



AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY

A Branch of the American Begonia Society

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



VOLUME 20, NUMBER 3

NEWSLETTER

March 2026

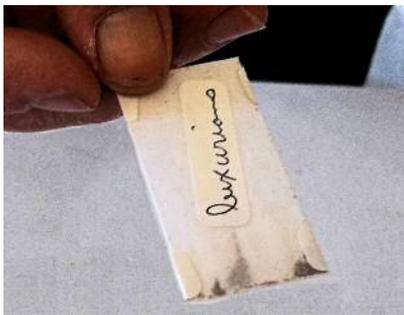
Freda Holley, Ken Fuchs, Editors

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, April 26 2 P.M.

Zilker Botanical Garden Center
2220 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78746

For next month's program we will be **planting begonia seeds** that Doug purchased from the ABS seed fund. We will have all of the supplies needed, but if someone has a small container or two they'd like to use, they are welcome to bring them. We will also talk about the upcoming ABS/SWR convention.



B. maculata - 1820 Cane-like

ROSS BOLWELL AND THE INTERNATIONAL DATABASE OF BEGONIACEA (IDB)

BY FREDA HOLLEY



Ross Bolwell with his Rhizomatous Begonia 'Marge Rickard'

Ross Bolwell is probably one of the most prolific and creative hybridizers in the world. Yet few think about him in terms of his own hybrids of which there are more than 400. No, when we think of him, it is because he created and runs the wonderful [International Database of Begoniaceae \(IDB\)](#). This database contains more than 9,000 begonia species and cultivars. We can search in terms of an individual begonia, or by types of begonias, or by hybridizer names, or even whether there are photos. Such searches tell us of the begonias' place of origin, creator or finder, if there is progeny and if so their names, their female and male parents, synonyms, and general comments. And on almost every begonia, the database shows from 1 to 5 photos.

Most of us are familiar with his *Begonia* 'Flamingo Queen', an obvious descendant of the cane species *B. maculata*. Several ABS members have visited Ross in Australia, but Mike Flaherty was the most successful, returning with *B.* 'Angel Glow' which Mike says changed world of begonias because he gave it to Brad Thompson who used it as a parent to create his Halloween Series and other of his cultivars. He also brought many others including *B.* 'Plum Swirl', 'Blazing Sun', and 'Platinum Star'.



B. 'Flamingo Queen' - Bolwell, Cane-like



B. 'Halloween Treat' - Thompson, Rhizomatous



Mike Flaherty and Ross Bolwell



B. 'Plum Swirl' - Bolwell, Rhizomatous



B. 'Angel Glow' - Bolwell, Rhizomatous

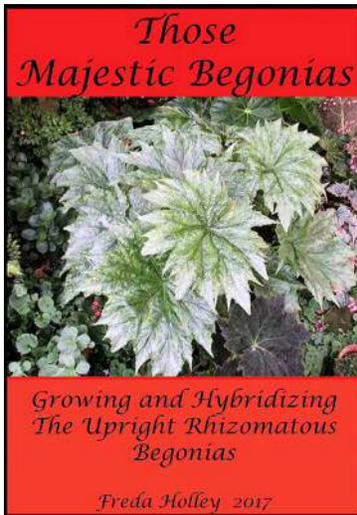


B. 'Platinum Star' - Bolwell, Rhizomatous

RHIZOMATOUS - UPRIGHT JOINTED

by Freda Holley

This is a fairly small group, only 55 are identified in the IDB. Yet it is important enough that I chose to write a booklet about it called *Those Majestic Begonias*.



Rhizomatous - Upright Jointed is an interesting group genetically, different in appearance, the way they flower, and how the flowers look. The photos will fully illustrate these attributes. If you find them as interesting as I do, after seeing their photos and reading their captions, and want to read more about them, there are still a very few booklets available from the [ABS Bookstore](#). Brad Thompson must've liked this group too, as most of the cultivars I found on the IDB are by him. I have a number too, although I was unaware the IDB used this as a group and did not label them this way. In my booklet I pulled together begonias from several different groups.



B. 'deliciosa' - Rhizomatous-upright jointed

Some of the begonias mentioned in this group by the IDB include:

Begonia Species: 'deliciosa', 'diadema', 'circumlobata', 'longifolia', 'roxburghii', 'u604'



B. 'diadema' - Rhizomatous-upright jointed



B. 'circumlobata' - Rhizomatous-upright jointed



B. 'longifolia' - Rhizomatous-upright jointed



B. 'roxburghii' - Rhizomatous-upright jointed



B. 'Mr. Hunt' - Rhizomatous-upright jointed



B. 'u604' - Rhizomatous-upright jointed

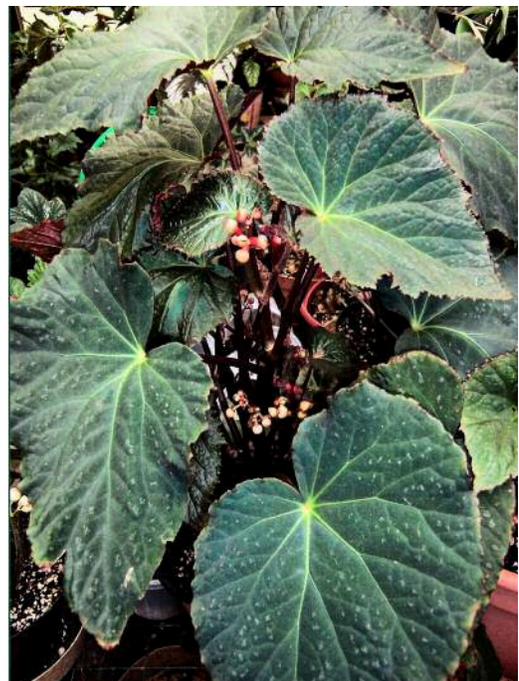


B. 'Bad Moon Rising'
Holley, Rhizomatous-upright jointed

Begonia Cultivars: 'Little Brother Montgomery', 'Mr. Hunt', 'Bad Moon Rising' (Holley), 'Freda's Mystery' (Holley), 'Upsy Daisy' (Holley)



B. 'Little Brother Montgomery' -
Rhizomatous-upright jointed



B. 'Freda's Mystery' - Holley,
Rhizomatous-upright jointed

AABS MEETING - SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026



B. 'Upsy Daisy' - Holley, Rhizomatous-upright jointed



From our Facebook AABS website:
(posted by Granny Mack



B. 'Manaus' - Trailing-Scandent



B. *beijnenii* (a new species from Palawan, the Philippines)

