

BEGONIA CHATTER



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| <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: April 12, 2015 TIME: 2:00 PM PLACE: West Gray Multi-Service Center PROGRAM: Ferns & Begonias</p> |
| <p>APRIL 2015 ISSUE</p> | <p>www.begoniahouston.org</p> |

BEGONIAS & FERNS

The April 12, 2015 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society will be held at the West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray Street. The doors will open at 1:00 P.M. President Janet Carpenter 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 **Janice McPhee, Anna Belle Hicks and Donna Williams.**

Our Program will be in Two Parts.

Part One: Tom Keepin will answer any questions you may have about our upcoming, Southwest Region Get-Together 'Begonias From The Ground Up'. Also Vice-President Johnny Williams will introduce you to some begonias he picked up at the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens Begonia Collection.

Part Two: Our speaker will be Darla Harris. Darla will be giving us a program on ferns, which happen to be the very best companion plants for

our begonias. Darla Harris is currently the Vice-President of the Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society of which she was one of the founding members in 1998. Darla has held several positions in the society over the years including twelve years as President. She is also a member of the American Fern Society Los Angeles International Fern Society, the Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society and the Hardy Fern Foundation.

Darla has also served as a judge for fern shows and presented fern related lectures and workshops to Garden Clubs and Societies on various topics including: Growing Ferns from Spores, Cultivation of Garden Landscape Ferns, Bog and Water Ferns, Epiphytic Ferns and Ferns for Terrariums.

As an avid grower of ferns for over thirty0 years, Darla has collected more than 400 different varieties. She enjoys the challenge of growing both tropical and hardy ferns in the Houston area climate, but her passion is learning how ferns grow in nature and then attempting to duplicate this environment.

Darla's latest accomplishment is building her Fern Plantation Nursery which she is planning to open in 2015. We will have our usual drawings. Our Refreshment Hostesses will have lots of tasty treats to tempt your taste buds, but above all your Begonia friends will be there to talk Begonias with. Please remember to bring your name tag. If you can't locate it contact Tom prior to meeting day. We look forward to seeing you at this meeting.

See You There!

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 1, 2015 MEETING

The March 1, 2015 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society was held at the West Gray Multi-Service Center located at 1475 West Gray Street in Activity Room 1.

This meeting was called to order by President, Janet Carpenter, at 2:00 P.M. Janet thanked our refreshment hostesses who were **Midge Gorman, Elaine Riquelmy** and **Janet Carpenter**. Hospitality hostesses for our April meeting will be **Janice McPhee, Anna Belle Hicks** and **Donna Williams**.

Minutes from the February meeting were published in the Begonia Chatter and were approved with no changes.

Ruby Lewellyn, Sunshine Chair, passed around cards for Fukumi Smith, Pat Hiscock, Mill & Marion Claybaugh and Fred & Francis Bones.

Treasurer Tom Keepin said we still have a healthy balance.

There was no 'Begonia of the Month' at this meeting, but Ruby Lewellyn brought companion plants to give away. They were an orchid vine, ground orchids and pink rain lilies.

Tom announced that our April meeting will not be on the first Sunday because of Easter. It will be on the second Sunday which is **April 12**. He then talked about the upcoming SW Region Get-Together which we are hosting. It will be at the Sheraton Houston Brookhollow on May 21st, 22nd & 23rd. He handed out copies of the Show Rules and the Show Schedule. These are also posted on the ASTRO'S website. He asked that we all read

them carefully and plan to enter something in the show;. He said there are many categories to choose from and quite a few of them are seldom entered. There is even a class for "novice" which is anyone who has never won a blue ribbon at a begonia show. Entries for the show will be from 4:30 to 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, May 21st.

Vice-President, Johnny Williams next introduced our guest speaker for this meeting who was Eddie Raye Andrews.

Eddie Ray gave a slide show and demonstration on "Art in The Garden". This was a lovely presentation and enjoyed by all. She also showed us examples of some of the art she and her colleague, Martha, create using "found" objects.

The meeting was then adjourned for food and drawings for the Name Tag, Door Prize, and Raffle Plants.

Winners of the Drawing are as follows:

Door Prize:

A Non-Stop begonia was won by Irene Bragg
A piece of the "Garden Art" was won by Sandra Rigsby
Aechmea "Delmar" was won by Brenda Andrews

Raffle:

B. 'Catalina' was won by Geanie Riggs
B. convolvulacea was won by Sandra Rigsby

Name Tag:

B. 'Jean Pernet' was won by Jane Anerson
B. 'Flamingo Queen' was won by Donna Williams

Respectfully submitted
Donna Williams, Secretary



PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

April

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 6 th , 7 th & 8 th | Scorpio |
| 11 & 12 th | Capricorn |
| 15 th & 16 th | Pisces 19 th |
| & 20 th | Taurus 23 rd , |
| 24 th & 25 th | Cancer |

May

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|--|-------------------------|
| 3 rd , 4 th & 5 th | Scorpio |
| 8 th & 9 th | Capricorn |
| 12 th , 13 th & 14 th | Pisces 17 th |
| & 18 th | Taurus 21 st |
| & 22 nd | Cancer 31 st |
| | Scorpio |

- 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO You!

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

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|------------------|------------------------|
| Tom Anderson | April 28 th |
| Irene Bragg | April 5 th |
| Darrin Duling | April 29 th |
| Edna LaFour | April 1 st |
| Allan Manes | April 3 rd |
| Rebecca Duff | April 21 st |
| Lucy Melara | April 2 nd |
| Gary Moffatt | April 25 th |
| Glenda Perry | April 19 th |
| Ken Smith | April 3 rd |
| Faye Stansberry | April 23 rd |
| Dianna Wilkerson | April 18 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 times the future holds for you.”

WEATHER FORECAST FOR APRIL 2015

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 April.

Our temperatures will be slightly below normal and a precipitation will be slightly above normal. Our temperatures should average 57 degrees in the North and 64 degrees in the South. Our coolest temperatures for April will be April 1st & 2nd, 5th thru 7th, 10th, thru 15th, 20th thru 25th and 29th & 30th. Our warmest temperatures for April will be April 9th, 18 & 19th and 27th * 28th. There will be scattered showers and thunder storms, locally severe about April 4th & 5th, 9th thru 13th, 19th thru 23rd and 28th thru 30th. There will be large temperature changes through the month.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Asrto's March 2015 Monthly Meeting

“Art In The Garden
By Eddie Raye Andrews”



Eddie Raye Andrews (left)
and Martha Overby



All the pieces shown above
were made using ‘found’
objects to make art for the
garden.



Donna Williams with B. 'Flamingo Queen'
(B. Matchmaker)



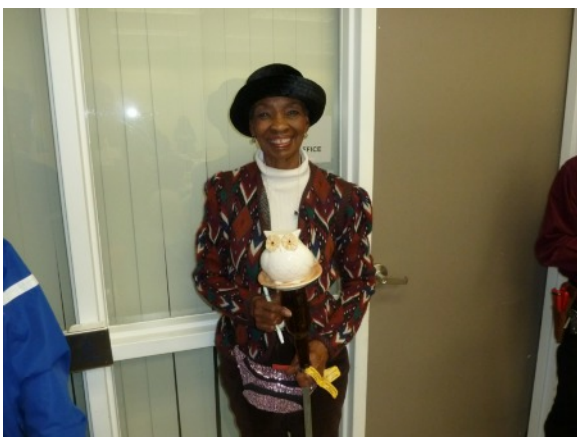
Sandra Rigsby with B. convovulaceae



Brenda Andrews with bromeliad
Achmea 'Delmar'



Jane Anderson with B. 'Jean Pernet'



Sandra Rigsby with a Garden Art
Door Prize



Geanie Rigsby with B. 'Catalina'