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## **V. THE AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY AWARDS**

The American Hosta Society 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, National Convention Tour Garden Awards, Contribution Awards, Activity Awards, and Service Recognition Awards. These awards are sponsored and provided by The American Hosta Society or, with the approval of the AHS Vice President – Awards and Honors, may be sponsored and provided by regional, local, or other organizations associated with the genus *Hosta*. (For more information about sponsorship, see V-H.)

### **V-A. MERIT AWARDS**

#### **V-A-1. Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award and Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Hosta**

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

##### **V-A-1-a. Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award**

This award is the highest award offered by The American Hosta Society. It is awarded to a member of the Society in recognition of having given outstanding service to The American Hosta Society, the development of the genus *Hosta* or both. The recipient receives a large wooden plaque. The sponsor of this award is The American Hosta Society.

##### **V-A-1-b. Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Hosta**

This award is for a hosta of distinguished merit and is selected by the recipient of the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award. The selected hosta's merit 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. The sponsor of this award is The American Hosta Society.

### **V-A-1-c. AJS Distinguished Merit Award Process and Procedures**

The recipient is selected by a special award committee comprised of the AHS Vice President - Awards and Honors, the immediate Past President, Alex J. Summers and the two most recent AJS Distinguished Merit Award recipients. The Vice President 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 American Hosta Society 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 Vice President – Awards and Honors by March 15. Nominations should detail the achievement and contributions that make the nominee worthy of consideration for this prestigious award.

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

The recipient is notified by the Vice President. The award is presented at the National Convention and, at that time, the recipient presents a short acceptance speech. This speech is to be presented in written form to the Vice President prior to the deliverance of the speech. The winner announces his/her selection of the cultivar which is to be designated the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Hosta as part of the speech and the name of the hosta is listed on the AJS Distinguished Merit Award plaque.

The recipient is acknowledged in *The Hosta Journal* with the publication of the speech, which is provided to the Editor by the Vice President, and with pictures of the recipient and the chosen AJS Distinguished Merit Hosta. The recipient is also acknowledged on the AHS Website.

## **V-A-2. Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Merit Award and Eunice Fisher Distinguished Merit Hosta Award**

These awards were established in 2006 in honor of a pioneer hosta hybridizer and founding member of The American Hosta Society, Eunice Fisher of Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

### **V-A-2-a. Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Merit Award**

This award is the highest award offered by The American Hosta Society 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 American Hosta Society. This honor may be awarded posthumously.

### **V-A-2-b. Eunice Fisher Distinguished Merit Hosta Award**

This award is for the hosta that the recipient of the Eunice Fisher 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 American Hosta Society.

### **V-A-2-c. EF Distinguished Hybridizer Merit Award Process and Procedures**

The recipient is selected by a special award committee comprised of the AHS Vice President – Awards and Honors, the International Registrar – Genus *Hosta*, the two most recent Eunice Fisher 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 Vice President 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 Vice President – Awards and Honors by April 1. Nominations should detail the achievement and contributions that the nominee has made in the field of hybridizing hostas.

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

The recipient is notified by the Vice President. The award is presented at the National Convention and at that time, the recipient presents a short acceptance speech. The winner announces his/her selection of the cultivar which is to be designated as the Eunice Fisher Distinguished Merit Hosta as part of the speech, and the name of the hosta is listed on the EF Distinguished Hybridizer Merit Award plaque.

The recipient is acknowledged in *The Hosta Journal* and on the AHS Website with pictures of the recipient and the cultivar selected as the EF Distinguished Merit Hosta.

## **V-B. BENEDICT GARDEN PERFORMANCE AWARDS**

### **V-B-1. Benedict Garden Performance Honorable Mention Award**

### **V-B-2. Benedict Garden Performance Award of Merit**

### **V-B-3. Benedict Garden Performance Medal**

### **V-B-4. Benedict Garden Performance Awards Process and Procedures**

Details of the Benedict Garden Performance Plan, including descriptions of the awards and associated process and procedures, are located in Section IV of this Handbook.

## **V-C. NATIONAL CONVENTION HOSTA SHOW AWARDS**

These awards are presented by The American Hosta Society 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 American Hosta Society, 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 Vice President – Awards and Honors. Winners will also be acknowledged in *The Hosta Journal* and on the AHS Website.

### **V-C-1. 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 (Division I) by the show judges. The award is sponsored by The American Hosta Society and is an engraved plaque.

### **V-C-2. 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.

### **V-C-3. 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.

### **V-C-4. AHS Best Seedling or Sport Award**

Formerly the Pauline Banyai Award, this award, established in 1992, is presented to the exhibitor of the entry selected as Best Seedling or Sport (Division I) by the show judges.

### **V-C-5. 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 (Division 2) by the show judges.

### **V-C-6. 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 (Division III) by the show judges.

### **V-C-7. AHS Best Educational Display Award**

This award, established in 2006, is presented to the exhibitor of the entry selected as the Best Educational Display (Division IV) by the show judges.

### **V-C-8. AHS Artistic Design Award**

This award, established in 1980, is presented to the exhibitor of the entry selected as the Best Artistic Design (Division VI) by the flower show judges.

## **V-D. NATIONAL CONVENTION TOUR GARDEN AWARDS**

These awards were established in 2006 and are presented by The American Hosta Society to owners of gardens on tour at the National Convention. The winners are selected by a vote of convention attendees. Sponsors of these awards are not listed as they may change from time to time. The award winners and sponsors will be recognized during the presentation of the awards at the National Convention. Award winners will also be recognized in *The Hosta Journal* and on the AHS Website.

### **V-D-1. AHS Best Grown Hosta Clump (Single Clump)**

This award is presented for the best individual clump in a tour garden. The cultivar must be a registered hosta.

### **V-D-2. AHS Best Grown Hosta Clumps (Multiple Clumps)**

This award is presented for the best grouping of clumps of three hostas of the same or different cultivars in a tour garden. All cultivars must be registered hostas.

### **V-D-3. AHS Best Use of Companion Plants and Specimens (non hosta)**

This award is presented for the best use of plants other than hostas (companion plants and specimens) in a tour garden.

### **V-D-4. AHS Best Use of Non-Plant Material**

This award is presented for the best use of statuary, decorative accents, and natural materials such as rocks and wood in a tour garden.

### **V-D-5. AHS Best Use of Hostas in a Landscape Feature**

This award is presented for the best use of hostas in an overall landscape design in a single bed or site in a tour garden.

### **V-D-6. AHS Best Seedling or Sport**

This award is presented for the best seedling or sport, originated by the garden owner, in a tour garden.

### **V-D-7. National Convention Tour Garden Recognition**

This award, an outside plaque or stone reading *American Hosta Society Tour Garden (Year)*, is sponsored by The American Hosta Society and is presented to all owners of gardens on tour at the National Convention.

## **V-D-8. National Tour Garden Awards Process and Procedures**

Prior to the National Convention, the Vice President – Awards and Honors will coordinate with the convention host committee to assure that ballots are prepared for the convention attendees to use for voting these awards, that procedures are in place to distribute the ballots, and that procedures and manpower will be in place to tabulate the completed ballots..

The Vice President will also coordinate with the tour garden owners and convention host committee to assure that they are aware of the process for designating and marking garden owners' recommendations for the Single and Multiple Clump awards, the Best Use of Hostas as a Landscape Feature Award, and the Best Seedling or Sport Award.

The Vice President will assure that sponsors of these awards provide the awards prior to the convention start. He/she will assemble and present the National Tour Garden Awards at the National Convention. He will also provide the award information to *The Hosta Journal* Editor and to the AHS Website Coordinator.

## **V-E. CONTRIBUTION AWARDS**

### **V-E-1. AHS National Convention Auction Donation Award**

This award, established in 1986, recognizes the largest contributor to the auction at The American Hosta Society 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 American Hosta Society.

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 Vice President – Awards and Honors. The Vice President presents the award to the recipient at the National Convention. The recipient is acknowledged in *The Hosta Journal* and on the AHS Website.

### **V-E-2. AHS On-Line Auction Donation Award**

This award, established in 2003, recognizes the largest contributor to the AHS on-line auction, based on the total amount obtained for the contributor's donated plant material. The recipient receives an acrylic trophy. The sponsor of this award is The American Hosta Society.

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

## **V-F. ACTIVITY AWARDS**

### **V-F-1. AHS Photography Contest Awards**

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

#### **V-F-1-a. Photography Contest Award Categories and Awards**

- 1. Best Hosta Single Leaf (taken in a hosta show)**
  
- 2. Best Hosta Close-Up Showing Six or Fewer Leaves (in a garden setting)**
  
- 3. Best Picture of an Entire Mature Hosta Clump**
  
- 4. Best Landscape Picture Showing Multiple Hosta Clumps  
(3 or more clumps of the same or different cultivars)**
  
- 5. Best Landscape Picture Involving Hostas and Companion Plants and/or  
Non-Plant Garden Accessories (statues, artwork, etc.)**
  
- 6. Best Picture of Two or More Identified People in a Tour Garden at an  
AHS Convention**

## **V-F-1-b. Photography Contest Process and Procedures**

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

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

Entrants may submit prints, transparencies (slides), and digital photographs. 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* so please submit copies of prints and slides.

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

The Photo Editor will assemble all eligible entries and provide them to the other members of the committee. The committee will select the winners in all six categories and the Photo Editor will notify the winners. The Photo Editor will also provide the Vice President – Awards and Honors and the AHS Website Coordinator with the names of the winners and a digital copy of each of the winning pictures. This is to be completed by the end of March of each year.

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

## **V-F-2. Local Society Newsletter Awards**

### **V-F-2-a. Best Local Society Newsletter and Editor Award**

This award was established in 2006 and is awarded 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.

### **V-F-2-b. Best Local Society Newsletter Author Award**

This award was established in 2006 and is awarded 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.

### **V-F-2-c. 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 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 Vice President – Awards and 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 Vice President – Awards and 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.

**V-F-3. AHS Best Hosta Related Website Award** (future award)

**V-F-4. AHS Best New Journal Author Award** (future award)

## **V-G. SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARDS**

### **V-G-1. Presidential Citation Awards**

These awards are made at the choice and discretion of the reigning President of The American Hosta Society. There are two categories of awards, National Level and Regional – Local Level.

#### **V-G-1-a. National Level Awards**

Recipients of these awards are selected by the President to reward outstanding service to The American Hosta Society on the national level. 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:

**Lifetime Service Award** (for a long time dedicated worker on the national level)

**Special Project Award** (for work on a special assignment for the AHS)

**Hosta Enrichment Award** (for efforts to bring hosta acclaim)

#### **V-G-1-b. Regional – Local Level Awards**

Recipients of these awards are nominated by regional or local society presidents to recognize outstanding service at the local and/or regional level. Nominations are submitted in writing to the President of The American Hosta Society by March 1 along with the supporting documentation for justifying the award. The President determines if the award is to be made. 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:

**Lifetime Service Award** (for a long time dedicated worker)

**Special Project Award** (for work on a special assignment)

**Hosta Enrichment Award** (for efforts to bring hosta acclaim)

## **V-G-2. AHS Executive Committee Awards**

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

Recipients are recognized for each two-year increment of service provided to The American Hosta Society. The awards are pins presented by the President at the National Convention. The recipients are also recognized in *The Hosta Journal* and on the AHS Website.

Each year, the Secretary of The American Hosta Society compiles a list of qualifying recipients and provides the names to the President prior to the National Convention. The President secures the awards for presentation.

## **V-G-3. AHS Presidential Plaque**

This award is given to the President upon retirement in recognition of service to The American Hosta Society. The reward is a plaque commemorating the President's time of service. The plaque is secured by the Vice President – Awards and Honors and is presented by the incoming President.

## **V-H. AWARD SPONSORSHIP**

AHS awards may be sponsored by The American Hosta Society or, with the approval of the Vice President – Awards and 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 Vice President – Awards and Honors. Sponsorship is for a period of three to five years as agreed upon by the Vice President 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 Vice President. All costs associated with the award will be the responsibility of the sponsor. The Vice President 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 Vice President – Award and Honors will coordinate with sponsoring organizations to assure that awards are made available at the designated time of presentation.