

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 1, 2015 TIME: 2:00 PM PLACE: West Gray Multi-Service Center PROGRAM: Growing Begonias From Seed</p>
<p>November 2015 ISSUE</p>	<p>www.begoniahouston.org</p>

GROWING OUR BEGONIAS FROM SEED

The November 1, 2015 meeting of the Astro Branch of The American Begonia Society will be held at the West Gray Multi-Service Center, located at 1475 West Gray Street. We will meet in Activity Room 4. The doors will open at 1:00 P.M. Enter the building through the door on the far right hand side of the building next to the children's playground.

Our refreshment Hostesses for this meeting will be **Debra Norris, Fukumi Smith and Faye Stansberry.**

President Janet Carpenter will preside over this meeting. There will be a short business meeting to catch everyone up on what is going on with the Southwest Region, National and the Astros.

Our Program this month will be **Growing Our Begonias From Seed** presented by Ruby Lewellyn. Ruby will show us her method of growing her begonias from seed. The seeds, condiment cups, planting medium and labeling material will be provided. Members are asked to

bring a clear plastic container that seals tightly. We recommend a 2 quart clear plastic box 8"x6 1/4"x 3 7/8" or a couple of oyster shell clear plastic containers you get from the Deli Department at your local grocery store. It is important that the container is clear so the light can be let in to help the seeds germinate. Later in the New Year we will discuss and demonstrate transplanting your seedlings.

We are looking forward to seeing you at this meeting. We will have our Name Tag Plants, Raffle Plants and perhaps a Door Prize (we never know until the day of the meeting). Our Refreshment Hostesses will have lots of tasty treats to tempt our taste buds and cool drinks to wash them down. All your begonia friends will be there to talk begonias with.

See You There!

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 4, 2015 MEETING!

The October 4, 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. Our meeting was held in Activity Room 4. The meeting was called to order by President Janet Carpenter at 2:00 P.M. President Carpenter asked for a volunteer to take the minutes for this meeting as our Secretary Donna Williams was working at the African Violet Sale. Donna Robert nominated her husband Tony and he accepted. Then President Carpenter thanked the Refreshment Hostesses **Faye Stansberry, Midge Gorman and Glenda Perry** for their wonderful array of delicious goodies. **Mel Babb** and **Martha Burg** were also thanked for their delicious donations to the refreshment table. Next Month's hostesses will be **Debbie Norris, Fukumi Smith** and **Faye Stansberry**. President Carpenter welcomed our guest Marla Cork. Marla was a guest of Susan Willis.

Committee Reports:

Sunshine Lady Ruby Lewellyn announced that cards were being circulated for Irene Bragg (having painful back problems), Sandra Rigsby (underwent full hip replacement) and Fred & Francis Bones (thinking of you card ...we haven't seen them for several meetings).

Treasurer Tom Keepin reported that our checking account is still in good health.

Minutes of the September 6, 2015 meeting were approved as printed in The Begonia Chatter.

Miscellaneous Business:

It was announced the Astro Branch now has three members that passed their test to become an ABS Begonia Judge. They are **Janet Carpenter, Kathleen Murphy** and **Johnny Williams**.

The Christmas Party will be held on December 6, 2015 at the West Gray Multi-Service Center, located at 1475 West Gray Street. Cheryl Lenert will prepare a ham and suggested that Jane Anderson (not present) be asked to prepare her Chicken Tetrastini. Members as usual will be asked to provide side dishes and desserts.

Cheryl Lenert stressed the need for members to share plants at meetings, as we no longer are able to acquire plants for sale.

Johnny Williams demonstrated a hanger for plants to be transported in a car. The components are easily obtainable at most hardware stores (conduit, I-bolts and clips).

Tom Keepin brought a new potting soil, containing no peat, which he can purchase at \$6.00 (wholesale) per bag. The brand is Nature's Guide Organic Potting Soil. Southwest Fertilizer carries it as a regular stock item (retail)

Program:

Before presenting the program, Tom made available several handouts from prior programs – Leaf Identification, Semperflorens, Cane-like Begonias and Shrub-like Begonias. The newest handout was concerning Rhizomatous Begonias, the subject of his presentation.

First off Tom introduced the group to a large rhizome...and described it has a top and a bottom and how to cut it into sections and propagate it. Propagating by leaf was also discussed. It was a very thorough A to Z program.

Here are the results of the Raffle, Name Tag and Door Prize Drawings.

Raffle:

B. 'Brazilian Lady' was won by Janet Carpenter

B. 'Jean Pernet' was won by Gail Warren

Name Tag:

B. Richmondensis was won by Kay Veech

B. 'Hot Tamale' was won by Marla Cook

Door Prize:

B. 'Dotty's Eyelash' was won by Susan Willis

Plant Potpourri was won by Donna Robert

The October 4, 2015 meeting of the Astro Branch was adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Tony Robert

(For Secretary Donna Williams)

PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

November

1 st & 2 nd	Cancer
10 th , 11 th & 12 th	Scorpio
15 th , 16 th & 17 th	Capricorn
20 th & 21 st	Pisces
24 th & 25 th	Taurus
28 th & 29 th	Cancer

December

8 th & 9 th	Scorpio
13 th & 14 th	Capricorn
17 th & 18 th	Pisces
21 st & 22 nd	Taurus
26 th & 27 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 then Capricorn.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Please welcome our new member Marla Cork and be sure to put her information on you Membership Roster.

Marla Cork
4603 Gaelic Court
Houston, TX 77084
Telephone: 281-550-8237
E-mail: marlacork7@gmail.com

Marla was a guest of member Susan Willis. Marla enjoyed the meeting and the members so much she joined us that day.

Welcome Marla!

WEATHER FORECAST FOR NOVEMBER 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 on November.

Our temperatures will be slightly above normal and our precipitation will be slightly below normal. Our temperatures should average from 49 degrees in the North to 59 degrees in the South. Our coolest temperatures will be November 1st thru 4th, 11th thru 14th, 17th thru 21st and 27th thru 30th. Our warmest November temperatures for November will be November 6th thru 10th, 16th and 23rd thru 26th. The best chances for showers and thunderstorms and a few periods of steady rain for November will be November 1st & 2nd, 10th thru 12th, 16th thru 18th and 26th thru 28th. There will be a few dry areas too, especially in the south-central area. It will be breezy mainly in the north





HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

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

Fred Bones	November 11 th
Gail Warren	November 10 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 times the future holds for You.”

B. masoniana

By Greg Sytch

B. masoniana, commonly called the “Iron Cross”, is classified as rhizomatous, distinctive foliage, unusual surface and/or unusual coloring, large leaved. Most begonias in this classification are considered to be touchy or difficult to grow. *B. masoniana* is no exception. However, it is only difficult to get through our long, hot summer.

The Iron Cross Begonia has a few special needs that must be met. It is essential to use a good potting mix with excellent drainage – so I include additional perlite and mulch to the mixture. The second special need is light – not too much sunlight but a nice, filtered light that includes some morning or late afternoon sunshine. The third special need is moisture – most essential during summer. *B. masoniana* must dry out between waterings during summer to prevent root rot, and during winter it must dry out in case of extended cool periods. However, too dry is not good. It should be just moist.

During its blooming season, from spring through summer, the Iron Cross Begonia puts out sprays of greenish-white blooms. During late winter it is beneficial to alternate bloom food with

your regular balanced fertilizer. This aids in development of bloom stalks, and flowers will be larger. Flowers of *B. masoniana* are fragrant, the more flowers that appear the more fragrance will fill the air.

Despite its touchy reputation, if you can get this begonia through summer you have won most of the battle.

(This article was taken from the Begonian Volume 61 May-June 1994 Issue page 104)

B. versicolor

by Dan Haseltine

This lovely rhizomatous begonia is from central China and was discovered by Dr. Edgar Irmischer in 1939.

B. versicolor was once called “Fairy Carpet” because of the velvety appearance of its leaves. Leaves and petioles are covered with thick red hairs. Especially when new leaves are emerging and growing to maturity. Intensity of the coloring will vary with the amount of light received.

Leaf size will also vary, usually from 3” to 7”, depending on how and where the plant is grown. This is one begonia with leaf undersides almost as pretty as the top, *B. versicolor* has medium-to-dark pink flowers, with flower backs covered with dark red hairs as are the ovaries of the female flowers.

CULTURE

Humidity: I find this begonia requires terrarium culture. If it is kept humid enough, adventitious growth will form on the surfaces of the leaves.

Medium: Long fiber sphagnum moss with a little perlite and charcoal seems to work the best for me.

Watering: *B. versicolor* should be kept moist and not allowed to dry out.

Propagation: *B. versicolor* can be propagated from seed or by leaf cuttings. If an old leaf drops to the sphagnum moss and starts to decompose, you will often find many small plantlets there. These can be lifted out and soon become beautiful plants

(This article was taken from the Begonian Volume 61 May-June 1994 pages 103 and 104)

Astro Branch's October 2015 Meeting



John Williams showing his hanging basket carrier for the car.



Tom Keepin & Cheryl Lenert presenting rhizomatous program.



Tom Keepin explaining a rhizome.



Pat Hiscock intently listening to the program



Raffle plants.



Nametag plants



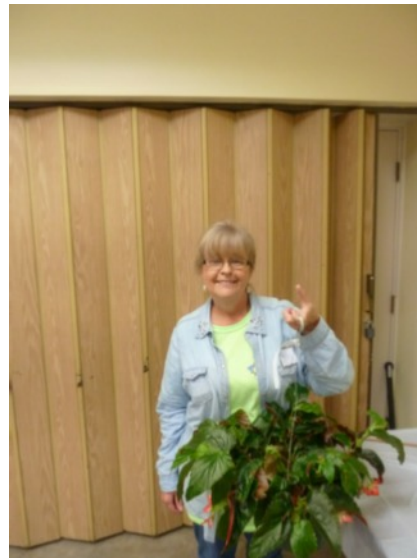
Janet Carpenter with B. 'Brazilian Lady'



Kay Veech with B. 'Richmondensis'



Susan Willis with B. 'Dotties Eyelashes'



Marla Cock with B. 'Hot Tamale'



Gail Warren with B. 'Jean Pernet'



Donna Robert with plant potpourri.