

The Begonia CHATTER

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



FOUNDER: THOMAS KEEPIN

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| <p>Astro Branch American Begonia Society 13410 Balcrest Drive, Houston, Texas 77070 Next Meeting: February 4, 2026 2:00 PM Official Meeting starts</p> | <p>PLACE: Plants for All Seasons, 21328 State Hwy 249 PROGRAM: SOIL with Sherri Harrah Snack hosts: Janet Carpenter and Rosa Brennan</p> |
| <p>January 26, 2026 Issue</p> | <p>www.begoniahouston.org</p> |

President:
Kathleen Murphy

Vice President:
Jennifer Francois

Treasurer:
Ann Stiefel

Secretary:
Gloria Hunter

President's Message

Hi Begonians,

Well, this weather was a surprise of how cold it could really be!

While we waited for the brutal icy truth to arrive, work to save the plants kept us physically busy. Mentally my mind was confused as to how I actually thought we were going to skip a freeze and go directly to spring! The plants were budding, the Peggy Martins were blooming and then . . . What a cruel trick Mother Nature played on us!

At our January meeting we recollected on the Astro Branch activity of the past year it was impressive what we had accomplished. Along with hosting the SW Region Get Together and National Convention, we also received cuttings from The Fort Worth Begonia to propagate. Let's now take stock of the fruits of our labor. Report card time.

Let's assess the successes and the not so successful plantings at our meeting.

The program for Sunday will be presented by Sherri Harrah on Soils. Looking forward to seeing y'all then.

—Kathleen

Chairs:

Membership
Ann Steifel

Seed Fund
Janet Carpenter

Webmaster
Malcolm McCorquodale

Newsletter National Rep.
Rosa Brennan, Editor

Begonia Meeting Notes—January 4, 2026

Members present – Gloria Hunter, Gail Warren, Janet Carpenter, Jennifer Francois, Malcolm McCorquodale, Cynthia Moody, Kathleen Murphy, Thomas Keepin, Charlyn & Murphy Brown, Mike & Irene, Tony & Donna Robert, Rosa Brennan

Guest- Peter Lloyd

Kathleen welcomed everyone and thanked hostesses for refreshments.

The minutes were presented & read by Gloria, one correction, in December minutes, change name from Ann to Cynthia who will do the sign-up sheet for refreshments. Approved with correction.

Treasurer's report – read by Kathleen as Ann was not present. Ann had emailed report instead. Beginning balance \$7,316.64, ending balance \$7,386.64.

Old Business: Janet commented she still needs seed donations. She will be getting a shipment soon, with Don sending more soon. Next date to work on seeds is January 19th. Janet said she had sold more seeds in 1st quarter than in all of 2025.

During the program part of the meeting, we will be planting seeds of *Begonia crassicaulis*.

New Business:

Malcolm – no Southwest report

Rosa asked us to help her remember to get large trash bag from front desk, for trash from refreshments etc. She also thanked Peter for photographs that he faithfully takes during the meetings.

Reviewed meeting dates for 2026 as follows:

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Begonia Meeting Notes—January 4, 2026, continued

Meeting dates for 2026 are as follows:

- **January 11th** (*second Sunday as garden center is closed for holidays*)
- **February 1st**
- **March 1st**
- **April 12th**
- **May 3rd**
- **June 7th**
- **July 12th** (*second Sunday due to Independence Day, 4th of July*)
- **August 2nd**
- **September 13th** (*second Sunday due to Labor Day weekend*)
- **October 4th**
- **November 1st**
- **December 6th**

Hostesses for February meeting are Janet & Rosa.

Next month's program TBA.

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:50, followed by "Planting seed Program"

Gloria Hunter, secretary





2026 Meeting Dates



January 11*

FEBRUARY 1

MARCH 1

APRIL 12

MAY 3

JUNE 7

JULY 12*

AUGUST 2

SEPTEMBER 13*

OCTOBER 4

NOVEMBER 1

DECEMBER 6

*Date adjusted to account for Holiday or Nursery's schedule

ALL PHOTOS BY PETER LLOYD AND TOM KEEPIN.
THANK YOU AS ALWAYS!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO:

1. WEAR YOUR NAME TAG.
2. BRING A DONATION FOR THE RAFFLE
TABLE!