

**Blooming Begonias Newsletter**  
**July, 2022 – August, 2022**

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

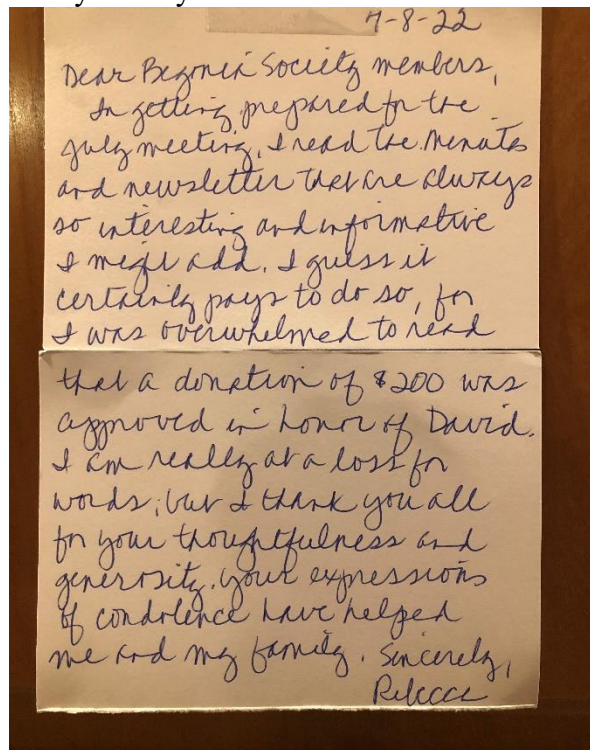
**Next Meeting: Monday, September 12, 2022 (Doors open at 6 pm - dinner will begin @ 6:30)  
– Potluck and “Sell, Share & Swap”**

As we look ahead to our October meeting, please note that due to Columbus Day, our **October meeting will be on the third Monday – October 17<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars.**

***President’s Message***

I’m hoping everyone enjoyed a lovely summer. It seems we were all busy with family gatherings, vacations and the like. I am looking forward to seeing as many members as possible for our upcoming “Sell, Share & Swap” meeting this Monday! Please bring at least three contributions to the meeting: gather up your begonias, other plants, and excess gardening paraphernalia to sell, share or swap. We will also enjoy a pot luck dinner, so please bring a dish to share, and arrive at Mounts a little early so we can set up and start dinner by 6:30 p.m. On Monday, we will have a short business meeting. I have appointed Frances Drescher as chair of the Nominating Committee. We are requesting all members to consider volunteering to serving on this committee.

Again, dear members, thank you for your kindness....



***Rebecca Stallard, President***

Last month, we bid a fond farewell to member, Virginia Jens.



*Virginia pictured in Johanna Kitson's garden with her namesake begonia 'Virginia Jens'*

*Virginia Jens quietly passed away on August 25, 2022.*

*For many, many years she was an active member of the American Begonia Society serving in several capacities including President a few years ago.*

*Over the decades her local Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches benefited from her vast knowledge of growing and teaching others about begonias. She was instrumental in starting three begonia gardens inside the Mounts Botanical Garden as well as holding several officer positions, sometimes more than once.*

*In her church communities she generously helped in soup kitchens and connecting with those in need. She always had time for others.*

*Her enthusiasm and willingness to help will be greatly missed.*

*By Johanna Kitson*

*Minutes - Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches*  
July 11, 2022 Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches was held Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 P.M., the President being in the chair and the Secretary being present.

The first half-hour members enjoyed refreshments and checked out the raffle table.

**President:** The meeting was called to order by Rebecca at 7:30 P.M. She thanked the membership for their support at a difficult time. Rebecca thanked Donnie and Frances for keeping the door open.

**Vice -President:** The next meeting, Monday, September 12, 2022, will be a pot-luck dinner followed by the selling, swapping or sharing of garden-related items brought in by members.

Monday, October 17, 2022, features an auction of spectacular begonias.

November: TBA

Monday, December 12, 2022-BEGONIA BINGO!

**Secretary:** The minutes are submitted to the Board for approval and then sent to the membership.

**Treasurer:** Frances reported the balance as of June 30, 2022.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:** Sandy introduced guest Maria Wolfe, President of the Wellington Garden Club.

**Newsletter:** Leslie was thanked for a publishing an interesting newsletter. She requests photos and items of interest be submitted to her by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Refreshments:** Nancy thanked Leslie, Rebecca and herself for refreshments.

**Web Master:** Linda reported that she has been updating the website.

**Raffle Plants:** Donated by Frances.

**Badge Plant:** A Harmony rex hybrid begonia was won by Rebecca.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Members are encouraged to attend the ABS convention.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A suggestion was made by Kit Pannill to sell begonias and ferns at a meeting.

A tour of a private garden in Boca Raton was suggested by Rebecca for the January, 2023 meeting.

### **MOTION**

After discussion, members voted to donate \$450.00 to the ABS Holiday Greetings fund. The motion was adopted after debate.

## PROGRAM

Lois Petzold, an ABS judge, presented pictures of begonias she judged at the Philadelphia Flower Show and the ABS Southwest Region Get-Together. She explained the differences and similarities in the judging of the two shows. She challenged our members to choose which of the top three entries of various classes deserved first place and to explain why. Lois also demonstrated how to groom begonias for show, using begonias brought in by Marcia and Leslie.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Lichtenstein, Secretary*

Our July meeting was quite informative with Lois Petzold giving us valuable hints on grooming begonias for show. Members were encouraged to bring in plants they wished to groom. Here, we have an example of a cane begonia that before grooming was growing spindly and leggy. The after picture shows the shorter canes growing nicely and the trimmed back sections beginning to fill in the empty spaces.



*Cane Begonia – before grooming*



*Cane Begonia – a few weeks after grooming*

Lois also distributed to all in attendance Begonia ‘Zumba’ as a challenge plant. We were tasked with bringing these home to care for, repot as desired, and bring back in to a future meeting (to be announced) to be judged on the progress of each. We’ll be looking forward to seeing how our challenge plants fared.

We also enjoyed the photos Lois shared of the recent flower show she was asked to judge. It was quite interesting to learn all that goes into presenting a plant to show and the meticulous detail that goes into judging the plants.

Be reminded that we will “Sell, Share and Swap” plants, gardening supplies, etc. at our next meeting. I’m excited to bring in plenty of beautiful caladiums that have been growing from the ridiculous amount of bulbs I purchased at the Lake Placid Caladium Festival in late July. I planted bulbs for several weekends. When I could no longer devote hours to planting the bulbs in the ground, I hastily planted the remainder of the bulbs in pots. I’ll have many varieties to share at the next meeting! What will you bring to sell, share or swap?

Looking forward to seeing everyone this Monday, September 12 for next our meeting.

Stay well, friends!

***Leslie Fee, Newsletter Editor***