) Hosta Society

Proudly Presents

A
HOSTA
FANTASY

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL HOSTA SHOW

at
(Location and Address of Show)

(Day/Date of Show)

SHOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
1:00 pm to 4:30 pm

This Hosta Show is Accredited by
THE AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY

GENERAL SHOW RULES

1. Anyone who wishes to exhibit may do so. However, section and higher awards are limited to AHS members. Any exhibitor who is not an AHS member and wins a section or higher award will be asked to become an AHS member. If the winner refuses membership, the Show Chair may either present the award to the next qualified entry or leave the award vacant.

2. Entries will be received from 3:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. on Friday (Date) and from 7:30 A.M. to 9:30 A.M. on Saturday, (Date). Entries received after 9:30 A.M. will be placed in a non-competitive exhibit area without exception. Judging will begin at 10:00 A.M. All entries must remain in place until 4:30 P.M.

   Entries, tags, ribbons, and awards may be claimed from 4:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Entries remaining after 5:00 P.M. will be disposed of by the Staging Committee.

3. Entry tags must be properly completed by the exhibitor. Incorrect entry tag information will be corrected by the Classification Committee and entries may be disqualified at the discretion of the Classification Committee.

4. During the time of judging, only the Show Chair, Show Co-Chair, Classification Chair, Judges Chair, Judges, Clerks Chair and Clerks are permitted in the immediate judging areas.

5. Divisions I-Horticulture, II-Container Grown Hostas, III-Trough/Container Gardens Arranged For Effect and IV-Educational Displays will be judged by panels of three to four American Hosta Society show judges including at least one master judge per panel. The American Hosta Society Point Scoring System will be used to break a tie in judging major awards. Each panel of judges will be the final authority of each class/section it judges.

6. Division VI-Artistic Design will be judged by National Garden Club Flower Show Judges following the rules set forth in the Handbook for Flower Shows by the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

7. All decisions of the judges are final.

8. Care will be taken, but no responsibility shall be incurred by any person, group, or organization for any accidents, damages, injuries, thefts, omissions or commissions of any kind or nature from this show.

9. All entries designated as registered cultivars and species shall either be listed in the current year's AHS Hosta Show Classification List or shall have had registration data recorded in an official publication of The American Hosta Society by the date of the show in order to be considered registered for show purposes.

10. **For Division I**, provided entries score the minimum points, each sub-class is allowed the awarding of only one blue, one red, one yellow, and one white ribbon. In Division I, Sections I-V and Section XI, each exhibit or group of exhibits of a registered cultivar or species constitutes a separate name sub-class. Each seedling or sport entry in Sections VI-X is a separate sub-class and is eligible for the ribbon it earns. For Section XII, each unregistered named cultivar constitutes a separate name sub-class, displayed alphabetically. **For Divisions II, III and IV**, each entry is eligible to receive the ribbon it deserves based on the point score it earns.

11. **Division I – Horticulture (Cut leaf) Rules**

    Containers will be provided by the (host) Hosta Society.

    Bloom scapes are not permitted in this division.

    Sections I – V (Registered Cultivars and Species), XI (Youth Exhibits) and XII (Unregistered Named Cultivars) require **ONE** leaf per entry. Sections VI – X require **TWO** leaves per entry. Sports shall be indicated on the entry tag as "Sport of (Name of Cultivar)". Seedlings shall be indicated on the entry tag as "Seedling (Hybridizer's Identification Number)".

    An exhibitor may enter more than one horticultural specimen in a single class provided each entry is of a different cultivar/variety. **Multiple entries of the same cultivar are not permitted.** All entries must have been grown by the exhibitor.

    Persons placing entries in Section XI-Youth Exhibits must be 18 years of age or younger as of the date of the show.

    All leaves entered should be representative of the plant as a whole and should be taken from plants approaching maturity.

    Sections I through XII - Each exhibitor is limited to a total of 20 cut leaf entries.

12. **Division II – Container Grown Hostas Rules**

Container-grown hostas must have been grown by the exhibitor and must be established in the containers in which they are grown**. Only registered cultivars or hosta species may be exhibited in this division and only one mature hosta plant, which may consist of multiple divisions of that single plant, may be grown in each container.** Container and plant must be clean. The plant should be centered in the container. Inner containers or container liners are allowed but must not be visible. Only one type of ground cover material is allowed per exhibit. Ground covers may be any natural non-living material such as bark chips or stones, or an indigenous moss of one variety only.

13**. Division III – Trough/Container Gardens Arranged for Effect Rules**

Self-contained trough or container gardens of any size may be entered for judging as an arrangement.

Multiple varieties of hosta and other plant material may be used. **Hostas must be a strong focal point of the entry.** No artificial plant material is allowed. Plants and container must be clean. Accessories are permitted.

Individual plants need not be identified. However, if the exhibitor would like to identify the material, an identification ledger card to the side of the exhibit is acceptable.

14. **Division IV – Educational Displays Rules**

Educational displays must pertain to hostas.

15. **Division V – Non-Competitive Exhibits Rules**

Entries in this division are not judged. The exhibit may be a single cut leaf, a hosta bloom scape, a container grown plant, or any other display deemed to be of interest to the show observers. However, the plant material must be hosta predominant, the exhibit must be tastefully presented, and the material must be in good condition. The Show Chair may refuse placement of any exhibit that does not meet these requirements.

16. **Division VI – Artistic Design Rules**

Hosta leaves must be the predominant foliage in the design. Some dried and/or treated plant materials and hosta blooms are permitted. No artificial flowers, fruit, or foliage may be used. Contrived flowers made from hosta leaves are permitted.

An exhibitor may enter one entry per class. Plant material need not be grown by the exhibitor but the design work must be the work of the exhibitor.

Staging for all classes will be skirted tables that are 30” deep by 30” wide and covered with white tablecloths. Back-ground is beige-colored walls. Overlays and accessories are permitted but should not exceed dimensions set in the class rules. The Artistic Design committee reserves the right to move an entry to improve spacing if the exhibitor is unavailable to do so.

Pre-registration is required. Exhibitors are requested to register their entries in advance with (name, address, e-mail address, telephone number of the Design Chair). The Design Chair will provide additional class definitions, rules and requirements, and exhibition instructions upon registration.

In each class, the designer is asked to interpret the class title.

17. Division VII – Specialty Division

Optional Division - Rules and Regulations approved by the AHS Hosta Shows Chair would appear here if a Division VII was to be included in the show.

SHOW DIVISIONS

DIVISION I – HORTICULTURE (Cut leaf)

Section I Giant-Leaved Registered Cultivars and Species
Section II Large-Leaved Registered Cultivars and Species
Section III Medium-Leaved Registered Cultivars and Species
Section IV Small-Leaved Registered Cultivars and Species
Section V Miniature-Leaved Registered Cultivars and Species
Section VI Giant-Leaved Unregistered Seedlings and Sports
Section VII Large-Leaved Unregistered Seedlings and Sports
Section VIII Medium-Leaved Unregistered Seedlings and Sports
Section IX Small-Leaved Unregistered Seedlings and Sports
Section X Miniature-Leaved Unregistered Seedlings and Sports
Section XI Youth Exhibits of Registered Cultivars and Species
Displayed in Alphabetical Order
Section XII Unregistered Named Hosta Cultivars
Displayed in Alphabetical Order

Entries in Sections I-X are to be displayed using the following Color Classes:

Class 1 – Green (All Shades)
Class 2 – Blue (All Shades)
Class 3 – Yellow (All Shades)
Class 4 – White Margined
a. Yellow, White, or Chartreuse Center
b. Green to Blue Center
Class 5 – Yellow Margined
a. Yellow, White, or Chartreuse Center
b. Green to Blue Center
Class 6 – Green or Blue Margined
a. Yellow, White, or Chartreuse Center
b. Green to Blue Center (distinct from margin color)
Class 7 – Streaked or Mottled
Class 8 – Others (including early season variants)

DIVISION II – CONTAINER GROWN HOSTAS

DIVISION III – TROUGH/CONTAINER GARDENS ARRANGED FOR EFFECT

DIVISION IV – EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS

DIVISION V – NON-COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS

DIVISION VI – ARTISTIC DESIGN

Class I ***Cinderella's Ball***
Class II ***The Crane Princess***
Class III ***Wizard of Oz***
Class IV ***Thumbelina***
Class V ***Peter Pan***

Pre-registration is required for exhibition in this division. Contact the Design Chair for additional class definitions and requirements, and exhibition instructions.

DIVISION VII – SPECIALTY DIVISION

SHOW AWARDS

Best of Show - Horticulture – Awarded to the best species or registered cultivar entry in Division I – Horticulture and is selected from the section winners in Sections I-V and Section XI. (Please note that entries in Section XII – Unregistered Named Cultivars are not eligible to receive this award.)

Best Seedling or Sport Award – Awarded to the best seedling or sport entry in Division I – Horticulture and is selected from the section winners in Sections VI-X.

Best Artistic Design Award – Awarded to the best entry in Division VI-Artistic Design. This award is chosen from the Best of Class winners in the division.

Sweepstakes Award – Awarded to the exhibitor who wins the largest number of blue ribbons in Division I – Horticulture. (In case of a tie, red ribbons, then yellow ribbons, will be counted to break the tie).

Grand Awards – Awarded to the best entries in Division II – Container Grown Hostas, Division III – Trough/Container Gardens Arranged for Effect, and Division IV – Educational Displays. In order to win, entries must have scored 95 points.

Section Awards – Awarded to the Best of Section winners in divisions containing sections. All section award winners must have scored at least 95 points.

Class Awards – Awarded to Best of Class winners in divisions containing classes. All class award winners must have scored at least 95 points.

The following ribbon awards are awarded in accordance with rules set forth by AHS:

First Place Blue Ribbons – Entries must score 90 or more points to receive this award.

Second Place Red Ribbons – Entries must score 85 or more points to receive this award.

Third Place Yellow Ribbons – Entries must score 80 or more points to receive this award.

Fourth Place White Ribbons - Entries must score 75 or more points to receive this award.

THE AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY

POINT SCALES for Judging Hosta Show Exhibits

REGISTERED CULTIVARS AND SPECIES
DIVISION I, Sections I – V and Section XI

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

UNREGISTERED NAMED HOSTA CULITVARS
DIVISION I, Section XII

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

UNREGISTERED SEEDLINGS AND SPORTS
DIVISION I, Sections VI – X

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

CONTAINER GROWN HOSTAS
DIVISION II

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

TROUGH/CONTAINER GARDENS ARRANGED FOR EFFECT
DIVISION III

Variety	20
Condition	30
Arrangement	30
Container - Relative to Arrangement	20
TOTAL POINTS	**100**

EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS
DIVISION IV

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

NON-COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS
DIVISION V

Not Judged – No Scale of Points

ARTISTIC DESIGN
DIVISION VI

Conformance	14
Design	48
Selection of Components	8
Organization of Components	8
Expression	8
Distinction	14
TOTAL POINTS	**100**

SPECIALTY DIVISION
DIVISION VII

Theme and point scales determined by show committee and approved by AHS Show Chair.

SHOW COMMITTEE

Show Chair	(Names of Chairs)
Show Co-Chair	
Classification Chair	
Clerks Chair	
Design Chair	
Hospitality and Membership Chair	
Judges Chair	
Placement Chair	
Publicity Chair	
Registration-Exhibitor Assistance Chair	
Schedule Chair	
Staging and Dismantling Chair	
Tabulation Chair	

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

THE AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY

Membership in The American Hosta Society offers participation in all national activities including a National Convention; two printed issues and one online edition of The Hosta Journal, many interesting and informative articles, and dozens of color pictures. Dues are $30 individual and $34 family membership per year (U.S.). Membership is on a calendar year basis. Send inquiries regarding membership to:

(Name) – AHS Membership Secretary
(Address of Membership Secretary)
AHS Website – www.hosta.org

REGION (Region Number and Name) **HOSTA SOCIETY**

Members of The American Hosta Society in (Name States) constituting Region (Number) of the American Hosta Society are automatically members of the (Region Name) Hosta Society. It distributes an annual newsletter and it offers an annual meeting which includes judges clinics, educational seminars, and plant sales. For additional information, please contact:

(Regional Director's Name) – Region (Number) Director
(Regional Directors contact information)

(Host) HOSTA SOCIETY

The (Host) Hosta Society is affiliated with The American Hosta Society. *It publishes four newsletters each year and meets four times a year at places announced in the newsletter. It sponsors this Hosta Show and garden tours each year. All memberships are on a calendar year basis. Individual dues are $15 per person per year. Commercial memberships and advertising are also available. Send inquiries regarding membership to:*

(Name) – Membership Secretary
(Membership Secretary's contact Information)

II-G. PREPARATION OF HOSTA LEAVES FOR SHOW

II-G-1. Knowing which Leaves to Select

First of all, study the Show Schedule and the AHS Approved Point Scales for Judging Hosta Show Exhibits (III-E-1, page III-10). The Point Scales provide the attributes that the judges will be using to evaluate a leaf or any other exhibit. By being familiar with the Point Scales, the exhibitor is better prepared to select exhibits that will score well in the show. The schedule will provide specific rules that may apply to any given division. If a leaf or other exhibit does not meet the requirements of the division or if the exhibit has significant flaws based on the point scale attributes, then it is best not to select that particular specimen.

II-G-2. Cutting and Grooming Entries

All cut leaf specimens should be cut in early morning or late afternoon to avoid unnecessary stress. Evaluate the leaves as best as can be done prior to cutting and select the most outstanding leaf. Leaves may be selected several days prior to the show. The petiole should be cut as long as possible. Clippers or a sharp knife should be used to cut the petiole on a slant. This helps for rapid moisture intake. After cutting, hold the leaf up to the light to further inspect for major holes, damage or other large flaws that may have been missed prior to cutting. If significant flaws are found, select another leaf.

Cut specimens should be placed in cool water in a dark, cool, draft-free place for several hours or overnight.

Specimen cleanliness is the first attribute that the judges notice. Take care to properly clean the leaves on all exhibits prior to the show. An entry should not have dirt or other debris, insects, or spider webs anywhere on the leaf surface or petiole. Pay particular attention to the point where the leaf meets the petiole as trash often becomes lodged there. Carefully wash the leaf in water, but do not scrub. A very mild detergent solution may be used to help dislodge dirt from the leaf surface. If detergent is used, be sure to rinse the leaf after washing to remove detergent residue. Use cotton balls for light washing and Q-tips or tiny soft brushes to clean the valleys and creases. Be very careful not to damage the delicate blue coating or bloom on the leaf when cleaning blue leaves.

After drying, inspect the leaves once more. Any remaining dirt may be removed with a Q-tip or soft brush.

NEVER alter leaves in any way that changes the natural appearance. This includes the use of leaf shine products, magic marker or paint to hide blemishes, appliqués to hide holes, or toothpicks or tape to repair broken leaves. Such alterations, if discovered by the show committee or judges, will result in disqualification of the entry.

II-G-3. Entering Specimens

The exhibitors should arrive in ample time to stage their entries. All needed supplies should be brought by the exhibitors and not expected to be borrowed from others. It is also wise to bring extra plant material in case of damage in transit. Upon arrival at the preparation area, all exhibitors should immediately sign the Exhibitor Registration Form and secure an Exhibitor Number. It is also important to obtain an Individual Tally Sheet to fill out and return to the Registration-Exhibitor Assistance Committee upon completion.

Each leaf should be placed in an appropriate sized container. Containers are usually provided. Read the Show Schedule to make sure the containers are supplied by the Show Committee. The Show Committee supplies containers at the AHS National Convention.

Take time to stage the leaf in the container for best presentation. This includes selection of the best petiole length and the best leaf angle. Most leaves will show at their best when displayed as straight and tall as possible. Cotton, or other stabilizing material supplied by the Show Committee may be used to pose the leaf and keep it from flopping around in the container. Be sure that the cut end of the petiole in Division I entries is below the level of water in the container to keep the exhibit fresh and at its best through the show.

Once the entry is ready, the exhibitor should prepare and attach the entry tag to the exhibit. To save time and frustration, it is wise to start preparing entry tags prior to the show. Entry tags, including the bottom portion (stub), should be properly and fully completed. It is very important for tabulation purposes that both the top portion and the bottom stub contain all the necessary information including the exhibitor number, exhibitor name, and the name of the cultivar. Do not fold the bottom stub prior to placing the entry on the classification table. The Classification Committee members will fold the tag after all entry tag information has been checked.

One of the most often seen errors on entry tags is the improper selection of Division, Section, and Class information. To prevent this error, first study the Show Schedule carefully, and then verify the entry's registration information in the current AHS Show Classification List. This list is available on the AHS website and copies should be available in the show preparation area. The list provides the show classification data, including the proper section and color class as well as leaf length and width for all registered cultivars and species. If in doubt, don't guess. Ask for assistance from a Registration Committee member or other show officials. If a named hosta is not listed in the Classification List, it is most likely not a registered cultivar and must be exhibited in Division I – Section XII Unregistered Named Cultivars.

After preparing and entering leaves and handing in the completed Individual Tally Sheet, please clean up your preparation area and remove any personal items and trash so that the area will be ready for use by other exhibitors.

II-H. TABLE OF LEAF SIZES

Used in AHS Hosta Shows

Sanctioned by The American Hosta Society

The following table of hosta leaf sizes, established by The American Hosta Society in 1987 and amended in 2004, was developed for the purpose of standardizing leaf sizes for hosta shows sanctioned by the Society.

The Leaf Section in which a hosta is to be displayed is determined by the total square inches of the leaf as measured by multiplying the **length** of the leaf, from leaf tip to intersection with the petiole, by the **width** of the leaf at its widest point.

For Registered Cultivars and Species, the Leaf Section as well as the Color Class, if applicable, is based on the registered data for the particular cultivar and can be easily determined by referring to The **AHS Hosta Show Classification List** which provides classification data for all registered cultivars and species. This List is updated annually to include newly registered cultivars. It may be obtained from the AHS Classification Chair or may be viewed or downloaded directly from The AHS website, www.hosta.org.

For Unregistered Seedlings and Sports, use this table to determine the appropriate section for an entry in Division I – Horticulture.

	Leaf Section	Square Inches
VI	**Giant Leaved**	**120 or greater**
VII	**Large Leaved**	**64 to < 120**
VIII	**Medium Leaved**	**30 to < 64**
IX	**Small Leaved**	**6 to < 30**
X	**Miniature Leaved**	**< 6**

II-I. HOSTA SHOW FORMS

The American Hosta Society
Hosta Show Registration Form

II-I-a.

This report is due at least three months before the show time and before the final printing of the show schedule. Send one copy to the Hosta Shows Chair of the American Hosta Society, and keep one copy for your files.

Name of Show_____ Date of Show_____

Show Location_____
Place City & State

Show Chair_____

Address_____

Phone Number_____ E-Mail_____

Co-Chair _____

Horticulture Judges _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Artistic Judges _____

_____

_____

*** Attach copy of tentative Show Schedule**

Date Submitted: _____ Date Approved: _____

II-I-b. **AHS HOSTA SHOW**

EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION FORM

Exhibitor Number	Name	Address	American Hosta Society Member? Yes or No AHS ↓
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			

II-I-c. **AHS HOSTA SHOW**

INDIVIDUAL TALLY SHEET

Name:_____ **Exhibitor Number**:_____ **Date**:_____

	Div	Variety	1st Blue	2nd Red	3rd Yellow	4th White	BOC Green	BOS Purple	Special Award
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									
16									
17									
18									
19									
20									
21									
22									
23									
24									
25									

Please list cultivars alphabetically by Division if possible

TOTALS							

Special Awards: Circle those that apply

Best of Show (Division I, Section I-V & XI)

Best Seedling/Sport (Division I, Sections VI-X)

Best Container Grown (Division II)

Best Container/Trough (Division III)

Best Educational Display (Division IV)

Sweepstakes Award

II-I-d. **AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY**

Final Show Report for Accredited Hosta Shows - Page 1 of 3

(Please Type or Print All Information Legibly)

Name of Show_____
Name of Host Society_____
Show Date_____
Show Location_____

Show Chair_____
Show Co-Chair_____
Classification Chair_____
Schedule Chair_____
Placement Chair_____
Judges Chair_____

Number of Exhibitors _____ Approximate Number of Show Attendance_____

Total Number of Entries: _____

Division I – Horticulture _____

Section I _____
Section II _____
Section III _____
Section IV _____
Section V _____
Section VI _____
Section VII _____
Section VIII _____
Section IX _____
Section X _____
Section XI _____
Section XII _____

Division II – Container Grown Hostas _____
Division III – Trough/Container Gardens Arranged For Effect _____
Division IV - Educational Displays _____
Division V – Non-Competitive Exhibits _____
Division VI – Artistic Design _____
Division VII – Specialty Division _____

II-I-d.

Final Show Report – Page 2 of 3
Final List of All Judges

Hosta Show Judges for Divisions I, II, III, VI, V and VII

Name	Address (City and State)

(Attach Separate Sheet to List Additional Judges)

Artistic Design Judges for Division VI

Name	Address (City and State)

(Attach Separate Sheet to List Additional Judges)

II-I-d.

Final Show Report – Page 3 of 3
Hosta Show Awards Presented

DIVISION I – Horticulture

	Hosta Name or Seedling ID	**Exhibitor**
Best of Show	_____	_____
Best Seedling or Sport	_____	_____
Sweepstakes	_____	_____
Section I	_____	_____
Section II	_____	_____
Section III	_____	_____
Section IV	_____	_____
Section V	_____	_____
Section VI	_____	_____
Section VII	_____	_____
Section VIII	_____	_____
Section IX	_____	_____
Section X	_____	_____
Section XI	_____	_____
Section XII	_____	_____

DIVISION II – Container Grown Hostas
Grand Award_____ _____

DIVISION III – Trough/Container Gardens Arranged for Effect
Grand Award_____ _____

DIVISION IV – Educational Exhibits
Grand Award_____ _____

DIVISION V – Non-Competitive Exhibits (No Award – this division is not judged)

DIVISION VI – Artistic Design
Best Artistic Design Award _____ _____

DIVISION VII – Specialty Division Theme _____

Grand Award_____ _____

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

II-I-e. BEST OF SHOW BALLOT

Indicate points DEDUCTED from each entry in each section. Total points deducted from any entry should not exceed five. Then total the points deducted at the bottom of the page for each entry.

	Section I Giant Leaf	Section II Large Leaf	Section III Medium Leaf	Section IV Small Leaf	Section V Miniature Leaf	Section XI Youth Entries
FORM and SIZE 30 Points						
COLOR and PATTERN 30 Points						
TEXTURE and SUBSTANCE 20 Points						
CONDITION and GROOMING 20 Points						
TOTAL POINTS DEDUCTED *(Maximum 5 points per entry)*						

II-I-f. BEST SEEDLING OR SPORT BALLOT

Indicate points DEDUCTED from each entry in each section. Total points deducted from any entry should not exceed five. Then total the points deducted at the bottom of the page for each entry

	Section VI Giant Leaf	Section VII Large Leaf	Section VIII Medium Leaf	Section IX Small Leaf	Section X Miniature Leaf
DISTINCTION 40 Points					
FORM and SIZE 15 Points					
COLOR and PATTERN 15 Points					
TEXTURE and SUBSTANCE 15 Points					
CONDITION and GOOMING 15 Points					
TOTAL POINTS DEDUCTED *(Maximum 5 points per entry)*					

Section III

Hosta Show Judging
and
Judges' Requirements

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.

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 Clinic 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

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. Contact AHS Judges Training Chair for alternate methods of meeting this requirement.
- 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 the 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 (Part 1, self-guided) + 2 hours (Part 2, in person)
Students need to contact AHS Judges Training Chair to receive materials for Part 1

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, or 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

Date	Location (City, State)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Shows in Which You Exhibited

Date	Location (City, State)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Other Judging Activity

Date	Judging Activity	Location (City, State)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Judges Clinics Completed

Date	Clinic #	Location	Date	Clinic #	Location
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

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			

Section IV

Benedict Garden Performance Awards Plan

IV. BENEDICT GARDEN PERFORMANCE AWARDS PLAN

IV-A. Purpose of the Benedict Garden Performance Awards Plan

The Benedict Garden Performance Awards Plan, which was established in 2003 and amended in 2015, and again in 2020 by The American Hosta Society (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 American Hosta Society.

The system provides for three levels of awards and winners of the awards are determined by the vote of members of the American Hosta Society. The awards are presented annually at the National Convention to the originators of the winning cultivars. **The awards are limited to registered cultivars only.** To be considered for a Benedict Garden Performance Award, a cultivar must have been registered for at least three years.

IV-B. Benedict Garden Performance Awards

The American Hosta Society sponsors the following three tiers of Benedict Garden Performance Awards:

The **Benedict Garden Performance Honorable Mention Award** is a certificate designed and presented by the American Hosta Society.

The **Benedict Garden Performance Award of Merit** is a certificate designed and presented by the American Hosta Society.

The **Benedict Garden Performance Medal** is a certificate and medal, designed and presented by the American Hosta Society.

IV-C. The Awards System

When the originator/hybridizer or registrant (Hybridizer) of a cultivar determines that his or her hosta has sufficient distribution across the regions of AHS so that a large number of AHS members 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 that the cultivar must have been registered for at least three years in order to be considered for these awards.

The Hybridizer may nominate as many as 2 cultivars each year. Nominations must be submitted to the Garden Performance Chair using Form IV-G below by February 15th of the relevant year. If the total number of nominations received from all Hybridizers is less than 3, the Benedict Garden Performance Committee may nominate up to 3 cultivars from the *Master List Of All Previously Nominated Cultivars For The Benedict Medal.* The Committee may also elect to nominate up to 2 cultivars per year that are deemed to be registered without originator data and/or cultivars that have been registered, but have not been previously nominated from deceased Originators.

The **Benedict Garden Performance Honorable Mention Award** (HM) is the first award that a newly nominated cultivar becomes eligible to receive. Once nominated in this first tier, a cultivar is placed 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. The cultivars receiving the most votes shall win the HM award based on the following: In 2020, 2021, and 2022 up to the top 5 cultivars. In 2023 and thereafter, up to the top 3 cultivars.

In the case of the tie, each shall win the HM award and all winners shall then become eligible for the next tier of awards, the **Benedict Garden Performance Award of Merit (AM).**

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. The cultivars receiving the top votes shall win the Award of Merit based on the following: In 2020, 2021, and 2022, the top 1 cultivar. In 2023 and thereafter, up to the top 3 cultivars.

In case of a tie for the final spot, all tied cultivars will receive the award. Winners of the AM advance to the third tier and compete for the Benedict Garden Performance Medal.

The top garden performance award is the **Benedict Garden Performance Medal**. 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 shall receive the award.

IV-D. 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, 2022 for inclusion on the 2022 ballot for example must be for cultivars registered in 2019 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 Benedict Awards Committee may nominate a cultivar.**

3. **Each originator/hybridizer or registrant may nominate a maximum of two cultivars each year.**

4. **The originator/hybridizer or registrant must submit nominations in writing or email to the Garden Performance Chair by no later than February 15 of each year.** The Benedict Garden Performance Awards Nomination Form in this section of the Handbook 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.

   The Benedict Awards Committee reserves the right, in the case of questionable originator data, to direct that the award recognizing the plant be announced without presentation to the originator of record, and that in such cases no publicity regarding the award advertise the questionable originator.

5. The Benedict Awards Committee shall consist of 5 the Chairs under the direction of the Vice President of Judging and Exhibitions. They are the Judges Exhibition Chair, Judges Training Chair, Judges Records Chair, Judges Classifications Chair and, the Benedict Garden Performance Chair who will also Chair the Benedict Awards Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to renominate cultivars previously nominated for the Benedict Awards from the Benedict category, but did not win the Benedict Medal and were removed from the ballot after the designated time period. Nominations by the Committee will be made from the *Master List Of All Previously Nominated Cultivars For The Benedict Medal* database that is maintained and made available from the Benedict Garden Performance Chair. This official database tabulates all dates and awards that every previously nominated cultivar has received prior to being removed from the ballot, and all are eligible for renomination by the Committee from the Benedict category only. The Committee shall vote on their collective nominations and forward their nominations to the Vice President of Judging and Exhibitions. In the case of a tie vote that cannot be resolved by the committee, the Vice President of Judging and Exhibitions shall cast a tie breaking vote. Further, the Committee reserves the right to nominate up to 2 cultivars per year that are deemed to be registered without originator data and/or cultivars that have been registered, and not previously been nominated from deceased Originators.

IV-E. Benedict Garden Performance Awards Voting Requirements and Procedures

IV-E-1. Voting Requirements

In order to vote for the Benedict Awards, a person should have the following qualifications:

1. Must be a member of The American Hosta Society for a minimum of three years.
2. Should have an extensive demonstrated knowledge of hostas.
3. Should have a demonstrated ability to visit a representative cross-section of gardens in his or her Region.

IV-E-2. 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 makes available the ballots by April 15 of each year. The ballot must be returned to the Garden Performance Chair by 2 weeks after the Fall Journal is distributed with the Benedict Ballot inside. Ballots can also be obtained from the Benedict Garden Performance Chair or from visiting the AHS website.

The Garden Performance Chair will then compile the results and provide them to the Vice President – Awards and Honors, the Vice President – Judging and Exhibitions.

Although it is an honor to vote for the Benedict Garden Performance Awards, it also generates a responsibility for all American Hosta Society members 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 AHS members. Votes should be based on actual observed performance within one's own region and/or at National Convention tour gardens. Any AHS member wishing to vote should reflect on previous years' observed performance for consideration when voting, but must reinforce that perception with garden visits during the voting year.

IV-F. Presentation of Awards and Publicity

The Vice President – Awards and Honors is will secure and present the Benedict Garden Performance Awards at the American Hosta Society National Convention each year.

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

IV-G

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 Benedict Awards Committee of the American Hosta Society may nominate hosta cultivars for these awards. Each may nominate a maximum of two (2) 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 to The American Hosta Society 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 ensure nominations are properly recorded for this year's ballot.

(Please print all information legibly.)

Date _____, 20____

Name of Cultivar	**Originator**	**Year of Registration**
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____

Signature of Originator: _____