



AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY

A Branch of the American Begonia Society

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



Austin Area Begonia Society

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NEWSLETTER

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Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

NEXT MEETING:

?????

RICK SCHOELLHORN AND BEGONIAS

SCARECROWS TO CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN

The Austin Area Garden Conservancy has tickets on line for entrance to the Zilker Botanical Garden so that you can enjoy autumn in all of its glory and see the creations of scarecrows by clubs.



For the begonia society Lynn Sissney selected a cat theme which Vickey Cole, Valerie Morris, Nelda Moore, and Joe Moore assisted in stringing to the 5' PVC pipe and using safety pins to hold her clothes together. It is located in the Children's Garden next to the restrooms.

The Austin Area Begonia Society and a few other clubs that built scarecrows will show them until November 29th.

On September 12, 2020, Florida hybridizer and author Dr. Rick Lynn Schoellhorn presented "Hybridizing Begonias," an excellent Zoom Webinar, during which he discussed recognizing male and female flowers, knowing when flowers are ripe for pollinating, storing pollen, and germinating seeds. He provided a timeline from germination to transplantable seedlings.



How to hybridize

- Male/female flowers
- How to know when flowers are ripe (1 or 2 days after opening)
- Storing pollen (refrigerated, lasts about 1-2 years)
- Timeline:
 - Pollination to seed harvest = +/- 20 days
 - Seed harvest to seed germination = +/- 30 days
- Germinating seed need bright light, 12+ hours a day, 70-80F
- Germination to transplantable seedlings = 30-90 days
- Young plants to mature plants 3-24 months



Pod parent

+

Pollen Parent



Begonia lamxayiana



NOTE: Usually male flowers open first, often they drop before maturing, sometimes they never show up, sometimes female flowers never form.

My Heroes in the Begonia Hybridizing World

- Leslie Woodriff
- Patrick Worley
- Ross Bolwell
- Dan Heims
- Tim Anderson
- John Clare
- and a lot of others...



Rick listed some of his favorite begonia hybridizers and answered questions about hybrids that grow from the seeds.

Rick Schoellhorn has been a confirmed plant nut since the age of nine years old when he discovered growing plants from cuttings. He traveled most of the globe for over seven years as Director of New Products for Proven Winners® before his retirement. He loves to garden on his three acres in northern Florida. (<https://www.provenwinners.com/Ricks-top-10>)

If one is successful with crosses that produce many begonias, who will trial them, produce them, and sell them? Even holding the begonias is a challenge! It is fun! Why not present them to family and friends as gifts?

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY MEETING SEPTEMBER 26, 2020

Vickey Cole watched the ABS Zoom meeting and found it interesting and informative. Of the seven ballots one objection for one was recorded among the 21 who participated. Joan Estes verified by using her cell phone for the meeting.

Mrs. Estes stated that the ABS format was used with roll call for this meeting online. The minutes were approved after one typo was identified.

Wendy Corby, treasurer, reported a balance of \$280,670 with income of \$42900 and expenses of \$33,249. Most of the expenses were incurred with publication of *The Begonian*.

Eight new requests for opening new branches, an increased activity in offering digital programs via Zoom, and an updated ABS Facebook encouraged

new individuals to join as members.

Conservation and research will continue as well as the seed fund.

One member of the board strongly opposed the use of the financial advisory group that charged 1.25% for services.

Holiday Greetings is doing well.

Membership is up 121% from last year.

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Nelda Moore has grown them in Austin many years ago, but she can't get them to bloom for her now. They produce buds, but something happens to the plant before it blooms. Texas gets cold; it gets hot; and then it is spring! Time brings change so what will grow or what can be planted with this kind of weather?

Dr. Mark C. Tebbitt can tell you about tuberous begonias in his monograph about this section *Australes*. This new book is available for purchase for \$35 from Wendy Corby, 2533 Warrego Way, Sacramento, CA 95826-2433. The price includes U.S. shipping.

Dr. Tebbitt will present an ABS Zoom Webinar on December 19. His topic will be "Begonia Conservation."

The next ABS Zoom Webinar will be on November 14. Greg Stych will discuss "Growing Begonias - All the Things Needed to Be Good Growers."

All ABS members should receive email invitations to join these Zoom Webinars.

ADOPT A BEGONIA SPECIES

Johanna Zinn of Virginia and Stephen Maciejewski of Pennsylvania serve as co-chairs of the American Begonia Society Conservation Save Our Species.

Thirty-two of the 2000 begonia species are listed as endangered and one is extinct according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species.

In order to adopt a species from Johanna Zinn you must complete paperwork with the SOS program and keep in contact with her because she is interested in promoting adopted species to feature adopters and adoptees. Currently Johanna highlights five that are found in cultivation but have not been adopted:

B. goegoensis, *B. acerfolia*, *B. montaniformis*, *B. pedatifida*, and *B. prismatocarpa*.

Of those that have been adopted 24 make up the list, which is on page 128 in the Sept./Oct. 2020 *The Begonian*.

FIVE NEW HYBRID BEGONIA REGISTRATIONS

Wen-Ke Dong, Cultivar Registrar, has featured the following special new registrations that you will be able to grow. Most of them have parents in section *Coelocentrum*, a natural group native to Southwest and South China and North Vietnam, where they are found in low altitude limestone forests.

#1032 Begonia 'Black Plate'

Seed Parent *B. wangii* and Pollen Parent *B. cirrosa*

Hybridizer: Bo Pan

Named for leaf color and shape

#1033 Begonia 'Chidanxing'

Seed parent *B. fangii* and Pollen Parent *B. cirrosa*

Hybridizer is Shu-Hua Zhong

Named after leaf color and pattern

Chi and dan mean red; xing means star in Chinese

#1034 Begonia 'Jingling'

Seed parent *B. fangii* and pollen parent *B. bamaensis*

Hybridizer is Wen-Xin Tang

Named after leaf color, shape, and pattern

Jingling means pixie.

#1035 Begonia 'Longxing'

Seed parent is *B. cirrosa* and Pollen Parent is *B. bamaensis*

Hybridizer is Wen-Xiu Tang

Named after leaf pattern—long and xing in Chinese mean dragon and star respectively

#1036 Begonia 'Pattern Palm'

Seed parent is *B. fangii* and Pollen Parent is *B. picturata*

Hybridizer is Hong-Yan Wei

Named after leaf color, shape, and pattern

These cultivars are light feeders, slow-growing, and slightly drought and heat-tolerant, but not released commercially as of this time. In the summer 'Black Plate' may be susceptible to powdery mildew.

AABS MEMBERS SHARE THEIR BEGONIA PICTURES

On July 22 Vickie Cole suggested the following, via email, to fellow ABBS members:

"I have an idea to share pictures and/or tips within the club. Some may not have other ways to show/share their plants. It should be like we are talking to each other at our meetings."

Here are some of the excellent pictures that were sent to our members.



B. 'Withlacoochee' ('Brazilian Lady') - Jim Landers



B. U331 - Doug Byrom



B. *oxyloba* - Freda Holley



B. U484 -Freda Holley



B. *wadei* - Freda Holley



B. 'Lotusland' - Doug Byrom



Have a Happy **SAFE HALLOWE'EN !**