

BEGONIA CHATTER



Astro Branch American Begonia Society <i>4513 Randwick Drive</i> <i>Houston, Texas 77092-8343</i> <i>(713) 686-8539</i>	Next Meeting: DATE: June 9, 2013 TIME: 2:00 PM PLACE: Houston Garden Center PROGRAM: Challenge/Tell/Ask
JUNE 2013 ISSUE	www.begoniahouston.org

CHALLENGE/TELL/ASK

The June 9, 2013 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society will be held at the Houston Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive (Hermann Park). The doors will open at 1:00 P.M. This meeting will be held in the Main Hall. President Susan Daugherty will preside.

Our Refreshment Hostess' for this meeting will be: **Lisa Holmes, Pat Hiscock and Donna Williams.**

Our Vice-President/Program Chair Janet Carpenter has an interesting program for us this month. At this meeting we will have three things going on. First: Our Challenge Plants are due to be returned. This means whatever it looks like. We want to see your plant *dead* or *alive*. As is our custom the plants will be displayed and members will vote for the plant they feel has been grown the best. Prizes will be awarded for First, Second and Third Place. Second: Members are asked to bring in one of their favorite Companion Plants. Members will be asked to tell us their scientific name, culture, propagation techniques, water and fertilization needs, etc.

Third: members can ask our experts any questions they may have about growing the begonias in their collections. If you need a name please bring in a leaf (rhizomatous) or cane (cane-like or shrub-like). Our experts will do their best to identify it for you.

This will be an interesting and informative program.

Please be sure to display your parking permit for Officer David to see so you will be able to park with no problem.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the meeting. We always have fun and lots of wonderful treats to enjoy prepared by our Hostess'

See You There!



PRUNIGN, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

June

1 st & 2 nd	Pisces
5 th , 6 th & 7 th	Taurus
10 th , 11 th & 12 th	Cancer
20 th & 21 st	Scorpio
24 th & 25 th	Capricorn
28 th & 29 th	Pisces

July

2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th	Taurus
7 th , 8 th & 9 th	Cancer
17 th & 18 th	Scorpio
21 st & 22 nd	Capricorn
25 th & 26 th	Pisces
30 th & 31 st	Taurus

- Planting and Transplanting are best done in Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces.
- Best Pruning for quick growth is first Taurus and then Capricorn.

WEATHER FORECAST FOR JUNE 2013

(Taken from the **Harris Farmer's almanac 2013**)

According to the United States Weather Service Houston and surrounding area fall in Region 7 of the National Weather Map. Here is what they predict our weather will be like for the month of June 2013.

Our temperatures will be slightly above normal and our precipitation will be near normal. Our temperatures should average from 79 degrees in the north to 83 degrees in the south. Our coolest June temperatures will be June 2nd & 3rd, 11th & 12th, 17th & 18th and 27th thru 29th. Our warmest June temperatures will be 6th thru 10th, 14th thru 16th and 21st thru 25th. There will be a low hurricane threat at the end of the month. There will be isolated thunder storms along the gulf nearly every day. The rest of the area should have a few thunder storms about every 5 days. The heaviest rainfall will be at mid-month.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome our new members to the Astro Branch. Please be sure to add them to your Membership roster.

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Kim Clark Renteria
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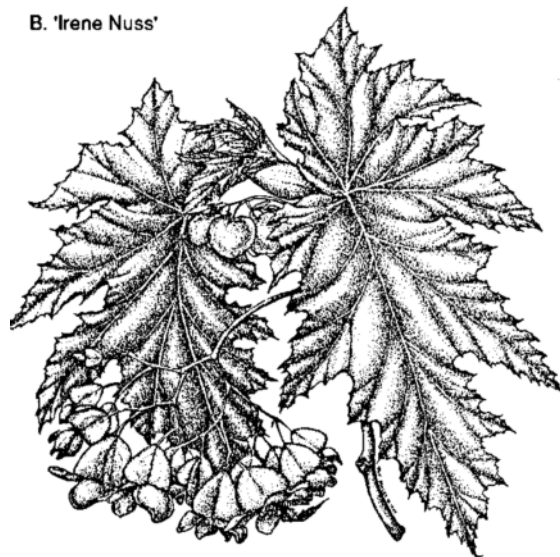
Telephone: 713-524-5945
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Molly Reed was a guest of her sister Susan Daugherty at our Spring Picnic and Meeting. Molly became a member of the Astros at the Picnic. Molly was introduced to begonias by her mother Virginia Rayburn, as was Susan.

Kim Clark Renteria was a customer at our Annual Fund Raiser on April 13, 2013. We gave her an application at that time.

Welcome ladies to the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society. We are pleased to have you both as members and friends.

B. 'Irene Nuss'



MINUTES OF THE MAY 5, 2013 SPRING PICNIC AND MEETING

The Spring Picnic and Meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society were held at the home of Cheryl and Charlie Lenert in Hockley, Texas. We could not have asked for a day that was more beautiful. The sky was a beautiful Texas blue with wispy clouds, nice sunshine and a wonderful temperature of 75 degrees with a slight breeze most of the time but a gust now and again, nothing we are not used to. Since this was a picnic we set up the food in the patio area under cover by the pool. The entrée was rotisserie chicken and we had lots of delicious sides, salads and of course desserts galore. Everyone really out did themselves. We would like to say thank you to Refreshment Chair Pat Hiscock for pulling it all together. Since it was such a beautiful day everyone was very relaxed and there was lots of begonia chatter going on.

The meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Society was called to order on May 5, 2013 at 2:45 P.M. President Susan Daugherty presided. The business meeting was very short as there was no old business and the new business was the treasurers report, which was our check book is still very healthy and a reminder that the June meeting will not be held on June 2, 2013, so it was moved to June 9, 2013 due to the National Convention/SWR Get-together in Austin May 29 thru June 2, 2013. A large number of members would be attending including most of our officers. Members were reminded to bring back their Challenge Plants *dead or alive*. It was announced that we cleared \$2,011 at our Annual Fund Raiser and had very good attendance. A motion was made to donate \$152.00 to the Holiday Greetings. The motion was seconded and approved. The meeting was concluded and Tom Keepin was introduced for our program on **Fairy/Dish/Gardens**. Tom showed us all the materials we had to work with. There were pots, soil, lots of beautiful plants, large garden stones to use as boulders and lots of miniature items donated by Jane Anderson and Tom Keepin. There were sheet moss to dress their creation and chartreuse

reindeer moss to add that whimsical touch. Tom explained the process and had a couple of examples for members to see.

Members that had signed up to do a garden were allowed to start their gardens first, and then those that hadn't were given the opportunity to build a garden. There were supplies for 30 and 25 Gardens were built.

As the members were working on or putting the finishing touches on their gardens we had our drawings:

Raffle;

- B. 'Snow Capped' - won by Jane Anderson
- B. 'Laguna' – won by Darlene Morris

Name Tag Plant:

- B. 'First Snow' – won by Cheryl Lenert
- B. 'Carmel Browne' – won by Shirll Manes

Additional Items: Donated by Cheryl Lenert

- Sweat Shirt – won by Midge Gorman
- T-Shirt – won by Darlene Morris

While the drawing was going on Tom, Cheryl and Marcus Martin were advising members as they put on final touches. Our photographer Tom Anderson spent the day taking pictures of all that went on including the finished gardens.

The Spring Picnic/Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

A wonderful day was had by all and we missed all who were unable to attend.

Respectfully submitted
Janet Carpenter, Secretary



'BEGONIAS, DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS'

The American Begonia Society and The Southwest Region Officers and members converged on Austin, Texas to hold a joint Convention at the Town Lake Holiday Inn. The Austin Area Begonia Society Branch hosted this gathering. Doug Byrom was Convention Chair and Nelda Moore was Convention Co-Chair.

There were great seminars starting on Wednesday evening with Dan Heims seminar on 'An Overview of the Genus Begonia'. Thursday evening we had Wanda Macnair and Leora Henthorn on Terrariums and on Saturday morning with Freda Holly discussing hybridizing, Rekha Morris 'Begonia Surprises' ending with Mark Tebbitt on 'Extreme Begonias'.

Friday evening was the 'Members Only Plant Sale' and there was a fabulous selection of begonias.

There was the usual frenzy of buying.

The Show also opened on Friday evening.

The BEST OF SHOW was B. 'Millie Thompson' grown by Leora Henthorn.

The Astro Branch had 12 members attending this convention and 3 had entries in the Show.

Janet Carpenter had 2 entries:

B. 'Prismatacarpa variegata' in a contained atmosphere and won a 3rd place ribbon

B. 'peridot' in a contained atmosphere and won a 3rd place ribbon.

Tom Keepin had 2 entries:

B. 'Dancing Girl' shrub-like entered in the Heritage Division and won a blue ribbon, Best in Division and a Cultural Award with 96 points.

B. floccifera rhizomatous, distinctive foliage won a blue ribbon, Best in Division and a Cultural Award with 97 points

Jane Anderson had 3 entries:

B. 'Ginny' won a blue ribbon and a Cultural Award with 95 points.

B. 'Phil Corwin' won a blue ribbon, Best In Division and a Cultural Award with 96 points

B. 'Puffy Clouds' won a blue ribbon, Best In Division, Kay Tucker Best Cane, and The People's Choice Award and a Cultural Award with 98.5 points.

Everyone attending had a wonderful time. The Hospitality Room was well stocked with munchies and drinks. It was a very comfortable meeting place for attendees to gather and talk Begonias.

We missed all of you could not attend.

THE ASTRO BRANCH WILL BE MOVING VERY SOON! UPDATE!

In the May issue of *The Begonia Chatter* I told you the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society will be moving to the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center for our August 4, 2013 meeting. Well things have changed since then. Our meeting place for the August 4, 2013 meeting and following meetings until the new Garden Center Building is completed in 2014 or 2015. The new location for our meeting will be the **West Gray Multipurpose Center**, located at 1475 West Gray (between Waugh Drive and Dunlavy in the River Oaks Shopping Center. This is a very nice place to meet as its purpose is for handicapped and elderly persons and is all on one level. There will be no problem parking as we will be the only ones there on Sundays. We will be meeting in the Greenroom. The staff from the Houston Garden Center will be there to take care of us in the manner in which we have become accustomed. Besides they have become our friends. If you have any questions please feel free to ask Tom.



Spring Picnic and Meeting Making Fairy Garden / Dish Gardens\ at the home of Cheryl Lenert



More pictures from the May Meeting





Some finished Fairy Gardens!



Landscaping with Begonias



B. 'Gryphon' at a wholesale nursery



B. fisherii volunteer seedling at a downspout.