



BEGONIA SOCIETY NEWS

DELAWARE VALLEY BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
CHARTERED FEBRUARY 2002

November 2022

President – **Christina VanWyk**
Vice President – **Shelley McDonnough**
Recording Secretary – **Peggy Nguyen**
Treasurer – **Nikki Taussig**

Membership – **Debby Evans**
Communications & Social Media – **Shelley McDonnough,**
Leslie Morris Smith, Debby Evans
National Director – **Christina VanWyk**

Program - Deborah Taylor Kwasniewsk of Taylor Greenhouses

She will be presenting to our branch at the library using Zoom.

Deborah Taylor Kwasniewski began her lifelong involvement with begonias in the 1970s, with the Buxton Branch of the American Begonia Society under the mentorship of Corliss Engle. She entered a professional career in horticulture, moving through several positions in the Boston, MA area and then back in her native western New York.

In 1984, she founded her own wholesale greenhouse business, selling to local nurseries and garden centers. 20-odd years later, Taylor Greenhouses began to pivot into its own (internet) retail business. Its website offers over 1,500 varieties of plants, including one of the nation's largest selections of begonias offered for sale (over 700).



Be sure to visit her website at: taylorgreenhouses.com

November 5, 2022

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



NOVEMBER REFRESHMENTS

Heather Ascher

Debby Evans

Christina VanWyk

BEGONIA SHOW

As always, there was an amazing display of interesting and beautiful begonias at our annual show. We had two judging panels because there were so many plants on display this year. There were also photography entries, a new element in our expanding show. Next year, we hope to have craft entries.

Instead of listing each class individually, this year we will name the ribbon winners across all the classes.

1st Place: Debby Evans (2), Mary Forsberg, Bill Fullerton (2), Stephen Maciejewski, Leslie Miller (3), Peggy Nguyen (2), Nikki Taussig, Christina VanWyk.

2nd Place: Michael & Heather Ascher, Mary Forsberg (2), Shelley McDonnough, Leslie Miller (2), Aimee Petkus, Stephen Maciejewski.

3rd Place: Michael & Heather Ascher, Debby Evans (2), Ed MacFarland (2), Stephen Maciejewski (2), Leslie Miller, Peggy Nguyen, Russ Strover, Nikki Taussig, Christina VanWyk, Thora Williams (2).

HM: Debby Evans (2), Bill Fullerton, Leo Lin, Stephen Maciejewski, Leslie Miller, Aimee Petkus (3).

Peoples' Choice for Best in Show was a tie between Leo Lin (B. 'Flamingo') and Leslie Miller (B. 'Pink Minx')

Congratulations to all our ribbon winners. Next step - Philadelphia Flower Show!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that everyone has been able to get all their plants in for the winter. We had a very successful auction this year, raising over \$1300. I would like to thank each and every one of you who donated plants, purchased plant, helped run the behind the scenes, Debby who loaned us her driveway, and Stephen who was our auctioneer. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and will keep us with a healthy budget.

We have a lot planned for the new year. First Johanna and Betsy have agreed to hold a judging school for our branch, since many of you expressed interest in becoming an ABS judge. There will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting for those interested. Secondly, DVB has been asked to participate in the Philadelphia Flower Show. PHS is interested in promoting the local plant societies and has asked if we would be interested in have a small display in the Hortcourt. We will need some volunteers to help oversee our displays and be present for public Q&A. There will be a sign-up sheet for those interested in volunteering. I understand you will be given free entry into the show for your time. Finally, we will start working on updating our website if anyone is interested in joining the committee.

I hope that you enjoy this month's meeting featuring Deb from Taylor greenhouses. I know that we will learn a lot as Deb has a great variety of begonias for sale on the website. The board will be meeting next week to discuss topics for 2023. Please contact me or another board member if you have a topic or speaker you wish to hear from.

We will be having a board meeting Nov 8th if anyone is interested in joining us. I will end this message the way I do most. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any board member if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas. My email is froglady500@outlook.com This is not my branch; this is our branch. I encourage all of you to attend our board meetings if you are able to. We are always looking for individuals to help with various roles within the branch. If you are interested, please contact me and we will work together. Remember the branch is a collective effort and could not exist without all of you.

Happy Growing,
Christina VanWyk
President DVB/ABS

PHOTOS FROM THE OCTOBER AUCTION



Bex can surely grow ferns!



Peggy had better have a plan for this.



Lunch after a successful auction

We had a beautiful weekend for the auction and all the planning and coordination paid off. Way to go, DVB!

DUES COLLECTION FOR 2023

If you have not paid your local dues to DVB, please plan to do it soon. You may pay by cash or check at the meeting or use PayPal. We will collection national payments until December 15th. You will then be responsible for sending it in on your own directly to national. (Refer to the website or to the back of the Begonian for directions to send dues.) Do not send local dues to national. We may not be reimbursed by them. Checks may be sent to Nikki Taussig, Treasurer

DVB, at 233 Harrison Ave., Highland Park, New Jersey 08904. We will send out individual reminders in the middle of November.

ANOTHER REMEMBRANCE OF BERNIE WEINER

I have been looking for this bench since I heard about it a few years ago at the school that two of my granddaughters attend. They did not go there when Bernie was well and never met him. They did tell me about the Plant Man bench, however. During the pandemic it was in a locked garden. It was moved back to its original location near the entrance of the school this year. I found it last week when I picked up one of the girls from an afterschool club.



Bernie was known as the Plant Man at Coopertown Elementary School in Havertown. He went there frequently and brought plants for the children to grow and gave them to any child who expressed interest. He taught a whole generation of children to care for and love plants and gardening.

This was a side of him that many of us never knew.

I always wondered why Bernie had so many plants when I visited his home greenhouse. Now I understand. He grew them to give away.



BOARD MEETING ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1st

You are invited to attend the meeting at 7:30 PM. The Zoom invitation will be sent out in a separate email.