

# 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> August 3, 2024 2:00 PM Official Meeting starts (Board meeting starts at 12:30)	<b>PLACE:</b> Plants for All Seasons, 21328 State Hwy 249  <b>PROGRAM:</b> Art Show and Cutting Exchange <b>Snack hosts:</b> Charlyn Brown, Tony and Donna Robert		
July 28, 2025 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 Astro Folks!

Well as I get pummeled again with another bout of thunder storms, I revel in the bounty of nature and its benevolence toward my water bill. AND As we try to keep our plants healthy and alive I watch helplessly as some of those Rexes melt before my very eyes. And so goes our Houston summers!

Begonia Sunday is August 3, our programs are display and judging for our homework drawing of

one of our Begonias. A special trophy  will be awarded!

The second program will be a Cutting Exchange, every one is asked to bring to the meeting a leaf and /or cutting labeled to further our collection of begonias!!

Board Meeting at 12:30.

See you Sunday.

Kathleen

Chairs:	Membership Ann Steifel	Seed Fund Janet Carpenter	Webmaster & Nat'l Rep. Malcolm McCorquodale	Newsletter Rosa Brennan, Editor
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## Begonia Meeting Notes – July 6, 2025

Members present – Gloria Hunter, Janet Carpenter, Jennifer Francois, Ann Stiefel, Malcolm McCorquodale, Rosa Brennan, Irene & Mike Bragg, Gail Warren, Cheryl Lenert, and Cynthia Moody.

Kathleen welcomed everyone and thanked hostesses, herself and Maryann (whose husband dropped off goodies) for refreshments along with contributions from Malcolm.

The minutes presented by Gloria were approved.

Treasurer's report for January– Beginning balance -                      Ending balance                      . Brief discussion of convention expenses of                      and profits would be split.

Irene passed around sign-up sheet for hostess for October 2025 to bring refreshments. Suggestion by Kathleen to increase hostesses to 3 people. Cheryl made a motion, Janet seconded, and the motion passed.

Two Begonias were donated by Another Place in Time for auction/raffle. A Thank you card was passed around to give to Mike.

Old Business: Janet commented she needs seed donations, be on the lookout for those seeds from your Begonias. We will be given begonia crassicaulis seeds to grow as a challenge.

New Business: Cheryl discussed having our Begonia picnic on October 5th. We have been invited to Mercer Arboretum, so it is possible it will be there or at Malcolm's home.

We had a display of Leora's plants, which were available for sale, as Leora is downsizing.

Our next meeting will be on August 3rd.

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

Program – each member was asked to bring their favorite Begonia and describe the type, name (if known), where they got it and growing conditions.

Meeting adjourned.

—Gloria Hunter, Secretary



Mike Bragg could only bring a photo of his *Begonia* 'Black Jack' because it wouldn't fit in the car!



Ann Stiefel and an example of her *B. 'Pinafore'*, a cultivar she maintains from a cutting from beloved Houston hybridizer Bill Claybaugh.



Malcolm McCorquodale and his *B. 'Naples Chocolate'*, which at the time of this publication, information about it cannot be found online.



Cynthia Moody shared her *B. 'Dottie's Eyelash'*.



Kathleen Murphy with her *B. 'Avalanche'*.



Jennifer Francois loves how *B. U514* looks in front of her window.



Gail Warren and her lovely *B. ulmifolia*, probably dark variant (so lovely that I purchased one online! - Ed.)



Janet Carpenter and her punch bowl full of *B. quadrialata*.



Cheryl Lenert inspecting Gloria Hunter's *Begonia rex* specimen (bought earlier this year from Steve's Leaves. Possibly *B. rex* from Toyama Botanical Garden or *B. 'Elephant's Ear'*.)

*Please remember to:*

1. *Wear your name tag.*
2. *Bring your drawing.*
3. *Bring a cutting to share*
4. *Bring a donation for the raffle table!*