

HPS Photographic Competition 2016

Brian Hackett, photo librarian

The summer of '16 was a season of two halves: we had a cold, wet start with severe flooding in some areas, but the weather picked up nicely in July and August. Perhaps that's why we had a much higher number of entries than in 2015. There were lots of close-ups in the first category and the judges had a hard time picking the winners. Many of this year's successful images were taken in the winners' own gardens, so credit is also due for growing such wonderful plants too!

Category one: individual hardy perennial – whole plant or close-up



Peucedanum ostruthium by Carol Bennion.

Winner: Carol Bennion – *Peucedanum ostruthium*

This is a very carefully considered photograph, which is beautifully composed. The plant is shown in its garden context, and the surrounding swirling leaves give the image depth and movement.

If, like me, you are unfamiliar with this plant, it is commonly known as Masterwort, though not to be confused with the *Astrantia*. A native to the mountains of Central and Southern Europe, it is used as a flavouring in bitters and liqueurs, as well as in traditional Austrian medicine. It likes shade and has an RHS hardiness rating of H4.

**2nd Place: Hilary Hutson
– *Athyrium niponicum* var
*pictum***

The judges loved the subtle colouring of this picture and its beautiful balance. The image contains interesting shapes and layers. Generally this is a contemplative image that repays careful viewing.



Athyrium niponicum var *pictum* by Hilary Hutson.

**3rd Place: John Ryden –
Rhododendron ‘Patty Bee’**

This image struck the judges as very painterly, with the quality of a still life. The flowers are shown to great effect against the dark background. A very striking picture of a dwarf rhododendron.



Rhododendron ‘Patty Bee’ by John Ryden.

Category two: a plant grouping, border, garden view or HPS event

**Winner: Kelly Baldry – *Stipa tenuissima* and *Osteospermum jucundum*
at The Cedars Hotel, Loughborough (see front cover)**

The judges described this as a vision of grasses, with subtle lighting and a beautiful composition. Kelly was among the prize winners last year, and he’s done even better this time around with both first and third places. *Nassella tenuissima* is a synonym of the popular *Stipa tenuissima*.



2nd Place: Alan Wilson – *Rodgersia podophylla* with *Nectaroscordum siculum*

The judges praised the lovely, subtle colouring of this picture and its well-balanced composition. Additionally, they enjoyed the beautifully balanced plant combination itself.

3rd place: Kelly Baldry – *Sedum spectabile* (Herbstfreude Group) ‘Herbstfreude’, *Stipa tenuissima* and *Crocsmia* at Hugglescote Surgery

The judges particularly liked the sense of grace and light and movement in this image.

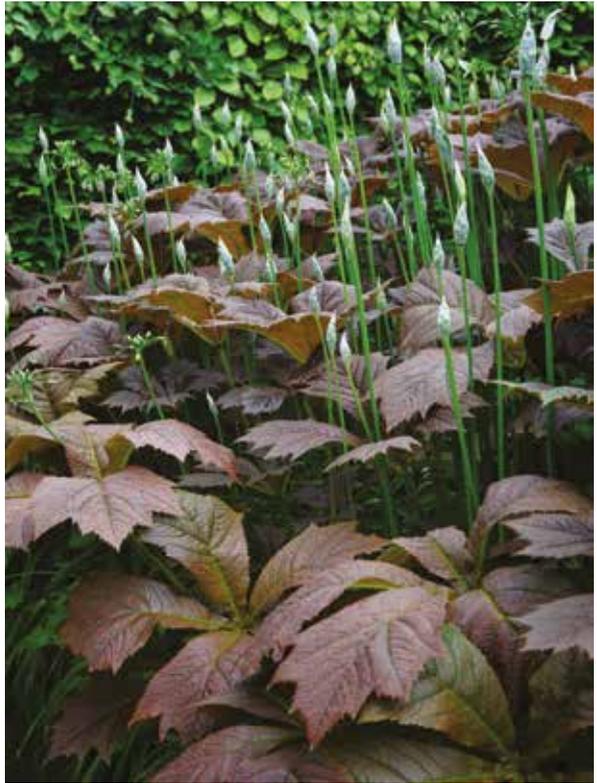
Sadly, we had no entries in Category three: a picture by members’ children or grandchildren (16 or under) on any garden subject.

Once again my thanks go to the judges, Ruth Baumberg and Barry Sheridan. Before the judging takes place I anonymise all the images, so that the judges have no idea who has taken the pictures and each image is judged purely on its photographic merit.

I hope you have been inspired by this year’s winners to submit some entries of your own in 2017.

The email address for your entries is: photocomp@hardy-plant.org.uk

If your pictures are large, please send them via www.wetransfer.com (free and very simple) to avoid problems with email size limits. Full details will appear in the July newsletter.



Rodgersia podophylla with *Nectaroscordum siculum*
by Alan Wilson.



Sedum spectabile by Kelly Baldry.

Enjoy these photos in a larger format on the HPS website

www.hardy-plant.org.uk