

HPS Photographic Competition 2018

Brian Hackett, photo librarian

There were rather fewer entries for the 2018 competition, possibly because of the summer drought which gave us all so many challenges just to keep our treasures alive. It's interesting that several of the winning entries were taken in northern gardens, where perhaps the heat was a little less intense!

However that may be, some very impressive entries were received and it was good to see some new names in the list of winners. All three winning entries in the individual hardy plant category were taken in the photographers' own gardens, which I think suggests that a lot of time and care was taken in their compositions.

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

Winner: Trevor Walton – *Selinum wallichianum*

Trevor took this picture in his garden, just outside York.

The judges thought it an excellent composition with something of a Japanese aesthetic. They liked the detail and contrast, seeing it almost as a piece of design.



2nd Place: Robert Hinchcliffe – *Helonium 'Waltraut'* bud

Robert took this photograph in his garden in Bottesford, near Scunthorpe, in July. The photo was seen as a quiet, subtle image with an interesting contrast between the front of the flower and the back. Although much of the picture is deliberately out of focus, the composition hangs together really well.

3rd Place: Gordon James – *Catananche caerulea 'Alba'*

A deceptively simple composition in which the subtly contrasting background sets off the flower beautifully. The picture was taken in Gordon's garden in Hollesley, Suffolk.



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



Winner: Alan Wilson – Reflections:

Lysichiton camtschatcensis

Alan took this picture in The Savill Garden, Windsor Great Park. The subject is the Asian Skunk Cabbage, a white form of the more common yellow-flowered *Lysichiton americanus*. Easier to like perhaps, but a tricky one to spell! The judges were very impressed by

this striking image, captured at exactly the right moment to maximise the impact of the reflected cloud and sky. It is beautifully composed, even to the smallest elements like the black reflections of the trifoliolate plant on the right. Every part is sharp and the colours (grey against cream and green) work so well together.

2nd Place: Louise Sims – Winter scene

This is a lovely atmospheric composition. The sun behind the trees and the light streaming across the water are particularly effective. The gradual falling off of focus from foreground to distant background creates a very enjoyable aerial-perspective effect.



3rd Place: Nadine Mitschunas – *Eryngium giganteum* 'Silver Ghost', *Dianthus carthusianorum* and *Stipa calamagrostis*

An effective composition taken against the light. The judges liked the subtle, restricted palette with points of emphasis across the picture plane. A contemplative image, taken on Nadine's allotment in Wallingford.

You can see more of Nadine's stunning photographs on her blog, *Tales from my wildlife allotment*, on the Society's website: hardy-plant.org.uk



Category three: a picture by members' children or grandchildren (16 or under) on any garden subject

Winner: Luna Sanchez Ortega, age 11 – Sap dripping from a damson tree

A beautifully focused image with wonderful reflections and soft colouring. A very different picture, with good composition.



2nd Place: Anna Haynes-Evans, age 10 – Peony

This well-focused image is taken from a good angle, with light coming through the petals. The dark background contrasts well with the white astrantia, a nice touch.



3rd Place: Mya Jassim, age 5 – Mummy's garden

The judges like the balanced composition and the harmonious colours. The fan-shaped leaf groups work well to set off the flowers and the background is unobtrusive.

My thanks once again go to the judges, Ruth Baumberg and Barry Sheridan. Before the judging takes place I anonymise all the images, so 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 2019. The email address for your entries is: photo.comp@hardy-plant.org.uk or you can send them to my usual email address: photos@hardy-plant.org.uk If your picture files are large, please send them using www.wetransfer.com (free, and very simple) to avoid problems with email size-limits. Full entry details, including the closing date, will appear in the July newsletter and also on the website under the *images* dropdown, where you can also enjoy this year's entries.

Enjoy these photographs in a larger format on the HPS website – hardy-plant.org.uk