



# 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  
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**NEWSLETTER**

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*Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors*

**NEXT MEETING: ?????**

## **AABS MEMBER PLANS TO JOIN BEGONIANS IN OHIO**



### **WOODLAND FAERIE TRAIL OFFERS PLOTS FOR CREATIVE CHILDREN TO BUILD PLACE FOR FAERIES**

Woodland Faerie Trail, a popular place to construct a faerie home with plants sometimes representing your club, will open May 29. In order to enjoy the fun of creating the masterpiece for those imaginary creatures of beauty, have your parents or club purchase a 4 foot by 4 foot plot from the Zilker Botanical Garden. Then join other boys and girls who will practice safe distancing during May 22 to 28 at your designated time.

You will not regret using your wild imagination in reading, building, landscaping or dressing like those butterfly-like creatures while sipping at the special tea for participants.



Elizabeth with her Challenge plant at the AABS meeting January 26, 2020

Elizabeth Crepeau, who has been busy with the Austin Area Begonia Society, plans to join Columbus, Ohio groups willing to grow these extraordinary plants. She has assisted with propagating and educating everyone here about begonias. Her interest has led to advancement since she will assist Sally Savelle and other interested members of the American Begonia Society with the Communications Committee. This is an education group that provides Virtual Education speakers over Zoom.

## ABS/SOUTHWEST REGION GET-TOGETHER TO BE HELD IN 2022

Like other events that have been canceled until next year the members of the American Begonia Society/Southwest Region Get Together to listen to guest speakers and purchase beautiful begonias will be held in late spring of 2022. By that time it will be safe for the members to travel and meet again after the pandemic. Most of us have had the vaccine. At the present time, however, some variations of the COVID 19 have appeared and another dose may be in the works.

### BEGONIA 'CASTAWAY'



B. 'Castaway' (from Mike Flarherty)

Begonia 'Castaway' hybridized over thirty years ago by Brad Thompson has been called the perfect begonia since it is close to being an ever-blooming begonia. It is easy to grow and does not need to be pampered. It is mildew resistant. Valerie has cuttings of this beautiful begonia with pale pink flowers so that we can evaluate it in our own greenhouse.

## BEGONIAS FROM THE PAST

### A Begonia Named for a Street

Mrs. W. L. Frevert loved begonias and she and her husband were the first to build an outdoor patio in San Diego, California. Their lathed garden was a space between their home and the carriage house. While

walking in 1912 she admired a begonia in a neighbor's yard. She was given a cutting of the different begonia that flourished for her. When anyone asked her its name she referred to it as the begonia from Washington Street.



Others thought a seafaring man had purchased the begonia in some port-of-call and brought it to a friend in San Diego. It was different from all begonias sold in California nurseries.

Rudolf Ziesenhenné identified this begonia as a species, *B. serratifolia*, a synonym of *B. guaduensis*.

### B. 'Richard Robinson'



Alfred Robinson had a *Begonia dregei* var. *macbethii* that he deduced was a species since all of the seedlings were alike. He, however, began to test his theory by growing a thousand plants from the seeds. Only one out of the 1,000 was different so he named it Richard Robinson after his father who was an English magistrate. It appeared in a Rosecroft Catalog for 1925.



It has a green-brown stalk with leaves that unfold its long point to resemble a medieval dragon's claws. Like *B. dregei* there is a red zone at the stem and leaf junction but no red veining. White hairs appear on both sides of the leaf.

### B. 'Neely Gaddis'

This begonia is named for Eva Kenworthy Gray's cousin. Eva produced many outstanding hybrids. In 1925 this fibrous type was created. The white hairs that pucker the blossoms make a halo over the clusters and veil the bright gold centers in modesty. The name comes from Uncle Cornelius Gaddis, who was killed in the War of 1850. His daughter "Neely" was named for him. She was Mrs. Gray's twin cousin. They played together as children until Neely died in an accident. This beautiful begonia was named for her and it too was developed from seeds of *B. 'Viaude.'*

Miss Connie Bower also developed *B. 'Pink Neely Gaddis'* in 1927 from *B. 'Viaude.'* This free bloomer easily grows four feet high with pink flowers and plum red on the back of the leaves.



NEELY GADDIS



Begonia 'Neely Gaddis'