



VOLUME 12, NUMBER 4

NEWSLETTER

April 2018

SATURDAY, APRIL 21 MEET AT 10 A.M. TO PLANT ZILKER BEGONIAS

NO MEETING ON SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2018

AAGC CONSERVANCY DUES MAY 1
\$10 PER MEMBER

EVENTS AT ZILKER:

April 14 and 15 (10 a.m.–5 p.m.) Cactus
Show/Sale

April 21-22 Capital Area Judges Council
Flower Show

May 1 (9 A.M.) Dedication of Herb Garden

May 8 (9:30 A.M.) Memorial Service for Ron
Miller, who moved to Austin in 1971 and
joined the Men's Garden Club as an
excellent grower and propagation teacher.
He was the founder of the Travis County
Master Gardeners Association. He died in
2017. Bench and name to be placed in the
garden in his memory.

April 6, 2018 Application from Austin
Woman's Federated Garden Club by Carol
Blanchard to join Austin Area Garden
Council Conservancy. Voted in April 10.
Name of club may be changed. (25
members)

**AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY AND
SOUTHWEST REGION GET TOGETHER
IN NEW ORLEANS**

The ABS/SWR Convention was held April 2-8 in New Orleans, Louisiana in the Hilton Hotel with Cindy Moran and Freda Holley serving as co-chairs.

A silent auction in the hospitality room featured books, pictures, and exotic begonias. Bidding was quite active, producing a healthy fundraiser. Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, Cindy Moran, and others provided many delicious snacks and even meals for the many convention guests. Cindy's strawberries were the best tasting berries produced in the world. She also contributed sandwiches from the tours.

A Celebration of Life honoring Charles Jaros also attracted many to the Hospitality Room known also as the Pontchartrain Room. Don Miller not only talked about the life of Charles Jaros but also about others who passed away suddenly during the year since we met in San Antonio, Texas.

Seminars were well attended during the morning as well as in the evening. Anton Hofnagels of the Netherlands explained how the Naoya Protocol affected his nursery during the hours when he was expected to meet the public. Although the United States did not join, the world is still expected to police all phases of growing plants and improving species in a safe environment, especially keeping soil, flowers, and vegetables safe for human and animal consumption so that our planet remains as a viable habitat.

Mark Hughes from the Royal Botanic Gardens provided pictures of begonias and spoke about current research.

Rosario Rubite from the Philippines showed begonias and other unusual plants that she enjoyed as she went on her dangerous expeditions with others on muddy roads and

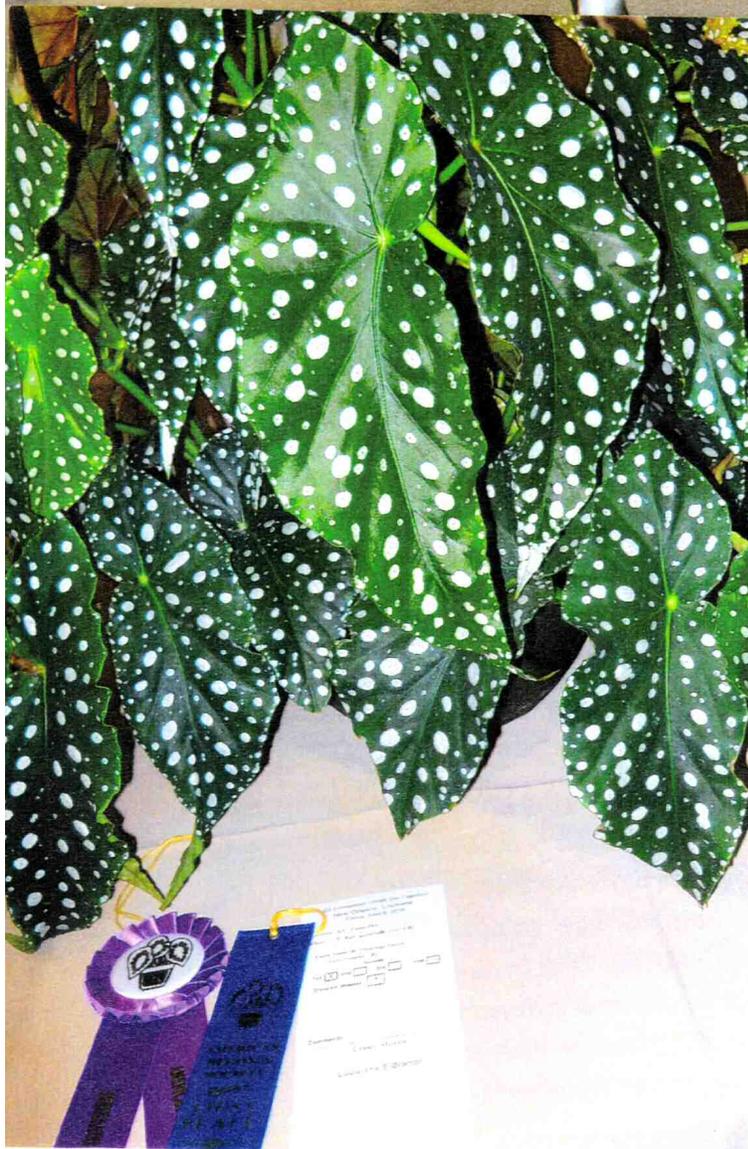
up steep mountains. It is in this area that tourists don raincoats and tour an underground cave by boat. Begonias cling to the entrance of this cave.

Rekha Morris, Don Miller, Deborah Garrett, and Linda Tamblyn provided excellent programs for begonia growers before the annual meetings in the Barataria Room. Panel discussions enlightened conventioners on cutting and pruning begonias in addition to giving growing tips and harvesting and drying seeds for a few days or even for 2 weeks. Sulfur plays a part in ridding the seeds of insects.

During the banquet Freda Holley suggested that other regions should prepare a book such as *Hybridizers of the Southwest Region/ABS, 2018*, which was available for, \$7. Hybridizers are also aware of the new plantings for the rising heat of the world and are growing for the future weather patterns.

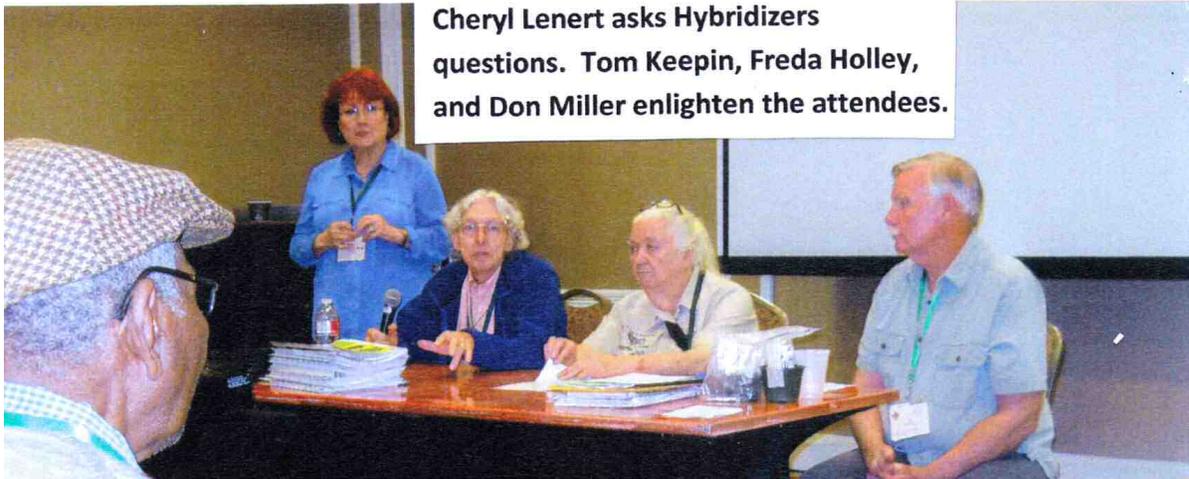


Vickey Cole, Valorie Morris, and Rekha Morris



B. 'Kit Kat' by Sandy Justice

B. 'Flamingo Queen' by Cindy Moran, who exhibited a plant that received 100 points in the Louisiana Show.



Cheryl Lenert asks Hybridizers questions. Tom Keepin, Freda Holley, and Don Miller enlighten the attendees.



PLANT SALE ROOM



Southwest Region Hybrids
Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana

Hybridizer: Barbara Price, of Fort Worth, TX
Sponsor: The American Begonia Society
Awarding the Hybrid & Best Hybrid Award

Hybridizer: Donna Robinson, of Houston, TX
Sponsor: The American Begonia Society
Awarding the Best Hybrid & Best Hybrid Award

Hybridizer: Carol Ann, of Dallas, TX
Sponsor: The American Begonia Society
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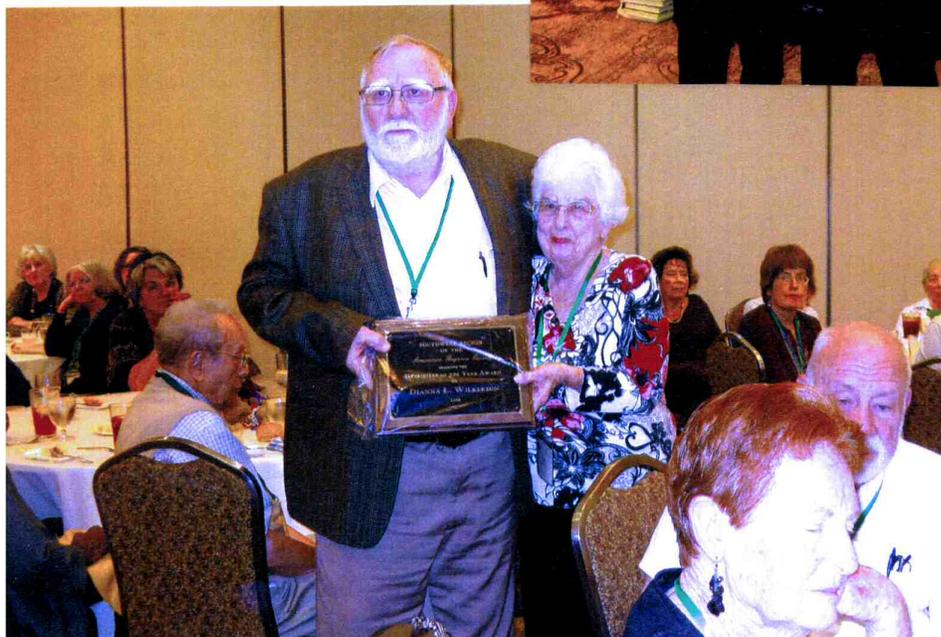




**Novel Container in the Plant Show:
Don Miller and B. 'Trickster'**

Carol Orozco accepts the Mae Blanton Award for Service for CONNIE SAENZ, who passed away in February in San Antonio.

Kenny Wilkerson hugs his late wife's award for Hybridizer of the Year 2018. DIANNA WILKERSON of Oklahoma won the award easily for her begonias especially B. 'Oteka'.



Other awards:

SWR Marguerite Vernon to Cindy Moran; Begonia Ambassador Award to Randy Montes Kerr; New Charles Jaros Award to Wanda Macnair; Eva Kenworthy Gray Award to Dr. Pen; ADR Medal of Honor To Tom Keepin's B. 'Carmel Browne' (The next issue of The newsletter will include much more.)

Next meeting: May 27th

The 2018 ABS/SWR Sale and Show in New Orleans





BEST OF SHOW – B. 'Hugh McLaughlin' (Rex Cultorum) – Doug Pridgen



Hanging Containers or Wall Pockets - Cindy Moran



B. 'Nola' (Rhizomatous) – Cindy Moran



B. *microsperma* x *staudtii* – Doug Byrom



Don Miller and his Novel Container