BEGONIA CHATTER

Astro Branch **American Begonia Society** *4513 Randwick Drive* *Houston, Texas 77092-8343* *(713) 686-8539*	*Next Meeting:* **DATE:** July 7, 2013 **TIME:** 2:00 PM **PLACE:** Houston Garden Center **PROGRAM:** Panel Discussion & Return Fairy Gardens
JULY 2013 ISSUE	**www.begoniahouston.org**

PANEL DISCUSSION & RETURN FAIRY GARDENS

The July 7, 2013 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society will be held at the Houston Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive (Herman Park). The doors will open at 1:00 P.M. This meeting will be held in the Main Hall. President Susan Daugherty will preside over this meeting.

Our Refreshment Host and Hostess' for this meeting will be **Ruby Lewellyn, Midge Gorman and Tony & Donna Robert.**

Our Vice-President/ Program Chair Janet Carpenter has another interesting Program lined up for us this month.

First: It has been brought to our attention that many of your Dish/Fairy Gardens are growing very nicely and are quite beautiful. It has been decided to urge you to bring your Gardens in and we will put them on display for all to see and ohhh and ahhh over. This will be a **display only**. There is no competition just the complements from other members enjoying your work.

Second: This will be our main program and focus this meeting. We will have a small panel of our more experienced growers try to answer your questions and to give you hints and tips on how they grow their beautiful plants. They may even tell you of some of their failures along with successes. Cheryl Lenert will moderate this panel discussion for us.

Ladies and gentlemen we hope all our members will be able to attend this meeting. This will be the last meeting we will hold in The Houston Garden Center as it is today. The current building will be taken down in September or October. Our August meeting will be held at another (city owned) location until the new Garden Center is built in twelve months or more depending upon any delays. We will discuss in depth the new location (West Gray Multi-Purpose Center) at this meeting.

Our Refreshment Host and Hostess' will have lots of tasty treats and there will be plants for sale at this meeting along with our Raffle and Name Tag Plants.

See You There!

PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

July

2nd, 3rd & 4th	Taurus
7th, 8th & 9th	Cancer
17th & 18th	Scorpio
21st & 22nd	Capricorn
25th & 26th	Pisces
30th & 31st	Taurus

August

4th & 5th	Cancer
13th, 14th & 15th	Scorpio
18th & 19th	Capricorn
22nd & 23rd	Pisces
26th & 27th	Taurus
31st	Cancer

- Planting and Transplanting are best done in Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces

- Best Pruning for quick growth is first Taurus and then Capricorn

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WEATHER FORECASE FOR JULY 2013

(Taken from the **Harris Farmer's Almanac 2013**)

According to the United States Weather Service Houston and surrounding areas fall in Region 7 of the National Weather Map. Here is what they predict our weather will be like for the month of July 2013

Our temperatures will be slightly below normal and our precipitation will be slightly above normal. Our temperatures should average from 79 degrees in the north to 84 degrees in the south. Our coolest July temperatures will be July 2nd thru 6th, 9th thru 14th and 18th thru 20th. Our warmest July temperatures will be July 16th & 17th, 22nd thru 26th and 28th thru 31st. There will be a relatively high hurricane threat after July 20th. There will be widely scattered thunderstorms June 1st thru 4th and 8th thru 11th. Also isolated storms are possible at any time and be most numerous along the Gulf.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

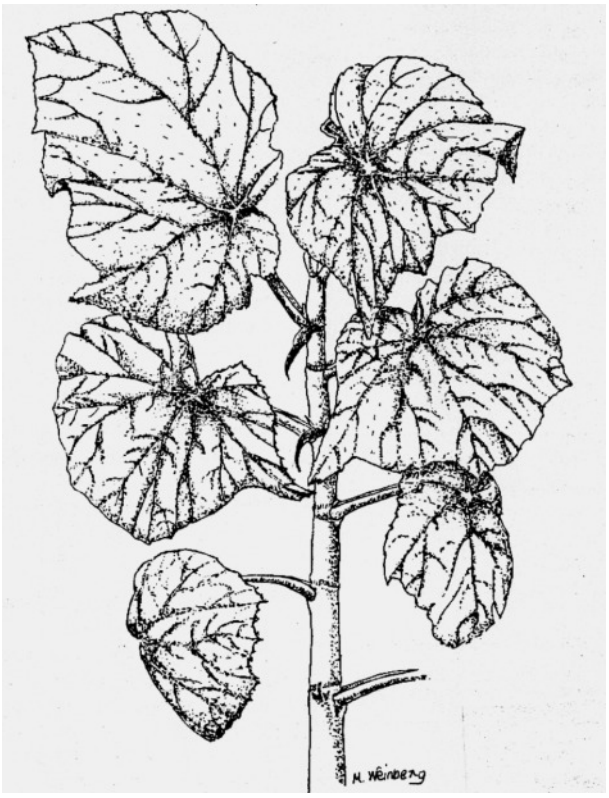
Please welcome our new member to the Astro Branch. Please be sure to add her to your Membership Roster.

Joanna Hagler
619 Electra
Houston, TX 77079

Telephone: 281-851-5483
E-mail: quiltjo@hotmail.com

I received a telephone call inquiring about our branch a few months ago and started to send Joanna the *Begonia Chatter*. She attended the convention in Austin and introduced herself to me. Joanna attended the June meeting and liked it and became a member then and there. Joanna also won one of the Raffle Plants.

Welcome Joanna to the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society. We are pleased to have you as a member and friend.



Davallia parvula

Syn. Humata parvula (Wallich) Merronius.
Pachypleuria parvula (Wallich) M. Kato

Tender

Very small, with medium-creeping rhizomes and finely divided, triangular blades. Grows well under low-medium light in drained, moist potting mix or uncut moss. The plants need humidity and are best used in terrariums. They are easily harmed by too much fertilizer.

The most distinctive characteristic of Davallia parvula is its small size; the fronds are only to 2.5 cm (1 in.) long and broad, with segments less than 1 mm wide. The indusia are rounded and attached at the base. This species is native from Malaysia and Indonesia to New Guinea.

Figure 13.36.18. *Davallia parvula:* a. habit and frond, bar = 5 cm (2 in.); b. fertile segments, bar = 5 mm (0.2 in.).

Davallia hetrophylla

J. E. Smith

Syn. Humata heerophylla (J. E. Smith) Desvaux
Tender to very tender

A small fern with medium-creeping rhizomes that often become hanging and vine-like. Grows well under humid conditions and medium light in drained moist potting mix or uncut moss. The plants are frequently used for terrariums or hanging baskets.

Davallia heterophylla has dimorphic fronds. The sterile ones are simple, lanceolate-ovate, entire and often truncate at the base. In contrast, the fertile fronds are narrower and lobed. Semicircular indusia are attached by a broad base. The species is native to India, southeastern Asia, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands

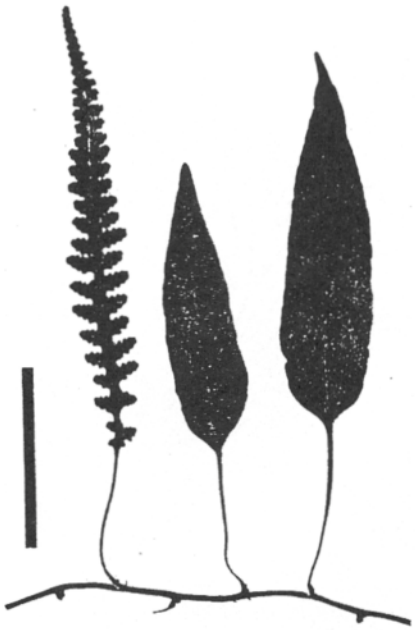


Figure 13.36.13. *Davallia heterophylla:* habit, fertile frond (left) and two sterile fronds (right), bar = 5 cm (2 in.).

(The above article was taken from ***Fern Grower's Manual*** by Joe Hoshizaki and Robin C. Moran, pages 268 -272.)

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 9, 2013 MEETING

The June 9, 2013 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society was called to order at 2:10 P.M. by President Susan Daugherty. Everyone was thanked for coming due to the bad weather. The Refreshment Hostess' out did themselves with their wonderful array of tasty treats.

There was no Old Business

New Business: Cards were sent around for members to sign for Gene Salisbury, who is our long distance member in Tonkawa, OK. Gene is suffering from prostate cancer, and for Fukumi Smith who has bronchitis bordering on pneumonia. It was announced that Joanna Hagler was a new member. Joanna was visiting and joined our group. The Minutes from the Spring Picnic and Meeting were approved as written in the Begonia Chatter. Tom Keepin gave the treasurers report stating that our checking account was still very healthy. Members were reminded that the July meeting would be the last time we will meet in The Houston Garden Center until the new building is completed. We will be meeting at the West Gray Multi-Purpose Center on West Gray. There was an article in the June newsletter on page 4 that gave the address should anyone wish to Google it. Tom Keepin talked about the move. Jane Anderson talked about her big win at the Convention with B. 'Puffy Clouds' receiving 98 points a Cultural Certificate, Blue Ribbon, Best In Division and People's Choice Award. Debbie Norris circulated a convention program for members to see.

Janet Carpenter presented Challenge Plants + Companion Plants. Tom noted that this was the best turn out of Challenge Plants we ever had. There were seventeen plants returned and the majority was very nicely grown. Janet Carpenter went around the room letting each member describe the Companion Plant that had brought with them.

There was a short break for members to vote for their favorite Challenge Plant and go get a free plant from the Plant Table. Plants were donated by the Austin Branch, these were left over from the Convention Plant Sale.

While the votes were being counted the drawings were held.

Raffle Plants
B. 'Alamo Snow – won by Jo Deleon
B. 'Teen Angel' – won by Joanna Hagler

Name Tag Plants
B. 'Dangling Pearls' – won by Faye Stansberry
b. 'Ester' – won by Mike Bragg

Door Prizes
Varig. Devils Walking Stick – won by Donna Williams
B. 'Pink Shasta' – won by Jane Anderson

The results of the Challenge Plant voting:
1st place – Pat Hiscock
2nd place – Malcolm McCorquodale
3rd place – Johnny Willaims
Each winner received a gift certificate from Another Place In Time.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted
Debra Norris, Secretary

B. 'Carolyn Collman'

Pictures from the Astro Branch's
June 2013 Meeting

"Challenge, Tell & Ask"

… more pictures from
the June 2013 Meeting

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the June 2013 Meeting

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the June 2013 Meeting