



AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY

A Branch of the American Begonia Society

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



Austin Area Begonia Society

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 6/7

NEWSLETTER

JUNE/JULY 2020

Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

NEXT MEETING:

September 27, 2020

2 P.M. ?????

A Message from AABS President Vickey Cole:

Hi All

We do not meet in the summer. Next meeting is currently scheduled for September 27 but everything is still on hold. The next AAGC meeting is July 14 thru Zoom and I will keep you posted on any information from that meeting.

I asked about meeting at the garden in the Oak Grove and it is not recommended currently. The Garden Center Building is currently closed.

Thanks
Vickey



BEGONIA AMPHIOXUS



Begonia amphioxus is a shrub-like species with green leaves and various sizes of red spots scattered over the peltate leaf blade. The underside of the leaf is paler. Even the red spots are faded crimson while the deeper crimson spot usually appears at the petiole attachment. The shape of the leaf is elliptic to lanceolate. It can be between 2 inches to six inches long and to 1 inches wide.

Male flowers are cymose, flat or a convex cluster with center ones opening first, but the solitary female flowers have 3 to 5 small greenish cream-colored tepals that are ovate and sometimes ovate-elliptic with an acute apex. The tepals are larger than those of the male.

B. amphioxus was discovered by Martin J. S. Sands as he and A. Lamb and A. Bacon traveled by boat through a forest on Batu Punggul in Sabah, Malaysia, near the equator where the temperatures are 75 to 90 degrees and the relative humidity is 85 to 95 per cent. Thus this species sometimes requires a huge terrarium or humid greenhouse where the night temperature should not fall below 65 degrees and day time temperature should not exceed 77 degrees. Humidity should be 70 per cent

Martin J. S. Sands named the plant from Greek *amphi*, which means two ways, and *oxys*, which means sharp. This refers to the leaf shape that is sharp at both ends. He discovered this begonia growing on steep



Batu Punggul in Sabah, Malaysia

banks above the shaded area and near the forest above the river. It was growing between boulders around limestone hills and crevices at 400 to 1000 feet on April 29, 1984. It became specimen 4045 and is permanently associated with this discovery. It has been determined that it should be in section *Petermannia* as published in July 2001 in *The Gardens' Bulletin Singapore*. Other species in this section include *B. aequata*, *B. augustae*, *B. bipinnatifida*, *B. cholorosticta*, *B. serratipetala* and others.

With ideal conditions plant this begonia in a pot in a 36 gallon terrarium under florescent lights.



B. augustae



B. bipinnatifida



B. aequata



B. cholorosticta



B. serratipetala

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

On the Holiday Greetings 2019 page of *The Begonian*, November/December 2019 issue, Austin Area Begonia Society was listed under Platinum — a donation of \$151 to \$300 to the American Begonia Society to help publish *The Begonian* without raising

the dues of members. A total of \$5130 was contributed by clubs and individuals.

The categories include Bronze \$1-\$50, Silver \$51-\$100, Gold \$101 - \$150, Platinum \$151-\$300, and Champagne \$301-plus.

Contributions should be sent by September 15, 2020 to ABS Holiday Greetings and sent to Frances Drescher, 11529 Riverchase Run, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33412.

VICTOR DAWN BECOMES ABS CULTIVAR REGISTRAR



Victor Dawn (Wen-Ke Dong) of Beijing stepped into the role as new ABS Cultivar Registrar. He is responsible for approving and registering all new Begonia cultivar, for maintaining a comprehensive listing of these plants, and for working with the editor of *The Begonian* to submit publications of newly registered begonias.

Priscilla Purinton of Rhode Island has done an excellent job for a long period of time.



Victor Dawn (Wen-Ke Dong) with Don Miller and Deborah Garrett at the Fort Worth Botanical Garden.

BE A DETECTIVE IN THE BEGONIA WORLD



If a begonia has no new growth — few leaves and few flowers — the container may be too small. If the stems grow flabby and wither, the container may be too large.

Examine the pot for accumulated white salts on the soil and the container. The plant has had too much fertilizer. Scrub the pot and start over by planting the begonia in new growing medium. Then always use less fertilizer than called for after watering the dry plant.

If the leaf edges turn brown and crisp, then the roots can be brown and dry. It is time to repot, using fresh soil after flushing the soil off the roots or tickling the roots.

Begonias need space so that they can enjoy air circulation. Keep the greenhouse neat by placing the pots by size on a shelf and always keeping the begonias with a space between each one.

Never crowd them, and remember that they need adequate drainage. Do not water the begonias on dark, damp days. The humidity is adequate for keeping them healthy.

When the plant looks sick, start new cuttings using new soil or start from leaf culture in a terrarium.

Regulate the temperature—not too high, not too low. Usually the plant will respond by wilting if the temperature is too high. If it is too low, the begonia will not grow. It will be limp.

Unopened buds and leaves will drop if the plant is moved from warm to cold air.

Most begonias are shallow-rooted. Use a shallow container for your rhizomatous and semperflorens.



B. 'Little Miss Mummy'



B. 'Pink Shasta'

Real Life Adventures by Gary Wise and Lance Aldrich

