



AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY

A Branch of the American Begonia Society

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



Austin Area Begonia Society

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 4

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2022

Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

NEXT MEETING:

MAY 15, 2022

2 P.M.

Auditorium

Austin Area Garden Center

Zilker Botanical Garden

2220 Barton Springs Road

Austin, Texas 78746

Plant Sale and Celebrating 20 Years growing and showing begonias



B. 'Withlacoochee' (above) and B. 'U093' exhibited by Steve's Leaves (Photos by Jim Landers)



CELEBRATING 20 WONDERFUL YEARS

The Austin Area Begonia Society is celebrating its 20th year on May 15, 2022, when Valerie Morris will preside as president. She and Clarice James organized the group that saw a need to sell begonias during the Zilker Garden Festival or Florarama.

Clarice passed away in Bastrop at the age of 93 on Friday, January 10, 2014. She retired from the Internal Revenue Service after 19 years, showed dogs throughout the southwest and Westminster, and was instrumental in reviving Columbus Fancy Canaries in coordination with leaders in England. As a winner of the Kellogg Award for her work with birds in the national show in Detroit, Michigan, she earned recognition as a Day Camp Director for the Lower Colorado Lakes Girl Scout Council as well as for her diligent work on the Austin Area Garden Council Board and her faithful service as president of the Austin Area Begonia Society.

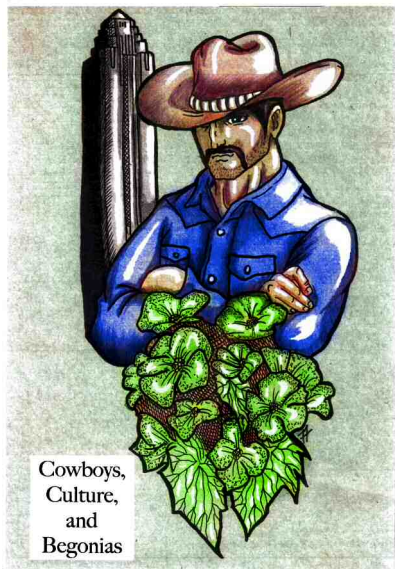


Valerie Morris has served as a club representative to the Austin Area Garden Council, worked tirelessly for the club sales, and served the society as treasurer and program director. Valerie has also worked during the American Begonia Society/Southwest Region Get Together, where she has showed her begonias and assisted in the begonia sales as well as serving as hostess and historian during the meetings in and out of different states.



**ABS/SOUTHWEST REGION GET TOGETHER 2022
IN FORT WORTH APRIL 27-30**

The American Begonia Society/Southwest Region Get Together finally met in the Fort Worth Botanic Garden after having two events canceled due to the pandemic and the number of COVID cases that arose during the previous two years. Eighty-nine faithful members gathered during the Welcome To Cowboys, Culture, and Begonias Celebration at the end of April.



Participating member branches include The Alamo, Astro, Austin Area, Mae Blanton, Dallas Area, Houston Satellite, and Louisiana E-.

Many visitors admired the violet show in the



Redbud Area and the begonia show opposite this area in The Oaks. AABS member Jim Landers served on the nine-member judges panel.

Leora Fuentes won Sweepstakes in the Southwest Region Begonia Show. Ribbons circled her *B. lichenora*, which received 99 points. The ribbons read First Place, Best in Show, Best in Division, Class Commendation, Thompson Showing is Sharing, Rekah Morris Best Species.



Leora Fuentes and her *B. Lichenora* (P. Jim Landers)

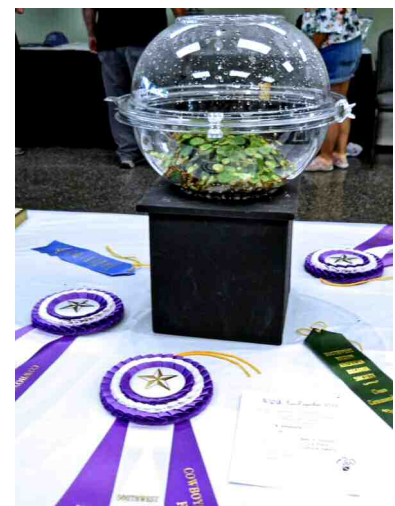


Photo by Nelda Moore



B. U012

All photos by Jim Landers unless otherwise noted



'Smokey Eyes' (Photo by Nelda Moore)

'Smokey Eyes,' a medium-leaved spiral Rex Cultorum received 90 points for Don Miller.

Carol Orozco from the Alamo and Austin Branches also showed a Rex Cultorum nonspiral called B.



B. *olivacea*



B. 'Micro Mo' exhibited by Steve's Leaves



B. 'Benitochiba'

'Benitochiba.'

Taddie Hamilton with 90 points won second place with B. *melanobullata*.

Leora Fuentes received 98 points for B. U012, while Wallace Wells from New York displayed B. *olivacea*, a tuberous trailing scandent.

Amy Rasmussen won Best in Division and first place with B. *ignita* in the Novice Division.

Steve's Leaves was represented throughout the building and the Begonia Show, which was located in a room by a courtyard with maroon snapdragons with silver dusty miller and a place for an educational meeting about Bella Begonia. Who is Bella Begonia? She is a puppet educational device used to teach the young students about plants, how to grow them and care for them. If edible, how to prepare them. In society when school is dismissed, the person in charge of Bella is usually recognized as Bella and pointed out to parents. The puppet is made of several parts and the pollen or butterfly added to the puppet can easily become another tool to further instruct about nature. The students then go home and teach their parents about the wonders of nature.

The Show Room was opened to all at 7 p.m. Thursday, but at that time attendees were eagerly lining up, waiting for the sales room to open so they could make their purchases.

Seminars at the Get Together on Friday included Stephen Maciejewski's "Journey from Java: Bali, Begonias and Botanic Gardens" with many pictures of his jungle explorations, his begonia finds, and the large Botanic Gardens he visited on his travels. All were beautiful and very interesting.

The next seminar was presented by Rick Schoellhorn on "History of Rex Begonia." He showed the curious and amusing ways Rex begonias were started and showed some interesting ways Rex history and Human history are related and intertwined.



Glenn Dickerson

The third seminar, done by Glenn Dickerson, the new curator of the Begonia Species Bank, on "Keeping Your Begonias Pest Free," showed different types of problems and different ways for them to be treated.

Don Miller offered the fourth seminar on "The

Thrill of Miniaturizing the Miniature Begonia" using a unique Carousel Slide Projector that several people had never seen before, and they asked what kind of machine it was. The program was fascinating with Don telling and showing how he grew miniature begonias in small pots all the way down to 1-inch square containers.

During the banquet Taddie Hamilton, the Director, welcomed all who were present and Leora Fuentes gave the blessing. Dinner was brisket, green beans, fried chopped potatoes, roll, and peach cobbler.

Awards: Nelda Moore presented the Mae Blanton Service Award to Taddie Hamilton, who served during the pandemic by encouraging words and growing begonias as she worked in the Fort Worth species bank, the largest in North America.

The Southwest Region Hybridizer of the Year Award was earned in 2022 by Darren Heppel. He began in 2017 with Rex Cultorum such as Steve's Leaves 'Cosmic Candy', Steve's Leaves 'Paradox' and Steve's Leaves 'Phantom.' In 2019 Darren won the best new introduction in Austin with Steve's Leaves 'Yellow Jacket.' He also produced rhizomatous and cane-like begonias. He has more than 20 named hybrids, and now has started his own business.

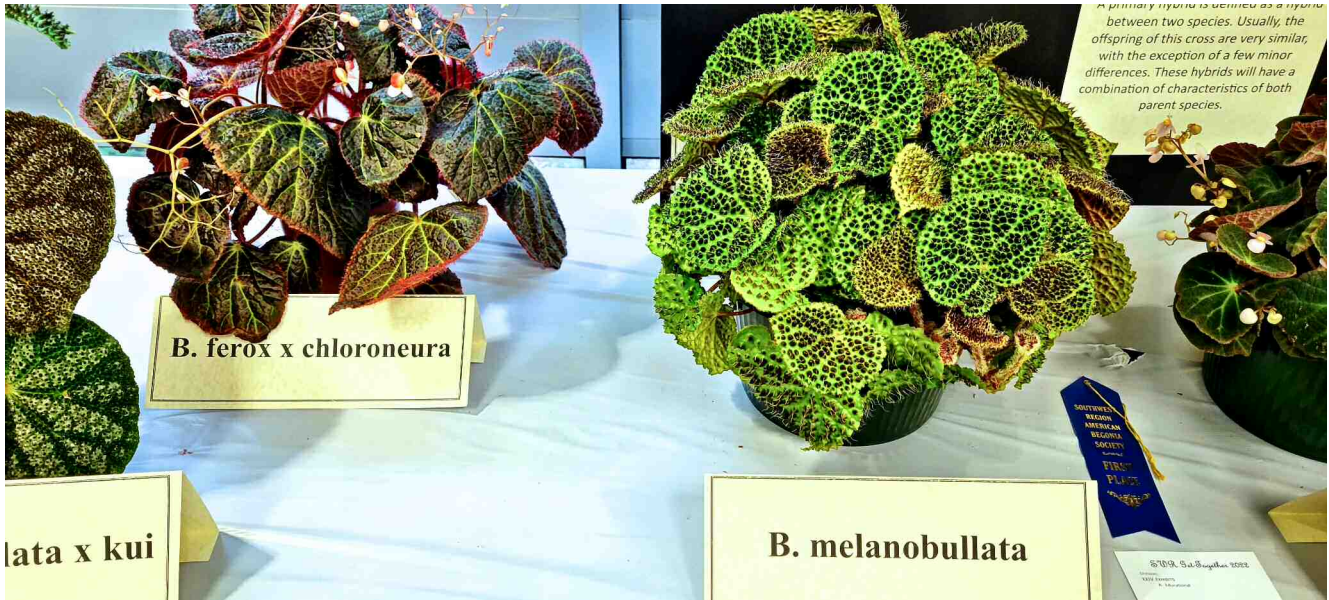
Don Miller recognized a new member who joined the area branch and brought with her several new members that are enjoying growing begonias. Her name is Amy Rasmussen and she is the winner of the Marguerite Vernon Award—the unsung hero who has served diligently behind the scenes.





Educational Exhibits





B. ferox x chloroneura

B. melanobullata

A primary hybrid is defined as a hybrid between two species. Usually, the offspring of this cross are very similar, with the exception of a few minor differences. These hybrids will have a combination of characteristics of both parent species.

lata x kui



B. ningmingensis (Dark Form)

B. melanobullata x ningmingensis (Dark Form)

differences. These hybrids will have a combination of characteristics of both parent species.



B. masoniana 'Red'

B. chloroneura

B. melanobullata x masoniana 'Red'
(B. 'Steve's Leaves Texas Shield')

ta x Dark



AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY MINUTES

Of the March 27, 2022 Meeting

The Austin Area Begonia Society met at 2 P.M. March 27, 2022, in the Austin Area Garden Council Auditorium for refreshments, business meeting, and an interesting program on checking begonia seeds and planting for a successful crop. Present were Charlotte Boyle, Doug Byrom, Vickey Cole, Jim Estes, Joan Estes, Jales Mandel, Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, and Geneva Townsend.

President Vickey Cole reminded members of the Southwest Region/ABS Get Together in Fort Worth April 27-30.

Officers for 2022 include Valerie Morris, President; Doug Byrom, Vice President; Nelda Moore, Secretary; and Vickey Cole, Treasurer. Joan Estes will serve as National Director and Nelda and Ken Fuchs will continue to be editors of the newsletter. Ken Fuchs will email the news after he has provided his expert work doing layout and providing photographs.

Meeting dates are from the Austin Area Garden Council and include May 15 and September 25, 2022. No meetings for this April and June, July and August.

BUSINESS MEETING:

Doug Byrom made a motion for the society to give \$200 to the American Begonia Society for begonia research.

MOTION PASSED.

Doug Byrom made a motion to purchase \$400 worth of begonias from the Southwest Get Together Sale.

MOTION CARRIED.

PROGRAM:

Doug brought a container of begonia soil mix and plastic salad bowls for planting seeds. He folded a white sheet of paper and poured the seed from the tiny packet. Those that rolled in the middle probably would sprout in time as they lay on top of the soil where they would be exposed to some light. The seeds had been sprinkled with some water so that the soil would keep moisture needed for sprouting the tiny seeds.

The next meeting will be May 15.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelda Moore, Secretary



B. 'Essence de Rose' exhibited by Steve's Leaves