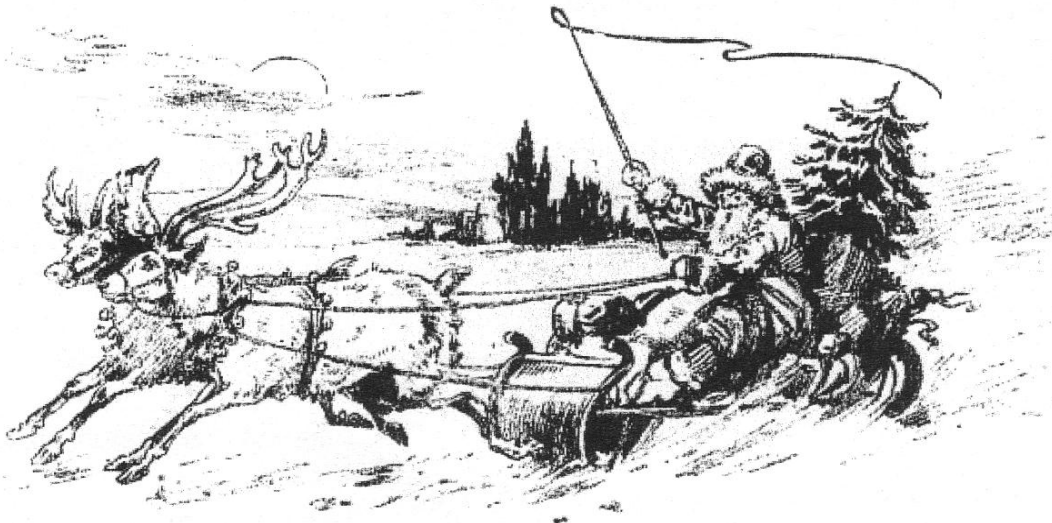


BEGONIA CHATTER



<p>Astro Branch American Begonia Society <i>4513 Randwick Drive</i> <i>Houston, Texas 77092-8343</i> <i>(713) 686-8539</i></p>	<p><i>Next Meeting:</i> DATE: December 4, 2011 TIME: 12:00 Noon PLACE: Houston Garden Center PROGRAM: Annual Christmas Party</p>
<p>DECEMBER 2011 ISSUE</p>	<p>absastro.net</p>



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!

Happy Birthday wishes go out to our member born in this month of December.

Mildred Love December 20th

“Every age, every stage of life has its own beauty.” Wishing you a beautiful Birthday and a year full of dreams come true.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING

The November 6, 2011 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society was called to order at 2:01 P.M. by President Donna Robert. President Robert welcomed back members Fukumi Smith and Emma Lee Payne.

Tom Keepin talked about table top and table configuration for the Christmas Party. Tom Keepin also gave the Treasurer's Report stating our checking account is still very healthy. Sunshine Lady Ruby Lenert let us know that cards were being circulated for Betsy Ginsburg (for knee replacement) and Pat Perry (for her fall and recovery)

Shade Plant of the Month: Tom Keepin introduced us to a new Nun's Orchid called Phaiocalanthe 'Red Streak' 'Red Streak' is a cross between Phaisu tankervilliae x a Calanthe and is available at Another Place In Time.

Brenda Andrews reported she had received 9 cuttings from her friends in California. Brenda brought cuttings of B. fushioides and B. White Richmondensis to show us.

At 2:20 P.M. President Robert called a short break.

Meeting resumed at 2:35 P.M. During the break members voted on the Challenge Plants that were returned B. U-604. 3 live and 3 deceased plants were returned out of the 25 plants distributed at the June 5, 2011 meeting. First Place was won by Jane Anderson and 2nd Place was won by Tom Anderson.

Program: Our Program this month was Summer 2011 Begonia Survivors. Members brought in 32 plants that survived our incredibly hot and dry summer. Each member that brought in plants spoke about where they grew it or them and how they were taken care of. There are too many to list all that were brought in so we will make a list available upon request. Next Tom Keepin and Cheryl Lenert demonstrated cutting back Brenda Andrews' plants of B. 'Afternoon Delight' and B. 'Withlacoochee', then demonstrated how to make cuttings.

Raffle Plants:

B. 'Bashful Bandit' won by Tony Robert

B. 'Tom Ment' won by Marylin Chapman

Devil's Backbone won by Sara Chumley (Donated by Susan Willis)

Name Tag Plants:

B. 'My Special Angel' won by Jane Anderson

Purple Cyclamen won by Fukumi Smith (donated by Peter Lloyd)

The 8 plants brought in by Shirll Manes were drawn for.

The November 6, 2011 meeting was adjourned as 3:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Keiser

(For Betsy Ginsburg, Secretary)

THE BEGONIA CHATTER

Starting with the January 2012 issue of *The Begonia Chatter* your editor would like to start sending it to you by e-mail. As of this date I am sending it to eight of our members and a few out of town and it is working very well. With printing and postage it costs us roughly \$60.00 per month to produce *The Begonia Chatter*. The benefit to having it sent via e-mail is we can add color pictures and add more pages as we gather more information to pass on to you at no cost to the club. If you would like a hard copy you can print it on your printer.

Please contact me and let me know if you would like to make the change. If so please make sure I have your correct e-mail address, If you do not we will still print some copies and mail it to you.

Tom

PRUNIN, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

December

2nd, 3 rd & 4 th	Pisces
7 th , 8 th & 9 th	Taurus
12 th & 13 th	Cancer
21 st & 22 nd	Scorpio
25 th & 26 th	Capricorn
29 th , 30 th & 31 st	Pisces

January 2012

3 rd , 4 th & 5 th	Taurus
8 th , 9 th & 10 th	Cancer
17 th & 18 th	Scorpio
21 st , 22 nd & 23 rd	Capricorn
26 th & 27 th	Pisces
31 st	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.

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE

Time sure is flying by these days. Yes! My friends it is time to pay our dues once again for the upcoming year 2112. To refresh our memories Local dues are \$5.00 and National dues are \$25.00. Southwest Region Dues are \$10.00 individual and \$15.00 family.

Most of our members' dues are due in December, newer members your dues are due the month that you joined our family. Our Membership Chair Paul Rothstein has been sending out notices to those whose dues are due in December. If you have received such a notice and have paid it please let Tom Keepin know so we can keep you on file as being a paid member in good standing with the American Begonia Society. Branch dues are due in December.

Tom Keepin will be on hand to take our dues (cash or check) at the Annual Christmas Party so they can be sent in on time for you so you don't miss an issue of *the Begonian*, *Leaflet* or *The Begonia Chatter*.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY 2011

The Annual Christmas Party of the Astro Branch of the American Begonias Society will be held on December 4, 2011 at the Houston Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Park Drive (Hermann Park). We will be in the main hall and the doors will open at 12:00 noon. Enclosed in this publication is your invitation to this event.

In the November Issue of *The Begonia Chatter* there was an insert giving complete details about the party. If there is any last minute questions please give Tom a call at **713-686-8539**.

Our Refreshment Chair Teresa See has put a very tasty menu together for this year's event. Please RSVP to Teresa as soon as possible if you have not already, so she will know how much food to arrange for. If you have not signed up to bring something at the November meeting and find you can attend please give Teresa call at 713-376-0843 or E-mail her at teresa.see@sbcglobal.net. Teresa can let you know what is needed to complete the menu. Our menu this year is Traditional Christmas. We will have our annual Gift Exchange and Door Prizes along with Share Our Christmas. We will be collecting for Spring Assistance Ministries (SAM). They have requested cereal, canned meat, peanut butter and jelly. Jean Keiser will see that it is delivered promptly after the party. Also don't forget your entry in our "Christmas" table decoration contest

Dress for this event is "Christmas Casual"
We hope everyone can join in the fun.

See You There!



B.coccinea

Highlight on Begonia 'River Nile'

By Iris Bird

Created in 1992 by Brad Thompson, B. 'River Nile' is a rhizomatous begonia. The parents of this spectacular plant are B. 'Cleopatra' x B. 'Bokit' x B. 'Carriearae'. B. 'Cleopatra' was created in 1960 by Susie Zug, is rhizomatous and has medium leaves that are 3" to 6" at maturity. B. 'Bokit' is rhizomatous with medium leaves 3" to 6" at maturity. The leaves are spiraled. It was created in 1975 by Leslie Woodriff. B. 'Carriearae' is a rhizomatous species. It is large leaved with the lobed leaves 6" to 12" at maturity. From these lovely begonias B. 'River Nile' was hybridized. This is amazing to me, as I have not, to this date, been able to get even one seed to grow out of the millions I must have planted. There is a deep secret here that I have not been privy to. But, I keep trying.

The leaves of B. 'River Nile' are spiraled and are light to medium green with brown/black edging. I purchased this plant in a little 2" pot in May of '95 from Mike Kartuz. It started to grow larger in the car on the way home and has never stopped growing, to this date, not even when it had thirty flower stems. I kept cutting them off, and it kept right on flowering for three months. The leaves grow very compact and 7" – 8" wide with the lovely edges. I repotted it into a 4" pot, then a 6", and that was soon too small. It has been repotted four times and is presently in a fourteen-inch pot. I no longer see the stems or the rhizomes. It is so full and compact.

I fertilize my plant with 32-10-10 fertilizer. This is the best fertilizer I've found to feed my begonias. A great tip from Maria Holmes. I spray all of my plants with Superthrive weekly and it works wonders. No fungicides are needed for B. 'River Nile'. It seems to be very healthy. I guess our favorites are not those that we cannot keep alive, but those that we have the most success with. B. 'River Nile' is one of Brad's best hybrids. I am still very much the novice but I am very happy to have this plant in my collection.

*(This article taken from **The Begonian** Volume 63
November/December 1996 Issue page 233)*

Meet B. 'Lubbergei'

by Mary Ellen Taback

This is a pitch for a begonia that is seldom seen or mentioned in the literature. Yet it is a beauty, easy to grow, and easy to reproduce. A cane, its flowers although large are not produced in the overwhelming masses of the more popular canes. This is a modest beauty; it does not shout, "See me!"

B. 'Lubbergei' is a cross of B. *lubbersii* x B. *dregei*. Its leaves show an interesting blend of the two species. They have a heavier texture than *dregei*, hence are not so subject to mildew. The margins are cut by concave scallops. The upper surfaces are a rather unusual olive-green, with darker veins and a red dot at the sinus. The undersides are red. My largest leaves are about 4" long; most are smaller. The plant is low-growing, and almost independently shapes itself into a neat small upright bush. The blooms are large and fairly numerous, and are two shades of delicate pink, becoming white if bleached by sun or age.

Not usually finicky about its environment, B. 'Lubbergei' will sunburn in hot summer sun. It enjoys being outdoors in good weather under shade of trees, where direct sunlight touches it but does not scorch it. Winters, a sunny spot near a window or in the greenhouse keeps it blooming for a long time. It will lose lower leaves, like all the begonias, if allowed to dry out too severely, but will recover them when care is resumed.

Someday I would like to find it in a show, so that more growers would come to know and enjoy this lovely Japanese hybrid (by Uemura, 1977)

*(This article taken from **The Begonian** Volume 57
November-December 1990 Issue pages 221-222.)*





THE ASTRO BRANCH of the American Begonia Society

*Cordially invites you to our
Annual Christmas Party*

To be held:

- *When:* Sunday, December 4, 2011
- *Time:* 1:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M.
- *Entrée:* Baked Turkey/Dressing & Baked Ham
- *Where:* Hermann Park, The Garden Center
- *Attire:* Since we will be inside, dress is "Christmas casual"
- *Further Info:* "The Chatter"
- *Contest* A contest will be held for the best "small" table decoration. So get with your friends and decide what your table will "make". Prizes will be Awarded.

R.S.V.P. to Teresa See
by Friday, November 25 if you
will or will not be coming and what
food you will bring.

Phone: 713/376-0843

E-Mail: teresa.see@sbcglobal.net

Please bring your own serving pieces as there
are none at the Garden Center

REMEMBER: No alcohol allowed