

The Begonia CHATTER

*Newsletter of the Astro Branch
of the American Begonia Society*



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| Astro Branch American Begonia Society 13410 Balcrest Drive Houston, Texas 77070 | Next Meeting: DATE: August 4, 2024 TIME: 2:00 PM Official Meeting starts (12:30 Board meeting) PLACE: Plants for All Seasons, 21328 State Hwy 249 PROGRAM: <i>Dish Gardens with Ann Stiefel.</i> |
| August 1, 2024 Issue | www.begoniahouston.org |

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| President: Kathleen Murphy | Vice President: Jennifer Francois | Treasurer: Ann Stiefel | Secretary: Gloria Hunter |
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PROGRAM: Ann Stiefel will present a program on Dish Gardens. Cheryl Lenert will demonstrate a technique to efficiently convert bowls into contained atmospheres and will have supplies available for sale.

Hospitality Hosts: Rosa Brennan and Cheryl Lenert.



Begonia 'Manaus' is a cultivar created by crossing *B. thelmae* and *B. solimutata*. It was introduced by Patrick Worley in 1986. Photo by Peter Lloyd.

President's Message

Hi Begonia Lovers,

It has been far too long since we've been together!!!

I hope and pray everyone survived the ravages of Beryl, she was awful destructive in my area. No power, no internet and worst of all no July Begonia meeting. I tried to reschedule the July 7th meeting for the following Sunday and Plants For All Seasons still had no power. So we move forward here and excited to get together this Sunday.

On the program detail Ann Stiefel will be presenting a much anticipated presentation on Dish Gardens with Begonias and companion Plants. Thanks Ann for your perseverance!

I look forward to seeing you all Sunday! Plan on a Board meeting at 12:30. -Kathleen Murphy

[Editor's Note: The minutes on page 2 are the same ones published in the June 30th Chatter, but pages 3 through 5 are all new content.-Rosa Brennan]

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| Chairs: | Membership Ann Steifel | Seed Fund Janet Carpenter | Webmaster & Nat'l Rep. Malcolm McCorquodale | Newsletter Rosa Brennan, Editor |
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Meeting Notes—June 2, 2024

Members present – Gloria Hunter, Gail Warren, Janet Carpenter, Jennifer Francois, Ann Stiefel, Dehlia Mullins, Kathleen Murphy, Malcolm McCorquodale, Tom Keepin, Mike and Irene Bragg, Mel Babb, Midge Gorman, Tony and Donna Robert, and Cynthia Moody.

President Kathleen Murphy called our meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and welcomed everyone and thanked hospitality hosts Ann Stiefel for refreshments and Tom Keepin for drinks. She introduced new member Cynthia Moody.

Kathleen said that Irene Bragg would be the new Hospitality person.

Gloria read the April minutes, they were approved and stand as read.

Treasurer's report for April & May– Beginning balance - \$4,699.33. Ending balance \$4,447.94

Ann discussed raffle plants and made suggestion that we buy only 1 plant and to ask members to bring one plant to contribute for other categories.

Programs -Ann S. will present a program on Dish Gardens.

Old Business: Brenda Story from Navasota club is asking for a program on Begonia varieties on April 2, 2025. Gloria and Gayle offered to follow up on the request.

New Business – Attendees to SW Region Get Together were Janet, Rosa, Malcolm, Gail, Cheryl, Sue, and Kathleen. Kathleen and Cheryl met with Glenn Dickerson, the curator of the Fort Worth Botanical Garden who offered cuttings on a quarterly basis for us to propagate. Details coming.

Plant Challenge – everyone received a free 'Don Miller' begonia that they will take care of for 6 months and return during December meeting and describe details of caring for their plant. These begonias were brought back by Kathleen from the Get-Together.

It is our turn to have a convention in Houston, so we will be looking for plant growers, asking for thoughts, ideas, suggestions, and to form committees.

Rosa won the Mae Blanton Service award for her work on both publications, *The Begonia Chatter* and the *Begonia Leaflet* plus putting together the leaflet for convention. Malcolm also won several ribbons for his begonias and brought them for us to see. He also brought some 'Benigo' begonias that he sold, and funds were donated to the club.

Kathleen also asked us to start saving pots and flats for propagating. Gloria commented she could get pots.

Kathleen also showed off her "Bobbie Price" begonia. Bobbie Price died recently, and Kathleen said she was responsible for the Fort Worth Botanical Garden having begonias, and was a wonderful ambassador.

Fort Worth Botanical Garden needs some 'Judy Cook' begonias. Jennifer has some and will send / mail them to FWBG.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05.

—Gloria Hunter, secretary

PLANTING GUIDE—JULY 2024

—Tom Keepin



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| Cancer | July 1st & 2nd |
| Scorpio | 5th & 6th |
| Capricorn | 15th & 16th |
| Pisces | 20th & 21st |
| Taurus | 24th, & 25th |
| Cancer | 28th & 29th |



Weather forecast:

Temperatures slightly above normal and precipitation near normal..

Temperatures should average from 79 degrees in the North to 85 degrees in the South.

Coollest August Temperatures

1st, 2nd, 9th, 10th 16th 17th, 25th and 26th

Warmest August Temperatures

4th thru 7th, 12th thru 14th, 19th thru 23rd, 30th and 31st

The highest chance for a hurricane is about August 10th, 22nd, and 29th thru 31st.

Isolated thunderstorms at any time especially along the Gulf.

Highest chance for a hurricane will be: August 10th, 22nd, and 29th thru 31st.

BEST PROPAGATION DATES: August 5th, 13th, 14th, 15th

The best days to prop are during Aries, Leo, or Sagittarius signs when the moon is in a waxing phase. —Ed.

IN SEARCH OF...

Fort Worth Botanical Garden is in need of *B.* 'Judy Cook' and *B.* 'Lenore Olivier.'





Cynthia Moody and her raffle prize.



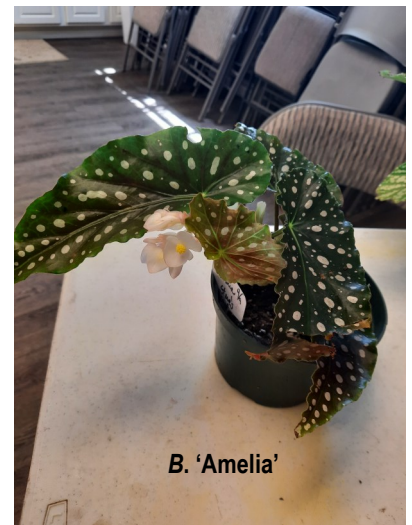
Cynthia Moody chatting with Tony and Donna Robert.



Ann Stiefel and the B. 'Amelia' she won, Dehlia Mullins and Malcolm McCorquodale, at the far end of the table.



Gail Warren and her raffle prize B. 'Lois Burks'.



B. 'Amelia'

All photos this page by Peter Lloyd.



Above: Midge Gorman with her raffle prize B. 'Manaus'

Photo right: Malcolm McCorquodale with his prize-winning B. 'Maurice Amey' (left) and his door prize B. 'Torch' (right)



Rosa's This & That

Next *Chatter* will be distributed August 31st. Please contribute!

- Send me your "In Search Of" begonias and plants.
- Be a Show Off! Send me photos of your begonias anytime. Email them to me or text them to me. My cell number is on the distribution email.
- Send me your observations or promote a vendor or product you like and why you like it.
- Please send them to me anytime! I rarely send out a reminder due to time constraints.

The next meeting after the August 4th meeting will be Sunday, September 1st.