

Blooming Begonias Newsletter
September, 2022 – November, 2022

President: Rebecca Stallard
Vice-President: Marcia Bedasse
Treasurer: Frances Drescher
Secretary: Beverly Lichtenstein
National Representative: Sandra Arlund

Next Meeting: Monday, December 12, 2022. Pot Luck Dinner and Begonia Bingo - Doors open at 6 p.m., dinner to begin at 6:30 p.m. *Anyone wishing to help with set-up and decorating please join us from 5 to 6 pm.*

President's Message

I'd like to wish all of our members and their loved ones Happy Holidays as we head into our "winter" months here in sunny Florida. I am looking forward to our December meeting – our traditional Holiday Potluck and "Begonia Bingo." To all who are so inclined, please feel free to bring table decorations for the December meeting, especially any cuttings from your gardens. I encourage you all to try to arrive early to help set up and decorate for our special meeting. See you on December 12!

Minutes - Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches
September 12, 2022 Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches was held on Monday, September 12, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. in the Mounts Auditorium, the President being in the chair and the Secretary being present.

The doors opened at 6:30 P.M. to setup for the potluck dinner and to check out the sell, swap, share items brought by members.

REPORTS

President

Rebecca opened the meeting at 7:20 P.M. She thanked Nancy and the members who came early to ready the tables for dinner. She announced the details for the Virginia Jens Celebration of Life at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, September 17, 2022.

Vice President

Marcia is in England fulfilling a teaching assignment.

Membership

Sandy Sklar reported 14 members present. She welcomed a guest, Atavius, a friend of Emily Dempsey.

Refreshments

Nancy thanked everyone who contributed to the potluck dinner.
Pauline and Leslie signed up for October refreshment responsibilities.

Newsletter

Leslie Fee would like members to send pictures the first week of the month for the website. Rebecca thanked Leslie for the informative newsletters.

Webmaster

Linda Lichtenstein reported that the website is up to date.

MOTION

It was moved by Sandy Arlund to donate \$300.00 to the ABS Conservation and Research Fund in memory of Virginia Jens. The motion was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Suggestions for 2023 activities were entertained.

1. Visit Doris Happel's garden for cuttings.
2. Tour of Pauline Ma's and Frances' garden, possibly in February.
3. Workshop to make bowls with assorted plantings.
4. Topiary workshop.
5. Put up begonia cuttings in baggies to give to Camilla, Emily Dempsey's friend, to grow for us. Rationale: higher incidence of success by using a controlled environment.
6. Explore contacting a variety of local nurseries to propagate the cuttings from the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens.

It was decided not to enter the Mounts sale this year.

There will not be an auction this year.

Frances and Lois Petzold will attend the annual ABS convention in Atlanta at the end of September. They will report on the convention at the October 17th meeting. They will buy begonias to sell at the October meeting if the selection is good and the price is reasonable.

Please note: The meeting is Monday, October 17th due to the Columbus Day closure of Mounts.

PROGRAM

Members enjoyed the potluck dinner and the sell, swap, share portion of the meeting.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Sandy Arlund, Frances, and Leslie Fee will serve. Frances is the Committee Chair.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Boca Raton Garden Club will have a holiday sale on October 13-14 and October 20-21.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

NEXT MEETING MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Lichtenstein, Secretary

Minutes - Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches October 17, 2022 Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches was held on Monday, October 17, 2022, at 7:00 P.M., in the Mounts Auditorium, the President being in the chair and the Secretary being present.

REPORTS

President

Rebecca opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Donnie, Frances and Lois were door-openers.

Vice President

Marcia is in England fulfilling a teaching assignment.

Treasurer

Frances reported the balance as of September, 2022. HOLIDAY GREETINGS netted \$8746.

She encouraged members to pay dues before January 1, 2023 as they will be increased.

Membership

Sandy Sklar reported 11 members present. There are 29 paid members.

Refreshments

Nancy thanked Pauline and Leslie for refreshments.
Sandy Sklar and Rebecca signed up for November.

Newsletter

Leslie Fee would like members to send pictures the first week of the month for the website. Rebecca thanked Leslie for the informative newsletters.

Webmaster

Linda Lichtenstein reported that the website is up to date.

MOTION

It was moved by Leslie Fee to acquire cuttings from the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens in exchange for a donation from our club. The motion was adopted.

New Business

Rebecca suggested visits to Fern Forest on Bluegrass Friday and the Deerfield Arboretum be added to the list of activities for 2023. The slate of officers for 2023 was announced.

President	Rebecca Stallard
Vice President	Lois Petzold
Secretary	Marcia Bedasse
Treasurer	Frances Drescher
National Rep.	Beverly Lichtenstein

Program

Frances and Lois Petzold attended the annual ABS convention in Atlanta at the end of September. The theme, Begonias on My Mind, was highlighted by a slide presentation with comments by Lois and Frances.

Rebecca auctioned plants and begonia memorabilia from Virginia Jens collection, donated to the club by her sister.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Beverly Lichtenstein, Secretary

NEXT MEETING MONDAY, November 14, 2022

Minutes - Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches

November 14, 2022 Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches was held on Monday, November 14, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. in the Mounts Auditorium, the President being in the chair and the Secretary being present.

REPORTS

President

Rebecca opened the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Donnie served as door-opener

Vice President

Marcia is in England fulfilling a teaching assignment.

Treasurer

Frances reported the balance as of October, 2022. She received a thank-you note from the Fort Worth Botanic Garden staff for our donation. She encouraged members to pay dues before January 1, 2023 as they will be increased.

Membership

Sandy Sklar reported 10 members present. There are 29 paid members. Palmer Crippen, a Mounts Botanical Garden horticulturist, was introduced as a guest.

Refreshments

Nancy thanked Rebecca and Sandy Sklar for refreshments. A sign-up sheet for the December pot-luck was circulated.

Newsletter

Leslie Fee would like members to send pictures the first week of the month for the website. Rebecca thanked Leslie for the informative newsletters.

Webmaster

Linda Lichtenstein reported that the website is up to date.

Unfinished Business

Rebecca read the slate of officers for 2023.

President	Rebecca Stallard
Vice President	Lois Petzold
Secretary	Marcia Bedasse
Treasurer	Frances Drescher
National Representative	Beverly Lichtenstein

Motion

That the slate of officers be accepted for 2023. The motion carried.

New Business

Rebecca appointed Pauline Ma, Rebecca Stallard and Nancy Cavnar to serve on the Financial Review Committee.

Program

The members were grateful for the help so graciously given by Fred and Sandy Sklar for setting up the virtual equipment needed to share our program. We owe you a debt of gratitude for “saving the day!” A Virtual Education Program by the Fort Worth, Texas, Botanic Garden was enjoyed. The garden is recognized by the American Public Gardens Association as a nationally accredited plant collection. The tour was hosted by Glenn Dickerson, curator, staff, and volunteers. A “question and answer” period followed, led by Lois Petzold, ABS judge, Glenn Dickerson, and Don Miller.

Auction

Janice DiPaolo donated several hybrid begonias and Frances donated several more for auction, led by Rebecca.

Badge Plant

‘B. Bonito’ was won by Sandy Sklar.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

Beverly Lichtenstein, Secretary

NEXT MEETING MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022. POT LUCK DINNER AND BEGONIA BINGO.

We’ve had an eventful few months. Our September meeting was a delightful evening of delicious sustenance at our potluck and then the selling, swapping and sharing of plants! The auction provided a nice opportunity for members to offer plants to sell, trade or generously give away. It was wonderful to see what members are growing in addition to begonias. Many unusual and hard-to-find plants were brought in. I was excited to bring home an Anthurium tetragonium from Sandy’s garden and another smaller unknown Anthurium from Frances’ garden. I guess I’m “into” Anthuriums now! Emily Dempsey brought in many beautiful large begonias, one of which, B. popenoei, a rhizomatous begonia, is now at home with me. This is a plant is from Central America and boasts leaves that grow up to one foot long. I’ll have my ruler handy and keep you posted as soon as I spot a leaf that size. Other plants offered were caladiums from the July Caladium Festival, a Jatropha Buddha belly plant, Philodendrum “Pink Princess,” ground orchids, crotons, and gingers, to name a few. Hopefully, this will spark our enthusiasm to check our plants and gardens for plant volunteers, plants that are ready to be separated/re-potted, or plants to propagate by leaf cuttings or air-layering so that we have lots of plants to bring in for future meetings like

this. Let's face it, we all love plants and who doesn't get a thrill when they are able to bring plants home from our Begonia meetings?



Plants available to Sell, Swap or Share



B. popenoei

Two of our members, Lois Petzold and Frances Drescher, traveled to Atlanta for the annual ABS convention "Begonias on My Mind." For our October meeting, Lois and Frances presented a slide show of photos taken at the convention. A very few select pictures are included below.

Numerous field trips are typically associated with attending an ABS convention such as local members' gardens, local botanical societies and other points of interest near the convention site. Atlanta is home to the magnificent Atlanta Botanical Garden. Naturally, visiting this garden was a highlight for the convention attendees. The Dorothy Chapman Fuqua Conservatory at the Atlanta Botanical Garden highlights "the botanical richness of selected tropical and desert regions around the world, and to educate visitors on issues of conservation and plant use." There are five main displays here – Conservatory Lobby where you can view the most colorful and unusual tropical frogs; the Orangerie - a section devoted to growing economically important plants under glass far from their native environments such as citrus, uncommon tropical fruits, nuts and spices; special exhibits; Desert House and Tropical Rotunda.

Figure 1 shows the wonderful welcome table of beautifully arranged Begonias.

Figure 2 is *B. maculata*, commonly known as the polka dot begonia, native to southeast Brazil.

Figure 3 is a rare fern leaf begonia species which is native to New Guinea – *b. bipinnatifida*, beautifully growing at the Fuqua Conservatory. It looks very much like a fern with its pinnate leaves, (a leaf which is divided into smaller leaflets arranged on each side of a leaf's central stalk). The plant is humorously described as a "finicky and delicate plant that has a long list of needs and wants and will be a handful even for the most experienced of growers" by Daniel Iseli, a gardener

who contributes to Plantofiles.com. Lois Petzold, who took the photo, says this plant is most often grown in terrariums, so it was a special treat to see one so large. Frances noted that on the visit to the Conservatory, the guide mentioned that there were more questions about this particular begonia than any other plant in the conservatory. Here's a question – how do we get cuttings?

Figure 4 was taken at the garden of local Atlanta member Mariana DiVita highlighting an area of begonias planted in the landscape. "Top row L to R: small Connee Boswell, Pewterware, Benitochiba, U489, B. 'Red China', Charles Jaros, Taconite. Bottom Row L to R: palmata, small Silver Treasure, Janet Brown, hosta, formosana. Helen Teupel." It's worth noting that Mariana won the most blue ribbons at the show!

Figure 5 features the first-place winner in the shrub-like species division – *Begonia hispida* var. *cucullifera*. This begonia is commonly known as the "Piggyback Begonia" because of the small leaf-like growths that come out of the upper leaf surface. The medium green leaves are also covered front and back with tiny white hairs. This is a shrub-like begonia which has a bushy growth habit.

Figure 6 is "Orange Glow" from Steve's Leaves which won a first-place cultural award. Steve's Leaves describes this plant as a "gorgeous upright cane-like Begonia with large clusters of bright orange flowers. The leaves are bright apple green with silver dots. This hybrid blooms all year if it gets enough light and warmth."

We enjoyed hearing about the great fun they had at the convention and all the nice side trips to local gardens and member gardens. Lois also judged plants at the convention and shared information about setup and the process for the show. They had a blast in Atlanta so let's hope we will have more members able to attend the next convention.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

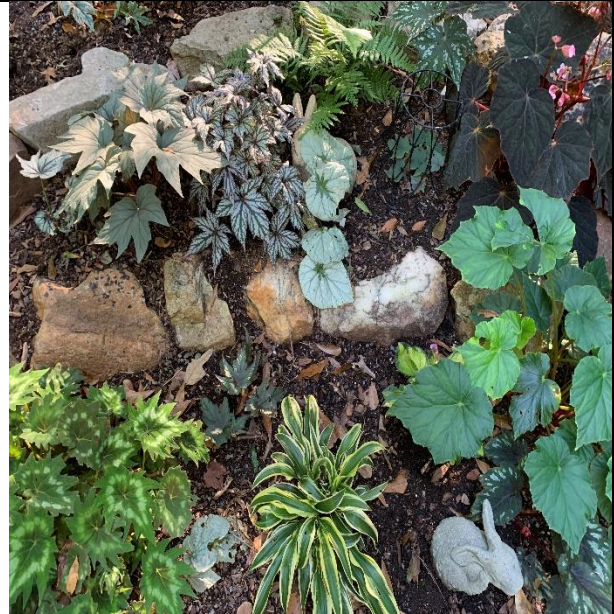


Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

Many of our members have visited the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, which boasts the largest begonia collection in North America. Our November meeting program featured a virtual education program on the begonia collection. We learned that the collection contains over 350 species and over 600 hybrids, all cared for by a large group of dedicated volunteers. This impressive begonia collection received accreditation through the Plant Collections Network and currently has the only accredited begonia collection in the nation. During the virtual program, volunteers guided viewers

through the multiple greenhouses making up the begonia collection. The Collection Greenhouse holds the bulk of the collection, the Working Greenhouse contains a potting shed for propagation, the Begonia Exhibition Greenhouse (which is open to the public) houses begonia hybrids, and the Rain Forest Conservatory where begonias are grown in their natural habitat. Incredibly, the collection also contains some 300 plus terrarium begonias. Our member Lois Petzold closed out the virtual program with quite an informative question and answer session with the begonia collection director Glenn Dickerson and volunteer Don Miller.

This program would not have been possible without the guidance of Fred and Sandy Sklar. Fred brought in the equipment necessary (and extra equipment options just in case). It was no easy task to set up the program and we are extremely appreciative of the generous gift of their expertise!

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday, December 12th for next our meeting – Holiday Potluck and Begonia Bingo!

Happy Holidays,
Leslie Fee, Newsletter Editor