



VOLUME 9, NO. 6

NEWSLETTER

JULY, 2015

MEETING: JULY 26

2 P.M.

**607 WESTLAKE DRIVE
WEST LAKE HILLS,
TX 78746-5311**

Off Bee Caves Road

**Please attend and enjoy
barbecue with side
dishes. Do not bring
anything except an
appetite. Food furnished
by Nelda Moore, who will
present a program.**



Helen Teupel shown by Johnnie Shepard

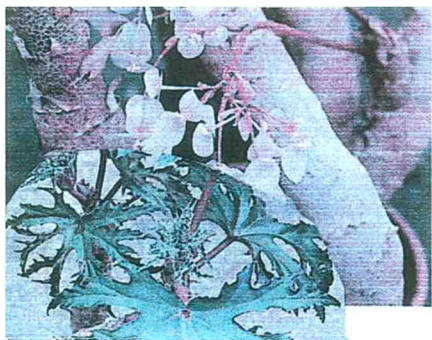
Begonia Revolution:
New England 2015
July 29-August 2
American Begonia Society
Convention in Verve
Crown Plaza
1360 Worcester
Natick, MA

***Begonia crassicaulis* is an epiphyte in sunny forests of Guatemala and southern Mexico. Its short thick stems produce flowers from January to March before any new leaves develop after the winter season. It grows on trunks of trees in a relatively dry and sunny niche; therefore, this plant's name means "thick stemmed" and horticulturists classify it as the best of the thick-stemmed group of species.**

Next Meeting:
August 23, 2015
Austin Area Begonia
Society Branch will have
Betty Dunn telling about
Shade Plants or Shady
Ladies

Hartweg introduced this begonia in Europe in 1840. Then it was lost in cultivation after it was distributed by London Garden Association. The plants of today are probably from the collection of Scott Hoover in 1979 that he found growing near Salolá in southern Guatemala.

During the winter when all leaves are gone, this plant does not need too much water.



American Begonia Society

Dues \$25

Paul Rothstein

5 Standwick Drive

Bella Vista, AR 72716

**MINUTES OF THE JUNE 28, 2015, MEETING OF THE AUSTIN AREA
BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH OF A. B. S.**

The Austin Area Begonia Society Branch of the American Begonia Society met Sunday, June 28, 2015, at 2 P.M. in the Greene Room of the Austin Area Garden Center, Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Road with 11 members present: **Charlotte Boyle, Vickey Cole, Ken Fuchs, Jackie Johnson, Jim Landers, Arlene Lantz, Julie Marcus, Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, Verlene Schoen, and Lynn Sissney.**

The members read "Thank You Letters" from **Rekha Morris** that she dictated to her husband and then she wrote one herself as she recuperates from her illness after arriving in South Carolina from her studies in India. She continues to improve and we continue to keep her in our prayers.

The begonia society voted to give five hundred dollars (\$500) to the Southwest Region "Challenge" Fund Drive. This contribution in the Platinum Range will be made by check to the A.B.S. with "SWR Fund Drive" in the memo and sent to **Carol Notaras, treasurer, 2567 Green Street, San Francisco, CA 94123.** The Southwest Region will match this fund up to \$10,000. Fifty per cent will go to American Begonia Society while 50% will be used by the Fort Worth Botanic Garden for the begonia species greenhouse.

The 2015 Holiday Greetings Donation from the Austin Area Begonia Society in the Platinum range of \$151 will be sent to **ABS Holiday Greetings, Frances Drescher, 11529 Riverchase Run, West Palm Beach, FL 33412.** The deadline is September 15th.

Jackie Johnson, who presided during the meeting, presented subjects for future programs including a field trip to It's About Thyme since the nursery is looking for some land to purchase for their business. She also discussed having the next meeting at the Moores, 607 Westlake Drive, West Lake Hills, TX 78746. Contributing \$50 to hand out information about our society at one stop for the Home Tour did not seem worthwhile.

Vicki Cole, club representative, emphasized that there should be no parking in the fire/emergency lane for loading and unloading. She also showed the power point information booklet that the Conservancy presented to the City Council. She also noted that AAGC needs a treasurer. For the Zilker Summer Fun Schedule go to <http://www.silker garden.org/> July 27 Ant Identification, August 8 Photography in the Garden, August 24 Stingers! An Intimate Look at Wasps, September 2 Bamboo Show, Sept. 26 Fall Festival, October 17 Inside Austin Garden Tour.

Lynn Sissney, Valerie Morris, Ken Fuchs, and Jim Landers brought begonias for the raffle and Lynn presented an interesting program about creating terrariums with a bit of charcoal, sphagnum moss, companion plants, and moss. Each person created his own terrarium. This was an interesting fun program for all.

The next meeting will be July 26 at the Joe and Nelda Moore Home.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelda Moore, Secretary

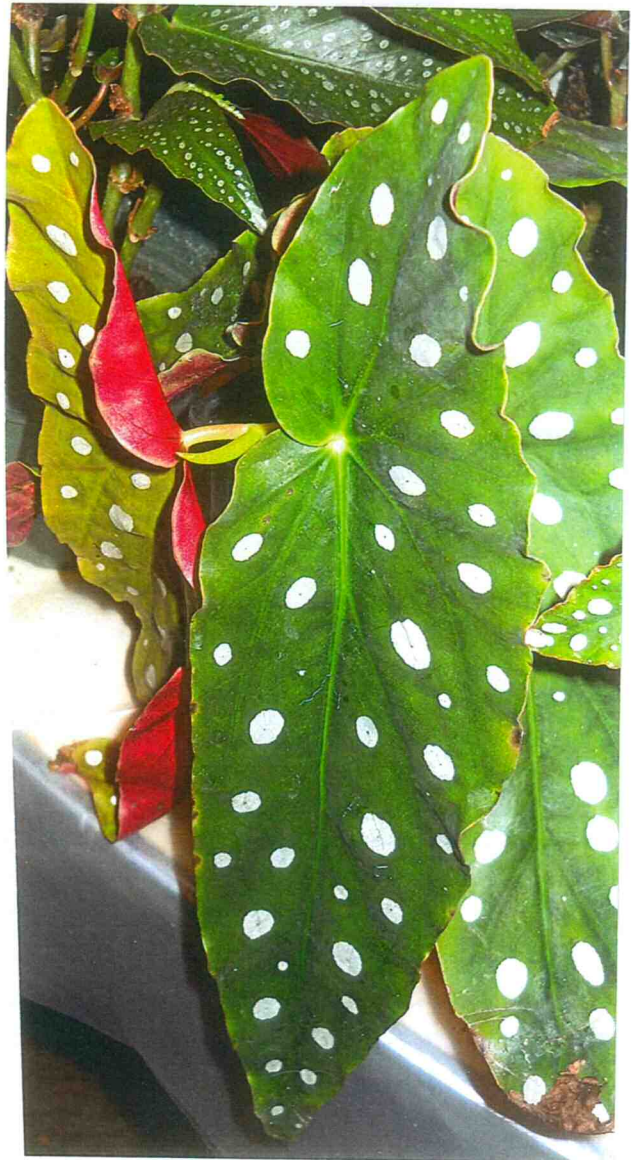
HORTICULTURE:

During the month of June when it rained nearly every day the begonias outdoors under the trees thrived since they had enough light and humidity. July has brought hot dry days with the temperature around 95 or even a 100 degrees.

It is time to watch the begonias, give them rainwater or tap water that has been stored for a day or overnight. If it is time to feed them, use a small amount of 10 (nitrogen)/10 (phosphorus)/ 10 (potassium) after watering them. When the top half-inch of their growing medium becomes dry to the touch, water the plants, but do not apply fertilizer to newly repotted or sick or dormant plants for about one month to prevent root damage.

A soil-less potting mix can use a more frequent fertilizer application than most soil-based mixes. A time-release fertilizer can be used in the mix instead of liquid fertilizer or a combination can be used. Watch them and work with your situation.

Since there has been an abundance of rain, it is time to take cuttings of some of the begonias and root them. In this way the new plants can become extra begonias or if something happens to the begonia, there will be one like the original that you purchased.



Begonia maculata



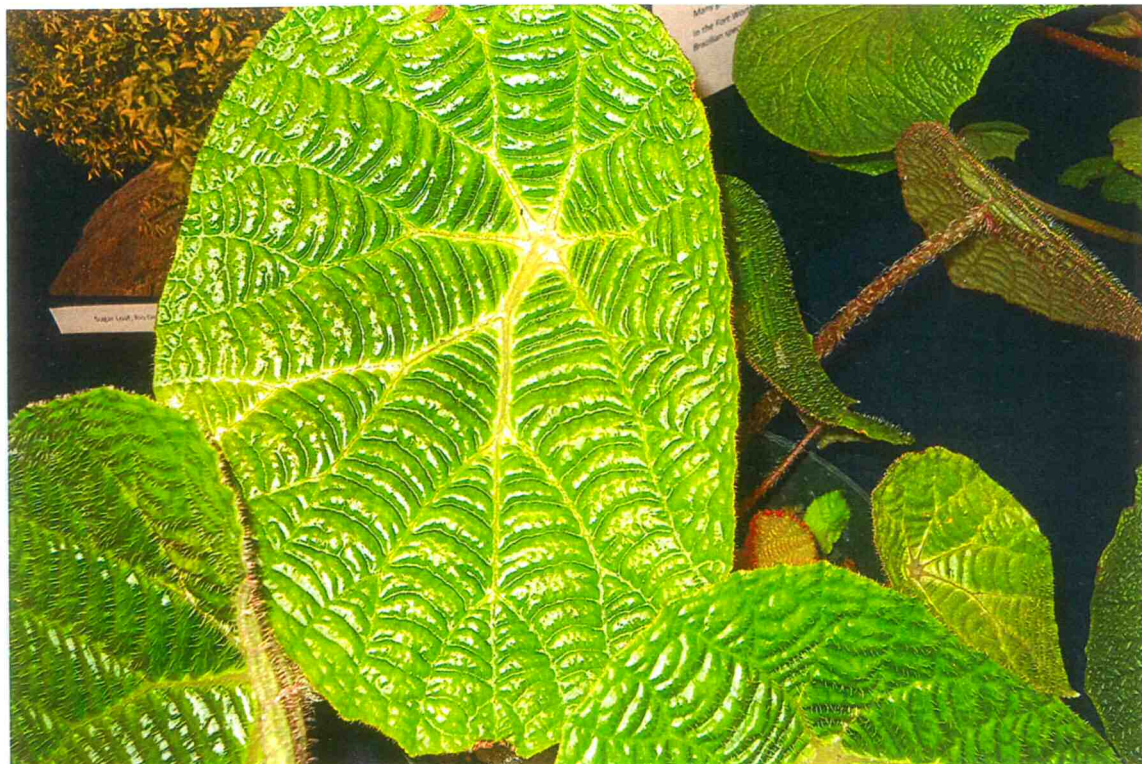
One of the begonias raffled off during the June 28th meeting.

For transplanting begonias use Cancer, Scorpio, or Pisces: July 24, 25, 26, (Scorpio) August 2 and 3, (Pisces), 11 and 12 (Cancer), 21, 22 (Scorpio) 30 and 31 (Pisces).

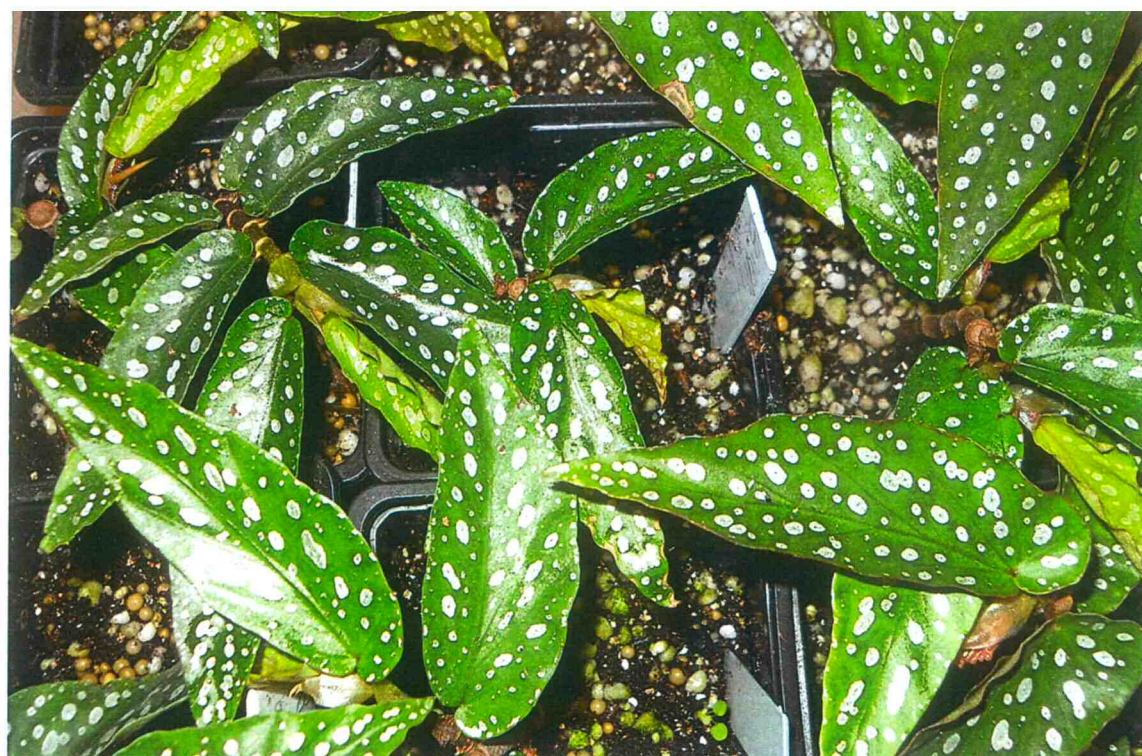
For pruning use Taurus or Capricorn: July 29 and 30 (Capricorn), August 6, 7 and 8 (Taurus,) August 25, 26, 27 (Capricorn).

This month is the “Once in a blue moon,” when we have full moons twice.

Begonia paulensis



Begonia albo picta



Lynn Sissney demonstrates how to create mini-terrariums.

