

BEGONIA CHATTER

Newsletter of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society



Astro Branch American Begonia Society 10592A Fuqua Street, Box 398 Houston, Texas 77089	Next Meeting: DATE: October 1, 2023 TIME: 1:00 PM, meeting begins 2:00PM PLACE: Plants for All Seasons, 21328 State Hwy 249 PROGRAM: BEGONIA TYPES AND DESCRIPTIONS
September 30, 2023 Issue	www.begoniahouston.org

President: Midge Gorman	Vice President: Kathleen Murphy	Treasurer: Ann Stiefel	Secretary: Gloria Hunter
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi fellow Begoniacs,

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our October meeting. Our fall seems to be arriving a bit late this year and plants certainly will be happy to see some cooler weather. Please remember to check around and see if you have any plant or plant related items for our raffle table. This is something we all enjoy!

Cheers, Midge

LOOKING AHEAD:

The next Astros meeting will be November 5th and the program will be "**Show and Tell.**"

BEGONIA TYPES

The October meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society will be held at Plants For All Seasons located at 21328 State Highway 249, Houston, TX. Their telephone number is 281-376-1646. We have the meeting room from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Janet Carpenter and Kathleen Murphy will be our hospitality hosts.

Program: Begonia Types and Descriptions.

Your editor went through the Chatter archive back to 2017 and couldn't find a program similarly-titled, though I did see many dedicated to a single type (trailing-scandent, thick stemmed, rex, to name a few). This is likely a broader education about how begonias are grouped.

Chairs:	Hospitality Mel Babb	Membership Jennifer Francois	Seed Fund Janet Carpenter	Webmaster Malcolm McCorquodale	Newsletter Rosa Brennan, Editor
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August 6, 2023 Astro meeting notes

Members present – Midge Gorman, Gloria Hunter, Gail Warren, Janet Carpenter, Ann Stiefel, Dahlia Mullins, Tom Keepin, Kathleen Murphy, Jennifer Francois., Cheryl Lenert, Malcolm McCorquodale, Rosa Brennan.

Midge called our meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. Midge welcomed everyone and thanked Ann and Donna for our refreshments.

Mel was not at our meeting. Seems she worked out too hard with the physical therapist and was sore. Brenda Andrews is having surgery and a card was passed around to send to her while she recovers.

The minutes were read and approved.

Cheryl made a motion to send \$150.00 to the Begonian; seconded by Tom.

Treasurer's report by Ann – Beginning balance - \$4,727.45. Income from the July \$48.00 and August \$51.00 raffle tickets sales. Expenses - raffle plants \$64.95 ending balance - \$4,752.50.

Ann commented that she would be gone during the October meeting.

Malcolm requested a "gmail" email account be set up for the Astro Branch. Discussion followed.

Jennifer F. mentioned that when she made the flyer for the Federation garden meetings she used her own personal phone number.

Members then spoke about the begonia plants and / or cuttings they brought. They gave the name, how and where they grow begonia. Some demonstrations were given for pruning/cutting back begonia's that were leggy or had grown quite a bit and how to propagate.

Members were able to take cuttings and or plants home.

Meeting adjourned.

Gloria Hunter – Secretary



Begonia U484

October Weather and Planting Guide

Temperatures will be slightly above normal and precipitation will be slightly below normal.

Average temperatures should range from 63 degrees in the North to 70 degrees in the South.

Cooler October Temperatures should be October 2nd through the 4th, the 8th through the 11th, 14th through the 17th, and the 23rd through the 26th.

Warmest October Temperatures should be October 6th & 7th, 13th, 19 through 22nd, and 28th through the 31st.

A low hurricane potential all month.

It will be humid!

Planting and transplanting: Best signs and dates

(Per Harris Farmer's Almanac 2023)

Stay Cool and Smile! —Tom

Taurus	1st, 3rd
Cancer	6th, 7th
Scorpio	15th, 16th
Capricorn	20th through the 22nd
Pisces	26th, 27th
Taurus	29th, 30th

Pruning: Best signs and dates to encourage growth (per Thomas Almanac)

Sign:	Waxing moon date:
Leo	
Sagittarius	18th and 19th
Aries	26th and 27th

Editor's Corner

A reminder that I would appreciate any contributions from our members for publication in future *Begonia Chatters*. **Send in your photos, newly discovered retail sources of begonias and begonia supplies, your favorite books about begonias, or suggest a begonia article you see elsewhere for republication.** -Rosa

Participation by members at last month's Cuttings Party

Members brought and shared the following:

Gloria Hunter: *B.* unknown (possibly 'Dark Knight'), *B.* 'Dorothy Hatten', *B. scabrida*, and *B.* 'Benigo'

Gail Warren: *B.* 'Richmondensis', *B.* 'Snowcap', *B.* 'Orpha C. Fox', *B.* 'White Ice', and a coleus.

Rosa Brennan: *B. luxurians*, *B.* 'Gideon', *B.* U484, *B. friburgensis*, and *B. scapiger*

Janet Carpenter: *B.* 'Torch', *B.* 'Eclipse', *B.* 'Alamo Snow'

Cheryl Lenert: a lance-leaf begonia *B. herbacea* or *B. lanceolata*, *B. prismatocarpa*, and *B. bionophylla* [I'm sure I butchered this name. I'll correct it in the next Chatter.—Ed. Should be *B. ionophylla*]



Above: Cheryl demonstrates where to best cut *B. luxurians* (cut so that at least one node can be buried below the soil).

Right: Tom cutting a very crowded *U. 484*.



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Cuttings Party participation, continued

Members brought and shared the following:

Tom Keepin: *B.* 'Linda Dawn', *B.* 'Carmel Brown' [*I think Tom brought the latter—Ed.*]

Midge Gorman: *B.* 'Cowardly Lion', *B.* 'Lalomie', *B.* 'Escargot'

Ann Stiefel: *B.* 'Lana', *B.* 'Olé Silver'

Dahlia Mullins: Tradescantia Inch Plant, muscadine, tailandia

Kathleen Murphy: *B.* 'Little Miss Mummy', *B.* 'Dancing Girl', *B.* 'Dragon Wing' white

Malcolm McQuordale: *B. undulata*

An unknown cane was discussed and it was named *B.* 'Astros Ann' by Tom after Ann Stiefel since she asked for it to be identified.





Left: Cheryl demonstrates where to cut a thick-stemmed *B. friburgensis*. After you cut off your tip cutting, remove the tiniest growth of the cutting, and scratch the underside of the stem of the mother plant to encourage growth back towards the main part of the plant.

