

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: April 3, 2016 TIME: 2:00 PM PLACE: West Gray Multi-Service Center PROGRAM: MAT WATERING
APRIL 2016 ISSUE	www.begoniahouston.org

MAT WATERING

The April 3, 2016 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society will be held at the West Gray Multi-Service Center located at 1475 West Gray Street. We will meet in Activity Room 2 the doors will open at 1:00 P.M.

Our Refreshment Hostesses' for this meeting will be **Anna Belle Hicks, Glenda Perry and Sandra Rigsby.**

President Janet Carpenter will preside over this meeting. There will be a short business meeting to catch everyone up on what is going on with the National, Southwest Region and the Astros.

Our Program this meeting will be **MAT WATERING.** This is a method of watering our plants. This method of watering is also called capillary mat watering. Vice-President Johnny Williams will present this program. This is a very easy method to set up. There are mats you can buy on the internet some have used cheap carpet in a tray or on a bench with plastic sheeting under it to keep the carpet moist. The process is to keep the mat wet and set your plants on it and the plants will

take up the water as they need it. This is a very interesting process and can be a real time saver during the very hot months of our Houston summers.

Please make plans to attend as this will be a very interesting program for all members. The Refreshment Hostesses will have lots of tasty treats to excite your taste buds and nice cool drinks to wash them down. We will have our usual drawings and perhaps a Door Prize or two...we never know until the day of the meeting. Above all your Begoniatic friends will be there to talk about begonias with you.

SEE YOU THERE!



MINUTES OF THE MARCH 6, 2016 MONTHLY MEETING

The March 6, 2016 meeting of the Astro Branch of The American Begonia Society was held at the West Gray Multi-Service Center located at 1475 West Gray Street in Activity Room 2. President Janet Carpenter called the meeting to order at 2:09 P.M.

President Carpenter thanked our Refreshment Hostesses who were **Janet Carpenter, Pat Hiscock.**

The Minutes of the February 7, 2016 meeting were printed in The Begonia Chatter and were approved with no changes.

The Treasurer's Report was not given as Treasurer Tom Keepin was traveling to Philadelphia.

Sunshine Chair Ruby Lewellyn passed around a card for Pat Perry.

It was announced that March Mart would be March 18th (members only) and March 19th. The location is Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Garden.

Begonia of the Month was shared by Jane Anderson. Jane brought B. 'Little Miss Sherrie' and a B. 'Bobbie Price' cutting rooted in water.

Vice President Johnny Williams introduced our program "**Our Seedlings Next Step**". The program was a demonstration on transplanting begonia seedlings, most were too small except for Jane Anderson's. Cheryl Lenert used these to show the procedure. The seedlings are fairly easily separated by toothpicks at the root level. When separated, only pick them up by the leaves as the stems are too fragile and easily crushed. Using the sprouting mix, add enough mix to a pill cup, gently place the seedling into the cup and spray the roots in add the remaining mix and spray again. **Do not mash down the soil.** Use quarter strength fertilizer to begin with. The next move will be to small 4 inch pot in a mixture of Jiffy Mix and Perlite.

Plant Drawings:

The results of the Plant Drawings are as follows:

Gail Warren – won a Bromeliad
Glenda Perry – won a Semperflorens begonia
Sandra Rigsby – won a white kalenchoe
Ruby Lewellyn – won a Spring/Easter purple painted pot filled with treats (Donated by Faye Stansberry)

None of the plants in this drawing were named.

The meeting was adjourned by President Janet Carpenter at about 3:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Janet Carpenter for Donna Williams, Secretary

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Birthday wishes go out to our members born in this month of April.

Tom Anderson	April 28 th
Irene Bragg	April 11 th
Darrin Duling	April 29 th
Edna Lafour	April 1 st
Lucy Melara	April 2 nd
Gary Moffatt	April 25 th
Glenda Perry	April 19 th
Faye Stansberry	April 23 rd

"Today is a day to enjoy being with friends. To look back on where you've been and to look forward to special times the future holds for you."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

April

1 st	Capricorn
5 th & 6 th	Pisces
9 th & 10 th	Taurus
13 th & 14 th	Cancer
22 nd , 23 rd & 24 th	Scorpio
27 th , 28 th & 29 th	Capricorn

May

2 nd & 3 rd	Pisces
6 th & 7 th	Taurus
10 th & 11 th	Cancer
20 th & 21 st	Scorpio
25 th & 26 th	Capricorn
29 th & 30 th	Pisces

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

WEATHER FORECAST FOR APRIL 2016

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 April.

Our temperatures will be near normal and our precipitation will be near normal. Our temperatures should average from 59 degrees in the North to 67 degrees in the South. Our coolest temperatures for April will be April 4th thru 9th, 13th thru 16th, 22nd thru 26th and 29th & 30th. Our warmest temperatures for April will be April 1st thru 3rd, 11th & 12th, 19th thru 21st and 28th. There will most likely showers and thunderstorms April 3rd thru 7th, 12th thru 14th, 21st thru 23rd and 28th thru 30th. A few severe storms are likely. A potential tornado outbreak may occur April 21st & 22nd.

SOUTHWEST REGION GET – TOGETHER 2016

The Southwest Region Get-together 2016 will be held on May 5th thru 7th. The location is the Holiday Inn Richardson located at 1655 North Central Expressway in Richardson, TX 75080. Telephone number is 800-465-4329 or 972-238-1900. Richardson is just north of Dallas

For Registration, Itinerary and Trophy and Division Award List please go to the ABS Website Homepage at www.begonias.org. This information is printable. It is recommended that you make your hotel reservations as soon as possible.

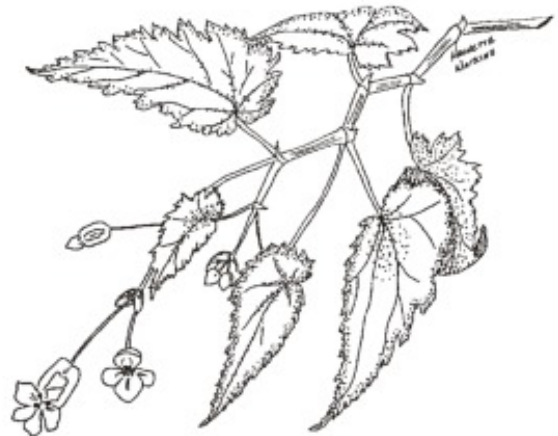
Since most of us will be driving please consider taking a plant or two to enter in the show.

If you do not have access to a computer and wish to register, contact Tom Keepin at 713-686-8539 and he will mail you the information.

FUKUMI SMITH'S NEW ADDRESS

Fukumi Smith
c/o Brookdale Shadowlake
2835 Shadowbriar Drive #2109
Houston, TX 77077

Telephone 936-697-5955



A Word with You: Teeth

Claudia Goodridge, New Haven, CT

Teeth...in humans they are things of beauty, utility, and sometimes pain. In other animals and fish they can also be lethal. But, in botany they define the notches on the edges of leaves, aka the margins of the blades, pretty harmless most of the time. Begonia leaves have at least three types of teeth, each with a diminutive form. And to my knowledge none are lethal or even dangerous. That graceful ornamental grass, *Miscanthus sinensis*, the one that dances with the breezes, has dangerous teeth on its margins. Rub it the wrong way and you have sliced yourself. No wonder the deer won't eat it. Our begonias aren't so menacing, but they do have teeth: crenate, serrate, and dentate teeth. Crenate comes from the Latin *crena*, a notch; serrate from the Latin *serratus*, pp of *serrare*, to saw; dentate from the Latin *dens*, tooth. Diminutive forms are crenulate, serrulate, and you guessed it, denticulate. Crenate edges have rounded teeth; serrate edges have sharp teeth, like saw blades, pointing toward the tip of the leaf. Dentate are sharp too but point outward. I know now without looking that those beguiling grasses have serrated teeth – probably serrulate, but don't let the diminutive term fool you into stroking it.

So what are we really talking about here? Ivories, choppers, fangs, incisors, molars, grinders, tusks? There are no weapons in the begonia world, but as usual I need visuals to guide my memory and thus see crenate with a profile like molars, or visually rounded, as in *B. ampioxus*, *B. egregia*, *B. goegoensis*, *B. gracilis*, and *luxurians*. A serrate margin looks like the teeth of a saw blade or in a shark's mouth – they're teeth that point toward the tip of the leaf as in *B. boliviensis* 'Bonfire', *B. bowerae* (which has a serrulate margin), but they won't hurt you.

Then there are dentate edges or margins. Those teeth point outward on the leaf. They include *B. limprichtii* and *B. quadrialata*, which is denticulate toward its apex.

Not all begonias have teeth, but enough do that the vocabulary is useful. Not all leaves with teeth cooperate and fall into a single category either. But at least this begonia teeth inquiry got nibbled down

to a few terms and none of them bite.

(This article was taken from **the Begonian** Volume 78 January/February 2011 Issue page 24)

Begonia 'Boomer'

Registration No. 919 – Begonia U003 x possibly *vitifolia* 'Boomer'

Synonyms: *B.* 'George Fix', *B.* 'Via', *B.* 'Ria'. Thick-stemmed cultivar grown from seed offered in ABS Seed Fund in December 1979 as Brazil species No. 3 mk (also called "the Burle Marx begonia" a popular term for *B.* U003 but not true *B. burle-marxii*, an entirely different species). Seedlings proved different from *B.* U003, also, and evidently arose from a chance pollination of that species. They combine foliage markedly influenced by *B.* U003 but with an upright habit and flower arrangement similar to those of *B. vitifolia*.

Stems are woody, reaching 3' or 4'. Crisp leaf blades are bullate with short bristly hairs and colored green with yellow-green wash along the veins, splashed with bronze shading into bronzed-red, finely edged with red at the denticulate margin, and flushed red underneath. They are 8½" x 6", broadly ovate to almost round, angulate to shallowly lobed and cordated at the base, palmately crossed by 6 main veins. Petioles are 5" – 6" green, pubescent; stipules are 1" x ½", green, chartaceous, keeled, with a few short hairs on the upper surface and a bristle at the apex, drying and remaining on the plant a long time before dropping off. White male flowers are ¾" x ½" with 2 roundish and 2 narrow tepals. They are arranged in cymose clusters like those of *B. vitifolia*, borne on 8"-9" green, finely-hairy peduncles in spring. *B.* 'Boomer' is distinguished from other thick-stemmed begonias by the unusual color and pattern of the bullate leaves. Unlike many thick-stemmed, it becomes shrub-like in habit and is reported easy to grow. Developed in 1979 by Mabel Corwin; first bloomed in 1982; first distributed in 1981. Inspected and recommended by Thelma O'Riley of La Mesa, CA. Discussed by Robert B. Hamm Newsletters, April-June 1987, July-Sept 1987. Registered Aug. 19, 1987

(This article was taken from **the Begonian** Volume 54 September-October 1987 page 137)



Cheryl Lenert starting her demonstration.



Cheryl Lenert looking at Jane Anderson's seedlings.



Begonia seedlings ready to be moved up.

Astro Branch's

March 2016

"Our Seedlings Next Step"



Members paying attention during business meeting.



Jane Anderson giving input during the discussion.



Members examining items for Cheryl's demonstration.



Begonia seedlings ready to be transplanted.



Johnny Williams, Cheryl Lenert & Janet Carpenter enjoying refreshments.



Begonia 'Little Miss Sherrie' (left)
Begonia 'Bobbie Price' rooted in water.



Jane Anderson's seedlings.



Pat Hiscock chatting with
Glenda Perry & Sandra Rigsby

Landscaping With Begonias



B. "Dotties Eyelash"



Geanie Riggs & Gail Warren
with their seedlins.



Janet Carpenter showing a book.



Glenda Perry & Mike Bragg watching
Jane Anderson working with her seedlings.



Drawing items.



Glenda Perry with her prize.



Gail Warren with her bromeliad



Ruby Lewellyn with her
Spring/Easter Pot.



Janet Carpenter with her flowers.



Sandra Rigsby with her prize.