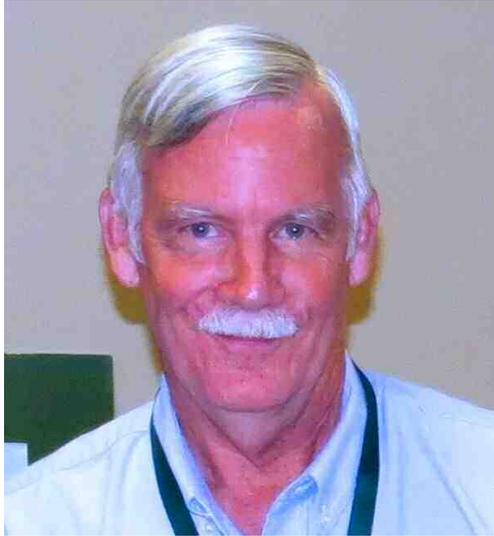




DON MILLER TO SPEAK IN AUSTIN SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017



Don Miller, a treasured member of the Southwest Region, American Begonia Society, will discuss cane culture when the Austin Area Begonia Society Branch meets on January 22 in the Greene Room in the Austin Area Garden Center in Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy located at 2220 Barton Springs Road in Austin.

Named Hybridizer of the Year in 2016 in Richardson, Don Miller received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Ornamental Horticulture and has worked with pansies, begonias, and ferns to create new and improved plants. He is a buyer of bedding plants for North Haven Gardens, where he has a greenhouse. He continues to create prize-winning begonias, and writes articles for *The Begonian*. Not only can he identify most begonias, but he also proves to be an interesting speaker who teaches how to plant and take care of each of them.

He has always loved plants, even as a young boy growing up in Southern California around a "short ovate lady with flaming red hair and heart-shaped ruby-red lips" whom he called Aunt Doll, a name given to her by all who were fortunate to listen to her name the plants and tell stories about them as they toured her enchanted garden around her cottage near Don and his brothers. One day during the tour she gave Don some cuttings of her plants that contained a begonia. Years later Don joined with Steve's Leaves in Lewisville, where many of his beautiful begonias attract attention. He offers this about crossing two different begonias and learning that the offspring will be highly variable. When he crossed a rex cultivar with an unnamed species U489, he chose three seedlings out of more than one hundred offspring: 'Starry Nights,' 'Moonlit Snow,' and 'Blushing Beauty.' 'Starry Nights' won Best New Introduction and went on to win the People's Choice Award in San Antonio in 2012, during the Southwest Region Get Together.

Some of his other begonias include the following rhizomatous B. 'Cancun Seafoam,' 2012, B. 'Double Jeopardy' 2012, B. 'Kevin Whitecotton' 2014, B. 'Mayan Princess' 2012, and B U358 from Malaysia.

Other varieties include B. 'Lone Star Aussie,' an excellent Cane Stem of 1991. Rex cultorum which are named above and U309 and 'West Texas Blizzard.' Shrub-like are unidentified from The Philippines, Ecuador, and Malaysia-U168, U259, U260 and U357. There is also a tuberous U305. (Begonia List from Freda Holley will be given during the meeting.)

AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH OF A.B.S. MINUTES
NOVEMBER 27, 2016

President Doug Byrom called the meeting to order at 2:20 P.M. in the Greene Room with the following members in attendance: Doug Byrom, Vickey Cole, Ken Fuchs; Jackie Johnson, Jim Landers, Arlene Lantz, Julie K. Marcus, Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, Carol Orozco, Verlene Schoen, and Lynn Sissney.

Doug announced that he had purchased a total of 390 plants with 90 African violets that are all new varieties that one would not be able to purchase from local places. Valerie Morris is also growing some begonias for the festival as well as rooting canes for Blooming Idiots to grow in their greenhouse. Doug will try to purchase hanging baskets from J & L with 20 that will be planted in the Adopted Zilker Garden. Lynn Sissney made a motion to purchase 20 begonia baskets to be planted in the garden in Zilker. Nelda seconded the motion, which carried.

On Thursday Doug will meet with Valerie and Lynn at the bank to go over the financials.

Jim Landers has black pots for sale: 10 for one dollar.

Vickey Cole presented the Austin Area Garden Council report of November 8, 2016. Five members will serve on the Nominating Committee for a slate of officers for installation in May. Email Donna Friedenrich (donnafried@att.net) about club shows and sales for the website. The bonsai exhibit raised \$6000. Clean up of the stream bed will be completed by March before the Zilker Garden Festival.

Jackie and Doug placed soil and begonias on the table covers so that the begonias could be planted in 4-inch pots. The members completed this task by 3:30 P.M. Then some took cuttings and covered the begonias with leaves to keep them through the winter in the begonia garden.

Please attend the January 22nd Begonia meeting in the Greene Room since Don Miller will be the speaker. Currently he serves as Hybridizer of the Year.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelda Moore, Secretary



Begonia 'Starry Nights,' Rex Cultorum, Don Miller 2012

Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy

Cat Newlands, Executive Director, discussed plans for enhancing areas of the garden including the Children's Garden, the streams from near the building to the Rose Garden, bonsai exhibit, and other additions. She has met with potential donors here, but she intends to reach out to San Antonio. She provided a basket for donations to purchase plants.

Nominating Committee for Austin Area Garden Council

For 2017-2018 Jennie Ferrier, Evelyn Hootkins, Judith Craft, Wilda Campbell, and Andrea Wakefield will soon present a slate of officers to the board.

BY-LAWS

The Austin Area Garden Council Board of Directors on November 8, 2016, voted to delete Vice President of Constituent Services and replace with Vice President Membership and Volunteers, who will maintain a direct communication with each garden club's representative. Hours are to be reported at the time the volunteer work is done or by sending the information monthly to the club representative.

Gift Shop and other issues

The council president Marion Alsup announced that the Gift Shop needs a \$700 new laptop and software \$1800 to upgrade the newest Point of Sale system and a new ceiling fan for the Greene Room. According to Jennie Ferrier, Vice President of Operations, she has selected a fan that will not make noise and she wishes to solve issues with Bev's Shed and the kitchen.

ELIZABETH IRENE McVEETY WILL RETIRE IN DECEMBER

Liz McVeety, who was employed by the City of Austin February 15, 1984, will retire at the end of December. A retirement party in her honor was given December] 14 t 2:30 P.M. She has been a dedicated coordinator for the Garden Center and with her staff worked diligently to make Zilker Botanical Garden a glittering jewel in the heart of Austin.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DRAGON WING AND ANGEL WING BEGONIAS?

A Dragon Wing Begonia is about 2-3 feet tall with deep, glossy green five inch long leaves and drooping clusters of flowers. Both begonias are canes. The angel wing begonia has green leaves with white spots. The difference is in the coloration of the leaves.



Dragon Wing Begonia



Angel Wing Begonia



With temperatures in the twenties and teens most begonias were protected by a heating system that dried the soil quickly. Check containers for moisture, but never allow the plants to stand in water or to become soggy. Misting the begonias is okay, but this may cause disease and mildew. If the begonias are taken outdoors during the hot weather following the freeze, do not allow the sun to burn them. Fertilize some of the plants with a weak solution, but remember to do this after watering them.

'Earl-ee-bee' is a rhizomatous begonia with large deeply-cleft olive-colored leaves. It is easy to grow. This is growing in the Fort Worth Botanic Garden.

