



VOLUME 11, NUMBER 11

NEWSLETTER

November 2017

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Next Meeting: November 26
Pot Luck
Mexican Food

No Meeting in December
Merry Christmas
Happy New Year

Next Meeting: January 28, 2018



Hilton New Orleans Airport
901 Airline Drive
Kenner, LA 70062



Besthoff Sculpture Garden

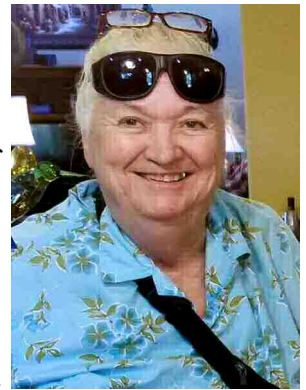
Baton Rouge offers two great tour stops, the **Baton Rouge Botanic Garden** and the **Burden Museum and Gardens**. The Botanic Garden will focus on the irises, with both guest plants and other cultivars, many the hybrids of the late Joe Mertzweiler, whose efforts led to the creation of the iris garden.

Burden is a multi-purpose 440 acre LSU facility that includes formal gardens, an arboretum and swamp, ponds, and the unique Rural Life Museum. You will see primarily species and older irises at Burden, but many other interesting things.



**FREDA HOLLEY DISCUSSES
Begonias: *Tres Bien* AT OCT. 22
MEETING IN LOCKHART**

Freda Holley and Cindy Moran, American Begonia Society Convention Southwest Region Get Together Co-Chairs, are working diligently to provide the best of everything during the celebration in New Orleans, Louisiana April 2-8, 2018.



As 25 of us gathered around **Freda and R.L.** in the living area of **Jim and Joan Estes' Country Home** in Lockhart, **Mrs. Holley** told how important it is to make hotel reservations at the Hilton New Orleans Airport Hotel located at 901 Airline Drive in Kenner, Louisiana 70062. Rates are \$119 plus tax per room per day using ABS code.

Those who enjoyed the Pot Luck included **Joan Ahrens, Doug and Amy Byrom, Deva Brown, Eric and Irma Challain, Vickey and John Cole, Betty Dunn, Rainee L. Freeman, Ken Fuchs, Jackie Johnson and her husband,**

Sondra Justice, Jim Landers, Nelda and Joe Moore, Valerie Morris, Carol Orozco, Connie Saenz, and Geneva Townsend.



Begonias in the back of Freda's vehicle.

SPEAKERS, SEMINARS, AND TOURS at the 2018 ABS Convention in New Orleans

On April 2 in the evening Eddie Martin will discuss growing begonias in Louisiana. A Pre-Convention Guided Tour on Tuesday, April 3, will take attendees to a private rare plant nursery and a large local retail nursery as well as the Burden Plantation Rural Life Museum and Windrush Garden in Baton Rouge. A box lunch will be served.

On April 4 a guided tour of Antebellum Houmas House Sugar Plantation that has been voted No. 1 by *USA Today* will also include the 38 acre tropical garden and a buffet lunch in a renowned Louisiana restaurant.

Other seminars begin in the morning Thursday, April 5, when Antoon Hofuagels reveals important new information for begonia growers and hybridizers on "The Nagoya Protocol." Mark Hughes, a lead researcher, reveals new begonia research at Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh while Rosario Rubite from the University of the Philippines in Manila discusses begonias and unidentified Philippine Species. In the afternoon Rekha Morris talks about Species Begonias from Mexico and Central America. A panel that includes Mary Sakamoto, Janet Brown, and Martin Delgado will demonstrate pruning of canes, thick stems, and shrubs.

On Friday, April 6, a shuttle bus to New Orleans Botanical Garden, City Park, or New Orleans Museum of Art and the free Besthoff Sculpture Garden will return to the hotel in the late afternoon. Saturday morning, April 7, Don Miller and Deborah Garrett will be the speakers.

In the afternoon the American Begonia Society Business Meeting, the Southwest Region Business Meeting, the Louisiana EBranch Annual Meeting, and the Branch Newsletter Editors Meeting led by Linda Tamblin will take place.

A Post-Convention Tour on Sunday morning will travel to the World War II Museum or the 3 hour guided tour of New Orleans including the French Market after dinner.

After Mrs. Holley revealed this much about the convention, the attendees were quick to seek registration forms to complete and dream of New Orleans in April.

Officers for the American Begonia Society:

Sally Savelle, president; Martin E. Delgado, past president; Butch McDade, first vice president; Stephanie Rose, second vice president; Randy Montes Kerr, secretary; and Carol N otaras, treasurer.

Some of the appointed chairmen and directors include Business Manager Doug Byrom, Awards Cheryl Lenert, Branch Relations Tom Keepin, and Membership Registrar Linda Kammerer, P.O. Box 6261, Providence, Rhode Island 02940.

SWR/ ABS Officers:

Kermy Wilkerson, Director
Leora Fuentes, Vice Director
Doug Byrom, Treasurer
Wanda Macnair, National Director
Doug Byrom, Membership Chairman
Sandy Justice, Editor of *Begonia Leaflet*

BEGONIA 'APPLE JACK'



Begonia 'Apple Jack' is the new International Registration #1024. The seed parent is B. 'Kentwood' and the pollen parent is B. 'Dumbo.'

Walter Dworkin of Westbury, NY 11590 hybridized this cane-like begonia that he developed in 1991 and first distributed in 1993.

Virginia Ketler of Houston, TX donated the plant to the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, where it has been growing for 20 years. Registration was applied for August 3, 2017 and approved September 21, 2017.

This begonia will grow to two feet tall with huge smooth and glossy leaves up to 10 inches by 5.5 inches with spots and undulate, angular margin and one main vein. According to Priscilla Pumton, cultivar registrar, B. 'Apple Jack' blooms in summer with large clusters of salmon and lighter salmon color

flowers of at least 48 male and 48 female flowers on a 7.5 inch peduncle. The umbel is up to 10 inches in diameter. This strong, vigorous begonia is sold by Taylor Greenhouse, 9228 Matthew Road in Portland, New York 14769.

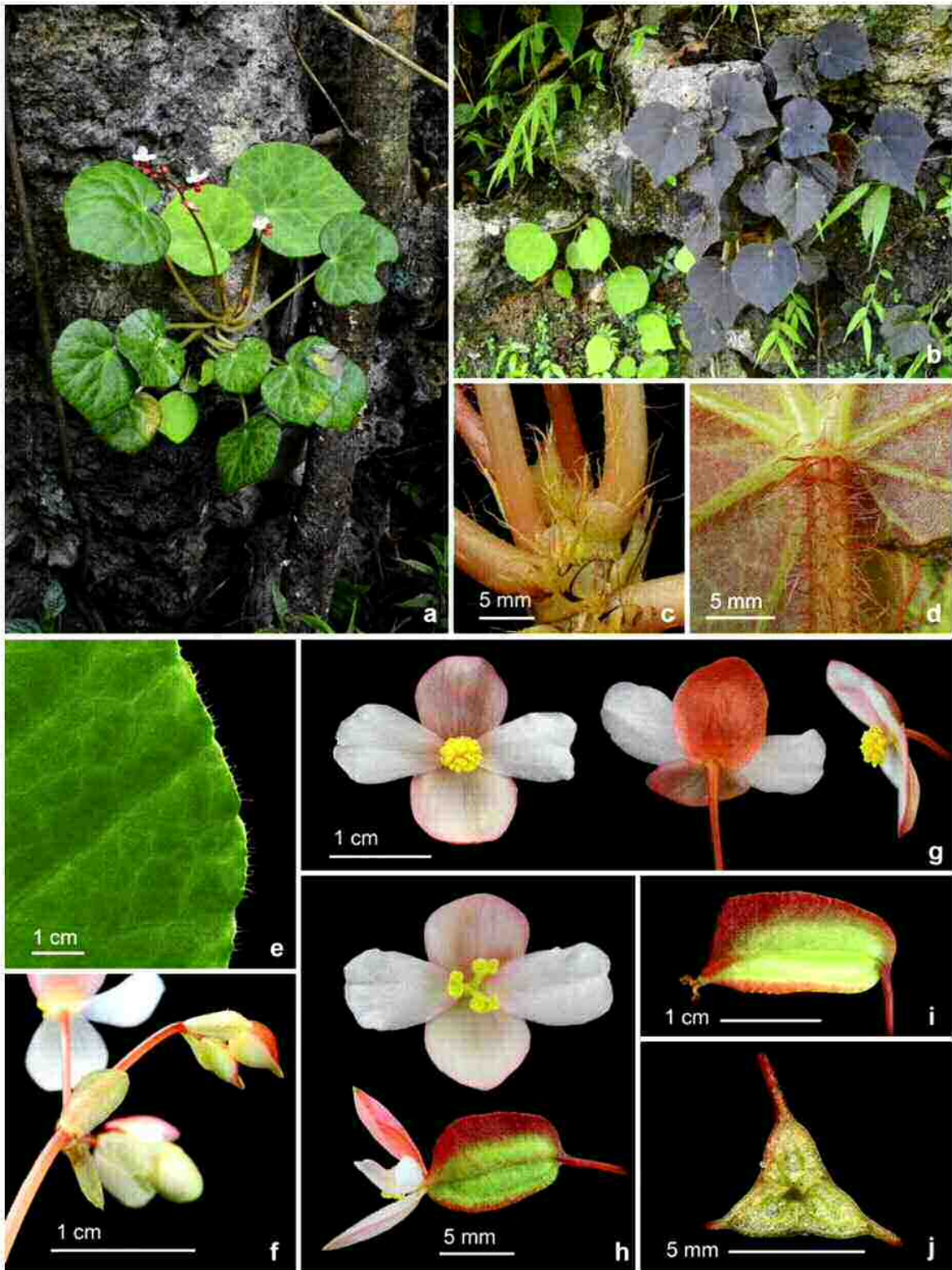
PHILIPPINE BEGONIAS

Among the islands in the Philippine Sea is one called Panay, where at least three new begonias have been found: *B. culasiensis*, *B. merrilliana*, and *B. sykakiengii*. This area may have other species since it has not been explored and is not as populated as Malaysia.

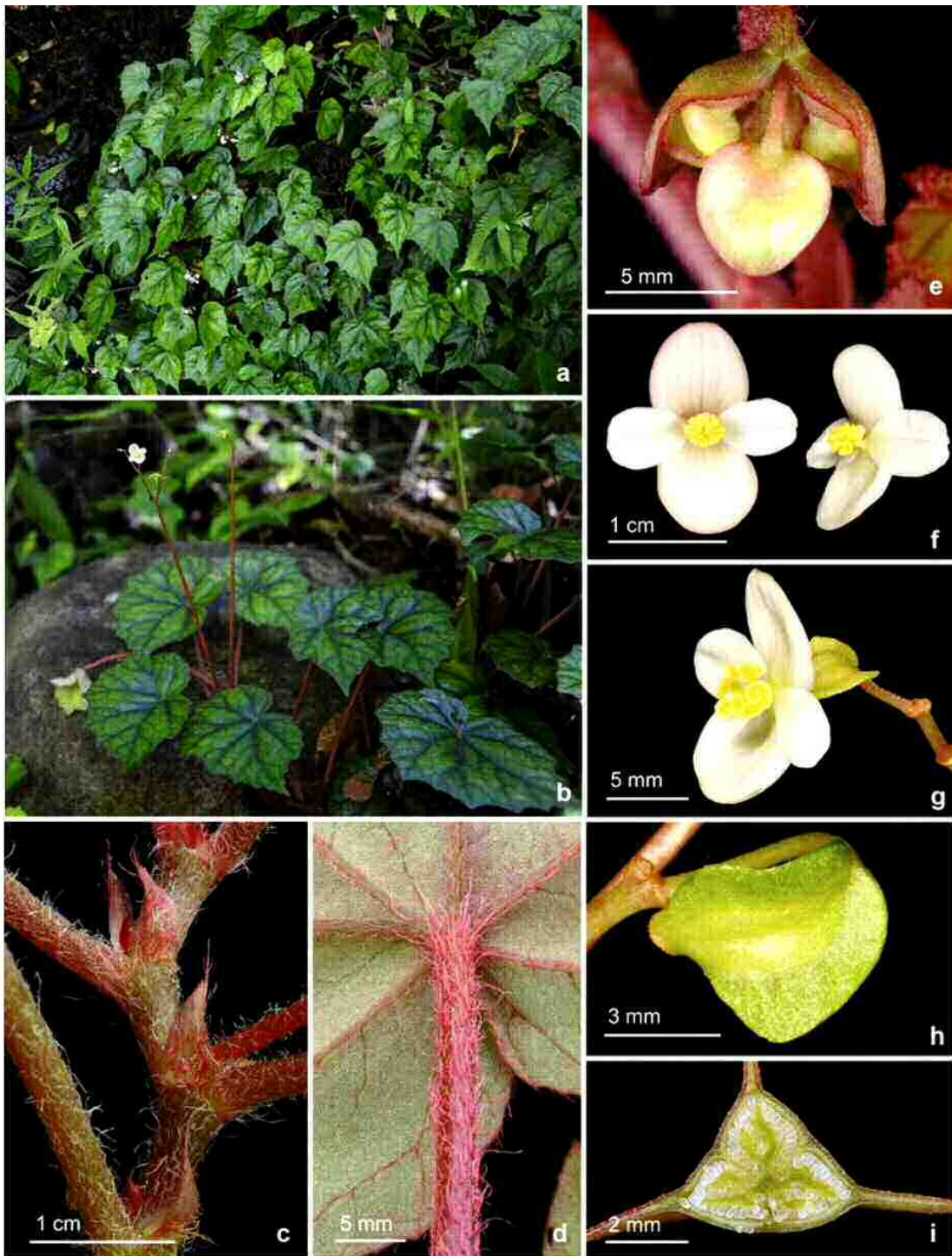
In *Begonias of Peninsular Malaysia* Ruth Kiew tells about the Tampin Begonia, a rhizomatous reddish or green tinged red succulent firmly rooted in rocks and boulders at the headwaters of a small stream. The leaves are tufted. The stalk is green but when young, it is sparsely covered in brown hairs. At the base it is flattened on the upper side, grooved towards the top. The blade is yellowish green above with a red patch at the junction of the stalk and blade, bright magenta beneath, hairless above, thinly leathery in life, papery when dried. Inflorescence axillary and coral pink to red. Fruit is a splash cup pendent on a fine stalk. The seeds are barrel-shaped.

This begonia is fragile since it grows in a heavily populated West Coast of Malaysia.





Begonia culasiensis C.-I Peng, R. Rubite, C.W. Lin & K.F. Chung. **a, b** Habitats and habits, showing leaves of varied colors; **c** rhizome, showing stipules and petiole base; **d** distal part of petiole; **e** portion of leaf, showing ciliate margin; **f** Inflorescence, showing bracts; **g** staminate flowers; **h** pistillate flowers; **i** capsules; **j** cross section of an immature capsule



Begonia merrilliana C.-I Peng, R. Rubite, C.W. Lin & K.F. Chung. **a, b** Habitat and habit; **c** rhizome, showing stipules and petioles; **d** distal part of petiole, showing appressed villous vestiture; **e** immature inflorescence, showing bracts; **f** staminate flowers; **g** pistillate flower; **h** capsule; **i** cross section of an immature capsule



Begonia sykakiengii R. Rubite, C.-I Peng, C.W. Lin & K.F. Chung on limestone cliff, showing variably colorful foliage

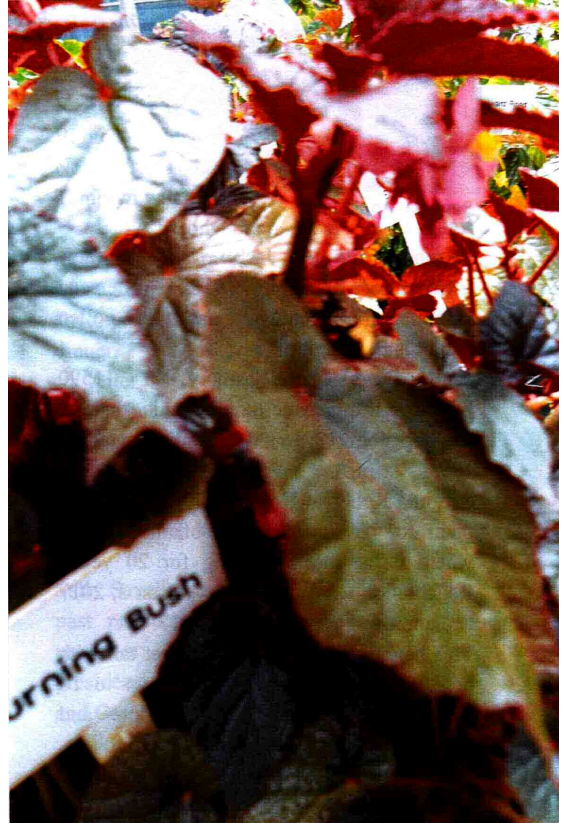
BEGONIAS DURING THE WINTER

While many begonias are already in the greenhouse, there are a few varieties that are near the front door waiting for colder weather to make them houseplants during the winter. All of them have been inspected for insects and none are over potted and soggy.

For any of these begonias, cuttings have been made and new plants are growing, but these must be protected from the freezing weather that may last for several days. This is when some of the plants cannot withstand the darkness and the covers. At some point, open the cover and allow some air to circulate when the weather is warmer during those days.

When begonias are brought inside the home, they need humidity; therefore, place the containers on pebbles in some water in a tray or mist them. Florescent lights can be placed about two inches above the tallest plants or a plastic fireproof cover can be used to provide a tent over the crowd of begonias. Place them near a window for indirect light that will not burn the leaves although some of the leaves will drop since this is a new environment that is heated probably by gas, which the plants do not like as well as the outdoors during summer. Keep the area clean by picking up any debris while you keep watch over the indoor garden.

Begonia 'BURNING BUSH' is growing in the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Species Bank.



LYNN SISSNEY HAS SURGERY

As of this writing on November 9, begonia grower Lynn Sissney is in ICU after having leg surgery. After Valerie gave me her telephone number, I called her and talked with her. Keep her in your prayers.

