



VOLUME 10, NUMBER 1

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2016

MEETING: January 24 2 P.M.
Greene Room at Zilker
Botanical Garden
2220 Barton Springs Road,
Austin, TX 78746

2016 CONVENTIONS:
Southwest Region/ ABS
Richardson, TX 75080
May 5, 6, and 7

American Begonia Society
Sept. 6-10
Ayres Hotel
Los Angeles, CA

EVENTS AT ZILKER:
February 6 – 10 until 12
Texas First Detector
Improve observation skills
detecting pests and diseases
and learn about Pest Diagnostic
Network from Travis Co.
Master Gardeners. A.M.
Fee to enter gardens.

FEBRUARY 9, 2016
AAGC Meeting
WITH BEGONIA SOCIETY
HOSTING. 9:30 A.M.

FEBRUARY 28, 2016
MEETING at 607 Westlake
Drive in West Lake Hills

Convention near Dallas:

"WHAT'S OLD IS NEW AGAIN" — the theme of the Southwest Region Get Together/American Begonia Society Annual Meeting — will be held May 5, 6, and 7 in the Richardson Holiday Inn, 1655 North Central Expressway (Hwy 75) in Richardson, Texas 75080.

Entries for the show with the Entry Form will be received May 6 from 4:30 P.M. until 7:30 P.M. The mature plants must be of adequate size and development to make a suitable representation of their potential for the purpose of judging and for the viewing public. Each entry must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least 3 months prior to the show. No decorative or white nursery pots are allowed. Containers and plants must be clean with labels either removed or pushed down into the soil out of sight.

Division W includes Photographs judged horticulturally. Class 177 includes photos of the entire plant while Class 178 shows photos of begonia flowers. Division WW is for photographs of leaves, flower, flower cluster, entire plant, landscape, rainforest, collage, or black and white print of leaves, flower, entire plant, or computer enhanced that will be judged artistically.

Division ZZ is for crafts which include ceramics, jewelry, leaded glass, quilts, and all others.

Registration fee is \$35 for an individual and \$45 for the family with the late fee of \$55 after April 21.

Tour 1 to the Dallas Arboretum with lunch on your own is \$35. Tour 2 to the Fort Worth Botanic Garden with lunch included is \$60 per person. The Business Meetings Luncheon Buffet costs \$37.50 while the Banquet will be \$50 with choices of prime rib, stuffed chicken breast, or vegetarian.

(Continued from page 1)

CONVENTION IN DALLAS AREA —

Donations are welcome for hospitality, plant sale, or trophy and Division Awards. Select your choices and send all completed pages that you have to TADDIE HAMILTON, 1817 PROVINE STREET, FORT WORTH, TX 76103 with your check payable to SWR/American Begonia Society. taddieh@sbcglobal.net

**OFFICERS FOR AUSTIN AREA
BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH OF ABS:**

President:

Doug Byrom
1725 Brazos Bend Avenue
Smithville, TX 78957-2155
512-237-3179

First Vice President:

Jackie Johnson
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Austin, TX 78735
512-422-5515

Second Vice President:

Valerie Morris
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Secretary:

Nelda Moore
607 Westlake Drive
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512-327-0401

Treasurer:

Lynn Sissney
8103 Caisson Circle
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SOUTHWEST REGION/ ABS OFFICERS:

Director:

Johnny Williams
8619 Blossom Bell Lane
Missouri City, TX 77489

Vice Director:

Leora Fuentes
2200 Glen Forest Lane
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Secretary:

Deborah Sanders
1000 Aldredge Circle
Ruston, LA 71270

Treasurer:

Doug Byrom
1725 Brazos Bend Avenue
Smithville, TX 78957

National Director:

Wanda Macnair
59 Walker Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

NOMINEES FOR AWARDS NEEDED

Southwest Region/ ABS needs winners for the following awards in 2016:

Mae Blanton Service Award
Marguerite Vernon Award
Begonia Ambassador Award
SWR Hybridizer of the Year

Please nominate someone from this region by e-mail to neldamoore6947@att.net as soon as possible by telling about the good work of the nominee. Doug Byrom and Joan Estes also serve on this committee for the Southwest Region. E-mail Nelda soon.

**AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH
OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 22, 2015**

The Austin Area Begonia Society met in the auditorium of the Austin Area Garden Center at 2 P.M. November 22, 2015, with 11 members present: **Blake Bethke, Vicki Cole, Ken Fuchs, Doris Hill, Jackie Johnson, Jim Landers, Arlene Lantz, Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, Verlene Schoen, Lynn Sissney.**

Jackie Johnson, president pro tem, called the meeting to order at 2 P.M. Since Marion Alsup, president of the Austin Area Garden Council, reviewed the calendar from the city, she contacted Nelda about meeting on May 1 even though Nelda had been informed that February and April were not available and plans had been made. In February the society will meet at the Moores, March 20 is a Work Day, and April 2 and 3 will be the begonia sale during the Zilker Garden Festival, when members will be busy at their booth.

Vicki Cole presented the AAGC report for November 10, when Joe Montgomery, a member of the Horticulture Committee, was remembered for his many years of work with tropical plants. He donated the kapok tree, palms, and many of the flowering plants that he grew from seeds. His back yard was visited by many members. The iris garden has been moved to the front near Barton Springs Road. The Oita City (Sister City) Celebration was a huge success with Syd Teague planning the colorful Mexican Dinner that the Japanese had asked for during their visit. The Gift Shop offers 20% off for members. The fairy trail will happen May 16-June 30, 2016; volunteers are needed for the Zilker Garden Festival April 2 and 3; the virtual tour is now on line, but contains glitches. On February 9, 2016, this society will host the Austin Area Garden Council.

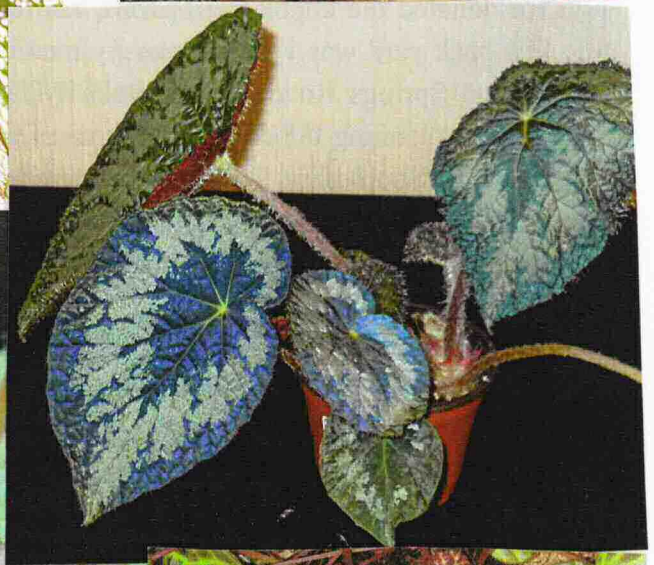
MOTION: NELDA MOORE ENCOURAGED THE LOCAL SOCIETY TO HONOR JOE MONTGOMERY WITH AT LEAST A \$25 GIFT TO AAGC IN HIS HONOR. LYNN SISSNEY MADE THE MOTION AND JACKIE JOHNSON PROVIDED THE SECOND. THE MOTION PASSED.

All members enjoyed a variety of tasty dishes and then adjourned by 3:20 P.M. to take begonias or cuttings from the Zilker Begonia Garden before the freezing temperatures hit Austin.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelda Moore,
Secretary

**A VISIT TO THE FORT WORTH
BOTANICAL GARDEN SPECIES BANK
by Ken Fuchs**

On Wednesday, December 23, Jim Landers and I were in Fort Worth and while there we visited the Species Bank at the Fort Worth Botanical Garden. The Species Bank has the world's largest collection of begonias, and two large green greenhouses there are filled wall to wall with multitudes of begonias. When we asked one of the workers about some of the plants, she said Bobbie Price could answer our questions. We discovered it was our lucky day when Bobbie told us that she and the other volunteers worked at the Species Bank on Wednesdays. She cheerfully gave us a tour of the greenhouses, pointing out the many different types in the collection, and she gave us cuttings from several plants that really caught our eyes. All of the plants in the first greenhouse are for sale @ \$5 apiece, and we came home with six new beautiful begonias.



A VISIT TO THE FORT WORTH BOTANICAL GARDEN SPECIES BANK



All plants \$5 apiece



The terrarium collection — not for sale!



B. KitKat



B. Moly Poly



The Collection Greenhouse



Don Miller, Bobbie Price, Deborah Garrett (Begonia Curator), Jim Landers