



AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY

A Branch of the American Begonia Society

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



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NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2024

Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, June 23 2 P.M.

Zilker Botanical Garden Center
2022 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78746

COMPANION PLANTS FOR BEGONIAS



Silver Dragon Alocasia



3-Count Patriot Hosta

Freda Holley, AABS member and experienced hybridizer of begonias, will discuss using companion plants with certain kinds of begonias growing in terrariums or in your garden. Freda said, "Our June meeting will focus on companion shade plants for begonias. We might call begonias social plants who like to share their pots or just environment with similar shade-loving plants. They may cozy up to shade lovers or shade tolerant plants such as ZZ plants. Although hostas are NOT social and do not tolerate sharing their pots, nevertheless less they love shade and begonias are happy in nearby pots. Your shady tree area will look more jungle-like with both these types of plants.

"This will be a member-sharing event so bring your favorite companion plant and a begonia you may grow nearby or even in the same pot. If you have propagated your companion plant or a begonia that you are willing to share, bring it and we will have it in one of our familiar ticket drawings or auctions by Doug Byrom. Seed if available will also be welcome.

"Come and participate!!"



ZZ Oscura

CREATING OUTDOOR GARDENS WITH BEGONIAS

The Outdoor Garden in spring can be a creation of a painting that you develop with begonias and companion plants with 3 levels: bedding plants, container plants, and hanging baskets. One should be able to find many semperflorens for sale and by using plants that are growing in containers, one can place them in the great outdoors until fall. The same goes for hanging containers that one can hang from trees or use on a patio. For a special effect, choose begonias that can grow in special conditions with some shade, gentle winds, and no overcrowding. Embellish the small areas with tall begonias next to a fence or hedge and then fill the front with semperflorens for a two level growing area. Choose flower colors and leaf coloration and complete the painting. Often these splashes of coloration are striking and the darker foliage can tolerate more sun than those with green foliage.

Always give the begonias excellent care outdoors, keeping in mind their growing conditions requiring light, temperatures, and humidity that must be satisfied for each variety. Pruning must be satisfied for each variety. Old, bare, and woody stems must be removed and in late fall or early in the spring severe pruning of cane-like begonias is done. Wise pinching insures compact and symmetrical plants throughout the active growing season. The shrub-like and trailing-scandant types, however, are not pinched when they are in bloom and about 4 weeks prior to blooming time.

AABS Meeting May 26, 2024



At the meeting, Nelda Moore served some chicken tender snacks, which everyone enjoyed. Nelda has shared her recipe for her chicken tender snacks.

NELDA'S CHICKEN TENDERS RECIPE

1 cut-up fryer or 8 boned chicken breasts
2 cups Ritz cracker crumbs
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup Parmesan cheese
1 clove garlic
2 teaspoons salt
 $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon pepper
1 cup margarine, melted
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup chopped parsley

1. Heat oven 350 degrees.
2. Blend cracker crumbs, Parmesan cheese, parsley, pressed garlic, salt and pepper.
3. Dip each piece of chicken in melted butter and then in cracker mixture.
4. Arrange in open shallow pan or casserole.
5. Pour remaining butter over the chicken.
6. Bake one hour at 350 degrees. Do not turn chicken.

Chicken tenders cut in small pieces and rolled in the crumbs before baking are really good if you like the crunchy taste. Also remaining butter can be poured over the pieces. Bake at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes for these pieces.

