



VOLUME 12, NUMBER 10

NEWSLETTER

October 2018

NEXT MEETING:

Sunday, October 28, 2018
2 P.M.

Jim and Joan Estes
7620 South HWY 183
Lockhart, TX 78644
512-620-0322

Events:

Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy

October 12-14 closed
for Austin City Limits Music Festival

October 20-21 1-4 P.M.
Violet Crown Flower Show

October 27 10:30 A.M.- 4:30 P.M.
Porcelain Arts Sale with other Clubs,
Bonsai, Iris, Violet

October 27 9A.M.-4 P.M.
Roots and Wings
(Monarch Butterfly Day)

November 3
Moonflower Herb Fest

November 10 and 11
Plein Air Austin Art Show and Sale

**AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY TO MEET
OCTOBER 28 IN LOCKHART**

The Austin Begonia Branch of ABS will drive to 7620 S 183 outside Lockhart to the country home of Jim and Joan Estes for the Sunday, October 28, Meeting at 2 P.M. A red sign on the left side of the highway just past the cylinder water tower has the address. Drive through the gate that will be open, then on the gravel road until you see the barn on the left, and then the beautiful home.

Please bring a vegetable dish, a salad, or dessert to share for this event. Nelda Moore will bring meat, plates, napkins, and tea. Joan Estes serves as membership chair for Southwest Region/ ABS. During the business meeting in New Orleans ABS members could join SWR without payment of the \$10 if they would become new members or first time members of the Southwest Region for the ensuing year.



AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY MINUTES SEPT. 23, 2018

The Austin Area Begonia Society Branch of the ABS met at 2 P.M. in the Greene Room of the Austin Area Garden Center on Sunday, September 23, 2018, with **President Doug Byrom, Ken Fuchs, Jim Landers, Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, Verlene Schoen, and Geneva Townsend** present.

The May 1-5 Convention was finalized and Johanna Zinn will conduct a Judging School on Wednesday from 8 A.M. to 6 P.M. if eight persons will attend. Lunch is included in the \$40 cost. The Southwest Region will purchase the handbooks.

Plants (400 plugs) will be sent by Harmony Foliage after the March order. B. 'Iron Cross,' 'Fire Woman,' 'Red Robin,' and others will be included for sale.

Judges Luncheon will be a buffet on Friday. Judges Breakfast and business lunch menu have been selected.

Business lunch on Saturday will begin at 10:30A.M.

Before the Saturday banquet there will be a Cash Bar.

The one-day tour will go toward Wimberly, Miller's Greenhouse, and a nursery.

Freda Holley has lined up speakers, show placement and ribbons as well as the school. Nelda Moore has begun to acquire items for the bags.

Much information will be revealed later.

Doug adjourned the meeting and mentioned that in October we might meet in Lockhart in the Estes's home.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelda Moore, Secretary

PREPARING BEGONIAS FOR WINTER

When a frost is on the way, some begonias growing outdoors can be examined for insects and disease and then brought indoors. An east window can provide enough light for them to be happy campers. Remember that direct sunlight can burn them and dry heat can cause them to suffer. To create the humidity that they need, place the pots of begonias on pebbles in a shallow tray and add a small amount of water-not enough for the pots to

stand in the water. Misting the plants can also provide humidity.

Water under the plant, but the growing medium should be kept between slightly dry, but never soggy. Watch the plants. When the leaves seem to be wilted, then add some rain water to the soil. Do not water the leaves of the plant.

Continue to fertilize with a weak solution some of the begonias such as the semperflorens to keep them blooming. For tuberous begonias purchase tubers and plant them in pots in the spring. These will grow and bloom in the shade.

For other kinds of begonias that you want to grow during the winter, pinch them to start new plants or shape the plant for a show. For cane begonias cut and root in rainwater or add rooting powder and grow a full pot of canes.

The potting mix can be 50% peat moss or a loose mix-not the kind that holds moisture-unless the begonia is a cane type. A time-release fertilizer (Osmocote) can be used two times a year in January and April. Miracle-gro at ¼ strength can be used weekly throughout the year, but always water the begonia before applying a bit of fertilizer.



HORTICULTURE

What a beautiful green landscape we have after the rain finally came to Texas! As we count our blessings, we now also thank Him for giving us moisture to bring the trees back to life. Have you noticed that the crepe myrtles are blooming again with the spring and winter flowers?

All of us have weeds to pull in our garden. The wind also gave us branches and limbs from trees to remove from the begonias. With cooler temperatures we can accomplish so much in a shorter time.

The begonias have really grown in a short time. Some of the cane type begonias must be cut and new plants can make a beginning. Even during the wind gusts some of the begonias had wind damage.

Do not forget Weeding Wednesdays at Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy. This comes immediately after the AAGC meeting on the second Tuesday.

HOSTING AAGC ON SEPTEMBER 11

During the September 11 Austin Area Garden Council Meeting the Docents and the Austin Area Begonia Society Branch served sandwiches, casserole, cookies of all different kinds such as pumpkin spice, snickerdoodles, brownies, pecan chocolate, and chips and dips to over 40 members and guests.

Vickey Cole decorated the table with begonias over the red table covers and the beautiful tablecloth belonging to Marian Alsup, AAGC president and Docent leader.

Vickey, Nelda Moore, and Lynn Sissney brought food. Doris Hill renewed her membership.

GROWING PLANTS FOR CONVENTION SALE

The Southwest Region Convention is May 1-5, 2019. Since time flies when you are having fun, the Get Together will soon be here. How are your plants these days?

Will you be able to keep them growing during the winter? Will you be able to show plants like those beauties in Louisiana?



Plant Sale set up in hotel room

I know that you answered, "Absolutely!" to all of those questions.

Please continue to try with any job that you take in order for this event to be an educational, successful, fun event for everyone.



RHIZOMATOUS BEGONIAS

'Palomar Prince'

This hybrid has dark green leaves that are deeply cut and double-spireled with flecks of lighter green and accented by golden veins. In winter tall sprays holding pink flowers will enhance the beauty of the begonia.



Begonia 'Betsy'



B. diadema