

**Blooming Begonias Newsletter**  
**May, 2022 – June, 2022**

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

**Next Meeting: Monday, July 11, 2022 @ 7 p.m. – Member, Lois Petzold will report on her experiences as a Judge at the prestigious Philadelphia Flower Show**

***President's Message***

Greetings to All! I hope everyone is enjoying some relaxing downtime. I, personally, have embarked upon organizational projects around my home and have managed to sift through and file mountains of club documents that I have accumulated the last couple of years. I just hope I have not become too overzealous and not thrown the baby out with the bathwater!

Thank you to all of you who have kept our meetings meaningful and going forward. I have missed some terrific programs and have really missed gathering with you. Plant people are special folks, but especially you all in the Begonia Society. This is the time of year with the most challenge for survival for our shade loving plants, so I welcome all the tips from the pros. We do have to remember, we live in paradise!

***Rebecca Stallard, President***

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

The regular monthly meeting of the Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches was held Monday, May 11, 2022 at 7:00 P.M., the Vice President Marcia Bedasse in the chair and the Secretary being present.

Donnie Brown and Frances Drescher served as door-keepers.

Frances provided the badge plant, PETER PIPER. Sandy Sklar won the badge plant. Frances and Lois provided the begonias for the raffle table.

The meeting was called to order by Marcia at 7:20 P.M.

**Vice President:** Marcia announced the June meeting will be container pots featuring begonias by Tim Whelan of ART BY NATURE nursery. A field trip to Fern Forest was suggested for a future Round About.

**Secretary:** The March minutes were sent to the Executive Board members and Leslie Fee, Newsletter editor for membership approval.

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

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:** Sandy Sklar introduced guests Kyle Bergman and Ilana Carralho. Refiguring dues collection to simplify the process was discussed.

**Refreshments:** Nancy thanked Leslie F., Sandy S., Donnie, Nancy, Beverly, and Petra for refreshments.

**Newsletter:** Leslie requested submissions be forwarded to her no later than June 20. Pictures and articles are welcome.

**Webmaster:** The program page has been updated with the latest information.

**Workday at MOUNTS:** There is not much happening at the garden. Members are encouraged to help groom the begonia garden the first Saturday of the month at 9:00 A.M.

**Motion:** Leslie moved and Donnie seconded a proposal that Board members be permitted to spend \$100.00 without Board approval and \$200.00 with Board approval. The motion was approved after discussion. The business meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

## **PROGRAM**

Lois and Frances brought begonia cane cuttings from the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, which boasts the largest begonia collection in N.A., featured at the Southwest Region Get-Together. They gave each member present a hand-out describing each cutting. The members selected several bags of cuttings of their choice to propagate. Lois will propagate B. Palm Beach Moon for each member. She suggested propagating canes in water. For rhizome propagation she suggested laying the rhizome in moist sphagnum moss; for leaf propagation she recommended folding the leaf over and cutting to resemble an umbrella, place in perlite in a plastic bag. Wedge cuttings should be placed in vermiculate in an air-tight bag.

Suggestion: If you are looking for a particular begonia, tell Leslie, who will name it in the newsletter for members to share cuttings.

Note: The begonia website provides valuable information concerning care of begonias. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Lichtenstein, Secretary*

### *Minutes - Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches June 13, 2022 Meeting*

The regular monthly meeting of the Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches was held on Monday, June 13, 2022 at 6:30 P.M., VP Marcia Bedasse presiding and the Secretary being present.

The meeting was called to order by Marcia at 7:10 P.M. She welcomed members, guests, and program presenter. She thanked Donnie and Frances for serving as doorkeepers.

**Vice President:** Marcia reported that the Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting will be led by Lois Petzold, a certified ABS judge, focusing on grooming begonias for show.

**Secretary:** The minutes were approved by the Board and e-mailed to the membership.

**Treasurer:** Frances reported the balance as of May 31, 2022.

**National representative:** Sandra Arlund had no report to date.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:** Sandy Sklar introduced new member Janice DiPaola and welcomed visitor Kyle Bergman.

**Refreshments:** Nancy thanked Frances and herself for refreshments. Donnie and Janice will bring refreshments next month.

**Newsletter:** Leslie reported that the newsletter will be sent to the membership at the end of the month. Pictures and timely news articles are always welcome.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A reminder of the ABS Convention to be held September in Atlanta was discussed for member interest in attending.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Leslie Fee made a motion to donate \$200.00 to the ABS in memory of David Stallard, Rebecca Stallard's husband. The motion was adopted after discussion.

### **PROGRAM**

Marcia introduced Tim Whelan, owner and operator of "Art by Nature" and Board member of the Friends of Mounts Botanical Garden. Tim demonstrated the use of "AquaPots" in container gardening. He donated three begonias for the raffle table.

### **SHOW AND TELL**

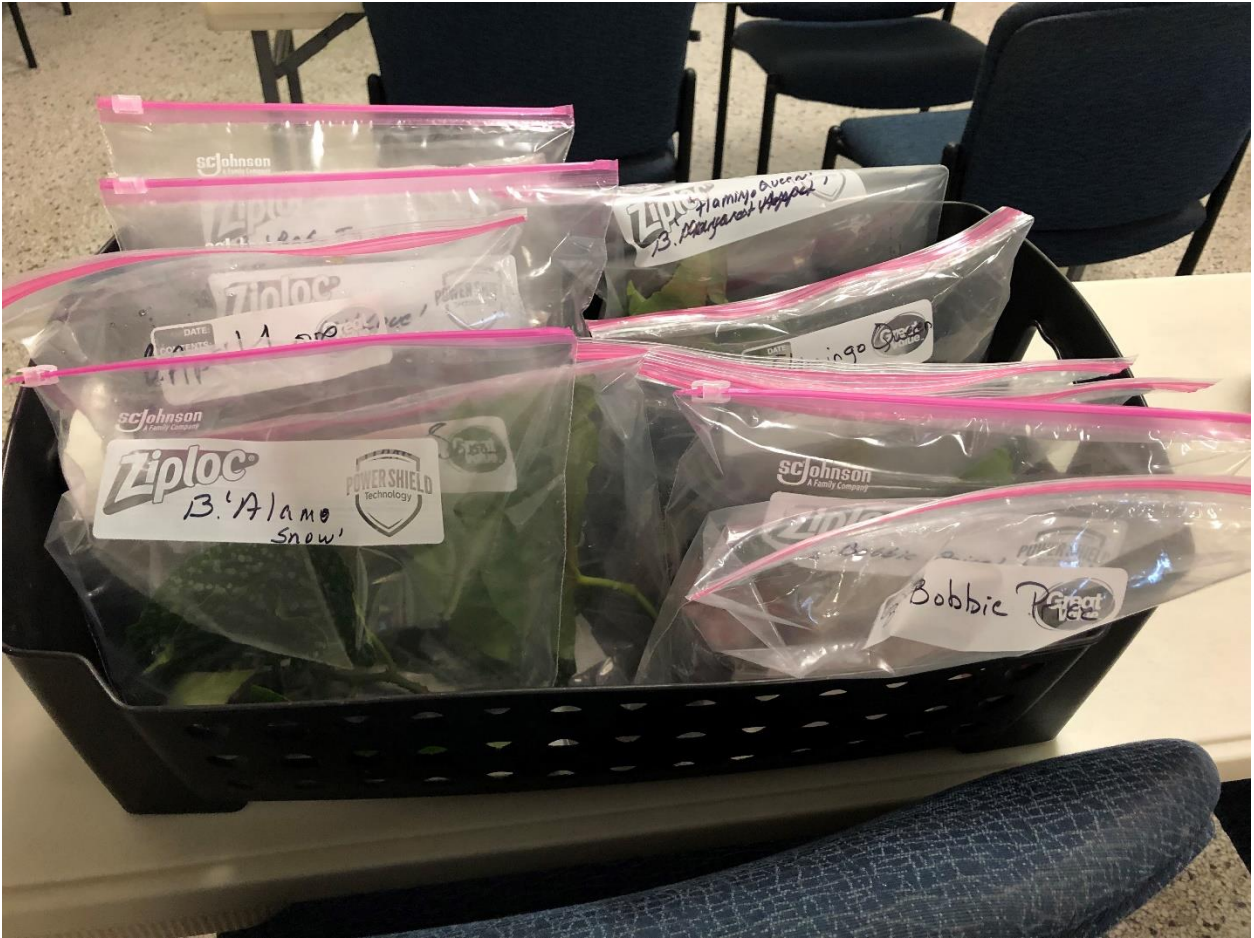
Kyle Bergman brought in a begonia topiary, asking for ideas for trimming it to produce a taller, straighter form. Members and Tim gave him many good ideas. We'll see what happens.

### **BADGE PLANT**

The badge plant B. 'Chuck Jaros,' shrub-type begonia, was donated by Marcia and won by Janice DiPaola. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Lichtenstein, Secretary*

Our May meeting highlight was the presentation by Frances Drescher and Lois Petzold of their trip to the Southwest Region Get-Together held at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden in Texas. The ladies reported on the gathering and the good times had by all with the socials, visits to members' gardens and especially the visit to Fort Worth Botanic Gardens which houses an enormous collection of begonias and seed bank. Recall that Lois reported on her trip to the Australia Begonia Convention at one of our earlier meetings. Hearing about these conventions truly inspires us to try to attend! Frances was able to bring us neatly packaged and labeled cuttings from the Fort Worth Botanic Garden and members were also encouraged to bring in cuttings to share. Hopefully, our cuttings are continuing to grow! See examples of progress of one cutting below.



*Cuttings from Fort Worth Botanic Garden*



*Cutting donated by Beverly Lichtenstein*



*Same cutting – notice tiny roots appearing*

One of important points brought out by Frances and Lois is well worth noting and that is how to pack for a Begonia Convention. Likely at these conventions there will be plants for purchase by vendors or local members or cuttings shared by local members. Some packing hints to remember if you are planning to bring plants home are as follows:

1. Extra suitcase or totebag (trunk, if you're over-enthusiastic 😊)
2. Paper towels to moisten and place around the base of the plant so that the plants stay hydrated on the journey home
3. Plastic bags and something to secure it around the plant pot (twist ties or painters' tape) to keep the soil in place
4. Paper to gently and loosely wrap the plant for protection (packing paper, newspaper, brown craft paper)
5. Bubble wrap for extra padding if you're packing plants in a suitcase
6. Box or plastic bin (car travel)

If you are traveling by plane or car, these items will be helpful to have. A few of our members are planning to attend the convention in Atlanta in September, and we want them to be fully prepared to bring home plants!

Our thanks to Frances and Lois for such an informative and enjoyable presentation and for taking the time and effort to bring us cuttings to share!

Our June meeting featured Tim Whelan from Art By Nature Nursery in Palm Beach Gardens. Tim shared that he did not have a working knowledge of begonia plants. However, he made a special effort to learn of the introduction of the begonia plant and gave us a nice history lesson on begonias. He went on to discuss container gardening. He demonstrated how easy it is to create a beautiful container by choosing a tall plant, low growing plant and a "spiller" or trailing plant. Options include using a tall container and filling half or three quarters full with a lightweight filler such empty, capped water bottles or pool noodles to keep the pot light enough to move. Top the filler with soil and then do your planting. Another option is simply to place the filler in the pot and then drop in a ready-made container garden (either pre-made by nursery or one you've put together yourself). The beauty in this latter choice is that you can remove the pot and change out as desired. Tim demonstrated these methods with pots and plants that he brought from his nursery, including some begonia beauties. Art By Nature Nursery sells stunning pottery and "AquaPots" for the garden. The AquaPots contain a water reservoir and fill tube (which extends several inches above the soil line) which fits snugly into the decorative pot, over which the soil is added and then plants. A water level indicator shows you when it's time to refill. We surely enjoyed having Tim Whelan join us and share his gardening expertise.



*AquaPot – With soil in place atop reservoir - AquaPot Begonia Garden ready for plants*

Speaking of member, Lois Petzold...she will be speaking at our July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to share photos and her experience as a judge at the prestigious Philadelphia Flower Show held in June. This show is “the nation’s largest and longest-running horticultural event and features stunning displays by the world’s premier floral and landscape designers.” The Philadelphia Flower show has been going strong since 1829, almost 200 years! We will have the benefit of Lois’ expertise as a flower judge, who will be able to show us how to prepare our own plants for entry into plant competitions. As Sandy Sklar mentioned in the recent meeting reminder blast, Lois will also share tips and tricks for preparing your plants to enter in the upcoming 2022 National Convention (September 26 – October 1) in Atlanta. We’ve all been encouraged to bring in plants so that we can get some hands-on lessons in trimming/preparing plants to show. Remember to bring your own tools! Finally, and we don’t want to miss out on this...each member in attendance will receive the same type of plant to grow for a specified period of time. At a later meeting we will all bring back our plants for a judging. This will be a fun way to dip our feet into the pool of flower show competition.

I was delighted to receive the below pictures from Frances Drescher of a grouping of pink begonias from her garden. Enjoy!



*B. U402*



*B. coccinea 'Pink'*

Frances' pink beauties are *B. U402*, which is a Venezuelan species she's had for about ten years. She says it's easy to grow and propagate and is a profuse bloomer. The other, *B. coccinea* 'Pink', is a frequent blooming cane-type begonia. Frances reminded me that it's good to cut back the cane-type begonias each year. She's clearly reaping the rewards of this with these lush, full plants. And don't even get me started on how beautifully she has these displayed with the crane statues!

We encourage everyone to send in pictures like this for our newsletter. Let's share the beauty of our begonias and garden!

Looking forward to seeing everyone this Monday, July 11 for next meeting.

Stay well, friends!

***Leslie Fee, Newsletter Editor***