



# AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY

A Branch of the American Begonia Society

Website: [http://www.kenfuchs42.net/aabs\\_index.html](http://www.kenfuchs42.net/aabs_index.html)



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NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2024

*Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors*

## NEXT MEETING

**Sunday, August 25** 2 P.M.

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



Instead of our usual Plant Table drawing, we're inviting everyone to bring in a plant or two — or even a plant-related item — for the exchange. For each item you bring, you get a ticket, giving you the chance to take home something new. This is not just a swap, but a wonderful way to share our plants and tips on how to grow them successfully.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

(Thanks to Wendy Corby, the Sacramento Branch Begonia Society)



B. 'La Paloma' - Asmussen 2000 Cane-like

## RAISING CANE WITH DON ASMUSSEN



B. 'Dumbo' - Asmussen 1983 Cane-like

Hybridizer Don Asmussen hailed from Corpus Christi, Texas. His greenhouse operation was named "Raising Cane" Begonias, and his wife Billee assisted in his work. Some of their canes had names such as 'Ebony,' 'Chameleon,' 'Kandy Kisses,' 'Second Hand Rose,' 'Angel Wings,' 'Evee-Bee,' 'La Paloma,' and 'Cotton Candy.' — Remember that Jim Georgusis also has B. 'Jim's Cotton Candy,' a cane that originated in Louisiana.



B. 'Cotton Candy' - Asmussen 1986 Cane-like



B. 'Jim's Cotton Candy' - Georgusis 2014 Cane-like



B. 'Angel Wings' - Asmussen 1988 Cane-like



B. 'Ebony' - Asmussen 1978 Cane-like

Don Miller's "Hybridizers of the Southwest Region Part I" includes B. 'Dumbo' (*coccinea* hort x 'Laura Engelbert'), B. 'Flutterby' ('Audrey Brenda' x 'Ionic'), 'Gypsy Rose' ('Tinley Mallet' x 'Olei Silver Spot') and 'Sundance' ('Kenlo' x 'Dumbo').



B. 'Flutterby' - Asmussen 1983 Cane-like



B. 'Evee-Bee' - Asmussen 1984 Shrub-like



B. 'Gypsy Rose' - Asmussen 1989 Cane-like - Mallet



B. 'Sundance' - Asmussen 1988 Cane-like

This experiment came as a result of a plant named *B. solimutata*, a new species native to the Rio Grongogy Basin in the Brazilian state of Bahia.



B. U003 - Burle Marx 1981 Shrub-like

### SOME BEGONIAS CAN FOOL YOU

During one of the Austin Begonia sales, a lady wanted to swap some begonia cuttings for some that were for sale. Doug pushed 2 begonia cuttings to me.

They are growing and I described one as being black. A member of our group wanted to see the plant. At home I picked up the beautiful begonia that now was green with white flowers. While reading Mark C. Tebbit's *Begonias*, I came across an experiment first conducted by Jacques Jangoux of Brazil. When one side of a leaf was kept in full sunlight it was brownish green. When a thick cardboard was held over it, the leaf turned green. This change is reversible due to microscopic disc-shaped chloroplasts switching their orientation from a vertical to a horizontal position and back to a vertical position as the sunlight increases.

This begonia was already grown in the United States by the American Begonia Society as an unidentified species code U003. It is also sold as *B. glaziovii*. Hybrids include *B. 'Jabberwocky'*, *B. 'Midnight Sun'*, *B. 'Orococo'* and *B. 'Spellbound'*. *B. acida* is a relative, a species that prefers high temperatures and plenty of moisture.



B. 'Jabberwocky' - Logee Greenhouses 1981 Rhizomatous



*B. solimutata* - Smith & Wasshausen 1977 Shrub-like



B. 'Midnight Sun' - Byron Martin 1980 Shrub-like



B. 'Orococo' - Worley 1983 trailing-scandent



B. *acida* - Vellozo 1831 Shrub-like

## MINUTES OF THE AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY MEETING JULY 28, 2024

The Austin Area Begonia Society met at 2 P.M. Sunday, July 28, 2024 in the auditorium in Zilker Botanical Garden in Austin. Present at the meeting were **Vickey Cole, Jackie Johnson, Curtis Aman, Jim Landers, Doug Byrom, Frank Dizenzo, Steph McNamara, Ronda Fournarat, Gregory Fournarat, Jim Estes, Beatriz Barbosa, Nelda Moore, Gabby Mora, Freda Holley, R.L. Holley, Rick Holley, Syria Holley, Valerie Wong, Rainee Freeman, Chris March, Geneva Townsend, Trent Daugherty, Wendy C, Larry Poon, Mallory Hung, Violet Nyuyn, Dustin Aguirre, Michelle Acker.**

Jim Landers had tickets, 6 for \$5. The Holley Family and one other person won begonia plants.

Vickey Cole presented the AABS Report concerning future dates approved for meetings in Zilker: August 25, September 24, January 26, 2025, February 23, March 30, April 27, May 25, June 22, July

27, August 24, and September 28.

Frances Drescher thanked the Austin Branch for the generous donation of \$381 (Champagne Level) in 2023.

Mrs. Johnson made a motion to send the American Begonia Society \$301 for 2024 for the Holiday Greetings that helps with sending the beautiful magazine to all members. Motion carried.

Mrs. Johnson made a motion to purchase begonias for a sale in September. Motion carried.

### PROGRAM:

President Doug Byrom selected different containers for members to use to create an eco-system or special scene by selecting screen wire for the bottom of the terrarium, using a special soil mixture, rocks, and tiny begonias. When the tiny world was completed, the cost varied from \$10 and upward for an aquarium or large container. These landscapes were magnificent and fun to create.

This workshop closed about 3:45 P.M. since the gardens close at 4 P.M.

Food included chocolate cake, turkey sandwiches, snacks, and tea.

### FUN WITH ECOSYSTEMS





