

# The Begonia CHATTER

*Newsletter of the Astro Branch  
of the American Begonia Society*



FOUNDER: THOMAS KEEPIN

<b>Astro Branch</b> American Begonia Society 13410 Balcrest Drive Houston, Texas 77070	<b>Next Meeting:</b> <b>DATE:</b> December 8, 2024 <b>TIME:</b> 1:00 PM <b>PLACE:</b> Plants for All Seasons, 21328 State Hwy 249 <b>PROGRAM: Annual Holiday Party!</b> <b>Snack hosts:</b> Everyone!
October 28, 2024 Issue	<a href="http://www.begoniahouston.org">www.begoniahouston.org</a>

President:  
Kathleen Murphy

Vice President:  
Jennifer Francois

Treasurer:  
Ann Stiefel

Secretary:  
Gloria Hunter

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Astros Begonia lovers:

Sincerest wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

As we look forward to our Astros Christmas party Sunday, December 8, please bring a dish of your choice and don't forget a wrapped Santa gift.

We also will be anxious to hear and see how your cuttings from Fort Worth Botanical Society are growing. Also Please bring your Don Millers to show off for our judges. We will recognize the best grower!

The best news for the New Year is the planning for the Astros hosting the American Begonia Society National Convention 2025 has begun. The location will be at the Hilton Garden Inn, Houston NW / Willowbrook. The dates to set aside for hosting our guests are May 14 - 18, 2025. Mark your calendars. Lots of excitement for all!

Many Blessings and Peace in the New Year.

—Kathleen

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The December 8, 2024, Astro reunion will be a festive occasion!

For this event we have made our start time 1:00 P.M. to give us the maximum time to set up, eat and open gifts. All are welcome to come as early as 12:00 pm to help set up or shop for more beautiful plants for your home or garden.

**Gift exchange (the fun part!):** For the gift exchange, a begonia or plant or plant-related item is encouraged. As we always say "bring a plant you would like to add to your own collection." You will receive a raffle ticket for each contribution you bring. Wrap your gift if possible, for maximum fun, but just remember, when your ticket number is called, no shaking the gifts!

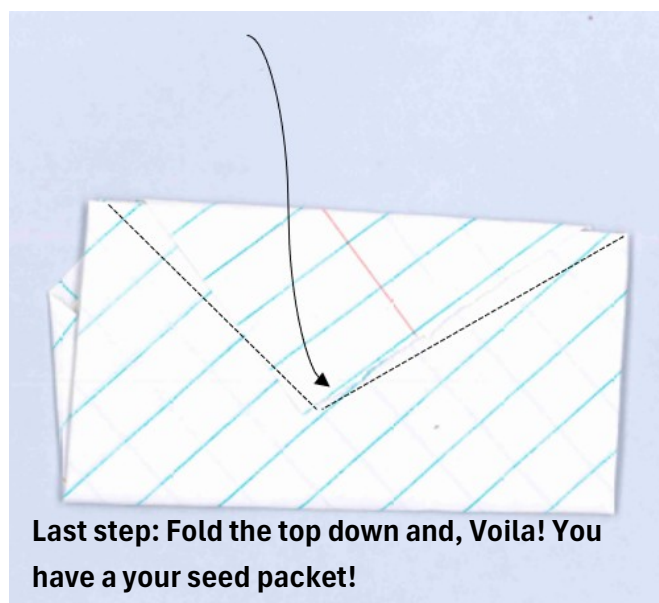
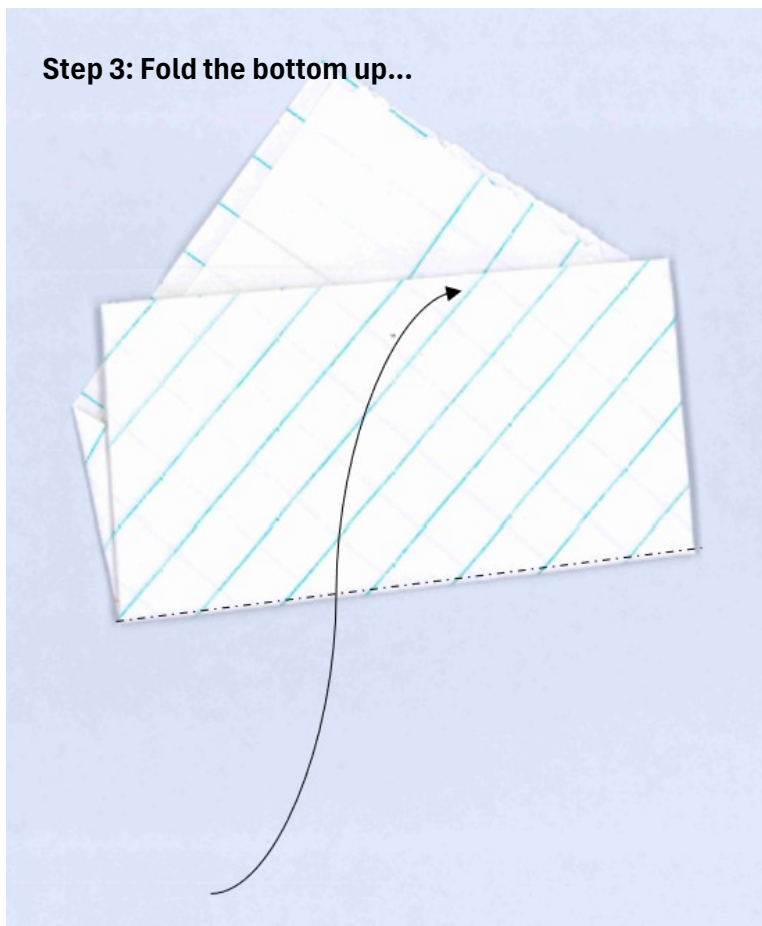
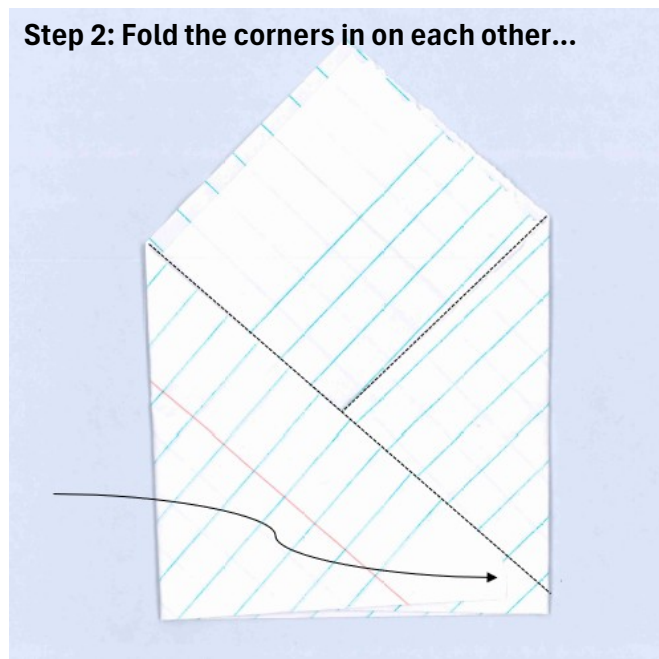
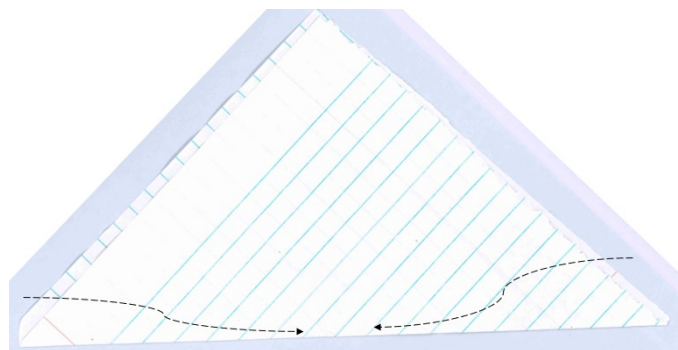
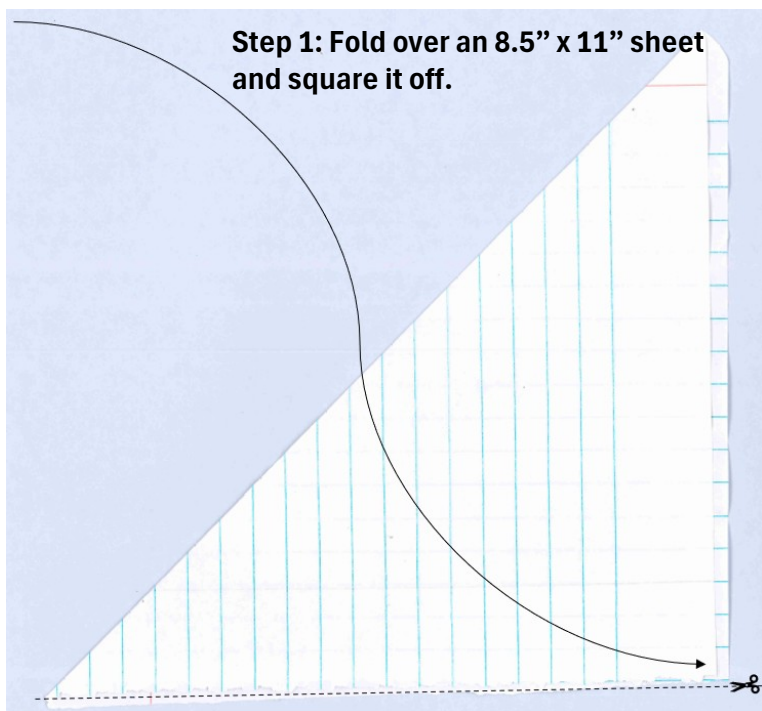
Chairs: Membership  
Ann Steifel

Seed Fund  
Janet Carpenter

Webmaster & Nat'l Rep.  
Malcolm McCorquodale

Newsletter  
Rosa Brennan, Editor

At the November meeting, Janet shared how to create a seed packet for storing and transporting seeds. Here's how she does it:



## Rosa's This & That

- Send me your “In Search Of” begonias and plants.
- Be a Show Off! Send me photos of your begonias anytime. Email them to me or text them to me. My cell number is on the distribution email.
- Send me your observations or promote a vendor or product you like and why you like it.
- Please send them to me anytime! I rarely send out a reminder due to time constraints.



This stunning Begonia 'Withlacoochee' is pictured here flowering in Astro member Mel Babb's southwest Houston garden. Photo by Mel Babb.

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS JANUARY 5, 2025.**

**At the January meeting, please remember:**

**Wear your name tag.**

**Bring a donation for the raffle!**