



VOLUME 9, NUMBER 4

NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2015

April Meeting at 2 P.M.

New location:
607 Westlake Drive
West Lake Hills, TX
78746

From the Zilker Botanical Garden travel to Bee Cave Road, pass Walgreen's, turn on Westlake Drive, and look for the white mailbox on the right. Turn in and find a parking space near the tan home. Do not go past the rocks since the edge is next to the ravine. The program will probably be in the carport, where chairs will be set up so that Jackie Johnson can show you how to build a self-watering box for plants.

No edition of the newsletter will be published in May.

Please attend the Southwest Region/American Begonia Society Get Together in Houston May 20-23.

The tours are exceptional, the speakers are extraordinary, the plant show and sale will be educational. Bring your entry or two and join the fun. Competition is quite friendly.



BEGONIA luxurians according to Alice M. Clark could have been created on April Fool's Day. It has palmately compound lobes—leaves like no other member of Begoniaceae and the female flower is so tiny that a magnifying glass must be used to locate it among the inflorescence that can be a foot across.

Scheidweiler first described this unique begonia, which he claimed to have found in the Organ Mountains in Brazil, where it was growing between stones at the edge of forests and other humid areas.

While the main stalks of the plant are slender and bend gracefully, the enlarged petiole comes from the center stem and its color is light greenish-red splashed with green dashes all the way up. The reverse side of the leaf looks like the open peacock's tail. The raised ribs of the separate leaflets also resemble the quills on the back of a bird's feather.

SOUTHWEST REGION/ ABS GET-TOGETHER COMES TO SHERATON IN HOUSTON MAY 21-23

The Southwest Region/American Begonia Society Get-Together begins with Judges' Training Wednesday, May 20, in the Sheraton Brookhollow Hotel, 610 Loop, Houston, TX 77092. The room rate is \$89 per night. Reservations can be made today at 1-888-627-8196.

On Thursday, May 21, John Ferguson, a well-known plant expert, will meet the group on tour at Nature's Way Resources to show that one can grow anything organically by adjusting the growing medium.

At noon a box lunch will be provided, but Darrin Duling, who became a botanist after receiving a grant from the American Begonia Society while he was studying at Kew Gardens, will entertain everyone by showing a program of his travels in the rainforests of Borneo and Singapore. After this, all attendees can stroll through Mercer Botanic Gardens, where Darrin serves as its director.

The next tour will be the Klein Estate, with its unusual trees and plantings and two large greenhouses—one full of tropical treasures and the other with cacti and succulents.

This is the day that all plants can be entered in the show.

On May 22, after a day of visiting museums, the galleria, nurseries, and antique malls the member's only Plant Sale and Show will open at 7 P.M. This casual day for all and the places to visit are really the members' choices. The hospitality room will open in the evening.

On Saturday, May 23, Doug Byrom will show his clever method for making a terrarium. Freda Holley will discuss hybridizing, collecting seeds, and the best method for dealing with them. After this Charles, Tom, and Cheryl will answer anything about begonias in their popular panel discussion.

Lunch will be at noon followed by the Southwest Region Meeting at 1 P.M. and the American Begonia Society Meeting at 2 P.M. The social hour comes at 6 P.M. followed by the Awards Banquet at 7 P.M.

DIVISION AWARDS FOR SHOW

- Division A Cane-like
- Division AA Cane-like all others
- Division B Shrub like
- Division C Thick-stemmed
- Division D Semperflorens
- Division E Rhizomatous
- Division EE Rhizomatous Unusual growth/or foliage
- Division EEE Rhizomatous Distinctive Foliage
- Division F Tuberous Rooted
- Division G Rex Cultorum
- Division H Trailing—Scandent
- Division I Contained Atmosphere (Single Begonia)
- Division J Species
- Division K Unidentified Species (U Numbers)
- Division L Hanging Containers
- Division M Novice
- Division N Seedlings
- Division O Novel Grown
- Division Q Traveling Begonias
- Division R Heritage Begonias In cultivation 25 years or more
- Division T Commercial Growers
- Division V New Introductions—Hobby Grower
- Division VV New Introductions—Commercial Growers
- Division W Photographs Horticultural or Artistic
- Division Z Arts and Crafts

ZILKER GARDEN FESTIVAL 2015



WORK DAY ON MARCH 22

Ken Fuchs, Jackie Johnson, Jim Landers, Arlene Lantz, Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, Verlene Schoen, and Lynn Sissney planted some begonias in the Adopt-a-Garden in Zilker Botanical Garden during the planned Work Day.

Valerie Morris also completed her list of volunteers who would work during the Zilker Garden Festival.

Doug Byrom and Valerie Morris loaded the U-Haul Truck and Joe and Nelda Moore assisted by setting up the tent and placing the begonias on the tables. Arlene Lantz, Raine Freeman, and Vicki Cole organized the boxes of begonias that were shipped for the huge sale.

Ken Fuchs, Vicki Cole, Arlene Lantz, Raine Freeman, Jim Landers, Jim and Joan Estes, Verlene Schoen, and Lynn Sissney worked during the successful sale which yielded a profit of \$200 for the Austin Area Begonia Society Branch.

On Monday after the Zilker Garden Festival Nelda and Joe planted some begonias and coleus in the Zilker Garden to complete the task for the Adopt-a -Garden.

Many thanks to all who worked so diligently during the sale and during the year to keep begonias going. The donations of begonias are really appreciated.

The remaining plants will be transported to Houston for the Southwest Region Get-Together Plant Sale.

DUES ARE DUE

If you have not paid your dues to the Austin Area Begonia Society Branch, please do so as soon as possible. Dues are \$8.

The Austin Area Garden Council dues will also be due soon. These dues are \$10 per member due in May and June.

Vicki Cole, Jim Landers, Doug Byrom

Jim Estes and Raine Freeman

ZILKER GARDEN FESTIVAL SHOW





BEGONIA BOOTH

Valerie Morris and Jim Landers with Doug Byrom