



VOLUME 11, NUMBER4

NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2017

NEXT MEETING:

Sunday, APRIL 23
Austin Area Garden Center
2220 Barton Springs Road
Austin, Texas 78746
Greene Room 2 P.M.
POTLUCK

2017 National ABS Convention
and Southwest Region Get Together
in San Antonio, Texas MAY 3-7

Hilton San Antonio Airport
611 NW Loop 410
San Antonio, TX 78216
(210) 340-6060

2017 NATIONAL AMERICAN BEGONIA CONVENTION
AND
SOUTHWEST REGION GET TOGETHER MAY 3-7

Today is the day to make reservations to attend the American Begonia Society/Southwest Region Get Together at the Hilton San Antonio Airport located at 611 NW Loop 410 in San Antonio, Texas 78216. To reserve a room call 1-888-728-3031 or fax 210-377-4695.

Your reservations are important since the Austin Area Branch will assist with the Plant Sale Friday, May 5, from 7-9 P.M.

On Saturday, May 6, from 10 A.M. until 11 A.M. the seminars will be held followed by the business lunch at noon. The American Begonia Society Business Meeting begins at 1 P.M. and the Southwest Region Annual Meeting starts at 2 P.M.

The American Begonia Society Convention Banquet will begin at 7 P.M. and end at 10 P.M.

On May 4 (Thursday) from 3-7 P.M. Show Plants Registration takes place. Earlier that day the Hill Country Tour will begin at 8:30 A.M. and will end at 4 P.M. after the bus travels to Wildseed Farms, Wedding Oak Winery, and Boerne for African violets and orchids. Seminars from 7:30- 8:30 P.M. will follow.

This convention is a once in a lifetime event.

To join the ABS send \$25 to Paul Rothstein, 5 Sandwick Drive, Bella Vista, AR 72715. The cost of a membership in the Southwest Region is \$10 to Anna Salisbury, P.O. Box 452 Tonkawa, OK 74653.



B. 'Autumn Embers'

[AABS WEBSITE http://www.kenfuchs42.net/aabs_index.html](http://www.kenfuchs42.net/aabs_index.html)



On Saturday, March 25, at 11 A.M. during the Zilker Garden Festival the new Stream Bed was dedicated by Austin Council Members and Acting Director Kim McNeeley of the Parks and Recreation Department with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. This is a major project that connects the Rose Garden Pond to the original stream bed in the Japanese Garden built by Mr. Taniguchi and opened in 1969 for the Zilker Botanical Garden.

According to Cullen Finnegan of PARD more than a million gallons of water seeped into the ground each year. This landscaped streambed was a dream that finally came true when the JetBlue Airline made it possible with a \$50,000 donation to the \$180,000 project. Volunteers added mulch to the area to complete this streambed restoration project by the opening of the 60th Annual Zilker Garden Festival.



BEGONIAS AT FESTIVAL

During the Zilker Garden Festival held on March 25 and 26 with set up during the rainy morning of the 24th, most of the members worked diligently to sell begonias and African violets—the most beautiful creations that could not be found in local garden centers and nurseries. According to Valerie Morris, members sold nearly \$3000 of the many plants during the two days. Only a few baskets remained on Sunday.

Thanks to the volunteers and the members who worked during the wet weather to set up the area and those who came Sunday to help bundle the tent and load the wooden beams and plywood on the truck. Thank you to Doug Byrom who selected the many begonias that were sold to the public. This booth is always a favorite stop.

BEGONIA REGISTERED

The Begonian presented a new registration #1018 for Walter Dworkin for Begonia 'Tall Paul,' whose seed parent is B. 'Kentwood' and pollen parent is B. 'Dumbo.'

Mr. Dworkin resides in Westbury, New York. He developed the hybrid in 1991 and distributed it in 1993. Registration was applied for on September 13, 2016 and approved October 30, 2016.

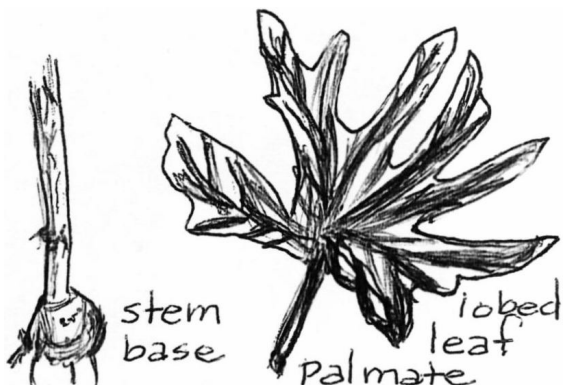
This begonia which blooms in summer is a superba type cane-like plant that grows up to 30 inches tall.

Greg Sytch is growing B. 'Tall Paul' to offer it for sale when he has built up enough plants.



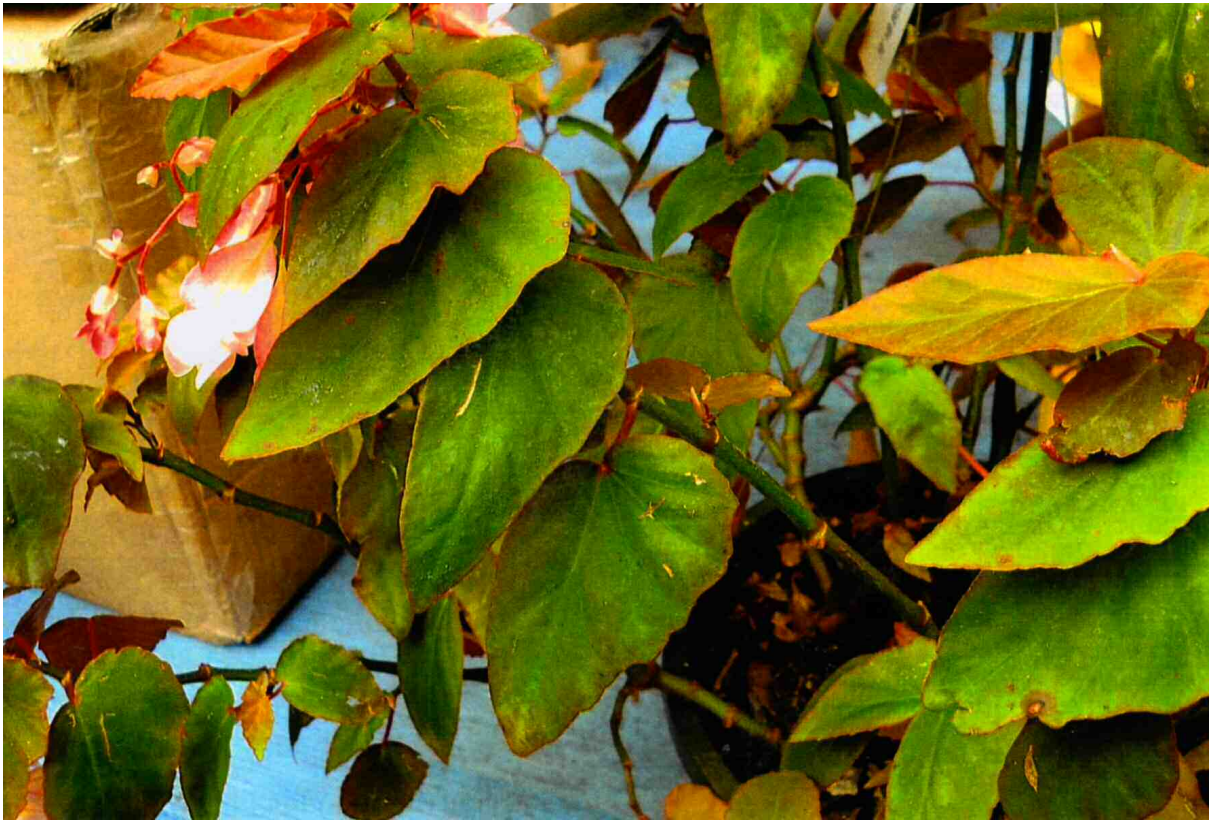
Ludwig Riedel discovered this Rio de Janeiro species in the mid 1800's during the time that he served as director of Brazil's Museu Nacional. Then Botanist Alphonse de Candolle named this begonia *aconitifolia* because its palmate-lobed leaves resembled those of monkshood or Aconitum. In 1884 William Bull brought this species into cultivation in his London nursery, but it was grown as **B. *sepectrum***. Since it is tall and recognized as a cane-like species that flowers in autumn, it played a central role in the development of the Superba group of hybrids, the first of which were created by Eva Gray in the 1920s by crossing B. *aconitifolia* with B. 'Lucema.' More recent cultivars include B. 'Irene Nuss,' B. 'Lana,' B. 'Pink Jade,' and B. 'Sophie Cecile,' that have the silver-splashed, palmate-lobed leaves just like B. *aconitifolia*, which also has swollen stem bases in the wild that has a storage function during dormancy in a dry open forest habitat.

This species had gone dormant this winter, but it is now beginning to grow even though it froze.



Begonia *aconitifolia* out of Dormancy

BEGONIA 'Jean Pernet'



BEGONIA richmondensis

