



VOLUME 12, NUMBER 6

NEWSLETTER

June 2018

**Next Meeting: JUNE 24**

**Greene Room 2 P.M.  
Zilker Botanical Garden  
2220 Barton Springs Road  
Austin, TX 78746**

**OFFICERS:**

**Doug Byrom  
PRESIDENT  
512-237-3179**

**Valerie Morris  
VICE PRESIDENT  
512-415-0940**

**Nelda Moore  
SECRETARY  
512-327-0401**

**Vickey Cole  
TREASURER  
512-388-3928**

**Nelda Moore  
And  
Ken Fuchs  
NEWSLETTER  
Ken: 254-721-6217**



## CARING FOR A TERRARIUM

Once the terrarium is closed, place it in filtered light or artificial light with a florescent bulb. There should be no direct sunlight on the terrarium.

Water by spray bottle every 10 days to 2 weeks or check the soil by touch. If it does not feel moist, then use a light mix of water and liquid fertilizer that is used for all flowering type plants. Each time you water, wipe the condensation from the sides with a paper towel.

If there are pests, spray with an indoor pesticide mix. For fungus, mix ½ teaspoon of baking soda in 2 cups of water and use in a separate spray bottle. If leaves become black and slimy as a result of excessive moisture and rot has formed, remove the leaves that are decayed, wipe the condensation and leave the lid off for a day.

If the plants are stunted, use a soil mix with a better pH. Yellow leaves also indicate improper soil, inadequate drainage, insufficient air or too much light. Add gravel or charcoal if there is a musty smell or mold on the brittle foliage and brown, crisp moss tells of water regulation problem indicating using too little, too late.



Entries at the 2018 ABS-SWR Convention in NOLA.

**AABS WEBSITE [http://www.kenfuchs42.net/aabs\\_index.html](http://www.kenfuchs42.net/aabs_index.html)**

AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH  
OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY  
MINUTES OF THE MAY 27, 2018 MEETING

President Doug Byrom called the Austin Area Begonia Society to order at 2 P.M. in the Greene Room of the Austin Area Garden Center, 2220 Barton Springs Road, Austin, 78746 on May 27, 2018.

Members present included the following: **Doug Byrom, Vickey Cole, Jim Estes, Joan Estes, Rainee Freeman, Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, Shannon Ruggien, Verlene Schoen, and Geneva Townsend.**

Club Representative to the Austin Area Garden Council Conservancy Vickey Cole reported that the Starlight Social brought \$53,000 to its budget. Weeding Wednesday will continue throughout the year. Dues of \$10 per person are due.

Doug Byrom announced that Austin will host the 2019 Southwest Region Get Together at the end of April on a Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The plan is for a simple interesting meeting for about 60 people that will be offered with 2 tours. The awards will not be presented along with the silent auction at the banquet. The hotel should be near restaurants and places of interest within walking distance.

The next meeting will be on propagation, but a trip to Fort Worth Botanic Species Bank is planned

for a Wednesday in July.

The program included a step-by-step set of instructions on preparing a terrarium. **Doug Byrom** placed charcoal in the bottom of the bowl, which was larger in size so that the other size top could fit over it. Then he added a perlite-vermiculite mixture over the charcoal, always keeping the contents away from the side of the bowl so that a paper towel could be used to dab the excess moisture that might accumulate. Next he added sphagnum moss, which had been boiled in water and cooled so that it was sterile. Finally he placed a begonia in the middle depression or hole and added tiny begonias to form a lovely garden in the sterilized potting mix that he had added to the hole. Most of the other soil that came with the begonias was removed before planting. Last of all, Doug gently watered the terrarium using a bottle before he fitted the top over all to seal the contents.

Begonias were offered for sale and then some were offered for free.

The meeting was adjourned at about 3:35 P.M.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Nelda Moore, Secretary

Some of Doug Byrom's entries at the 2017 Southwest Region Get Together in San Antonio:



B. 'Strawberry Begonia'



B. 'Bashful Bandit'

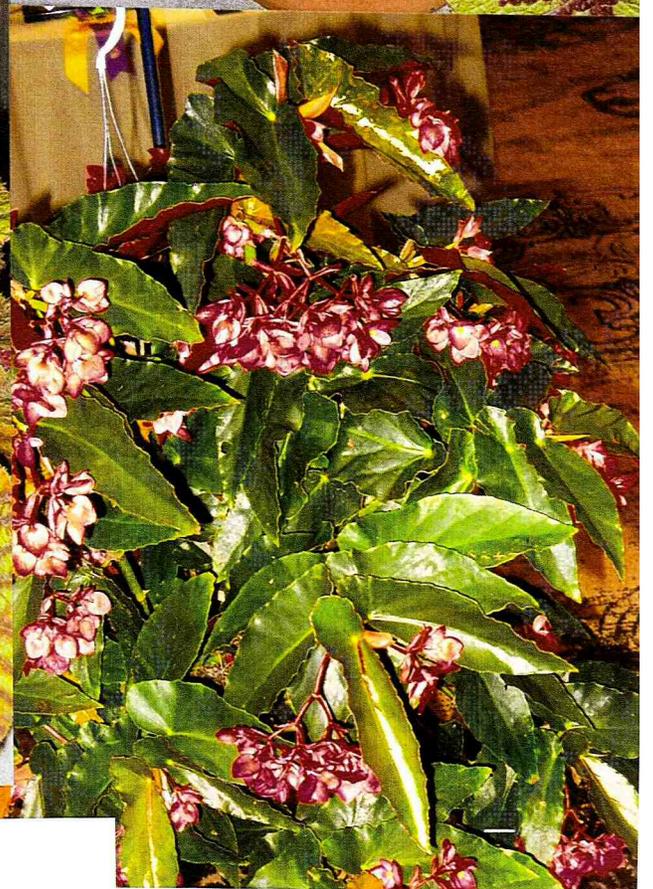
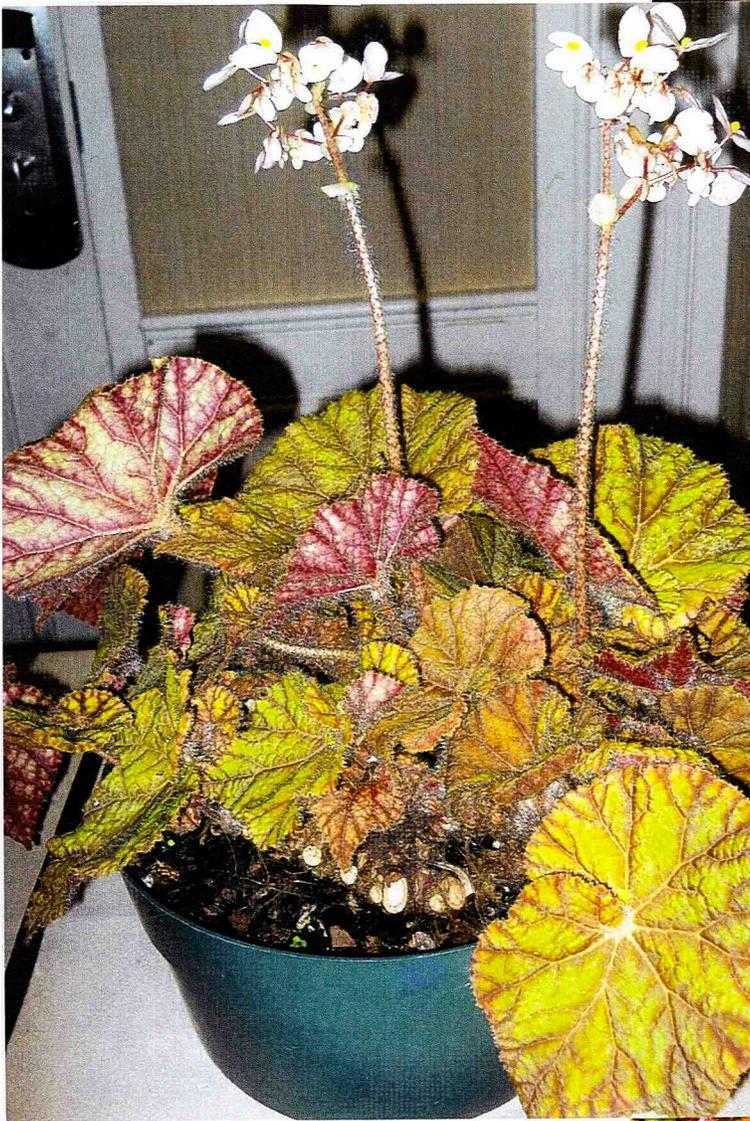


Begonia 'My Good Friend'  
FIRST PLACE SWR Show in New Orleans  
Doug Pridgen

BEGONIA 'MASONIANA'



'COWARDLY LION'



Provide soil that drains extremely well and provide humidity. Never let the plant get soggy. When dry to touch, then water the plant. Do not fertilize. Remove dead leaves and keep the plant clean, free of debris.

B. 'Torch'

Best SWR Cane by Jim Georgusis  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
Kay Tucker Award