



AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY

A Branch of the American Begonia Society

Website: http://www.kenfuchs42.net/aabs_index.html



VOLUME 14, NUMBER 2

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2020

Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

NEXT MEETING:

February 23, 2020

2 P.M.

Greene Room

Austin Area Garden Center

Zilker Botanical Garden

2220 Barton Springs Road

Austin, Texas 78746

Please bring item for

April 25 Sale

Bring Challenge Begonia

AAGC/Conservancy

Starlight Social:

Gala Garden Party

April 29, 2020

6:30-9:30 P. M.

American Begonia

Society Convention

September 8-12, 2020

Atlanta, Georgia



ABS/SWR GET TOGETHER APRIL 29-MAY 2

The American Begonia Society/Southwest Region Get Together will be held in Fort Worth. The Mae Blanton/Dallas Branch will host this exciting event in the Holiday Inn Express and Suites Downtown, 1111 West Lancaster Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76102. The Group Rate at the hotel is \$119 plus tax and fees before March 27. Telephone 817-698-9595 Free amenities include hot breakfast and the shuttle to Sundance Square, the Cultural District of 3 museums, and to the Fort Worth Botanic Garden.

"City of Cowboys, Culture and Begonias" is the theme of the meeting with an individual registration fee of \$45 by March 27. A Judging Class on Wednesday from 9 -4:30 is offered for \$40 with lunch on your own at Rock Springs Cafe in the Garden.

Tours include Steve's Leaves on Wednesday 1:30-5:30 P.M. \$40. On Thursday from 9-5 the tour for \$50 will travel to Chandor Gardens in Weatherford, Nancy Hallman's Garden, Dottie Woodson's Orchid Greenhouse, and Weatherford Square for lunch on your own. (55 maximum participants) Each member of the Austin Area Begonia Society Branch has received a registration form by email. All must be members of A.B.S. to register with **Taddie Hamilton, 1817 Provine, Fort Worth, TX 76103.**



Superba is a cane that has *B. aconitifolia*, *B. sceptrum*, or *B. leathermaniae* in its parentage and also has the lobed or cleft leaves.

**AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH
OF AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2020**

The Austin Area Begonia Society Branch met in the Greene Room of the Austin Area Garden Center in Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Road in Austin, TX 78746 on January 26, 2020. Members present were the following: **Charlotte Boyle, Doug Byrom, Vickey Cole, Elizabeth Crepeau, Betty Dunn, Jim Estes, Joan Estes, Ken Fuchs, Jackie Johnson, Curtiss Aman, Jim Landers, Valerie Morris, Carol Orozco, Lynn Sissney, and Geneva Townsend.**

Discussions held on Membership and Dues, the Zilker Begonia planting, and the Plant Sale of April 25 and the results include the following:

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES:

- American Begonia Society dues and the *Begonian* \$25 FOR THE PAPER SUBSCRIPTION for the year; Digital in the U.S. \$15. Pay online at <http://www.begonias.org/membership/membershipBenefits.htm> or membership dues to LINDA KAMMERER P.O. Box 6261, Providence, RI 02940 or telephone 401-484-8854 or e-mail amerbegmembership@gmail.com
- AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH \$10 per year to VICKEY COLE, treasurer
- SOUTHWEST REGION/ ABS dues are \$10, family \$15 and branch \$10

Membership Chairman is JOAN ESTES
7620 S Highway 183 Lockhart, TX 78644

About 90 members have rejoined. Do not be left out of the MEMBERSHIP BOOKLET.

DUES WERE COLLECTED FOR 2020.

Joan Estes made a motion for local to pay for ABS MEMBERSHIP when members of this branch attend 5 meetings and work for the society in planting at Zilker, selling, and/OR showing begonias (See April 2019 Newsletter Volume 13, Number 4)

PLANTING THE BEGONIA GARDEN:

A motion was made to purchase begonias for planting a small garden in Zilker Botanical Garden.

The motion CARRIED. The branch wants signage for the garden.

PLANT SALE APRIL 25, 2020:

Vickey Cole, Valerie Morris, and Nelda Moore met with Sarah Swartz and Mrs. Smith to discuss plans for the use of the auditorium, the south lawn, and the Greene Room. The Herb Society will have vendors, some flower related items for sale such as slightly used trowels, books, etc. There will be speakers and demonstrations.

PROGRAM:

Winterizing begonias by Valerie Morris and others who brought begonias.

NEXT MEETING:

February 23 - Please return the Challenge Begonia that you will show and tell how you took care of this specimen.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Morris as told to Nelda Moore

BEGONIA 'CANDY STRIPE'

Family: Begoniaceae



"This is my FAVORITE Begonia 'Candy Stripe', both because I love the way it looks and I keep thinking if I can just figure out how to hybridize with it I am going to have a whole bunch of new favorites!"

- Rick Schoellhorn, Planet Begonia

Begonia 'Candy Stripe' is an Asian hybrid. The parentage is unknown but this cute little plant has dark green and pink stripes across the leaves and will make a striking specimen when mature.

Shade to partial sun, temp. 50 to 95 degrees, 8 to 12 in. tall, allow getting fairly dry between watering. Likes extra humidity.

- Steve's Leaves

This is a very attractive plant obtained out of Japan. Despite the rhizomatous growth habit this plant exhibits, its leaf coloration sure makes me wonder if *B. brevirimosa* might somehow have been a parent. Its appearance most likely suggests: (*brevirimosa* X *iridescens*).

Young plants' leaves tend to be lighter -- each new leaf becoming more intensely colored as the plant develops.

- Mountain Orchids

WHO WILL SHOW THE BIGGEST/HEALTHIEST NEOCOMENSIUM CHALLENGE BEGONIA?

On February 23 the Challenge Begonia that Doug Byrom presented to members present will return for display. Each grower will explain what he did to help the plant become a winning entry for a Begonia Show.



Elizabeth Crepeau shows her Challenge plant.

Ken Fuchs will take pictures for *The Leaflet*, the SWR/ABS newsletter that new members who join the American Begonia Society will receive as well as a free membership in the Southwest Region/ ABS for one year.



**BEGONIA SALE: APRIL 25
BARGAIN TABLE-DONATIONS REQUESTED**

When the Herb Society Co-Chairs and the representatives from the Begonia Society of Austin met to discuss the plans for April 25 with 4-6 tables for begonias, we discussed a Bargain Table for gardening items at Garage Sale Prices. These items would be donations from members who no longer wanted them such as flower pots, trowels, hoes, garden spades, books, magazines, garden stakes, house plants, garden ornaments or other things a member no longer uses or has duplicates.

Also please consider volunteering your time during the event. Bring your items for sale at the next meeting.



REX BEGONIA: SUCCESSFUL CARE

The exotic rex begonias can be cultivated successfully in a variety of ways.

They can be placed in a cool area of a shade house on low benches or even under the benches on gravel that is watered to provide the humidity that these begonias love. The water provides evaporation to cool the air thus forming the humidity that the plants need desperately to survive especially during the summer.

Another method of growing rexes is by placing them in pots on trays of wet gravel when growing them indoors. Even a humidifier helps them to grow. Another very important method is the use of the terrarium, where these beautiful plants thrive.

Remember that these rexes should never have direct sunlight.

They will not grow in hanging baskets because the light is too bright and the air too dry.

During the winter most of these plants go dormant or simply rest when the nights are long. Then in February pinch off the tip of the rhizome or cut it back to the edge of the pot if it has grown over the edge. A full compact plant will emerge.

After one year in the pot move the plant to the next size pot. Place the rex slightly lower and center it if it is growing off in one direction. This is done in March or April when they are fast growing.

It is also time to feed or have a feeding program for the rexes. Implement this during spring and summer with an all-purpose formula such as 14-14-14 or 20-20-20, then alternate with 15-30-15. Use a quarter strength in the water that you use.

This can be rain water or bottled water from a spring. Do not over-water and do not over-pot begonias.

In late summer taper off the regular feeding of these rexes.

Always provide good air circulation to prevent mildew or use Funginex.

Some of these plants are more difficult to grow; therefore, select easy to grow begonias such as B. 'Helen Teupel,' B. 'Merry Christmas,' or B. 'Vista.'

These must be kept in a greenhouse:

B. 'Purple Petticoats,' B. 'Glory of St Albans,'
B. 'American Beauty,' B. 'Helen Lewis.'

If you grow rexes from seed, these new plants will be acclimated to the conditions that you provide and will not be so difficult. In the beginning the tiny leaves

will be green, then for at least a year each new leaf will be different.

These tips are from Mabel Corwin, a successful grower and hybridizer.



B. 'Helen Teupel'



B. 'Merry Christmas'



B. 'Glory of St Albans'