



VOLUME 11, NUMBER 7

NEWSLETTER

July, 2017

**MEETING: JULY 23
2 P.M.**

Planting begonias in the Herb and Fragrance Garden that was created in 1975 for the blind to touch and identify plants. The limestone beds are easily worked by standing upright.
**Zilker Botanical Garden
2220 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78746**

**Tom Keepin's B. 'Carmel Browne' Receives Official
International Registration #1021 in March 2017**



Begonia 'Carmel Browne' hybridized by Tom Keepin from Houston is a very hardy rhizomatous begonia that is heat tolerant and well suited to be grown in the soil as well as in a pot. Don Miller of Steve's Leaves of Lewisville, Texas tested the hybrid that was developed in 2003 and first distributed in 2005. Registration was applied for on May 16, 2016, and approved March 6, 2017, according to Priscilla Purinton, Hybrid Registrar of the American Begonia Society. The seed parent is Begonia 'Virginia Jens' and the pollen parent is Begonia 'Green Velvet.'

B. 'Carmel Browne' is grown in the United States as well as France, Australia, and Holland and is named for Carmel Browne of Queensland, Australia. It grows to about one foot in diameter, but sometimes grows upright. The leaves are greenish brown with red backs and a red spot where the petiole attaches. There are 9 main veins in each ovate leaf that is parted with an acute tip and cordate base. The leaves are 4 inches by 5 inches with a cleft, toothed margin with short hairs. The translucent rosy red stipules have a distinct point with red veins. The male flowers are light to darker pink with 2 oval tepals while the female flowers have 2 to 3 oval tepals and are a lighter color, white to blush pink, with 12 to 28 flowers. The male inflorescence can have 24 to 50 flowers. The 12 to 18 inch peduncle holds the blooms above the foliage. It blooms generously in late winter to early spring.

Don Miller has photographs of this begonia on page 130 and 131 of the July-August 2017 issue of *The Begonian*.

The plant can be purchased from Steve's Leaves.

Tom Keepin is chairman of Branch Relations for A.B.S. and a valued member of the Astros Branch and the Southwest Get Together. He is also a member of the Austin Branch.



MEETING DATES FOR THE AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH

August 27, September 24, October 22, November 26, No meeting in December Time of meetings are 1:30 P.M. until 4:30 P.M. with 30 minutes to set up and 30 minutes to clean the area.

These dates are also on the city books for 2018: January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22, May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28, and November 25.

OFFICERS FOR AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH OF ABS

Dues are \$10

President: Doug Byrom

Vice President: Jackie Johnson

Secretary: Nelda Moore

Treasurer: Valerie Morris

Editors: Nelda Moore and Ken Fuchs

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P.O. Box452

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Editor: Sandy Justice

CANDIDATES FOR THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY BOARD

Sally Saville, President

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Randy Montes Kerr, Secretary

Carol Notaras, Treasurer

Martin Delgado, Past President, who has done a splendid job.

Dues are \$25 sent to Paul Rothstein

5 Sandwick Drive

Bella Vista, AR 72715

The Begonian

Linda Tamblyn

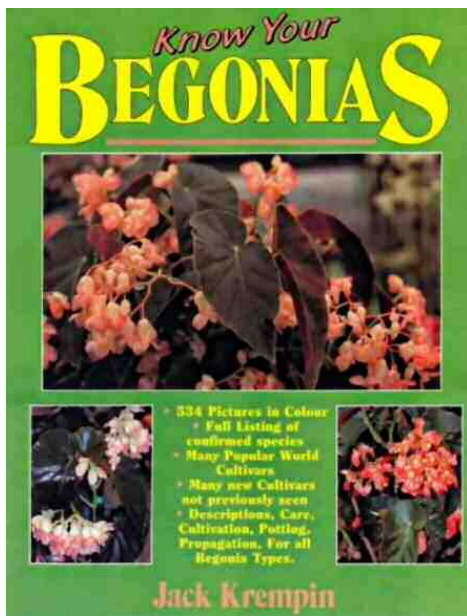
5635 Woodward St.

Merriam, KS 66202

begoniaske@yahoo.com

913-231-1020

BOOK REVIEW by Nelda Moore



Know Your Begonias by Jack Lionel Krempin is an informative book of 119 pages containing 534 pictures of species and cultivars in color as well as origin and year. For example, this is one of the species mentioned: [*B. ludwigi*: E Equador 1937]. Thick-stemmed, deciduous, non-branched trunk with deeply-lobed, olive-green leaves, red veins: pinkish-white flowers, spring-summer.

In the beginning of the book "General Cultural Requirements" discusses soil and potting mixes in detail and mentions the possibility of making your own terrariums so that the begonia variety will fit since many that are sold are impractical for tall begonias.

In "Begonias Culture and Propagation" he describes types and includes pictures of each classification of begonia-cane-like, shrub-like, thick-stemmed, rhizomatous, rex, semperflorens, trailing-scandent, and tuberous.

Begonia Societies and a main address for seeking membership in a group are given for the following countries: Australia, America, Britain, Belgium, France, Japan, and Canada.

Jack Krempin, an Australian nurseryman and fourth generation seedsman, has also written *1000 Decorative Plants*, which was updated in 1990 as *Know Your Indoor and House Plants*. He also published *Palms and Cycads Around the World*.



Begonia 'Autumn Embers'



Begonia 'Earl ee bee'

AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH MINUTES OF JUNE 25, 2017

The Austin Area Begonia Society Branch of the American Begonia Society met at 2 P.M. in the Greene Room of the Austin Area Garden Center, 2220 Barton Springs Road, 78746 on June 25 with the following members present: **Mary Drake, Betty Dunn, Rainee Freeman, Ken Fuchs, Jackie Johnson, Jim Landers, Arlene Lantz, Nelda Moore, and Geneva Townsend.**

No corrections were made to the published minutes of the May meeting.

The treasurer was absent. No report was sent.

Vickey Cole will meet with the Austin Area Garden Council on September 12.

Jackie Johnson presided as president since Doug Byrom was celebrating with his family.

She informed those present that Doug will be purchasing 40 baskets of begonias that will be delivered to Valerie Morris's home around the 20 of July so that all can plant on July 23. The garden has a water faucet and line irrigation, but the water should not be tasted.

Rainee wrote the names of begonias on a huge board while members mentioned those that grew in some sunlight. Before the next meeting members are to send pictures of those begonias that can survive in the heat of summer such as some *semperflorens* or 'Withlacoochee.'

Jackie also mentioned that Charles Jaros had passed away. He was an outstanding grower and winner of many awards for his extraordinary begonias that he usually donated

to the auction. In 2016 he was honored with the Mae Blanton Service Award by the Southwest Region in Richardson, Texas. His last work was during the May 3-7, 2017 National ABS Convention and Southwest Region Get Together in San Antonio, Texas, where he became ill with chest pains. Charles was flown to his DeBary, Florida home where he awaited a heart transplant. Johanna Zinn and Charles Jaros were judges, and Charles worked with the Slide Library and also maintained the Unidentified Species of Begonias for the American Begonia Society. A begonia has been named for him, and his writings appear in *The Begonian*. He will be greatly missed in the *Begonia World*. As of this writing a memorial service will be celebrated at a later date.

Doug Byrom has written that money will be sent to the Species Bank in Fort Worth in his memory.

The next meeting will be July 23 in the Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy Begonia Garden. Nelda Moore will be in charge of hospitality; therefore, she will have water and soda pop plus sandwiches and cookies. Please bring your gloves and some garden tools to dig spaces for the whole basket of begonias. Anyone who has begonias mentioned as survivors in the heat can bring them to add to the huge space that once belonged to the Herb Society located across from the tropical garden and the outdoor bathrooms.

Respectfully submitted, Nelda Moore,
Secretary

REMEMBERING CHARLES JAROS



Charles Jaros receives multiple awards at the 2014 Southwest Region Get-Together in Shreveport, LA.



This begonia was named for the ABS President from 1999 to 2001. Paul Lowe, a Florida hybridizer, created it in 1980. B. 'Charles Jaros' is a rhizomatous plant with upright stems that is jointed at or below the soil surface. As the rhizomes spread a very nice, upright shrub is formed.

It does not grow much taller than eighteen inches in height for me. Its flowers are pink.

(By Morris Mueller, December 2006)