

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 2, 2012 TIME: 12:00 PM PLACE: Houston Garden Center PROGRAM: Annual Christmas Party</p>
<p>DECEMBER 2012 ISSUE</p>	<p>www.begoniahouston.org</p>



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY 2012

December 2, 2012 is the date of our Annual Christmas Party. The location is the Houston Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Park Drive (Hermann Park). The festivities will take place in the Main Hall and the doors will open at 12:00 P.M.

In the November Issue of *The Begonia Chatter* there was an insert giving complete details about the party. If there are any questions please give Tom a call at **713-686-8539**. Brenda Andrews is over-seeing attendance and menu duties for this event. If you have not let Brenda know your plans, please do so as soon as possible. It is critical that we know how many will be attending so we can have enough food for everyone. Brenda can be reached by telephone at **979-233-5697** or by email at bandrews@peoplepc.com. Brenda can let you know what is needed to complete the menu. Along with our Christmas Feast we will have our Annual Gift Exchange and Door Prizes. We will also have our 2nd Annual Christmas Table Decoration Contest We still have a couple of tables available. If you are interested please call Tom. Our new officer will be installed at this event as well. We are looking forward to seeing everyone and having a lot of fun. Dress for this event is "Christmas Casual."

See you there!

PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

December

1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd	Cancer
10 th & 11 th	Scorpio
14 th & 15 th	Capricorn
19 th & 20 th	Pisces
23 rd , 24 th & 25 th	Taurus
28 th , 29 th & 30 th	Cancer

January 2013

7 th & 8 th	Scorpio
11 th & 12 th	Capricorn
15 th & 16 th	Pisces
20 th & 21 st	Taurus
25 th & 26 th	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 the Capricorn.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Happy Birthday wishes go out to all our members who were born in this month of December

Patricia Hiscock	December 12 th
Mildred Love	December 29 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.

WEATHER FORECAST FOR DECEMBER

(Taken from the Harris Farmer's Almanac 2013)

According to the United States Weather Service, Houston and surrounding area falls in Region 7 of the National Weather Map. Here is what they predict our weather will be like for the month of December 2012

Our temperatures will be slightly below normal and precipitation will be slightly above normal. Our temperatures should average from 36 degrees in the north to 49 degrees in the south. Our coolest December days will be the 1st & 2nd, 9th thru 14th and 24th thru 29th. Our warmest December days will be the 4th thru 8th and 16th thru 18th. Rain and snow are expected in the north and rain is expected in the south about December 7th thru 14th, 18th thru 21st, and 23rd thru 27th. Accumulating snow over the north is possible with the last storm. Large temperature fluctuations are to be expected.

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 4, 2012 MEETING

The November 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 our guests Josephine DeLeon (returning guest of Irene Bragg), Carol Orozco (President of the San Antonio Branch) and Johnnie Shepard (member of the San Antonio Branch and newly elected Director of the Southwest Region).

Tom Keepin gave the Treasurers Report stating that our checking account is still very healthy and that the \$2,000.00 donation to the Species Bank at Fort Worth Botanical Garden was delivered in person at the October 28th meeting of the Dallas Area Branch and the Mae Blanton Branch held in the Potting Area of the Species Bank. Tom Keepin announced that Brenda was hoping to go home the next week and was doing very well after surgery. Pat Hiscock was on retreat recovering from being under the weather. Tom also announced that Dianna Wilkerson was doing very well with no major problems as a result of her stroke. President Robert shared a thank-you note received from Rekha Morris. There were two sign-up sheets passed around, they were for the Christmas Table Decorating Contest and the menu contributions for the Christmas Party. President Robert opened the floor for any last minute nominations or volunteers for the election of officers for 2013 and 2014. Having none President

Robert called for a vote and the slate of officers was elected without any nays.

Our newly elected officers are:

President – Susan Daugherty

Vice-President – Janet Carpenter

Secretary – Debbie Norris

Treasurer – Tom Keepin

National Director – Tom Keepin

Congratulations and thank you to our new officers.

After a short break we began our Program. Members were asked to bring in begonias they had grown over the summer and were very proud of. All the members participating spoke about the plants they had brought in. When this was concluded members voted on their favorites. The results were: First Place: - Jane Anderson, Second Place – Tony Robert and Third Place – Irene Bragg.

Tickets were drawn for the Raffle and the results are:

Pink Impression Tulip bulbs Shirll Manes

Pink Impression Tulip bulbs Irene Bragg

B. ‘Torch’ Tony Robert

B. ‘Pink Sabor’ Johnny Williams

B. ‘Alamo Snow’ Midge Gorman

Name-Tag Plants

B. ‘Kristy’ Jane Anderson

B. ‘Torch’ Mike Bragg

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M

Respectfully submitted by

Cheryl Lenert (acting Secretary)

RHIZOMATOUS CUTTINGS FROM THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

On September 9, 2012 as a workshop, interested members put down rhizomatous leaves that we received from the Species Bank at Fort Worth Botanical Gardens. In speaking to some of our members we have found that most are having success. Ruby Lenert’s cuttings have been hardened off and are now in 4 inch pots ready to go to JLL. Tom Keepin is in the process of potting his up into 4 inch pots also. Shirll Manes is hardening hers off and has begun potting up her plants. December is here and if you haven’t begun we need to start hardening off our cuttings a little at a time so that they can be potted up at the January meeting. If your cuttings are doing extremely well you may go ahead and pot your plants up if you have 4 inch pots and trays. If you don’t have the needed supplies please contact Tom Keepin and he will bring what you need to the Christmas Party. Otherwise pots, labels and soil will be provided at the January meeting to do so. This will be done in conjunction with our Annual Cutting Party and will be taken to JJI Greenhouses to be grown for our Annual Fund Raiser and Collection Enhancement Tables.

We are looking forward to seeing your successful results.

Begonias at the Astro's
November 2012 Meeting



More begonias at the
November Meeting



Astro Members with their begonia!



It is more than begonias
with our share a plant.



Bulbophyllum makoyanum

