



AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY

A Branch of the American Begonia Society

Website: http://www.kenfuchs42.net/aabs_index.html



VOLUME 14, NUMBER 1

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2020

Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

NEXT MEETING:

JANUARY 26, 2020

2 P.M.

Greene Room

Austin Area Garden Center

Zilker Botanical Garden

2220 Barton Springs Road

Austin, Texas 78746

Delicious Snacks

Bring begonia cuttings

Talk about your favorite

Begonia

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Details on the 2019 AABS
Christmas tree

BEGONIA PALEATA is BEGONIA NEOCOMESIUM

Thank you to Dr. Freda Holley and Johanna Zinn. The Challenge Begonia is really Begonia *neocomensium*.

Although the nursery that supplied the information used in the November newsletter received a supply from the Philippines, this begonia was discovered in Brazil in 1859. It was classified as a shrub-like thick-stemmed plant with compact growth with medium heavily-veined green leaves. It also blooms heavily with white flowers during winter-spring. This plant was purchased from Harmony in Florida, and our society is growing it as a Challenge plant. The correct name is Begonia *neocomensium*, a plant with bushy growth from Brazil in 1859.

Mark C. Tebbitt has a picture of Brazilian section *Pritzelia* (*Plate 74 a*). He classified this as an unidentified species widely grown as *B. paleata*.

Pritzelia is a botanical section while species may be in a horticulture group such as rhizomatous, cane-like, shrublike. If synonyms appear or if they exist, then this information is also included with the name of the begonia. Names can change. Reasons vary as to division or merging into 2 or more species, or the renaming of a previously misidentified in cultivation, or the name is no longer accepted as the valid name.

Mark Tebbitt has described almost all of the species and many cultivars that are cultivated in North America and Europe in Chapter 5 of *Begonias: cultivation, identification, and Natural History*.

The National American Begonia Society will hold its convention in Atlanta, Georgia September 3-8, 2020.

**AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH OF A.B.S.
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 24,2019**

Vickey Cole called the meeting to order after all of us enjoyed a Thanksgiving Meal of Mexican Food in the Greene Room of the Austin Area Garden Center located in Zilker Botanical Garden 2220 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX 78746 on Sunday, November 24, 2019.

Charlotte Boyle, Vickey Cole, Elizabeth Crepeau, Betty Dunn, Jim Estes, Joan Estes, Ken Fuchs, Jim Landers, Joe Moore, Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, Lynn Sissney, Geneva Townsend eagerly awaited the program about thick-stemmed begonias by Valerie, who brought several plants to show their characteristics.

PROGRAM: Most of the thick-stemmed begonias need much water. Then let them dry before watering again. They also need strong light and enough space to grow into large plants. A bigger and heavier pot is necessary and some of them need to be staked with a green bamboo stem.

Valerie also told about helping to plant begonias in the Species Bank in Fort Worth. The soil was Pro Mix DMX.

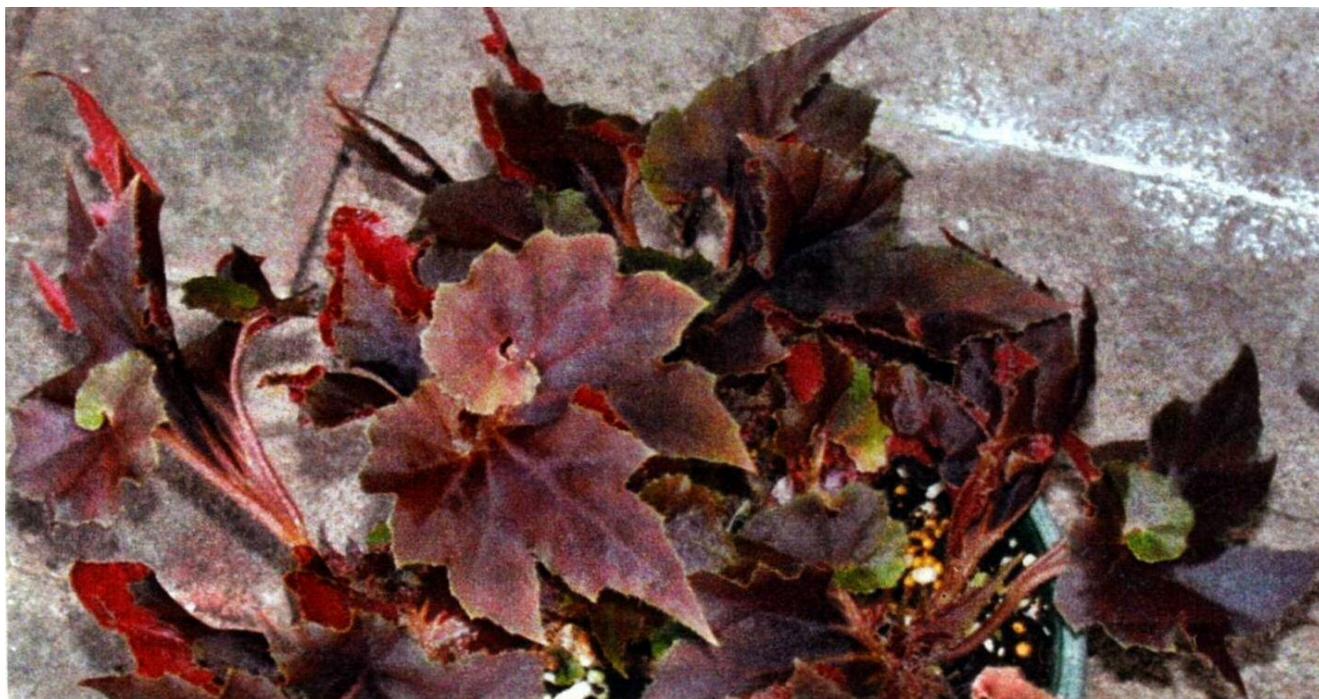
MINUTES: The October 27 Minutes were published in the newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The report presented by Vickey Cole showed a total of \$4,486.16. Money market \$2,955.74, \$406.03 Share account, and \$1,124.39 Checking account. Expenses were \$321.00.

NEXT MEETING: During the meeting on January 26 each member will bring his favorite begonia and tell about it. We need to grow cuttings to sell April 26 at Zilker with the Herb Society.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 P.M. No meeting in December.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelda Moore
Secretary



Ross Bolwell of Australia showed B.' Jean Whitten' in the December 2019 newsletter. Jean was a founding member of the

NSW Begonia Society, Inc. She and her husband, Ernie, joined in 1986. She died recently.

Begonia 'Black Raspberry'



B. 'Black Raspberry' is a cross between B. '*acetosa*' and B. '*imperialis*' – a cross between a Brazilian species that is grown for its olive green leaves with bright wine red below and a species introduced to Belgium by M Ghiesbreght, who found it growing wild in Mexico. Begonia '*acetosa*' has been cultivated in the United States since 1946 after Mulford B. Foster introduced it from Rio de Janeiro. It was first described in 1831 by Jose Mariano de Conceicao Vellozo. The name "*acetosa*" means acid or sour and refers to the taste

of its leaves. "*Imperialis*" means showy and describes the variegated leaves. Begonia '*imperialis*' needs humidity of 85 per cent in a terrarium or a humid greenhouse. This hairy rhizomatous begonia resents water droplets on its leaves. B. '*acetosa*' is also grown in high humidity in a greenhouse and should be kept slightly moist when actively growing, but not in winter, when it should be watered only enough to keep its leaves from wilting.

BEGONIA *NEOCOMESIUM*



BEGONIA 'MAURICE AMY'

