

The Begonia CHATTER

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



FOUNDER: THOMAS KEEPIN

Astro Branch American Begonia Society 13410 Balcrest Drive Houston, Texas 77070	Next Meeting: DATE: September 8, 2024 TIME: 2:00 PM Official Meeting starts (Board meeting starts at 12:30) PLACE: Plants for All Seasons, 21328 State Hwy 249 PROGRAM: <i>Going To Pot: Potting Up Begonias</i> Snack hosts: Irene and Kathleen		
September 6, 2024 Issue	www.begoniahouston.org		
President: Kathleen Murphy	Vice President: Jennifer Francois	Treasurer: Ann Stiefel	Secretary: Gloria Hunter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi all,

Are you ready for all the exciting Begonia happenings this season?

Sunday , September 8, we are going to start off our partnership with the Fort Worth Botanical Garden. FWBG will be sending the ABS Astros fresh cuttings of rhizomatous Begonias! We will be Potting for Propagation and sharing with our community.

Soooo please bring some 3/4 inch pots and trays. If you are short some pots there will be extras available.

Potting medium, name tags, etc., will be provided by the Astros. Not to worry we have you covered.

Looking forward to a fun filled meeting doing what we love to do.

See you then!

—Kathleen

GOING TO POT: Potting Up Begonias from the FWBG

At the September 8th meeting we'll be chopping up specimens received from the Fort Worth Botanic Garden's begonia collection, and repotting them for our members to take home as fosters. These begonia babies will then be offered for sale at a future Plant Sale. This is a rare opportunity you won't want to miss!

Suggested supplies to bring:

- 3" - 4" pots
- Trays
- A watering can or a spray bottle
- An apron (it's gonna get messy!)

Chairs:	Membership Ann Steifel	Seed Fund Janet Carpenter	Webmaster & Nat'l Rep. Malcolm McCorquodale	Newsletter Rosa Brennan, Editor
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Begonia Meeting – August 4, 2024

Members present – Gloria Hunter, Gail Warren, Janet Carpenter, Jennifer Francois, Ann Stiefel, Dehlea Mullins, Kathleen Murphy, Malcolm McCorquodale, Tom Keepin, Mel Babb, Tony & Donna Robert, Sue Botts, Rosa Brennan, Cynthia Moody, Cheryl
President Kathleen Murphy called our meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and welcomed everyone and thanked hostesses, Cheryl & Rosa for refreshments.

Gloria read the minutes, stand as written.

Treasurer's report for May - July– Beginning balance - \$4,447.94. Income – raffle - \$80.00, donation from Malcolm donated plants, \$22.00, dues - \$5.00 for total of \$107.00. Expenses – raffle plants - \$54.60, program expenses \$0. Dues paid – 0, project plants - \$78.00 for total expenses of \$132.00. Ending balance \$4,422.84
Old Business -Ann S. will present her program on Dish Gardens this month since meeting was cancelled in July.

New Business – Our meeting in September will be on Sept. 8th, due to the Labor Day weekend. The program for the meeting will be “Going to Pot & Propagate” in anticipation of the upcoming Gathering in 2025.

Items that will be needed and brought are as follows:

Clean pots & trays – 4 inch – potting soil will be provided. Gloria commented that she had lots of trays and pots and will bring.

Kathleen brought up the discussion about having 1 voice for the Begonia Society.

ABS – American Begonia society Website – HoustonBegonia.org

Facebook – Malcolm & Ann are overseeing Instagram – Rosa overseeing

Federation – regional newsletter

We can also send emails to Lazy Gardener to post our meetings.

Discussion on raffle – Astros will buy one plant for raffle and asking each member to bring a plant or plant related item for other prizes.

Discussion on SW Region meeting next year in April or May 2025. Everyone will need to participate. Will form a committee to check on hotels, speakers etc. Doug has agreed to order plants (besides the ones we will be receiving and propagating). Steve Leaves will also be participating.

Cheryl commented that there would be no tours or auxiliary items. It should also be cheaper since is not a convention but a “Gathering”.

Mel brought in some of her magazines to donate to anyone interested, Tom brought in several pots, and decorative garden items.

Hostesses for August meeting will be Irene and Kathleen.

Meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m. —Gloria Hunter, secretary

PLANTING GUIDE—September 2024

—Tom Keepin



Sign	Day
Scorpio	Sept. 8th & 9th
Capricorn	12th, 13th & 14th
Pisces	17th & 18th
Taurus	21st, & 22nd
Cancer	25th & 26th



Weather forecast:

Near normal temperatures and slightly above normal precipitation.

Regional temperatures should average from 70 degrees to the north to 78 degrees towards the south.

Coollest September Temperatures

2nd through 4th, 10th, 17th through 20th, 23rd through 25th, and the 30th.

Warmest September Temperatures

6th through 9th, 12th through 16th, 22nd through 27th through 29th

A good chance for widely scattered showers and thunderstorms, a few may be heavy, about September 2nd, 3rd, 10th, 17th through 19th 22nd through 26th, 29th & 30th.

Highest chance for a hurricane will be: The greatest hurricane potential will be about September 12th thru 14th and 16th thru 18th.

BEST PROPAGATION DATES: September 10th

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



“Here’s a picture of *Begonia heracleifolia*.

It puts up slender stalks with tiny pink flowers on top in the spring. It dies down in the winter whether indoors or out. Mine is in a pot but Tom has his out in the garden. I keep mine in filtered sun.”

-Mel Babb

Planting a Dish Garden

By Gloria Hunter

Ann did a wonderful program on planting a dish garden. Items needed – shallow dish or container (Goodwill is a good resource), charcoal, at least 3 plants – a landscape plant (tree), creepy crawler such as an ivy, color, (think filler, thriller and spiller), potting mix, sheet moss, rocks, pebbles, decorative pine & other items



Ann with the finished Dish Garden. Photos by Peter Lloyd.



Janet Carpenter was the lucky winner!

First put down a thin layer of charcoal. Potting mix that has some added perlite and fertilizer. Set plants in dish beginning with landscape plant or tree, make sure plants have been watered thoroughly maybe with a fertilizer such as Super Thrive. Ann said she likes to soak sheet moss for sometimes up to 8 hours or overnight. She plants all around the dish, adding additional soil as she plants. She then covers the soil with sheet moss. Sometimes she also dyes the sheet moss with green food coloring. She may add rocks, pieces of bark, maybe a small house, animal, butterfly, whatever appeals to you.

What is the difference between a fairy garden and container garden, just the decorative items you add.

After completion it was used as a raffle item. It was beautiful.



All photos this page by Peter Lloyd.

Rosa's This & That

- 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, October 6th.

PLEASE REMEMBER, EVERY WEEK:

Wear your name tag.

Bring a donation for the raffle!