

# The Begonia CHATTER

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



FOUNDER: THOMAS KEEPIN

<p><b>Astro Branch</b> American Begonia Society 13410 Balcrest Drive, Houston, Texas 77070 <b>Next Meeting:</b> May 3, 2026 2:00 PM Official Meeting starts</p>	<p><b>PLACE:</b> Plants for All Seasons, 21328 State Hwy 249 <b>PROGRAM:</b> Seeds and Closed Containers <b>Snack hosts:</b> Dehlia and Sandy</p>
<p>April 28, 2026</p>	<p><a href="http://www.begoniahouston.org">www.begoniahouston.org</a></p>

President:  
Kathleen Murphy

Vice President:  
Jennifer Francois

Treasurer:  
Ann Stiefel

Secretary:  
Gloria Hunter

## President's Message

Hi All Astro Begonians,

Now that we have skipped spring and proceeded directly to summer we begin trying to evade the "hot and humid." Yea!

Our Sunday meeting will provide a respite for all. The programs will include Seeds and Closed Containers . Please bring the *B. crassicaulis* you have grown from seed and a container with a cover so that we can transfer them to a larger container. We will provide a medium for growing and charcoal and spaghnum moss.

If you have a special medium you use for closed container growing, please bring it and let us know your technique. Or if you have a closed container plant outgrowing its container bring that and show us your transplant method.

Looking forward to a productive meeting!

—Kathleen Murphy

Chairs:

Membership  
Ann Steifel

Seed Fund

Janet Carpenter

Webmaster

Malcolm McCorquodale

Newsletter National Rep.

Rosa Brennan, Editor

## Begonia Meeting Notes—February 1, 2026

Members present –

Cynthia Moody, Tony and Donna Robert, Paul Sobieski, Mike and Irene Bragg, Janet Carpenter, Kathleen Murphy, Malcolm McCorquodale, Sue Botts, Sharon and Gary Cofran, and Rosa Brennan.

Kathleen thanked all attendees for bringing food and goodies.

The minutes stand as published in the Chatter.

Old business: Follow up needed about money allocated for National Convention Trophy.

Treasurer's report was read and entered.

Malcolm encouraged everyone to attend the National Convention.

Kathleen shared information about what judges look for in show plants and strongly encouraged everyone to enter plants into the show.

Sue shared her Toolkit Supply list.

Janet reports that seeds are selling really well. The first quarter of 2026 is the most ABS has ever sold in a quarter.

Mike gave Janet their *B. crassicaulis* seedlings which were shown for comparison to the ones members have at home.

Thank you to Sherri Harrah for donating a huge sack of sphagnum moss. Members were encouraged to come up with projects to use up all the sphagnum moss.

Hosts for next time are Dehlia and Sandy.

Paul spoke about the Plant Sale benefitting Westwood Civic Club.

Meeting as adjourned.

—Rosa Brennan for Gloria Hunter, Secretary

# 2026 MEETING DATES



**JANUARY 11, 2026\***

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**FEBRUARY 1, 2026**

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**MARCH 1, 2026**

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**APRIL 12, 2026\***

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**MAY 3, 2026**

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**JUNE 7, 2026**

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**JULY 12, 2026\***

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**AUGUST 2, 2026**

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**SEPTEMBER 13, 2026\***

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**OCTOBER 4, 2026**

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**NOVEMBER 1, 2026**

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**DECEMBER 6, 2026**

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

PLEASE REMEMBER TO:

1. Wear YOUR name tag.

2. Bring a DONATION FOR THE  
RAFFLE TABLE.