

Austin Area Begonia Society Branch of the American Begonia Society

Volume 7, Number 11

Nelda Moore, Editor

November, 2013

BEGONIA MEETING

Sunday, November 24

2 P.M.

Austin Area Garden Center

2220 Barton Springs Road

Austin, TX 78746

AAGC Meeting: Jan. 14

Hostess for Council

Next Meeting: Jan. 26

2014 ABS Convention

"Begonias by the Bay"

March 19-23, 2014

Tampa, Florida

Speakers—Rick Schoellhorn

Dr. Katherine Burt-Utley

Dr. John Utley

D & D Herb Growers

Marriott/Westshore

800-346-7079

NO MEETING MAY 25



Begonia ravenii, an unusual species that was first described in 1988, was introduced in the United States by the Missouri Botanical Garden and named after Peter Raven, the garden's director. It is an unusual begonia because it has thread-like stolens that are produced from its small tubers. This feature is very rare in this genus, according to Dr. Mark C. Tebbitt. Both the stolens and tubers adapt this begonia to grow and disperse on the shallow soils that accumulate on steep, shady rock faces in the dry mountains of west-central Taiwan.

The hairless petiole is pink and goes straight into the main vein of the deciduous ovate leaf whose margin has a fringe of short hairs called ciliate. The blade is green on both surfaces, hairless, almost symmetric, ovate, the base being cordate, the margin irregularly toothed, with veins palmate-pinnate. The male flower has two tepals that are ovate-cordate. The stamens are arranged asymmetrically with a connective anther that does not project. The female flowers also have two tepals, rarely three. They are pink to pale purple, almost circular.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH

Of the AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 27, 2013

The Austin Area Begonia Society Branch of the American Begonia Society met at 2 P.M. on October 27, 2013, in the auditorium of the Austin Area Garden Center, 2220 Barton Springs Road with the following members present: **Doug Byrom, Vickey Cole, Ken Fuchs, Betty Godfrey, Rosa Godfrey, Jim Landers, Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, Verlene Schoen, and Lynn Sissney.**

President Doug Byrom called the meeting to order at 2:35 P.M. after snacks were eaten and Steve Blackson took pictures of Rosa Godfrey, who will be 101 years young in February.

Minutes were approved as published.

The treasurer received invoices to pay. The Begonia Society sent a Rex Begonia to the funeral for Cater Joseph. Doug Byrom will be paid for the begonias used in the plant raffle.

Christmas trees will be decorated by the clubs November 15 (1 P.M. until 4 P.M.) and November 16 (10 A.M. until 2 P.M.). The November 18 date was in error.

For the begonia booth during the Zilker Garden Festival (March 29 and 30) African violets, gesneriads, and other shade-loving plants will be sold. Begonia baskets will also be purchased. The American Begonia Society Convention will be held in Tampa, Florida March 19-23 at Marriott/Westshore. Rooms are \$110 for up to 3 in a room. A free breakfast is available. 1-800-228-9290 or begoniaconvention2014@aol.com Doug was thinking of bringing back some of the plants for the festival. He has also purchased 2 1/2 inch pots and trays for the starter plants from Baker's Acres. He can also acquire some salad bowls that are used as terrariums.

Since the Southwest Region Get Together in Holiday Inn Airport West in Shreveport will be held May 22-24, the Begonia Society will not meet on May 25.

The November 24 meeting will be a Work Day in the Begonia Garden. The meal will include Mexican food.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 P.M. and the program followed with helpful hints about preparing begonias for the winter.

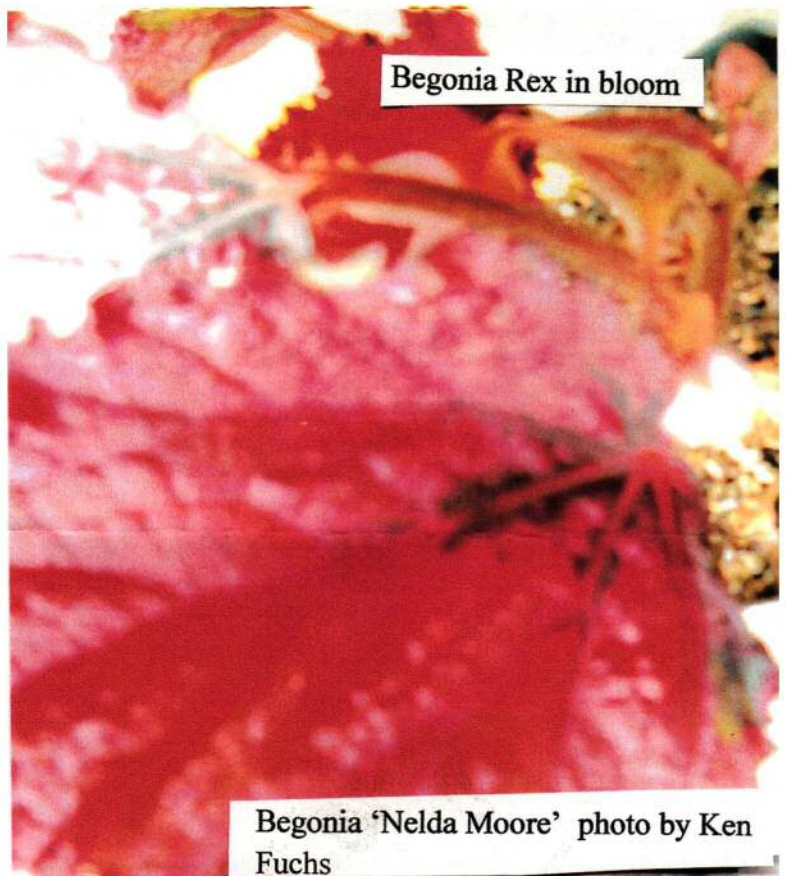
Respectfully submitted,

Nelda Moore, Secretary

Program of October 27th: Preparing for winter

How does one prepare the begonia for winter? Since the society has not covered the begonia garden at Zilker for several years, members have noticed that they can survive through the mild winters if mulched.

Sometimes a sheet can cover them if they are planted near the house. They will return after a freeze that does not linger for several wet days. If plants are placed inside a home, a garage or sunroom, examine the plant for insects, especially mealy bugs and mildew or snakes. When the plant is removed from the pot and it holds the dirt, it can go into a one-size larger container. Do not fertilize very much or not at all during the winter. Some begonias will go dormant until spring, when they then can be fertilized on a monthly basis.



Plants won by members

Ken Fuchs took home B. 'Chuckles,' while Nelda Moore will provide extra care for a Rex from Kartuz, and Lynn Sissney will work with B. soliantisis.

The meeting was much fun with many begonias and cuttings to grow. Please try to be present for the November meeting. You will enjoy the food and the plants that you can have fun growing in your own home.

Signs for planting and transplanting in December:

December 1&2 28 and 29 Scorpio

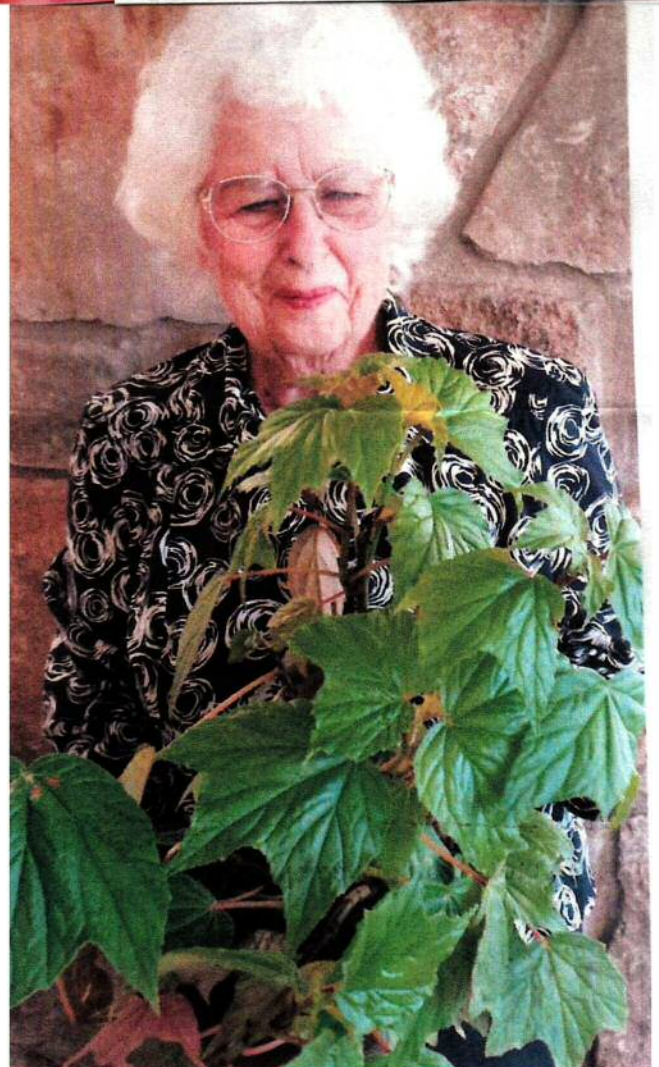
December 9 and 10 Pisces

December 18 – 20 Cancer

Try these for pruning for quick growth:

December 5 and 6 Capricorn

December 13, 14, 15 Taurus





Begonia 'The Sultan' in bloom

Begonia 'Pink Minks' in bloom

