



VOLUME 10, NUMBER 2

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2016

MEETING:

February 28 2 P.M.
607 Westlake Dr.
West Lake Hills, TX 78746
Program – terrariums Bring a glass container.

POTLUCK

{From Zilker stay in the right lane and turn on Bee Cave Road. The 7th traffic light is Westlake Drive. Turn right and pass the 1st road, follow the curve. Watch for the white mail box on the right at the bottom of the hill.}

March 20 **WORKDAY**
Zilker Botanical Gardens
2220 Barton Springs Rd.
Austin, TX 78746
Planting the begonia garden.

April 2 and 3
Zilker Garden Festival
2 booths
BEGONIA SALE
And
BEGONIA SPECIAL EXHIBIT in the Greene Room during the Violet Crown Flower Show
Set Up: March 31 from 9 A.M. until 4 P.M.



BEGONIA MASONIANA (IRON CROSS BEGONIA)

Begonia masoniana is somewhat difficult to grow. As a rhizomatous begonia it needs a potting mix with additional perlite and mulch to provide excellent drainage. This begonia should be kept somewhat moist, but it needs to dry out between waterings; however, it is not good for the soil to be too dry. It can have root rot in the summer if it is too wet.

During the winter it needs to be kept dry if there is a long period of cold weather.

The iron cross begonia usually produces :fragrant blooms from spring to summer; therefore, in late winter a bloom food can be used alternately with a balanced fertilizer in small amounts to help the plant bloom with larger flowers.

Although the begonia can benefit from early morning sunshine or late evening sun light, it needs filtered light. It does not like too much heat.

AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH
OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2016

The Austin Area Begonia Society Branch of the American Begonia Society met in the Austin Area Garden Center Auditorium Sunday, January 24, 2016, at 2 P.M. for a Power Point Presentation of the Virtual Tour showing some areas of Zilker Botanical Garden. Marion Alsup, a Master Gardener and president of the Austin Area Garden Council and the Zilker Docents, also gave an update on the formation of the conservancy and some of the areas near The Oaks and the Children's Garden that would be developed Saturday, January 30. The members who were present signed the Syd Teague paper as supporters of the gardens by asking for funding from the city through PARD (Parks and Recreation Department) in order to maintain the gardens for future generations.

Those present were **Doug Byrom, Vicki Cole, Betty Dunn, Ken Fuchs, Rainee Freeman, Jackie Johnson, Jim Landers, Arlene Lantz, Julie Marcus, Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, Carol Orozco, Verlene Schoen, Johnnie Shepard.**

President Doug Byrom informed the members that \$6600 had been collected for the Southwest Region "Challenge" Fund. It was agreed that SWR would match the donations up to \$10,000. The fund was created to aid the American Begonia Society and the Fort Worth Species Bank. He also brought several begonias that could be purchased. Then he mentioned the special trophy that would be presented each year during the Southwest Region Plant Show for the best species in honor of Rekha Morris and sponsored by the Austin Area Begonia Society Branch.

MOTION: Nelda Moore moved that the Austin Area Begonia Society Branch sponsor the Rekha Morris Best Species Begonia in the Plant Show during the Southwest Region/Get Together. Jackie Johnson provided the second to the motion and the motion carried.

In February the members will plant in terrariums; therefore, bring a glass container to the meeting at 607 Westlake Drive, which is located off Bee Cave Road. Pass the first road that is on the right as you travel east, go down the curve, and watch for a white mailbox just past La Cortona, a subdivision on the left side of Westlake Drive.

On March 20 the members have a Work Day planting begonias in the Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Road. April 2 and 3 members will sell begonias during the Zilker Garden Festival. It was agreed that all of us were ready to meet May 1.

The food provided a tasty treat, the program required attention as some of the beautiful gardens zoomed by through a 360 degree panoramic view, and the begonias became the pride and joy of the attendees. Doug's presence made it happen.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelda Moore, Secretary



*AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY SERVED AS
HOSTESS FOR THE AUSTIN AREA GARDEN
COUNCIL AT ZILKER*

The Austin Area Begonia Society Branch joined the Cactus and Succulent Society to host the Austin Area Garden Council on February 7 from 9:30 A.M. to noon.

Vicki Cole serves as the council representative while Nelda Moore served as a one time representative for Western Trails Garden Club. Another member of the local Begonia Society who provided delicious snacks and finger foods for the Cactus and Succulent Society was Andrea Wakefield.

**CACTUS MIX USED FOR SOME BEGONIA
SPECIES**

Any time a Cactus and Palm Mixture of Soil is used to increase drainage for succulents, some species such as *Begonia venosa*, *B. dregei*, *B. carolineifolia*, *B. crassicaulis*, and *B. wollnyi* that are thick-stemmed can grow well. *B. venosa* is a Brazilian species that grows upright; it can tolerate more sun; it can go dormant in winter when it loves to be dry and seems indestructible.

Like *B. gardneri* it can grow so well and then flop on the soil. In this manner at every node a well-rooted stem begins to grow. Add a little soil on the nodes and let nature present many new plants as it does what it needs to do.



SOUTHWEST REGION GET TOGETHER/
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

The Southwest Region/Get Together will be held May 5, 6, and 7 in the Richardson Holiday Inn, 1655 North Central Expressway in Richardson, Texas 75080.

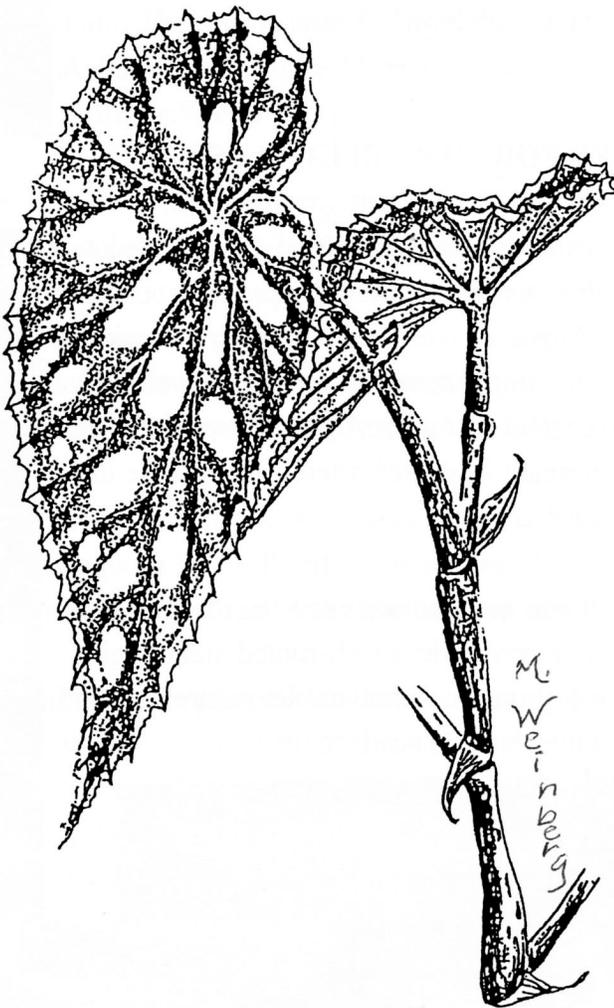
www.begonias.org/events.htm

Entries for the show with the Entry Form will be received May 6 from 4:30 P.M. until 7:30 P.M. Tours include Dallas Arboretum and the Fort Worth Botanic Garden for \$95.

Registration fee is \$35 for an individual and \$45 for the family with the late fee of \$55 after April 21. The Business Meetings Luncheon Buffet costs \$37.50 while the Banquet will be \$50.

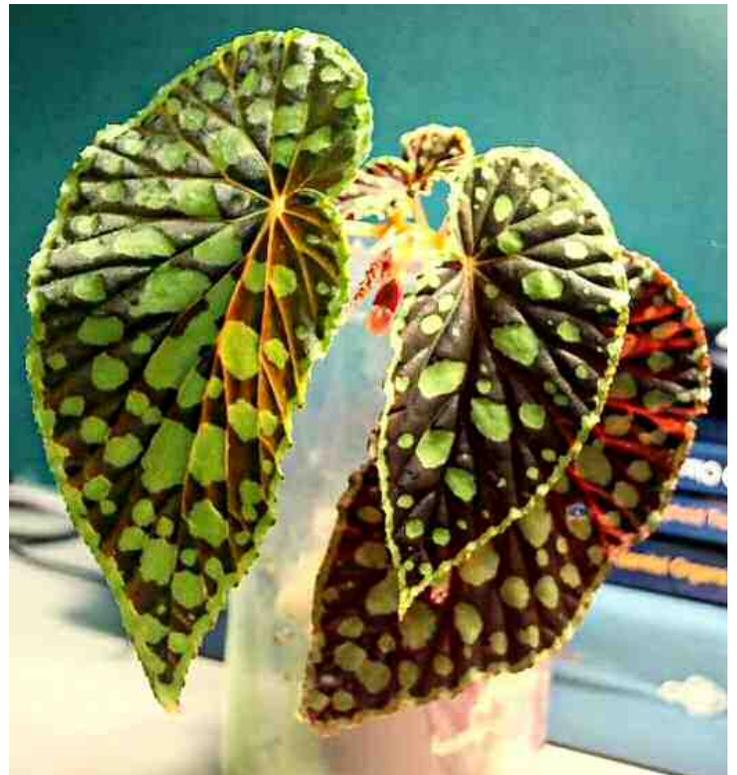
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
CONVENTION

The Ayres Hotel in Los Angeles, California will welcome the members of the American Begonia Society September 6-10. Make plans to attend these interesting meetings and learn more about begonias.



B. chlorosticta Sands

B. chlorosticta, formerly known as "ex Kew species", belongs to section *Petermannia*. It was found on the island of Borneo, a part of Malaysia, in the Sarawak region. It is believed that all the *B. chlorostictas* now in cultivation came from one



plant received at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. A cutting given to M.I. MacIntyre was self-pollinated, and seed given to Rudolf Ziesenhenné, Millie Thompson, and Dr. Doorenbos.



