

***Begonias: Très Bien***  
***Seminars, Tours, and Meeting Descriptions\****  
***ABS Convention/SWR Get-Together***  
***April 2-8, 2018, Hilton Airport Hotel***  
***New Orleans, Louisiana***

***Meetings***

***Wednesday, April 4***

***Evening***

***Training Session*** for those who wish to learn to use ABS Show Scheduling/Entry Program. If you wish to attend please email **Linda Kammerer** at [elkay6@gmail.com](mailto:elkay6@gmail.com) prior to Convention. Participants should bring an IBM type laptop and a thumb drive to exchange for one containing the ABS program. Laptop should have the Microsoft Office Access Program in order to run the program. Contact Linda if you have other questions

***Saturday, April 7***

***Afternoon***

***ABS Business Meeting***

***SWR Business Meeting***

***Louisiana E-Branch Annual Meeting***

***Branch Newsletter Editors Meeting led by Linda Tamblyn***

***Seminars***

***Monday, April 2***

***Evening***

***Eddie Martin:*** Growing Begonia in Louisiana, Hospitality Room

***Thursday, April 5***

***Morning***

***Antoon Hofnagels:*** ‘The Nagoya Protocol’ - Very important new information for begonia growers and hybridizers on an international issue.

***Mark Hughes:*** New Begonia Research at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh where he is a lead researcher.

***Rosario Rubite:*** Begonias of the Philippines. She is with the University of the Philippines in Manila and is also interested in helping us identify the Unidentified Philippine Species we have in our Listing. If you have one, bring a small plant for her to see.

## *Afternoon*

**Rekha Morris:** Some Species Begonias from Mexico and Central America.

**Panel On the Practical Side:** *Mary Sakamoto, Janet Brown and Martin Delgado* demonstrate the pruning of Canes, Thick Stems and Shrubs.

## *Saturday, April 7*

### *Morning*

**Don Miller:** Who are the Southwest Region Hybridizers? There will be a booklet listing the hybridizers and their hybrids for sale at a nominal fee and Don will describe his experiences with many of them.

**Panel:** *Don Miller, Bobbie Price, Tom Keepin with Cheryl Lenert Chairing* on questions about hybridizing.

**Deborah Garrett:** The Species Bank of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Current Status and Future Plans.

## *Tours*

### *Tuesday, April 3, 2018*

**Pre-Convention Tour -Travel by bus to capital city of Baton Rouge.** Visit private rare plant nursery and large local retail nursery. Guided tour and box lunch at Burden Plantation Rural Life Museum and Windrush Garden.

### *Wednesday, April 4, 2018*

**Bus to Houmas House Plantation.** Guided tour of Antebellum sugar plantation mansion (voted #1 by USA Today), visit 38 acre tropical garden. Buffet Lunch at renowned Louisiana restaurant.

### *Friday, April 6, 2018*

**Shuttle bus to New Orleans Botanical Garden, City Park, New Orleans Museum of Art and Besthoff Sculpture Garden.** Return to hotel on shuttle for Judges' Luncheon (or lunch on your own). Fee includes Botanical Garden—OR —Art Museum. Besthoff Sculpture Garden Free. Shuttle returns to park after Lunch and back to hotel late afternoon.

### *Sunday, April 8, 2018*

**Post-Convention Tour.** . Bus picks up at hotel and drops off at World War II Museum OR stay on bus for 3 hour guided tour of New Orleans if preferred. Tour bus returns to museum, lunch on your own at the American Sector Restaurant in museum OR at wine bar in Crescent Park. Diners at museum will meet bus at 1:30 for transport to Crescent Park(Mississippi River overlook) and French Market shopping in afternoon.

\*These are as we know them to be on October 1, 2017. Should changes occur, these will be posted when known.