



VOLUME 10, NUMBER 9

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2016

**MEETING: 2 P.M.**

**September 25, 2016**

**GREENE ROOM**

Zilker Botanical Garden  
2220 Barton Springs Road  
Austin, Texas 78746

Pot Luck

OCTOBER 11

Austin Area Garden Council  
9:30 A.M.

Hostess for council

OCTOBER 22

8 A.M. until 6 P.M.

PLANT SALE WITH BEGONIAS  
in the Zilker Auditorium

OCTOBER 23

Begonia Meeting 2P.M.  
7620 South Hwy 183  
Lockhart, TX 78644  
1-512-620-03 22  
jestes@ionet.net

ZILKER GARDEN FESTIVAL

March 25-27, 2017  
VOLUNTEER

**DOUG BYROM HONORED IN LOS ANGELES**

Doug Byrom received the prestigious Herbert P. Dyckman Award of Service Saturday, September 10, during the American Begonia Society Banquet in the Ayes Hotel, 14400 Hindry Avenue, Hawthorne, California.

Cheryl Lenert, Chairman of Awards who presented the beautiful plaques, said that many of those who nominated Doug came from several branches throughout the country, not just Texas. She gave this in grateful appreciation for his service to the American Begonia Society.

Doug joined many other well-known ABS members who have rendered long-term service above and beyond the normal duties of a member or officer: Tom Keepin (2008), Mary Bucholz (2007), Howard Berg (2006), Johanna Zinn (2005), Michael Kartuz (2004), Richard and Wanda Mcnair (2000), Carol Notaras (1995), Don Miller (1994), Charles Jaros (1993), Mae Blanton (1974), and Alva Graham and Edna Korts (1968), to name a few.

As treasurer of the Southwest Region and president of the Austin Area Begonia Society, Doug Byrom is known as the person who created the successful Challenge Fund Drive in which the Southwest Region would match up to \$10,000 to the total monies received with half for ABS and half to the Begonia Collection at Fort Worth Botanical Gardens. Doug spearheaded the Fund with this slogan, "Remember, if we all give a little, just think how much a thousand people could raise." He set up such levels of giving as Bronze \$1-\$150, Silver \$151-\$300, Gold \$301-\$499, and Platinum \$500 plus. Valerie Morris, Austin Area Begonia Society Branch, and Rudy Zieshenne Branch achieved Platinum. The total amount recently was over \$8,000.



Photo by Marvin Vipond

## Begonia 'Looking Glass'

by Joan Coulat, 1997 Award,

Begonia 'Looking Glass' is an extremely distinctive cane-like hybrid created by noted hybridizer and Branch member, Patrick Worley. It has been around for approximately 15 years and was awarded the Best New Introduction at a national convention and show.

It is classified as a Superba. Its leaves can measure nearly a foot by 7" or 8". The obverse of the leaves is solid silver only broken by dark green bands following the veins. The reverse is a rich oxblood-red. The flowers are a medium pink. It is a shy bloomer and is really grown for its attractive and eye-catching foliage. A well-grown specimen can easily reach six feet in height.

There is no doubt that this plant is a hybrid that was planned. It was bred specifically to create a silver-leaved cane that consistently produced those silver leaves. All too often a plant with a silver pattern to its leaves only shows it in juvenile leaves or on leaves that grow under certain temperature or light conditions.

Classic selective breeding techniques used two unnamed canes with complex backgrounds created

by Worley. He used other plants with the potential to produce silver-leaved progeny to make these two parents, including the attractive, but somewhat difficult B. 'Orpha C. Fox.' Careful selection and back-crossing resulted in a generation that contained four with nearly solid silver leaves. Only one of those was selected and named B. 'Looking Glass.'

Culture is basically the same as for other canes. The soil mix should be loose and well-draining. Fertilizing should be done according to package directions during the growing season.

If grown in conditions that become cool as the days grow short, the plant will tend toward dormancy as reflected in some degree of leaf drop. Stop fertilizing and reduce watering. If it is being grown in the house or a heated green house, this dormancy will be barely noticed. This plant also experiences attacks of powdery mildew, particularly toward the end of the summer and early fall. Preventative spraying with a product like Bayleton works wonders. Mealy bugs tend to like this plant a little more than others, so vigilance and an effective pest management program are recommended if mealy bugs are spotted.



Sacramento Branch, American Begonia Society, August 2000

**AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH OF AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY  
MEETING OF AUGUST 28, 2016**

Doug Byrom called the meeting to order after all members and guests selected their snacks from the array of goodies-Nelda's fried chicken, Jackie's crackers and pizza, dips, salads, cookies, rolls, Verlene's cake, tea, ice, and cups by Rainee.

Present were Charlotte Boyle, Doug Byrom, Vickey Cole, Betty Dunn, Rainee Freeman with guest, Ken Fuchs, Doris Hill, Jim Landers, Jackie Johnson, Julie Marcus, Nelda Moore, Verlene Schoen, and Lynn Sissney.

Doug talked about begonias that we will need in the spring for the Zilker Garden Festival, and about 10 are needed October 22 for the Fall Plant Sale in the auditorium.

On October 11, when Vickey Cole will serve as a Club Representative during the Austin Area

Garden Council Meeting, the Austin Area Begonia Society Branch will serve as hostess. Coffee, tea, sandwiches, cookies, fruit and vegetable trays will be needed. Nelda has plates and napkins. Plastic forks and knives will be there if needed, but usually these are finger foods.

Doug brought containers, soil mix, water, and begonia seeds. All planted seeds from Rekha Morris, who presented a seminar at the Los Angeles, California Convention.

Some members visited the Begonia Garden before leaving after the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nelda Moore, Secretary

**THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY**

During the Great Depression of 1932, some begonia enthusiasts led by Herbert P. Dyckman met in Long Beach, California to eat a meal together, to exchange ideas about growing begonias, and to take begonia cuttings home. On a January evening they formed the California Begonia Society. In June 1934 with membership growing, they decided that it should become a national organization. By 1980 the American Begonia Society had over 2000 members who enjoyed many services such as seed sales, mail-order bookstore, library, and even a round robin program. Their bulletin became known as The Begonian in July 1938. Their numbers increased and became 54 branches, but more than one-half of ABS members are at-large with no branch affiliation. Do you belong to the American Begonia Society?



Unnamed red, Brazil



Begonia dayii



B. Yubae