

# BEGONIA CHATTER



<p><b>Astro Branch</b> 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> <b>DATE:</b> July 13, 2014 <b>TIME:</b> 2:00 PM <b>PLACE:</b> West Gray Multi-Purpose Centr. <b>PROGRAM:</b> Begonias &amp; Summer Heat</p>
<p>July 2014 Issue</p>	<p><a href="http://www.begoniahouston.org">www.begoniahouston.org</a></p>

## Begonias & Texas Summer Heat

The July 13, 2014 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 Hostesses for this meeting will be **Elaine Riquelmy, Chery Lenert and Kathleen Murphy.**

Our Program this month will be an open discussion on taking care of our **Begonias in the Texas Summer Heat.** We will talk about what to do to help get your plants through the extremes of the hot Texas Summer and still look great. As most of you know our cane-like, and shrub-like and Thick-stemmed don't seem to melt in our summer heat (they may lose leaves if they get to dry) as do the rhizomatous and rex begonias. We all do things a little different so lets share our methods. Also we will be looking at begonias with the same

parents but are completely different and other oddities in the begonia world.

If you have a companion plant that grows with your begonias please feel free to bring it/them in and tell us about them. Also if you have a plant that is looking wonderful in the crazy Houston summer weather we would love to see it as well.

We will have our Name Tag Plants and our Raffle Plants. Our refreshment Hostesses will have lots of tasty treats on hand to tempt our taste buds and lots of cool drinks to wash them down.

We are looking forward to seeing you at this Meeting.

**See you there!**



## PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

### July

7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	Scorpio
12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup>	Capricorn
16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup>	Pisces
20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>	Taurus
25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	Cancer

### August

4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	Scorpio
8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	Capricorn
13 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup>	Pisces
16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup>	Taurus
21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Cancer
31 <sup>st</sup>	Scorpio

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

## WEATHER FORECAST FOR JULY 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 July 2014.

Our temperatures will be near normal and our precipitation will also be near normal. Our temperatures should average from 80 degrees in the north to 85 degrees in the south. Our coolest temperatures will be July 4<sup>th</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> thru 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> thru 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> thru 28<sup>th</sup>. Our warmest temperatures will be July 1<sup>st</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> thru 19<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>. Our hurricane threat increases the last week of July. The best chance for widely scattered showers and thunderstorms, especially along the Gulf Coast at about 3 to 5 day intervals. July will be very humid!

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Birthday wishes go out to all our members born in this month of July.

Sara Chumley	July 26 <sup>th</sup>
Paul Downey	July 9 <sup>th</sup>
Carolyn Holland	July 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Tom Keepin	July 18 <sup>th</sup>
Shirll Manes	July 25 <sup>th</sup>
Valerie Morris	July 14 <sup>th</sup>
Brad Neugebauer	July 13 <sup>th</sup>
Caroline Skelly	July 29 <sup>th</sup>

“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 2 new members to the Astro Branch. Please be sure to add them to your Membership Roster.

Gail Warren  
67 Chandler Road  
Huntsville, TX 77320  
Telephone: 936-662-6787  
E-mail: [gasw39@yahoo.com](mailto:gasw39@yahoo.com)

Geanie Riggs  
13 Chandler Road  
Huntsville, TX 77320  
Telephone: 936-827-2425  
E-mail: none

Gail and her mother Geanie have been friends of the Astro Branch for quite a few years. You see they are always first in line at our Annual Fund Raiser in April having driven all the way from Huntsville. When we didn't have our Annual Fund Raiser this year I invited them to attend our Spring Picnic and Meeting as my guests knowing we would be selling plants. They had a wonderful time and everyone enjoyed meeting them. As you can see they sent me their information and their dues. Please be sure to add them to your Membership Roster.

Welcome Gail and Geanie to the Astro Branch. We are so pleased to have the both of you as members for the Astro's.



## MINUTES OF THE JUNE 1, 2014 MEETING OF THE ASTRO BRANCH

The June 1, 2014 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society was called to order at 2:10 P.M by President Susan Daugherty. Our meeting was held at the West Gray Multi-Purpose Center, 1475 West Gray Street.

Susan thanked our refreshment hosts/hostesses Leigh Heard Boyer, Malcolm McCorquodale and Donna and Johnny Williams. Refreshment Chair Kathleen Murphy announced that the Hostesses for the July meeting will be Cheryl Lenert, Elaine Riquelmy and Kathleen Murphy.

Minutes of the May 4, 2014 meeting were approved with one minor correction. Tom Keepin gave the Treasurer's report.

Bill Smith (long absent member) was welcomed.

There was no old business. Under new business, Cheryl told us that the National Annual Business Meeting will be held in Ft. Worth August 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will be hosted by the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens Species Bank. The Business meeting and luncheon will be held at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Restaurant. Steve's Leaves will be allowing access for members to his location. The members attending will be staying at the Hilton Garden Inn, located in the Medical Center. One of the "perks" is that we will be able to purchase plug trays from Harmony Foliage and swap individual plugs with other attendees. Any one is welcome to attend this meeting.

Brenda Andrews showed some Coleus plants that she uses as begonia companion plants. Donna and Tony Robert showed a species begonia they recently found. It was *B. parilis*. Cheryl used the plant tag from it to remind us how labels should be made with species in lower case and hybrids in capitals within single quotation marks. Janet Carpenter brought *B. microsperma* which she grows in a large bubble bowl. It had a large yellow bloom on it.

After a pause for refreshments and purchases at the plant sale table, we began our Program which was “An Old Fashioned Revival Meeting” Jane Anderson demonstrated how to groom our plants to make them look their best, Cheryl Lenert showed us how many of our plants CAN survive the cold of winters here and Tom Keepin had members bring back plants that had been worked on at the March meeting to show how they look now.

The Drawings were held and the results are as follows:

Door Prize:

B. ‘Dragon Wings’ – won by Shirll Manes

Raffle Plants:

B. ‘Down Home’ – won by Shirll Manes

B. ‘Hot Tamale’ – won by Ruby Lewellyn

Name Tag Plants:

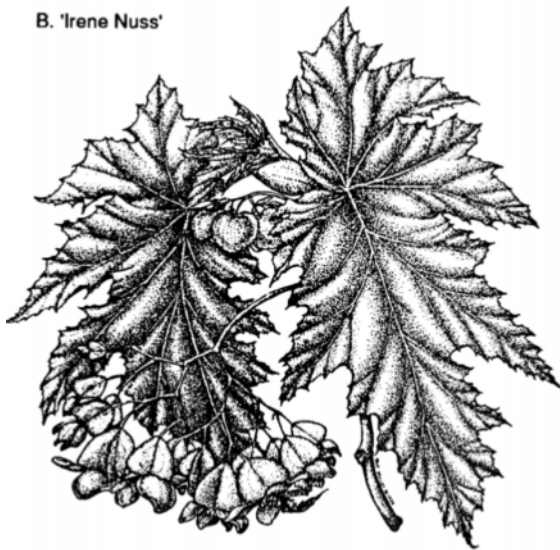
B. ‘Louis Burke’ – won by Gail MacGregor

B. ‘Richmondensis’ – won by Tony Robert

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted  
Donna Williams  
(for Debra Norris, Secretary)

B. ‘Irene Nuss’



## Highlight on Begonia ‘November Frost’

By Don Miller

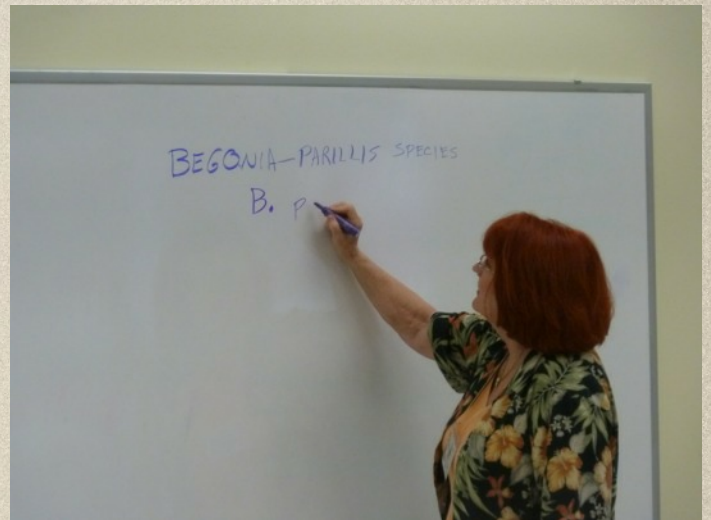
This rhizomatous hybrid was hybridized by Leslie Woodriff of Fairyland Begonia and Lily Gardens in McKinleyville, California. You should know that Leslie is one of the greatest hybridizers there is. He is famous for many outstanding Begonia and Lily hybrids. Some of his classic Begonia Hybrids are B. ‘Orange Rubra’ B. ‘Tiny Gem’, B. ‘Silver Jewel’, B. ‘Mini Merry’ and B. ‘Tiger Kitten’ to name a few. Some of you may recognize this plant as B. imperialis x B. ‘Bokit’. That is what it is. While visiting Fairyland Begonia and Lily Gardens in 1982, I purchased two unnamed B. imperialis x B. ‘Bokit’ seedlings. One was a spiral and the other was a non-spiral. The non-spiral was more difficult to grow and I eventually lost it, but the spiral now has a name. I was given permission to name it by Winkey Woodriff, Leslie’s daughter and business partner. A mature leaf measures 3 by 5 inches. The leaf margin is serrate. The leaf surface is a charcoal gray color and covered with a raised pattern of silver with green veins running through it, giving it the look of frost crystals on a cold November morning. There is a narrow band of charcoal gray around the leaf margin. B. ‘November Frost’ has white flowers in the spring on stalks that rise above the compact mound of silver foliage. This hybrid is very easy to propagate by leaf, wedge or stem cutting. It has been popular with our customers over the years and I’m sure you will want it for your collection. Now, if you already have this beauty, please change the name tag to B. ‘November Frost’. This cultivar deserves to have a proper name and not be tagged with its parent’s names.

*This article was taken from the Sept/Oct 1996 Issue of the **Begonian** Volume 63 page 192*

## PICTURES FROM THE ASTRO'S JUNE 2014 MEETING



Jane Anderson showing how to prepare a plant for show.



Cheryl Lenert showing the proper way to label a begonia.



Who's plant is this?



Tom Keepin going over plants brought in from the March Meeting



Jane Anderson working on another begonia



Janet Carpenter introducing the Program



Irene Bragg, John Bragg & Johnny Williams (left to right)



Astro's meeting in session.



Janet Carpenter's *B. microsperma*  
in bloom



Brenda Andrews, Irene Bragg &  
Mike Bragg (left to right)



Plants for sale



More plants for sale



Ruby Lewwllyn with her Raffle win:  
B. 'Hot Tamale'



B. 'Louis Burke' (left)  
B. 'Richmondensis' (right)



Shirll Manes with B. 'Down Home' (left)  
Tony Robert with B. 'Richmondensis' (right)



Raffle plants:  
B. 'Hot Tamale' (left)  
B. 'Down Home' (right)