

BEGONIA CHATTER



Astro Branch American Begonia Society <i>4513 Randwick Drive</i> <i>Houston, Texas 77092-8343</i> <i>(713) 686-8539</i>	Next Meeting: DATE: January 6, 2019 TIME: 2:00 PM PLACE: West Gray Multi-Service Center PROGRAM: Cutting Swap
JANUARY 2019 ISSUE	www.begoniahouston.org

CUTTING SWAP

The January 6, 2019 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society will be held at the West Gray Multi-Service, located at 1475 West Gray Street in Activity Room 1. Our Host and Hostesses for this meeting will be **Tony Robert, Donna Robert and Sue Botts.**

The doors will open at 12:30 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. 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 a **Cutting Swap**. Members are asked to bring named cuttings for the Cutting Swap. The cuttings can be cane-like, shrub-like, rhizomatous, Rex etc. What is different about this cutting swap other than the cuttings being named we would like members

to do some research on the cuttings you bring. If you are bringing species cuttings we would like to know where it was collected, when it was collected and if possible by whom. How do you grow it? With hybrids we would like to know the parentage, the hybridizer and when it was hybridized if possible. Also how does it grow and bloom for you. How does it tolerate the Houston heat and humidity? In other words any information you can find on the cuttings you are bringing would be beneficial to the member that receives them. Thompsons Begonia Guide and the 1984 Update is a good source of information along with our website www.begoniahouston.org. The National website www.begonias.org also has information you can use there is also a link for the International Database of the Begoniaceae on the Home Page, which has information on hybrids and species that will be helpful to you.

We are looking forward to seeing you at this our first meeting of the New Year! Our program will be interesting and educational not to mention fun. We will have our usual drawings.

See you there!

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2018 MEETING

The December 2, 2018 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia was held at the West Gray Multi-Service Center, located at 1475 West Gray Street in Activity Room 1. This meeting was also our Annual Christmas Party. Vice-President Midge Gorman presided over this meeting. Midge called the meeting to order at 2:05 P.M. The guest at this meeting was John Hunter, husband of Gloria Hunter. Minutes of the November meeting were published in The Begonia Chatter and were approved as written.

Old News:

Seed Fund – Cheryl Lenert lead a discussion about seeds. Question – Who will receive the donated seeds? Answer: Probably Tom would receive them. Cheryl commented that the program was about 25 years old, and was located in San Diego, California, and there were lots of volunteers but that is no longer the case. The process does need some dedication and sometimes seeds come in all kind of ways. Methods used to open seed – seed will need to be sieved, and will need to be proofed for viability. Some may be rare seeds. A few people once a month or so will be needed to process the seeds and prepare them for mailing. Gloria suggested that once seeds had been processed and ready to mail out, we could address envelopes at a meeting or prior if there were a lot of them.. We do not have to be concerned about receiving the money for seeds. Cheryl asked for a motion to take on the Seed Fund. Donna Robert seconded and the motion was carried.

A question was asked if all Begonias produced seeds. Answer – some do not most are from species. Discussion on where Seed Fund meeting will be held. Might be rotated, but seeds need care not to be contaminated by other seeds.

Question: Asked about a program on how to process seeds for distribution. Will discuss with Tom about doing the January program on how to clean seeds etc. Cheryl to follow-up.

Malcolm said that the database with list of Begonia seeds was offline right now.

New Business:

Donna Robert asked about Brenda Andrews, had anyone heard from her. Ruby asked if anyone needed cards mailed to them. There was a comment that Sarah Chumley had been ill but was home now. Our President, Janet Carpenter is in California with family members, son and daughter in law are both ill. Please keep family in your prayers.

The meeting was adjourned and the Christmas Party Began.

The club provided the ham and members brought the side dishes. Everything was yummy and several commented on the really good tasting dishes. Donna brought a black-eyed pea squash dish and several members asked how did she process the peas. She explained that it was a recipe from the Black-Eyed Pea Restaurant; there were no peas in the dish. (Good chuckle). Gloria brought a Pumpkin Crisp and was asked by several members for the recipe. She emailed it out to members present and was as to send it to Tom to include in the next newsletter for all to see.

Gloria led the gift exchange (everyone that brought a gift was given a ticket). There were some very nice selections and Christmas cactus seemed to be the choice for gift giving along with Begonia baskets and even and enclosed glass one. Gloria continued with the Secret Santa (different colored ticket) door prizes and there was even a jar of honey contributed from John & Gloria Hunter bee hives. Everyone was pleased and happy with their gifts.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 P.M. Many stayed to help with clean-up and move tables and chairs.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Hunter

Gloria Hunter, Secretary



PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

January

1 st & 2 nd	Scorpio
5 th , 6 th & 7 th	Capricorn
10 th , 11 th & 12 th	Pisces
15 th & 16 th	Taurus
19 th & 20 th	Cancer
24 th	Capricorn
28 th & 29 th	Scorpio

February

1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd	Capricorn
6 th , 7 th & 8 th	Pisces
11 th , 12 th & 13 th	Taurus
16 th & 17 th	Cancer
24 th & 25 th	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.



WEATHER FORECAST FOR JANUARY 2019

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 January.

Our temperatures will be near normal and our precipitation will be near normal. Our temperatures should average from 35 degrees in the North to 49 degrees in the South. Our coolest January temperatures will be January 1st, 7th thru 11th, 17th thru 21st, 24th thru 26th and 31st. Our warmest January temperatures will be January 3rd thru 6th, 13th thru 15th, 23rd and 29th ^ 30th. The best change for rain, freezing rain and snow in the North and mostly rain in the South will be about January 6 thru 9th, 16th & 17th, 23rd thru 25th and 30th & 31st. There will be a few showers otherwise. Expect it to be breezy.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

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

Leigh Boyer	January 16 th
Cheryl Lenert	January 24 th
Ruby Lewellyn	January 2 nd
Malcolm McCorquodale	January 17 th
Debbie Perillo	January 23 rd

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



photo by Paul Tsamtsis

Begonia 'Tom Ment'

by Paul Tsamtsis

B. 'Tom Ment' is one of three popular canes hybridized by Tom Mentelos. The other two are B. 'Tom Ment II' and B. 'Fabulous Tom.' The Thompsons, in their book, *Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide*, list it as cane-like, intermediate in height. The flowers are pink-orange and are ever-blooming and profuse. Intermediate height means that a well-grown plant will be between 2 and 4 feet tall.

Mentelos released it in 1973. He submitted it to the ABS for registration and received number 350.

It is a cross between B. 'Di-Erna' (deep coral flowers) and B. 'Orange Rubra' (spectacular orange flowers). The leaves have spots which do not disappear at maturity and add to the plant's appeal.

This is an easy-to-grow cane that is perfect for the beginner. But because it blooms profusely in a somewhat unusual color, it makes it a desirable plant for advanced growers, too.



Because of its propensity to branch from below the soil level, it gives rise to a nice full plant without too much attention. This branching habit also makes it a great candidate for hanging baskets.

This plant grows relatively fast. It propagates easily from cuttings, but remember that the lowest node on the cutting should not have had a bloom rising from it. A cutting cannot branch from nodes that had a bloom cluster and that means that such a cutting will not develop into a bushy plant.

This plant was the seed parent of my first cross which was with *B. maculata* var. *wightii*, the cane with wide spaces between the nodes and very pronounced spots on the leaves. This cross gave rise to B. 'Amelia,' B. 'MaryAnn Flunker,' and B. 'Catherine.'

As to pests, this hybrid is relatively pest-free. It is not particularly prone to mildew except in the late fall and winter. So a systemic fungicide spray in early fall will make this plant even more carefree to grow.

ASTRO BRANCH'S 2018 CHRISTMAS PARTY



Donna Robert



Midge Gorman



Mel Babb



Tony Robert



Diana Bukey

(Photographs provided by Mel Babb and Donna Robert)



Pat Hiscock



Linda Kovac



Ann Stiefel



American Begonia Society pin



Mel Babb



Cheryl Lenert



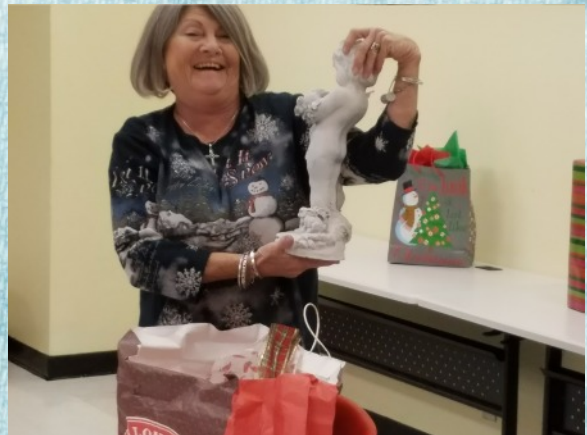
John Hunter



Ruby Lewellyn



Donna Williams



Linda Kovac



Kay Hoss (left) & Gloria Hunter



Cheryl Lenert



B. 'Brad Thompson'



Bill Claybaugh



Kathleen Murphy



Gloria Hunter (left)
& Kathleen Murphy



Pat Hiscock (left) with Donna
Williams & Johnny Williams



Ann Stiefel