



Austin Area Begonia Society Branch of the American Begonia Society

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 8

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 2015

Meeting: September 27
2 P.M.

Jim and Joan's Home
7620 South Hwy 183
Lockhart, TX 78644
512-620-0322

DIRECTIONS:

From Austin drive through Lockhart, pass the Wal-Mart on the left as you leave town, and continue south until there is a cylinder water tank on the right. Slow down and the driveway on the left with an open gate is the one of 2 or 3 lanes to take. Drive down the gravel road through the pasture until you turn left at the curve. The barn and greenhouse will be the first thing that you see before going to the home.

Please drive carefully on Highway 183 since it can be very busy at times.



The Alamo Branch will attend and the Astro Branch has been invited.

Sept. 26 -- Plant and Porcelain Arts Sale in the auditorium at Zilker Botanical Garden 10 A.M. until 4 P.M.

Begonia 'Bobbie Price' was registered March 5, 2015 by Hybridizer Bobbie Price, who is a volunteer at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Begonia Species Bank, which is now accredited by the North American Plant Collection Consortium.

The registration was approved for Begonia 'Bobbie Price' May 21, 2015, and appears in the proceedings of the American Begonia Society Annual Business Meeting in Natick, MA.

**AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH
OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
MINUTES OF AUGUST 23, 2015**

The Austin Area Begonia Society Branch of the American Begonia Society met Sunday, August 23, 2015, in the home of Joe and Nelda Moore at 607 Westlake Drive, West Lake Hills, Texas 78746 for a Pot Luck that served a superb luncheon with good conversation among the following attendees: **Charlotte Boyle, Jim Estes, Joan Estes, Betty Dunn, Rainee Freeman, Ken Fuchs, Jackie Johnson, Jim Landers, Arlene Lantz, Julie Marcus, Joe Moore, Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, and Adela Rojas.**

Jackie Johnson, president pro tem, called the meeting to order and welcomed all present. Doug Byrom had notified members that he was working, but he wanted specific items to come before the group: the fund payment, the Holiday Greeting, the Zilker Garden Festival booth—especially if the society could not get enough plants for the sale—then one booth would be enough. The booth had not been paid as of yet. A note from Rekha Morris was read with her “Thank You” and all were happy that Rekha’s vision is improving through a unique process, therapy, and exercises.

The next meeting will be in Lockhart in the beautiful country home of Jim and Joan Estes. The Alamo Branch will attend, and the Houston Astro Branch has been invited.

Betty Dunn, past officer of the Austin Area Garden Council Board and Master Gardener, with tech assistance by Ken Fuchs, provided an interesting program on shade plants, especially bulbs, which should be planted in the fall about 1 to 1 ½ inches above the bulb in the soil since our winters are mild. Tulips, however, should be refrigerated about 8 weeks, but they should not be placed close to any fruit or vegetables that would emit a gas used by the sellers to ripen them. Betty listed plants on 2 sheets of paper starting with those that bloomed in early spring through winter.

Some Shady Ladies included daffodils, Dutch irises, Spanish bluebells, columbine, dianthus, larkspur, fern, caladium, coreopsis, bat-faced cuphea, lantana, coneflower, crinum, penstemon, rock rose, yarrow, Mexican mint marigold, mistflower, spider lily, fall asters, Chinese Ground orchid, snapdragons, pansies, candytuft, stock. Groundcovers included lirope, ajuga, grey santolina.

After the excellent program begonias were sold, and many of the members left with blooming specimens that were quite healthy.

The meeting was adjourned by 4 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelda Moore, Secretary

REKHA MORRIS UNDERGOES VISION THERAPY

Nearly 20 years ago syntonics, a therapeutic application of light through the visual system, became a vision therapy transferred from treating plants to human vision problems. Since plants react to cool and/or hot lights, this study now enables a neuro-optomologist to treat someone with vision problems with various combinations of the color spectrum so that there is a regenerative impact on one’s eyesight.

Rekha Morris sits for ten minutes in front of a neon chartreuse light created by using green and yellow lens, and then another ten minutes in front of a cool mauve-violet light created by adding an indigo lens to the green and yellow lens. In only three sessions Rekha has now been able to read large print texts. Other exercises and tests for improving her vision have also been involved, but Rekha will one day be able to work again after suffering blindness from the strokes.

Begonia 'Lulu Bower' was named by a proud daughter who carried this hybrid even after she gave up raising begonias. This great bloomer with long lasting distinctive clusters of flowers wrapped in pink tissue before they open is a progeny of dark-leaved B. 'Alzasco' and orange flowered B. *dichroa*.

B. *dichroa* came from Brazil in 1908. It is a cane-like, low grower (12 to 14 inches) with tapered, glossy green, wavy-edged leaves that are silver-spotted when young. The plant needs a warm greenhouse to produce fragrant flowers that seem to be everblooming.

HORTICULTURE

All begonias in this area grew profusely outside in June during the rains that came almost every day. Then the drought descended and begonias suffered from the intense heat. If some of the leaves are dropping, clean the spent flowers and debris from the top of the soil. Water carefully and make sure that you do not overwater any of the plants.

New semperflorens can be purchased to replace the plants that you planted in the spring.

Take cuttings of begonias, root them, and keep them going.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER BETTY DUNN, who joined August 23, 2015. She lives at 737 Oakdale in Sunset Valley, 78745. 512-892-1155

bjdunnz@aol.com



Begonia 'Lulu Bower'

DON'T FORGET TO ATTEND---

The Fall Plant Sale in the Austin Area Garden Center Auditorium 2220 Barton Springs Road on September 26, the day before the Austin Area Begonia Society meets in Lockhart.

***Inside Austin Gardens Tour October 17,
For Gardeners, By Gardeners***
insideaustingardens.org

November 14—Event in the auditorium of Zilker Botanical Garden in celebration of the Sister City in Japan. Volunteer

Zilker Garden Festival April 2 and 3

Begonia U201



Begonia masoniana tricolor



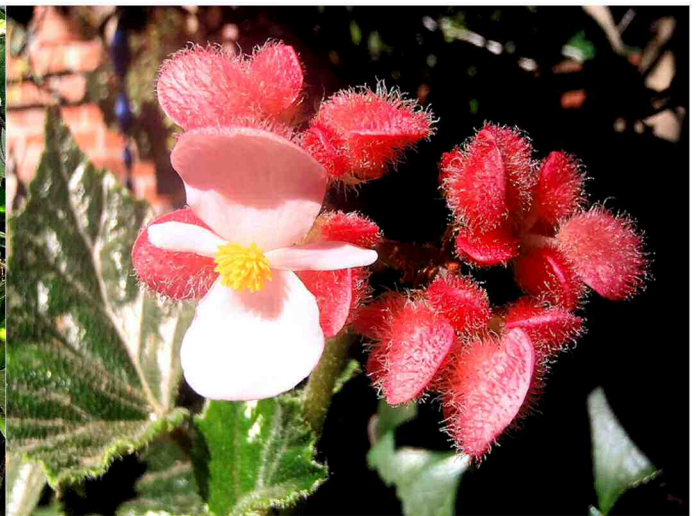
Begonias shared on PLANET BEGONIA (Facebook)



B. 'Marmaduke'



B. 'Constant Comment'



B. 'Alleryi,' a French hybrid from 1904



B. 'Palomar Crest'



B. blancii



Betty Dunn discusses "Shady Ladies."