



VOLUME 9, NUMBER 5

NEWSLETTER

JUNE, 2015

JUNE MEETING:

2 P. M.

June 28, 2015

Greene Room

Zilker Botanical Garden

2220 Barton Springs Rd.

Austin, TX 78746

OFFICERS:

Doug Byrom, President

Jackie Johnson, Programs

Valerie Morris, Members

Nelda Moore, Secretary

Lynn Sissney, Treasurer

Southwest Region/ABS

OFFICERS

Director-Johnny Williams

8619 Blossom Bell Lane

Missouri City, TX 77489

Vice Director-Leora

Fuentes

2200 Glen Forest Lane,

Plano, TX 75023

Secretary-Deborah Sanders

1000 Aldredge Circle

Ruston, LA 71270

Treasurer-Doug Byrom

1725 Brazos Bend Ave.

Smithville, TX 78957

National Director

Wanda Macnair

59 Walker Street

Cambridge, MA 02138

BEGONIA REVOLUTION: NEW ENGLAND 2015

Registration at the American Begonia Society National Convention, hosted by the Buxton Branch, will close June 29; therefore, either visit the ABS website, www.Begonias.org, or www.BuxtonBranch.org or call 800-265-0339. The meetings begin July 29 and end August 2 at the Verve Crown Plaza, 1360 Worcester Road, Natick, MA. Convention rates are \$115 per night.

On Wednesday, July 29, a tour is planned to the Glass Flowers and Sea Creatures in Glass at the Harvard Museum of Natural History in Cambridge, where 847 plant species and over 3,000 models are on display. Leopold Blaschka and his son, Rudolf, worked on the models over five decades from 1886 to 1936. Then the Lyman Estate Greenhouse in Waltham will provide a showing of camellias, orchids, begonias, gesneriads, and succulents.

Logee's Greenhouses in Danielson, Connecticut was started by William Logee in 1892 and will be a place to view a large collection of unusual plants and begonias on Thursday. Then Roger Williams Botanical Center in Providence, Rhode Island will provide the largest indoor garden in New England. Be sure to look for the begonia growing on a tree branch.

On Friday Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, MA will intrigue each attendee with its 8 distinct gardens—the only botanic garden of its kind in New England. It contains the Davenport Collection of more than 199 pre-20th Century apple varieties.

THREE FROM AUSTIN RECEIVE HONORS IN HOUSTON AT SWR/ABS GET-TOGETHER

Doug Byrom, president of the Austin Area Begonia Society, won the Marguerite Vernon Award for serving diligently behind the scenes of the Southwest Region/American Begonia Society. He was honored for being an “unsung hero” during the banquet held Saturday, May 23, in the Sheraton Houston Brookhollow, 3000 North Loop West, in Houston, Texas.

Nelda Moore received the Mae Blanton Service Award from Don Miller, Hybridizer from Steve's Leaves. The award

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is named for the creator of Southwest Region Get-Together and the first recipient of the SWR/ABS Service Award.

Lynn Sissney, who created a begonia log for the Novelty Section in the Show, captured a blue ribbon and rosette.

Doug Byrom entered *B. prismatocarpa* in a terrarium that was named Best Species and Best of Show among the 97 entries. Doug received several certificates for having high points—*B. prismatocarpa* 98.3, *B. bogneri* 96.5, *B. bipinnatifida* 96.5, and *B. quadrialata* 95.

Charles Jaros won Sweepstakes with 11 blue ribbons; People's Choice was a Rex shown by Jane Anderson of Kingwood, TX; Johanna Zinn swept the photographs section; Best Southwest Region Hybrid was *B. 'Kevin Whitecotton'* by Steve's Leaves; and Fort Worth Botanic Garden easily won with a beautiful display entitled "Begonias from Brazil." Their *B. 'Almost Heaven'* received 95 points.

Freda Holley received the Astro Branch Ambassador Award.



Fort Worth Botanic Garden



↑
B. chlorosticta (brown form)
 Terrarium by Leora Fuentes 97.2

→
B. chloroneura
B. chlorosticta photograph by
 Johanna Zinn



Fairy Name: *B. chlorosticta*
 Fairy Number: 100







**AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH MINUTES
APRIL 26, 2015**

President Doug Byrom called the Austin Area Begonia Society Branch of ABS to order at 2:17 P.M. April 26, 2015, at 607 Westlake Drive, West Lake Hills with the following members present: **Vickey Cole, Elaine Dill, Ken Fuchs, Jackie Johnson, Jim Landers, Arlene Lantz, Joe Moore, Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, Verlene Schoen, and Lynn Sissney.**

Doug was reimbursed \$100 for shipping charges; therefore, he sent flowers to Rekha Morris, who had suffered two strokes and was hospitalized in Greenville, South Carolina after returning from India. She was on a respirator for a time, but when she was disconnected, she breathed on her own and has been giving orders to her husband. She must now regain her eyesight.

MOTION: Nelda Moore moved that the begonia society send \$50 for a trophy to the Southwest Region Get-Together in Houston. The motion passed.

MOTION: A motion to send \$30 for a trophy to the American Begonia Society National Convention passed.

Lynn Sissney gave a detailed treasurer's report, which is on file.

During the Zilker Garden Festival the society broke even, but some plants still need a home. They were given to members in attendance. Others were sold and 100 of the four inch pots will be sent to the Southwest Region/ABS in Houston.

A card was signed to send to Rekha Morris.

Jackie Johnson presented an interesting program on How To Prepare a Self Watering, Low Maintenance Garden Container for Small Spaces in a 32 Gallon Plastic Storage Container with a

Lid. The following items are needed: a 32 gallon plastic storage container with lid, 8 one gallon nursery pots, 2 foot section of 2 inch PVC pipe, duct tape, a long piece of wire, garden soil mixed with compost, one large plastic garbage bag, and 6 clothes pins that are spring type.

“The 8 nursery pots are placed inside of the container, open ends up.

The lid becomes the floor that the soil sits on and is supported by the 8 one gallon nursery pots.

Cut to fit and use duct tape. Then drill $\frac{1}{4}$ inch holes about 2 inches apart all over the lid for drainage. Drill 5 or 6 holes in the lower 6 inches of the PVC pipe. With the lid resting on the nursery pots, draw circles for the corner holes approximately where the 2 corner pots will end up. Cut these holes out. This is where the soil will go through the lid all the way to the bottom of the container. Cut another hole in the lid large enough for the PVC pipe that is used to fill the water reservoir. Use duct tape around the outer edges of the lid where it does not match up with the side of the container and around the edge of the hole for the PVC pipe. This prevents soil from slipping down into the reservoir below. Then drill drainage holes through the side of the container about 6 inches above the bottom of the container. Drill a hole on each long side of the container above the lid and fix a wire tie across the middle of the container to prevent the container from bulging when full. Put the PVC pipe in place. Add the soil and pack it down a bit before filling the container with soil. Water from the top this time, but do not saturate the soil. Pack it down again and add 2 cups of fertilizer (15-5-10 or 13-13-13) in a narrow stripe, about 3 inches wide down the middle of the container. Cover the fertilizer with soil.

Cover the surface with a black plastic garbage bag. Snap on the rim of the lid that was cut out or use the clothes pins to keep the bag in place.

Cut holes in the plastic for the PVC pipe and for planting seedlings in the container. (2 or 4 or 8)

Water the container by filling the reservoir through the PVC pipe.”

These Grow Boxes were developed by Don Freeman, Ron Miller and Lisa Anhaiser for Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Service, Travis County, 1600-B Smith Road, Austin, TX 78721.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelda Moore, secretary

Semperflorens Charles Jaros

