



BEGONIA SOCIETY NEWS

DELAWARE VALLEY BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
CHARTERED FEBRUARY 2002

September 2015

President – **David Hower**
Recording Secretary – **Dave Messer**
Membership Secretary – **Debby Evans**

Newsletter Editor– **Debby Evans**

Vice President – **Stephen Ripper**
Treasurer – **Lois Keil**
National Director – **Janet Welsh**

SEPTEMBER MEETING AND PROGRAM

Our September meeting will take place in the Community Room of the library in order to better accommodate the annual begonia show. We will have lots of space so please be prepared to enter lots of plants. The show schedule is listed on page 2 of this newsletter. Entry cards will be available at the show. Please plan to come a little early (by 9:45) if you are planning to enter the show.

Challenge plants for show next June will be distributed at this meeting. This year we are growing a rhizomatous plant, B. 'Autumn Embers'. Dave Hower will discuss the culture of this plant. Members will purchase plants at our cost from Peace Tree Farm. If you are unable to come to the meeting and wish to have one, please make arrangements with someone who will be attending the meeting to have one picked up or held for you. Extra plants will be made available to visitors and guests to purchase at the end of the meeting.

There will be a round robin discussion by those who participated at the ABS Convention in Boston. Seven of our members attended this year.

Dave Messer will present for the SHOW AND TELL segment for this meeting.



Lloyd Traven, of Peace Tree Farm, shown with Stephen Ripper, has donated this beautiful begonia for auction at the meeting, after the plant raffle.

SEPTEMBER MEETING Saturday, Sept. 5, 2015

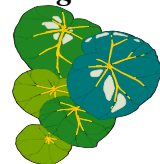
Huntingdon Valley Library –
Community Room – 2nd floor

625 Red Lion Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

Directions from
Meadowbrook Farm Nursery
– Continue on Washington
Lane past Meadowbrook
Farm to Welsh Road. (PA
Rte. 63) Turn right onto
Welsh Road and go 1.3 miles
to Huntingdon Pike. (PA Rte.
232) Turn left onto
Huntingdon Pike and
proceed to Red Lion Road,
1/2 mile on the right. Turn
right onto Red Lion and go .1
mile. The library will be on
the left. The second
driveway, after you pass the
library building, will take
you to the parking lot nearest
the entrance to the
community room.

Refreshments at 9:30 AM

Meeting at 10:00 AM



REFRESHMENTS
Debby Evans and others TBD

PLEASE HELP!!

The set-up and refreshment committee need your help at each meeting. At the end of the meeting, please help by stacking your chair in the back of the room and putting coffee cups, etc. into the trash receptacles that are provided. This will expedite cleanup and get the room back into shape for the next group.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had a productive Board meeting on Aug. 14. We updated the by-laws. We selected the challenge plant, B.'Autumn Embers', to be distributed at the Sept. 5th meeting. A committee will review the Membership Booklet to see if it is worthwhile to continue it, and, if so, to make it current. The programs and activities were outlined for each meeting for the coming year. It was a very positive meeting.

I'm pleased to tell you that Charles Jaros will be our guest speaker in November. The meeting date will be Saturday, November 14th, and we will meet at Meadowbrook Farm. The date and location changes have been made to accommodate Charles's schedule, as he will be in the Philadelphia area during the week.

Remember that we want to hear from you about what you want and would suggest for the programs for future meetings.

Dave Hower

SHOW SCHEDULE

1. CANE STEM BEGONIA
 - A. FLOWERING
 - B. NON-FLOWERING

2. SHRUB-LIKE BEGONIA
 - A. FLOWERING
 - B. NON-FLOWERING

3. TRAILING/SCANDENT BEGONIA
 - A. FLOWERING
 - B. NON-FLOWERING

4. RHIZOMATOUS BEGONIA
 - A. FLOWERING
 - B. NON-FLOWERING

5. TUBEROUS AND SEMITUBEROUS BEGONIA
 - A. TUBEROUS
 - B. SEMITUBEROUS

6. COLLECTION OF BEGONIAS GROWN IN A CONTAINER
 - A. FLOWERING
 - B. NON-FLOWERING

(Continues on next page)

7. CHALLENGE PLANT

- A. FLOWERING Any previous challenge plant
- B. NON-FLOWERING Any previous challenge plant.

RULES:

1. Plants should be clean, well groomed, and disease free.
2. Pots should be clean. Glazed, decorated and other special pots are acceptable. Plastic pots are to be clean and in good condition as well.
3. A flowering plant is one that has 4 or more flower scapes. Any number less than 4 will be considered a non-flowering entry.
4. A collection shall consist of 3 or more specimens in a container. The size and shape of the container is not important. Plants must be listed on a '3x5' index cards.
5. The use of a top dressing is permitted.
6. Entry cards will be provided.
7. Classes may be sub-divided at the discretion of the judges.

SHOW AND TELL / PLANT CLINIC

Please remember sign up to bring an interesting plant that you may have for Show and Tell. This year we plan to have this as a regular feature of our meetings. Please contact Stephen Ripper to sign up to present at a meeting. (srips@verizon.net or 215-536-9034)

If you have a 'non-show-quality' plant that you don't understand and need help with, bring it along and we'll try to figure it out for you. Remember, **bugs** are not welcome.

SOS - SAVE OUR SPECIES

As a follow-up to her presentation on species begonias, Johanna Zinn of ABS is interested in a list of species begonias that members of the Delaware Valley Branch are growing. Please send this to Dave Messer at dmesserpr@comcast.net. This can include any plants presently grown from seed or purchased, but should only include species begonias (e.g. *B. prismatocarpa*) but not hybrid named varieties (e.g. *B. 'Burning Bush'*)

Dave

MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting, June 6, Meadowbrook Farm

Meeting opened at 10:10 am by President David Hower, who introduced the following guests: Jocelyn Canfield, Charlotte Ciore, Sally Gendler, Ann Link Maesture, Cindy Nuss, Margie Petrone, Angie Slott, and Maureen Thompson.

Show and Tell/Plant Clinic

Several members took advantage of a new feature in which members can get assistance with a sick plant. This will be a regular feature at future meetings.

(Continues on next page)

Challenge Plant

Winners of the challenge plant (B. 'Gryphon') competition were: First – James Garvey and Second – Lois Keil. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to judges Ed MacFarland and Helene Stephenson.

Program

The program consisted of a delightful presentation by Jenny Rose Carey, the recently appointed Director of Meadowbrook. She praised the staff at Meadowbrook for their assistance in improving the plantings around the property. Her presentation was entitled "Shade Gardens," based on material for her forthcoming book to be published by Timber Press.

- Trees – The first consideration for a shade garden are the trees, which provide a vertical element, bark texture, and the overhead canopy. They also introduce a dramatic element with the change of seasons.
- The Woodland Garden
 - Can be large or small
 - Provide a place for wildlife
 - Include human elements (place to walk and sit)
 - Consider a water element (natural stream, pond, fountain)
- The Process
 - Walk around to review the properties of the area
 - Develop a preliminary plan
 - Clear the area, removing unwanted plants, especially invasive plants
 - Finalize the plan
 - Add major trees as needed
 - Develop the understory (small trees and shrubs)
 - Add herbaceous plants
 - Decorations (can be formal or whimsical)
- Final Words
 - Plant a Tree (and save the leaves for compost)

This worthwhile program was followed by the usual raffle and a picnic.

Dave Messer

PROPOSED CHANGE TO BY-LAWS

The Board has proposed to correct the by-laws in the follow manner *from*:

"The Membership Secretary shall receive the membership dues (local and national) and deposit the dues with the treasurer.

The Treasurer shall receive and account for all monies of the organization and shall dispense monies under the direction of the Board. In the absence of the treasurer, the President shall be authorized to sign checks for authorized expenditures. The Treasurer shall submit a monthly statement of all receipts, disbursements and appropriations."

To: (delete the first sentence.) The Membership Secretary shall keep an accurate and current record of the names and addresses of members. The Membership Secretary, **or the Treasurer**, shall notify all members that dues should be paid one to two months before their actual renewal date.

The Treasurer shall receive and account for all monies of the organization, **including members' dues**, and shall dispense monies under the direction of the Board. In the absence of the treasurer,

the President shall be authorized to sign checks for authorized expenditures. The Treasurer shall submit a monthly statement of all receipts, disbursements and appropriations.”

This change will be voted on at the November meeting. It has been made to reflect reality.

TRIPOD WEBSITE

Our website, <http://begoniasociety.tripod.com/>, is a good means to locate new members, but we need DVB members help in supporting it by visiting the site. I'm asking for suggestions how to improve it. There is also a page where it is possible to announce garden club meetings and events so send any copy to me (wienner1@verizon.net). I'm looking forward to your comments.

Bernie

CALENDAR FOR 2015 - 2016

Please put these dates on your personal calendar for planning purposes.

Details and additions will follow as they become available. Having these dates on your calendar will prevent you from missing future meetings if you don't receive the newsletter for some reason. Meeting dates are in bold. Other dates of interest are not.

September 5th - Huntingdon Valley Library

September 12th – PHS Fall Plant Party at Meadowbrook Farm (Visit phs.org for details) 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

September 19th – PHS Members Day (Visit phs.org for details)

November 14th – Meadowbrook Farm

January 9, 2016 – Annual Meeting – Huntingdon Valley Library

February 6th – Huntingdon Valley Library

March 5 – 13, Philadelphia International Flower Show

April 2nd – Huntingdon Valley Library

June 4th at Meadowbrook Farm – spring picnic and challenge plant show

CONSIDERATIONS ON BRINGING BEGONIAS INSIDE

It's that time of year and your editor has been reading various websites and blogs devoted to the topic bringing begonias (and other plants) inside during the fall. Here is a short list of things to think about.

Temperature – Most sites agree that in this area it is best to bring the plants in when the nighttime temperatures drop to about 50°. It is as important to adjust them to indoor temperatures, as it is to harden them off in the spring. Bring them in at night and put outside during the day to help them adjust – at least the ones that you most care about.

Humidity and Light - Expect many leaves to dry and drop if there is a sudden drop in both due to indoor conditions. New leaves that grow in will be fine. Tenting with plastic and gradually removing it will lessen this problem.

Bugs – Most sites suggest using a strong stream of water on all parts of the plant to remove bugs mechanically. If the plants can tolerate it, soak pots to the rim in a bucket of water for 15 minutes to force them out of the soil. Think long and hard before you try this on begonias, however. Follow up with your insecticide of choice.

One last thought...this is a good time to take and share cuttings of plants that have grown too big.