



AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY

A Branch of the American Begonia Society

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



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NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023

Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

NO MEETING on May 28, 2023

BEGONIA 'STEVE'S LEAVES DEB'S FIREFLIES'

BEGONIAS VISIT ROSE CITY

May 24-27

American Begonia Society/
Southwest Region 2023

Convention in Tyler, Texas

SALE:

Saturday June 3 9-5

AABS members will show and sell begonias in the Zilker Botanical Garden.



B. 'Steve's Leaves Deb's Fireflies' is an attractive rhizomatous begonia created by Ryan Wilhelm, who has served Steve's Leaves as Operation Manager for 15 years. For many years he has been hybridizing cane-like begonias.



Ryan Wilhelm
Operations, Steve's Leaves

For Steve's Leaves he produced this unique black begonia with stems of yellow blossoms above its foliage, reminding one of fireflies hovering over the 6-8 inch plant.



This hybrid is named after Deb, the greenhouse manager who has been working at Steve's Leaves for nearly 15 years. It requires bright light with temperature around 45-95 degrees and humidity of 45 to 65 per cent. Since it is rhizomatous, it should not be watered until the top 2 inches of soil is dry. Ryan Wilhelm also works with anthuriums and philodendrons as well as cane begonias.

PROPAGATION – RHIZOME CUTTINGS



By cutting the ends of the enlarged stem or by taking the entire rhizome and cutting it into 1- to 3-inch pieces with a leaf or two on the clean cuts, one can have a mature plant in a shorter period of time. Some rhizomes are large and some are very slender. Some grow parallel with the soil while others grow upright. Place the cutting in the rooting mixture to a depth of one half to one inch or barely beneath the



surface of the rooting mix, which can be 4 parts Jiffy Mix and one part perlite. Allow the rooted cutting to remain in the mix for 3 or 4 weeks before transplanting to the next larger pot using a potting mix of 2 parts sterile soil, one part perlite, 1 part Jiffy Mix, and 1 part sphagnum moss.



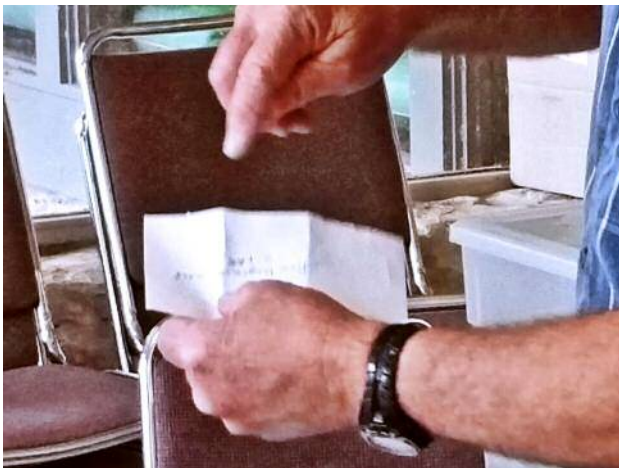
For a wedge leaf from bigger leaves, cut off the petiole. Cut out the center in a circle. Then cut wedges from the remaining part of the leaf. Put the wedges that are cut close to the veins in the rooting

medium at the depth of about one-fourth to one-third the length of the wedge. Use a straight line or row for each variety and label the name of the begonia and add date or whatever you want to assist you later. Plantlets will appear in about 4 weeks. When ready to plant, leave the mix that clings to the roots and handle with care.

BEGONIA SEEDS



When planting begonia seeds, empty the packet in a small piece of paper that has been folded in half.



Do this without sneezing or coughing and scattering the seeds on the floor. Carefully tap the paper permitting the seeds to fall slowly over the mix. After distributing the seeds in the container, use a fine layer of milled moss on the top of the seeds. Cover the container and place it under fluorescent lights, about 6 inches from the tubes. Seeds should germinate at 72 to 76 degrees in about a week or 3 months. Some seeds take a year to germinate. One must be patient.



The first leaves will be two seedling leaves. Do not transplant. Wait until true leaves develop and the plant is one-half inches tall. This may take 3 to 4 weeks from germination. Remove the cover from the container gradually a little each day until the last 2 days when the cover should be off completely and the seedlings are hardened to prevent shock. Use a toothpick to gently separate seedlings. Keep the medium attached. Then plant in a soilless wet mix of 4 parts Jiffy Mix and 1 part perlite. Keep them growing in a pot for about a month before moving them to the next size pot.

MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2023 MEETING OF THE AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY

The Austin Area Begonia Society Branch of the American Begonia Society met Sunday, March 26, 2023, at 2 P.M. in the Austin Area Garden Council Auditorium, 2220 Barton Springs Road in Austin, Texas 78746.

Present were **Charlotte Boyle, Doug Byrom, Vicky Cole, Jim Landers, Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, Carol Orozco, and Andrew and Carne.**

Valerie Morris, president, and Doug Byrom, vice

president, thanked all for attending the meeting and going to the Jones Road Sale Saturday.

Vickey Cole, treasurer, presented her report.

Doug, Andrew, Carne, Jim, and Valerie brought begonias while Vickey had a yard full of blood lily bulbs of various sizes.

Nelda provided refreshments: peach cobbler, chips, sandwiches, and tea.

A Gerber daisy, two rexes, and one hanging basket provided prizes for the winners: Valerie, Carol, and Vickey.

Doug issued two packages of material about trimming, pinching, and pruning. Even though the information can be at hand, Doug brought begonias and demonstrated how to prune, pinch and trim them. All took several cuttings to plant at home.

The next meeting will be April 23 when the program will be about propagation of begonias.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelda Moore, secretary

MINUTES OF APRIL 23, 2023 MEETING OF THE AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY

The AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH of the American Begonia Society met Sunday, April 23, 2023, at 2 P. M. in the Austin Area Garden Center Auditorium, 2220 Barton Springs Road, Austin, Texas 78746.

In attendance were the following: **Charlotte Boyle, Doug Byrom, Vickey Cole, Jim Landers, Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, Geneva Townsend. Wesley Donald** Joined the Begonia Societies on April 23, 2023.

PROGRAM on PROPAGATION

Doug Byrom showed several containers that can provide a closed atmosphere for rooting and growing begonia cuttings, leaves, and stems. Flowers and several leaves were removed before using rooting powder to start the process. Always use a small amount and dip the stem without touching the powder. Then the mix Doug used was perlite,

spagnum, and soil. He waters with bottled water. When he used a plastic sandwich bag, he placed a cutting in it and breathed into the tiny world. Then he planted a stem in a tiny pot and inserted the whole in a plastic bag to show another example. Finally he used leaf segments for rooting even on a mat and also rooting a part of a plant in a bottle of water.

Vickey Cole, Wesley Donald, and Geneva Townsend won begonias and all who attended were buying begonias.

Refreshments included tea, crackers, pea salad, ham sandwiches, and cookies.

Vickey Cole, treasurer, provided a detailed account of the money. The report is on file.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelda Moore, secretary