

The American Hosta Society

Founded 1968



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Awards and Honors Manual

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Updated by AHS VP Awards and Honors
All changes approved by the AHS Executive Committee

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I. AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY AWARDS* OVERVIEW

Category	AWARD	Nomination Due Date	Selection Process	Selection Due Date	Award Type
III. Merit	Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit	3/15	Appointed/Designated Committee	4/1	Wood Plaque
	Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Hosta		Awardees' Selection	4/15	
	Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer	3/15	Appointed/Designated Committee	4/1	Wood Plaque
	Eunice Fisher Distinguished Merit Hosta		Awardees' Selection	4/15	
IV. Benedict Garden Performance	Honorable Mention	2/15 (year of vote)	Benedict Garden	4/1 (following year)	Certificate
	Award of Merit		Judges Vote		Certificate
	Performance Medal				AHS Designed Medal
V. National Convention Hosta Show	AHS President's Exhibitors Award		Hosta Show Judges	National Convention	Show Ribbon & Acrylic Plaque/Vase
	AHS Sweepstakes (<i>most blue ribbons</i>)		Hosta Show Chair or Designate Tally		
	AHS Kevin Vaughn Youth Achievement		Hosta Show Judges		Various Item / Sponsor Choice
	AHS Best Seedling or Sport				
	AHS Best Container Grown Hosta				
	AHS Best Trough/Container Garden Arranged for Effect				
	Best Educational Display				
	Artistic Design		Flower Show Judges		
VI. Contribution	Shirley & Van Wade Convention Auction Contributor Award (highest total earnings from a single donator's auction contribution(s))		National Convention Auction Chair	National Convention	Acrylic Plaque
	AHS On-Line Auction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding Auction Contributor (donor with highest revenue) • Top Choice Donation (highest bid) • Meritorious Donation (hosta earning >\$1000) • Donation of Distinction (hosta earning >\$500 to <\$1000) 		On-line Auction Chair Tally	4/15	Certificate & Non-wood Plaque

(Summary Table continued on next page)

Category	Award	Nomination Due Date	Selection Process	Selection Due Date	Award Type
VII. Activity	AHS Photography Contest:	12/31	<i>The Hosta Journal</i> Photo Editor & selected committee.	3/1	Certificate
	Category 1 – Best Hosta Close-up Category 2 – Best Picture of an Entire Mature Hosta Clump Category 3 – Best Landscape Picture Showing Multiple Clumps Category 4 – Best Landscape Picture Involving Hosta Category 5 – Artistic Impression				
	AHS Best New Journal Author (optional)		<i>The Hosta Journal</i> and On-line Journal Editors plus two selected others	5/1	Certificate
	Local Society Newsletter	2/1	AHS Newsletter Coordinator & selected committee.	5/1	Certificate
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Local Society Newsletter and Editor • Best Local Society Newsletter Author 				
VIII. Service	Presidential National Citation		AHS President	3/1	Certificate
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifetime Service • Special Project • Hosta Enrichment 				
	Presidential Regional-Local Level	3/1	Local Society Selection (≈ two nominees/yr)		Certificate
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of Appreciation ** 				
	Dr. Bob Olson Service Pin AHS Executive Committee Award(s)	5/1	AHS Membership Secretary		AHS Designed Dr. Bob Olson 'Service Pin'
AHS Presidential Plaque			3/1	Wood Plaque	
	AHS Ambassador Award		AHS Membership Secretary	3/1	Certificate

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

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

II. AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY (AHS) AWARDS

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

II-A. ROLE OF VICE PRESIDENT – AWARDS & HONORS

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

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

II-B. AHS AWARD SPONSORSHIP

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

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

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

III. MERIT AWARDS

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

The VP Awards & Honors collects and submits all nominations to committee members — with a compiled list of each nominee's hybridized hostas. Nominations are submitted to the committee anonymously. Committee members may also nominate other individuals if they choose. The VP Awards & Honors, as committee chair, votes only if there is a tie. The decision of the committee is final.

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

In addition to the living annual honoree, if strongly motivated, the nominating committee may also choose to honor a 'Heritage' EF Fisher Hybridizer Merit Award posthumously and accompanying Distinguished Merit Hosta (also chosen by the committee.) The honoree will be recognized via photo(s) at the AHS Convention and recognized in an AHS publication.

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

1. The **Benedict Garden Performance Honorable Mention Award** is a certificate designed and presented by the American Hosta Society.
2. The **Benedict Garden Performance Award of Merit** is a certificate designed and presented by the American Hosta Society.
3. 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 been 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 voting 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 will secure and present the Benedict Garden Performance Awards at the American Hosta Society National Convention each year. A photo of the Benedict Garden Medal winner will be taken at the convention.

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 _____

V. NATIONAL CONVENTION HOSTA SHOW AWARDS

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

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

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

NOTE: The official details on process and procedure are defined in the AHS Handbook for Hosta Shows and Judging.

VI. CONTRIBUTION AWARDS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VII. ACTIVITY AWARDS

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

The Photography Contest award categories are:

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

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

Each year, a request for entries for the Photography Contest will be advertised in *The Hosta Journal*. The Photo Editor will specify the closing dates for entries to be received (usually December 31st), and the maximum number of entries that will be accepted from each individual per category.

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

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

The Photo Editor will assemble all eligible entries and provide them to the other members of the committee. The committee will select the winner(s) in each category and the Photo Editor will notify the winners. The Photo Editor will also provide the VP Awards & Honors and the AHS Website Coordinator with the names of the winners and a digital copy of each of the winning pictures by April 15th. If the number and quality of entries merits, the committee may select a second place winner to be designated Reserve Champion.

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

VII-B. AHS BEST NEW JOURNAL AUTHOR AWARD - This award was established in 2006 and is awarded to a new author of the best original article printed in *The Hosta Journal* or the On-line Journal as selected by the judging committee. It is in recognition of the importance to share information of interest to AHS membership. Published articles within the last three years will be considered. The award is a certificate

presented at the National Convention. The recipient is also acknowledged in *The Hosta Journal*, in the AHS On-line Journal and on the AHS website. (Note: This award may not be issued every year as “new/first time” author is part of the criteria.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Newsletter Coordinator provides copies of all entries for both awards to the other committee members. The committee selects the winners. The Newsletter Coordinator notifies the VP Awards & Honors of the winners by May 1. He/she also secures a digital picture of the winning newsletter editor

and the winning author, and provides them and copies of the winning entries to the VP Awards & Honors, *The Hosta Journal* Editor and the AHS Website Coordinator.

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

VIII. SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARDS

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

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

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

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

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



The Dr. Bob Olson Service Pin (formerly called the AHS Executive Committee Award Service Pin) is given to recipients recognized after their first two-years of service provided to the AHS. This award was renamed in 2022 after Dr. Bob Olson who served as editor of *The Hosta Journal* for 22 years, served three terms as AHS President from 1992-1998, and was honored in 2004 with the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award, and again in 2019 with a Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding long-term service to the AHS. The AHS designed pin is presented by the President at the National Convention. The recipients are also recognized in *The Hosta Journal* and on the AHS Website. Each year, the Membership Secretary of the AHS compiles a list of qualifying recipients and provides the names to the AHS President and VP Awards & Honors by April 15.

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

VIII-E. AHS Ambassador Award

To encourage membership growth by inviting friends to join AHS, we have established three levels of involvement in our quest to increase membership: Recruiter, Envoy, and Ambassador.

Level One – ***Recruiter*** There are two ways to become a ***Recruiter***.

1. Send the contact information of your friend to the Membership Secretary. include their name, address, and email. Be sure to include your name, so we can reward you when your friend joins AHS.
2. Give the gift of an electronic membership (eMembership) to your friend. An eMembership costs only \$20 and gives your friend access to all AHS publications online. Again, be sure to include your name, so we can reward you when your friend renews membership in AHS.

Level Two – ***Envoy***

When one of the potential members that you recruited joins the AHS, or renews eMembership, you become a Friendship Plant ***Envoy***. As an ***Envoy***, you receive a certificate from the President and Vice President Member Services.

Level Three – ***Ambassador***

When three potential members that you recruited join the AHS, or renew their eMembership, you become a Friendship Plant ***Ambassador***. As an ***Ambassador***, you receive a certificate from the President and Vice President Member Services and receive recognition at the National Convention. ***Additionally, you will receive a complimentary extension of one year on your AHS membership.***