

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: October 6, 2024

TIME: 2:00 PM Official Meeting starts
(Board meeting starts at 12:30)

PLACE: Plants for All Seasons,
21328 State Hwy 249

PROGRAM: *Going To Pot: Potting Up
Begonias—Again!*

Snack hosts: Tony & Donna Robert and
Dehlia Mullins

President:

Kathleen Murphy

Vice President:

Jennifer Francois

Treasurer:

Ann Stiefel

Secretary:

Gloria Hunter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

At least the nights are cooling down some and making it seem a little Fallish!

Well, a lot has happened since our last Rhizomatous Propagation planned workshop (without rhizomatous cuttings). The Begonia cuttings from the Fort Worth Botanic Garden did finally make an appearance at my house the Wednesday afternoon after our Sunday meeting. A quick assessment of the plants was that they didn't look too bedraggled after a week baking in the back of a USPS truck. Soooo, the cuttings were quickly listed, divided and dispatched to a few growers nearest to me. We did lose just a couple of cuttings, but I was generally encouraged that we would find success with what we planted.

Now on to even better news, FWBG has again offered to send some rhizomatous and cane cuttings for our October program/ workshop! We plan to have the materials on hand to propagate these soon to be beautiful plants. **Please bring containers if available.**

Thank you to Rosa Brennan who did the presentation on propagating rhizomatous plants according to the FWBG guidelines last month, so we are well prepared for the workshop. And thank you also to Glenn Dickerson (curator at FWBG) for being so kind to send us cuttings from the FWBG, we are grateful and recognize our combined commitment to propagating Begonias to proliferate their presence in our small part of this planet.

See you Sunday, —Kathleen

GOING TO POT: Potting Up Begonias from the FWBG, Part II

We'll be chopping up rhizomatous and cane begonia cuttings 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.

Chairs:

Membership
Ann Steifel

Seed Fund

Janet Carpenter

Webmaster & Nat'l Rep.

Malcolm McCorquodale

Newsletter

Rosa Brennan, Editor

Begonia Meeting – September 8, 2024

Members present – Gloria Hunter, Gail Warren, Janet Carpenter, Jennifer Francois, Ann Stiefel, Dehlia Mullins, Kathleen Murphy, Malcolm McCorquodale, Tom Keepin, Tony & Donna Robert, Sue Botts (momentarily), Rosa Brennan, Cynthia Moody, Cheryl Lenert, Irene & Mike Bragg, and new member Leonardo Ramos.

President Kathleen Murphy called our meeting to order at 2:11 p.m. and welcomed everyone and thanked hostesses, Irene & herself (Kathleen) for refreshments.

Gloria read the minutes, stand as written.

Treasurer's report for August– Beginning balance - \$. Income – raffle - \$, Expenses – raffle plants - \$, program expenses total expenses of \$. Ending balance \$

Plants from Ft Worth were to be here for propagating but were lost in transit somewhere in Houston. Instead, Tom brought cuttings.

Rosa will do program / demo on “propagating Rhizome & leaf cuttings” or better known as Sex in the Garden. Next month we will do “cane” cuttings.

Janet commented on the seed fund and on the report she sent to National. A lot of seeds sold this past year. She plans to do a program on preparing seeds to mail out. Ft Worth also sends seeds to us as well as National. Postage is included in seed requests, both domestic and international. You must be an ABS member to order seeds.

Gloria asked if anyone had heard from Midge or Brenda. Two cards were passed around for members to sign and mail to them.

New Business – Cheryl discussed the Gathering for next year. There will be a Flower Show and Plant sale, but no formal tours. She is looking for coupons from local vendors for gift bags. Will also need members for different positions to help with the Plant Sale. The Southwest Region will also help. She plans to bring job listing to the next meeting.

Right now, looking at a date in May for the Gathering. We will also need to put together a schedule.

Rosa said maybe we need to present the program “Grooming for the Show” again.

Ann said we would bring back the name tag prize, since we are doing so well with donations.

Old Business - 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.

It should be cheaper since is not a convention but a “Gathering”.

—Gloria Hunter, secretary

PLANTING GUIDE—OCTOBER 2024

—Tom Keepin



Sign	Day
Scorpio	Oct. 5th & 6th
Capricorn	10th & 11th
Pisces	14th & 15th
Taurus	18th & 19th
Cancer	22nd, 23rd, & 24th



Weather forecast:

Near normal temperatures and precipitation near normal.

Regional temperatures should average from 62 degrees to the north to 68 degrees towards the south.

Cooler October Temperatures

1st, 3rd, 11th, 14th, 22nd thru 25th, 30th and 31st.

Warmest October Temperatures

5th thru 9th, 16th thru 20th, 27th & 28th

The best chance for showers and thunderstorms most numerous over the North about October 1st, 2nd, 13th, 21st thru 24th and 29th thru 31st.

Isolated showers and thunderstorms from time to time, especially over the Gulf.

BEST PROPAGATION DATES: October 7th, 8th, 16th, & 17th

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



I hope your cuttings did better than mine! At left is one of the propagations I demonstrated at the last meeting. As you can see, the leaves completely melted. I think the media was over-saturated, especially for the tender leaves of this specimen (name being withheld pending notification to next-of-kin). Luckily, the tougher leaves of *Begonia U400* (above) are doing well. There must be some roots taking hold because I gave one a little tug and it stayed put! —Ed.



Pictured clockwise: Your editor presenting the Fort Worth Botanic Garden method of propagation; Gloria Hunter with her raffle prize; Ann Stiefel, Gail Warren, and Janet Carpenter (seated); Mike Bragg with his raffle prize; our group attentively listening to Kathleen Murphy. All photos this page and next by Peter Lloyd and Tom Keepin.





Pictured top row: Janet Carpenter chatting with our newest member Leonardo Ramos; Tom Keepin seated with the cuttings he brought for the group to propagate. Bottom row: Tony Robert and Jennifer Francois, with their beautiful begonia prizes.

Please remember to:

- 1. Wear your name tag, and*
- 2. Bring something for the raffle table!*