

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: November 3, 2013 TIME: 2:00 PM PLACE: W. Gray Multi-Purpose Cntr. PROGRAM: Wintering Our Begonias</p>
<p>NOVEMBER 2013 ISSUE</p>	<p>www.begoniahouston.org</p>

PROTECTING OUR BEGONIAS OVER THE WINTER MONTHS

The November 3, 2013 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society will be held at the West Gray Multi-Purpose Center, 1475 West Gray Street. The doors will open at 1:00 P.M. President Susan Daugherty will preside over this meeting. There will be a short business meeting to keep us all up to date on what is going on with the Astros, Southwest Region and National.

Our refreshment Host and Hostesses for this meeting are **Debra Norris, Fukumi Smith, Tony Robert and Donna Robert.**

Our Program this month will be **Protecting Our Begonias over the Winter.** When we speak of winter in Houston it is often argued that we have no winter to speak of. In years past this is true and a light sheet will do well to protect them from any light frost that may fall. Then on the other hand we have had winters where we have had freezing weather for days on end with little to no warning (Our famous Blue Northerners). Since our Houston weather is unpredictable any other time of the year

winter is no exception. We all make preparations for protecting our plants during December, January and February. Everyone prepares differently. Everyone attending will have a chance to share with all our members what they do to protect their begonias and other tropical plants from our Houston Winters. In a greenhouse (heated?), garage, sunroom, on the south side of your house using frost cloth or sheets or in your breakfast-room. What works best for you and your plants? We are anxious to hear what you do.

Our Host and Hostesses will have lots of tasty treats to tempt our taste buds and above all your begonia friends will be there to talk begonias with. This should be a very interesting program and we look forward to seeing each of you there.

See You There!



PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO YOU !**



November

3 rd & 4 th	Scorpio
7 th & 8 th	Capricorn
12 th & 13 th	Pisces
16 th , 17 th & 18 th	Taurus
21 st & 22 nd	Cancer

December

1 st & 2 nd	Scorpio
5 th & 6 th	Capricorn
9 th & 10 th	Pisces
13 th , 14 th & 15 th	Taurus
18 th , 19 th & 20 th	Cancer
28 th & 29 th	Scorpio

- Planting and Transplanting are best done in Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces
- Best Pruning for quick growth is first Taurus and then Capricorn.

Birthday wishes go out to all our members who were born in this month of November.

Fred Bones	November 13 th
Mike Bragg	November 4 th
Donna Williams	November 30 th

“Today is a day to enjoy being with friends. To look back on where you’ve been, and to look forward to the special time the future holds for you”.

Happy Birthday

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome our new members to the Astro Branch. Please be sure to add them to your membership Roster.

Imelda Gott
435 Glenchester
Houston, TX 77079
Telephone: 713-647-0392
E-mail: imeldagott@earthlink.net

Noreen Tolman & Ken Gardner
15915 Pasadero
Houston, TX 77083
Telephone: 281-568-1078
E-mail: teichfauna@aol.com

Imelda Gott was a guest of new member Caroline Skelly. Imelda joined our group before the business meeting was over. Noreen Tolman has attended a couple of our functions as a guest of Midge Gorman. Noreen and her husband Ken came to attend the meeting and to join our group.

Welcome Imelda, Noreen and Ken to the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society. We are pleased to have you as members and friends.

WEATHER FORECAST FOR NOVEMBER 2013

(Taken from the **Harris Farmer’s Almanac 2014**)

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

Our temperatures will be slightly below normal and our precipitation will be near normal. Our temperatures should average from 45 degrees in the north to 56 degrees in the south. Our coolest November temperatures will be November 4th thru 8th, 14th thru 16th, 21st thru 26th and 29th & 30th. Our warmest November temperatures will be November 1st thru 3rd, 11th thru 13th and 19th & 20th. There will be showers and thunderstorms and periods of rain about November 3rd thru 6th, 13th thru 15th, 20th thru 24th and 28th thru 30th. There is locally heavy rainfall possible November 20th thru 22nd. There will be windy conditions especially in the north.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2013 MEETING

The October 6, 2013 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society was called to order at 2:08 P.M. by President Susan Daugherty. Everyone was thanked for coming. Refreshment Chair Pat Hiscock thanked and announced our Refreshment Hostesses for this meeting. They were **Ruby Lewellyn, Sandra Rigsby, Lee Boyer** and **Faye Stansberry**. Sign-up sheets were passed around for members to sign up to bring refreshments to meetings in 2014. There was also a sign-up sheet passed around to bring food for the Christmas Party. It was announced that Pat Hiscock has to step down and we will need a volunteer to take the Refreshment Hostess position for 2014. The Annual Christmas Party will be held at the West Gray Multi-Purpose Center on December 8, 2013. The doors will open at 12:00 P.M. Our feast will be built around pot luck dishes. We will be in the front half of the gymnasium. There are four electrical outlets so we can plug in crock pots or warmers to keep our meals nice and warm. This is a city run facility and open flames and alcohol are strictly prohibited. Tom Keepin explained about the table decoration contest. There are 12 tables that can be decorated and there will be prizes. The decoration should not take up the entire table, but just take up the center of the table leaving room to eat on the table. There was a 'Thinking of You' card for Bill and Marion Claybaugh circulated to be signed by the members. President Daugherty read a Thank-you note from Ann Salisbury for our condolences for the loss of her husband Gene.

President Daugherty called for a short break for members to buy raffle tickets and enjoy more of the tasty treats provided by our Refreshment Hostesses.

Our program this month was 'Back to Basics' starting with Cane-like and Shrub-like begonias presented by Tom Keepin. Members were given material to take home and read at their leisure. To go over the two handouts would have taken up the entire time allotted for the program. Tom went over the basics of both cane-like and shrub-like

begonias including the physical make up of each and how they are propagated. Tom had pots filled with soil an assortment of pruners, pencils and labels at the ready. There were also lots of cuttings and large stock plants (donated by JJJ). Tom demonstrated the proper way to make cuttings, and then invited all members to come make cuttings for themselves. Many cuttings were taken and put down then taken home by each member.

The drawings were held and here are the results:

Raffle Plants

- B. 'Hot Tamale' – won by Imelda Gott
- B. 'Tom Ment' – won by Caroline Skelly

Name Tag Plants

- B. 'Alamo Snow' – won by Jo DeLeon
- B. 'Flamingo Queen' – won by Jane Anderson

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Norris, Secretary



A WORD OF THANKS!

There are many jobs that need to be done each month to make our meetings run smoothly and also contribute to producing our publication The Begonia Chatter. Since we have been publishing The Begonia Chatter on line there is one member I look forward to seeing each and every month and handing him my camera. Tom Anderson is that person. Tom loves taking pictures and he gives me so many to choose from each month. I really appreciate him doing something he loves doing; as I do not have the time to do what I do and also take pictures. Tom I just wanted to take a moment to say Thank-you for all the good work you do for me and the Astro's. Your work has turned our Photo Gallery into something members look forward to seeing each month in The Begonia Chatter. The work you do is very much appreciated. Thank-you Tom!

Tom Keepin, Editor



Highlight on Begonia 'River Nile'

By Iris Bird

Created in 1992 by Brad Thompson, B. 'River Nile' is a rhizomatous begonia. The parents of the spectacular plant are B. 'Cleopatra' x B. 'Bokit' x B. carrieae. 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. carrieae 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 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 by now we can determine this is one of my favorites and it's no wonder. I guess our favorites are not those 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'm very happy to have this plant in my collection.

(This article was taken from the November/December 1996 Issue of The Begonian. Volume 63 Page 233)

Pictures from the Astro Branch's October 2013 Monthly Meeting

Taking cuttings to learn about shrub-like and cane-link begonias



Everybody enjoyed learning the proper way to take cuttings
from cane-like and shrub-like begonias



More pictures of members enjoying themselves at the October Meeting!





Lucky new members Imelda Gott (left) and Caroline Skelly with their raffle plant winnings!



Midge Gorman's clever design for her loose leaf binder to keep her monthly handouts.