

# BEGONIA CHATTER



<p><b>Astro Branch</b>  <b>American Begonia Society</b>  <i>4513 Randwick Drive</i>  <i>Houston, Texas 77092-8343</i>  <i>(713) 686-8539</i></p>	<p><i>Next Meeting:</i>  <b>DATE:</b> March 1, 2015  <b>TIME:</b> 2:00 PM  <b>PLACE:</b> West Gray Multi-Service Center  <b>PROGRAM:</b> ART IN THE GARDEN</p>
<p><b>MARCH 2015 ISSUE</b></p>	<p><a href="http://www.begoniahouston.org">www.begoniahouston.org</a></p>

## ART IN THE GARDEN

The March 1, 2015 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society will be held at the West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray Street. The doors will open at 1:00 P.M. President Janet Carpenter will preside over this meeting. There will be a short business meeting to keep us all up to date on what is going on with the Astros, Southwest Region and National.

Our Refreshment Hostesses for this meeting will be **Midge Gorman, Elaine Riquelmy** and **Janet Carpenter**.

Our Program this month will be in two parts.

**Part One:** Tom Keepin recently notified everyone that the Show Rules and Show Schedule were posted on the Astro Website. If you haven't looked at them please take time to do so, as we will be discussing them. Tom will be happy to answer any questions you may have and discuss areas you will have the best chance of winning a Blue ribbon

**Part Two:** Our guest speaker will be Eddie Ray Andrews and she will give us a presentation on **Art In The Garden**. Eddie Raye is Owner of

Andrews Garden in Waller and Co-Owner of "Garden Creations". Eddie Raye has been in the gardening world seriously since 1988 beginning with her love for daylilies. It was at the American Hemerocallis Society National that was held in Houston in 1988 that started this journey. She currently has over 350 different cultivars of daylilies, hydrangeas, antique and knock-out roses, vines, daffodils, bearded iris, amaryllis bulbs and a variety of other plants in her garden in Waller. She and her husband have been to many gardens over the years including a trip to visit gardens of England where she was able to tour Prince Charles' private garden. The images you will see today are some that she has taken over the years of "art" in the garden whether it be a garden gate, statue, wind chimes or just plain junk. She is known to hit the fields of Warrenton in the spring and the fall to find just such junk. She has now entered a new venture with her partner Martha Overby in Garden Crafters where they add just a little personality into your garden with "bling".

We will have our usual drawings. Please remember to bring your name tag. If you can't locate it contact Tom prior to the meeting.

**See You There!**

## MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 1, 2015 MEETING

The February 1, 2015 meeting of Astro Branch of The American Begonia Society was held at the West Gray Multi-Service Center located at 1475 West Gray Street in Activity Room 1.

The meeting was called to order by President, Janet Carpenter, at 2:10 P.M. Janet thanked our refreshment host/hostesses who were **Donna McGraw, Donna Williams** and **Johnny Williams**.

The Minutes from the January 4th meeting were published in the Begonia Chatter and were approved with no changes.

Treasurer Tom Keepin reported that our checking account is still quite healthy.

Cheryl Lenert then presented a beautiful plaque to Susan Daugherty for her excellent service to the club as President for the last two years.

Ruby Lewellyn, Sunshine Chair, asked if there were any members who needed cards and none were reported.

Begonia of the Month and Companion plants. Tom told us that he had received cuttings of B. 'Looking Glass' and B. 'Bill Byron' from J.J.L. Brenda Andrews brought a huge B. 'Dangling Pearls' plant that was showing pink flowers. Tom said that it must have been mislabeled because B. 'Dangling Pearls' only produces white flowers. He said that this plant must be B. 'Russian Sabers'. Both plants are from the same hybridizer. The lesson for all of us is to be careful because mislabeling does occur sometimes with vendors.

Brenda reported that she had heard from Orville and Mildred Love and Shirll and Allan Manes and all are doing well.

Janet then turned the meeting over to Vice President Johnny Williams, who led the program for this meeting which was "Preparing our Plants for Show". We are hosting the 2015 Southwest Region Get-together on May 21 – 23 at the Sheraton Brookhollow. Cheryl Lenert said she wants every member to exhibit something at the show. It doesn't have to be a plant. It can be artwork, photographs, etc. but it does have to be begonia related. She also will need auction items and things for the "goody bags".

Johnny then held up a number of plants that had been brought in by members to be critiqued by Tom and Cheryl as to whether they could be made show worthy in the time we have left. This was very interesting and informative. They stated that damaged leaves should be removed now and that plants and pots must be very clean before entry. It will be extremely important to read the schedules carefully for details and rules. For example, decorative pots and white pots cannot be entered. Terrariums cannot have plastic wrap on top but need a clear glass or plexiglass type top.

The meeting was then adjourned for good and drawings for the Name Tag, Door Prize and Raffle Plants.

Winners were as follows:

### Door Prize

Tulips in a candy-filled vase were won by Glenda Perry.

A red Anthurium Andraeanum was won by Molly Reed

### Raffle

B. 'Cowardly Lion' was won by Midge Gorman

B. 'Orpha C. Fox' was won by Jane Anderson

### Name Tag

B. 'Kristy' was won by Geanie Riggs

B. 'Hot Tamale' was won by Jane Anderson

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Williams, Secretary



## PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

### March

1 <sup>st</sup>	Cancer
10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup>	Scorpio
15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup>	Capricorn
19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup>	Pisces
23 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>	Taurus
27 <sup>th</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	Cancer

### April

6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	Scorpio
11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	Capricorn
15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup>	Pisces
19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup>	Taurus
23 <sup>rd</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	Cancer

- Planting and Transplanting are best done in Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces with Cancer being the best.
- Best Pruning for quick growth is first Taurus and then Capricorn.

---

## WEATHER FORECAST FOR MARCH 2015

According to the United States Weather Service Houston and surrounding area fall in what they predict our weather will be for the Month of March 2015.

Our temperatures will be near normal and our precipitation will be slightly above normal. Our temperatures should average from 47 degrees in the North to 58 degrees in the South. Our coolest temperatures for March will be March 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> thru 15<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> thru 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> thru 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Our warmest temperatures for March will be March 8<sup>th</sup> thru 11<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. The best chance for scattered showers and thunderstorms will be around March 2<sup>nd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> thru 13<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> thru 22<sup>nd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> thru 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>. A significant severe weather outbreak is possible around March 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> with locally heavy precipitation.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Birthday wishes go out to or member born in this month of February.

Elaine Riquelmy March 2<sup>nd</sup>

“Today is a day to enjoy being with friends. To look back on where you’ve been and to look forward to the special times the future holds for you.”

**Happy Birthday!**

---



## Spring Branch African Violet club Show and Sale

The Spring Branch African Violet Club will be having their Show and Sale at Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, located at 2020 Herman Drive. The Dates and Times are as follows:

### **Saturday, March 7, 2015**

Show: 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Sale: 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

### **Sunday, March 8, 2015**

Show & Sale: 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Please make plans to go by and see them, their show is always beautiful and they will have beautiful plants for sale also.

There is no problem parking.

## A COWARD STANDS OUT IN THE CROWD

by Greg Sytch

Every so often, a begonia hybrid comes along that captures the total beauty that I look for. It is, of course, very beautiful, but there is that certain something that stands out in a crowd of beautiful begonias, calling my name. Begonia 'Cowardly Lion' is one of those hybrids.

Created by begonia Kit Jeans Mounger of Tennessee, 'Cowardly Lion' is a large-leaved rhizomatous type with distinctive, spiraled leaves of burn copper etched with green. But the description must stop there, for 'Cowardly Lion' changes color according to the amount of light it receives and the time of year. It is this change that both intrigues and fascinates me, along with eternal beauty.

During the summer's long, hot days, 'Cowardly Lion' brings out the burnt tones of coppers and browns among the foliage. Leaves twist and turn wherever allowed, losing most of the green, but always appearing as if ready for a show. The leaves can get huge, if allowed, for specimens of mine have borne twelve-inch monsters, still curling as if young. The cooler, shorter days of winter will bring out the greens – lime, citrus, pale, dark olive, to name a few-but those copper tones are always present

Despite its intense beauty, culture is easy. Being rhizomatous, 'Cowardly Lion' prefers its roots on the dry side. Wet feet will often spell doom. Keep it well potted for its vigorous roots will outgrow any pot quickly. This begonia is ravenously hungry – well, it is a lion, isn't it? I have always grown it on a constant feed program using Once 13-13-13, and summer I repeat the feedings, since the heat often uses up this food faster. Clay pots have always worked best for me with 'Cowardly Lion', probably because the clay allows the roots to "breathe" better. However, it may be a matter of choice.

Growing happily in filtered sunlight, the tall spikes of white flowers occur in late winter and spring and have a slight citrus odor in my greenhouses. I have used it as a seed parent often, with maximum success, and its progeny have proven just as beautiful and diverse.

Overall, the total package of what makes this 'Bokit' x *carrierae* cross a spectacular hybrid should be the same grounds used for future hybrids; easy, beautiful, and riveting. A well-grown B. 'Cowardly Lion' is truly a sight to behold.

*(This article was taken from the Begonian Volume 63 May-June 1996 page 95)*

Editor's Note:

B. 'Cowardly Lion' is a very popular rhizomatous here in the Houston area. It is very easy for us to grow and really does respond well to very frequent feeding. It is also very easy to propagate. In every show that I have judged and B. 'Cowardly Lion' was entered it walked away with its Class and often Division. B. 'Cowardly Lion' is very highly recommended for every collection of begonias in the Houston area.

