

Austin Area Begonia Society Branch • of the American Begonia Society •

VOLUME VII, NUMBER 7

Nelda Moore, Editor

JULY, 2013

MEETING: 2 P.M.- 4 P.M.

JULY 28 -- GREENE ROOM

ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDENS

2220 BARTON SPRINGS ROAD

AUSTIN, TX 78746

Pot Luck



PLANT SHOW: AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY CONVENTION 2013 AUSTIN

Congratulations to Doug Byrom, who was awarded the Millie and Ed Thompson Showing is Sharing Award with his forty entries during the ABS/Southwest Region Convention May 29-June 2. Other AABS members who earned points include the following: Tom Keepin with *B.floccifera* (97 points) and *B. 'Dancing Girl'* (96 points)

Carol Orozco with *B.foliosa* (96 points), *B. 'Deja Thoris'* (95 points), and *Rex Cultorum* (95 points).

Doug Byrom won 96 points with *B.bipinnatifida*, 95 points with *B. imperialis* and *B.polilloensis*, *B. 'Holley's Moon,'* and *B. 'Little Night Music.'*

The begonia pictured on the left of this page is *Begonia 'Amy Byrom,'* which was purchased by Doug August 29, 2009, for \$100 and named for his wife. This is one of the unnamed begonias hybridized by Freda Holley and brought to the Southwest Region Get-Together to be named. This year Freda won the prestigious Alfred D. Robinson Medal of Honor for her hybrid *B. 'Holley's Beauty'* while Arlene Hoskins won the Gene Salisbury Award. This newsletter had errors last month concerning the awards. The editor apologizes and thanks Valerie Morris for sending the e-mails to correct the mistakes.

THE AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH
OF THE
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 23, 2013 MEETING

Members present were **Charlotte Boyle, Doug Byrom, Vickey Cole, Yvonne Davin, Jim Estes, Ken Fuchs, Jackie Johnson, Jim Landers, Valerie Morris, Nelda Moore, Verlene Schoen, and Lynn Sissney.**

President **Doug Byrom** called the Austin Area Begonia Society Branch to order in the Greene Room June 23, 2013, at 2:35 P.M. after the members enjoyed a delicious meal with **Verlene Schoen** serving as hospitality chairman. Those who brought food and drinks spread the goodies out on her beautiful tablecloth.

The minutes of May 26 were approved as printed.

Lynn Sissney, Treasurer, added the money from the plants that were sold to nurseries and club members to the last report. **Doug** noted that he spent \$176 for the uHaul rental and gasoline. **Jackie, Valerie, Jim, and Doug** moved the plants after the successful convention.

Doug welcomed new members **Ken Fuchs and Jim Landers.**

Jackie Johnson was elected First Vice President with **Valerie Morris** making the nomination.

Jim Estes made a motion to spend \$151 for the American Begonia Society Holiday Ad to be sent to ABS for **Wanda Macnair**, 59 Walker St., Cambridge, MA 02138. **Lynn Sissney** seconded the motion, which carried.

Fifty dollars (\$50.00) will be sent to the Southwest Region for the Begonia Booklet written by Dorothy Patrick.

Three hundred dollars (\$300.00) will be sent to ABS for **Rekha Morris's** future trip to study begonias.

The business meeting was adjourned at 3 P.M., and the program entitled Growing Begonias 101 began with **Jackie Johnson** winning B. 'Moonlight Snow' and **Valerie Morris** winning the pink African violet.

The key to growing begonias is not overwatering them especially the rhizomatous (rye-ZOMM-us-tuss), which can be treated like cacti. When moving begonias, never use an oversized pot and repot in a clay pot with new soil that can have shell or wood chips and some slow-release fertilizer. To get the begonia to bloom add a weak solution of liquid fertilizer like Hasta Grow or Lady Bug or powdered seaweed solution with ½ teaspoon per gallon for begonias and ¼ teaspoon mixed with water for violets. Another key to keeping begonias is to take cuttings from the mother plant and try growing several new plants. For canes many cuttings can be inserted in play sand for rooting.

A small piece of screen wire can be used to cover the hole in a clay pot so that worms and other pests can not get in the soil mix.

If growing plants under lights, keep the begonia 6 to 8 inches away from the light from the 40W bulbs.

The meeting ended at 4 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Nelda Moore, Secretary

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HORTICULTURE

After the excellent program Doug Byrom presented, all members should have been so enthusiastic that they hurried home to plant begonias in new soil, take cane cuttings, and pinch off tops of begonias after watering the plants to have spare plants in case the parent plant died. Begonia experts stress the importance of not overwatering begonias. Sometimes the begonia will become dormant. Then reduce the care of the plant by not watering frequently and eventually the new growth will emerge.

Usually if you are comfortable, then the plant is comfortable. You do not stand long in direct sunlight; therefore, the begonia should not be allowed to remain in direct sun. (It is 104 degrees today.)

ADOPT A SPECIES PROGRAM

Since many species of begonia have disappeared due to destruction of their habitat either intentionally or by natural disaster, Johanna Zinn has asked each of us to send her a list of the species that we have in our greenhouse or garden. She can be reached at 4407 Jensen Place, Fairfax, VA 22032, telephone 703-323-7513, or e-mail jazinn@cox.net.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species can be found at www.iucnredlist.org.

Some of the critically endangered species include *asypeltata*, *pectennervis*, *pelargoniiflora*, and *saleziensis*.

Normand Dufresne and Wanda Macnair have provided several species to the

program started by the Buxton Branch. Wanda brought a suitcase full of species to Austin in May.

Sally Savelle has two Power Point presentations on conservation and species. Her e-mail is Sally.Savelle@gmail.com.

AUSTIN AREA GARDEN COUNCIL

The Zilker Garden Festival will be held in 2014 on March 29 and 30. Enough money must be generated to fund the new concept of Zilker that might be coming in 15-20 years. AAGC is a 501 C 3. Fundraising is imperative if the garden is to survive. As a club we sell begonias and work a garden, but we must also encourage volunteering during the year in some capacity.

The Austin Area Begonia Society has accepted the following dates for meetings in the Greene Room from 2 o'clock to 4 P.M. with entrance at 1:30 P.M. On March 23 the facility is not available, but this is usually a Work Day. Easter is April 20 and Thanksgiving falls on November 27.

January 26

February 23

April 27

May 25

June 22

July 27

August 24

September 28

October 26 and November 23.

