



AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY

A Branch of the American Begonia Society

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



VOLUME 18, NUMBER 10

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024

Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

NOTE: We **DO NOT** meet on the fourth Sunday in November.

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, December 1 2 P.M.

Zilker Botanical Garden Center
2022 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78746

A Message from Doug:

Our program this meeting will be an open discussion on growing rhizomatous-type begonias. I have several articles from different sources in which the authors take on caring for rhizomatous-type begonias. I will make copies to hand out to those that attend. We will review each article and give anyone who wishes a chance to offer their thoughts.

We will have a large plant raffle, our Christmas Raffle, with lots of plants I got from the plant swap, some plants Nelda has donated, and Vickey will have a few she picked up at the FWBG. I might even donate some cyclamen and a few other plants.

Bring your thoughts about how to improve on what I think was a very active year for our club.



BEGONIAS, BUTTERFLIES, AND BARBECUE IN LOCKHART



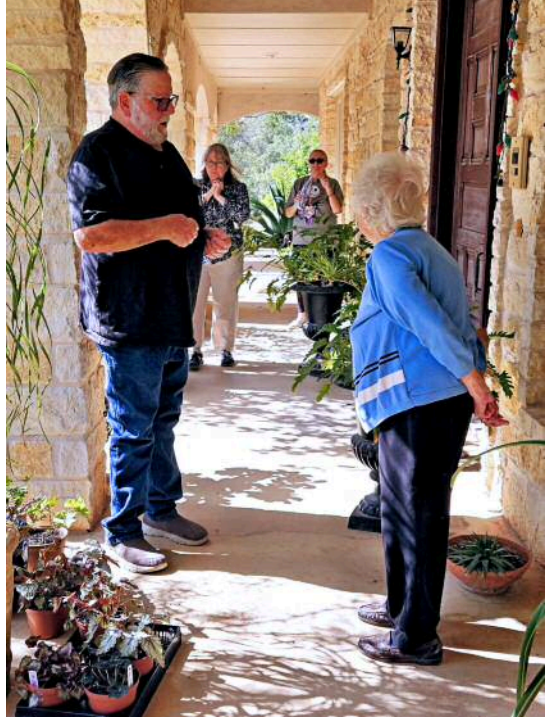
By Nelda Moore

Photos by Jim Landers

Jim and Joan Estes are always so kind and generous to host the Austin Area Begonia Society in their beautiful country home in Lockhart. On October 27 all of us enjoyed excellent food — barbecue from Black's, salads, including potato salad from Doug, and plenty of delicious desserts.



We walked outside to look at begonias, butterflies, and insects hovering over flower blossoms. Under the enclosed area we studied perfectly growing begonias and took some leaves to propagate. Then we entered the spacious living room, where Doug Byrom presided during an interesting meeting.



BEGONIA *cucullata*



Begonia cucullata (ever flowering) also known as *B. Semperflorens* or *B. hookeri*, is an erect branched perennial with green to red stems. The apex is acute to almost rounded and its margin is toothed. It is a weed in its habitat in Brazil.



B. schmidtiana

By 1878 or 50 years later hybridizers crossed the species with *B. schmidtiana*. Thus came a shorter easier to grow plant with hairy leaves and pink flowers.

In 1881 came *B. roezlii* with deeper pink and red flowers.



B. roezlii



By 1891 a bronze-leaved mutant arose in a garden in France. By the end of the 1800s as these and other hybrids were crossed with *B. foliosa* var. *miniata*, *B. gracilis*, and *B. schmidtiana* were crossed with *B. foliosa*.

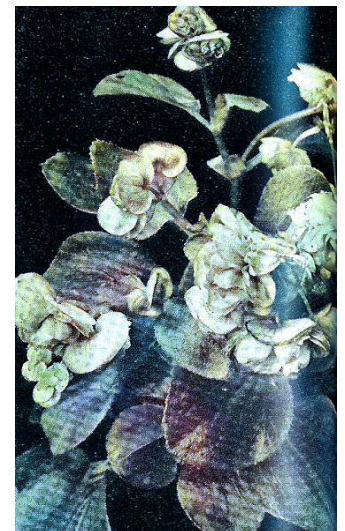
B. foliosa var. *miniata*

Ernest Benary of Germany developed the first hybrid cultivars in the group that came from seed. Other mutations included white blotched leaves in 1892. Some became calla lily begonias. In 1886 white blotched leaves followed by yellow blotched leaves in 1892 as well as *B. 'Charm'* in 1948 by Logee Greenhouses where the yellow leaf turns pink in bright light.



B. 'Charm'

Then Eugene Vallerand introduced a semi-double flowered cultivar *B. 'Bijou de Jardin'*, which was developed in France by crossing *B. minor* with a cross of an existing hybrid. The first fully double flowered *B. 'Gustav Lind'* was introduced in Sweden in 1914. Then picotee or bi-colored flowers appeared.



B. 'Gustav Lind'

These Semperflorens cultivars formed a Cocktail series: Whisky (white flowers), Brandy (pale pink), Gin (rose pink), Vodka (red), and Rum (white edged red).



B. 'Cocktail Whisky'



B. 'Cocktail Brandy'



B. 'Cocktail Gin'



B. 'Cocktail Vodka'



B. 'Cocktail Rum'

Other series include Devil, Encore, Glamour, Inferno, Olympic, Party Mix, Prelude, Varsity, and Victory. Some are not in a series such as B. 'Calla Queen,' B. 'Lady Francis,' B. 'Snowcap,' B. 'Richmondensis.'



B. 'Calla Queen'



B. 'Lady Francis'



B. 'Richmondensis'