



Austin Area Begonia Society

AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY

A Branch of the American Begonia Society

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



VOLUME 14, NUMBER 12

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021

Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

NEXT MEETING:

DECEMBER 5, 2021

2 P.M.

Auditorium

Austin Area Garden Center

Zilker Botanical Garden

2220 Barton Springs Road

Austin, Texas 78746

Please remember, for this meeting:

- **Masks are required**
- **Your temperature will be checked as you enter**
- **There will be a sign in sheet**
- **Let the attendant know what meeting you are here for**



Photo by Andrew Leigh

BEGONIA 'WINNING WAY'

by Valerie Morris



Photo by Andrew Leigh

B. 'Winning Way' is one of my most favorite begonias. It is a tall begonia, 3 1/2 - 4 foot tall. It has very sturdy canes which need a deeper pot. I use plastic pots set in heavier terra-cotta pots to support the top-heavy growth, particularly considering the gusty Texas winds.

Winning Way enjoys 6+ hours of morning sun but needs some shade during the intense heat and sun of summer.

It enjoys plenty of water, but tolerates drying out occasionally. It grows fast in early spring after heavy pruning, down to several inches above soil. It blooms profusely light pink flowers. My fertilizing is erratic. This year I was able to fertilize monthly.

When I researched B. 'Winning Way,' it was surprising that the female parent is B. *diadema*, a rhizomatous type. Most diadema's offspring are cane type. The pollen parent is not listed. The hybridizer is Praetorius of Florida.

Some of the other offspring are B. 'Barbara Wetzel,' B. 'Mid-nite Melody,' B. 'Sylvan Delight,' B. 'Sylvan Triumph,' and B. 'White Mountain.' I've not seen these hybrids to compare with 'Winning Way.' Though B. *diadema* is considered for advanced growers, is a prolific grower, needing little attention.



B. diadema



B. 'Sylvan Triumph'



B. diadema



B. 'Sylvan Triumph'

PLANTING BEGONIA SEED

Growing begonias from seed seems easy if the species comes from the ABS Seed Fund.

Although seed can be started any time during the year, it may be better to start planting in September. Then the seedlings if the seeds germinate can probably be planted outdoors by April or May.

The important thing to remember is to work with clean pots, a sterile plastic shoe box or plastic container, and good potting mix. To sterilize the containers either use boiling water or wash them with some bleach in water. Better yet, soak the items for an hour in bleach water.

Next, for success find a fluorescent light to set up over the container for the seeds to germinate in about a few days. For the potting mix use one part cut peat moss or Sunshine #3 with a third of small perlite. Sunshine #3 is a peat based mix with a wetting agent. Then cover the top of the mix with vermiculite. Another method is the use of Miracle Gro potting mix. Just remember if it has added fertilizer, do not fertilize after planting the seeds in the small pots. To fertilize the mixture described in the first part of this paragraph, use one quarter strength Miracle Gro and a few drops of Superthrive.

Use one-and-one-half-inch pots or condiment cups with holes punched in the bottom to hold the potting mix. Then take the tiny seeds on the white typing paper and gently drop many on top of the potting mix. Do not cover the seeds because they need light to germinate. Begonias also grow better if they are thick. Use a spray bottle to lightly mist the damp medium in the pot which is about $\frac{1}{4}$ inches from the top of the container so that the seedlings can grow. After this is completed, set the tiny pots in a sterile plastic container or plastic shoe box. Place a

label in the box and close the lid. The plants need the humidity.

IN HONOR OF WANDA MACNAIR



The Begonian for November/December 2021 pays tribute to Wanda Macnair as several well-known America Begonia Society members remember her as an enthusiastic member of the Buxton Branch who encouraged new members and guests to grow begonias in terrariums. She worked in downtown nurseries and flower shows to invite many to attend the Buxton meetings and brought cookies and pies to welcome them. She died at age 90 as a well-loved teacher and beloved member of the ABS, where she served as National Director of the Southwest Region. She taught classes at conventions and quickly became a valued friend of new begoniasts.

The cover of the magazine shows Begonia 'Wanda Macnair'.



AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY MEETING

OCTOBER 24, 2021

MINUTES

The Austin Area Begonia Society Branch of the American Begonia Society met October 24, 2021 in the carport of Joe and Nelda Moore's home in West Lake Hills at 2 P.M. for desserts, meeting, and program.

Vickey Cole called the meeting to order and introduced Valerie Morris, who encouraged each member to send to the newsletter a favorite begonia that grows well by telling where the plant was purchased, what type of soil used, the method of taking care of the plant, when it bloomed, the kind of water used and how often it was watered. Send the photograph and the written information to neldamarie327@outlook.com. Vickey and Valerie will send information soon.

Doug Byrom encouraged members to present programs as part of future meetings in the auditorium of the Austin Area Garden Center in Zilker Botanical Garden. Vickey has tried to make arrangements for the dates, but COVID 19 has still kept meetings in the Oak Grove.

Valerie mentioned that Elizabeth Crepeau in Columbus, Ohio has officers and the Ohio Branch has been approved. If anyone here would like to be a charter member, send \$10 to join. Doug Byron made a motion to send \$200 to Elizabeth to help the Central Ohio Begonia Society. Elizabeth is still a member of AABS. The motion carried.

Valerie presented a program on dividing tiny begonias that emerged from leaf cuttings.

The meeting was well attended by Erica Barlin, Charlotte Boyle, Doug Byrom, Vickey Cole, Betty Dunn, Jim Estes, Joan Estes, Rainee Freeman, Ken Fuchs, Jared Goza, Jackie Johnson, Jim Landers, Andrew Leigh, Moira Manning, Joe Moore, Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, Kristen Steenbeeke, and Geneva Townsend.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelda Moore, Secretary

DEBBIE GARRETT RETIRES AS CURATOR OF FORT WORTH BEGONIA SPECIES BANK

Debbie Garrett is now known as the retired curator of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, where she transformed a very important begonia collection to an internationally recognized botanical collection, the best known in the United States.

Glenn Dickerson is the new curator and the Gardens have become under the direction of the Parks Department of Fort Worth and managed by BRIT, the Botanical Research Institute of Texas, a nonprofit botanical research and education organization. Mr. Dickerson is a member of the American Begonia Society, a Master Gardener. A licensed irrigator, an Advanced Greenhouse Management Trainer and Advanced Plant Propagator.

FIFTEEN REGISTRATIONS FOR YORKE IN THE BEGONIAN

Fifteen cultivars by Mr. Bernard Yorke of Brisbane Queensland in Australia are shown as official registrations #1056-1070 on pages 213-217 of the November/December 2021 edition.

Also go to the February 1980 The Begonian for a story about the hybridizer on pages 41-43.

JOIN THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Join ABS by going online

<http://www.begonias.org/membership/membershipBenefits.htm>

or mail membership dues: paper subscription \$25; digital \$15; added member in same household, no charge:

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, 2533 WARREGO WAY,
SACRAMENTO, CA 95826-2433

AABS MEETING AT NELDA MOORE'S HOME OCTOBER 24, 2021



