



AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY

A Branch of the American Begonia Society

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



VOLUME 17, NUMBER 4

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023

Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, April 23 2 P.M.

Auditorium

Austin Area Garden Center

Zilker Botanical Garden

2220 Barton Springs Road

Austin, TX 78746

Potluck

Program:

PROPAGATION OF BEGONIAS

Doug Byrom will show how to take stem and basal cuttings from begonias to root in a medium of perlite, vermiculite, and a small amount of a rooting mix. To increase the number of your favorite begonias in your collection, come to this important meeting and then try to grow rhizome cuttings as well as mallet cuttings.



2023 AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY CONVENTION IN TYLER, TEXAS

MAY 24-27

The Southwest Region Get-Together and the American Begonia Society Convention will be held in the Holiday Inn Convention Center at 5701 South Broadway in Tyler, Texas May 24-27. Rooms will be \$104.99 per night for a double queen or King sized bed. Phone 903-581-5800. A free breakfast is included. Rates are good for three days before and after the convention in this Rose Capital of Texas, where 32,000 bushes and 600 cultivars are featured.



On Wednesday the Rose Garden and the Texas Master Gardeners Botanical Garden will be on tour. Then the hotel will provide lunch. After this Breedlove Nursery will be a place to shop before going to the hotel to register show plants.

Pyron Garden, a private garden that has been featured in *Southern Living* and *Texas Monthly* magazines, will wow visitors on Thursday before visiting Dory's Gardens and Boutique. Lunch will be in the hotel.

Afternoon will include the 1859 Goodman-Legrand House and Museum. Then there is the run on the Members-only Plant Sale.

On Friday the first stop will be Breedlove Nursery and then the tiny town of Edom with its antique shops and two restaurants. Lunch is on your own at the Cabin. The next stop will be Blue Moon Gardens and its garden center with acres of display gardens and amazing plant selections. The 1930s farmhouse is filled with garden decor, home accents, candles, soaps, chimes, and much more. That evening will give visitors a choice of 2 different wine-tasting tours and lunch.

Saturday there will be interesting speakers, seminars, business

lunch, and ABS and SWR meetings. Do not forget the great Banquet.



Pyron Garden



Breedlove Nursery



Shops and restaurants in Edom, Texas



Goodman-Legrand House



Blue Moon Gardens

TRAILING-SCANDENT BEGONIAS

In the trailing-scandent group of begonias there are about 25 species and 25 cultivars that are grown today from many different places, mostly Brazil but some from Ecuador, Colombia, Mexico, Costa Rica, and Venezuela. Many species, however, originate in Central America and tropical Africa.



B. glabra



B. mannii

Aublet discovered the first species in this group, *B. glabra*. In 1862 Gustav Mann found *B. mannii* at 1300 feet on the Peak of Fernando, on an island near West Africa. Joseph Dalton Hooker described *B. polygonoides* that was found by T. Thompson in Old Calabar, Guinea. In 1898 Theodosia Shepherd from Ventura, California introduced *B. 'Marjorie Daw'*, which is a favorite today. In the 1940's and 1950's a few of those cultivars are being grown today, and have become popular with growers.

Trailing-scandent begonias need maximum sunlight in the winter, but if the foliage becomes pale,



B. polygonoides



B. 'Marjorie Daw' (colorized)

it is getting too much light. These plants grow best within the 58 degree to 72 degree F. range. If the plant is outdoors during the summer, it will dry out and wilt during the hottest months. Humidity should be between 40 and 60 %. Should there be a problem in the home, then use a humidifier since it is in a hanging container that does not remain wet for too long such as a moss lined clay or redwood hanging basket.

Begonias that prefer to climb on a trellis, wall, or totem pole should be trained early as they grow in various stages. Pinching and pruning are essential for an attractive full plant. Keep the trailing stems in

graduated lengths with the longest closest to the container. The shortest should be on the top layer.

These begonias need more potassium and phosphorus before the blooming season and during the time the plant blooms.

B. 'Marjorie Daw,' a strong grower, has stems that range from 5 to 10 feet in length and has pendulous flower clusters. It can be growing in a basket or it can be a climbing plant. Another beautiful plant is B. 'Splotches.' It has pink-tinted white splotches on its leaves.

AABS MEETING, SUNDAY MARCH 26

Doug Byrom brought lots of begonias to the meeting, and they were available for sale.



B. 'Splotches'

