

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: March 6, 2016 TIME: 2:00 PM PLACE: West Gray Multi-Service Center PROGRAM: Our Seedlings Next Step</p>
<p>MARCH 2016 ISSUE</p>	<p>www.begoniahouston.org</p>

OUR SEEDLINGS NEXT STEP

The March 6, 2016 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 2. The doors will open at 1:00 P.M.

Our refreshment Host and Hostesses' for this meeting will be **Janet Carpenter, Pat Hiscock and Bill Smith.**

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 and the Astros.

Our Program this meeting will be **Taking Our Seedlings the Next Step.** Vice President Johnny Williams and Ruby Lewellyn will lead this program with help from Cheryl Lenert. The seedlings should be large enough to separate and transplant into individual little condiment cups. Members as asked to carefully bring their seedlings and a clear plastic box with a clear lid to put your transplanted seedlings into to carry them home and to continue growing your seedlings to

the next stage. Growing medium, condiment cups, labels and pencils will be provided.

It has been a fascinating journey so far....cleaning the seed, preparing the condiment cups to plant the seeds in, watering the planted seed, placing them into the provided container. Then ever so carefully carrying them from the meeting to our homes and carefully placing them in just the right place where they would get the perfect light and still stay warm. For most of us it was checking up on the seeds at least once a day to see the first sign of life.....then it happened! There's one, no two, oh my there are several! What a thrilling moment this was. Then checking on them several times a day to see how many more have come into the world. The journey only gets more fascinating and exciting after the seedlings are transplanted and they start to grow from toddlers, to juveniles, to per-teens, into teens, then young adults and then the mature plants. Oh! How wonderful it is to see the miracle of nature unfold before our very eyes!

This meeting will be very exciting!

See you there!

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 7, 2016 MONTHLY MEETING

The February 7, 2016 meeting of the Astro Branch of The American Begonia Society was held at West Gray Multi-Service Center located at 1475 West Gray Street in Activity Room 2. President Janet Carpenter called the meeting to order at 2:05 P.M.

President Carpenter thanked our hostesses who were: Elaine Riquelmy, Donna McGraw and Donna Williams. Janet also thanked Tom who brought a wonderful Chocolate Éclair Cake. Next month's host/hostesses will be **Janet Carpenter, Pat Hiscock and Bill Smith.**

The Minutes of the January 10, 2016 meeting were printed in *The Begonia Chatter* and were approved with no changes.

In the Treasurer's Report Tom Keepin reported we still continue to have a healthy balance.

Sunshine Chair, Ruby Lewellyn, passed around a Thank-you card for Debbie Garrett and the Ft Worth Species Bank. This for all they do but especially for sending rhizomatous leaves to us for this meeting. It was suggested that we each write a little note to thank Debbie and her team. Tom will send an email with the proper way to address the envelope.

The Begonia of the Month was B. 'Diamond Swirl' which was brought by Tom Keepin and Jane Anderson brought a pot of *ludisia discolor* (one of the "Jewel Orchids"), *ludisia discolor* orchids are terrestrial orchids so, unlike most orchids, they can be grown directly in soil.

President, Janet Carpenter, reminded everyone of the Southwest Region Get-Together May 5-7 in Richardson, Texas. Cheryl Lenert brought up the Begonia Ambassador Award which was initiated by the ASTRO Branch. A nominee was put on the floor and there was much discussion if there was any other else, but in the end the original nominee was over unanimously agreed to. (The recipient cannot be disclosed at this time for the sake of surprise when awarded.)tk. Cheryl encouraged us to take a look at other awards and to make individual nominations if we had someone

we thought would be a good recipient for that award.

Janet then asked those of us who grow a lot of outdoor flowering plants to sign up on www.pollinator.org which is a website for gardeners who are interested in promoting pollinators in our gardens.

Vice-President, Johnny Williams, then introduced our program which was on propagation of rhizomatous begonias by leaf cuttings. Donna Williams demonstrated the "Fukumi Smith" method which is also called the "confetti" method and in which small wedges are cut from the begonia leaf so that each contains a portion of the leaf vein. These are then put onto a damp paper towel and kept covered, damp, warm and in a well-lighted place, until roots form. At that point they can be carefully lifted and placed into small cups with potting medium. The Tom Keepin discussed a "Prop Box" and how to take the wedge cuttings and place them directly into medium in the box. He said the medium can be 50% perlite, 50% vermiculite or it can be 50% perlite and 50% sunshine LC1. Tom suggests wetting the mixture with a dilute solution of Superthrive and Peters 20-10-20 and letting it sit for about a day so that it will be thoroughly damp (but not wet). The wedges are placed into the medium with the cut side down and the wedge standing up. The prop box is covered with plastic wrap and a clear lid placed on top. The plastic wrap is necessary because most of the lids don't seal very well. The box is placed in a warm, well-light place until root and plants form. Once this happens they can be lifted out of the medium and potted up into individual pots. He mentioned that the wedges like to be in the company of other wedges as they seem to encourage each other's growth. Cheryl and Tom pointed out that this is because a hormone is produced that promotes growth. Cheryl said after the babies are posted up other plants can be placed in the same medium as the hormone will still be in the mix and will help with their development also. Members then made their own cuttings.

The drawings were then done with the following results:

Door Prize:

A bromeliad in a Denver Bronco-decorated pot (courtesy of Faye Stansberry) was won by Janet Carpenter.

A bromeliad in a Carolina Panther-decorated pot (courtesy of Faye Stansberry) was won by Donna McGraw\

A variegated bromeliad was won Susan Daugherty The pot of “jewel” orchids (courtesy of Jane Anderson) was won by Marla Cork

Raffle Drawing:

B. ‘Laguna’ was won by Brenda Andrews

A large White Semperfloren basket was won by Kathleen Murphy

Name Tag:

B. ‘Bonfire’ was won by Midge Gorman

B. ‘Flamingo Queen (labeled B. ‘Matchmaker’) was won by Sandra Rigsby

The meeting was adjourned by President, Janet Carpenter, at 3:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted
Donna Williams, Secretary

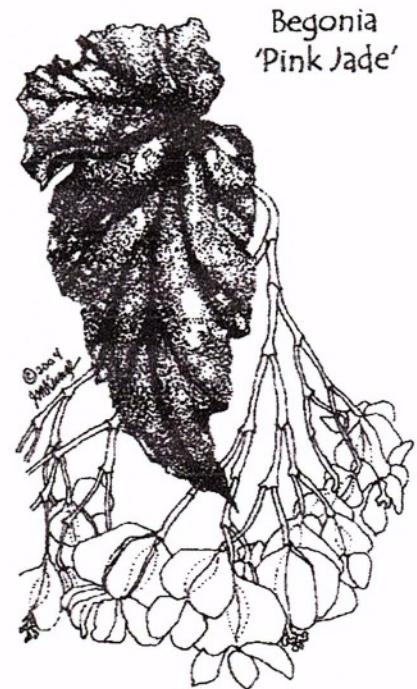
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO YOU!**

Birthday wishes go out to our member born in this month of March.

Elaine Riquelmy March 2nd

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



**PRUNING, PLANTING
AND TRANSPLANTING**

March

4 th & 5 th	Capricorn
8 th & 9 th	Pisces
12 th & 13 th	Taurus
16 th , 17 th & 18 th	Cancer
26 th , 27 th & 28 th	Scorpio
31 st	Capricorn

April

1 st	Capricorn
5 th & 6 th	Pisces
9 th & 10 th	Taurus
13 th & 14 th	Cancer
22 nd , 23 rd & 24 th	Scorpio
27 th , 28 th & 29 th	Capricorn

- 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.

WEATHER FORECAST FOR MARCH 2016

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 March.

Our temperatures will be near normal and our precipitation will be near normal. Our temperatures should average from 47 degrees in the North to 58 degrees in the South. Our coolest temperatures for March will be March 1st & 2nd, 6th thru 10th, 17th thru 21st and 24th thru 29th. Our warmest March temperatures will be March 4th & 5th, 12th thru 16th, 23rd and 31st. There will be scattered showers and thunderstorms most likely around March 5th thru 7th, 16th thru 18th and 23rd thru 26th. A few storms will be severe. There is also the possibility of a tornado with each storm system. There can be locally heavy rain, isolated showers and thunderstorms at any time.

Aglaomorpha meyenianum **Bear's-paw Fern**

Strongly dimorphic. Leaves long-lanceolate, deep green, 12 to 24 inches long, 6 inches wide, pinnatifid, sessile. Rhizome stout, covered with rust-colored, elongate scales.

This is an epiphytic fern which grows as high as 36 inches in its native habitat. It has an unusually long, creeping, fleshy rhizome covered with slender rust-colored scales. Scales, which may grow ½ inch long, have straight or curved tooth-like projections.

Both fertile and sterile leaves are without petioles; the joining of the leaves to the rhizomes is completely obscured by the dense scale covering. A heavy costa, visible on both sides, gives stiffness to the leaves. Lower segments of both leaves are extremely short and blunt. On the sterile leaf the upper segments are opposite and larger than those of the fertile leaf, each ending in a sharp-pointed

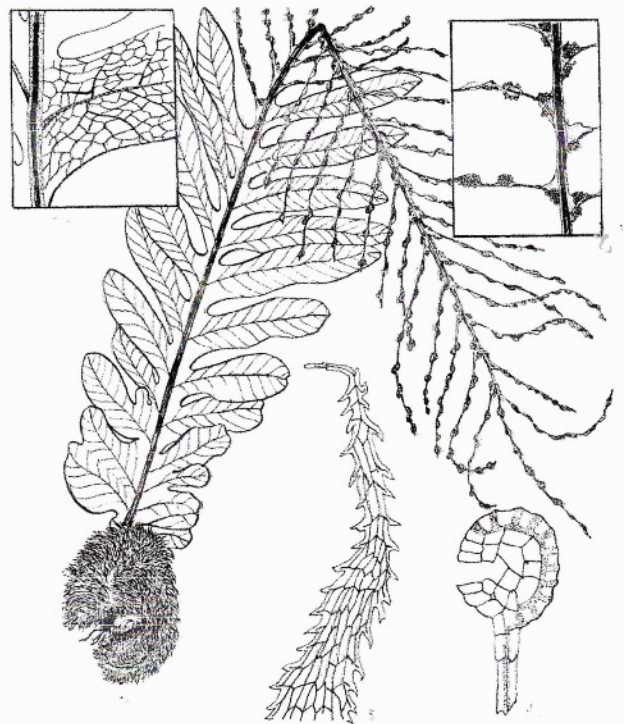
apex. The lower segments of the fertile leaf are similar but smaller than those of the sterile leaf and are without sori.

Upper fertile pinnae are ribbon-like and about twice as long as the lower sterile segments. Each pinna consists of a firm midrib with alternately spaced, rounded lobes on each side, each lobe being nearly covered with a sorus. Broad-based leaves serve to catch and retain moisture and humus. Sterile segments of both types of leaves are leathery and marked with well-defined veins.

SORI: Round, exindusiate, numerous, one on each lobe of pinna.

CULTURE: rich, damp humus. Plant in a porous clay pot or log-cabin basket lined with osmundine to insure good drainage and ventilation. Requires humid atmosphere or mist-spray at regular intervals

RANGE: Philippines.



Astro Branch Meeting
February 2016
Preparing And
Planting A Propagation Box



Kathleen Murphy & Pat Hiscock
choosing leaves to cut up.



Prepared leaf cuttings using
Fukumi's method (confetti).



Ruby Lewellyn & Bill Smith
enjoying refreshments.



Prepare for anything when
working with begonias.



Containers to be used for
propagation boxes.



Pat Hiscock with her chosen leaves.



Elaine Requelmy and Donna McGraw working on their cuttings.



Tom Keepin shows Ruby Lewellyn a propagation box ready for planting.



Marla Cork doing Fakumi's method.



Fay Stansberry (L) & Midge Gorman also doing Fakumi's method.



Ruby Lewellyn (L), Pat Hiscock & Bill Smith cutting up nelumbifolia leaves.



Members hard at work!



Faye Stansberry & Midge Gorman doing Fukumi's method.



Members busy doing Fukumi's method.



Donna Williams demonstrating how to prepare a leaf for Fukumi's method.



Jane Anderson telling about the Jewel Orchid she brought for a door prize.



Refreshment time!



Midge Gorman with
B. "Bonfire" (Name Tag Plant)



Susan Daugherty with
Bromeliad (Door Prize)



Brenda Andrews with
B. 'Laguna' (Raffle Plant)



Donna McGraw with a
Bromeliad in a Superbowl Pot.



Sandra Rigsby & friends Faye
Stansberry & Pat Hiscock with
B. 'Flamingo Queen'



Kathleen Murphy with
B. White semperfloren
(Raffle Plant)