

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: June 1, 2025 2:00 PM Official Meeting starts	PLACE: Plants for All Seasons, 21328 State Hwy 249 PROGRAM: Terrarium Planting Party! Snack hosts: Rosa Brennan and Viola Risinger		
May 25, 2025 Issue	www.begoniahouston.org		
President: Kathleen Murphy	Vice President: Jennifer Francois	Treasurer: Ann Stiefel	Secretary: Gloria Hunter

President's Message

Well, the Astro Branch hugely successful hosting of the American Begonia Society Convention/Southwest Region Get Together is in the books! Many, many kudos to Cheryl Lenert for spearheading this gigantic affair! Cheryl's expertise and precision made this convention an extreme pleasure for all Begonia loving attendees. Note also many thanks to Rosa Brennan and Ann Stiefel for their smooth handling of the registration and finances of guests. Rosa also put together a beautiful Convention booklet and Ann hosted the Hospitality Room 'til the wee hours. Thank you, Ladies, for going above and beyond! Many thanks to Gloria Hunter and Gail assisting the Plant Sale Setup and sale. A big thank you also to those who donated goodies.

The Plant Sale, a highlight of Conventions, could never happen without Doug Byrom! Doug has donated an immense amount of time to track down Begonias for sale to members and the public. Thank you, Doug!!!

Don Miller's Plant Showroom came together seamlessly and beautifully but not without an inordinate amount of expertise on Dons' part. The show plant entry system monitored by Don was downright fantastic!

Fort Worth Botanic Garden powered by Glenn Dickerson put on a massive display of begonias that just hints to the treasures in Fort Worth! Thank you, Glenn!!!

To the Registration Queen, Jennifer Francois lit up the Hilton Garden lobby greeting and signing in ABS Convention guests, then gifted them with goodie bags which she had festooned with ribbons and filled generously With a donation from Plants for All Seasons. Jennifer went ALL IN with her contribution and was spectacular! Thank you!

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Chairs:	Membership Ann Steifel	Seed Fund Janet Carpenter	Webmaster & Nat'l Rep. Malcolm McCorquodale	Newsletter Rosa Brennan, Editor
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President's Message, continued

Janet Carpenter set up the Hospitality Suite for “snacking , sipping and socializing”. The results drew many to chat with old and new friends. Mucho thanks to Janet and her helpers who baked and contributed to the Texas hospitality.

All of Astro members that entered plants in the show won ribbons! ***We are asking those who won to bring their special plant and let us know what you did to make that plant a show stopper!***

As the host Branch we received some ***plants that will be for sale at Sunday's meeting.***

For our program we will be creating a closed container! ***Plants will be provided along with some containers, medium for planting etc.*** Plenty of plants so come early and pick your favorite. And have fun! —Kathleen

Begonia Meeting Notes – April 6, 2025

Present were: Cynthia Moody, Murphy Brown, Charlyn Brown, Irene and Mike Bragg, Ann Stiefel, Tom Keepin, Peter Lloyd, Kathleen Murphy, Viola Risinger, Sue Botts, Malcolm McCorquodale, Cheryl Lenert, Jennifer Francois, and Rosa Brennan.

Kathleen thanked Ann and Viola for the wonderful luncheon they prepared. The theme was Cinco de Mayo tacos.

Guests and new members Charlyn and Murphy Brown were welcomed.

Ann gave her treasurer's report.

Old Business: Doug Byrum will arrive on Wednesday the 14th. Please show up to help at 11:30.

Regarding the Plant Show, you must register on-line. Cheryl Lenert encouraged everyone to enter plants. “If it educates the public, it's worth entering.”

Volunteers will be needed in the show room and the sales room at all times.

Cheryl brought t-shirts she had featuring Johanna Kitson's artwork. They were available for purchase to Astro members for \$15.

Kathleen took volunteers for multiple posts. Janet described the cork plant stake project. Jennifer showed the goodie bags which will include a Mercer Arboretum bookmark, candy, Genesis, Medina liquid seaweed, Color Star, Microlife 6-2-4, pens, and seeds. Ann expressed her thanks to Jennifer—she said that the donations will make a big difference.

The banquet table toppers will be plants in dressed up pots.

Our next meeting will be June 1st. Viola and Rosa will be hosts.

A motion was made to end the meeting and it was seconded.

Janet Carpenter proceeded with her presentation about Begonia pests.

—Rosa Brennan for Secretary Gloria Hunter

Plants coming to our June 1 begonia society meeting. Looking for a good home. Great prices. Cash, checks, and debit/credit cards accepted!!





Photos by Peter Lloyd.

Please remember to:

- 1. Wear your name tag, and*
- 2. Bring a donation for the raffle table!*
- 3. Check the attached Membership list!*