

# 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> March 1, 2026 2:00 PM Official Meeting starts	<b>PLACE:</b> Plants for All Seasons, 21328 State Hwy 249 <b>PROGRAM:</b> Kokedama <b>Snack hosts:</b> Everyone! (Potluck)
April 8, 2026	<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 All Astro Begonians,

May you have many blessings and peace this Easter and Passover season!

It seems too long since we saw each other and I miss that. But coming right up is our next meeting on Sunday, April 12. The program planned is on the art of Kokedama, which is Japanese in origin and also a form of bonsai. Using begonias or other appropriate plants, soil is formed around the root ball, wrapped with moss, and secured with string or fishing line. The Kokedama then is hung or placed as bonsai on a container/saucer.

We will supply all materials to make the Kokedama all you have to bring is your plant you wish to use to construct. It's going to be somewhat messy but great results, so plan accordingly. There is also an article in the November/ December 2025 of the *Begonian* on Kokedama you can use as reference .

See you there,

—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 – Gloria Hunter, Janet Carpenter, Malcolm McCorquodale, Cynthia Moody, Kathleen Murphy, Thomas Keepin, Viola Risinger, Cheryl Lenert, Dehlia Mullins, Tony & Donna Robert, Irene & Mike Bragg, Murphy & Charlene Brown, and Sandy Roden.

Guest- Peter Lloyd, Paul & Mary Sobieski, Gary Cofren.

Kathleen welcomed everyone and thanked our hosts Tony and Donna Robert for their delicious refreshments. We had several new guests including Paul, Mary, and Gary.

The minutes were presented and read by Gloria and approve.

The Treasurer's Report in Ann's absence was read by Gloria and approved.

Old Business: Janet commented she received a phenomenal number of seeds. There were 171 packets of *B. petasitifolia* (species). Asked how seeds from previous program were growing, very small but growing.

New Business:

Malcolm – Reminded us of the accommodations for Begonia Convention will be at Home2 Suites by Hilton, 1145 University, Ft Worth, Texas. Room rate is \$139.00. The registration form is complete. Judging School will be May 26th. Convention will be Wednesday, May 27th – Saturday, May 30th, in Fort Worth, Texas. There will be field trips and a cutting swap on Wednesday evening.

Cheryl discussed contribution of one of the major trophies at convention. She moved to donate \$75. 00 for a major trophy at convention. Janet seconded. Motion passed.

Kathleen led discussion about dues to Federation. Also to look at your Begonias at home and see about bringing to convention for entering.

Question was asked about what judges looked for: type of begonia, symmetrical, grooming, container.

Charlene and Murphy discussed upcoming sale at Mercer and brought lots of plants to donate for our raffle etc.

Next meeting is April 12th (because of Easter moving to 2nd Sunday) and we are all asked to bring a refreshment to contribute.

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

Gloria Hunter, secretary

Members discussed cuttings they brought (the names and how they are grown) and members were given the opportunity to select cuttings.

—Gloria Hunter, Secretary



**Come learn the art of kokedama!**

***Kokedama is the Japanese art of growing plants in a moss-covered ball of soil wrapped with string.*** At the April 12th Astro Branch American Begonia Society meeting, we'll be demonstrating how to make one using your own begonia. (Don't have a begonia? You can pick one up at Plants for All Seasons, which is where we have our meetings.)

**Sunday , April 12, 2026**

**Program will start immediately after our 2:00 pm business meeting.**

Come and bring a friend!

Raffle tickets are 6 for \$5.

Refreshments provided (though you're welcome to bring something for the group)



**Charlyn**



**Cynthia**



**Delhia**



**Gloria**



Kathleen



Janet



Malcolm



Mike

Murphy



Tom



Tony



**Mike**



**Raffle table**



**Sandy**

# 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 THE BEGONIA YOU'D LIKE TO PUT IN YOUR KOKEDAMA.
3. BRING FOOD OR DRINK TO SHARE!
4. BRING A DONATION FOR THE RAFFLE TABLE.