



Begonia Revolution ***New England 2015*** **Seminars**

Wednesday – 8 pm – 9 pm



Mike Flaherty - “Begonias of the Rich & Famous”

Mike Flaherty has been collecting begonias since 1961 when he bought his first begonias in high school. He opened Gazebo Plants in 1973 and is located on the corner of the main intersection in Montecito Village, the 9th wealthiest community in America, according to Forbes. Oprah lives 5 doors up from his nursery.

Mike has won numerous awards for his begonias including 2007 Hybrid Begonia of the Year, the Scottish International Begonia trophy twice, ABS Gene Salisbury Grower of Excellence, three national Sweepstakes Awards and best display at the national ABS convention three times.

He is currently the President of the Rudolf Ziesenhenné branch of the American Begonia Society of Santa Barbara, the ABS Vice President and national MC for the American Begonia Society. Mike has three begonias named after him and has named begonias after his daughter, sister and friends.

Friday – 9 am – 9:45 am



Andrew (Drew) Norris – “Growing Begonias Like African Violets”

Andrew (Drew) Norris. Is an amateur ecologist, having enjoyed animal and plant husbandry in many capacities since his earliest childhood. He has indulged his passions for the living world by keeping fish, dart frogs, chameleons, other reptiles and amphibians, invertebrates, and several types of plant collections. Often he designs regionally authentic habitats for his charges, becoming familiar with a wide variety of plant material. He has completed two years of horticultural training and received a certificate in Environmental Sciences. He grows many indoor and outdoor plants, from palms, orchids, and citrus, to carnivorous plants, caudiciforms, succulents, African violets and begonias.

Friday - 10 am – 11 am



Randy Kerr – “Species Begonias for Every Home”

Randy Montes Kerr resides in West Hollywood, CA with his husband Stephen Montes Kerr, and their pugs, Aly & Lily. Randy grows more than 100 Begonia species, in terrariums (more than 600 gallons total), in a sun room, and in their garden. He will talk on the importance of growing species begonias during this time of habitat loss, and looming extinctions, and give us an introduction to some less common species. He will give suggestions for cultivation techniques, suitable environments, and helpful resources.

Friday – 11:15 am – 11:45 am



Pablo Jourdan – “Germplasm Research Update”

Dr. Jourdan is an Associate Professor and Horticulture Director of the Ornamental Plant Germplasm Center - Department of Horticulture & Crop Science at Ohio State University. He will be giving an update on the research being conducted on begonia seeds. The Ornamental Plant Germplasm Center at Ohio State University is researching seed production in begonia species. With the assistance of ABS, Pablo Jourdan is seeking to maintain genetic diversity and develop germplasm that will benefit the floriculture and nursery industry.

Saturday – 9 am – 10 am



Mark Tebbitt – “My Trip to China”

Dr. Tebbitt is a researcher whose interests focus on plant systematics, the naming, classification and evolution of plants, and in particular, of *Begonias*. Previous to working at The California University in Pennsylvania, he was head of the Horticultural Taxonomy Department at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in New York City from 1998 to 2007. Before moving to the United States, he worked at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, as a research consultant on the European Garden Flora projects. He has published two books, one on *Begonia* (2005) and the other on the bleeding-heart family (2008). He has also carried out botanical fieldwork in China, Vietnam, Mexico, North America, Hawaii, United Kingdom and the Pyrenees.

Saturday - 10:15 am – 11:15 am



Lloyd Traven – “How to Bring Begonias to Market”

Lloyd is the owner of Peace Tree Farm in Kintnersville, PA. Their clientele includes Longwood Gardens, Smithsonian, New York Botanical Garden and many others. Lloyd graduated summa cum laude from Delaware Valley College of Science & Agriculture in 1979 and attended Cornell University Graduate School in floriculture and ornamental horticulture. In the 1980's Lloyd worked in market research and special projects at Ball Seed Company developing Spark Plug, pelleted seed products and worked on the Genesis Seed project.

Lloyd and Candy purchased the Peace Tree Farm property in Bucks County, Pennsylvania in 1983. They have grown Peace Tree Farm from 'the little greenhouses up on the hill' to an established and respected operation among international horticulture. Lloyd is a technology guru and advocate for small growers, being among the first to successfully invest in sophisticated environmental control systems for their operation. He is a noted speaker and author and a regular guest on Martha Stewart. He was selected as US Grower of the Year in 2005.