

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

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 10

Nelda Moore, Editor

OCTOBER, 2013

NEXT MEETING:

OCTOBER 27, 2013

Greene Room

Zilker Botanical Garden

2220 Barton Springs Road

Austin, TX 78746

Bring a begonia for Show and Tell

Pot Luck Snacks

COMING EVENTS:

November 12—AAGC Meeting

Valerie Morris, Club Representative

November 18—Decorate Club Tree

November 24—Meeting

Work in Begonia Garden

November 28—Happy Thanksgiving

No Meeting in December

MERRY CHRISTMAS

JANUARY 1—NEW YEAR'S DAY

JANUARY 14—AAGC MEETING

JANUARY 26—BEGONIA MEETING

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Daria Prendergast



Begonia 'Frenberg' is a rhizomatous with large glossy bronze-green leaves, heavily crested at the edges.



Begonia 'Spotted Diana'



Begonia Rex 'Silver Greenheart'



THE AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH

OF THE

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2013

The Austin Area Begonia Society Branch met in the Greene Room at 2 P.M. Sunday, September 22, 2013, with 15 present: **Vickey Cole, Jim Estes, Joan Estes, Ken Fuchs, Betty Godfrey, Rosa Godfrey, Jackie Johnson, Jim Landers, Arlene Lantz, Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, Daria Prendergast, who joined today, Lavergne Sanders, Verlene Schoen, Lynn Sissney.**

Jackie Johnson called the meeting to order after each filled a plate with delicious chicken, vegetables, and desserts.

Minutes as published were approved.

Lynn Sissney will pay for 2 booths Wednesday for the Zilker Garden Festival March 29 and 30.

Valerie Morris started the program about taking a cane, checking the nodes, and cutting to plant for success. Then **Jim Estes** gave several tips on rooting and cutting canes including using tissue culture to start a plant more rapidly instead of waiting for seeds to sprout and grow. His rooting powder may have been purchased on-line from Charlie's Greenhouse in Oregon. Sometimes he uses "Willow Water." If a willow roots in the water, then the begonia will also root after a short time in this solution. It should never be discarded since the hormones cause roots to develop. **Valerie** and **Vickey** filled the potting cups with soil, watered, and planted the cuttings. Members were warned not to overwater begonias.

Steve's Leaves sent B. 'Ice Castle,' won by **Daria Prendergast**; B. dregei (Partita) won by **Lynn Sissney**; and B. 'Double Jeopardy' won by **Rosa Godfrey**.

Daria Prendergast brought a begonia to identify. It was B. 'Looking Glass.' She shared some of the cuttings with members.

For the next meeting members will bring a begonia for "Show and Tell."

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Nelda Moore, Secretary

These are the favorable days for planting and transplanting:

Scorpio *October 7 and 8 Nov. 3 and 4*

Pisces *Oct. 15,16, 17 Nov. 12 and 13*

Cancer *October 25, 26 Nov. 21 and 22*

For pruning try the following:

Taurus *October 20, 21 Nov. 16,17, 18*

Capricorn *October 11,12 Nov. 7 and 8*

HORTICULTURE

Soon it will be time to slow down on fertilizing begonias and prepare them for winter by cleaning the pots, removing dead leaves and flowers, and killing mealy bugs on the plants by touching each insect with a paintbrush or Q-tip dipped in rubbing alcohol. Then spray for mildew and bugs before placing the plants in the greenhouse.

This is a good time to start plants from seeds by placing several good begonia seeds in a small pot with a drainage hole or cup that you punched a hole in the bottom with an ice pick. Use a growing mix that is one part peat moss and 1/3 small perlite or use Miracle Gro potting mix and a few drops of Superthrive (Vitamin B-1) in a 1 ½ inch pot. Put all of these pots that have a plant marker in a closed shoebox that has several sheets of newspapers in the bottom to absorb moisture evenly instead of having excess water settling on one side of the clear box. Do not allow these pots to stand in water because the plants will rot. Do not allow this mini-greenhouse to have full sun since

this will cause the seedlings to burn. It is best to hang fluorescent lights about six inches or less over the container for at least fourteen hours for days. The seeds should sprout within a week with these ideal conditions for growth. If the plants have enough light and some moisture, they should keep on growing straight up so that any weak ones can be pulled and tossed.

When the seedlings are stronger and taller, they can be transplanted to a two inch pot. By spring they should be healthy plants with much foliage.

CELEBRATING OPEN HOUSE SEPT. 21

Jackie Johnson and Vickey Cole worked with setting the begonias on the table in front of the display showing different types of begonias while Lynn Sissney added some of her beautiful terrariums for the well-attended Austin Area Garden Council Open House on Saturday, September 21, in the Zilker Botanical Garden Auditorium and in the Greene Room.

The sheet telling about the club and its activities concerning begonia and other shade loving plants plus the dues for local, region, and national had 4 names written on it when the event closed at 1 P.M. Of these **Daria Prendergast** came to the Sunday meeting with a begonia to identify. The beautiful plant was B. 'Looking Glass.' Others who are interested include Cathy Wood, manager of the Gift Shop, Skottie O'Mahony, and Ginny Prasatik.

Marion Alsup, president of AAGC, secured this for the weekend this year. Christmas trees will be decorated Nov. 18.



Daria Prendergast, Lynn Sissney, Jackie Johnson, Valerie Morris, and Vickey Cole enthusiastically join in the fun of planting canes.

Below: Daria, Joan Estes, and Valerie working with plant labels and cuttings. (Photographs by Ken Fuchs)

