



VOLUME 11, NUMBER 9

NEWSLETTER

September, 2017

MEETING:
SEPTEMBER 24

2 P.M.

Greene Room
Austin Area Garden Center
Zilker Botanical Garden
Pot Luck and Program

September 16 and 17
Texas Bamboo Festival
Plants and Crafts Sale

October 11
Weeding Wednesday
November 8 and
December 13

Bring gloves, hat, garden shoes and sunblock so that you can assist the PARD staff with any gardening task needed on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Sunday, October 22

The Austin Area Begonia Society Branch will meet in the home of Jim and Joan Estes 7620 South Hwy 183, Lockhart, 78644. The Begonians of Houston and San Antonio are invited to meet with us.

HURRICANE HARVEY COMES CLOSE AUGUST BEGONIA MEETING CANCELLED

With Hurricane Harvey threatening the coast of Texas President Doug Byrom agreed that the Austin Area Begonia Society Branch should cancel the Sunday, August 27th meeting in Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy.

On Friday Harvey made landfall at Rockport, just north of Corpus Christi with winds of 150 miles per hour and then bringing sound and fury to Central Texas with torrential downpours and strange winds in Austin reaching 45 miles per hour at times. The new begonia garden planted before an eclipse was soaked and shaken.

Ken Fuchs emailed members about the cancellation, and Nelda Moore telephoned Verlene Schoen, Valerie Morris, Lynn Sissney, and Geneva Townsend.

BEGONIAS, TRES BIEN PRE-CONVENTION TOUR

The attendees of "Begonias, Tres Bien!" can enjoy a tour Tuesday, April 3, to the Burden Museum and Gardens — one of the best small museums in the United States of America. Located in the heart of Baton Rouge with Interstate 10 passing through the middle of the 410 acres of woods and fields, this is home to LSU Rural Life Museum and Windrush Gardens. Statuary from western Europe graces vistas and nooks amid all types of Louisiana tropicals, flowers, and trees. The Rural Life Museum contains buildings, antiquities, and artifacts moved from St. James Parish near New Orleans as well as other plantations dated from 1836. In addition to these sites the property also holds LSU Agricultural Extension with a Children's Garden, Herb and Rose Gardens, and AAS Test Garden. A Rural Life docent will guide visitors to all of the interesting areas, even past a Longhorn steer and the lake to enjoy lunch under the oaks at mid-day.

Plan now to attend the ABS/Southwest Region event in New Orleans April 2-8, 2018. Help New Orleans celebrate its 300th Anniversary!

CONVENTION APRIL 2-8
IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

America Begonia Society/Southwest Region Convention 2018 headquarters will be in the Hilton New Orleans Airport Hotel, 901 Airline Drive, in Kenner, Louisiana.

For reservations call 800-872-5914 or direct 504-469-5000. Room choice is a king or 2 double beds.

Watch for more information after Nov. 1. The American Iris Society will hold their convention in the same hotel during the week after this convention.



DIANNA LEE WILKERSON

The Southwest Region/ ABS has lost another important member, the wife of Director Kenny Wilkerson after 46 years of blissful marriage. Dianna Lee Wilkerson at the age of 66 passed on September 2. She was born on April 8, 1951, and developed an interest in begonias, sewing, and hybridizing. Her Begonia 'Oketa' is only one of the examples of her extraordinary talents.

A celebration of her life was held at 10 A.M. on September 7th in Immanuel Lutheran Church located at 1800 NW 36th Street in Oklahoma City. Burial took place Friday in the Ft. Sill National Cemetery.

She and her husband visited the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Species Bank and reported on their findings and wrote articles for *The Begonian*. Memorials can be sent to the Begonia Species Bank.



Begonia grandis 'Fan Xing'

Begonia ningmingensis
'Ningming Silver'

Photos by Daike Tian (Ph.D.)

NEW REGISTRATIONS OF BEGONIAS
FROM PRISCILLA PURINTON

Number 1022 *Begonia grandis* 'Fan Xing' is a tuberous begonia with green with red tinge bulbils produced in the leaf axils, ovate leaves are deep green with white spots, undersurface of the leaves is deep red. Expect the cultivar to be available in one to 2 years.

Registration applied for December 27, 2016

Approved July 21, 2017

Originators Daike Tian, Yan Xiao, Naifeng Fu of Shanghai Chenshan Botanical Garden in China

Number 1023 *Begonia ningmingensis* 'Ningming Silver' is a rhizomatous begonia with pink or green petioles with shaggy white hairs. The upper surfaces of the hairy leaf blades are greenish white to almost completely white.

Registration applied for same as above 12/27/16 and approved July 21, 2017.

Originators Daike Tian, Xiangpeng Li and Naifeng Fu of Shanghai Chenshan Rd, Songjiang, Shanghai 201602, China.

See *The Begonian* Sept./Oct. 2017

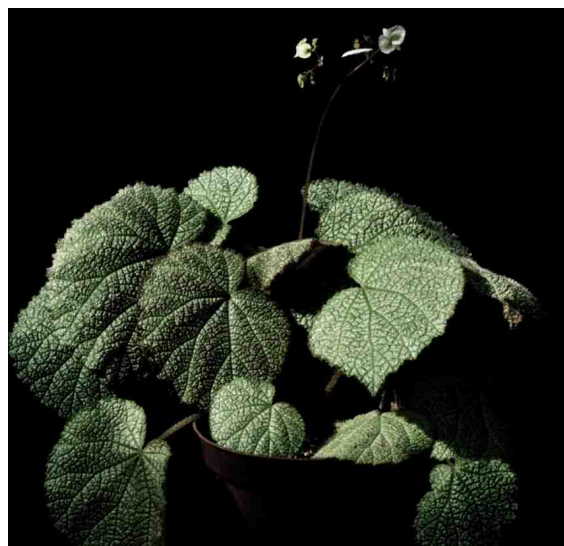
If you have not joined the American Begonia Society, please send \$25 to

Paul Rothstein

5 Sandwick Dr

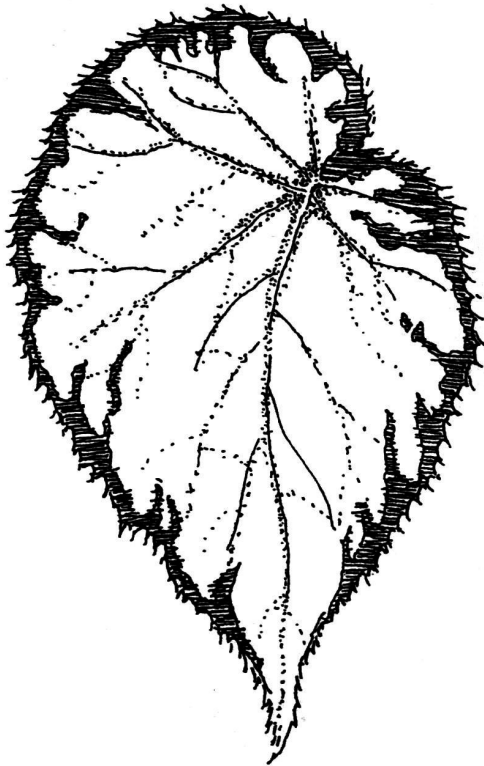
Bella Vista, AR 72715.

1 This edition includes "A New Hybrid Tuberous Begonia from Argentina" by Mark C. Tebbitt.



Mary Weinberg, an artist, has drawn these begonia leaves to show the difference between several plants especially B. 'Gigi' that had been called B. 'Curley Zee Bowman.' B. 'Gigi' is a sport of B. 'Sir Percy.' It is rhizomatous, with entire-subentire medium-sized

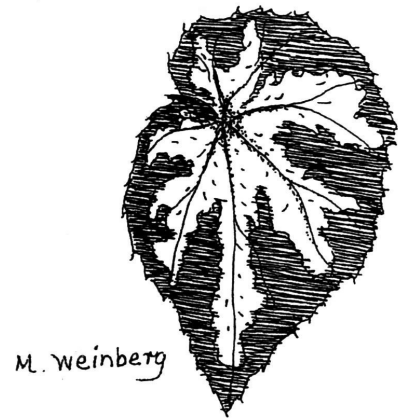
green leaves and an olive-green irregular border that breaks occasionally into the silver area; surface and underside of the leaf are sparsely covered with hairs; underside is dark red; peduncles are light green with sparse hairs.



B. 'Gigi'

B. 'Zee Bowman' is a *b. bowerae* seedling It is rhizomatous with medium-sized lobed leaves of emerald green, with irregular silver areas surrounding and over the veins and sparse short

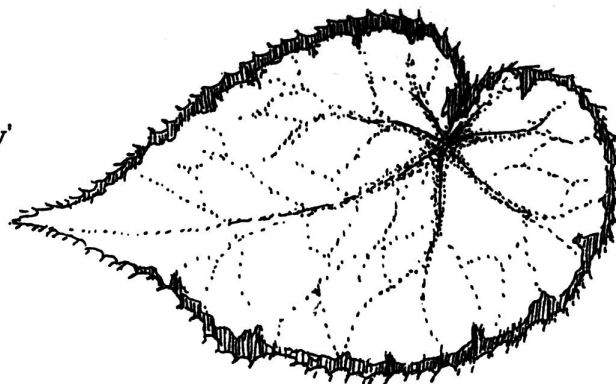
white hairs on the upper surface and edges of the leaves. Undersides are light green with red veins. Peduncles are tan with red striate markings, and are sparsely haired.



B. 'Zee Bowman'

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B. 'Sir Percy'





Begonia 'Spotted Diana'



Begonia 'Little Miss Mummy'