

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: July 9, 2017 TIME: 2:00 PM PLACE: West Gray Multi-Service Center PROGRAM: Cane-like Begonias 101
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CANE-LIKE BEGONIAS 101

The July 9, 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. Members are welcome to arrive at 1:00 P.M. and the meeting will begin at 2:00 P.M.

We need to set up the room for our meeting, so if you can arrive a little early about 12:30 to help it would be greatly appreciated.

Vice-President Johnny Williams will preside over this meeting while President Janet Carpenter is out of town. 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 Refreshment Hostesses for this meeting will be **Mel Babb, Kay Hoss and Ann Stiefel**.

Our Program this month will be **Cane-like Begonias 101**. At the June 4, 2017 meeting the members present were asked what they would like our July meeting to be about. It was pointed out that we had a number of new members and it would be good to teach them about the cane-like begonias

(which will also serve as a refresher for our long time members. We will cover exactly what a cane-like begonia is and its anatomy. We will talk about the different types of cane-like begonias. The cultural needs of growing this group of begonias as a whole and any problems you may encounter such as insects, loss of leaves, die back, etc. Members are welcome (and encouraged) to bring a cane-like begonia that you are growing in your collection be it beautiful (nice is good) or in need of some help. As usual the floor will be available to members to give their personal growing tips that have worked well for them. Please bring your notebooks to this meeting! New members please bring a 3 ring binder to the meeting for handouts you can refer to in the future.

We look forward to seeing you at this meeting. The program should be interesting to all, as we will give the basics and members will give their tips for growing success. Also all your begonia friends will be there to talk begonias with and the Refreshment Hostesses will have lots of tasty treats and cool drinks to wash them down.

See You There!

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 4, 2017 MEETING OF THE ASTRO BRANCH

The June 4, 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 1. The meeting was called to order by President Janet Carpenter at 2:10 P.M.

Refreshments for this meeting were kindly provided by **Brenda Andrews, Irene Bragg and Kathleen Murphy**. July's refreshments will be provided by **Mel Babb, Kay Hoss, and Ann Steifel**.

The Minutes from the Annual Spring Picnic held May 21, 2017 held at the home of Tom Keepin were printed in the Begonia Chatter and were approved as written.

Treasurer, Tom Keepin reported that the Astro Branch checking account is still very healthy. Cheryl Lenert reported that Charles Jaros is critically ill and is waiting for a heart transplant. Cards can be sent to his home address which is listed in the back of the Begonian. **Ann Steifel** and **Bill Claybaugh** rejoined the Astros at this meeting and our guest was **Annette Graham**.

Sunshine Chair Ruby Lewellyn, passed around cards for Charles Jaros Anna Belle Hicks, Tom and Jane Anderson and Fred and Frances Bones. Tom Keepin announced that our July meeting will be on July 9th instead of July 2nd due to the 4th of July holiday being celebrated on that weekend. We decided that the July program will be on cane-like and shrub-like begonias. This will be a return to our Begonias 101 series. Cheryl Lenert thanked Sue Botts for all the kindness she has shown the Astros in donating beautiful plants and other items. President, Janet Carpenter, then turned over to the program which was "January Cuttings Return." Many of the members brought back trays of cuttings they had "stuck" at the January meeting and then had taken home to grow out. Each person then told how they had taken care of the cuttings. Those who brought back trays were: Tom Keepin, Mel Babb, Pat Hiscock, Irene Bragg, Johnny and Donna Williams, Gloria Hunter (who also brought in a tray from Gail Warren), Sandra

Rigsby, Ruby Lewellyn and Malcolm McCorquodale. Some of the suggestions were to use Rootone and half strength Hastagro when first putting the cuttings down, pinching the growth tips to help the little plants branch (this tip can also be "stuck"), letting the thick-stemmed begonia babies go pretty dry before watering and foliar feeding. It was noted that the odor from fish emulsion or seaweed can be sweetened a bit by putting a little vanilla extract in the water. When foliar feeding it is important to do it in the early morning or late afternoon so sunlight won't burn the little plants. Bill Claybaugh told us of an experiment he tried which was to use straight yard "dirt" for cuttings. He said the plants did not do nearly as well as when using good potting mixes. Their roots don't develop well and they stay too wet. Tom was asked how to repot a larger begonia that had been growing in the same nursery container for a while; Tom suggested taking it out of the pot and root pruning from the sides all around the plant, then cutting about 1/3 off the bottom and repotting with new soil. Cheryl offered the tip that quilt batting in the bottom of the pot will help the plant and soil hold moisture. Members were then able to purchase any of the cuttings members had brought in. They could also take any of the donated plants Ruby Lewellyn had brought or any of the assorted glass vases that Kay Hoss brought.

Drawing were then held for Name Tag, Door Prize and Raffle plants and these were won by the following people

Door Prize

An earthenware flower pot – won by Kathleen Murphy

Name Tag

B. 'Bashful Bandit' – won by Gloria Hunter

B. 'Dotsy' – won by Annette Graham

Raffle

B. 'Paseo Doble' – won by Pat Hiscock

B. 'Paseo Doble' – won by Annette Graham

B. 'Laguna' – won by Irene Bragg

B. 'Cowardly Lion' – won by Kathleen Murphy

A tall-dome terrarium- won by Brenda Andrews

The meeting was adjourned by President, Janet Carpenter at 3:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted – Donna Williams

PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

July

3 rd , 4 th & 5 th	Scorpio
8 th , 9 th & 10 th	Capricorn
13 th & 14 th	Pisces
18 th & 19 th	Taurus
22 nd & 23 rd	Cancer
30 th & 31 st	Scorpio

August

1 st	Scorpio
4 th , 5 th & 6 th	Capricorn
9 th , 10 th & 11 th	Pisces
14 th & 15 th	Taurus
18 th & 19 th	Cancer
27 th & 28 th	Scorpio

- 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

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

Mel Babb	July 28 th
Sara Chumley	July 26 th
Tom Keepin	July 18 th
Shirll Manes	July 25 th
Valerie Morris	July 14 th
Brad Neugebauer	July 13 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”.

Happy Birthday!

WEATHER FORECAST FOR JULY 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 July.

Our temperatures will be near normal and our precipitation will be near normal. Our average temperatures should range from 81 degrees in the North to 84 degrees in the South. Our coolest July temperatures will be July 3rd thru 5th, 12 & 13th, 21st thru 23rd and 28th and 29th. Our warmest July temperatures will be July 1st and 2nd, 9th & 10, 16th thru 20th and 25 thru 27th. We can generally, expect widely scattered showers and thunderstorms at about 3 to 5 day intervals. Showers will be most numerous and frequent along the Gulf. Our hurricane potential is highest the last week of July.



**IN MEMORY OF OUR
FRIEND
CHARLES JAROS**

On June 23, 2017, late in the afternoon our friend Charles Jaros slipped away due to complications of congestive heart failure. Charles has been a very good friend to my self and countless others. Charles was very genuine and we all enjoyed his intellect, southern charm, leadership, vast knowledge of all begonias (which he always shared selflessly), his time and his support. Charles was a large part of the ABS and he will be greatly missed.

There will not be a funeral as was Charles' wish. A donation to the Conservation Fund in lieu of flowers is requested.

For the benefit of members who never had the pleasure of meeting and chatting with Charles, I have attached an article entitled '**Let Me Introduce You To ... Charles Jaros**', which appeared in the January 2014 ***Buxtonian***. (Newsletter of the Boston Chapter of the ABS).

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Let Me Introduce You to....Charles Jaros

Where the member lives

I live in DeBary, Florida which is 30 miles north of Orlando, FL. I am a Florida Native originally from Miami.

How found out about/became interested in joining ABS/Buxton

My first introduction to the Buxton Branch was when they hosted the Eastern Region Convention in 1975. This was my first National function outside of the local Miami Branch. My mother and I didn't know anyone on the National Level; neither of us had ever been to Boston and we decided this function would be a great way to obtain new begonias and see Boston. Well a request was made for those traveling to the convention to try to bring some plants for the plant sale. I obtained a pet carrier from the airlines prior to traveling and filled it with begonias for the plant sale (primarily Florida Hybrids and Paul Lowe Hybrids in particular). We took our plants to Horticulture Hall where the show was being held and were directly sent to the Plant Sale Chair: Wanda Macnair. Wanda welcomed us with open arms and promptly put us to work helping in the Plant Sale. This made us feel welcome and part of the convention. Well the rest is history and I have been going to conventions ever since. Of course I attended the ABS Convention that the Buxton Branch hosted for their 50th anniversary and have honored to attend many branch shows.

How became interested in begonias

I have always been involved in plants and actually started out in African Violets. I used to attend the African Violet meetings with my mother from grade school on up. Mother (Helene Jaros) always had some begonias too. When I learned to drive we started attending the

local Miami Branch, the rest is history with African Violets falling by the wayside. I do enjoy growing Gesneriads though.

Top 5 favorite begonias

Top 5 begonias are; B. 'Lana', B. 'Helene Jaros', B. 'Charles Jaros', B. 'Chuck Jaros', B. masoniana (even though I have a hard time growing it). Actually I love them all.

How many begonias you own, what type you own, what you're most successful with

I grow Cane-like, Shrub-Like, Thick-Stemmed and Rhizomatous and the most of my collection are Rhizomatous. Moving from Miami to the Central Florida area was quite different, in Miami I found that Canes did wonderfully, but in Central Florida I have found that Rhizomatous do much better.

Begonias you'd like to have, wish you could grow, and/or what do you wish you knew more of about begonias

I do wish I could grow the Tuberous Begonias especially the Tuberhybrida their flowers are so spectacular; but am very satisfied with the begonias I can grow.

Favorite thing about the begonia world, Buxton, etc.

My favorite thing about the begonia world, ABS and its Branches are the people. I have made lifelong friends by being part of this organization and participating. Our paths would not have crossed if it wasn't for ABS and its branches. Everyone is so generous and is willing to share plants and/or experiences.

Any growing tips the member has to share

When I give lectures on begonias I always tell people to put a newly acquired plant in the mix they grow in. This way plants will usually need watered at the same time and the care will be similar. Growers lose plants because of over-watering.

Other interests, hobbies, etc., outside of the begonia world

I collect collectable items/ antiques that are begonia related. I have a large collection of Majolica with many of them highlighted with begonias. I have dining sets from Wedgewood, Johnson Brothers, Shelly, Crooksville and others with begonia patterns on them. I even have vintage buttons with begonias depicted on them. I dabble in selling antiques as well.

What your family members have to say about the phenomena known as Begonia Obsession

My relatives think my Begonia Obsession is awesome and think I'm famous. LOL.



B. 'Sir Charles' (B. 'Sir Percy' X B. heracleifolia)
Hybridized by Lyla Kilpatrick, WA Australia.

PHOTOS FROM THE JUNE 4, 2017 ASTROS



The meeting begins



Malcolm McCorquodale
tells about his plants



Janet Carpenter, Cheryl Lenert, Sue
Botts, Tom Keepin, and Pat Hiscock



Sandra Rigsby



Ruby Lewellyn



Mel Babb with B. 'Dotsy'

PHOTOS FROM THE JUNE 4, 2017 ASTROS MEETING



Kathleen Murphy
with ceramic pot



Brenda Andrews with
domed terrarium



Pat Hiscock with
B. 'Paseo Doble'



Irene Bragg with
B. 'Laguna'



Annette Graham with
B. 'Paseo Doble'



Kathleen Murphy
with B. 'Cowardly Lion'