



# AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY

A Branch of the American Begonia Society

Website: [www.kenfuchs42.net/aabs\\_index.html](http://www.kenfuchs42.net/aabs_index.html)



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NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023

*Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors*

## NEXT MEETING

**Sunday, March 26 2 P.M.**

Auditorium

Austin Area Garden Center

Zilker Botanical Garden

2220 Barton Springs Road

Austin, TX 78746

**Begonias will be available.**

## AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY/ SOUTHWEST REGION GET TOGETHER MAY 24-27

At the ABS Convention/SWR Get Together that will convene in Tyler, Texas May 24 through 27 Awards will be presented, but first nominations are in order so that the awards can be handed out at the banquet.

Cheryl Lenert needs your help by April 30 in order to place names on the following:

Herbert P. Dyckman Award – presented to a member who has rendered long-term or very outstanding service for the American Begonia Society

Eva Kenworthy Gray Award – given for contributing original material toward helping the rank and file members further their study of begonias

Marge Lee Award – given to a person who contributes something of spiritual value toward cementing goodwill and harmony among members

Gene Salisbury Award – given to a grower who exemplifies the very best in cultural practice and shares their careful work of new species and hybrids

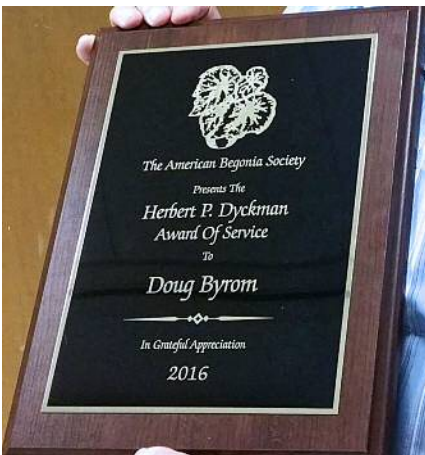
Rudolf Ziesenhenné Award – presented to an editor who collects and edits the works of others for a publication either the U.S. or international and encourages a broad array of writers both scientific and practical.



Growing, sharing, and preserving begonias



Doug Byrom received the 2016 Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service.



## SOUTHWEST REGION AWARDS

Nelda Moore needs names for the following:

Mae Blanton Service Award

SWR Hybridizer of the Year Award.

## SPRINGTIME BEGONIAS



The March/April 2023 issue of *The Begonian* with 'Looking Glass' on the cover proclaimed spring being not too far away even though the world news showed snow on the beach and on mountains in California. Here in Texas springtime came with blooming mountain laurels and trees with a hint of buds that soon became greener and thicker each day. Today is a cold Saturday and by Thursday a storm will likely bring snow to the Hill Country. Joe and Nelda have been clearing the tops of trees especially junipers or cedar as we know it. When the branches remained hanging, we tied a rope around the limb and pulled it down. When you walk under any tree in this area, listen for a cracking sound and move quickly. There are branches at the top that are still hanging.

Cleaning and growing begonias in the basement or greenhouse have kept us busy as we tried new soil mixes, green sand and fertilizer. New begonias have turned our attention to 'Pink Memory,' 'Lizzies Lime Palm,' 'Steve's Leaves Cierge Magique,' and 'Lunar Lights Sterling Moon.'

Now new begonias are ready for planting in containers — either plastic or clay pots. If it is a clay pot, it is scrubbed so that no mineral deposits will show and a shard can cover the hole in the bottom. Add some bark chunks for the filler because begonias are shallow rooted. Add potting soil, perlite, and bark mulch in equal parts. Take the plant out of the container, tickle the roots, and plant the begonia in the potting mixture. Add a drop of Super Thrive to a gallon of water and gently pour the solution around the plant to prevent shock. The soil should be  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch

below the top of the pot. Do not add fertilizer until the plant gets established. Stick your finger in the soil to see whether the plant is dry. Then water and let that rest before you add water with a bit of fertilizer. Never let the plant stand in water. Use a tray that has pebbles in the moisture and then place the pot on the tray. The begonia needs bright light, but not direct sunlight. When watering, do not water the leaves.



B. 'Pink Memory' - Long-Yuan Wang and Jun-Di Tan, creeping rhizomatous



B. 'Lizzies Lime Palm' - Liz Showniruk, large creeping rhizomatous



'Steve's Leaves Cierge Magique' - Ryan Wilhelm cane-like