

BEGONIA CHATTER



Astro Branch American Begonia Society <i>4513 Randwick Drive</i> <i>Houston, Texas 77092-8343</i> <i>(713) 686-8539 or 713-299-2661©</i>	Next Meeting: DATE: March 1, 2020 TIME: 2:00 PM PLACE: West Gray Multi-Service Center PROGRAM: Propagating by Brenda
MARCH 2020 ISSUE	www.begoniahouston.org

PROPAGATING BEGONIAS BY BRENDA ANDREWS

The March 1, 2020 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society will be held at the West Gray Multi-Service Center located at 1475 West Gray Street. President Midge Gorman will preside over this meeting. Our Refreshment Hostesses for this meeting will be **Janet Carpenter, Kathleen Murphy, and Donna Williams.**

The doors will open at 12:30 P.M. for us to set up for our meeting. Between 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. members can enjoy refreshments and socialize with members and friends we only see at meetings. Please remember to wear your Name Tag.

Our Program this month will be a presentation by member **Brenda Andrews** presents 'How I Propagate Begonias For The Astros'.

Member Brenda Andrews lives in Freeport, Texas in a modest home and does not have a greenhouse or lath-house. What Brenda has is a love for begonias, a front porch, and very large oak trees in her yard. Brenda grows very nice

begonias from cuttings taken off her plants and also cutting brought to her at meetings when members prune their plants. Instead of a greenhouse or lath-house, Brenda uses very large plastic storage boxes. Brenda will show and tells us what she does and how she makes it all work and grows wonderful plants for the Astro members to take home and enjoy.

We will have our usual drawings and our Refreshment Hostess will have tasty treats for you to enjoy.

See you there!



MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2, 2020 MEETING

The February 2, 2020 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society was held at West Gray Multi-Service Center located at 1475 West Gray Street. President Midge Gorman presided over this meeting and called the meeting to order at 2:10 P.M. She thanked all for attending and thanked our refreshment hostesses and host who were **Sue Botts, Malcolm McCorquodale** and **Faye Stansberry** for a wonderful array of tasty treats. Midge welcomed our guest Marc Ace Pamisa to our meeting.

Midge asked if we had read the minutes that were published in the Begonia Chatter and asked if there were any corrections or additions. There were none so the minutes were approved as written. Treasurer Tom Keepin reported that our bank balance was still healthy. We had expenses for Raffle, Name Tag and Door Prize plants (to JJ&L Greenhouses). A check for the club sponsorship of the People's Choice Award was sent to the Southwest Region.

Midge reminded us that the Southwest Region Get-together, 'Cowboys, Culture, and Begonias!' will be April 29th through May 2nd in Fort Worth, TX. The tours have limited space so those wanting to take tours need to sign up right away. Sunshine Lady, Donna Williams, passed around cards for Shirll Manes and Cheryl Lenert.

Tom told us of a conflict on our meeting date in September. That is also the time for the ABS Convention, 'Begonias On My Mind' in Atlanta GA. It was decided that we will go ahead and have the meeting anyway. Tom also told us that the seed fund is going well. He is receiving "thank-you" notes via email and one hand written note (which he passed around for all to read).

Hospitality Hostess Chair Mel Babb said she needs people to bring food for the March meeting. Janet Carpenter, Kathleen Murphy, and Donna Williams offered to do this.

PROGRAM:

This month's program was a cutting party to put down cuttings of cane-like and shrub-like begonias and it was introduced and led by Tom Keepin. Members brought a lot of cuttings from

their gardens and Tom brought several plants for cuttings. Tom thanked everyone for bringing so many different varieties. He then demonstrated how to take the cutting and suggested we put 3-4 cuttings in each 4" pot. He reminded us that a leaf may root but will NOT produce a new plant. He stressed strongly that we label each pot and he showed how using a strip of clear packing tape on each label will keep the label from fading. We are to water the cuttings in and keep them moist but not soggy and keep them in bright light. Should a bloom appear it should be cut off until the cutting is well-rooted, and the plant has started growing. Any flowers on the cuttings should be removed and remaining leaves may be cut in half to conserve energy while the cuttings are trying to take root. This is always a fun meeting and members get to take their cuttings home and watch them grow out into new plants to enjoy and share.

We then had our Raffle, Name Tag and Door- Prize drawings with the following results:

Raffle:

- B. 'Lois Burke' – won by Mike Bragg
- B. 'My Special Angel' – won by Irene Bragg

Name Tag:

- B. 'Dotsy' – won by Donna Williams
- B. 'Cowardly Lion' – won by Sandra Rigsby

Door prize:

- B. 'Jurassic Pink Shades' – won by Donna

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 P.M. by President Midge Gorman

Respectfully submitted

Donna Williams

(for Gloria Hunter, Secretary)



Begonia wrayi (Painted by Wendy Gibbs) from *Begonias of Peninsular Malaysia* by Ruth Kiew

PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

March

1 st	Taurus
6 th & 7 th	Cancer
13 th & 14 th	Scorpio
17 th & 18 th	Capricorn
22 nd & 23 rd	Pisces
27 th & 28 th	Taurus

April

1 st & 2 nd	Cancer
9 th & 10 th	Scorpio
13 th , 14 th & 15 th	Capricorn
18 th , 19 th & 20 th	Pisces
23 rd , 24 th & 25 th	Taurus
28 th & 29 th	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 2020**)*

WEATHER FORECAST FOR MARCH 2020

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

Our temperatures will be slightly above normal and precipitation will be slightly below normal. Our average temperatures should range from 48 degrees in the North to 59 degrees in the South. Our coolest March temperatures will be March 1st through 3rd, 8th through 11th, 15th thru 18th, 23rd through 25th and 30th & 31st. Our warmest March temperatures will be March 5th & 6th, 13th & 14th, 20th through 22nd and 27th thru 29th. There will be a good chance for scattered showers and thunderstorms about March 1st, 7th thru 9th, 14th thru 16th, 22nd thru 24th and 29th & 30th. Severe storms most likely occur about March 7th, 14th & 15th. 21st & 22nd and 28th & 29th. Locally heavy precipitation can be expected.

*(The weather Forecast above is taken from the **Harris Farmer's Almanac for 2020**)*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Belated Happy Birthday wishes to our members born in February.

Betty Calhoun	March 27 th
Kay C. Hoss	March 27 th

Apologies and correction from last month:

Tom Anderson	February 28 th
Ann Stiefel	February 20 th

Happy Birthday!



photo by Julie Vanderwilt

Begonia 'Madame Butterfly'

by Morris Mueller

This beautiful rhizomatous plant was created by Leslie Woodriff, a prolific hybridizer of begonias and other plants in 1977. He and his family used to operate a nursery, Fairyland Begonia Gardens, in McKinleyville, California. He passed away in the late 1980s.

It has large spiraled leaves and rose flowers in the spring. It is not a prolific bloomer.

B. 'Madame Butterfly' resulted from B. *conchifolia* var. *rubrimaculata* x B. 'Bowkit' X B. *carolineifolia*. Woodriff made at least 12 crosses using B.

'Bowkit.' (or 'Bokit'). It was registered with the ABS as #623.

From its parentage it would seem to had no special cultural requirements, but I am still trying to grow a large happy plant of it. (Perhaps I overwater it.)

It has been used as a pollen parent for hybridizing. In the early 1980s, Bob Cole crossed it onto B. 'Her Majesty Sylvia Leatherman' (a rex) and named four rex hybrids from the cross. In 1991, Walter Dworkin of New York is credited with crossing it onto B. 'Olei Silver Spot' and producing B. 'Winged Majesty.'



Astro Branch's February 2020 Meeting

CUTTING PARTY FOR CANES AND SHRUBS



Guest Marc Pamisa learning cutting preparation during a demonstration.



Members choosing which cuttings to put down.



Cane-like & Shrub-like cuttings ready for members.



Large assortment on the cuttings table



More cuttings.



Members preparing pots for the cuttings they have selected.



Members selecting their cuttings.



Members planting their cuttings.



Donna Williams choosing her cuttings.



Ginny Ledford about to put down her cuttings.



Members fill pots with potting mix.



Irene Bragg & Brenda Andrews planting their cuttings.



Jane & Tom Anderson preparing to put down their cuttings.



Members hard at work.



Malcolm McCorquodale busy with his cuttings.



Kathleen Murphy sticking her cuttings.



Gail Warren & Midge Gorman choosing more cuttings.



Sue Botts getting ready a bunch of cuttings to take home & plant.



Donna Williams won Name Tag Plant B. 'Dotsy'



Sandy Rigsby won Name Tag Plant B. 'Cowardly Lion'



Mike Bragg won Raffle plant B. 'Lois Burke'



Donna Williams won Door Prize B. 'Jurassic Pink Shades'



Irene Bragg won Raffle Plant B. 'My Special Angel'