



VOLUME 12, NUMBER 3

NEWSLETTER

March 2018

NEXT MEETING:

March 25 2 P.M.

Greene Room
Austin Area Garden Center
Zilker Botanical Garden
2220 Barton Springs Road
Austin, Texas 78746

Bring plan for Begonia
Garden to be planted
on a Different Date,
not March 25.

See a sketch of the Herb
Garden, now Begonia Plot
on Page 4.

BEGONIAS: TRES BIEN APRIL 2-8

The American Begonia Society/Southwest Region GetTogether will be held in the Hillton New Orleans Airport Hotel, 901 Airline Drive, Kenner, Louisiana April 2-8.

For Reservations call 504-469-5000 or 800-872-5914. Use Code ABS. For information go to www.begonias.org

There will be friendly begonia growers with plenty of begonia plants. Then there is the Plant Show that you want to enter and visit to admire the many specimens that will be entered in the show. The educational panels are always educational and the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Display is exceptional. Art and crafts are simply beautiful.

Please do not miss the seminars that will begin Wednesday, April 4, when Randy Montes Kerr will talk about Unidentified Species (U Numbers). Yu-Min Shui will introduce his new book on Begonias of China and Wen-Ke Dong (Victor Dawn) will tell you how to order *Cultivation and Appreciation of Wild Begonias*.

On Thursday, April 5, Antoon Hofnagels will explain the Nagoya Protocol.

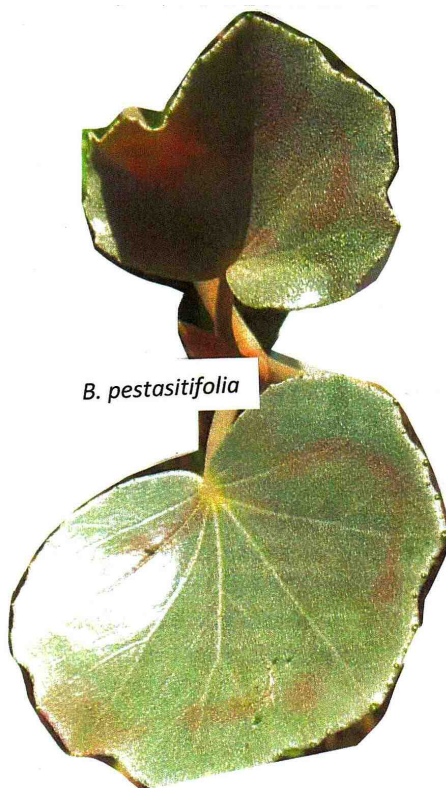
Dr. Mark Hughes, a researcher at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, will talk about new begonia research.

Dr. Rosario Rubite from Manila will help identify Philippine begonia species.

During the morning of April 7 Don Miller will discuss SWR hybridizers and hybrids at nominal fees for begonias.

A panel will answer any questions about hybridizing after Mr. Miller's seminar. Those on the panel will include Don Miller, Bobbie Price, Tom Keepin, and Cheryl Lenert. Deborah Garrett from the Species Bank of Fort Worth Botanic Garden will reveal plans for the future.

If you have not joined others in having fun in New Orleans as the city celebrates its 300 years, then do so quickly.



WITH SYMPATHY

Vera Miller, mother to Don Miller, passed away July 23, 2017, but an article about this talented lady appeared on page 71 of the March/April *The Begonian*. A picture of the first begonia quilt in 1994 appears with her picture. A second one a few years later was made from blocks created by Charles McGough, an artist. She also crocheted begonia leaves.



Brad Thompson honored her in 1995 by naming a dwarf, cane-like begonia for her; Begonia 'Mrs. Miller' is an easy-to-grow

compact cross with small, scalloped, dark green silver spotted leaves and large clusters of salmon flowers. Its parents are B. 'Enchanto' #14 and B. 'Leonore Olivier.'



Long time Membership Chairman for the Southwest Region Anna Salisbury passed away in Oklahoma. Our prayers are extended to her family.

Concepcion (Connie) Saenz, who was born August 2, 1938, passed away suddenly at 79 on February 10, 2018 in San Antonio, Texas. Connie recently served as Secretary for the American Begonia Society, entered many shows, and traveled to conventions because she loved begonias as much as she loved her grandchildren.

A visitation was held Tuesday, February 20 at 6 P.M. in the Porter Loring Mortuary North Chapel. Donations in her memory may be made to St. Peter-St. Joseph Children's Home, 919 Mission Road, San Antonio, Texas 78210.

NEW REGISTRATION: B. 'NOCTURNA' Official International Registration #1026

Seed parent:

B. 'Honeycomb'

Pollen Parent:

B. 'Audrey Brenda'
Hybridized by Walter Dworkin of 8 Rugby Rd., Westbury, New York 11590



**AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH OF ABS
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2018**

The Austin Area Begonia Society Branch of the American Begonia Society met at 2 P.M. on February 25, 2018, in the auditorium of the Austin Area Garden Center, 2220 Barton Springs Road in Austin, Texas 78746 for a special program on Plant Nutrition presented by Brad Aldrich from Master Gardeners.

President Doug Byrom introduced Mr. Aldrich, who explained that the main components of soil included nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K). He also told about the job of microbes, animals, and other organisms. Once broken down as rocks to form soil, the water then allows the nutrients to form glucose through the process of photosynthesis thus feeding the plants. By showing leaf damage Mr. Aldrich pointed out how to determine the cause of the problem, but any deficiency symptoms must be observed early and distinguished in early stages of the plant's life. Old leaves and young leaves must be examined on top and bottom

sides. Usually if the leaf shows symmetrical problems, there is a nutrient deficiency. If the symptoms are asymmetric, then there is a problem with pests, virus, fungus, or environmental stress.

Those members and guests who came to listen to Mr. Aldrich included the following: **Doug Byrom, Charlotte Boyle, Vickey Cole, Mary Drake, Jim Estes, Joan Estes, Ken Fuchs, Sue King, Jim Landers, Arlene Lantz, Joe Moore, Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, Verlene Schoen, Betsy Terrell from Hill Country Gardeners, and Geneva Townsend.**

Plenty of food was enjoyed, and Doug Byrom brought many kinds of begonias for anyone to purchase from Valerie Morris, treasurer.

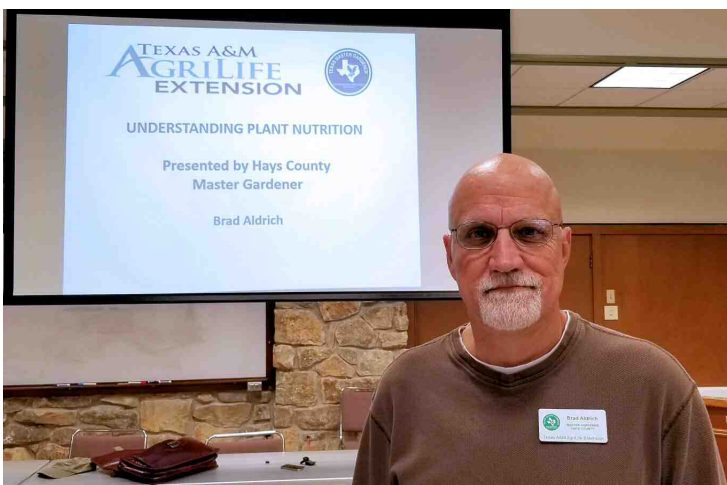
Doug wants a plan for the begonia garden before all of us get together for planting on a Saturday, when Doug has more time to be in Austin. This plan should be discussed during the March 25 meeting.

Vickey Cole informed the

members that Organic Plants will be sold March 3 from 9 to 2; Vegetables, herbs, irises, and bamboo will be offered for sale to the public as well as Patty Leander's seminar on March 10 from 9 until 2:30. The 49th Annual African Violet Show and Sale will be held March 17 from 9 until 4:30. Vickey, who is the Begonia Club Representative to the Austin Area Garden Council Conservancy, also mentioned that the parking area off Stratford Drive near the back gate will not be used for overflow parking for months while the area is resurfaced. Jeff Pavlat, the acting director, introduced a new fundraiser, Starlight Social, that is sponsored by KUTX. Food, music, drinks, and entertainment will be provided to those purchasing a ticket for \$100, \$1500, and upward. Valet parking will be provided.

The meeting adjourned at 4 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelda Moore, Secretary



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**American Begonia Society
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PROVIDENCE, RI 02940**

Dues \$25 but the digital magazine is \$15.

BEGONIA GARDEN

Plot Plan from Herb Society

