

BEGONIA CHATTER



<p>Astro Branch American Begonia Society <i>4513 Randwick Drive</i> <i>Houston, Texas 77092-8343</i> <i>(713) 686-8539</i></p>	<p><i>Next Meeting:</i> DATE: November 6, 2016 TIME: 2:00 PM PLACE: West Gray Multi-Service Center PROGRAM: SHOWING & SEEDS</p>
<p>NOVEMBER 2016 ISSUE</p>	<p>www.begoniahouston.org</p>

GARDEN CLUB SHOWING & SEED FOR SEED FUND

The November 6, 2016 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society will be held at the West Grey Multi-Service-Center, located at 1475 West Gray Street. We will meet in Activity /Room 1. The doors will open a 1:00 P.M. We need to set up the room, so we need volunteers to come early (12:15 – 12:30) to help set the room so the meeting can begin on time. All help will be greatly appreciated.

Our Refreshment Hostesses will be **Debbie Peterson, Midge Gorman** and **Eddie Litchfield**. President Janet Carpenter will preside over this meeting. There will be a short business meeting to catch everyone up on what is going on with the National, Southwest Region and Astros.

Our Program this month will be **Garden Club Showing and Seed For The Seed Fund**. Cheryl Lenert will be presenting this program. All Astros are members are members of the Houston Federated Garden Clubs.

as members you are encouraged to participate in their activities. They have lovey programs and fun workshops. On November 11th they are staging their Standard Flower Show. We would like to see Astro's involved in entering the horticulture division.

Cheryl Lenert will show us what we need to do to enter begonias and other horticulture in this type of Nationally sanctioned flower show.

Part two of our program will be to discuss the ABS Seed Fund. This is a good time of year to be collection seeds from our begonias. If you have seeds, please put them into a baggie and LABEL them. We will send them to the seed fund. If the seeds are not completely dry, please use a paper bag or an envelope so they won't mildew.

See You There!

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2, 2016 MEETING OF THE ASTRO BRANCH

The October 2, 2016 meeting of the 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 2.

President Janet Carpenter called the meeting to order a 2:00 P.M. She thanked the refreshment hostesses who were Cheryl Lenert, Pat Hiscock and Janet Carpenter. Guests for this meeting were Dorothea Gomez and Kay Haas. The minutes from the September 4, 2016 meeting were printed in the Begonia Chatter and there were no corrections or additions.

Treasurer Tom Keepin reported that our checking account is still healthy and also that Antoon Hoefnagels from the Netherlands donated \$300.00 to the Astro Branch.

Ruby Lewelln, our Sunshine Chair, was not at the meeting because her husband Riley injured his knee cap. Brenda Andrews said she had spoken the Orville and Mildred Love. Orville has had cancer and during the surgery to remove it, a nerve was cut in his neck. Brenda also spoke with Shirll and Allen Manes. Allen is having trouble and sometimes wanders off.

Donna Robert passed around Begonia polilloencis. Donna said it desires temperatures from 45 to 95 degrees, grows 6 to 8 inches tall, has red stems and likes shade to partial shade. It blooms light pink flowers.

Janet Carpenter introduced Cheryl Lenert who began the program "Preparing Our Plants for Winter". This was a group discussion with Cheryl asking each person present how they prepare their plants and how they take care of them over the winter. There were many interesting methods. Some say they water carefully throughout the winter only when the pot is light and be careful not to overwater. Some cut back on fertilizing while others keep their same schedule of feeding. Someone mentioned they use a water meter to determine how dry or moist their plant is before watering. If it is going to be really cold, some cover their plants outside with frost cloth, sheets, blanket, etc.

Malcolm McCorquodale said he throws leaves over his begonias and they stay loose and airy and provide an insulation layer. He waters and fertilizes less in winter. Others use pine straw as a mulch.

Midge Gorman has her patio wrapped in plastic for winter and uses small heaters when necessary. As the seasons and temperatures change, she cuts holes in the plastic to let in more air movement and increases the size of the holes as it gets warmer. Tom Keepin said it's important to inspect your plants carefully before bringing them inside or into a greenhouse. Tom has misters in his greenhouses to prevent spider mites and the air from becoming too dry. He waters weakly, weekly and the greenhouses are kept around 70 degrees.

Cheryl Lenert announced that the National Convention next year would be in San Antonio and urged everyone to attend. She said you meet people and the programs are wonderful. You learn a lot and also get

to tour some members' gardens. At the National Convention in Southern California in the Huntington Library there was a begonia from 1906. She discussed some of the talks and tours she attended at this year's convention. Mel Babb told everyone she had redone her backyard and is having an Open House Saturday, October 15th and Tuesday, October 18th. She invited everyone to come and see her new backyard.

The Hospitality Hostesses for next month will be **Debbie Peterson, Midge Gorman and Eddie Litchfield.**

There were 4 prize drawings for beautiful begonia hanging baskets. There were also a number of 4 inch begonias for sale for \$3.00 apiece, limit one per person.

Janet Carpenter thanked all for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Eddie Litchfield, in stand in for
Donna Williams, Secretary

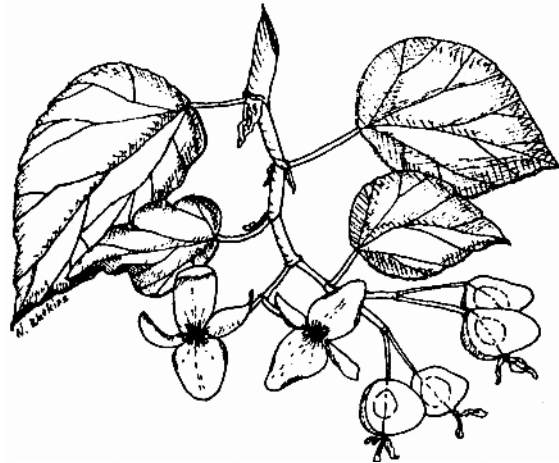
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Birthday wishes go out to all our members born in this month of November.

Fred Bones	November 13 th
Mike Bragg	November 4 th
Gail Warren	November 10 th
Donna Williams	November 30 th

“Life is a story you write as you go. Your story is uniquely you-interesting and inspiring and as it continues unfolding, may it always be deeply rewarding”

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

November

1 st	Scorpio
4 th , 5 th & 6 th	Capricorn
9 th & 10 th	Pisces
13 th & 14 th	Taurus
17 th & 18 th	Cancer
27 th & 28 th	Scorpio

December

2 nd & 3 rd	Capricorn
6 th , 7 th & 8 th	Pisces
11 th & 12 th	Taurus
15 th & 16 th	Cancer
24 th & 25 th	Scorpio
29 th & 30 th	Capricorn

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.



A Season of Transition

By Greg Sytch

The muggy, warm days of summer will be coming to an end, and as the days shorten the nights cool. Fog may begin forming in the longer hours of darkness, and begonias will also start slowing down their growth in areas where nights are cool enough. This is the time to prepare for indoor growing (if you grow indoors in winter)

First. Check for signs of any insects or diseases. Insects can easily be brought indoors to wreak havoc for the winter. Although begonias are generally not bothered by bugs, they can and will spread to other plants. Begin washing off plants with the hose. Use a fairly hard spray. Then give a spray of soapy water. Repeat the day or two prior plants coming in. Check the bottom of pots and inside the soil. You will be glad you did.

Diseases are generally not a major problem in the early fall, but to be sure, remove all debris as it falls, and any leaves that are not healthy. Once inside, they can punish you and spread to anything in their

path. Throwing baking soda in the spray helps to discourage diseases.

Fertilizing should still continue, but a little weaker. Use half strength, or even better place some in the same spray above and do it all at once. Spray the soil too, so it all soaks in

Any additional questions?

Please e-mail me gsytch@cs.com.

Q. I found some small caterpillars on my begonias and they were chewing the leaves in places. There was not a lot of damage but the critters were small and I have never seen them before. What should I do?

A. These tiny moth caterpillars can do quite a bit of damage, but once they grow up they are gone. There are two choices. Keep spraying with soapy water to discourage them OR continue checking under leaves for their eggs of large and destroy. The insecticide that would help is really not necessary as it is strong and expensive. The caterpillars will go elsewhere or fly away.

*(This article was taken from the **Begonian** Vol. 77 July/August 2010 Page 143)*

