

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: May 2, 2021 TIME: 1:00 P.M. PLACE: Home of Tom Keepin PROGRAM: Annual Spring Picnic
MAY 2021 Issue	www.begoniahouston.org

ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC

The Annual Spring Picnic and Monthly Meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society will be held at the home of Tom Keepin and Peter Lloyd. The address is 4513 Randwick Drive, Houston 77092-8343. Their phone number is 713-686-8539 and Tom's cell is 713-299-2661. The festivities will begin at 1:00 P.M. Members are free to arrive any time after 12 noon with their food donation to the feast along with their Door Prize and a favorite lawn chair. We do not have the main entrée to build our menu around this time. It was decided to have a Pot Luck menu. If you haven't already, please contact Mel Babb to let her know if you will be able to join us and what you are planning to bring to add to the menu. Mel can be contacted at **713-981-5641** or via email at melbabb@comcast.net. Members are requested to bring a plant or plant-related item for our Door Prize Drawings along with their menu donation. We know that it goes without saying but NO cuttings or candy, please. There is no

dollar amount stipulated. So if you would like to receive the Door Prize you are buying perfect! As always the case participation in the Door Prize drawings is optional. If you don't wish to eat in your lap you are welcome to bring a personal table or card table.

Along with the Annual Spring Picnic, we will have a very short business meeting followed by the Door Prize Drawings.

We are looking forward to seeing you and welcoming you to Tom's home and garden

See you there!



Directions to 4513 Randwick Drive

713-299-2661

610 North - exit 610 North at 290 West (remember you must be in the right two lanes to exit onto 290). Stay to the right on the flyover and take the first exit which is Magnum Rd. Right on Magnum Rd. and then a quick right on Randwick. 4513 is six houses on the right.

610 West - stay to the right after T.C. Jester exit. Exit 290 / Magnum Road. Stay to the right on the ramp to Magnum Rd. Right on Magnum Rd. and a quick right on Randwick Drive.

290 South – Exit Magnum Rd. (Magnum Rd exit is between I10 exit and 610 exit.) Left on Magnum Rd. and go under 290. Randwick Drive is the first street on the right.

PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

May

1 st & 2 nd	Capricorn
5 th , 6 th & 7 th	Pisces
10 th , 11 th & 12 th	Taurus
15 th , 16 th & 17 th	Cancer
24 th & 25 th	Scorpio
28 th , 29 th & 30 th	Capricorn

June

2 nd & 3 rd	Pisces
7 th & 8 th	Taurus
12 th & 13 th	Cancer
21 st & 22 nd	Scorpio
25 th & 26 th	Capricorn
29 th & 30 th	Pisces

******Planting and Transplanting** are best done in Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces with Cancer being the best.

******Best Pruning** for quick growth is first in Taurus and then in Capricorn.

*(This Pruning, Planting and Transplanting guide was taken from the **Harris farmer's Almanac 2021**)*



B. nitida from *Begonia Portraits*]
by Alice M. Clark



B. 'Montalvo' from *Begonia Portraits*]
by Alice M. Clark

WEATHER FORECAST FOR MAY, 2021

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

Our temperatures will be near normal and our precipitation will be near normal. Our average temperature should average from 68 degrees in the north to 74 degrees in the south. Our coolest May temperatures will be May 1st, 7th thru 10th, 15th thru 19th, and 23rd thru 26th. Our warmest May temperatures will be May 3rd thru 6th, 12th & 13th, 21st, 22nd, and 29th thru 31st.

The best chance for scattered showers and thunderstorms will be about May 6th thru 8th, 14th thru 17th, and 22nd thru 24th. There will be isolated thunderstorms from time to time especially along the Gulf. There will be a few severe storms mainly over the north



photo by Paul Tsamtsis

Begonia 'Silver Jewell'

by Paul Tsamtsis

Begonia 'Silver Jewell' is a hybrid of two humidity-loving plants *B. pustulata* and *B. imperialis* from Mexico. It was created by Susie Zug in 1957. It was registered as #136 with the American Begonia Society.

The Thompsons, in their book *BEGONIAS: The Complete Reference Guide* classify it as a rhizomatous plant with foliage that is distinctive and pustular. Pustular foliage is defined as having minute elevations. In other words, it is not smooth and glossy but the effect is not because of hairs on the leaves. It's like the leaves are textured like velvet.

As mentioned, both parents require high humidity and the recommendation is that they be grown in terrariums for best results. This is the recommendation for *B. 'Silver Jewell'* although many growers have

notable success growing it on the bench in a greenhouse. The pictured plant was grown by Branch member Donna Murrill in her greenhouse in Chico.

It flowers moderately with white flowers off and on throughout the year.

The pest to watch out for is mealy bug. Alcohol swabbing when found or a systemic preventative can be used to control them.

Remember, that if grown in a terrarium, do not use a heavy mix. And never use more than a couple inches in the bottom. Too much mix runs the risk of turning sour. Personally, I use New Zealand sphagnum moss moistened and tossed in my standard soilless mix of peat moss, perlite and vermiculite with a little charcoal. This leaves the medium totally open and plants grow quite well in it.





Meeting Room at Plants for All Seasons Nursery.

ASTROS' May 2021 MEETING at **Plants for All Seasons Nursery**

(Pictures by Aaron Stone)



Cheryl Lenert



Janet Carpenter with Janice Shaw & Sandra Riggsby



Darlene Morris



Brenda Andrews, Irene Bragg and Mike Bragg (l to r.)



Door prizes



Janet Carpenter with begonia non stop.



Malcolm McCorquodale with BR61.



Rachael Davidson with philodendron



Glenda Perry with a bromeliad



Diana Bukey with a begonia basket.