



AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY

A Branch of the American Begonia Society

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



VOLUME 16, NUMBER 6

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2022

Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

NEXT MEETING:

November 27, 2022 2 P.M.

Pot Luck

Auditorium

Austin Area Garden Center

Zilker Botanical Garden

2220 Barton Springs

NEW DIVISIONS FOR PLANT SHOW



Rainee L. Freeman and meeting host Joan Estes

During the 90th American Begonia Society National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia new divisions were added to the Plant Show held September 30 in the Lombard Room. "At - Risk Begonias" Division ZZZ for begonia species listed on the web page and Division X for "Atlanta Branch hybrids." It also included Division Z for gesneriads, companion plants for begonias.



Doug Byrom, at the October 23, 2022 AABS meeting in the country home of Jim and Joan Estes near Lockhart, discusses the 2023 SWR/ABS Get Together in Tyler. (Photo by Jim Landers)

PROPAGATING SPECIES



Rekha Morris published a “Save Our Species” Newsletter in 2008 which told about propagating on paper with leaf stem cuttings from begonia species since the bit of petiole left on the leaf blade in the propagation box develops roots and plantlets faster than any of the blade pieces. Of course, there can be significant variations in response between different begonia varieties. Rekha tried to propagate *B. microsperma* which had few roots at 6 months, *B. staudtii* had roots then plantlets within 3 months, while *B. quadrialata* had a root system at 4 months but no plantlets at 6 months



B. microsperma



B. staudtii



B. quadrialata

To propagate on paper, cut a begonia leaf into several pieces after removing the outer perimeter on large leaves that have been cut in sections with one vein per section. Prop the cutting vertically to avoid contact with the rooting soil, perlite, sand mixture. Leave an inch or 2 of petiole and insert into water or potting medium. Cut across major veins and lay entire leaf on damp medium. Keep them not too wet or not too dry. Vent daily and keep plants close to fluorescent light for at least 12 hours daily. Also keep the tall terrarium or plastic food container covered.

Butch McDole in *The Begonian* for November/December 2022 now uses medium Jiffy Pellets from a Greenhouse Kit instead of paper as he once did. For propagation he washes the leaves in soapy water and rinses them. For the pellet he removes the mesh and uses about 2 quarts of hot water to hydrate the pellets.

To prepare cuttings, Butch uses a box cutter that he sterilizes with rubbing alcohol. He also keeps his hands sterilized.

BEGONIA SPECIES — HOW THESE RECEIVED THEIR NAME

Begonia incarnata grows on moist, semi-shaded cliffs in eastern Mexico. Since it is such a common species, the petioles are eaten as a vegetable. This species blooms in winter and its name comes from its flesh colored flowers.

In 1884 M. Lionnet and Arthur Mallet in France crossed a *B. Rex Cultorum* group with *B. incarnata* to produce the Mallet series. *B. 'Arthur Mallet'* and

B. 'Tingley Mallet' introduced in 1886 are popular even today.



B. incarnata



B. 'Arthur Mallet'



B. 'Tingley Mallet'

This species entered into cultivation when it was accidentally found in the soil attached to plants that Ferdinand Deppe had collected in Mexico and brought to Berlin Botanical Garden.



B. coccinea

B. coccinea is in the Pritzelia section of the cane group of begonias. It is a native of the Organ Mountains of Brazil where it was discovered by William Lobb in 1841. The plant that was exhibited at the Royal Horticultural Society in 1842 was blooming when William Hooker described the red flowering begonia as the most beautiful among the many handsome species known to collectors in 1843. "Coccineus" in Latin means 'crimson.' The tepals, the ovaries, and the flower stalks are bright red. Some of the hybrids grown using this species include *B. 'Annie Laurie'*, *B. 'Delores'*, *B. 'Margaritacea'*, (*B. 'Arthur Mallet'* X *B. coccinea*), and *B. 'President Carnot'* (*B. coccinea* X *B. Olbia*).



B. 'Annie Laurie'



B. 'Delores'



B. 'Margaritacea'



B. 'President Carnot'

B. conchifolia is a creeping rhizomatous perennial that is native to the rain forests of Costa Rica and Panama, where it grows on tree trunks and steep rock faces. There are 2 forms—one with a red dot on the leaf blade just above the petiole (*B. conchifolia* f. *rubrimacula*) and *B. conchifolia* f. *conchifolia*, which lacks the red dot.



B. conchifolia f. *rubrimacula*



B. conchifolia f. *conchifolia*

Von Warszewicz introduced *B. conchifolia* to Europe in 1850 from seed he collected in Costa Rica. In 1851 A. Dietrich described the plant as a species with peltate leaves resembling rounded shells so he named it after the conch shell.

Minutes of the October 23, 2022 Meeting of the Austin Area Begonia Society Branch of A.B.S.

The Austin Area Begonia Society Branch and the Alamo Begonia Branch met in the beautiful country home of Jim and Joan Estes in Lockhart at 2 P.M. on Sunday, October 23, 2022 with the following: **Kathy Barrows, Deva Brown, Doug Byrom, Laura Celis, Eric Challain, Irma Challain, John Cole, Vickey Cole, Jim Estes, Joan Estes, Rainee L. Freeman, Jim Landers, Leticia Luna, Joe Moore, Nelda Moore, Valerie Morris, Carol Orozco, Pi Stone, Geneva Townsend, Vic Wukovits, Flor Wukovits, and Alan Aldrighette.** Our thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Estes for their hospitality and the gorgeous landscape that enabled all present to admire the migrating butterflies.

The food was delicious: baked ham with sauce, potato salad, cole slaw, hot biscuits and bread, pea salad, cheese covered with sauce, coconut cake, fruit cake, and cookies.

Doug Byrom provided the latest information concerning the 2023 Get Together that will be held in Tyler, Texas, the Rose Capital of the World. Several groups have toured the city to find the greatest shops, the best hotel, and the gardens to tour throughout the area. It is possible for the Austin group to work with the plant sale and the Alamo group to work with hospitality. Many asked questions and Doug kindly explained that many wanted the American Begonia Society Get Together to continue promoting begonias in this way.

The meeting adjourned at 3: 20 P.M. and many went out to enjoy the many different plants.

The next meeting will be November 27 at 2 P.M. in the auditorium of the Austin Area Garden Center in Zilker Botanical Garden in Austin.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelda Moore, Secretary



Doug Byrom chats with host Jim Estes in the Esteses' enclosed patio.

