



VOLUME 13, NUMBER 10

NEWSLETTER

October 2019

**Next Meeting:**

**October 27 at 2 P.M.**

Enjoy goodies and work with Begonia cuttings.

Last Meeting was September 18, the trip to the Species Bank in Fort Worth.

Ken Fuchs took many pictures so see what you missed when you were absent.

Zilker Botanical Garden was closed October 4, 5, 6 and 11, 12, 13 for Austin City Limits Festival

November 3 Daylight Saving Time ends.

**AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY VISITS FORT WORTH  
BOTANIC GARDEN SPECIES BANK**

On Wednesday, September 18 AABS members Charlotte Boyle, Vickey Cole, Betty Dunn, Jim and Joan Estes, Valerie Morris, Carol Orozco, and Geneva Townsend met in the Capital Plaza parking lot and then drove to Fort Worth to visit the Begonia Species Bank. Along the way they stopped at the Buc-ee's in Temple and were joined by Jim Landers and Ken Fuchs.

Everyone arrived at the Botanic Garden at 11:15 and were met by Begonia Curator Deborah Garrett, who led the enthusiastic group to a large greenhouse that is home to hundreds of different begonia species and several rows of terrariums. AABS member Jackie Johnson had already arrived and was also in the greenhouse. Deborah Garrett, Don Miller, Taddie Hamilton, and Bobbie Price answered many questions and pointed out different new varieties in the collection.





Take us to the Species Bank, please!



Curator Deborah Garrett welcomes everyone (and points out where the restrooms are located).



Don Miller describes some of the taller begonias.



Taddie Hamilton says hello.





Botanic Garden grounds, passed the Japanese Garden and several other specific gardens, to the nearby Antique Mall, where they enjoyed a leisurely lunch at the Secret Garden Tea Room.



Bobbie Price shows off 'B. *lunaris*' (from Harmony)



Bobbie Price shows Jim Landers her seedling from 'B. *lunaris*.'

Following lunch they returned to the Species Bank and Don Miller guided everyone to a second large greenhouse. One long table was covered with small potted begonias, each one for sale at \$5 each. It was a Christmas in September shopping spree as everyone picked out different begonias to take home. In all it was a memorable day, and Ken Fuchs took lots of pictures to record the visit.

After spending an hour wandering along the rows of tables completely covered by multitudes of different begonias, the group broke for lunch. Several large garden carts took everyone through the

## CALENDAR FOR THE AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY

November 24

No December Meeting

January 26, 2020

February 23

March 22

April 26

May 24

### HORTICULTURE

#### PROTECTING BEGONIAS DURING WINTER

Our winter in 2018 was ideal for Central Texas — some cold, rainfall at intervals, spring weather followed by freeze. When spring came, the irises and begonias were blooming abundantly. Walking iris in a hanging basket was full with plantlets dangling over the side. The two-year-old semperflorens begonia were planted in the garden outdoors. This year I will take a skeleton group of survivors into the greenhouse, since the wildlife worked them over in this drought.

The Rex is indoors near a window with indirect lighting. It gets humidity, moisture, and fertilizer lasting for years.

This year I purchased tuber begonias. I will wrap the tubers and plant them in the spring.

Rhizomatous begonias need humidity, moisture, and fertilizer, but not too much water. They do not like dry heating so place the pots over pebbles in a tray of water. Good lighting is necessary. Bright filtered light is ideal while temperatures are 65 degrees F to 75 degrees. At night 55 degrees is fine to keep them healthy and happily growing.

When you bring begonias inside from outdoors, examine the plants by looking at the leaves for hidden spiders, bugs, frogs, and harmful insects. Check the pot for ants and scorpions. Clean the container and replant the begonia if necessary. It may be too big for the pot or if it has been reduced in size, place it in a smaller container.

Water with rainwater and bring the plants indoors for the winter.

Then care for the plant by turning it and shaping it by pinching to get it ready for the show.



It's a jungle in there.



'*B. phuthoensis*' – interesting texture



Nice ground cover



Geneva Townsend identifies an enormous begonia — '*B. reniformis*'.