

# BEGONIA CHATTER



<b>Astro Branch</b> <b>American Begonia Society</b> <i>4513 Randwick Drive</i> <i>Houston, Texas 77092-8343</i> <i>(713) 686-8539</i>	<b>Next Meeting:</b> <b>DATE:</b> November 5, 2017 <b>TIME:</b> 2:00 PM <b>PLACE:</b> West Gray Multi-Service Center <b>PROGRAM:</b> Preparing For Winter
<b>NOVEMBER 2017 ISSUE</b>	<a href="http://www.begoniahouston.org">www.begoniahouston.org</a>

## PREPARING OUR BEGONIAS FOR WINTER

The November 5, 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 P.M. 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 Host & Hostess for this meeting will be **Tony & Donna Robert, Brenda Andrews and Irene Bragg.**

Our program this month will be **PREPARING OUR BEGONIAS FOR WINTER.** This will be a member participation program moderated by Tom Keepin. Everyone prepares

their begonias and other plants for our wintery days and evenings differently, should we have a few. Not all our members have a greenhouse(s) and have to move their plants into the garage or cover with frost cloth or sheets and blankets. Some may even store them in their kitchen or breakfast room for duration of the cold weather then move them out again. Every year we seem to learn something new in protecting our plants from any winter weather we may get.

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

We look forward to seeing you at this meeting.

**See You There!**



## MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 1, 2017 MEETING

The October 1, 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 2:05 P.M. Janet thanked everyone for attending.

Refreshments for this meeting were kindly provided by **Janet Carpenter, Kathleen Murphy** and **Tom Keepin**. In November the refreshments will be provided by Donna and Tony Robbert and Irene Bragg. The minutes from the October 1, 2017 meeting were published in *The Begonia Chatter* and were approved as written. Tom Keepin gave the Treasurer's Report reporting our bank balance is still healthy.

Sunshine Lady Ruby Lewellyn passed around "Thinking of You" cards for Darrin Duling (with Mercer Arboretum) and Anna Belle Hicks.

Tom reminded members to let him know if they have not received the *Begonia Chatter* by the Tuesday before the meeting. He then showed a plant of *B. guaduensis* (U-439) which was a challenge plant in 2009. It can take sun or shade with the leaves turning really red on the back when it gets a lot of sun.

We were all reminded of the ABS/SWR convention in April 2018 in New Orleans. The hotel is small so those who plan to go should book hotel rooms as early as possible. It is anticipated that this will be a well-attended convention and will have some unusual begonias.

Cheryl Lenert talked about how small our club was many years ago and how it was in danger of disbanding. This was when Bill Claybaugh joined. He went on to be very active in our club and in the ABS and wrote an article for almost every edition of the *Begonian*. We are ALL very happy to have him back with us.

Brenda Andrews gave a little tip which was that a piece of sandpaper can be used to scrub off a plant name on an old label rather than having to discard it because the name cannot be erased.

Tom handed out a sheet listing cuttings he had received from Fort Worth for this meetings cutting

swap. He also had some amaryllis bulbs that had been in Dianna Wilkerson's collection. Kenny had sent them for our members to take if they wanted to add them to their collection.

Our program was a cane-like and shrub-like cutting swap. Each member told what they brought and a little bit about the plant. We then proceeded to choose which cuttings we wanted. Tom brought supplies so that those who wished to, could put down their cuttings at the meeting. Others decided to put them down after they got back home.

It was time for our drawings for Door Prize, Name Tag and Raffle plants and the winners were:

### Door Prize:

Begonia U-508 – won by Kay Hoss

Guzmania Bromeliad – won by Kathleen Murphy

### Name Tag:

B. 'Lois Burke' – won by Bill Claybaugh

B. Tom Ment' – won by Irene Bragg

### Raffle:

B. 'Orpha C. Fox – won by Mel Babb

b. 'Lois Burke – Kathleen Murphy

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Williams, Secretary



*Begonia tenuifolia* as painted  
by Alice Clark in 1947.

## PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

### November

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

### December

1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Taurus
5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	Cancer
14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	Scorpio
19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup>	Capricorn
24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	Pisces
29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup>	Taurus

- 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.

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Birthday wishes go out to all our member born in this month of November.

Mike Bragg	November 4 <sup>th</sup>
Gail Warren	November 10 <sup>th</sup>
Donna Williams	November 30 <sup>th</sup>

*"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!***

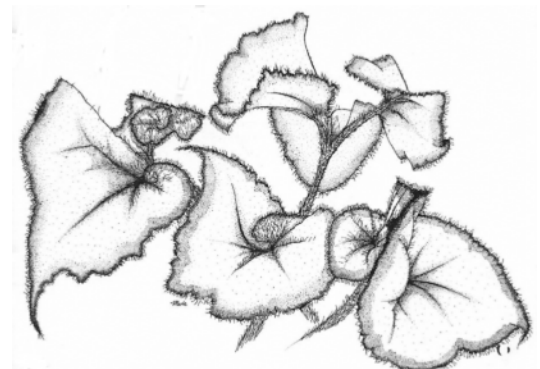
## WINTERIZING YOUR BEGONIAS

On September 24, 2107 Tony Collins a member of the Houston Satellites Branch gave a very informative program on **Winterizing Your Begonias**.

The following are a few of his tips:

1. Water your plants before a freeze – water is an insulator against the cold.
2. "White" Freeze Cloth works very well for covering the plants and allowing light to come thru.
3. Heating Cable for Plants (available to purchase) is a nice way to heat a bench of potted plants by placing their pots along the wire to help keep from freezing.
4. LED Twinkle lights do not work for heat. For heat under the frost cloth mentioned above, use old style Christmas lights with large bulbs or incandescent light bulbs in place of the heating cable mentioned in previous tip for heat.
5. Fertilizer – for blooms, use one with a high middle number & dilute half strength. Don't fertilize from October to mid-February. In Spring, a high first number promotes growth. Members use a variety of brands, usually liquid with a focus on the numbers.

*(This article was taken from the October Issue of the Shuttle (newsletter of the Houston Satellites Branch) on the front page.)*



B. 'Contess Louise Erdody'

## A Word with You: Stamen

By Claudia Goodridge

Bizarre weather has been the norm here in New England – those volunteer gourds I mentioned last time didn't mature, as I suspected they wouldn't, but it was a late October EARLY snow storm that finally killed those dioecious vines and blew away the leaves. Now the small gourds, still bright green, are highly visible, almost like a string of Christmas lights up in that tree. My closely related, and somewhat protected, window boxed begonias fared better and stayed green for a few days after the storm.

Back to flowers, and *stamens*, the reproductive part of the *staminate* or male flower. The yin to the yang of the *pistillate* flower. The stamen has two parts – 1. The *anther* and 2. The *filament*. The *filament* derives from the Latin *filum* a thread. This *filament* is the support for the *anther*. *Anter*, from the Latin *anther*, a flowery plant, houses the pollen, making this the critical part of the *stamen*. No pollen, no seed. *Stamen* in my latin dictionary also means thread, “the warp, which in the upright loom of the ancients was stretched in a vertical direction.” A good visual for me. But then, I rather like the second definition too, “the thread...that by which Aridne guided Theseus through the labyrinth.”

I could surely use such a thread to guide me through the labyrinth of flower vocabulary. The maze begins no matter where you start ... each male begonia flower has from one to multiple *stamens*; the *stamens* can be arranged symmetrically or not; (the asymmetrical arrangement is often likened to a bunch of bananas.) The *filaments* can be separate or fused into a column; they can be shorter or longer than the *anthers* they support. The *anthers* themselves can be any number of solid geometric shapes – think eggs, spheres, and balls.

I've only scratched the surface here, the surface available to the human eye. Get out your magnifying glass and take a closer look at the variety in the *staminate* flowers.

## Reference:

Cassell's Latin Dictionary, revised by J.R.V Marchant, and Joseph F. Charles, Funk & Wagnalls Co., New York and London.

(This article was taken from **the Begonian** Vol. 79 January/February 2012 pages 20 & 21

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## WHERE HAVE THEY GONE?

Where have they gone is the question asked quite often of late about begonias that populated most of our collections? They were always seen at plant sales and sale tables at begonia meetings. They were our favorites, the older and current hybrids of the time and some as recent 2000 thru 2010, species....identified or not. Are they quietly sitting on a bench in a greenhouse unnoticed perhaps forgotten? Perhaps they are sitting in a collection being tended tenderly, but have lost their name tags and no one knows their name. Have they become old fashioned, out of date and not as fancy as the latest hybrids and species? We loved them, entered them in shows and proudly presented them for Show and Tell at meetings.

They are out there let's try and find as many as we can....all we need is a leaf or two off the rhizomatous and a nice healthy stem or two from a cane-like or shrub-like to get us on the road to getting each one back into circulation.

Here are some of the multitudes we miss:

B. 'Silvermist', B. 'Countess Louise Erdody', B. 'Looking Glass', B. Patriot Games, B. 'Queen of Hearts', B. 'Peach Parfait', B. 'Sinbad', B. Beningo', B. 'Blitzen', B. 'Ginny', B. Carmon O, B. Mary Sakamoto', B. The Sultan, B.' Virginia Kettler'.

The list can go on and on. Perhaps some we seek are residing in Fort Worth at the Begonia Collection, Also the upcoming National Convention will be good places to start our search.

Happy Searching!



## Pictures From the Astro's September 2017 Meeting



Meeting in progress.



Tom Keepin talking about  
*B. guaduenis* (B. U-439)



Brenda Andrews & Gail Warren  
looking over cuttings to be swapped.



Gail Warren discussing the cuttings  
she brought for the swap.



*“Dynamic Duo”*



Waiting for the meeting  
to be called to order.





Bill Claybaugh with  
B. 'Lois Burke'



Kathleen Murphy with  
Door Prize bromeliad



Irene Bragg with  
B. 'Tom Ment'



Tom Keepin looking over cuttings  
brought in for the swap.



Kay Hoss with her  
Door Prize, B. U-508



Break between Business Meeting  
& Program (Cuttings Swap)