



VOLUME 10, NUMBER 8

Newsletter

August 2016

NEXT MEETING:

AUGUST 28 2 P.M.

GREENE ROOM

Austin Area Garden Center

Zilker Botanical Garden

2220 Barton Springs Road

Austin, TX 78746

PLANTING SEEDS

Pot Luck

Chicken Nelda

Pasta Salad Lynn

Cups, ice, drinks Rainee

Snacks and desserts

SEPTEMBER 6

ABS 2016 Convention

Ayres Hotel

Los Angeles, CA

SEPTEMBER 25

BEGONIA MEETING

GREENE ROOM

OCTOBER 11 9:30 A.M.

HOSTESS FOR AAGC

AUDITORIUM

OCTOBER 22

PLANT SALE

AUDITORIUM

OCTOBER 23

LOCKHART MEETING

Jim and Joan Estes' Home



FIRE-KING BEGONIA IN SPECIES BANK

Although an ink drawing by Mary Weinberg of *B. goegoensis* has appeared in this newsletter, this rhizomatous species that was described in 1882 by N. E. Brown after it was introduced in 1881 is pictured as it is growing in the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Species Bank. It belongs in Section *Reichheimaia* and it contains 34 chromosomes.

The leaves are egg-shaped or shield-shaped tapering to a point with silky dark green-bronze with the undersides and edges dull red with sparse red hairs on the edges and on the veins, giving the leaves a heavily quilted appearance. The petioles are four-sided. Its staminate flowers have 4 tepals while the pistillate rose pink flowers have 5 tepals.

It was found in Goego, Sumatra, where it lives in a volcanic area of decomposed rock that receives over 100 inches of rain. The East Coast is a mangrove swamp.

To grow this species give the begonia 4 hours of filtered sun in temperatures of 70-75 degrees F. or place the plant in a terrarium.

This Begonia 'Texas Tea Slipper' is an angel wing begonia.



Begonia 'Mr. Hunt' is a popular jointed specimen with large leaves that are silver and lavender silver on sturdy stems. It grows 2 feet tall and has multi-cleft leaves and pink flowers.



**AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH
OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
MINUTES OF JULY 24, 2016**

The Austin Area Begonia Society of the American Begonia Society met at 2 P.M. in the Greene Room of the Austin Area Garden Center in Zilker Botanical Garden July 24, 2016 with nineteen members purchasing begonias, eating a variety of wonderful food, and planting seedlings: **Amelia Alexander, Charlotte Boyle, Cathy Brigham, Doug Byrom, Vickey Cole, Betty Dunn, Jim Estes, Joan Estes, Rainee Freeman, Ken Fuchs, Jackie Johnson, Jim Landers, Arlene Lantz, Julie Marcus, Joe Moore, Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, Lynn Sissney, and Geneva Townsend.**

Nelda Moore served as hostess since Verlene Schoen was celebrating with her family. A paper was circulated for snacks for the August meeting. Rainee Freeman will bring drinks, cups, and ice while Lynn Sissney will contribute her pasta salad. Nelda Moore will furnish a chicken dish. Anyone else can fill in accordingly. The group always has plenty of food and almost everyone brings fruit, cheese and crackers, and desserts. We thank each for their donations of delicious dishes that we always enjoy.

On October 23 Jim and Joan Estes will host the meeting in their country home outside Lockhart. Ken Fuchs and Jim Landers will bring fruit while Betty Dunn will provide chips and dips. This is a Pot Luck meal when every person contributes food.

Doug Byrom presented the program about transferring seedlings into small paper cups with 4 tiny holes punched in the bottom for water to drain through the potting soil. He then placed

them in a plastic container that would serve as a greenhouse. He emphasized how important it is to keep the name tag in each plant or to plant several seedlings in a cupped tray and write the name of the one type of begonia in the greenhouse. Doug also cautioned that bunched seedlings can be removed with a plastic fork or with chop sticks and dropped to separate them, but do not pick them up with your fingers. A liquid fertilizer in small amounts can be used to fertilize the tiny plants, but do not water them too much. He suggested fish fertilizer or John's Formula when trying to give the plants a better start.

BUSINESS MEETING:

The group tabled a motion to contribute to the AAGC Conservancy.

Lynn Sissney as chairman of the Nominating Committee presented a slate of officers-the same officers that have served a number of years. All officers should be members of the American Begonia Society and the Southwest Region ABS as well as the local society. Doug emphasized how important it is to belong to the A.B.S. for \$25 and the Region for \$10 since the plants come from these areas since one can not purchase the unusual ones from local stores.

The society will participate in the Plant Sale in the auditorium on Saturday, October 22, with set up from 1-5 P.M. on October 21.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelda Moore, Secretary



HORTICULTURE

During this month when you continue to do your monthly feeding of your begonias, you can add a quarter strength fertilizer to keep them growing before fall when you plan to stop until spring arrives.

As always you are keeping the plants clean, well-groomed, and shaped. You have turned your pots to make sure that plants are growing beautifully all around. Sometimes you want to rinse off the leaves to rid the plants of African dust that blew through Central Texas a few weeks ago. Be sure to check the underside of leaves for pests such as whiteflies and mildew.

Temperatures have been 100 degrees and over with the heat index up to 107. If you have the shade house open, check the plants daily. Water with the rain water or with the tap water that you have left in a bucket or other container closed for a few days.

If you purchased some small plants, be sure that you can check on them closely by placing them together and not joining the larger plants that are in bigger pots that do not need water as often. Enjoy your begonia collection now since many of them are in bloom — orange, light pink, white, and rose pink. Have you noticed that those from Mexico and Central America can tolerate the heat and continue to grow quickly! A doe tasted a table full of my prize begonias, but most of them took off with a quick growth. It was the time for pruning, but how did she know!

Paul Lowe, a Florida hybridizer, created this lovely plant in 1980 by crossing *B. hatacoa* with



BEGONIA 'CHARLES JAROS'

B. deliciosa and naming it *B. 'Lowe's Rubio-Venia'*. Then Lowe named it after the American Begonia Society President Charles Jaros, who won an award from the Southwest Region in 2016.

Lowe has also created many other begonias and among them is *B. 'Chuck Jaros'*, *B. 'Helene Jaros'*, and *B. 'John Sousa'*. Brad Thompson, a well-known hybridizer, used *B. 'Charles Jaros'* as a pollen parent for *B. 'Mariposa Blanca'*.

B. 'Charles Jaros' is a rhizomatous plant with upright stems that are jointed at or below the soil surface thus causing an upright shrub. Its appearance is more like *B. deliciosa*, the male parent. The flowers are pink. It can be difficult to grow, but Morris Mueller grows it in filtered sun. He says it needs neither too much nor too little water.

RIP HAYWIRE





Doug Byrom shows one of the begonias for sale.



B. crassicaulis (see below)



