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NEWSLETTER

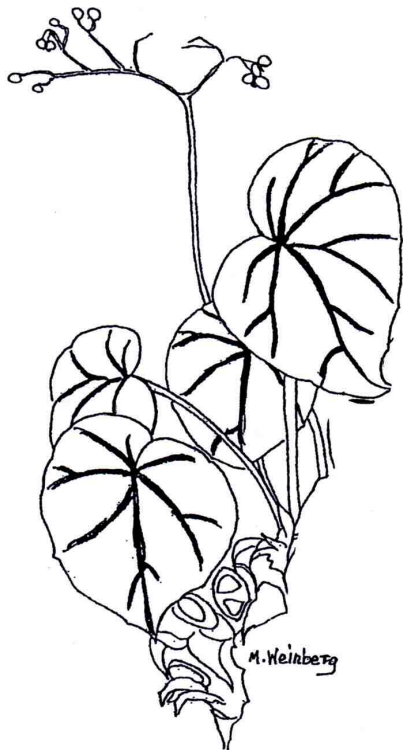
August, 2017

**Next Meeting:**

August 27, 2017  
 Greene Room  
 Austin Area Garden Center  
 2220 Barton Springs Road  
 Austin, TX 78746  
 Zilker Botanical Garden  
 2 P.M.

**ABS/SWR CONVENTION**

April 2-8, 2018  
 New Orleans Convention  
 Start cuttings now for the  
 Plant Sale



*B. glandulosa*

**WORK CONTINUES ON NEW BEGONIA GARDEN**

Doug Byrom, Vickey Cole, Mary Drake, Ken Fuchs, Jackie Johnson, Arlene Lantz, Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, Lynn Sissney and Geneva Townsend were diligent workers who were fortunate to participate in planting in the newly-acquired area that had recently served as the Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy Herb Garden Sunday, July 23, 2017.

Since the garden's landscape is shaped like a butterfly or the herb oxalis, most of the work was done standing near the walls or digging while standing in the narrow beds. Doug and Ken dug in the soil while others used a trowel to place the begonia baskets in the mulch. This was the first time in several months that the area received moisture. Any herbs not moved to the Rose Garden were removed by the Zilker staff to be planted elsewhere. The statue and the metal ornament will stay. Rosemary around the statue will be removed for more begonias. Then "Rosemary" can become Miss Begonia.

A plan to enhance the garden near the parking lot is being developed so that begonias can be planted in front of taller plants growing in the sunny area.

## AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH MINUTES OF JUNE 25, 2017

The Austin Area Begonia Society Branch of the American Begonia Society met at 2 P.M. in the Greene Room of the Austin Area Garden Center, 2220 Barton Springs Road, 78746 on June 25 with the following members present: **Mary Drake, Betty Dunn, Rainee Freeman, Ken Fuchs, Jackie Johnson, Jim Landers, Arlene Lantz, Nelda Moore, and Geneva Townsend.**

No corrections were made to the published minutes of the May meeting.

The treasurer was absent. No report was sent.

Vickey Cole will meet with the Austin Area Garden Council on September 12.

Jackie Johnson presided as president since Doug 'Byrom was celebrating with his family. She informed those present that Doug will be purchasing 40 baskets of begonias that will be delivered to Valerie Morris's home around the 20 of July so that all can plant on July 23. The garden has a water faucet and line irrigation, but the water should not be tasted.

Rainee wrote the names of begonias on a huge board while members mentioned those that grew in some sunlight. Before the next meeting members are to send pictures of those begonias that can survive in the heat of summer such as some semperflorens or 'Withlacoochee.'

Jackie also mentioned that Charles Jaros had passed away. He was an outstanding grower and winner of many awards for his extraordinary begonias

that he usually donated to the auction. In 2016 he was honored with the Mae Blanton Service Award by the Southwest Region in Richardson, Texas. His last work was during the May 3-7, 2017 National ABS Convention and Southwest Region Get Together in San Antonio, Texas, where he became ill with chest pains. Charles was flown to his DeBary, Florida home where he awaited a heart transplant. Johanna Zinn and Charles Jaros were judges, and Charles worked with the Slide Library and also maintained the Unidentified Species of Begonias for the American Begonia Society. A begonia has been named for him, and his writings appear in *The Begonian*. He will be greatly missed in the Begonia World. As of this writing a memorial service will be celebrated at a later date.

Doug Byrom has written that money will be sent to the Species Bank in Fort Worth in his memory.

The next meeting will be July 23 in the Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy Begonia Garden. Nelda Moore will be in charge of hospitality; therefore, she will have water and soda pop plus sandwiches and cookies. Please bring your gloves and some garden tools to dig spaces for the whole basket of begonias. Anyone who has begonias mentioned as survivors in the heat can bring them to add to the huge space that once belonged to the Herb Society located across from the tropical garden and the outdoor bathrooms.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nelda Moore, Secretary



## ***BEGONIA HYBRIDIZING: A PRIMER***

This booklet by Freda Holley contains invaluable information by an experienced hybridizer who is fascinated by growing plants from seeds. Hybridizing is a way of preserving begonia diversity, of studying begonias to learn of their chromosome count and how genetics work to affect flower color, leaf size, texture, color pattern, and even flower fragrance. Hybridizing also gives joy in achieving unlimited cultivars that one can name and register. During this process the hybridizer can use the plants as gifts for friends to treasure and test.

Freda explains that crossing a species on itself or crossing two different plants of a given species that reproduces that same species is not a hybrid. A female of a species crossed with the male of another species is a hybrid. Crossing a hybrid with itself, with another hybrid, or a species will also result in a hybrid. When one plant of a hybrid cross is selected to name and pass on, it is a cultivar not a hybrid which identifies all plants of the cross. For example one hybrid crossed with a different hybrid might yield 4 plants or 4 different cultivars. Out of these, 2 might be named and registered. Since the other 2 siblings might be too plain, they will be keepers, but not registered. A named cultivar can never be replicated from seed, explained Mrs. Holley.

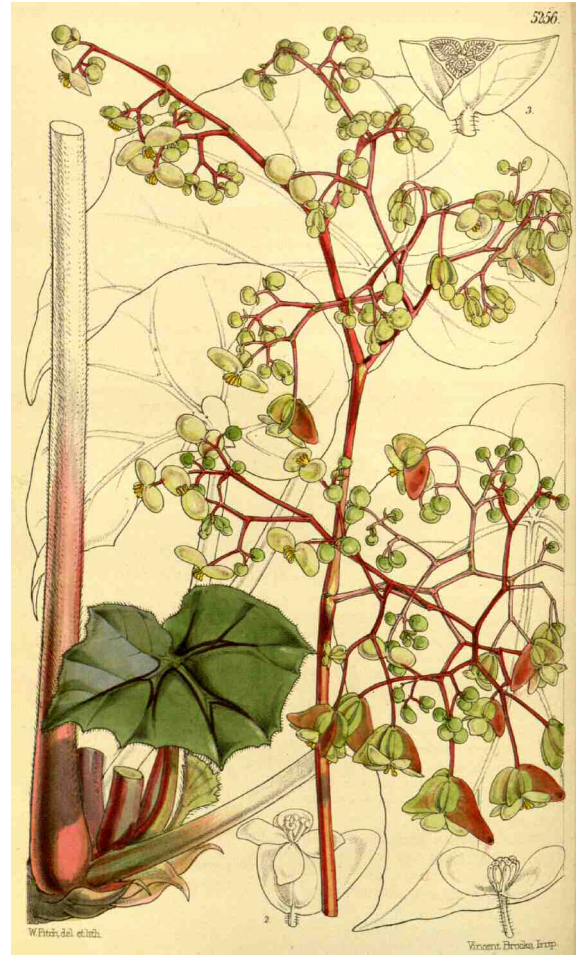
She also explains how to save the seeds for storage, how to label and use a journal to have a duplicate record, and how to care for seedlings.

The process continues until time for using the laws of hybridizing. Examine the cultivars for beauty, uniqueness, ease of propagation, growth, and the principles of naming the begonias by using the Howard Berg ABS List of Begonia Cultivars. If the name is used, then create one that is not in the list.

This booklet was sold for \$15 in the September/October *The Begonian* in 2016.

In the March/April 2017 issue Freda Holley edited *Begonia Hybridizing: by the Hybridizers*.

Books can be ordered from the American Begonia Society by sending a check to Carol Notaras, 2567 Green Street, San Francisco, CA 94123.



*Begonia glandulosa* is a species from Mexico (Hook 1861) that has elliptic leaves on short stems. The flowers are small and green-white in color. This begonia is also known as *B. hidalgensis*, *B. dayi*, and *B. nigrovenia*.





↑ B. 'Palm Beach Dancer'

B. ↓Teddy Bear'

# Planting in the New Begonia Garden Sunday, July 23, 2017



