BEGONIA CHATTER

Astro Branch **American Begonia Society** *4513 Randwick Drive* *Houston, Texas 77092-8343* *(713) 686-8539 -713-299-2661(C)*	***Next Meeting:*** **DATE: May 6, 2018** **TIME: 1:00 PM** **PLACE: Home of Tom & Peter** **PROGRAM: Annual Spring Picnic**
MAY 2018 ISSUE	**www.begoniahouston.org**

ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC/ MONTHLY MEETING

The May 6, 2018 meeting of the Astro Branch of The American Begonia Society will be held at the home of Tom Keepin and Peter Lloyd, located at 4513 Randwick Drive (in Northwest Houston @ 290 and Mangum Road). There are driving instructions at the end of this publication. PLEASE NOTE: The underpass at Mangum Road is torn up and under construction so please pay attention to the instructions provided. Google Maps can also give you an idea of the route to take. This will be our monthly meeting/Annual Spring Picnic. The event will officially begin at 1:00 P.M., but members may start arriving between 12:15 and 12:30, (the kitchen will ready to receive your goodies). The plan is for everyone to come and relax in the spacious shady garden, eat delicious homemade food and enjoy chatting and laughing with our begonia friends. The business meeting will be short and sweet. In addition to your donation to the menu, members are asked to bring a plant or plant related item to donate for the Door Prize drawings. It would be nice if you could bag it or loosely wrap it. We just love surprises! There are garden benches and folding chairs available for seating but your favorite lawn chair would be much more comfortable.

The Picnic will be a make your own sandwich affair with you providing the sides and desserts. Water and iced tea will be provided. If you would like to drink soft drinks please feel free to bring them with you.

Kathleen Murphy is our Hostess Chair and she may be contacted at 281-890-3323 or by email at kathleemurphy4959@sbcglobal.net. If you haven't already please contact Kathleen to let her know you are attending (bringing a guest(s)?) and what you are planning to bring to complete the menu.

We are looking forward to seeing you at this event. There is lots of shade and the garden is looking wonderful….please dress comfortably.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 8, 2018 MEETING?

The April 8, 2018 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society was canceled due to Easter falling on April 1st and many of our members attending the ABS National Convention/SWR Get-Together Begonias: *Tres Bien* in New Orleans, Louisiana and would be arriving back in Houston either on Sunday, April 8th or Monday, April 9th.

I am pleased to relay to you that it was an absolutely wonderful convention with great tours, interesting and very informative seminars and a great judged show with (if memory serves me) over 150 entries from all over…some all the way from Florida and Philadelphia. The Best of Show was from Florida grown by Doug Pridgen.

The Photo Gallery contains lots of pictures of the show taken by our own Malcolm McCorquodale.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Keepin (attendee)
for Secretary, Donna Williams)

WEATHER FORECAST FOR MAY 2018

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

Our temperatures will be near normal and our precipitation will be slightly above normal. Our temperatures should average from 68 degrees in the North to 74 degrees in the South. Our coolest May temperatures will be May 5th thru 9th, 12th thru 16th, 23rd thru 26th, and 29th thru 31st. Our warmest May temperatures will be May 1st thru 3rd, 11th, 18th thru 22nd and 28th/ Our best chance for scattered showers and thunderstorms are about May 4th thru 7th, 11th thru 14th, 22nd thru 24th and 28th thru 30th. There is severe weather expected about May 4th & 5th and 11th & 12th. Increasing humidity expected.

DON'T FORGET YOUR B. 'JUDY COOK'

The Time Has Arrived! The beautiful B. 'Judy Cook' that you picked up at the December 3, 2017 meeting, took home and nurtured all this time needs to be brought back to this Meeting/Annual Spring Picnic. We would like to see how much she has grown and what a beautiful specimen she has become.

All members present will have a vote to decide the most beautifully grown specimen.

As is always the rule all plants need to be brought in no matter what their condition.

We are looking forward to seeing a lot of beautiful and well grown plants and having a very hard time making the choice-which one is the most beautiful and crown that plant number 1.

PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

May

1st	Scorpio
4th, 5th & 6th	Capricorn
9th, 10th & 11th	Pisces
14th & 15th	Taurus
18th & 19th	Cancer
27th & 28th	Scorpio

June

1st & 2nd	Capricorn
6th & 7th	Pisces
10th, 11th & 12th	Taurus
15th & 16th	Cancer
23rd & 24th	Scorpio
28th & 29th	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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Birthday wishes go out to our members born in this month of May. We hope your special day is truly a special one.

Janet Carpenter	May 2nd
Midge Gorman	May 8th
Darlene Morris	May 27th

"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".

Happy Birthday

THE USE OF BEGONIAS IN FLORAL DESIGNS

I was invited to enter plants in the container grown horticulture section in the recent Far Corners Garden Study Club Standard Flower Show held on Monday, April 9th. When I arrived to enter my Fairy Garden I was asked to assist with classification and entries for horticulture entries. (I only enter 1 plant because I had just arrived home the day before after a week in New Orleans). I happily agreed. After judging was completed and we were allowed into the showroom to view the show the 2nd floral design I looked at was an illuminated design using B. 'Lalomie' leaves. The design received a blue ribbon and Best of Show. Joanne Storm is the name of the design creator. This picture and a short explanation will be sent to Linda Tamblyn to appear in a future issue of the Begonian. We will be on the lookout for future uses of begonias in floral designs to share with you. If you have a chance to visit a Garden Club Flower Show please do so…you may be surprised to see a design using begonias.

ENTERING MY B. vankerckhovenii IN THE ABS CONVENTION SHOW

By Janet Carpenter

OH NO!!!

I looked at my B. vankerckhovenii and realized that the glass container was "opalized" and not at all suitable for show.

There was so much going on before we left, that I didn't really look at the terrarium bowl. I knew the plant was in great shape, but couldn't tell the bowl wasn't, otherwise I would have gotten a new container and replanted it prior to leaving.

What to do, what to do?? Well, since Kathleen had to go to the bank anyway, we followed instructions on the phone and as luck would have it, right across the street from the bank was a Michael's. Whew! In we go to the store and cruised around until we found the round bowls I usually used, but there was also a lovely bowl with a slanted cut for the opening… h-m-m-m-m. I bought them both

Back at the hotel, I first put the plant, c-a-r-e-fully so as not to destroy its ONE little yellow flower, into the round bowl. Then I put it into the slant top bowl. Ok, that was the one. Turned the plant slightly then some more, and then finished grooming the plant and the inside of the bowl.

I clerked at judging, so I knew I had gotten a blue ribbon (JOY!), but that evening when I went into the show, I couldn't find my little plant. Did it get dropped?

OK!, Stand back and look around the room…why was it against the back wall…right next to the Best of Show ???

Holy Moly, not only did it get a First Place ribbon, and a Division Award and rosette, but the Wanda and Richard Macnair Best Contained Atmosphere Award, as well as the Dr. Rekha Morris Best Species Award!

Thank Goodness, I went through the extra effort to get the new container!

B vankerckhovenii

B. vankerckhovenii was discovered in 1912 by R.P.E. Vankerckhover, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Zaire).

B. vankerckhovenii was published in 1915 by De Wildeman

Locality "Saint-Trudon October et November 1912"

BEGONIAS: TRES BIEN

B. 'My Good Friend'

B. 'Torch'

B. 'Nola'

Acrylic by Pat Maley

Plant entries from The American Begonia Society Convention April 2018

B. 'Hugh McLaughlin'
Grown by Doug Pridgen
Best In Show

B. U074

B. foliosa

B. patita var dregii

Fort Worth Botanic Garden
Educational Display

Novel Grown, Best of Division
Entered by Don Miller

Best of Division
Trailing /scandent

Best of Division
B. Dregii sport

DIRECTIONS TO

4513 RANDWICK DRIVE

713-299-4120

South East from HWY 290:

Take Exit Antoine (almost at 610)
Go to third light (Dacoma) and make a LEFT
U turn under 290 and go back to Mangum Rd. and turn right.
Take very first RIGHT on Randwick Drive and 4513 will be the sixth house on the Right.

North on 610 Loop West:

Follow Loop 610 North over 1-10 and stay in the **LEFT** lane to exit to HWY 290 AUSTIN.
First Exit on over pass to 290 Austin is Mangum Rd.
Exit and make a right at the light (Mangum RD.)
Immediately take your first RIGHT (Randwick Drive.)
4513 Randwick Drive is your sixth house on the Right.

West on Loop 610 North:

Follow 610 North heading west towards Austin. Exit at T.C. Jester and go to second traffic light (West T. C. Jester) and make a right. Turn left at third street (Brookwoods Drive).
Go to Randwick Drive on your left and make a left tum on Randwick Drive.
4513 will be on the left.