



VOLUME 12, NUMBER 1

NEWSLETTER

January 2018

Next Meeting: JANUARY 28

2 P.M.
 GREENE ROOM
 Zilker Botanical Garden
 2220 Barton Springs Road
 Austin, TX 78746

December 20

Begonia Baskets removed from
 Garden to protect from freeze
 December 23

January 10

Weeding Wednesday
 9 A.M. – Noon
 Zilker Botanical Garden

March 24

SPRINGFEST
 10 A.M. – 8 P.M.

No Meeting in April on AAGC
 Calendar

April 2- 8, 2018

Begonias: Très Bien
 New Orleans, Louisiana
 ABS Convention / SWR
 Get-Together
 Airport Hilton Hotel
 901 Airline Drive
 Kenner, LA 70062-6922

NEW WING BEGONIA WITH COLOR CHANGE



According to *Garden Gate* Begonia 'Canary Wings' is one of 2018's Best New Plants even though a limited number are available this first year. The new growth is chartreuse that matures to gold and then to darker green. This wing begonia needs water to establish roots but then it is quite drought tolerant.

SPRINGFEST COMES To ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDEN MARCH 24 FOR CONSERVANCY

Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy is asking for contributions in any amount — large or small — to help purchase plants and supplies, pay salaries, stock the Gift Shop, and begin Phase 2 of the improvements for the gardens.

There will be no Zilker Botanical Garden Festival with community vendors during 2018. Instead, the First Annual Springfest will be held March 24 from 10 A.M. until 8 P.M.

Garden Clubs will pay \$50 for a table to sell plants and items of interest to gardeners. Those members who wish to promote their club and provide information will be in the auditorium at their table, which will be provided free of any charges.

Newly retired couples and those who have moved from out of state can learn about gardening from club members and master gardeners.

Docents are also needed for those students who are visiting the gardens to learn about plants and to enjoy hands-on learning experiences such as planting seeds, propagating of specific plants, landscaping, soil mixes, and caring for nature and our planet Earth.



AABS WEBSITE http://www.kenfuchs42.net/aabs_index.html

PINCHING BEGONIAS

Shaping a begonia so that it forms a beautiful plant that will produce larger flowers and a fuller plant begins when the begonia is young. Pinching is removing the growing tip of each stem by taking thumb and index finger and removing the part of the stem to produce side branching and bushier growth. It is the removal of the end of a shoot or stem with 3 or 4 nodes just above the side shoot. It is also the removal of the bud and new baby leaf.

Pinch after pruning out 3 nodes — the joints in the stems where the leaves are connected. Two nodes will grow side shoots. Allow three nodes to grow out and pinch again. A plant actively growing can grow out 3 nodes in 3 or 4 weeks, so continue pinching at intervals until 6 weeks before a show or sale. After the show continue to pinch throughout the entire life of the plant. This will encourage many low-growing cane-like begonias to form low compact plants or for shrub-like begonias to branch readily and send up basal shoots.

Pinch up to 2 to 3 months prior to blooming time. Then resume pinching after the plant blooms. If it is an ever-blooming plant, pinch regularly.



Trailing-scandant begonias should be pinched often like shrub-like semi-erect types, while trailing begonias can produce a fuller container if pinched severely and regularly in their early stages.

When semperflorens are young, these plants will do better if pinched.

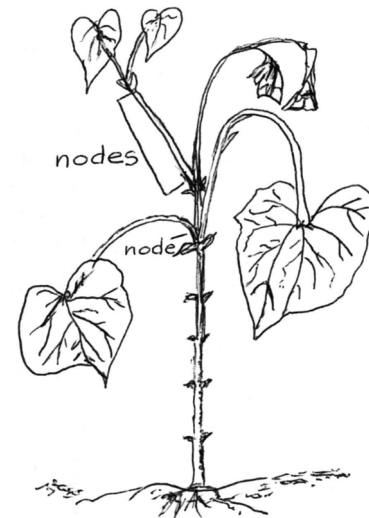
Pinching the tips of rhizomatous begonias and Rex Cultorum induces more growth producing fuller plants.

Careful pinching and pruning should be combined throughout the training period of the plant. Pruning is a drastic cutting back of the stems further back than the fourth or fifth node. This can be removal of old woody stems, or for keeping the

symmetry or size of the begonia, or for thinning out a plant for better air circulation to keep the plant from rotting, or even to force lower growth on a plant.

Do not cut below 4 nodes from the surface of the soil.

If the cuttings have two or more nodes, they can be propagated. If some have two or more leaves, they can be rooted in water.



Hybridizer Jared Hughes with his introduction 'Canary Wings'



**AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY BRANCH
OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 26, 2017**

The Austin Area Begonia Society Branch met November 26, 2017, at 2 P.M. in the Greene Room of the Austin Area Garden Center, 2220 Barton Springs Road Austin, TX 787 46 with President **Doug Byrom** presiding. Other members attending were **Vickey Cole, Ken Fuchs, Jackie Johnson, Jim Landers, Joe and Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, Verlene Schoen, and Geneva Townsend.**

Vickey Cole, Club Representative, presented a detailed account of the Austin Area Garden Council Meeting of November 14, when Phase 1 of the Master Plan for Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy was reviewed and changes were submitted by council members. Askura Robinson, a community-based urban planning firm in four cities is working with Eric Leshinsky, Katie Coyne, and Rick Daley of the EMD Consulting that is developing this part of the Master Plan. Each club should be writing a Mission Statement that is concise, memorable, and accurate.

Weeding with PARD will be held December 13 from 10 until noon. In January this time together will be on January 10. During the quick meeting,

clubs learned that Springfest will be held for one day only — March 24, 2018. No Zilker Garden Festival will be held. Instead, clubs can reserve a table and sell plants if they pay \$50. The indoor tables, which will not cost anything, will be used for educational exhibits or for demonstrations. Club Christmas trees will be taken down December 30.

Members of this club are interested in 3 tables for Springfest, but they discussed other venues for selling begonias such as Mayfield Park, East Austin Fair, and Saturday Farmers Markets.

The treasurer noted that the treasury is very healthy at this time.

The Mexican Food that was enjoyed included tamales, enchiladas, tamale bake with chili, cheese enchiladas with refried beans and rice. Vanilla and chocolate cookies were served as dessert.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 P.M.

Valerie Morris watered the begonias while a few members took cuttings to root for next year if a freeze damages the Zilker Begonia Garden.

Respectfully submitted, Nelda Moore, Secretary



The 2017 Austin Area Begonia Society Christmas Tree on display in the Green Room

