

Austin Area Begonia Society Branch of the American Begonia Society.

Volume 7, Number 8

NEWSLETTER

August, 2013

MEETING: AUGUST 25

2 P.M. Green Room

2220 Barton Springs Road

Austin, TX 78746



B. 'Erythrophylla Bunchii'

2014 CALENDAR

January 14 Hosting AAGC

January 26 Meeting

February 23 Meeting

March 23 Meeting

March 29 & 30 Zilker Garden Festival

April 27 Meeting

May 25 Meeting

June 22 Meeting

July 27 Meeting

August 24 Meeting

September 28 Meeting

October 26 Meeting

November 23 Meeting

No December Meeting

**If you are a member of the
American Begonia Society, please
vote for the new officers and send
your ballot to Ingeborg Foo, 1050
Melrose Way, Vista, California
92083-6504 by AUGUST 17, 2013.**

B. 'Beefsteak' or *B. erythrophylla* is a vigorous creeping rhizomatous plant with medium, dark, olive-green, rounded leaves, with red undersides and light pink flowers usually in winter to early spring. It is developed from a cross between *B. manicata* and *B. hydrocotylifolia*. This cross was made in 1845 in Germany, when *Begonia hydrocotylifolia* was apparently introduced into Berlin Botanical Garden from Mexico in the 1840's. It was named for its resemblance to pennywort, a marshland plant of Europe and North Africa. It is also likened to a miniature waterlily.

When Karl Fotsch reported of *B. erythrophylla*, the beefsteak begonia, he told of a Danish artist who had painted a picture of Paradise in 1920 using the plant. The florist remarked that the begonia was from the new world. This enabled the artist to make this observation, "The florist did not know where Paradise was situated or whether it was not possible that the plants of all continents might grow there!"

B. hydrocotylifolia grows on damp, steep rocks in rain forests in Veracruz, Mexico. Pale and dark leaved variants exist.

B. 'Erythrophylla Helix' has leaves that are spiraled into corkscrews; its flowers are light pink, winter to spring. It is called the "Whirlpool Begonia."

AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH OF A.B.S.

MINUTES OF JULY 28, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: After an afternoon snack the following members of the Austin Area Begonia Society Branch of the American Begonia Society were called to order by President Doug Byrom at 2:20 P.M. in the Greene Room of Zilker Botanical Garden on Sunday, July 28, 2013: **Vickey Cole, Jim Estes, Joan Estes, Ken Fuchs, Betty Godfrey, Rosa Godfrey, Doris Hill, Jackie Johnson, Jim Landers, Nelda Moore, and Lynn Sissney.**

MINUTES: The minutes of June were approved as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Lynn Sissney reported that the share account contained \$60.32, the checking account held \$1517.96, and the money market had a balance of \$2564.09. She asked to move \$1000 into the checking account, but Doug presented a check for \$1297.47 to her from the proceeds of the successful Southwest Region/American Begonia Society Convention. Doug also reported that profits reached \$8678.00 and \$6487. went to the A.B.S. while \$864.98 remained with the Southwest Region. Since JIL (Debbie Perillo and Lee Coleman) will not be growing begonias for clubs, some of the money will have to be used to purchase begonia plugs for our branch to grow.

MOTION: **Jim Estes made a motion to buy 350 plugs. Nelda Moore seconded the motion, which passed.**

Zilker Garden Festival will be held March 29 and 30, 2014, and other begonias can be purchased along with any that the club grows for a total of at least 400 plants.

MOTION: **Joan Estes made a motion for Doug to purchase extra begonias to continue to have at least three plants for a raffle during each meeting. The motion carried.**

PROGRAM: Jackie Johnson presented a list of program topics for future meetings. Ken Fuchs will bring a power point DVD Convention Program to the next meeting. Nelda will provide the screen. Jim Estes issued a tiny aluminum can, a plastic soda water bottle, pieces of begonias, perlite, rooting gel, and water to begin his interesting program on propagation. Each member worked diligently to cut, to plant, and to prepare for the leaves and stems to produce plantlets.

HOSPITALITY: Vickey Cole will bring the paper products such as cups, plates, knives, forks, and spoons to the August 25 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Doug adjourned the meeting, and then the exciting program began. It ended at 3:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Nelda Moore, Secretary

OFFICERS for the Austin Area Garden Council 2013-2016 :

PARD- Margaret Russell
Horticulture-Joe Yura
Special Projects-Ed Parken
Public Affairs-Mary Ann Neely
Finance – Rollie Sidla
Operations-Nelda Moore
Community Support-Sandra Holt
Corresponding Secretary-Julie Johnson
Education-Wilda Campbell
Historian- Alison Clarke
Parliamentarian- Dolores Rumpf
Public Information-Donna Friedenreich
Publications-Steve Blackson
Recording Secretary-Pat Freeman
President-Marion Alsup

PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING BEGONIAS

This is best done in Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces while the best results in pruning are Taurus and Capricorn.

August 26 and 27 Taurus
September 1 and 2 Cancer
September 10 and 11 Scorpio
September 18 and 19 Pisces
September 22, 23, and 24 Taurus
September 27, 28, and 29 Cancer

FREDA HOLLEY PLANS FOR 2014 SOUTHWEST REGION CONVENTION

Hybridizer and author Freda Holley (gehrtii@icloud.com) has announced that the 2014 Southwest Region Get Together will be in the Holiday Inn Airport West, May 22, 23, and 24 in Shreveport, Louisiana. The hotel is near Highway 20, ten miles from downtown.

Doug Byrom will serve as treasurer; Nelda Moore will provide hospitality; Joan Estes will serve in registration; Charles Jaros will do placement for the show; Johanna Zinn and /or Maxine Zinman will handle judging; Don Miller will provide the ribbons as well as plant arrangement for the show; and Mike Flaherty will be the wonderful Master of Ceremonies during the banquet.

On Thursday, May 22, the tour will begin at 8:15 A.M. It is important that all attendees arrive on Wednesday, get a good night's sleep, and wake up refreshed to view the landscaped gardens and other points of interest in Shreveport.

Please join the fun in Louisiana so that this convention will be successful. You are needed and the tips on growing will assist you to become a great grower of these beautiful flowers. Bring some of your species so that these can continue to be in existence even when the world is changing for the growing population.

Bring your plants and other items and enter them in the show.



Begonia 'Landelii'



B. 'The Sultan'



B. 'Cracklin Rose'

