

BEGONIA CHATTER



Astro Branch American Begonia Society <i>4513 Randwick Drive</i> <i>Houston, Texas 77092-8343</i> <i>(713) 686-8539 – 713-299-2661</i>	Next Meeting: DATE: October 1, 2017 TIME: 2:00 PM PLACE: West Gray Multi-Service Center PROGRAM: Cutting Swap
OCTOBER 2017 ISSUE	www.begoniahouston.org

CANE-LIKE & SHRUB-LIKE CUTTING SWAP AND THEIR PROPAGATION

The October 1, 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. Our meeting this month will be held in Activity Room 1.

Members are welcome to arrive at 1:00 P.M. for socializing and the meeting will begin at 2:00 P.M. We need to set up the room so if you are able to arrive a little early about 12:30 to help it would be greatly appreciated.

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 Refreshment Hostesses/Host for this meeting will be **Janet Carpenter, Cheryl Lenert** and **Tom Keepin**.

Our program this month is a follow up to the Annual Plant Swap of last month in a round-about way. The members enjoyed the Plant Swap so

much they wanted a repeat performance. This was not practical so we came up with bringing in **named** Cane-like and Shrub-like cuttings to swap and the club will have pots, soil, plant trays and labels available to put them down, if you wish before they are taken home. There will be a short demonstration on the proper way to put the cutting down for our new members and as a refresher to long time members.

We will also have our usual drawings, the refreshment hostesses will have lots of tasty treats to tease our taste buds and cool drinks to wash the down.

We look forward to seeing you at this meeting.

See You There !



MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2017 MEETING OF THE ASTRO BRANCH

The September 10, 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 (we were scheduled to meet in Jay's Room, but the Cactus and Succulent Society canceled their Show and Sale). The meeting was called to order by President Janet Carpenter at 2:03 P.M. Janet thanked our refreshment hostesses **Jane Anderson** and **Kathleen Murphy** for their wonderful refreshments (Pat Hiscock's home was flooded and she was unable to be at the meeting and provide refreshments).

The minutes of the August meeting were published in the Begonia Chatter and were approved as written. Tom Keepin gave the Treasurer's Report stating that our checking account is still very healthy. Tom requested that we participate in the Holiday Greeting Ad for \$151.00 Platinum which was seconded and approved by acclamation. Tom also requested that we donate \$200.00 to the Fort Worth Begonia Species Bank in Memory of Dianna Wilkerson. The request was seconded and approved by acclamation.

Sunshine Lady Ruby Lewellyn had 5 cards for the members to sign this month. They were for: Fukuni Smith's Birthday, Kenny Wilkerson, for his loss of Dianna, for Kay Hoss, Midge Gorman and Pat Hiscock whose homes were flooded by hurricane Harvey. Janet recognized a late arriving guest of Glenda Perry **Christine Oboye**. Janet turned the floor over to Tom for the Annual Plant Swap. Glenda Perry was the lucky member to draw the first ticket. After the Annual Plant Swap Tom asked the members present what they would like to have as their October meeting program. Another Plant Swap was proposed but deemed unpractical. It was suggested that we have a cutting swap, since our cane-like and shrub-like begonias are pruned annually during September or October for good spring growth. The suggestion was adopted with the addition of the club providing pots, soil, labels and plant trays for potting up

cuttings and also a short demonstration of putting down cuttings for the benefit of our new members and as a refresher all members.

Drawing for this meeting:

Door Prize:

B. 'Kristy' – won by Irene Bragg

Raffle:

B. 'Down Home' – won by Tony Robert

B. 'Brazilian Lady'—won by Janet Carpenter

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Robert

(for Donna Williams, Secretary)

PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

October

3 rd & 4 th	Pisces
7 th & 8 th	Taurus
11 th , 12 th & 13 th	Cancer
20 th , 21 st & 22 nd	Scorpio
25 th , 26 th & 27 th	Capricorn
30 th & 31 st	Pisces

November

1 st	Pisces
4 th & 5 th	Taurus
8 th & 9 th	Cancer
17 th & 18 th	Scorpio
22 nd & 23 rd	Capricorn
27 th & 28 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

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

Martha Burg	October 29 th
John A. Cole	October 1 st
Grant M. Cole	October 1 st
Kathleen Murphy	October 3 rd
Debra Norris	October 17 th
Sandra Rigsby	October 30 th
Johnny Williams	October 10 th

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

Happy Birthday!

A Word with You: Scandent and Lianescent

By Claudia Goodridge,

Stems again. These stems are meant to climb – *scandent* and *lianescent*. Scrambling across the ground in the wild and finding a tree or shrub, up they go. Finding a cliff, they'll cascade or trail. (Our hanging baskets make use of that habit.) Begonia literature suggests about 30 species and 25 or more additional cultivars of this type – *scandent* and *lianescent*.

Mr. Webster confirms that *scandent* means climbing. *Lianescent* didn't make it into my Webster, but *liana*, a luxuriantly growing, tropical vine, did. Jack Golding says *scandent* begonias are "climbing, growing upward on available supports, while *lianescent* begonias are "climbing supported by adventitious roots," a crisp clear distinction. I didn't find either technical term in Tebbitt's glossary, he uses "climbing" in this text instead – the botanical equivalent of plain English legal documents. Among the climbers he references *B. convolvulacea* as using adventitious roots, *lianescent* then, as is *B. integerrima*.

The Thompson's Begonias section on

trailing-scandent begonias says they either trail or climb, and adds *B. ampla*, *fagifolia*, *glabra*, *mannii*, *polygonoides*, and *procumbens* to the list. Their glossary says *lianes* are "plants of vine like habit."

I may be jumping to conclusions, but the literature suggests a two pronged survival strategy here. Climbing allows more plant energy to go into flowers, e.g. reproduction. No need to use up resources building a solid stem to get to the sunlight and photosynthesis; just use someone else's. Given a less inviting or more competitive spot on the ground, germinate put down roots, and grow out of it. *Scandent/lianescent* begonias fit that description. They climb; and they're longer blooming than usual. Some are even ever blooming. Maybe this explains my clematis too – with shaded, cool roots they then scramble at an exhilarating rate up the fence to bloom in full, baking sun.

I love proverbs and sayings. "If you're given lemons, turn them into lemonade" works here, as does "dealing with a bad hand." Or could it be OPM? (OPM – Other People's Money)

(This article was taken from the January/February 2014, Volume 81 issue of the Begonian, page 17.



New Cultivar: B. 'Cracklin' Rosie'

From Priscilla Purinton, Hybrid Registrar

Official International Registration 1007

Begonia 'Cracklin' Rosie'

Seed parent: B. 'Silver Mist'

Pollen parent: 'Salmon Rubra'

Propagated more than 100 times.

Originator: Walter Dworkin, 8 Rugsby Rd., Westbury, NY 11590

Developed: 1990

First Distributed in 1992.

First mentioned in a publication in the May/June 1998 Issue of The Begonian, vol 65.

Registration applied for August 20, 2013; registration approved July 26, 2014.

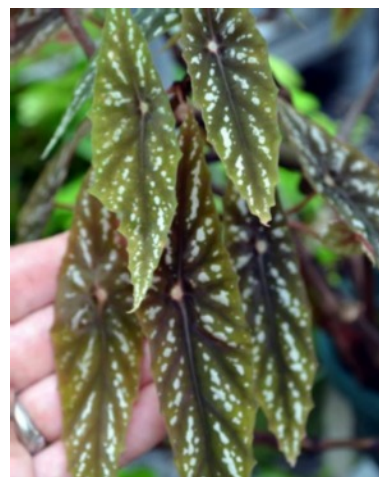
Begonia 'Cracklin Rosie' is a cane.

Leaves: Dark bronze-green with multiple silvery-pink spots. Fluted, wavy angel-wing type leaves measure 9" x 3.5" with a maroon reverse. Margin is undulate and the surface is smooth. Stipules green with pink blush. Tepals are pink and white. Males have 4 tepals, females 5. Diameter of male tepals is 1.5" females are 1.75" with 16 to 18 in a cluster.

Description: This vigorous grower can reach 3 feet or more with a superba-type growth habit. It is an infrequent bloomer with clusters of large pink flowers that hang well outside the foliage. The natural waviness of the leaves shows off the rich maroon underside.

This variety has been tested by Byron Martin of Logee's Greenhouses of N. Danielson, CT. It is also available from Peace Tree Farm, Kintnersville, PA and Steve's Leaves of Lewisville, TX

(This article taken from the September/October 2014, Volume 81 Issue of the Begonian, page 168.)



Begonia lubbersii

By Bob and Dee Stewart, Stow, MA

We got this plant from Lauray of Salisbury (Judy Becker) many years ago and we have had absolutely no trouble growing it. I was therefore quite surprised when Wanda wanted to bring visitors to see it who thought that it was a very rare and difficult plant. I looked it up in the Tebbitt book and found that he has a possible explanation. He says that it is susceptible to root rot and should be grown in a rather small well-drained pot with 50% humidity. We grow the plant in a greenhouse, and though the humidity fluctuates, it is definitely higher than usual indoor humidity (though not as high as in a terrarium). Also we are used to growing epiphytic gesneriads which also can suffer from root rot and want a small pot with well-drained soil, so we naturally tend to pot things that way. Apparently our "ordinary" conditions just happen to be what this species wants.

The leaf is 'peltate'. This means that the petiole joins the blade in the center rather than at an edge. The word comes from Latin "pelta" meaning "shield", because a soldier holds his shield by a handle at the center.

The leaf coloring is quite striking. There is a white dot where the petiole joins the blade. The regions along the veins are somewhat reddish. Between the veins the leaf can develop silver spots, depending on the light and the age of the leaf. The flower is quite fragrant

(This article was taken from the November/December 2011, volume 81, Issue of the Begonian, page 223)

PICTURES FROM THE ASTRO'S SEPTEMBER 2017 MEETING



Janet Carpenter conducting the Business Meeting



U-484 brought in by Irene Bragg for the Plant Swap.



Plants for the Plant Swap



B. 'Boomer' for the Plant Swap



(L. To R.) Gloria Hunter and Gail Warren.



Glenda Perry explains about her pineapple plant for the Plant Swap



Janet Carpenter with her raffle plant
B. 'Brazilian Lady'



Tony Robert with his raffle plant
B. 'Down Home'



Cheryl Lenert discussing her swap
plant B. 'Down Home'



Mel Babb talks about her swap plant.



Mike Bragg with his door prize
B. 'Kristy'



Ruby Lewellyn discussing her
swap plant justica carnea.