

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: September 9, 2018 TIME: 2:00 PM PLACE: West Gray–Multi Service Center PROGRAM: Sprucing Up Your Contained Atmosphere</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 2018 ISSUE</p>	<p>www.begoniahouston.org</p>

SPRUCING UP YOUR OVER-GROWN CONTAINED ATMOSPHERE

The September 9, 2018 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 in Activity Room 1. Our Refreshment Hostesses for this meeting will be **Kathleen Murphy, Janet Carpenter and Pat Hiscock.**

The doors will open at 12:30 P.M. for us to set up our meeting room. If you can help us with set up it would be greatly appreciated. Between 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. members can enjoy refreshments and socialize with members and friends we only see at meetings. The meeting will be called to order at 2:00 P.M. President Janet Carpenter will preside over this meeting. Please remember to wear your name tag. If you are unable to locate your name tag please contact Tom as soon as possible before the day of the meeting so he can have a replacement for you at the meeting.

Our program this month will be **Sprucing Up Your Over-Grown Contained Atmosphere.** Cheryl Lenert and Ann Stiefel will present this program. Do you have a contained atmosphere (terrarium) that is over-grown and you are at a loss as to what to do with it? Bring it to the meeting along with a clean container and the potting mix or growing medium you are having success with to replant it. The club will have baggies, labels and markers to put the trimmings from cleaned up contained atmospheres into. If you would like to share some cuttings from your contained atmospheres at home that don't need expert attention with fellow members, they would be very welcome.

We will have our usual drawings and the Refreshment Hostesses will have lots of tasty treats to enjoy and plenty of cool drinks to wash them down.

See you there!

PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

September

1 st & 2 nd	Taurus
5 th & 6 th	Cancer
13 th & 14 th	Scorpio
18 th & 19 th	Capricorn
23 rd & 24 th	Pisces
28 th & 29 th	Taurus

October

2 nd & 3 rd	Cancer
10 th , 11 th & 12 th	Scorpio
15 th , 16 th & 17 th	Capricorn
20 th , 21 st & 22 nd	Pisces
25 th & 26 th	Taurus
29 th & 30 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.

WEATHER FORECAST FOR SEPTEMBER 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 September.

Our temperatures will be slightly above normal and our precipitation will be near normal. Our temperatures should average 73 degrees in the North and 78 degrees in the South. Our coolest September temperatures will be September 4th thru 7th, 16th thru 18th, and 24th thru 26th. Our warmest September temperatures will be September 2nd & 3rd, 9th thru 14th 20th thru 23rd and 28th thru 30th. Our highest hurricane potential will be September 10th thru 14th. Otherwise there will be scattered showers and thunder-storms at about 3-to-5 day intervals. The heaviest precipitation will be near the Gulf.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

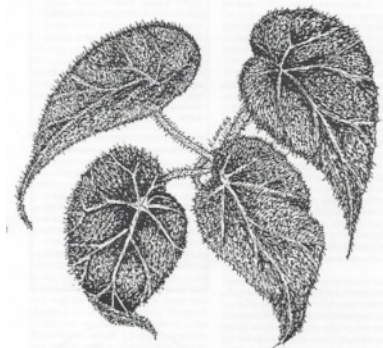
The Austin Area Begonia Society Branch of the American Begonia Society will host the Southwest Region Get Together – May 1st – 4th 2019 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel located at 3401 South IH 35 in Austin, TX 78741

Your Attention Please!

The Austin Area Branch is considering having a Judging School on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, but they need to know how many are interested in taking it. Remember, even if you don't wish to be a judge yet, it is a great way to learn a lot about begonias from skilled teachers. It will be an all-day event on Wednesday May 1st with an opportunity to clerk in the Judging on Friday, May 3rd. If you are interested please contact either Freda Holley at gehrtii@cloud.com or Doug Byrom at douglasbyrom@gmail.com **right away** so arrangements can be made to make this school a reality.

The Joan Coulat – Sacramento Branch along with the San Francisco Branch will be hosting the American Begonia Society National Convention on September 3rd – 8th, 2019 at the Sacramento Marriott in Rancho Cordova, CA

These will be two fantastic Conventions for 2019 You will see beautiful specimen plants in the shows and have lovely plants to buy in the Plant Sales. We can't forget the seminars and tours. Above all you will be surrounded by lots of people who love begonias as much as you do! So please mark your calendar and make plans to join us!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Happy Birthday wishes to our members born during this month of September. We hope your special day is a truly special one.

Pat Perry	September 30 th
Fukumi Smith	September 12 th
Susan Willis	September 1 st

“Today is the day to wrap yourself up in your favorite memories and think about all the happiness you’ve yet to discover.”

Happy Birthday!

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 5, 2018 MEETING

The August 5, 2018 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 1. Vice President Johnny Williams called the meeting to order at 2:05 P.M. He thanked all for attending and thanked our refreshment hostesses who were: **Ruby Lewellyn, Ann Stiefel and Diana Bukey.** Others who contributed food were: **Martha Burg, Malcolm McCorquodale and Gloria Hunter.** Several guests were at this meeting: **Annette Graham, Sylvia Lind, Angie Ward and Janice Shaw.**

Minutes from the July 1, 2018 meeting were published in the Begonia Chatter and were approved as written. Treasurer, Tom Keepin reported that our club did very well at the last meeting, with our raffle and sale plants as income making our bank balance very healthy. Tom also reminded us that it was time for clubs to make contributions to the Holiday Greeting Fund for the Begonian. We voted to go Platinum again this year.

Under Old business: Brenda Andrews reminded everyone to bring cuttings. So she can put them down and grow them up for the club.

Under New Business: Tom brought 2 flats of Lime Coleus that were one month old and had been started from seed. These were donated by our friends at JJ&L Greenhouses and were made available to any member who wanted some after the meeting was adjourned. Tom also reminded us that because of the Labor Day Weekend our September meeting would be held on September 9, 2018 (the second Sunday).

Our Program this month was our Annual Plant Swap. Members brought many beautiful plants for this and Tom asked each person to show which plant(s) they brought and tell a little bit about each. Each person was given a raffle type ticket and as their number was called they got up and chose a plant from the selection. Everyone had a great time and we all went home with new treasures!

We then had our Drawings. The following were the winners.

Raffle:

- B. ‘Lana’ – won by Tony Robert
- B. ‘Flamingo•Queen’ – won by Dehlia Mullins

Name Tag:

- B. ‘Kristy’ – won by Gloria Hunter
- B. ‘Dotsy’ – won by Ann Stiefel

Door Prize:

- Purple Jew – won by Donna Williams
- Burgmansia – won by Ann Stiefel
- Burgmansia – won by John Cole

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Williams, Secretary





photo by Julie Vanderwilt

Begonia crassicaulis LINDL

by Paul Tsamtsis

B. crassicaulis was first published by John Lindley in 1842. It is native to Central America, more specifically Guatemala. It is in the Section *Gireoudia*.

Its habit of growth would make it a thick-stem, most likely non-ramified. I say 'most likely' because juvenile plants will grow for a year or two without showing any branching. But very mature plants can occasionally branch.

It exhibits a couple interesting growth habits. The first is that the stems develop what really looks like bark. Most begonias will retain the pattern of where the leaves attached to the stems. In this plant it is very difficult to discern where those attachments were.

The second is much more spectacular. It is the only begonia that I know of that defoliates in the short light days of winter and as spring approaches blooms profusely from the leafless stems. It is quite a sight. The flowers are white and in enough light may show some traces of pink. If the plant is grown under lights this defoliation

may not take place and it will bloom with the foliage present.

The only hybrid done with it that is in the ABS database is *B. 'Bayberry Lane'* hybridized by Joy Porter and released in 1987. The cross as shown in the database was *B. U067 (B. bakeri) X B. crassicaulis*. She classified the hybrid as rhizomatous. It was registered with the ABS as #946.

Culture is quite easy. The important thing is not to overwater it. If the stem becomes long enough, it can tip over so staking is a consideration. It is not particularly susceptible to any pests.

Morris Mueller reports that it does not start from leaves. The only propagation success he has had is in rooting tip cuttings. Side branches readily grow below the cuts. This is unlike *B. kenworthyae* which slowly dies back along the stem if a tip cutting is taken.

For further information *the Begonian* has an article titled *Begonia crassicaulis: fantasy or fact* in the January-February 1985 issue written by Thelma O'Reilly.



ASTRO BRANCH

August 2018

Meeting



Annette Graham telling about the plant that she brought.



Irene Bragg - too many choices



Bill Claybaugh telling about B. 'Stars & Stripes'



Coleus brought to the meeting for members.



Glenda Perry explaining about the plant she brought.



Members waiting for their raffle numbers to be called.



Martha Burg chatting with Faye Stansberry.



Brenda Andrews -
'which one to choose?'



Members socialize while waiting for their number to be called.



Irene Bragg talking about a plant she brought.



Martha Burg has made her choice.



Ruby Lewellyn trying to choose which plant?



Pat Hiscock telling about the bromeliad she brought.



Lime coleus seedling donated by JJJ Greenhouses.



Kathleen Murphy about to talk about the B. 'Cowardly Lion'



Donna Williams telling about the plant she brought, B. 'Maurice Amey'



Ann Stiefel with a purple wandering Jew.



Ann Stiefel with her Name Tag plant B. 'Dotsy'



Dehlia Mullins with her Raffle Plant B. 'Flamingo Queen'



Gloria Hunter with her Name Tag plant B. 'Kristy'



Tony Robert with his Raffle Plant B. 'Lana'



John Cole with his Door Prize burgmansia.

(The great pictures from this meeting were taken by Mel Babb.)