



# AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY

A Branch of the American Begonia Society

Website: [http://www.kenfuchs42.net/aabs\\_index.html](http://www.kenfuchs42.net/aabs_index.html)



Austin Area Begonia Society  
**VOLUME 15, NUMBER 1**

**NEWSLETTER**

**January 2021**

*Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors*

## NEXT MEETING:

?????

### Dues are due.

Please send to Vickey Cole before February 1, 2021.

Vickey Cole  
2105 Egger  
Round Rock, TX 78664

American Begonia Society  
\$25 or \$15 for digital  
Austin Area Begonia Society  
\$10

**Linda Kammerer**, Membership Registrar, needs email addresses for all members so that she can send VEC programs during this pandemic. All branches should send complete information for all new members and renewals.

Linda Kammerer  
P.O. Box 6261  
Providence, RI 02940  
or  
[amerbegmembership@gmail.com](mailto:amerbegmembership@gmail.com)

## BEGONIA HEMSLEYANA NAMED 'SILVERY PEARL'



Dr. Daike Tian has revealed that the stable-spotted *B. hemsleyana* has been named *B. 'Silvery Pearl.'* He has studied the species in Yunnan province, China and has discovered variegated individuals with white spots on the adaxial leaf surface in Pingbian, Jinping, and Malipo counties. When he collected the plants and grew them, he found that some had white spots that were not even visible or appeared only when the specimen was young. The leaves are palmate compound. Although this begonia has been crossed with other species, it has also created several natural hybrids. Tian has created *B. 'White Snow'* that he patented in 2004. He also used *B. hemsleyana* in an artificial cross with *B. longiciliata* and named it *B. 'Kunming Bird.'*

Dr. Daike Tian was born in Longshan, Hunan, People's Republic of China in 1968. He attended Hunan Normal University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology in 1993. Daike graduated with a Master of Science in botany from Kunming Institute of Botany, CAS



*B. 'Oteka'* (Nelda Moore)

(Chinese Academy of Sciences) in 1999. For one year he worked as a Visiting Scholar in the Botanical Gardens of Toyama in Japan. Daiké entered Auburn University in 2004 and earned his PhD from Auburn in 2008. He currently resides in China but returns to the United States on occasion.

As of 2009 he has published three new *Begonia* species (B. 'Kunming Bird', B. 'Kang-er', B. 'White



*Begonia* 'Kunming Bird'

Snow') and produced 13 new cultivars of *Begonia*.



*Begonia* 'Kang-er'



*Begonia* 'White Snow'

## BEGONIA REGISTRATIONS

*The Begonian*, November/December 2020, included detailed information and photographs of new international registrations: Number 1037 'Guiyun,' #1038 "Sanlie,' #1039 'Kalyun,' #1040 'Mariana's Monster'



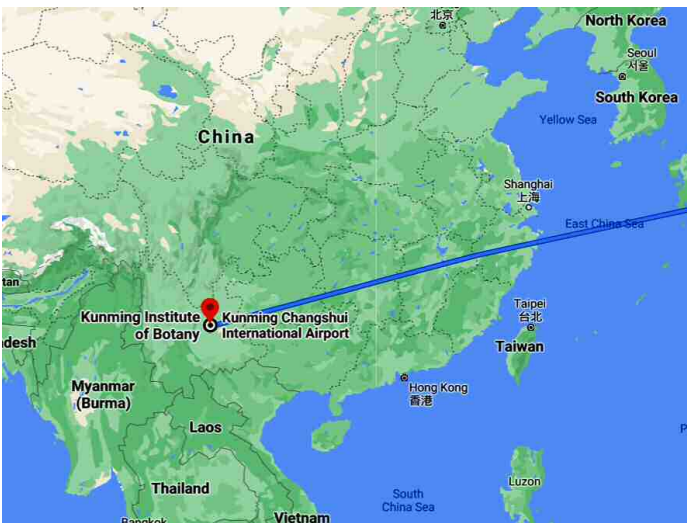
Begonia 'Guiyun' - Kunming Institute of Botany



Begonia 'Sanlie' - Kunming Institute of Botany



Begonia 'Kaiyun' - Kunming Institute of Botany



Begonia 'Mariana's Monster' - Mariana DiVita

### Scarecrow Exhibit

At Zilker Botanical Garden 19 scarecrows were down the trail until they were taken down during the weekend and picked up for storage by those who worked on them.

This fun project was a winner, and Judith Craft indicated that scarecrows will be created again in 2021. Lynn Sissney, Vickey Cole, Nelda and Joe Moore, and Valerie Morris worked on the Begonia Scarecrow this year.



## NEW FROM PROVEN WINNERS 2021

Proven Winners has a double up wax begonia or semperflorens in double flowered pink, white, and red colors. Since these are cousins of the single flowered wax begonias, they produce showy blossoms from spring to fall in good growing conditions and need no deadheading.



Proven Winners 2021 - Double Up Pink



Proven Winners 2021 - Double Up White

## PINCHING PLANTS FOR BETTER BEGONIAS – ACCORDING TO BRAD THOMPSON

To remove the begonia's growing tips or the unopened buds at the very tip of each stem where the next leaf will come out, use your fingers to pinch the whole bud so that the plant will produce side shoots and branches to make a beautiful begonia.

This is done on certain begonias very early in growth. For example, large upright canes, larger flowered tuberous, and thick stemmed begonias should not be pinched. These do not branch well and may over crowd the plant. Tuberous begonias are grown for large flowers that will become smaller if you pinch for branching. If you want larger flowers, pinch out certain flower buds on young tuberous plants.

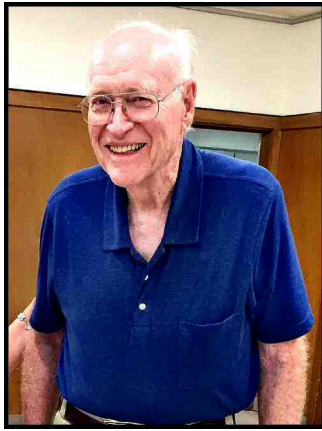
The small and medium leaved canes and shrubs best respond to pinching especially if growing in a basket where you want to keep the plant full and symmetrical. Also pinch out the tips on rhizomatous after they have bloomed to make them fill the inside of the pot instead of hanging over the edges of the container.



Remember that you need to determine how you want your plant to grow especially if your begonia has only 3 stems and you want a full pot for a show. By pinching each stem the plant can have 6 stems. Then with 2 new side shoots you can increase the numbers until you have a full plant that provides a dramatic effect from pinching.

On plants that you are going to pinch start pinching after pruning or as soon as the new shoots have grown out three nodes—the joints in the stem where the leaf is connected. The growing tip is a node.

## RALPH DONALD FREEMAN – MASTER OF LIFE



When Don and Pat Freeman were members of the Austin Area Begonia Society, they enjoyed getting together to challenge themselves with growing begonias so that they could show them during the Zilker-Garden-Festival themed-and-judged Garden Show, where they won numerous awards. Don with his daughter also worked on the grounds to sell cold drinks. He enjoyed talking to the many visitors and studying the next step that he would take to improve the appearance of an area in Zilker Botanical Gardens. He enjoyed fishing with his brother in Alaska, and the scenery along the way inspired and refreshed him to come home and work at home in the garden, in the community, and at Zilker.

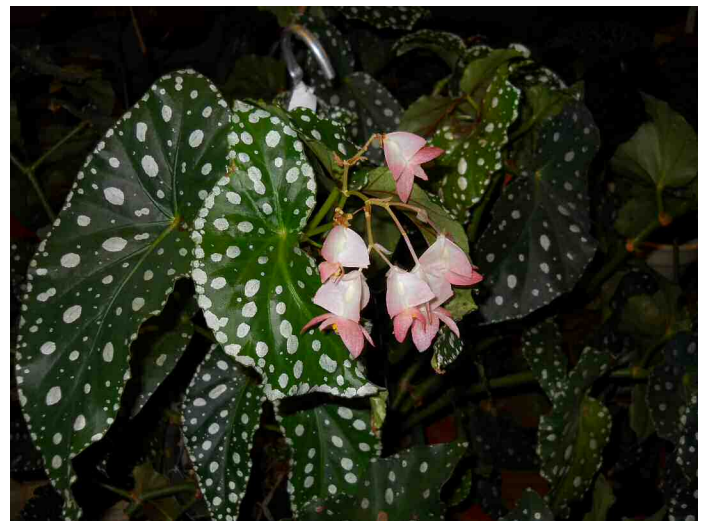


Before Don pursued his love and devotion to gardening he served his country by becoming Lt. Col. USAF Ralph Donald Freeman and spent twenty years of military service after joining through his ROTC program. He earned his BS Degree from Colorado A&M and became a decorated pilot. In one 13 month period he and his crew flew 300 or more combat

missions in Vietnam. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He then went to the University of Middle Tennessee to receive a Master's Degree in Education in 1965. Don went to work for the Department of Public Safety in the Division of Emergency Management as a Planner until his retirement in 1992.

Then as a Master Gardener he worked many hours on planning and working in horticulture as an officer on the Austin Area Garden Council of Zilker Botanical Garden. That work ended a short time ago, and he will be truly missed by club members and community leaders.

Don died on December 7 at age 88. To Pat, his wife of 67 years, we express our sincerest sympathy.



B. 'Matchmaker' (Nelda Moore)

### Bliss by Harry Bliss

