

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

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 10

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 2014

MEETING: Sunday, Oct. 26
2 P.M.

Country Home of Jim and Joan
Estes

7620 South Hwy 183,
Lockhart, TX 78644

DIRECTIONS:

From Austin travel to Lockhart,
go through town and watch
for Wal-Mart on the left. About
3 miles down the highway there
is a cylindrical water tower on
the right. The Estes's gate is
on the left. Drive down this
road until the barn is visible on
the left side of the country
road. Then their home will be
visible.

Phone: 512-620-0322

Please bring a vegetable dish,
salad, or dessert. Jim and Joan
are preparing the meat.

EVENTS:

October 18

50th Anniversary Celebration
Austin Area Garden Center
Zilker Botanical Garden
1 P.M.

November 11 Austin Area
Garden Council Meeting

Begonia Website:

www.kenfuchs42.net/aabs_index.html



Begonia 'Brown Eyes'

B. 'Brown Eyes' is a cross of B. 'Norah
Bedson' x *B. imperialis* by Leslie Woodriff.
It won the 'Best New Rhizomatous'
trophy at the American Begonia Society
Convention in 1973.

It has small leaves that are ovate,
entire/subentire, silvery green in color
with a brownish-purple textured
spiderweb pattern overlaying the upper
surface of the leaves. The leaf surface is
sparsely covered with short hairs. Edges
of the leaves have light red hairs, giving
an eyelash effect; the underside has
raised red venation on a light green
background, with light red hairs along
the veins.

Petioles are quite red-looking when
young; as they mature they turn light
green with red striation, and have short
light red hairs.



AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2014

The Austin Area Begonia Society Branch of the American Begonia Society met September 28, 2014, at 2 P.M. in the Greene Room of the Austin Area Garden Center in Zilker Botanical Garden.

Doug Byrom introduced **Marion Alsup**, president of the Austin Area Garden Council, who presented a brief result of the survey taken during the summer. The Zilker Botanical Garden can be served, enhanced, and preserved by a group of fundraisers serving a non-profit conservancy.

On October 18 a 50th Anniversary Celebration will begin at 1 P.M. with speakers, music, balloons, golf-cart transportation from the Rose Gate to the front of the collection booth, Violet Crown Show, and plant sales. The Oaks plant sales will begin at 10 A.M. and last until 5 P.M.

The begonia garden needs extra plantings since either rats, rabbits, birds, or grasshoppers have been eating some of them.

Doug Byrom began the meeting by talking about sources for obtaining plants for the Zilker Garden Festival March 28 and 29, 2015. Then he offered tickets for \$5 each for a drawing to select the large begonias on display. After that, six pack plants of one variety were offered for \$10 each. Members who participated began exchanging some of the plants for another variety. This was a fun day with a great Pot Luck that was enjoyed by **Charlotte Boyle, Doug Byrom, Vickey Cole, Jim and Joan Estes, Ken Fuchs, Rainee Freeman, Jackie Johnson, Jim Landers, Arlene Lantz, Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, Carol Orozco, Verlene Schoen, and Lynn Sissney.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Nelda Moore, Secretary

SELECTING THE NAME OF A HYBRID

How does one select a name for a new plant that he has successfully produced through the exchange of pollen from two or more plants? Brad Thompson tells how he decided to name his begonias after characters in books and movies, after his friends either spelling their names or using them spelled backwards, or by drawing names from events surrounding him, or by using some term that best describes the offspring after careful examination.

Even trial and error sometimes plays a part, especially when one named B. 'Rattlesnake' for a series named after snake patterns did not survive. Brad also found out that some people are afraid of snakes and do not want to grow plants named after reptiles.

Brad Thompson's B. 'Baby Talk' received that name because it was small and cute. It had to be baby something.

B. 'Big Bad Brad' has large leaves and flowers so it took Brad's nickname when he is called Bad Brad. It is also a play off a restaurant chain called "Bob's Big Boy."

B. 'Stormy Night' has a black leaf and was named on a stormy night.

B. 'Tea Set' has cupped leaves.

B. 'Vegas Nights' is covered with large white spots.

B. 'Shalimar' has scented flowers and is named after a perfume.

B. 'Pintura' is Spanish for painted.

B. 'Night Crossing' got its name from a movie. It has huge black leaves that look like parachutes or umbrellas. Night Crossing is about people escaping in hot air balloons.

'Aztec' comes from a book Brad was reading at the time.

B. 'De Cups' does not refer to a bra size. It is slang as in "Answer de door" or "Walk de dog." B. 'De Udder Cups' is another play off on that since these begonias had cupped leaves. B. 'Tea Set' also has cupped leaves. B. 'Saki Sipper' was named when Brad was using Japanese type names.

B. 'Naugahyde' has leathery leaves that feel like vinyl, but vinyl didn't seem like a good name.

HORTICULTURE

Since begonias have grown rather quickly since the cooler, rainy weather, a cutting can be taken from canes and a new plant can be grown by placing it in a damp potting soil or rooting medium of 1 part perlite, 1 part vermiculite, and ¼ part Jiffy Mix.

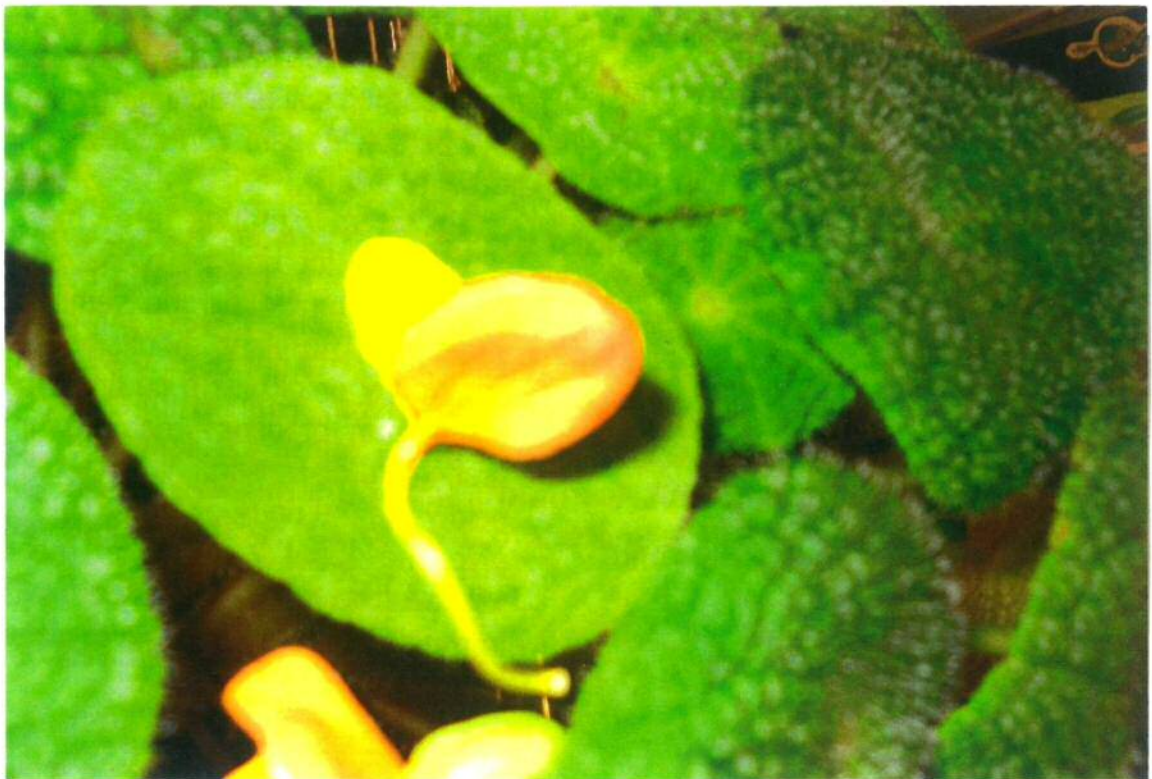
Tip stem cuttings are the most satisfactory method of propagation for cane-like, shrub-like, and semituberous varieties. The plant should be healthy, not woody or old. Tip cuttings may be taken from branches that are upright, branching, or trailing. With a knife, cut below the 2nd node or joint. This should give one about 2 inches of the plant. Remove the lower leaves that would be in the soil when the cutting is planted to a depth of ½ to 2 inches.

We express our sincere sympathy to Lynn Sisney, whose father passed away last week.



Members of the Austin Area Begonia Society Branch enjoy Pot Luck during the September meeting in the Greene Room of the Austin Area Garden Center.

*Below is *B. staudtii* in bloom during the Home and Garden Show.*



AABS Members' Drawing and Plant Exchange



