

# BEGONIA CHATTER



<p><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></p>	<p><i>Next Meeting:</i>  <b>DATE:</b> April 1, 2012  <b>TIME:</b> 1:00 PM  <b>PLACE:</b> Home of Tom Keepin  <b>PROGRAM:</b> Spring Picnic</p>
<p><b>APRIL 2012 ISSUE</b></p>	<p><b>absastro.net</b></p>

## ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC

On April 1, 2012 the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society will be having our Annual Spring Picnic at the Home of Tom Keepin 4513 Randwick Drive. We are unable to have our monthly meeting at the Houston Garden Center because of the Japanese Festival.

The Picnic will be from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Out of town Members can start arriving at 12:30 P.M. We are not asking members to bring Door Prizes this time. If you would like to bring one that would be nice. We will have Door Prizes to give away. The main entrée for this Picnic is fried chicken. We are asking members to bring sides and desserts to complement our entrée. Iced tea, bottled water, beer and wine will be provided. If you would like to have a soft drink please bring your own they will not be provided. Please call our Refreshment Chairperson Teresa See at (713-376-0843) or e-mail at : [teresa.see@sbcglobal.net](mailto:teresa.see@sbcglobal.net) to let her know what

you would like to bring or to find out what is needed to complete the menu. We are looking forward to having a beautiful sunny day that is warm with a light breeze. Please dress comfortably for the day and bring your favorite lawn chair and insect repellent with you. We will fog the yard before your arrival to get rid of any mosquitos in the yard (but I do live on a bayou). The day will be for all our members and guests to enjoy each other's company and good food.

There will be no business meeting unless there is something very urgent we need to take care of. Please come and RELAX with us and enjoy the Day.

**See You There!**



## PRUNING, PLANTING & TRANSPLANTING

### April

1 <sup>st</sup>	Cancer
8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	Scorpio
12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup>	Capricorn
17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup>	Pisces
22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Taurus
27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>	Cancer

### May

6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>	Scorpio
10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup>	Capricorn
14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	Pisces
19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup>	Taurus
24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	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.

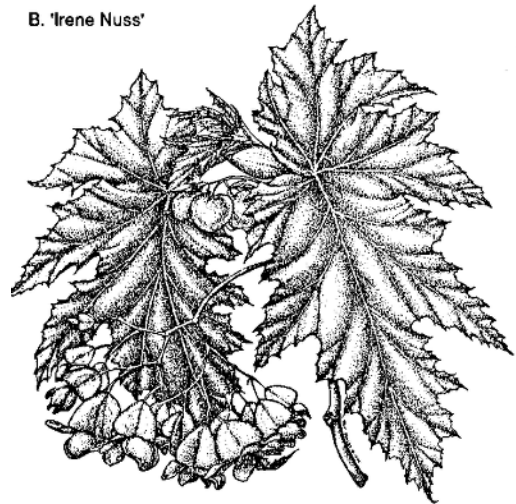
## WEATHER FORECAST FOR APRIL

According to the United States Weather Service, Houston and surrounding area fall in Region 7 of the National Weather Map. Here is what is expected for the month of April.

Temperatures should be near normal and precipitation also near normal. Temperatures should average from 59 degrees in the North to 67 degrees in the south. Coolest April temperatures are 1-3, 7-12, 20-25 and 29-30. Locally heavy thunderstorms with some possibly being severe, and areas of steady rain and drizzle about April 1, 6-10, 19-23, 28-30. There is a moderate chance for hail and/or tornados. Increasing humidity expected.

(Taken from **Harris Farmer's Almanac 2012**)

B. 'Irene Nuss'



## ANNUAL FUND RAISER 2012

The Annual Fund Raiser for the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society will be held on **April 14<sup>th</sup>**. Another Place In Time 1102 Tulane @ West 11th is our location once again this year.

**The hours are 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.** Another Place In time opens a 9:00 A.M. and needs some time to get things set up for their days business As it is every year we are asking that members please do not park in the front of the shop. We want to leave those few spaces for customers to do business and for our sale. There is parking available on the side of the shop and also on Tulane.

We have a little over 1,000 4 inch plants being grown for our sale at JJJ Greenhouses by our friend and member Debbie.

If you would like something to eat or drink while you are working or shopping please bring it with you as there is nothing available at the shop. There are fast food places and convenience stores in the area for your convenience also.

Mike and the employees of Another Place In Time have been telling us that almost everyone that comes in the shop ask when we will be having our sale.

Please come and shop and stay a while to help with customers. It will be time well spent meeting our customers.

## MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 2012 MEETING

The March 4, 2012 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society was called to order at 2:00 P.M. by President Donna Robert. President Robert welcomed members and thanked them for coming. Refreshment Hostess' **Susan Willis, Faye Stansberry and Irene Bragg** were also thanked for their assortment of goodies they provided for the meeting. President Robert announced that we would not be meeting at the Houston Garden Center in April due to the Japanese Festival and would be having our Annual spring Picnic on April 1<sup>st</sup> at the home of Tom Keepin. It was announced that Fried chicken would be the main entrée. Refreshment chair Teresa See passed around a list for members to sign up to bring food items to the picnic. Tom Keepin had Membership rosters available for members who hadn't received one at the February meeting. The Treasurers report was given by Tom Keepin stating that the treasury is very healthy. President Robert asked if we had any guests and none were present. It was announced that the Southwest Region Get-together will be held in San Antonio on May 16-20. The Annual Fund Raiser will be held at Another Place In Time on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Members were asked not to park in the front of the shop. Shirll Manes announced tht the San Jacinto Branch would be having their Plant Sale in Kema March 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>. Brenda Andrews spoke about projects for plant stands and had copies available for interested members.

A short recess was called before the program began. Vice-President and Program Chair Shirll Manes Introduced Jane Anderson, Irene Bragg, Gail MacGregor, Leigh Boyer, and Tom Keepin to talk about the plants that they had brought in turn

The drawings were held and the winners are:  
Raffle:

B. 'Laguna' - won by Guadalupe Hoelscher

B. 'Non-Stop' - was won by Janet Carpenter.

Name Tag Plant: Won by Mike Bragg

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by  
Janet Carpenter

(For Betsy Ginsburg,  
Secretary)



### THANK YOU

The March 4, 2012 meeting was very interesting and informative. As is usually the case once the meeting was called to order things moved very quickly from the Business meeting to the Program and drawings. We had so much fun with the Program and our members telling us all about the plants they had brought. After the meeting was over I realized that I had not thanked our members for bringing in their plants for the program and talk about them. I would like to take a moment to say Thank you to **Jane Anderson, Leigh Boyer, Gail MacGregor and Tom Keepin** for bringing in their plants and giving us such an interesting Program.

**Thank you!**  
Shirll Manes

## “FROM PROP BOX TO SHOW”

Seminar review by Sue Hessel

Mary Bucholtz' seminar "From Prop Box to Show" could also have been entitled "Showing is Sharing and Caring" She gave us a neat timetable to prepare our plants for show and some different and environmentally sound suggestions for propping.

Five months before a show, choose your potential entries and isolate them in a space large enough for good air circulation (this helps in preventing mildew and strengthening leaves and stems). Now start caring, repotting, pinching (flowers too), feeding, staking and grooming. Vary the mildew spray-one recipe is 2 teaspoons of baking soda to 1 gallon of water. If rhizomes are crawling out of the pot, pinch or bend them around inside of the pot and stake them in place for a few weeks. Also feed them with a high phosphorus fertilizer (phosphorus is the middle number on the fertilizer container).

Two months before the show, give your plants the maximum amount of light they can use. If the weather has warmed foliar feeding may begin. Canes get higher phosphorus once a week now.

One month before the show, trim your stakes, clean the pots (with vinegar and water), and clean foliage (with dishwashing liquid in water, or Safer soap).

A few days before the show water well, trim minor damage on leaf edges with scissors (making sure to follow the leaf shape). Apply a fresh dressing of top soil.

When you arrive at the show, water your plants and do a final dusting and cleaning.

Now go back to the showing is sharing. For five months you've been pinching – with sterile scissors! – and propagating! Always remember to label everything with a waterproof pen as you go along. Make labels from a cut-up bleach bottle – you can cue the bottom of the bottle as a saucer, and the top as a funnel, too.

Ways to prop are:

1. In water:

This method is good for canes and some leaves. When roots are ½ - 1" long, add vermiculite/perlite to the water a few days before potting to help keep roots from balling up.

2. In prop boxes:

Leaf cuttings - leave 1-2" stem. Set so the leaf doesn't touch the medium.

Semps – must have side branches to get a full plant'

Rhizomes – cut so they're not twisted. Make sure you put the down side down. Hold with a hairpin and pinch out the growing tip.

3. Paper Towels in prop boxes:

4. Moisten towels (approximately 4); place leaves on them, with the labels beside the leaves. Roots should appear in around 3 weeks. If you need to re-moisten towels do so from the edge – don't worry if roots stick to the towels. Just pot the towel, too.

When plants are rooted, open the prop box around 1" for a week. Keep sliding the lid off gradually to harden the plants. After potting, leave opts on moistened sphagnum, perlite, or vermiculite for added humidity.

Make sure each plant is labeled, and share them at the show with all those who "ooh and aaah" over their parents – which hopefully have won blue ribbons, trophies, and maybe even a cultural award.

*(This article was taken from the Begonian  
Volume 59, January-February 1992 page 28.)*

# Astro Members Enjoying the March Meeting



**Houston Orchid Society**  
2012 Show and Sale  
April 21 - 22, 2012  
Saturday 9 AM to 5 PM  
Sunday 9 AM to 4 PM  
[houstonorchidsociety.org/show/show.html](http://houstonorchidsociety.org/show/show.html)



**Houston Museum of Natural Science**  
Main Lobby  
One Hermann Circle Drive  
Houston, Texas. 77030

## MEMORIAL NOTICE

Our beloved Gaye Ann Love died on November 20, 2011. Her family would be pleased to have you join with us in a memorial celebrating her life.

### WHEN:

April 14, 2012 (the month of her birthday)  
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### WHERE:

Northwoods Unitarian Church  
1370 North Millbend Dr.  
The Woodlands, TX 77380

### DIRECTIONS:

From I-45 take Woodlands Parkway (west) to the first traffic light. Turn left (south) on Many Pines. Follow Many Pines to North Millbend Dr. and turn right (west). Church is on right about one fourth mile. If you get to Six Pines you have gone too far.

### LODGING

A limited number of rooms have been reserved at a nearby hotel for this event. Call if you need information about lodging.

281-384-4388 Orval's cell  
281-543-9958 Mildred's cell

In lieu of flowers, please pass on an act of kindness to someone you find in need.



# MAP TO TOM KEEPIN'S

## 4513 Randwick Drive, Houston, TX

**From 610 Loop exit onto US 290 (Austin). Stay in right lane and take first exit Mangum Rd.**

**Stay to the right and turn right on Mangum Rd. The very first street behind the Shell station is Randwick Drive. Make a right on Mangum Drive and Tom's house is the sixth house on the right) Look for the flagpole in the front yard.**

