



# BEGONIA SOCIETY NEWS

DELAWARE VALLEY BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY  
CHARTERED FEBRUARY 2002

June 2015

President – **David Hower**  
Recording Secretary – **Dave Messer**  
Membership Secretary – **Debby Evans**  
National Directors – **Janet and Lou Welsh**

Vice President – **Stephen Ripper**  
Treasurer – **Lois Keil**  
Newsletter Editor – **Debby Evans**

## JUNE MEETING AND ANNUAL PICNIC

This annual event will be held in the main house and on the terrace at Meadowbrook Farm Nursery.

Our speaker will be Jenny Rose Carey, the new Director of Meadowbrook Farm. She joined Meadowbrook after serving as the head of the arboretum at the Temple University – Ambler campus where she worked for more than ten years. She will speak on shade loving plants.

There will be a challenge show for Begonia 'Gryphon', the challenge plant handed out last year. *If your plant is alive, bring it!* That's why it's called a challenge plant. New challenge plants for next year will be available for distribution in the fall.

Our annual picnic will follow the meeting. Please plan to stay. Details can be found on the next page. Following the picnic, plan for a stroll around the gardens and retail display areas.

The garden path at Meadowbrook Farm



## REFRESHMENTS FOR JUNE MEETING

Nikki Taussig and Patty Perlstein

## JUNE MEETING Saturday, June 6, 2015

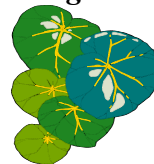
**Meadowbrook Farm Nursery**  
1633 Washington Lane  
Meadowbrook, PA 19046

215 – 887 – 5900

[www.meadowbrookfarm.org](http://www.meadowbrookfarm.org)

Directions to Meadowbrook Farm – From Rte. 611 head east on The Fairway and go .6 mi. Turn left on Rydal Rd. and go .1 mile to traffic light at Susquehanna Rd. At this intersection Rydal Rd. becomes Valley Rd. Proceed .4 mile on Valley Rd. to Washington Lane and turn left. Meadowbrook Farm will be .7 mile on the right

***Refreshments at 9:30 AM***  
***Meeting at 10:00 AM***



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was wonderful to see so many members (26) and three guests at our February meeting. We encourage you to bring a guest. Let's keep building our club.

Don't forget to bring your challenge plant you picked up a year ago to be judged. I hope to have a challenge plant for everyone at the September meeting.

We are fortunate to have the new Director of PHS Meadowbrook Farm as our speaker at our picnic. Her topic will be growing shade plants. After the cold and snowy winter we welcome spring so we can put our plants outside to enjoy the gift of Mother Nature's sun and warm gentle rain. See you at Meadowbrook on June 6.

*David Hower*

## JUNE PICNIC INFORMATION

All members and guests are invited to the picnic at the conclusion of the meeting. Bring your own sandwich or other entree for yourself and something special (salad, dessert) to share on the picnic table.

Any questions? Contact Lois Keil at 215-355-4572.

## SHOW AND TELL / PLANT CLINIC

Please remember to bring an interesting plant that you may have for Show and Tell. We hope that this will become a regular feature of our meetings.

Also, don't forget to bring in a plant for the plant clinic if you have need. Remember, **bugs** are not welcome.

## MEETING MINUTES

### **Regular Meeting, April 4, 2015 - Huntingdon Valley Library**

Meeting opened at 10:00 am by President David Hower, who read the mission of the chapter *to stimulate interest in and expand knowledge of begonias and other shade-loving plants, to encourage and promote the preservation of known varieties and to provide a friendly atmosphere conducive to learning.*

He asked for a minute of silence for the late Grace Beatty, and announced that a memorial plaque with her photo would be displayed at meetings. Sections of rhizome from B. 'Black Chamois' from her plant were distributed, and an auction of begonias from her collection followed, which raised \$248 for DVB.

He introduced guests Charlotte Ciori, Jane Greer and Fran Greenberg.

## Announcements

Newsletter Editor – The current editor has resigned, and a volunteer is needed to take over this responsibility.

Meadowbrook – The new Director of Meadowbrook is Jenny Rose Carey, who will be the speaker at the meeting and picnic on June 6. Attendees are asked to bring a dish to share plus their challenge plant (B. 'Gryphon').

## Program

The program consisted of a presentation by Steve Ripper on Cane Begonias. Cane begonias were first hybridized by breeder Eva Kenworthy Gray in 1926. These begonias are woody, fibrous-rooted, usually upright plants, with many hybrids from Brazil, including variants of *B. aconitifolia* and *coccinea*. They have slender, bamboo-like stems with regularly-spaced swollen nodes and broad asymmetrical leaves that are often toothed or deeply lobed. Cane begonias need bright light to bloom (but little sun exposure), heavier soil mix than other varieties, plus regular watering and feeding. The canes need to be cut back to induce branching. The plants are best propagated using a section of stem including a node in water or in a medium such as Perlite (with gradual transition to soil when roots develop).

This worthwhile program was followed by the usual raffle.

**Next Meeting:** The May [23] meeting will be a trip to Peace Tree Farms and nearby Linden Hill Gardens and Parkside Orchid Nursery.

*Dave Messer*

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
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I will be resuming the position of newsletter editor following the resignation of Sharon Harris. If you are interested in taking on this job, feel free to get in touch with either Dave Hower, or me directly.

Please understand that, as the person who sends the newsletter out, I function as the *chief communications officer*. I am the messenger, and will respond to general questions if I know the answer. If you have questions about policy or programming, or matters of concern that you feel require someone's attention, they are best directed to either David Hower, *president*, (djhower@comcast.net) or Stephen Ripper, *program*, (srips@verizon.net).