

# 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> June 2, 2019  <b>TIME:</b> 2:00 PM  <b>PLACE:</b> Home of Malcolm McCorquodale  <b>PROGRAM:</b> Annual Spring Picnic</p>
<p>JUNE 2019 ISSUE</p>	<p><a href="http://www.begoniahouston.org">www.begoniahouston.org</a></p>

## ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC AND MONTHLY MEETING

The Annual Spring Picnic and Monthly Meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society will be held at the home of Malcolm McCorquodale located at 2905 Drexel Drive, Houston, Texas. The festivities will begin at 2:00 P.M. but as is the case at West Gray Multi-Service Center members can arrive at 1:00 P.M. with their food donation to the feast along with their wrapped Door Prize and favorite lawn chair. We do not have a main entrée to build our menu around this time. It was decided to have a Pot Luck menu. If you haven't already please contact Brenda Andrews to let her know if you are going to be able to join us and what you are planning to bring to add to the menu. Brenda can be contacted by telephone at: 979-233-5697 or via email at: [bmandrews@peoplepc.com](mailto:bmandrews@peoplepc.com). At the April 7, 2019 meeting it was decided that we would have members bring wrapped plant or plant related Door Prizes to the Annual Picnic along with their menu donation. We know that it goes without saying but please NO cuttings or candy.

There was no dollar amount stipulated by the members present. So if you would like to receive the Door Prize you are buying great. As is always the case participation in the Door Prize drawings is optional. Malcolm has no outdoor seating so members are strongly encouraged to bring their favorite lawn chair. If you don't wish to eat in your lap you are welcome to bring a personal table or card table.

Along with the Annual Spring Picnic we will have a very short business meeting.

We are looking forward to seeing you at this event as there wasn't a meeting in May.

**See you there!**





## WEATHER FORECAST FOR JUNE 2019

According to the United States Weather Service, Houston and the 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 June.

Our temperatures will be slightly above normal and our precipitation will be near normal. Our temperatures should range from 80 degrees in the North to 83 degrees in the South. Our coolest June temperatures will be June 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> thru 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. Our warmest June temperatures will be June 8<sup>th</sup> thru 10<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> thru 18<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>.

We can expect a few showers and thunderstorms in the region at about 4 to 5 day intervals. Thunderstorms will be most numerous along the Gulf. There will be spotty heavy rain fall.

## PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

### June

1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Taurus
5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	Cancer
14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	Scorpio
18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup>	Capricorn
24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	Pisces
28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	Taurus

### July

2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Cancer
11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	Scorpio
15 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup>	Capricorn
20 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Pisces
25 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	Taurus
30 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</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.

*(The pruning, planting and transplanting dates above are taken from the **Harris Farmer's Almanac** for 2019)*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

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

Doug Byrom	June 27 <sup>th</sup>
Donna Robert	June 7 <sup>th</sup>

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



*Happy Birthday !*

# Begonia boisiana

By Thomas Keepin, Astro Branch.



This is an easy to grow collectable begonia species with upright growth to 2 feet with small white flowers with a hint of pink along the edges. The blooms are less than 1 inch in size. It blooms in the late spring into the summer and is classified as a shrub-like begonia. *B. boisiana* has glossy green leaves on top while the underside has a noticeable burgundy colored venation and is Evergreen.



*B. boisiana* likes a soil ph that is slightly acid at 6.1 – 6.5. Propagation is by stem cuttings and division. Growing *B. boisiana* in a pot excellent drainage is required. *B. boisiana* has some unusual floral and vegetative characteristics that are not typical of most begonias. *B. boisiana* is native to the tropical rain forests of central and northern Vietnam.



Here in Houston we have been growing *B. boisiana* since about 2005 or 2006 when we received a cutting from a visiting friend. We have grown *B. boisiana* in pots and in the garden and it has thrived. We highly recommend it for every begonia collection.





photo by Julie Vanderwilt

## *Begonia carolineifolia* Regel

by Morris Mueller

*B. carolineifolia* was described by Edward Regel, a Swiss botanist, in 1852. Amazingly, even though it is an easy-to-grow plant, little has been written about it. It is placed in the Section *Gireodia* and is native to Southern Mexico and Central America.

The plant is an upright rhizomatous with palmately compound leaves (looks somewhat like a palm frond). It does not branch freely and becomes quite large when well-grown. It does well in the usual fast-draining, moisture retentive mix good for most begonias.

Flowers are pale pink and are produced in late winter and spring. *B. carolineifolia* is easily confused with *B. thiemei* 'Purpurea' as they both have a reddishness to their petioles. *B. thiemei* is a much greener plant. Both *B. thiemei* and *B. thiemei* 'Purpurea' are harder to

grow for me. *B. carolineifolia* is just a less demanding, sturdy plant. The 'Purpurea' variety used to be known as *B. macdougallii*.

*B. carolineifolia* has been used for several hybrids as both a pollen and seed parent. Leslie Woodriff used it as a seed parent (female) to create *B. 'Carol Mac'* by crossing it with *B. thiemei*. Michael Kartuz also used it as a seed parent with *B. ludicra* (rhizomatous) to create *B. 'Silver Star'* and with *B. wollnyi* (also a thick-stemmed) to create *B. 'Star Frost.'*

As a pollen parent it was crossed with *B. manicata* (rhizomatous) to create *B. 'Verschaffeltii'* by Regel himself in 1853. Woodriff used its pollen on *B. conchifolia* var. *rubrimacula* (rhizomatous) to create *B. 'Madame Butterfly'* and on *B. 'Red Planet'* to create *B. 'Nightmare.'* For me, those hybrids in which *B. carolineifolia* was the female parent are easier to grow.



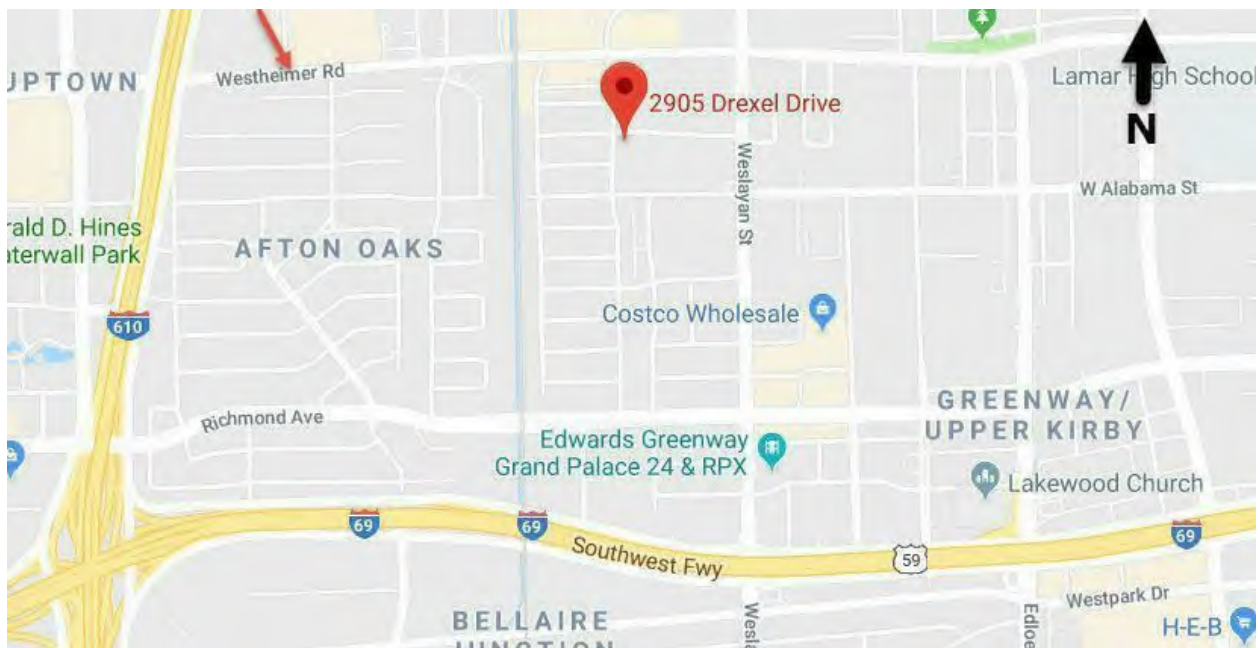
## Directions to Malcolm McCorquodale's home at 2905 Drexel

If coming from the North, use 610 and exit Westheimer. Go under the freeway, heading East towards downtown. Go over the railroad tracks and take a right at the light on Drexel Drive.

If coming from the South, use 610, exit Westheimer and turn right or East towards downtown. Go over the railroad tracks and take a right at the light on Drexel Drive.

If coming from the Southeast, use 59, exiting Wesleyan and turn right or North on Wesleyan. Take a left on West Alabama, then a right on to Drexel.

If you get lost my home number is 713-621-6217



# BEGONIAS WALTZING ACROSS TEXAS

*Southwest Region / ABS Get together*

May 1-5, 2019  
Austin, Texas



B. 'Emerald Lacewing'



(L. To R.) Tom Keepin, Don Miller  
& Sandy Justice discuss new introduction B 'Steve's Leaves Yellow Jacket'



Best New Introduction by a Commercial Grower: B. 'Steve's Leaves Yellow Jacket'



B. 'Maurice Amey'



B. nelumbifolia var. rubra



Best of Show - *B. bognerii*



*B.* 'Cowardly Lion'



*B. variegata*



*B.* 'Merlot'



*B.* 'Manaus'



*B.* 'Emerald of Siam'



B. 'Brad Thompson'



B. 'Cosmic Candy'



B. 'Plum Gorgeous'



B. 'Phantom'



B. melanobullata



B. 'Salsa'