

# The Begonia CHATTER

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



FOUNDER: THOMAS KEEPIN

## Astro Branch

American Begonia Society  
13410 Balcrest Drive  
Houston, Texas 77070

## Next Meeting:

**DATE:** March 2, 2025

**TIME:** 2:00 PM Official Meeting starts  
(Board meeting starts at 12:30)

**PLACE:** Plants for All Seasons,  
21328 State Hwy 249

**PROGRAM:** *Brenda's Legacy: Sharing her  
Begonias*

**Snack hosts:** Jennifer Francois and Cynthia  
Moody

President:

Kathleen Murphy

Vice President:

Jennifer Francois

Treasurer:

Ann Stiefel

Secretary:

Gloria Hunter

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Astros,

It's been a rough ride these past few weeks weather wise and certainly a challenge to our precious Begonias. However, I have it on good word that this was the last freeze of the year! I'm trying to be a true believer.

I have received information of Brenda Andrews' Celebration of Life with Shawn Andrews' Celebration of Life, 11:00 AM to 12:00PM

Saturday, April 12, 2025

Lake Jackson Civic Center

333 Highway 332

Our March Astro Begonia meeting will be the pruning and propagation of some of Brenda's Begonias generously donated by her family. **Please bring pruning shears, containers, and /or name tags etc. Soil will be provided.**

Preparation for the 2025 American Begonia Society National Convention & Southwest Regional Get-Together continues at full steam. Cheryl Lenert has

secured the contract with the Hilton Garden Inn and contact with the American Begonia Society continues to set up speakers. We continue to plan all the incidentals to our Get Together and 45th anniversary of the Astro Branch. Janet Carpenter will be guiding the Hospitality Suite and will be presenting snacks and baked goods needed, and times to volunteer. Rosa Brennan will be the registrar for the Convention, accepting fees and distributing information from the registration form so that it can be tabulated by Ann Stiefel so that all registrants get the proper tickets for specific events. Jennifer Francois will be instrumental in securing goodies for the welcoming bags and hosting the Registration desk for arriving guests. She will be asking for help for her committee. Table decorations for the Banquet still needs a captain and crew.

We will need all help available and look forward to all hands on deck.

Looking forward to our meeting .

Gratefully, -Kathleen

Chairs:

Membership

Ann Steifel

Seed Fund

Janet Carpenter

Webmaster & Nat'l Rep.

Malcolm McCorquodale

Newsletter

Rosa Brennan, Editor

## Begonia Meeting Notes – February 2, 2025

Members present – Gloria Hunter, Janet Carpenter, Jennifer Francois, Ann Stiefel, Kathleen Murphy, Malcolm McCorquodale, Tom Keepin, Rosa Brennan, Irene & Mike Bragg, Gail Warren, Sue Botts, Tony & Donna Robert, Cheryl Lennert, Joyce Baker, Viola Risinger, Dehlia Mullins, Alicia Baker, Marianna Caneuaro, Doug Byrom

Guest – John Hunter, Thad Warren, Peter Lloyd.

President Kathleen Murphy welcomed everyone and thanked hostesses, Gloria Hunter and Gail Warren, and Alicia Baker for refreshments.

Gloria read the minutes, approved as corrected: Viola Risinger was our guest not Irene.

Treasurer's report for January– Beginning balance - Ending balance  
\$ . Brief discussion about dues - \$5.00 for Astros, Southwest is \$10.00, and ABS is \$35.00.

Irene passed around sign-up sheet for hostess for 2025 to bring refreshments.

Old Business: Convention Get Together – Discussed in Board meeting the following – welcome bags, at least 100, Jennifer will gather items, we need stuff to put inside bags, everyone is asked to help. Gloria confirmed mulch bags from Nature's Way, had asked for gift card from Buchanan's, also seeds from Master Gardeners in Huntsville, Plants for all Seasons – donations?

Additional items to collect, sandwich bags, plant labels, discount coupons, etc.

New Business: Janet & Kathleen went to Brenda Andrews' house and collected begonias. Will bring to next months meeting to prepare for May sale. We will need 4-inch pots.

Janet reminded us we need seed donations. She did receive seeds from Washington & California.

## February Meeting Notes, continued

Rosa reminded us about Feb 15th, Immersion Begonia Day & public opening to new greenhouse at Ft. Worth Botanic Garden.

Doug Byrom will be having his sale March 22-23rd in S. Austin. This also includes Plant swap if interested.

Doug will be doing a program on planting a terrarium. This was donated to the club for raffle items.

He also shared his potting mix recipe:

1 part coco fibre

2 parts sphagnum moss

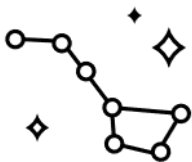
¼ part orchid bark

¼ part charcoal (medium)

½ part worm castings

Meeting adjourned. Gloria Hunter, secretary

### PLANTING GUIDE—MARCH 2025



Sign	Day
Taurus	March 3rd, & 4th
Cancer	7th, 8th, & 9th
Scorpio	17th, 18th, & 19th
Pisces	27th & 28th
Taurus	31st



#### **March Weather forecast:**

1-5: Sunny, few showers, warm.

6-8: Sunny and warm.

9-12: Sunny and warm.

13-22: Rainy periods, cool.

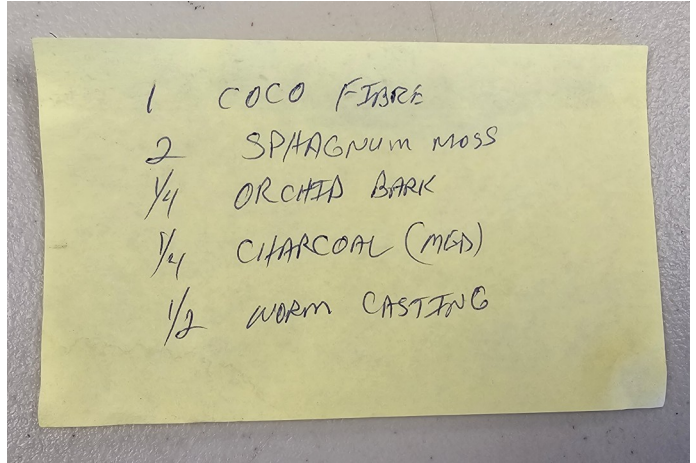
23-31: Sunny, turning warm.

Generally, 3 degrees above average temperature, and precipitation will be 1" below average.

**BEST PROPAGATION DATES: March 11th, 20th, and 21st**

*The best days to take cuttings for propagation are during Aries, Leo, or Sagittarius signs when the moon is in a waxing phase.*

# Doug Byrom's Terrarium Technique





*Photos this page and next by Peter Lloyd.*



*Please remember to:*

- 1. Wear your name tag, and*
- 2. Bring a donation for the raffle table!*

*Mark your calendar:*

*Next meeting is April 6, 2025.*