

BEGONIA CHATTER



Astro Branch American Begonia Society <i>4513 Randwick Drive</i> <i>Houston, Texas 77092-8343</i> <i>(713) 686-8539</i>	Next Meeting: DATE: February 3, 2019 TIME: 2:00 PM PLACE: West Gray Multi-Service Center PROGRAM: Seed Planting
FEBRUARY 2019 ISSUE	www.begoniahouston.org

SEED PLANTING

The February 6, 2019 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society will be held at the West Gray Multi-Service Center in Activity Room 1. Our Host and Hostesses for this meeting will be **Johnny Williams, Donna Williams** and **Gloria Hunter**.

The doors will open at 12:30 P.M. for us to set up our meeting room. If you can help us with set up it would be greatly appreciated. Between 1 P.M. and 2 P.M. members can enjoy refreshments and socialize with members and friends we only see at meetings. President Janet Carpenter will preside over this meeting. Please remember to wear your name tag. If you are unable to locate your name tag please contact Tom as soon as possible before the day of the meeting so he can have a replacement for you at the meeting.

Our Program this month will be **Seed Planting**. The Astro Branch is now the official curator of the American Begonia Society Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. This month we will have an in depth study of begonia seeds and how to grow them. We will learn how to see if seeds are viable,

how to properly plant them and care for them as they germinate and grow. Our goal is to become expert in growing and preparing begonia seeds. With this knowledge we can better serve the customers of the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. Members need to bring a plastic container with a lid to practice planting seed.

We are looking forward to seeing you at this meeting. Our program will be interesting and educational with some fun thrown in.

See you there!



B. 'Paul-bee'

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6, 2019 MEETING

The January 6, 2019 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 presided over this meeting calling the meeting to order at 2:05 P.M. Janet thanked everyone for coming and also thanked Tony Robert, Donna Robert and Sue Botts for the wonderful array of refreshments they brought for the meeting. Minutes of the December meeting were published in the Begonia Chatter and approved as written. Treasurer Tom Keepin reported that our bank balance is healthy. Brenda Andrews heard from Mildred Love and found out that Orville had passed away. Mildred is doing fine and working in her small garden. Brenda also got a call from Shirll Manes. Shirll said she misses Alan. Shirll said she has a hard time walking and her eyesight has gotten worse so she can't work with her plants. Shirll misses us and plants. If you have some time please give Shirll a call...she loves talking about plants...her telephone number is 409-433-8503.

Sunshine Lady Ruby Lewellyn asked if any members need to be sent a card. Tom Keepin asked for help setting up the meeting room each month at 12:30 P.M. Brenda Andrews and Tony & Donna Robert helped with set up for this meeting.

Janice Shaw was our guest and was our only guest attending this meeting. Our Begonia of the Month was presented by Tom Keepin and he told us about B. 'Tom Ment'. The plant was used as our Door Prize.

Our Program was a "Cutting Swap". Members brought in named cuttings and also did research on the cuttings so they could tell us any information they could find, such as hybridizer, parents, cultural need etc. Members commented that they learned a lot from the other member's research and also doing research themselves.

After the program we had our drawings.

The results are:

Raffle:

- B. 'Brazilian Lady' – won by Donna Williams
- B. 'Catalina' - won by Sandra Rigsby

Name Tag:

- B. 'Hot Tamale – won by Sandra Rigsby
- B. 'Lalomie' – won by Gloria Hunter

Door Prize:

- B. 'Tom Ment' – won by Janice Shaw

Last but not least the drawings for the cuttings got underway. Members had taken notes so they knew what cuttings they wanted and also where they were located for quick retrieval. The cuttings went very quickly but orderly.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 P.M. by President Janet Carpenter.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Hunter

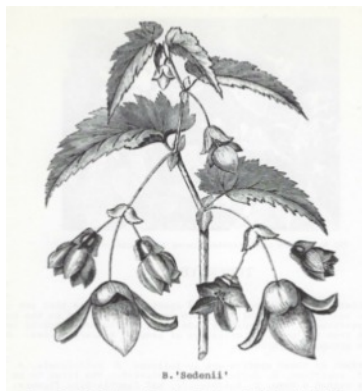
Gloria Hunter, Secretary

New Member

At this meeting we had Janice Shaw as a returning guest. Janice said she has enjoyed coming to our meetings and told us that she would like to join us. Janice paid her dues before going home.

Janice Shaw
8103 Springtime Lane
Houston, TX 77075
Telephone: 281-630-3436
Email: janices1948@gmail.com

Welcome Janice!



PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

February

1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd	Capricorn
6 th , 7 th & 8 th	Pisces
11 th , 12 th & 13 th	Taurus
16 th & 17 th	Cancer
24 th & 25 th	Scorpio

March

1 st & 2 nd	Capricorn
6 th & 7 th	Pisces
11 th & 12 th	Taurus
15 th & 16 th	Cancer
23 rd , 24 th & 25 th	Scorpio
28 th & 29 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.



(B. 'Duscharf' by Alice Clark)

WEATHER FORECAST FOR FEBRUARY 2019

According to the United States Weather Service, Houston and surrounding area fall in Region 7 of the National Weather Map. Here is what they predict our weather will be like for the month of February

Our temperatures will be slightly below normal and our precipitation will be slightly above normal. Our temperatures should average from 37 degrees in the North and 50 degrees in the South. Our coolest February temperatures will be February 1st & 2nd, 4th thru 6th, 11th thru 14th, 18th thru 20th and 28th. Our warmest February temperatures will be February 8th thru 10th, 16th & 17th and 22nd thru 26th. The best chance for widespread rain in the South and snow and rain in the North will be on or about February 1st, 3rd thru 5th, 10th thru 13th, 17th thru 19th and 27th & 28th. There are some severe storms expected near the Gulf accompanied by windy conditions.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Happy Birthday wishes to our members born during this month of February. We hope your special day is a truly special one.

Linda Kovac	February 10 th
Ann Stiefel	February 20 th
Jane Anderson	February 23 rd

“Take a few moments today to remember all the good things you’ve seen and done, ways you’ve grown, things you’ve learned. Celebrate your memories and your dreams.....everything that’s made you the wonderful person you are.”



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



photo by Tim Anderson

Begonia 'Ginny'

by Paul Tsamtsis

Begonia 'Ginny' is a shrub-like begonia classified as hairy-leaved, narrow-leaved, with pale pink flowers with red hairs. Its flowers are everblooming and profuse. It was hybridized in 1971 by Watchorn.

Its parents were *B. echinosepala* X *B. 'Margaritae.'* *B. echinosepala* is classified as bare-leaved, small-leaved with white fragrant flowers that bloom summer and winter. The male parent, *B. 'Margaritae'* is hairy-leaved, wide-leaved with pink flowers that bloom spring and summer.

One of the parents of *B. 'Margaritae'* was also *B. echinosepala*. So *B. 'Ginny'* demonstrates the hybridizing technique of back crossing onto one of the original parents to reinforce certain characteristics which in this case included the plant's blooming a lot. Interestingly though, the fragrance of *B. echinosepala* was lost.

B. 'Ginny' is a great plant for both container gardening and use as a landscape plant. It can take quite a bit more sun than many other begonias. That increases substantially the amount of flowers it produces.

The flowers themselves are quite interesting. When they are in their closed 'clamshell' stage, they are white with



noticeable red hairs covering the outsides of the petals. When they open, the insides are pure white. The male flowers open first and the overall effect makes the cluster look pink. This is added to because the ovaries of the female flowers are themselves pink, as are the stems of the flowers.

I have planted *B. 'Ginny'* in the ground in different parts of the yard. In one spot it was on a south-facing wall with overhead protection. In that spot, it withstood 17° during the big freeze and returned in the spring to bloom again. And once it does start blooming in mid-spring it does not stop until frost.

Culture is quite easy. It does well in a variety of mixes and light conditions, with it doing best in a loose, organic mix with strong light (and even a little bit of sun early in the day). Fertilize regularly during the growing season using more high-bloom fertilizer while blooming. And that can be year-round if grown in a container which is brought into the house to a sunny window for the winter.

Another positive feature of this plant is its relative freedom from all pests and diseases. That, coupled with its ease of growth and loads of flowers, makes this a plant that should have a permanent place in even the smallest of collections.

ASTRO'S JANUARY 2019 MONTHLY MEETING



Sue Botts with *B. masoniana*



Tom Keepin talking about the cuttings he brought in.



Mel Babb talking about her cuttings.



Donna Williams explaining *B. 'White Ice'*



Janet Carpenter talking about her cuttings.



Ruby Lewellyn talking about her B. 'Pink Dragonwing'



Janice Shaw with her door prize B. 'Tom Ment'



Gloria Hunter with her B. 'Lalomie' door prize



Donna Williams with her B. 'Brazilian Lady' raffle plant.



Sandra Rigsby with her B. 'Hot Tamale' door prize



Midge Gorman discussing the cutting she brought.



B. 'Brazilian Lady'
(aka B. 'Withalacoochee')



Janice Shaw choosing cuttings
after the program.



Kathleen Murphy surveys
what is left of the cuttings.



Brenda Andrews (l) and Sandra
Rigsby choosing cuttings.



Brenda Andrews discussing the
cuttings she brought.



Tony Robert (l) & Cheryl Lenert
choosing cuttings.



B. 'Catalina'



Tony Robert selecting cuttings after the program.



Gloria Hunter discussing cuttings that she brought to the program.



B. 'Carmel Browne'



B. quaduensis