

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

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 1

NELDA MOORE, EDITOR

JANUARY, 2014

HAPPY NEW YEAR

BEGONIA MEETING:

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

2 P.M.

GREENE ROOM

ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDEN

2220 BARTON SPRINGS ROAD

AUSTIN, TX 78746

AAGC MEETING: JAN. 14

HOSTESS FOR COUNCIL

AAGC MEETING: FEB. 11

2014 ABS CONVENTION

MARCH 19-23

TAMPA, FLORIDA

MARRIOTT/ WESTSHORE

B. goegoensis N.E. Brown



Begonia goegoensis. Fire-king Begonia

Begonia goegoensis, first described in 1882 by N. E. Brown, was discovered in Goego, Sumatra, where rainfall averages 80 – 120 inches. This rhizomatous begonia, however, was introduced in 1881. It has large egg-shaped or shield-shaped leaves tapering to a point. The leaf is attached to its stalk inside its margin. The silky, dark green-bronzed leaf of *goegoensis* has undersides and edges that are dull red, with sparse red hairs on the edges and on the veins, which give the leaf a quilted appearance. The main stem is short, creeping with very short internodes. Stipules are ovate-acuminate, tinted with red, and have red hairs on their edges and main rib. Light green-tinted with red, the petioles are four-sided. The small rose-pink flowers are staminate with 4 tepals while the pistillate flowers have 5 tepals. This plant blooms in summer and fall. It likes bright light, at least 4 hours of filtered sun. The temperature should be warm or 70-75 F. Since it loves humidity, it does well in a terrarium. The growing medium should be porous with peat moss or leaf mold and a pinch of bone meal.



Begonia goegoensis with distinctive foliage and an unusual surface coloring is in the *Reichenheimia* section. Sometimes this word is spelled *Reichenheimii*, and it was made by crossing *B. 'Fuscomaculata'* with *B. heradeifolia* to produce a giant leafed parted white, tinted green leafed begonia.

SIGNS FOR PLANTING, PRUNING, AND TRANSPLANTING IN JANUARY

Pruning January 1 and 2 Capricorn
 January 10 and 11 Taurus
 January 29 and 30 Capricorn

Planting and transplanting

 January 5 and 6 Pisces
 January 15 and 16 Cancer
 January 24, 25, and 26
 Scorpio

Should a gardener use these signs for planting and pruning? This editor had done this for years until the purchase of three different almanacs. Then when the time came to plant, I chose cancer for an abundance of blossoms. If you watch the signs, you can harvest some crops that will "keep" and not rot or get weevils. Sometimes I plant when I have time and then pray that a rain will help produce a crop. It has been quite difficult during the period of drought that has come our way. It has been the best of times and the worst of times. I keep the nurseries and plant shops in business. It is my vice, but a good one indeed.

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No minutes are included in this newsletter. Ice and snow were to blanket the highways; therefore, the Austin Area Begonia Society Branch did not meet November 24th. The begonias in the botanical garden have been damaged by the freeze, but the oak leaves may keep some of them alive for the spring.

Begonia Society of Tampa Bay / American Begonia Society

March 19 – March 23, 2014

Begonias by the Bay

Tampa, Florida 2014

Those sunglasses that reflect a palm tree and a dolphin jumping in the bay with the bright sun behind the year 2014 beacon fans to "Begonias by the Bay" in Tampa, Florida March 19-23.

Hotel accommodations can be made by telephone 800-228-9290 before March 1st for the ABS Rate of \$110 per night for up to 3 in a room with breakfast included. A free shuttle runs between the airport and Tampa Marriott Hotel Westshore, 33607.

American Begonia Society Convention Registration fees per member include \$35 for early membership received by February 15; \$45 received by March 3; and late membership received after March 3 --\$50, also the fee charged for non-members.

The tours begin Wednesday, March 19, to the Florida Botanical Garden in Largo. This beautiful landscaped garden contains 150 acres of nature with plenty begonias. After this, Tarpon Springs—the heart of the Florida Greek community—will be awaiting the group who will watch a film on the culture of the area in the Heritage Center before touring the interesting historic Sponge Docks. This includes a 3-4 block walking/tasting tour of pastry, coffee, chocolate, and visiting museums and galleries and a sponge boat.

On Thursday, March 20, the attendees will savor the sights of Tropiflora Nursery located south of Tampa in Sarasota, where bromeliads, tillandsias, driftwood, rhipsalis, hoyas, dischidia, ant plants, aroids, ferns, and other plant oddities abound. Then the journey takes the crowd to visit 6000 orchids at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, a center for research and education, with open

air and an under-glass museum. Lunch will be at Troyers for a barn-raising country buffet at around \$10 for each person. Lunch is always "on your own." The tours are \$50 each. Last on this journey will be the Women's Exchange, a non-profit consignment shop holding antiques, jewelry, and decorator items that support the Arts of Sarasota. Since 1962 the exchange has donated over \$6 million in support of arts.

On Friday the American Begonia Society luncheon and general meeting will be for members only at a cost of \$35. The banquet at 6 P.M. on Saturday will be \$60. Tom Keepin, a member of this society, will be Master of Ceremonies. At this banquet a speaker named Penny Carnathan will give a lively, entertaining presentation of "Begonias and Beyond: Garden Inspiration."



Tom Keepin



It's our 10 Year Anniversary- Come

If you cannot attend the national convention, make plans to join the fun in Shreveport, Louisiana May 22-May 24. Take your begonia masterpieces and enter them in the Plant Show. Start grooming and training these begonias now and continue to beautify them in the spring. Be sure that you clean their pots, add new soil, and watch for any insects on the top side of the leaf as well as the underside.

