



# AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Growing, sharing, and preserving begonias.



## 2022 National Convention at-a-glance

	Monday September 26 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday September 27 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday September 28 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday September 29 <sup>th</sup>	Friday September 30 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday October 1 <sup>st</sup>
Morning		All Day Tour of Atlanta Botanic Gardens, & Atlanta History Center.	All Day Tour of DiVita Residence, Scottsdale Farms, & Southern Trilogy Historic House Museum.	Half Day Tour of the Georgia Aquarium.	Conference Seminars & Workshops	Conference Seminars & Workshops
Mid-day				Conference Seminars & Workshops	Half Day Tour of local nurseries.	Conference Seminars & Workshops
Evening	Registration					<b>ABS Banquet</b>

## Tours



### Full-Day Tour, Tuesday, September 27, 2022

Our full-day tour on Tuesday leaves the hotel around 8:30am, and travels to the thirty-acre urban oasis in the heart of Midtown Atlanta - the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. There we will see “Origami in the Garden”, the largest-ever origami-inspired sculptures created by Jennifer and Kevin Box. We will tour indoor plant collections, including the *Begonia* collection, seasonal displays, and exhibits. The Gardens bloom with year-round color and we always love to see the permanent installation that holds 18,000

annuals called the Earth Goddess. We will enjoy a catered lunch box at the Botanical Gardens. Water bottles are allowed on the premises.

We will depart the Atlanta Botanical Gardens for our next tour location at approximately noon and head to the Atlanta History Center in the Buckhead district center of Atlanta. This is the best location to explore Atlanta history all in one place and has been a favorite host location for the local film industry in Atlanta. There are permanent award-winning exhibits, the Goizuta gardens, and historic houses. You can explore on your own based on your interests but do plan on visiting the Cyclorama. This is a moving 12-minute film projected onto a painting every hour with the last presentation at 3:00pm daily. Access is on a first come, first serve basis so let us know if you are interested in including this during our tour. No reservations are needed, and admission is included with your tour registration fee. We will depart the History Center at 4:00pm and head back to our hotel.



### Full Day Tour, Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Our full day tour on Wednesday begins with a home tour. We will travel north outside the Atlanta perimeter and visit the home of Mariana and David DiVita. The DiVita’s are members of our Greater Atlanta Begonia Society and have a beautiful landscape which incorporates native and non-native plants. Begonias you ask? YES! Mariana grows hundreds of begonias and loves to display them in containers throughout her summer garden. Mariana is a lifetime Georgia

Master Gardener and David is a horticulturist. Bring your camera and enjoy viewing all the varieties tucked away throughout the certified wildlife habitat and view the varieties she's growing in Mariana's greenhouse. She is currently testing some begonias for winter hardiness in a zone 7 garden David built.



We will depart The DiVita's home around 11:00am and head just around the corner to visit a popular nursery called Scottsdale Farms in Milton, Georgia. This is a beautiful 65-acre nursery, garden center, offering design and landscaping, and events to the community. There is a café inside along with a gift shop that includes furniture, seasonal clothing and jewelry. We will pick up our lunch boxes here and then head to our next tour location.

Around 1:00 – 1:30pm we will arrive at Barrington Hall in Roswell, Georgia. This house sits on seven acres in downtown Historic Roswell. The history of how the City of Roswell was founded will come to life in the tour of this house. Barrington Hall is part of a Southern Trilogy Historic House Museum. We will experience a one-hour guided tour that includes the house and exploring the only antebellum public garden in the greater Atlanta area. The other two houses you will enjoy hearing about in "A Southern Trilogy" are Bulloch Hall and Smith Plantation. We will return to the hotel by 4:30pm.



#### **Half Day Tour, Thursday morning, September 29, 2022**



Our scheduled tour for Thursday includes a morning tour of the Georgia Aquarium. We will board the buses by 8:30am and depart to the aquarium, located just north of the Centennial Olympic Park on land donated by Coca-Cola. The beautiful blue metal-and-glass building was designed around a 6.3 million US gallon whale shark exhibit. This aquarium is the largest aquarium in the United States and third largest in the world. The aquarium's animals are displayed throughout seven galleries and exhibits corresponding to specific environments and regions of the world. You will want to visit the new 20-foot-deep tank featuring Sharks! Predators of the Deep. This tank features a dive cage and wading pool to walk with rays and sharks. Each

exhibit is its own habitat for you to explore and discover what it takes for these creatures to survive in extremes you won't find anywhere else. And don't be surprised if you are accompanied by some penguins taking their daily stroll throughout the aquarium. They will teach you the "Waddle Walk."



#### **Half Day Tour, Friday afternoon, September 30, 2022**

Our scheduled tour for Friday afternoon includes visits to some of our local nurseries in the hunt of beautiful begonias and companion plants. We will board the buses around 1:00pm and set out to some various locations around the city. We will return to the hotel by 5:00pm.

# Seminars

An integral part of the convention will be a series of seminars along with a workshop or two. Here we spotlight a few of our convention speakers.



- **Scott McMahan from the Atlanta Botanical Garden** will present a talk on his May 2022 expedition to Arunachal Pradesh in northeast India. This area of India is one of the richest in *Begonia* species diversity in the world.



- **Rick Schoellhorn, ABS Nomenclature Director**, will present a fun session on *Begonia* nomenclature to help you understand the purpose of the ‘section’ in *Begonia* taxonomy, the differences between all the terms we commonly use in ABS, and some different ways of looking at plant nomenclature.

- **Alejandro Perez, from our own Atlanta Begonia Society** and a member of the ABS Seeds for Conservation Committee, will host a workshop on propagating begonias from seed.



- **Maverick Tamayo from the Philippine Taxonomic Initiative, Inc.**, will give a presentation entitled “Pandemic Exploration of *Begonia* in the Philippines.” This 2022 expedition was partially funded through the ABS Grants Committee.



- **Glenn Dickerson, curator of the Begonia Species Bank at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden**, will give some tips on *Begonia* cultivation.

**The Seminar Committee is grateful to all the speakers who have volunteered their time and effort towards educating ABS members during the 2022 ABS National Convention.**