



AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY

A Branch of the American Begonia Society

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



Austin Area Begonia Society

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NEWSLETTER

Sept/Oct/Nov 2021

Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

NEW BRANCH IN CENTRAL OHIO

NEXT MEETING:

Sunday, OCTOBER 24, 2021

2 P.M.

The Austin Area Begonia Society will meet at Nelda Moore's home at 607 Westlake Drive in West Lake Hills.

This is off Bee Cave Road from Barton Springs Road. Take the road as it curves toward Randalls, Walgreens, and turn right on Westlake Drive between the bank and architects. Travel down this street until you see a white mailbox with black letters 607 with a flag. Enter and park near the house, a wooden structure with a carport. If you go over the hill and see the police station, you have gone too far.

You can turn from Capital of Texas Highway past the Barton Creek Square Mall on Walsh Tarlton and come to the entrance of Randalls. Turn left at the light and get to Westlake Drive and turn right.



Former Austin Area Begonia Society member Elizabeth Crepeau is enjoying growing begonias with members of **Central Ohio American Begonia Society**. This new branch can be found on Facebook, and their first meeting was held September 26, 2021. To become a member send \$10 with your name and address to Central Ohio ABS, c/o Elizabeth Crepeau, 455 South Yale Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43223

ROCKY MOUNTAINS BEGONIAS BRANCH

On March 13, 2021, Sally Savelle reported that Rocky Mountains Begonias Branch of the American Begonia Society located in the Denver, Colorado Area has 7 required members and the following officers: President Thad Johnson, Vice President Rob Housmann, Secretary Micole Smith, and Treasurer Ingrid Wussow.

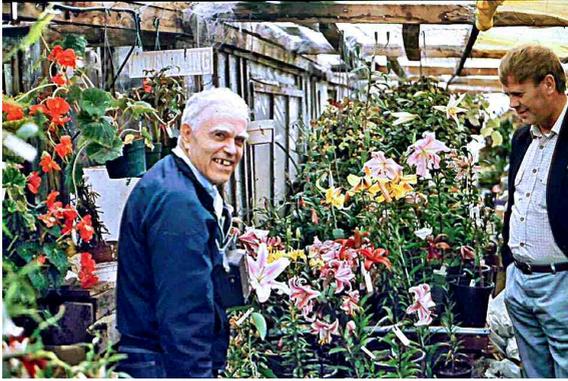
Sally made a motion that the ABS Board approve the Rocky Mountains Begonias Branch of ABS and the motion carried.

NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS NEEDED

Nelda Moore of the Austin Area Begonia Society needs nominations for the Southwest Region for the Mae Blanton Service Award and for the Hybridizer of the Year. Please send the name of the person and reason for this nomination to me at neldamarie327@outlook.com or send a letter to Nelda Moore, 607 Westlake Drive, West Lake Hills, TX 78746-5311. These awards will be presented to the recipients during the Southwest Region Get Together in Fort Worth April 27-30, 2022.



WOODRIF CUTTINGS WANTED



Do you grow any of the hybrids developed by Leslie Woodriff (1910-1997)? Mr. Woodriff was born in Quanah, Texas but opened a retail greenhouse in Colorado until his mother was ordered to move to a lower altitude due to a heart condition. They moved to Oregon and worked on lilies.



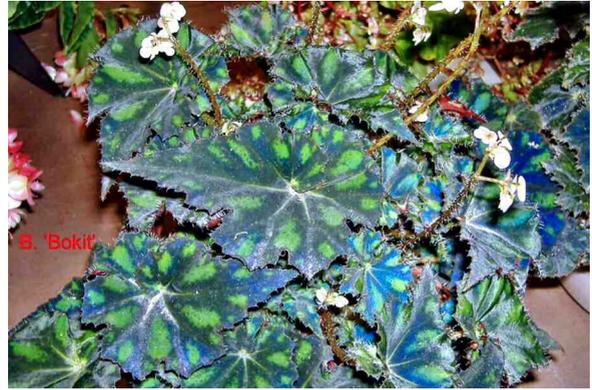
Lilium 'Stargazer'

Then he began working with begonias in the 1930s. He and his mother moved to Inglewood, California in 1933. Leslie is well known for the Lilium 'Stargazer' and B. 'Pink African Violet.'



B. 'Pink African Violet'

Some lost cultivars are B. 'Alto de Serra,' B. 'Bokit,' used for B. 'Fairyland,' B. 'Curly Cloud,' B. 'Fantasy,' B. 'Silver Sweet.'



B. 'Bokit'



B. 'Fairyland'



B. 'Silver Sweet'

HORTICULTURE

It is time to take cuttings from the semperflorens—especially the double flowered ones if you want to see them in abundance in the spring.



If you decide to cover some of the shrubs, use a thick cover, but not plastic. When using lighting for warmth, use the bigger bulbs provided by Christmas lights. Check the wiring so that the tent covering will not catch on fire and burn your treasures. To keep warm in your home, prepare for the worst winter early by cutting wood for the fireplace. Check your power unit and get it ready to use in case there is no electricity for days like last February.

Many plants growing in containers did not survive even with protection from a cover. The cold temperatures for a week and the snow and ice crust froze the plants to the roots. Those plants that were planted in the soil in the garden eventually recovered. Some trees are still trying to grow, but they are struggling. Dead branches or the whole tree may not make another Arctic Express. This is the time to decide what to do with the huge tree before it falls on your home or car.

GROWING RHIZOMATOUS BEGONIAS

A rhizomatous begonia grows as a compact plant with petioles of appropriate length and leaf coloring good, not pale. With an even temperature throughout the growing season, the plant will bloom when it is expected to bloom in late winter and early spring.

If outdoors this begonia grows in filtered sunlight without direct sunlight under a tree or in a lath house as long as it is protected from the midday sun. Even during the winter proper light is important and the plant can be moved where the light is bright or where

there is good sunlight. Even the tubes of fluorescent lights can provide essential controlled lighting if the plant is under the center area of the tubes.



B. 'Joe Hayden'

Rhizomatous begonias enjoy cool temperatures 62 to 65 degrees F. They are not demanding as far as humidity is concerned. If the distinctive foliage requires additional humidity so that the leaves do not drop, use a tray with some water in pea gravel beneath the plant. If there is excessive humidity, there is a risk of rotting especially if the variety of begonia has dense foliage. Shallow clay pots are ideal for growing these shallow-rooted plants that grow in sparse shallow soil. Moss-lined wire containers with flat bottoms are excellent because they provide porosity. Plants in plastic containers can rot due to overwatering. Repot only when the root system fills the container and water only when the surface of the soil is dry to the touch. Never fertilize this type of begonia when it is dormant.



B. 'Starburst'

If this begonia is kept at an even temperature, there will seldom be a dormant period.

Mature creeping rhizomatous begonias are best grown in hanging containers.

PAUL P. LOWE

In 1970 Paul P. Lowe produced Begonia 'Black Raspberry' by crossing *B. acetosa* and *B. imperialis* to get a medium leaved rhizomatous begonia that is easy to grow in the south.



B. 'Black Raspberry'

As a productive begonia breeder Paul worked with begonias that easily survived in South Florida if there was no hard freeze that surprised the inhabitants. He and his partner Paul Riccobono lived in West Palm Beach after moving from North Carolina.

Mr. Lowe was an ABS Vice President from 1964 to 1966 and ABS judge as well as President of the South Florida Bromeliad Society. As a nursery owner he spoke to many people from the North about what to plant in their landscapes because this was a whole new experience in horticulture.

To honor him, the Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches presents the "Paul P. Lowe 'Best Begonia' Award" in the competitive plant shows.

He was asked to write a book about why he made crosses and how he named his hybrids. After this conversation, he wrote one page about what he expected to achieve by crossing *B. 'Honeysuckle'* with *B. 'Rubicon'* to get a white blooming angel wing. What he got was a medium sized plant that bloomed white with yellow stamens and a hint of pink if sunlight barely hit it. There was no fragrance. Since it

was a beautiful plant, he donated it to the Palm Beaches Branch to give to the member who brought the most new members that year.



B. acetosa



B. imperialis