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 7, 2026 2:00 PM Official Meeting starts	**PLACE**: Plants for All Seasons, 21328 State Hwy 249 **PROGRAM**: Propagation: Wedge method **Snack hosts**: Charlyn and Murphy Brown and Cheryl Lenert
June 6, 2026	www.begoniahouston.org

President: Kathleen Murphy | Vice President: Jennifer Francois | Treasurer: Ann Stiefel | Secretary: Gloria Hunter

President's Message

Hi Astro Begonians,

Well the 2026 ABS National Convention is in the books! And it was a grand time.

All those who participated in the meetings will share their experiences at our June 7th meeting. We will also have on the program propagation of begonia wedge slices and share what we heard from other begonia growers from different parts of the world.

See you Sunday! !

—Kathleen Murphy

Chairs: Membership Ann Steifel | Seed Fund Janet Carpenter | Webmaster Malcolm McCorquodale | Newsletter National Rep. Rosa Brennan, Editor

Begonia Meeting Notes—May 3, 2026

Members present – Gloria Hunter, Janet Carpenter, Malcolm McCorquodale, Cynthia Moody, Kathleen Murphy, Thomas Keepin, Viola Risinger, Irene & Mike Bragg, Sandy Roden, Gail Warren, Peter Lloyd, Paul & Mary Sobieski, and Rosa Brennan.

Guest- Cary Covington (friend of Malcolm)

Kathleen welcomed everyone and thanked our hostess for their delicious refreshments.

The minutes stand as published in Chatter.

Treasurer's report on Ann's absence was read and entered.

Old Business: Janet commented that the seed committee had a good session. Tom, Peter, Kathleen and herself received seeds from Fort Worth, and all have been packaged. Malcolm posted on ABS website and they are selling like hot cakes. Seeds are in a small packet, at least 25, and are sold for $2.00. Janet explained how the seeds should be plump and rolled (a magnifier is used) to be viable.

New Business:

Malcolm – Nothing current to report about the upcoming Convention, except that all the reserved rooms are sold out.

Rosa sent out a copy of Sue's Toolbox as discussed at last meeting.

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

—Gloria Hunter, Secretary

May meeting and program on transplanting our *B. crassicaulis* seedlings

Photos by Peter Lloyd

Cary Covington

Guest Cary Covington introduced us to a method he employs using acrylic yarn as a plant growing medium. He was gracious enough to share his recipe which uses a covered parfait-type cup within a taller up, acrylic yarn, a plastic separator that he makes himself with a 3-D printer (!), and dilute fertilizer (Maxsea brand, 1/2 tsp/gallon.)

Cynthia Moody

Gail Warren

Gloria Hunter

Malcolm McCorquodale

Jennifer Francois

Kathleen Murphy

May meeting and program continued

Mary Sobieski

Mike and Irene Bragg

Sandy Rosen

Viola Risinger

Sue Botts

April meeting and program on Kokedama

Kathleen and Janet led us through planting a begonia using the Japanese technique called Kokedama.

Donna's kokedama

Sue's kokedama

Rosa's kokedama

April meeting and program on Kokedama, continued

Sharon and Gary Cofran create a kokedama.

Mike Bragg's kokedama

Cynthia Moody

Janet Carpenter demonstrating the kokedama technique.

Paul Sobieski

2026 Meeting Dates

January 11, 2026*

February 1, 2026

March 1, 2026

April 12, 2026*

May 3, 2026

June 7, 2026

July 12, 2026*

August 2, 2026

September 13, 2026*

October 4, 2026

November 1, 2026

December 6, 2026

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

Please remember to:

1. Clear deli containers or something to prop in.

2. Some type of small cutting board would be helpful.

3. Named rhizomatous leaves

4. Wear your name tag.

5. Bring a donation for the raffle table.