

The 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: March 3, 2024 TIME: 12:30 Board meeting; 1:00 PM social; 2:00 PM regular meeting PLACE: Plants for All Seasons, 21328 State Hwy 249 PROGRAM: Soil by Sherri Harrah		
February 27, 2024 Issue	www.begoniahouston.org		
President: Kathleen Murphy	Vice President: Jennifer Francois	Treasurer: Ann Stiefel	Secretary: Gloria Hunter

President's Message

Hi all Begonia lovers:

I can't believe it's already time for our March meeting. The weather this week is telling us that spring is here, has been and we missed it or is tempting us with hints of summer temperatures.

I'm excited for our beautiful Facebook page tweaked by Malcolm. If you haven't checked it out please visit site and share information. We will be posting ABS, SWR and of course Astros meetings and information on growing Begonias etc. We hope that this site will draw interest in our group and spark an uptick in our membership. (I think I need a tutorial on its many capabilities).

Also in the pipeline is our members notebook listing important stuff like ABS guidelines, programs, meeting dates, members, information for old and new members.

Southwest Region next convention is coming up in May so planning our participation will be on the Sunday agenda.

Reminder of quick Board Meeting at 12:30, prior to Regular meeting. All are invited to participate.

Think about bringing a guest to our meeting.
Looking forward to seeing you Sunday.

—Kathleen

Program: Soil—A presentation by Plants for All Season's Sherri Harrah

Sherri started at Plants for All Seasons in 1999 and quickly took over the purchasing of all the fertilizers, soils, and plant care products. Sherri also loves stepping out into the community with local garden clubs and presenting on garden related subjects. She'll be doing a presentation on soil for us this Sunday. This program is new to the Astros chapter. Come and learn something new!

Refreshments will be provided by Midge Gorman and another generous volunteer who wouldn't mind stepping in since Tom will be recuperating from surgery. We're thinking of you Tom!

Chairs:	Membership Gail Warren	Seed Fund Janet Carpenter	Webmaster & Nat'l Rep. Malcolm McCorquodale	Newsletter Rosa Brennan, Editor
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Meeting Notes—February 4, 2024

Members present – Midge Gorman, Gloria Hunter, Gail Warren, Janet Carpenter, Tom Keepin, Jennifer Francois, Cheryl Lenert, Rosa Brennan, Mike & Irene Bragg, Sue Botts, Ann Stiefel, Diane Bukey, Kathleen Murphy, and Malcolm McCorquodale.

Our new president Kathleen Murphy called our meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone and thanked Gail & Mel for our wonderful refreshments.

One correction to the minutes – program in January was presented by Kathleen and Janet not Cheryl & Janet.

Treasurer's report – Beginning balance - \$4701.55. Income – raffle - \$70.00, membership dues \$115.00, Lenora Fuentes plants \$450.00 for a total of \$635.00. Expenses – Nov. raffle plants - \$55.86, Jan, \$64.95 Lenora Fuentes plants \$450.00 for total of \$635.00, ending balance \$4765.74.

Ann asked about Budget being on a calendar year, membership agreed.

New Business – Discussion let by Kathleen regarding raffle plants – if you bring a plant you can exchange for a plant – make sure it's at least 4 inches. Guests will also have a chance to pick a plant.

Rosa, Malcolm and Ann will revive our Facebook and see what needs to be done to get it going again. Good way to being in new membership.

Discussed Ways & Means and ways to make money.

Discussion on possible upcoming programs – Ann – Dish Garden, soil & amendments.

Meeting Notes, *continued*

The Southwest Region SWR meeting will be in Austin on May 2nd- 4th, 2024. The theme will be “Back to our Roots” Cheryl told us about the first district meeting was with Mae Blanton in her garage and everyone just brought a potluck, hence the theme name.

The National convention will be at the end of August or 1st of Sept, possibly in the LA area.

Mel announced she needed to resign as Hostess Chair and asked for replacement. It was decided that rather than replacing the chair at this time, we'll just let each volunteer be responsible for bringing everything they need. Tom brings the table covers and water currently.

Rosa is working on the yearbook for the group.

Cheryl made a motion to adjourn, Gloria 2nd- and meeting was adjourned .

Gloria Hunter – Secretary



Above: Jennifer Francois sends this photo the Door Prize from February's meeting.

Begonia Bulletin Board

IN SEARCH OF:

Betty Calhoun is looking for a Cleopatra Episcia. Janet is in search of *Begonia* 'Peridot'. Rosa is still looking for *B. U177*.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Here is a list of the rest of the 2024 Meeting Dates:

APRIL 7th

(no May meeting)

JUNE 2nd

JULY 7th

AUGUST 4th

SEPTEMBER 8th

OCTOBER 6th

NOVEMBER 3rd

DECEMBER 1st

Editor's Corner

I created the calendar for you to keep handy. Hope the reminders keep Astros branch on your mind throughout the month.



















PLEASE send me photos of your begonias—big ones, little ones, indoor ones, outdoor ones, contained ones, blooming ones, ones that made you cry. These will help document our members' collections.

Consider donating a begonia or other item to our raffle and door prizes.

Promote our chapter by encouraging your plant-friendly friends to attend meetings or simply print out our flyer and add it to your church or clubhouse bulletin board. We need more members to flourish!

Rosa Brennan,
Editor, *The Chatter*

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2
ASTROS General meeting 2:00pm (Board meeting 12:30) 3	4	5	6	7	8	9 
10  DAYLIGHT SAVINGS STARTS	11	12	13  	14  	15	16
ST. PATRICK'S DAY 17  	18  	19  	20	21	22	23
24 Send your Chatter contributions to Rosa by this day.	25	26	27 	28 	29 	30
EASTER SUNDAY 31 						

ASTROS BEGONIA SOCIETY

Snap a picture

Send Rosa photos of your begonias in bloom!

Reminder What begonias are you in search of? Let us know at the next meeting!

Journal

Don't forget to jot down the date you sow your seeds and other important dates on your begonia calendar or notebook.

Give

Give a begonia friend a call, especially those who you haven't heard from in a while.



= good planting day



= good pruning day



BEGUILED BY BEGONIAS?

*The Houston Astros Branch
of the
American Begonia Society
welcomes new members.*

**COME AND JOIN US ON THE
FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH*
1:00 P.M.**

**PLANTS FOR ALL SEASONS
21328 STATE HWY 249
HOUSTON, TEXAS**

*We're a fun group who loves learning about
and sharing begonias. There are always door
prizes and drawings and the chances of you
going home with a beautiful, healthy begonia
are really good!*

BegoniaHouston@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/BegoniaHouston

*email BegoniaHouston@gmail.com for confirmation, as dates may be affected by holidays