



VOLUME 13, NUMBER 5

NEWSLETTER

May 2019

NEXT MEETING:

Sunday, May 26

Greene Room
Austin Area Garden Center
2220 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78746
2 P.M.

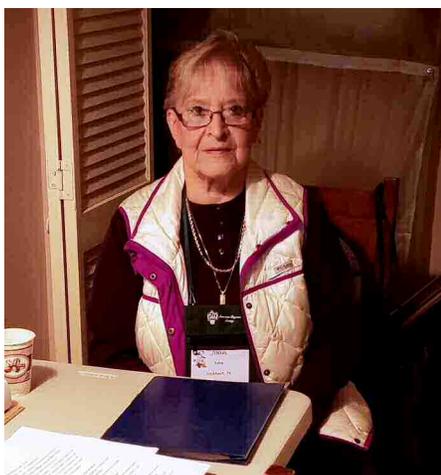
POT LUCK

BEGONIAS WALTZING ACROSS TEXAS

SWR/ABS GET-TOGETHER IN AUSTIN MAY 1-5

Registration and hospitality began on April 30 with over 60 ABS members receiving their goody bags.

An important judges training class opened the Southwest Region/American Begonia Society Convention on May 1 in the Wyndham Garden Austin, 3401 South IH 35 and Woodward Street in Austin, Texas. The instructors were Johanna Zinn of Fairfax, Virginia, and Betsy Szymezak of Natick, Massachusetts.



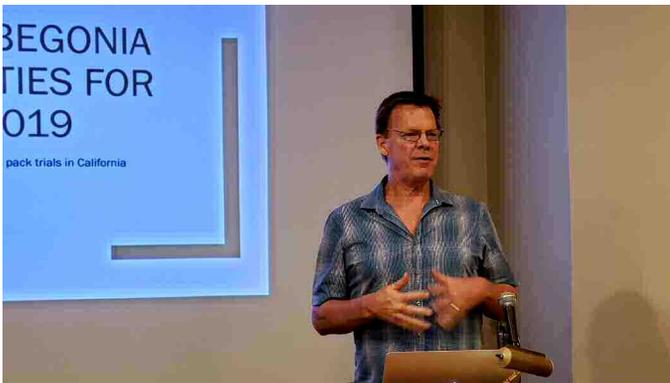
Registrar Joan Estes

The judges training book of 64 pages was updated in 2019 and additional material was included in order to answer the test questions. The training included types of shows, the duties of the show committee, different awards, entries, show schedule and rules as well as classification. In the hotel classroom students also carefully judged some of the plants using the point system—a fun time at the closing of the judging school held here. It is at this type of school that students learn that judges dress for the show in suits and ties, dresses or pantsuits or Sunday best. This does not mean shorts or swimsuits for leaving in a hurry to get to the lake.

AABS WEBSITE http://www.kenfuchs42.net/aabs_index.html



The seminars organized by Dr. Freda Holley were outstanding with Dr. Rick Schoellhon introducing "New Begonia Varieties for 2019" and providing his



latest book entitled *Florida Begonia Hybridizers* and Dr. Stephen Maciejewski, whose travels in China took him to jungles where rare plants can be counted in small numbers such as only 20 now that exist in the whole world.



Getting ready for the sale

The plant sale and plant show were well attended even on Saturday.

The Plant Show

Leora Fuentes captured Best of Show with *B. bogneri*, which won Best Contained Atmosphere and the Rekha Morris Best Species Award. The entry had plenty of blossoms over the linear grass-like leaves.



Leora also received the Cultural Certificate with 97 points. She won second place for *B. melanobullata* and a Cultural Certificate of 99 points for *B. 'Millie Thompson'*, with unusual surface and coloring in a container. In all Leora entered 7 begonias.

Doug Pridgen's *B. variegata* won the People's Choice Award and Best SWR Division and Cultural Certificate of 95 points.

Doug Byrom exhibited *B. undulata*, which was awarded Best Kane, Best in Division, and the Kay Tucker Southwest Region Award. He also showed *B. 'Tiger Kitten'*, *B. U501*, *B. 'Thelma'*, and

B. prismatocarpa variegation.



Doug Pridgen's *B. variegata*



B. 'Waltanna'



Doug Byrom's *B. undulata*



B. 'Merlot'

Cindy Moran displayed *B. 'Cowardly Lion'* that won Best in the Crested Spiral Division with 97 points. She also gained first place for wide-leaved *B. 'Waltanna,'* Best U hybrid, *B. 'Merlot,'* and an unknown Cuban species with white flowers.



B. 'Cowardly Lion'

Pi Stone earned a Cultural Certificate of 95 points for *B. 'Passing Storm'* and a Rex-Cultorum non-spiral.



B. 'Passing Storm'

In all Pi brought 20 plants including *B. 'Plum Gorgeous.'*

Johnnie Shepard earned a Cultural Certificate of 95 points for *B. 'Helen Teupel.'*

Carol Orozco received a Cultural Certificate of 95 points for *B. 'Champagne Bubbles,'* the Best SWR Hybrid, and Best in the Division.



B. 'Champagne Bubbles'



B. 'Mrs. Miller'

Begonia 'Mrs. Miller' was a first place winner for Don Miller and Dallas Mae Blanton Southwest Region Cane-Like Award.

Freda Holley showed B. 'Emerald of Siam,' a rhizome jointed at below soil with erect stem.



B. 'Emerald of Siam'

In Arts and Crafts Dora Lee Kimbrough entered two watercolors: B. 'wollnyi' and B. 'Lulu Leonard.' Dr. Freda Holley photographed B. U303 and a bud. Leora Fuentes brought a small quilt.



B. 'Dejah Thoris' and B. 'Phantom'

Steve's Leaves, a commercial grower, brought B. 'Cosmic Candy,' B. 'Phantom,' and B. 'Dejah Thoris.' As usual the Fort Worth Botanic Garden provided an excellent exhibit with a display board and many begonias.

AWARDS

Leora Fuentes earned the Marguerite Vernon Award from the Mae Blanton Branch in loving memory of their past president who was a charter member of the Southwest Region, drafted the constitution and by-laws, judged shows, and helped behind the scenes to keep SWR running smoothly, an "unsung hero." Don Miller presented the award to Leora.

The Mae Blanton Award for service was presented to Johnnie Shepard for being a volunteer who worked diligently as director and helps mail "The Leaflet."

Another Mae Blanton Award was given to Sondra "Sandy" Justice who serves as editor of "The Leaflet."

Dr. Freda Holley of Louisiana received Hybridizer of the Year for all of her work as a creator of begonias, especially B. 'Nola,' and her work with those who have published books telling about hybridizers in special regions.

HORTICULTURE

It is time to plant the newly-acquired begonias in some good potting soil so that you can grow them into Show Plants. The species are grown in terrariums to duplicate the atmosphere in the wild. Place a layer of perlite, some charcoal used in horticulture, then some potting soil in a terrarium. In the center, plant the begonia from which you have removed most of the soil in which the plant was growing — tickling the roots, and then water with some fertilizer. Cover the container to enjoy the little world on your table or in your greenhouse.

AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH OF ABS MINUTES OF APRIL 28, 2019

Charlotte Boyle, Doug Byrom, Vickey Cole, Jim Estes, Joan Estes, Ken Fuchs, Jackie Johnson, Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, Verlene Schoen, and Geneva Townsend attended the Austin Area Begonia Society Branch meeting on April 28, 2019 in the Greene

Room of the Austin Area Garden Center, 2220 Barton Springs Road, Austin, 78746 at 2 P.M.

President Doug Byrom called the meeting to order and informed the members that a plan was in order if rain would come during the tours. The Bob Bullock Museum could provide the tour. The bat tour would be \$15 per person.

Wanda Macnair is out of the hospital, Jean Harris had a stroke, and Cheryl Lenert is recovering from pneumonia.

Doug will take care of the breakfast and the Judges' School luncheon in the Hospitality Room 180. Doug will drive to Smithville to load 56 flats of begonias for the Plant Sale. Of these the Alamo Branch will take 100 plants. They will also be in charge of the Plant Sale.

Plastic will cover the tables in the Plant Room, and Doug will have his watering can. The Silent Auction will be in the Hospitality Room, and hanging baskets will decorate the hotel. Geneva Townsend will provide gardening hats, gloves, and tools for the auction.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelda Moore, Secretary



Special thanks to AABS President Doug Byrom, Joan Estes, and Valerie Morris for all their hard work, organizational skills, and persistence that made the 2019 Get-Together the outstanding and memorable success that it was.