

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 2, 2017 TIME: 2:00 PM PLACE: West Gray Multi-Service Center PROGRAM: Overgrown Terrariums
APRIL 2017 ISSUE	www.begoniahouston.org

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR OVERGROWN TERRARIUM

The April 2, 2017 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 need to set up the room so if you can arrive early about 12:15 – 12:30 to help it would be greatly appreciated.

Our Refreshment Hostesses for this meeting will be **Glenda Perry**, **Sandra Rigsby** and **Martha Burg**.

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 month will be ‘**What to Do with Your Overgrown Terrarium**’. Cheryl Lenert will present this program with the help from other members that grow beautiful terrariums. This program will show you how to remove the overgrown plant, prune it down to size and replant

it in its original container. The plant material removed will be labeled and bagged. Some bagged plants will be distributed to members attending and some will be taken to San Antonio for the National/Southwest Region Convention “Begonias: Our Mission” for the plant sale.

MEMBERS: You are welcome to bring in overgrown terrariums along with a new container, if you wish, growing medium you prefer to use to replant your terrarium, a spritzer bottle with water and baggies to put the removed plants from your terrarium into.

We hope that you will be able to join us for this meeting. This program will be great for new members and a refresher for seasoned members. All your begonia friends will be there to talk begonias with. The Refreshment Hostesses will have lots of tasty treats and cool drinks to wash them down.

We are in need of plants or items for the Raffle.

See You There!

PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

April

3 rd & 4 th	Cancer
12 th , 13 th & 14 th	Scorpio
17 th , 18 th & 19 th	Capricorn
22 nd & 23 rd	Pisces
26 th & 27 th	Taurus
30 th	Cancer

May

1 st	Cancer
10 th & 11 th	Scorpio
15 th & 16 th	Capricorn
19 th , 20 th & 21 st	Pisces
24 th & 25 th	Taurus
28 th & 29 th	Cancer

- 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.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 5, 2017 MEETING OF THE ASTRO BRANCH

The March 5, 2017 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.

Vice President Johnny Williams called the meeting to order at approximately 2:05 P.M.

Announcements:

-“BEGONIAS: OUR MISSION”

Wednesday, May 3, 2017 – Sunday, May 7, 2017
San Antonio, Texas
2017 National ABS Convention & Southwest Region Get-Together. Registration forms are posted on the ABS Website

-The May Meeting to be decided due to conflict with convention.

-Sunshine Chair Ruby Lewellyn passed around a card for Tom Keepin, Susan Willis who is still ill, Shirli Manes, who is in rehab for a fractured hip.

-Sue Botts brought B. ‘Lalomie’ and B. ‘Kevin Whitecotton’ to be given away in the raffle.

-FLORESCENCE, sponsored by the River Oaks Garden Club and the Garden Club of Houston.

The dates are April 24th thru 26th 2017 at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

-Marla Cork received a ticket to the Azalea Trail donated by Sue Botts.

-Ruby Lewellyn donated Roma and large tomato plants grown from seeds harvested from tomatoes purchased at the grocery store washed, dried and planted.

PROGRAM:

“IS IT DEAD YET” was led by Cheryl Lenert. Cheryl inspected plants brought in by members that suffered from winter abuse. Cheryl suggested soil-less potting soil instead of potting soil for begonias. Use Superthrive sparingly. Mulch your begonias grown in the ground in the winter. Inside plants need to be hardened off before moving outside for the summer.

DRAWING WINNERS:

Mel Babb – B. ‘Lalome’

Malcolm McCorquodale – B. ‘Lalome’

Marla Cork – Tomato

Tony Robert – B. ‘Lalome’

Cheryl Lenert – Plant Hanger

Glenda Perry – Roma Tomato\

Pat Hiscock – Tomato & B. ‘Lalome’

Sandra Rigsby – Tomato

Meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted, (For Donna Williams)
Donna Robert

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

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

Irene Bragg	April 5 th
Darrin Duling	April 29 th
Allan Manes	April 3 rd
Lucy Melara	April 2 nd
Glenda Perry	April 19 th
Faye Stansberry	April 4 th
Dianna Wilkerson	April 18 th

“Life is a story you write as you go. Your story is uniquely you – interesting and inspiring and as it continues unfolding, may it always be deeply rewarding.”

WEATHER FORECAST FOR APRIL 2017

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 59 degrees in the North and 67 degrees in the South. Our coolest April temperatures will be April 1st, 4th thru 9th, 12th thru 14th, 19th thru 22nd, 25th thru 27th and 30th. Our warmest April temperatures will be April 3rd, 10th & 11th, 16th thru 18th, 24th and 29th. The best chance for scattered showers and thunderstorms are on or about April 3rd thru 6th, 11th & 12th, 18th thru 20th, 24th thru 26th and 29th & 30th. There are several severe storms expected, along with a few tornadoes.

MY ADVENTURE IS COMING TO A CLOSE

In the early hours of February 24, 2017 I completed my last chemotherapy treatment and was released from the hospital that afternoon. On Thursday, March 16th I had a PET-CT. My doctor went over the pictures with me on March 20th and on Wednesday, March 22nd Peter and I met with my doctor again to go over the pathology report from the PET-CT. The take away from this report was that there was NO CANCER DETECTED! We are taking this as it is in remission and my life can return to some sense of normalcy.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a very heart felt THANK-YOU to the members of my branch, the Astros and to all my friends from coast to coast for all the wonderful cards and notes of encouragement, friendship and love that were sent during my chemo treatments. These were very up lifting and very much appreciated. Also for the all the prayers and prayer chains in my name (prayers do work).

I am feeling great and have been doing some light gardening and working on my plants in the greenhouses. I have been cooking all along and am now looking forward to some serious baking.

Thank you again for your support during this adventure. I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

Tom

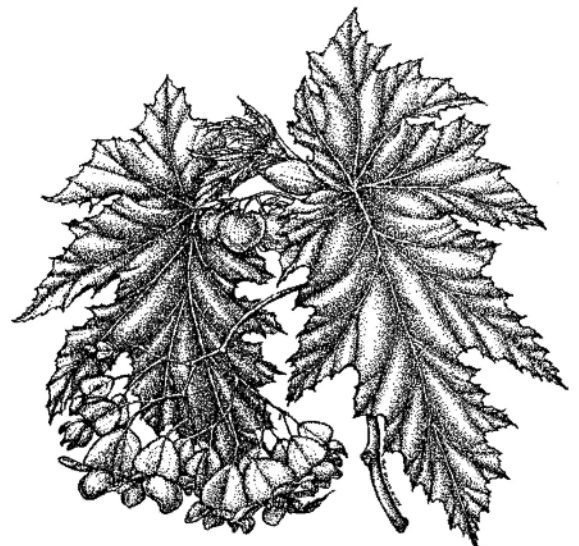




photo by Julie Vanderwilt

Begonia 'Bashful Bandit'

by Greg Sytch
New Port Richey, Florida

Begonia 'Bashful Bandit' was created in 1996 by crossing two easily grown parents, *B. manicata* X *B. 'Joe Hayden'*. The idea was to create a dark, easy rhizomatous that was also rather compact but still of good size. After all, I enjoy big begonias that are easy to grow.

Initially part of a series, I dwindled them down to three sister seedlings which also include *B. 'Bodacious Bandit'* (named by fellow Floridian, Virginia Jens) and *B. 'Kissing Bandit'* (named after the cartoon character). *B. 'Bashful Bandit'* just came to me one day prior to the other names.

Classified as rhizomatous, medium cleft-leaved, *B. 'Bashful Bandit'* is a spreading grower to 18" across at maturity and leaves reaching up to 8", although usually leaves stay around 6" wide. They are a glossy, dark ochre with purple sheen, red blush underneath. *B. 'Bashful Bandit'* blooms

regularly in late winter and spring with tall spikes that begin as green buds and gradually open to pink flowers, rather profuse. Cold tolerance is excellent, and it adapts to most environments well. It does not like to be overwatered. Propagation is swift from leaf cuttings, and overall growth is easy.

B. 'Bashful Bandit' makes an excellent compact houseplant, light plant or moderate landscape plant in mild climates as it does not require a lot of room but can spread if given space. No particular care is required, which makes it an excellent subject for beginners. I have heard from many growers that it thrives almost everywhere it is grown. It does not seem to attract pests or any diseases worth noting.

Sometimes, when hybridizing, a seedling appears that is unassuming but holds some special character, so you continue to grow it "just to see what happens." *B. 'Bashful Bandit'* is just that seedling, because it has proven popular and vigorous over time.



March Drawing Winners at the Astros' March 2017 Meeting



Mel Babb with
B. 'Lalome'



Pat Hiscock with
B. 'Lalome'



Marla Cork with
a tomato plant.



Malcolm McCorquodale
with B. 'Lalome'



Sandra Rigsby with
a tomato plant.



Pat Hiscock with
a tomato plant.



Tony Robert with
B. 'Lalome'



Glenda Perry with a
Roma tomato plant.



Cheryl Lenert with
a plant hanger