



AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY

A Branch of the American Begonia Society

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



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NEWSLETTER

JUNE-JULY 2023

Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, September 24, 2 P.M.

DARREN HEPPEL — HYBRIDIZER OF 2022



B. 'Thunderstruck' Rex Cultorum
Heppel 2022



Darren Heppel, a staff member at Steve's Leaves in Lewisville, TX, was chosen Hybridizer of the Year at the 2022 Southwest Region Get-Together in Fort Worth, TX. At the 2023 ABS/SWR Convention in Tyler, TX, he won the Dianna Wilkerson Award for Best Rhizomatous and Best Southwest Region Hybrid with B. 'The Iron Maiden.'



B. 'Steve's Leaves Yellow Jacket' Rex
Cultorum Heppel 2019



B. 'The Iron Maiden' Rhizomatous Heppel 2021

Darren's B. 'Thunderstruck' was named Hybrid of Distinction, his B. U667 won the Rekha Morris Award for Best Species, and his B. 'Dolce Vita' won Best of Show.



B. U667 Rhizomatous 2022

See *The Begonian* "Introducing Begonia 'Steve's Leaves Cierge Magique' for how it got its name." March-April 2023.



You can watch Darren discussing how he hybridizes his begonias in the YouTube video "Steve's Leaves Hybrids Talk with the American Begonia Society."

DOUG BYROM CAPTURES AWARDS IN TYLER CONVENTION

Doug Byrom, who served as president and now is Vice President (Programs) of the Austin Area Begonia Society Branch, won the Macnair Award for Best Contained Atmosphere with B. *ignita* at the ABS/SWR Convention in Tyler.



B. 'Dolce Vita' Rex Cultorum 2021



B. *ignita* Shrub-like Lin & Peng 2016



'Steve's Leaves Cierge Magique' Cane-like 2021

He won Sweepstakes by having the most blue ribbons (7) and with 17 entries — the most in the show — he achieved Showing Is Sharing. He also earned the Lou Dyess Award for B. 'Sophie Cecile.'



B. 'Sophie Cecile' Cane-like - Superba Kusler 1961

Doug is also treasurer of the American Begonia Society, and his talents helped bring about the successful convention in Tyler.

PLANT SALE FASCINATES VISITORS AT ZILKER

The Austin Area Begonia Society joined with the Garden Club of Austin's Plant Sale in the auditorium in Zilker Botanical Garden Saturday and Sunday, June 3 and 4. The successful event had demonstrations outdoors to educate customers about staghorn ferns mounted on boards as well as hybridized zinnias from the garden club, vegetables, bushes, and herbs. Begonias were in containers in several sizes including hanging baskets and some exotic selections were bulbine and lilies.

Doug Byrom furnished begonias while Charlotte Boyle, Jim Estes, Joan Estes, Nelda Moore, and Valerie Morris assisted with sales and clean up.

During the sale Freda and R. L. Holley's son and his wife introduced themselves and told us that R. L. was living in Austin with them. He was enjoying better health and Freda would be coming here as soon as she was able, after suffering from a fall.

MORE HEPPEL HYBRIDS



B. 'Margaret Heppel' Cane-like 2022, named for Darren's grandmother



B. 'Brandon Strull' Rex Cultorum Heppel 2019



B. 'Dragon Heart' Rhizomatous Heppel 2021



B. 'Madame Rachel' Shrub-like Heppel 2019