

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

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 7

Nelda Moore, Editor neldamoore6947@att.net

JULY, 2014

BEGONIA MEETING: JULY 27, 2014

2 P.M. GREENE ROOM

Austin Area Garden Center

2220 Barton Springs Road

Austin, TX 78746



AUSTIN AREA GARDEN CENTER TO CELEBRATE FIFTIETH YEAR

Cupcakes, coffee, punch, balloons, show, plant sale and music will provide a festive fiftieth birthday celebration Saturday, October 18, in Zilker Botanical Garden.

AUGUST 15-17 Home and
Garden Show at convention
center Austin Area Begonias

SEPTEMBER 24-25

Stratford Drive Closed for
the A.C.L. Music Festival
with Lane Closure Sept. 27-
30 and October 13-15

OCTOBER 18 1- 5 P.M.

50 year

Birthday Celebration

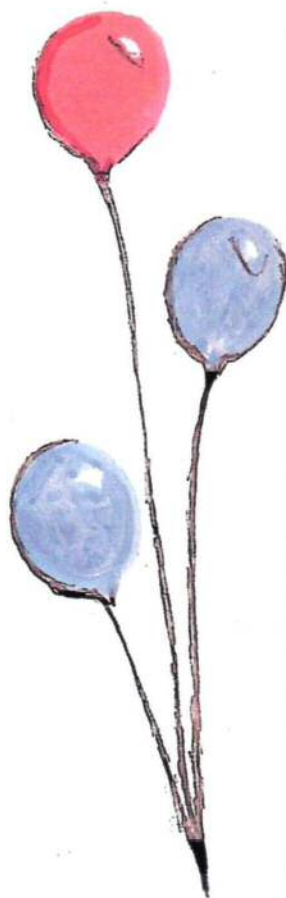
Of the

Austin Area Garden Center

Zilker Botanical Garden

2220 Barton Springs Road,

Austin, TX 78746



The Austin Area Garden Center will open its show at 1 P.M. for the public to enjoy its colorful judged flower show sponsored by the Violet Crown Garden Club.

From the auditorium the visitors can enter the Greene Room where the cupcakes, coffee, and punch will be located in the balloon-filled area that will provide a fun-time for those who will celebrate the opening of the Austin Area Garden Center, which was built with hard-earned money by the clubs that sold firewood.

In The Oaks clubs will hold a plant sale and various vendors will sell food.

Music will fill the air for this special occasion that will begin at 1 P.M. and end at 5 P.M.

Volunteers will not pay an entrance fee, and many are needed.

Cost will be \$2 for all others visiting that day.



THE AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH OF AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

MINUTES OF JUNE 22, 2014 MEETING

The Austin Area Begonia Society Branch met at 2 P.M. in the Greene Room of the Austin Area Garden Center on June 22, 2014, with the following members present: **Charlotte Boyle, Vickey Cole, Jim Estes, Joan Estes, Ken Fuchs, Doris Hill, Jackie Johnson, Jim Landers, Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, Verlene Schoen, and Lynn Sissney.**

After much discussion the members decided that begonias would be sold during the Home and Garden Show August 15-17. No plants will be purchased from growers.

On October 18 the Violet Crown Garden Club will have a judged show. The clubs have been invited to have a plant sale in the Oak Grove.

~~The Gala will be held October 25.~~

Motions that were made and passed:

- 1) *The Austin Area Begonia Society will send the American Begonia Society \$250.00 for Rekha Morris's study and collection of begonia species during her trips to India or Mexico.*
- 2) *Austin Area Garden Council, Inc. will receive a check for \$50.00 for the Virtual Tour to include the begonia garden in Zilker Botanical Garden.*
- 3) *The Austin Area Garden Society will provide \$151.00 for the Holiday Ad in The Begonian.*

Jackie Johnson, president pro tem, noted that the begonia garden is not marked with a sign. She also suggested that the society sponsor a program on snakes by Dr. Travis Leduc. Nelda suggested that the Docents could advertise and attract the public as well as club members for a Saturday morning program in the auditorium.

Lynn Sissney sent a Thank You Note for the beautiful crystal bowl which sits beside B. 'Pink African Violet.' The award won at the Shreveport Show is extra special because it was sponsored by the Austin Area Begonia Society. "Many thanks again." Signed Lynn.

Many thanks, Lynn, for all of your work with the Plant Shows here and in Shreveport.

The July 27 meeting will be on propagation for plant sales. Bring cuttings.

Respectfully submitted,

Nelda Moore, secretary

NEW SPECIES FROM HAINAN

Ken Fuchs found information about a new begonia species on Facebook so he sent a seven page booklet about this unusual begonia that was collected in 2009 and cultivated in a special greenhouse for morphological and cycological studies. This species was also mentioned in Rekha Morris's seminar in Shreveport since she consulted Dr. Ching-I Peng about a species in India that she had found.

The species collected in 2009 was found to have somatic chromosomes number $2n=26$. Two other species, *B. acaudis* and *B. grandis* also have this number.

Since this species was collected from the center of Hainan, one of the largest islands of the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspots of tropical forests in China, it is *Begonia wuzhishanensis*, a name that comes from five-fingered mountain in Fanyang. The species has tubers that can be above the surface of the ground as well as beneath it. This species flowered in 2012 and 2013 in Academia Sinica Greenhouse. After extensive study the begonia has been assigned to Diploclinium of Begoniaceae, which includes 130 species. On Hainan Island eight species of begonia can be found. Four are endemic.

The article has been published by Dr. Ching-I Peng and others who have studied this new species by dissecting it and photographing its flowers and leaves.

Peng et al. Botanical Studies 2014, 55:24

A SpringerOpen Journal Research Open Access, which permits unrestricted use,

distribution, and reproduction in any medium, providing the original work is properly cited.

The following pictures are contained in the studies of *Begonia wuzhishanensis*:





Begonia schmidtiana (1878) is a non-rhizomatous perennial with brownish red stems in the Semperflorens group. The stipules are ovate while the petioles are yellowish brown to pinkish brown attached to the blade of the leaf at an angle. The blade above is dull olive-green, beneath dull burgundy-red with a pale green marginal area, asymmetric, ovate, with apex acute; the base shallowly cordate to truncate with a wavy margin. The veins are palmate.

B. schmidtiana, *B. scharffi*, and *B. scharffiana* were the three very hairy species that were discovered by Scharff and Haage of the German nursery firm Haage and Schmidt. This begonia, however, has a position in the begonia hall of fame because it was crossed with *B. cucullata* resulting in the first of the modern-day Semperflorens or wax begonia hybrids. When happily situated in a warm, well-lit position out of direct sunlight in a greenhouse or in the home under lights, *B. schmidtiana* will produce large numbers of attractive pinkish-white flowers almost year-round.

Water only when the top of the potting medium feels dry to the touch, otherwise the roots have a tendency to rot. Propagate from stem cuttings in a well-drained rooting mix.

In addition to the numerous Semperflorens begonia hybrids, *B. schmidtiana* has contributed to the parentage of *B. 'Mandiana'*, *B. 'Mark Thornton'*, *B. 'Toe'*, and *B. 'Wichita Falls'*.

Research from Mark Tebbitt's Begonias



Begonia 'Charm' Semperflorens

Begonia sanguinea is one of the cultivated species from the Atlantic Coastal Forest of Brazil. It belongs to the Pritzelia Section, one of the largest species of the eastern area where 125 species can be found, 50 of which are cultivated. It is distinguished by its leaves having grey-green upper surfaces and hairless undersurfaces. It is commonly known as the beefsteak begonia or in German "Fleisch-blattler" (meat leaves) as the undersurfaces of the leaves are bright red. Even its scientific name means bloody. *Begonia 'Frostland'* comes from a cross of *B. petasitifolia* and *Begonia sanguinea*.



HORTICULTURE

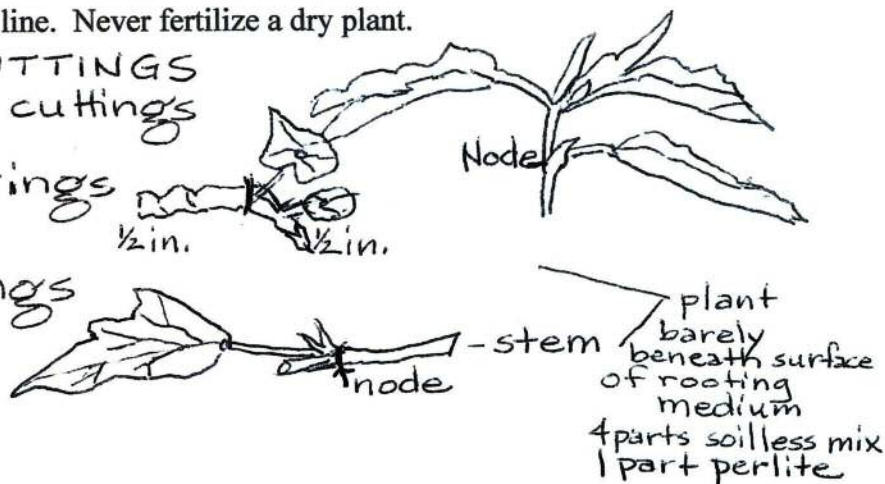
It is time to visit the begonias and groom them especially after they have bloomed and some flowers have fallen on top of the soil or on the leaves. Use an artist's paint brush to dust off the foliage. Add a small amount of new soil after removing some of the debris. Water them and then on the second day take cuttings for the July 27th meeting. Be sure to cut each stem where three or four nodes are above the soil line. Never fertilize a dry plant.

TYPES OF STEM CUTTINGS

1) Tip and basal cuttings

2) Rhizome cuttings

3) Mallet cuttings



Begonia heracleifolia or Star Begonia is known as the first rhizomatous begonia with palmate-lobed leaves known to Europeans. It was discovered by plant hunter Ferdinand Deppe and physician C. J. Scheide in the 1830s near Mexico City in the area of the Mayan pyramids where it grows on the ground, on the pyramids, and on the trunks of trees. This species can be found from Durango and Tamaulipas south to Honduras. In the state of Puebla it is grown on coffee plantations, and the green petioles with red hairs are harvested for food. This species grows about eighteen inches tall as a ground cover.



When it blooms from November to April, the pale pink flowers are fragrant. The palmate leaves have light green veins in the shape of a star. Hairs form a dense circle at the top of the petiole where it meets the leaf, which is burgundy underneath.

B. 'Ricinifolia' is a hybrid created in 1847 between *B. heracleifolia* and *B. barkeri*. B. 'Crestabruchii' was created from *B. manicata* 'Crispa' x *B. heracleifolia* 'Sunderbruchii.'

B. 'Texastar' owes its star-shaped leaves to *B. heracleifolia* parentage.