



AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY

A Branch of the American Begonia Society

Website: http://www.kenfuchs42.net/aabs_index.html



Austin Area Begonia Society
VOLUME 15, NUMBER 2

NEWSLETTER

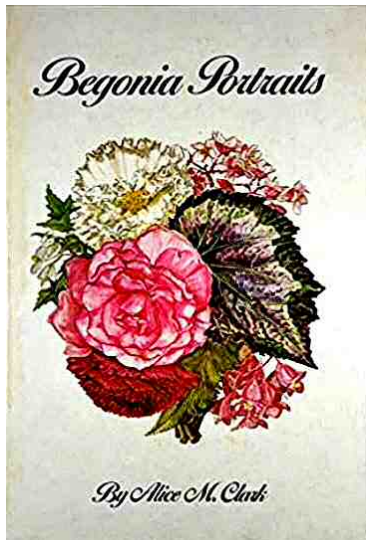
March 2021

Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

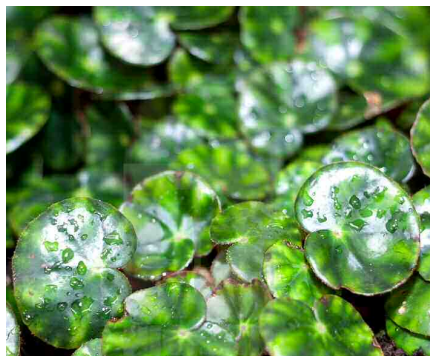
NEXT MEETING: ??????

BEGONIA 'ERYTHROPHYLLA'

(e-ryth-ro-phyll-la)



B. manicata



B. hydrocotylifolia

According to Alice M. Clark, Begonia 'Erythrophylla' was described by Newman in *Revue Horticole* in 1847. This name is Greek meaning a leaf with red coloring, referring to its red lining. In 1849 this begonia was described by Otto as a hybrid between *B. manicata* and *B. hydrocotylifolia* produced by Von Warscewicz. Before this, it was known as an unidentified plant by John Feast of Baltimore in 1880 and became *B. 'Feast.'* Its common name is "beefsteak" or "pond lily."

Alice Clark describes this begonia by saying the leaf and flower stems rise from corky rhizomes that creep like greenish-brown caterpillars over the edge of the pot. The veins are light against the dark green of the top and are raised in ridges below. The shape is round with a slight point. The lobes fit together so neatly where they meet that the foliage, six inches or more over, seems peltate. These traits are like its other parent from Mexico, *B. hydrocotylifolia*, which means "water-cup-leaf."

Its light pink with touches of green in the buds stands out on short stems like elfin peach trees when snow was on the ground. This begonia thrilled Alice, who called it "Grandmother's Favorite."

VALERIE, ELIZABETH, AND ANDREW PROPAGATED 102 DIFFERENT BEGONIAS

Valerie Morris, Elizabeth Crepeau, and Andrew Leigh have propagated 102 different begonias, 108 cuttings in 4-inch pots, and 5 shoe boxes of leaf cuttings.

According to Valerie the American Begonia Society will have a new communication committee headed by Sally Savelle that will provide information about begonias throughout the world.

Valerie also asks that anyone who has cuttings of begonias to call her at 512-415-0940 so that she can propagate them for a future sale.

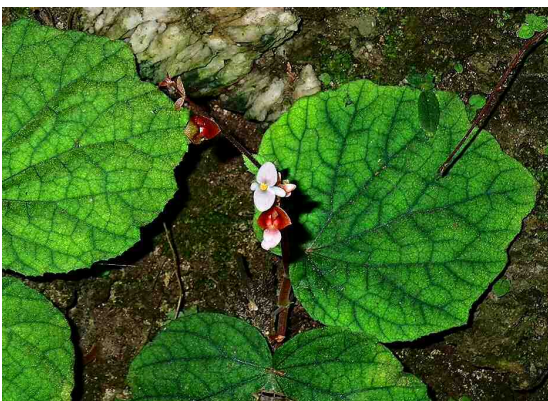
HORTICULTURE

On February 15 (President's Day) in 2021 the sunrise brought a golden tinge to the snow caps on the mountain side with temperatures in Central Texas from 5 degrees to 27 degrees. At 8:20 A.M. it is 10 degrees with 6 inches of fluffy snow over ice that forms a wintry wonderland. This bitter cold sunshine comes before the next ice storm that will create hazardous conditions. This is already an historic event — one that probably happened almost 100 years ago.

Inside, the warm begonias are blooming and producing new leaves while hanging pots of petunias resemble ice cream cones as they get covered in snow that is falling. Begonia seeds are like dust and between 30,000 and 70,000 of them are needed to weigh one gram, but seeds are needed for the ABS seed fund so try to save some by collecting and writing the name of the begonia and the date on the package.

MORE BEGONIAS AND PROPAGATION

How do begonias survive in a rainforest where there is no wind? How do they propagate?



B. sinuata

Some of them propagate themselves. Sparkling begonias such as *B. sinuata* produce a bulbil at the base of the leaf blade. It is from this tuber-like structure that a new plant forms. Since this is an annual, it dies and seeds itself.



B. elisabethae

Then there is *B. elisabethae* that forms a plantlet when the elongated tip of the leaf arches, touches the soil and forms roots. It can also produce new plants from the veins ending on the leaf margin.



B. decora



B. ignorata



B. pavonina



B. venusta



B. wyepingiana

B. decora, *B. ignorata*, *B. pavonina*, and *B. wyepingiana* form new plants when they drop a leaf on the forest floor and it decomposes. The new plantlets develop from the veins where the leaf blade separates from the leaf stalk as the leaf blade rots.



B. jayaensis



B. longifolia

The seeds of the Berry Begonia *B. longifolia* are not released from the fruit but they have a sculptured or rough surface like those produced in dry capsules. These are carried by water drops or by wind and the seeds germinate rapidly. The seeds of Cabbage-leaved begonia *B. venusta* germinate within four to twelve days.



B. jiewhoei



B. kingiana



B. nuri



B. tigrine

Six species, *B. ignorata*, *B. jayaensis*, *B. jiewhoei*, *B. kingiana*, *B. nuri*, and *B. tigrine* grow around deeply shaded and damp limestone cliffs. Only the succulent *B. kingiana* lives during a drought. *B. jayaensis* usually grows inside caves and on cliffs but dies and returns from seeds when rains come.

REMEMBERING LYNN



Lynn Sissney, a founding member of the Austin Area Begonia Society Branch of American Begonia Society, passed away in her home Tuesday, February 9. She loved cats and flowers, especially begonias and violets. Whenever she could enter a flower show, she won many ribbons and other awards for her artistic talents in creating exquisite flower arrangements. Her last creation was a lady scarecrow with a cat holder showing blue, yellow, and purple flowers used in Zilker Botanical Garden during the Halloween Celebration. She named her "Miss Begonia" and used some corn husks for her legs.



Lynn grew the vegetables in a garden plot that she rented so she worked up until her death. Lynn's original flower arrangements attracted the attention

of her colleagues, visitors, and judges.

Miss Sissney also attended the ABS/Southwest Get Togethers, where she not only entered her begonias in the plant shows, but also helped when she could. During the 2014 meeting in Shreveport, she was asked to show the way she added begonias to a log that came from her yard for a demonstration of a unique display. She added water tubes and tied the begonias and ferns to fashion a beautiful display for the attendees who broke out in applause when she sat down and told them that she usually drank a beer after the demonstration.



Lynn served the local society by being treasurer until a few years ago when she began having health issues. She had a heart problem that “hurt like the dickens!” She went through surgery for her wrist and leg. She survived cancer and was again walking without crutches. Then she died in her sleep surrounded by her beloved cats that she adopted!



With heartfelt
Sympathy

May the support
of your family and friends
be a blessing to you
in your grief.

We extend deepest sympathy to Jim and Joan
Estes, who lost their son-in-law who lived in Austin.