



VOLUME 11, NUMBER 3

NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 2017

MARCH WORK DAYS

Begonia Set Up on 24th

Plant Begonia Garden

VOLUNTEER!

MARCH 18

**First African Violet Crown
48th Annual Judged Show
and Sale 9 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.
Austin Area Garden Center
2220 Barton Springs Road
78746**

MARCH 24

**Starlight Social
A formal event for friends and
family includes docent tours,
music, food and drinks.**

MARCH 24

**Zilker Garden Festival
Set up and events**

MARCH 25

**Zilker Garden Festival
10 A.M. to 7 P.M.**

MARCH 26

**Zilker Garden Festival
10 A.M. to 5 P.M.
2220 Barton Springs Rd
Austin, TX 78746**

BEGONIAS: OUR MISSION

The American Begonia Society and the Southwest Region are planning a fantastic convention and Get Together in San Antonio, Texas May 3-7, 2017. The Alamo Branch has selected the theme based on the five historical Spanish colonial missions that represent the largest concentration of missions in North America — Mission Espada, the Alamo, Mission San Juan Capistrano, Mission San Jose, and Mission Concepcion. Other influences include the famous River Walk, the German and French Settlements around San Antonio, the Hill Country, and the San Antonio Botanical Garden recognized as the South's Best by *Southern Living Magazine*.

In addition to all of the remarkable Texas experiences the begonias will provide the extra charm to the unique setting where wildflowers paint the hills and valleys providing an illusion of water covering miles of backcountry.

Make plans to attend by calling the Hilton San Antonio Airport Hotel at 1-888-728-3031 today. Room rates are \$99 for double, triple, or quad. Use "ABS/Southwest Region Get Together" for these special rates. The hotel is located at 611 NW Loop 410 in San Antonio, Texas 78216.



**AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH
OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2017**

Jackie Johnson, president pro tern, presided during the meeting of the Austin Area Begonia Society Meeting at 2 P.M. in the Greene Room of the Austin Area Garden Center, 2220 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX 78746. On February 26, 2017 the following members were present:

Ken Fuchs, Jackie Johnson, Jim Landers, Arlene Lantz, Nelda Moore, Verlene Schoen, and Lynn Sissney.

From the list of above members those who will be working during the Zilker Garden Festival March 24, 25, and 26 was e-mailed to Doug Byrom, Valerie Morris, and Jackie Johnson.

Many of the members need to be present during sales and set up or even when the begonia baskets need to be planted in the Zilker Botanical Begonia Garden.

Valerie will pick up the packet and send information about the time that the Begonia Booth will be available for the tent to be tied to cement blocks and the wooden tree racks will be ready for the begonia hanging baskets. All plants must be set up and ready for the sale that will begin Saturday at 10 A.M.

Nelda Moore expressed her appreciation to all who came to the January meeting, those who

brought food then and today, and to Joan Estes, who took minutes of the meeting.

Thank you so much.

The members also discussed the January demonstration given by Don Miller, Hybridizer of the Year and important member of the Southwest Region/American Begonia Society. His valuable tips for growing and showing were published in the January edition: AABS WEBSITE http://www.kenfuchs42.net/aabs_index.html

The National Convention and the Southwest Region Get Together will enjoy their convention May 3-7 in San Antonio, Texas 78216 at the Hilton San Antonio Airport, 611 NW Loop 410. Hotel reservations should be made by calling 1-888-728-3031.

Nelda Moore also encouraged members to nominate a member of the Southwest Region for Hybridizer of the Year 2017 and someone for the Mae Blanton Service Award.

The society will work this month, but there will not be a meeting in the Greene Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelda Moore, Secretary

CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .

THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY ON ITS 85th BIRTHDAY JANUARY 16, 2017 IN LAKEWOOD, CALIFORNIA

THE ALAMO BRANCH THAT CELEBRATED ITS 34TH ANNIVERSARY WITH A MEETING IN THE HOME OF KATHY BARROWS. THIS BRANCH RECEIVED ITS CHARTER ON JANUARY 5, 1985. Sandy Justice is the editor of the *Begonia Leaflet* and several members have held office in the American Begonia Society. They will host the American Begonia Society/Southwest Region Convention this year.

THE JOAN COULAT - SACRAMENTO BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY FOR ITS 69TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION DINNER ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18th. The information on growing begonias is given by this branch.



photos by Millie Thompson

Begonia bipinnatifida J J Smith

by Millie Thompson
Southampton, New York

B. bipinnatifida was found and collected in 1903 in Netherlands New Guinea. It was found in primeval forest growing high on Mount Horne in rocky places. In 1906, J. J. Smith published the original citation of *B. bipinnatifida* in *Bulletin du Departement de l'Agriculture aux Indes Neerlandaises*.

For botanical classification *B. bipinnatifida* is placed in the section **Petermannia** with *Begonia* species with like characteristics. Some other Asian species in this section that are presently in cultivation are *B. aequata*, *amphioxus*, *augustae*, *borneensis*, *breviramosa*, *chlorosticta*, *cumingii*, *malachosticta*, *palmata*, *polilloensis*, and *serratipetala*.

B. bipinnatifida is shrub-like with erect and semi erect deep red stems that are branched. The deep red stems are somewhat zig-zag from thickened node to thickened node. Average mature leaves measure 5 inches in length and 2 inches wide. The upper surface of the leaves is deep green; in contrast, the undersurface is deep red. Leaf shape is obliquely

oblong-ovate with an acute apex and an obliquely obtuse or slightly semi-cordate base. The leaf is deeply twice-divided outward on both sides of the deep red midrib into twelve to sixteen narrow taper-pointed divisions. The name *B. bipinnatifida* comes from the Latin *bipinnatus* which means twice pinnate; each division of the pinnate leaf is also pinnate: this gives the leaves a fern-like appearance.

B. bipinnatifida blooms infrequently and the flowers are tiny. The female flowers have five unequal pink tepals that are oblong or elliptic-obtuse. The styles and stigmas are golden yellow; threadlike erect styles are diverging and the velvety semi-crescent shaped stigmas are somewhat twisted. The deep pink ovary has three wings. Male flowers have two kidney-shaped pink tepals.

B. bipinnatifida requires high humidity; this can usually be accomplished in a greenhouse or a terrarium. Careful watering and regular fertilizing are important. It can be a challenging species to grow but given the correct growing environment and care it grows into an outstanding species to enjoy.



Joan Coulat - Sacramento Branch, American Begonia Society, November 2006

