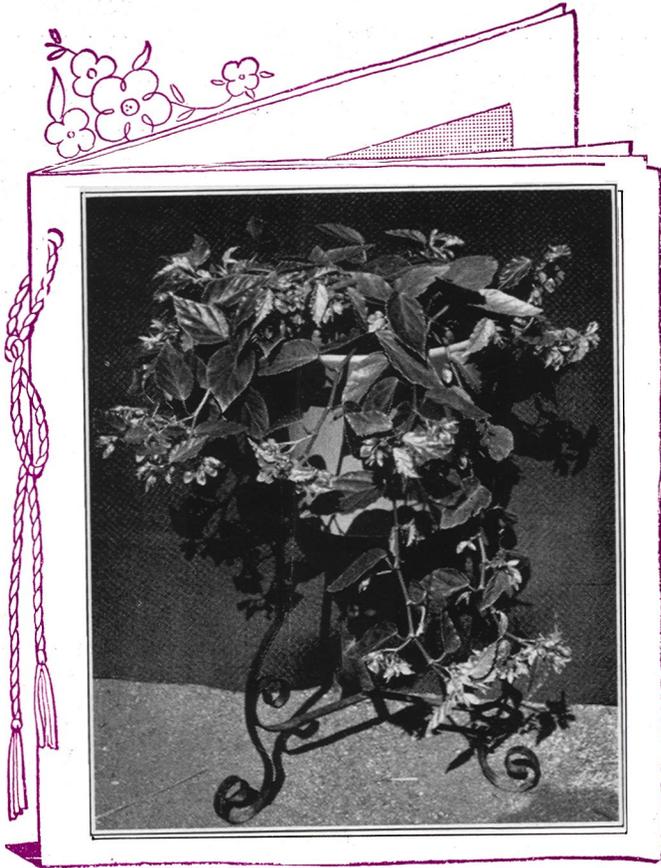


The BEGONIAN

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDEN



B. Glaucophylla Scandens

VOL. VII - NO. 3

MARCH, 1940

TEN CENTS

The BEGONIAN

Monthly Publication of the AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Business and General Offices: 757 Athens Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif.

★ Annual Membership Fee, One Dollar per Calendar Year—Seventy-five Cents of which is for a year's subscription to the BEGONIAN. Subscription to non-members, One Dollar a Year.

★ Entered as second-class matter January 30, 1940, at the post office at Los Angeles, California, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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FORWARD IN FORTY

This is the tenor of all letters reaching this office from our correspondents. The enthusiasm knows no bounds and the results may be seen in the partial list of new members appearing in this issue under the heading "Watch Us Grow."

The American Begonia Society is growing. If the officers receive your cooperation it should double its membership in 1940.

The many letters which have deluged the office of the BEGONIAN and the sincere expression of support and cooperation are greatly appreciated by the editorial staff and spurs us to even greater efforts.

But sometimes the vision exceeds the means. We can improve the appearance and increase the size of the BEGONIAN only so far as new memberships and new and increased advertising will permit.

We are asking you to appoint yourself a committee of one to let our advertisers know you have seen their ads in the BEGONIAN. You will be surprised at the reception and friendly feeling shown by our commercial supporters.

One of our advertisers complained that he received no returns from his ad. So help me, we could name you a dozen of our members offhand who had patronized this nursery, BUT THEY NEGLECTED TO SAY THEY WERE MEMBERS OF THE ABS. We are not asking you to go out and spend your money, that isn't our affair, but if you are in the market for more plants why not do as our good member Cecil Houdyshel suggests:

"Spread your butter where your cracker is!"

Mrs. H. Cardoza Sloan says

Mossed Walls for Beauty

The editor of the *Begonian* has referred to me a request for information on the making of a mossed wall. I am glad to give directions for such a wall as we have at Cardoza Gardens. Our mossed wall is in a small lath house. First, against the lath—inside—we tacked a good heavy roofing paper. This is imperative. Against a lathed wall it keeps out the wind and air which would otherwise dry out the moss; while against a solid wall, it protects the surface of the wall.

Second, against the paper background at intervals of one foot all the way around, we nailed three-quarter inch wood strips from top to bottom of the wall.

Thirdly, to these strips we firmly tacked one-inch mesh wire netting. This holds the wire securely so that the mossed wall will not bulge. Moreover, it makes the wall strong enough to safely hold the hooks which support the plant baskets.

Fun Begins

Fourthly, we put on the moss. This is where the real fun comes in. The moss is what is known as "green moss" (do not use sphagnum moss). It is gathered in the woods in Oregon, Washington, probably Northern California, and shipped in bales, like so much hay. Wet it as you use it, about a tub full at a time, letting it soak until it has absorbed all the water it will hold. This only takes a few minutes. Squeeze gently to get rid of surplus water. Then take a small handful of moss and work it into the wire. Work from the outside, of course, (that is, from the side toward you) a wad of moss to practically every mesh, firming it in so that the wire is completely covered. This is a tedious job, but has its compensations in the pleasant feel of the moist, springy moss in the hand, and the delightful woody odor.

By lightly resurfacing over the face of the old moss wall every spring, and by filling any holes that may appear from time to time, a mossed wall may be kept in good appearance for several years.

Keep Moss Wet

The moss should be well sprinkled every day, wetting thoroughly, except during a rainy period if so located that it receives moisture from the rainfall.

The wet mossed wall tends to raise the humidity in the atmosphere and makes a healthy environment for the plants hanging upon it. Also, it makes a most pleasing background for begonias and ferns, and many other plants as well.

Wire baskets, also mossed (work from the inside out in mossing these) and filled with whatever soil mixture the individual plant requires, hold the plants. Heavy wire can be bent into satisfactory hooks for holding the baskets. We bend the hook with one long end to stick down through the wire of the mossed wall. We use two such hooks to a basket.

Surprises

One of the delights of a mossed wall is the variety of little plants which spring up on it, from seeds and spores scattered upon its surface in happier days in the far northern woods. Little ferns, enchanting little vines, foxgloves, and numerous other plants.

That about exhausts the history of our wall. I may add that customers who have copied the idea have worked out variations suited to their own use. Some have a perforated water pipe all along the top of the wall, from which water can be kept trickling to keep the moss uniformly moist all the time in warm, dry weather.

Some have used greater depth between wire and paper background, filling this space with peat and leafmold. Such a wall would be started at the bottom and worked up in sections, filling as one progressed. In a deep wall plants may be set in spaces cut in the wire, or even drawn through the meshes if the plants are small enough, planted and grown directly in the peat and leafmold instead of in baskets.

There are many positions in which a mossed wall can be used as well as in a lath house. At the end of a porch, for instance, against a garage wall, or in various other locations which individual gardens may suggest.

A mossed wall is not difficult to install, is easy to maintain, and will furnish one more source of enjoyment to the plant lover.

BEGONIAS - FERNS

Shade Loving Plants

CARDOZA GARDENS

MRS. H. CARDOZA SLOAN
53 Coast Boulevard
Corona Del Mar, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Regular monthly meeting of San Francisco Branch was held February 7. The meeting was devoted to election of officers and programming our activities for the year. A report on committee activities will appear later. The following officers were elected:

Miss Paula Schoenholz, President
Mr. Harry F. O'Donnell, Secretary.

SEED FUND

The collection of begonia seed of the species from foreign countries was undertaken in 1935 by a small group of members that contributed money to a special "Seed Fund." They were soon dubbed, "Armchair Explorers," and have since visited many foreign lands via letters. Many very worthy additions have thus been made available to all members of our society.

With the present war conditions, many channels for obtaining these seeds have been temporarily cut off, making it necessary to redouble our efforts to establish new contacts. During the past month letters have been sent out to all important experimental and horticultural centers in the world, (where begonias are known to grow). Thru these new channels it is hoped that a continuous flow of seeds of begonia species may be obtained.

To those who would like to become members of the "Armchair Explorers," and take "pot luck" with us, we are making it easy by offering an excursion rate of \$1.00 for the balance of 1940. Money should be sent to the Treasurer, Mr. J. N. Nutter, 1050 East 19th St., Long Beach, California or to the Research Director.

—L. E. Day

VITAMIN B1

For use in the Treatment of
Cuttings, Transplantings, and
growing Plants in General.

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Woodwardia, Gold Back and
P. Vulgari

One dollar per flat (about 25)

LIVE OAK LEAF MOLD

ATTRACTIVE PRICE
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vicinity of Los Angeles
No order less than \$1.00

LEONA C. HALL, Horticulturalist
Pala, San Diego County

VENTURA NOTES

The Theodosia Burr Shephard Branch of the American Begonia Society of Ventura, California, held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 13.

Mr. Everett Smith gave an interesting talk on garden pests and the way to fight them. Among other things he mentioned the use of the new Metaldehyde poisons for snails and slugs on the market now, which have proven quite revolutionary in the fight of these pests. Then he explained and showed us the recently introduced insects used in the fight against mealy bugs. Millions of them are raised in insectaries and released in orchards and gardens where they will attack the mealybugs. The variety of citrophilus mealybug was the worst and no other control seemed effective until this biological control was introduced. Still millions of dollars are spent in the state for various pest controls.

Mr. Longmire gave a list of things to be planted now and after the usual plant sale refreshments were enjoyed.

The organization of our spring flower show April 19-21 is well under way and committees are hard at work.

The winter so far has been a mild one, and the outside begonias look better than they ever have.

Mr. and Mrs. Flaitz of Ojai have repaired their cloth house after a brush fire had destroyed it. Fortunately, the plants did not suffer and their Rexes which are mostly planted in the ground look better at this time than any I have seen lately.

—Walter J. Knecht.

Explanation of Change to Second Class Mail

Beginning with this issue of the **Begonian** the Society will save AT LEAST 80 percent over previous mailing charges because the Post Office Department at Washington has granted our request for entry as second-class matter.

However, the Department regulations insist that all subscriptions to the **Begonian** be PAID IN ADVANCE, so unless your 1940 fee of \$1.00 is received by the treasurer before March 15 your name will be withdrawn from the files.

Don't underrate the value of material contained within the pages of the **Begonian**. THERE IS NO OTHER PUBLICATION OF A SIMILAR NATURE PUBLISHED ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. Begonia information is scarce. Excellent material is on hand now, so don't allow yourself to miss any future numbers.

From Carpinteria, California, comes . . .

Seed Propagation

By A. A. LONGMIRE
Ventura Branch Director

I HAVE used this method for seed propagation with good results, disregarding all the fantastic ways of other planters. You can weigh this method as a grain of salt or you can measure it by returns and profits. Every planter has his system of planting his high price seeds, or priceless seed of some hybrid that he has labored to secure.

The simple method that I will try and give you not only works for begonias and other fine seeds, but can be used for all garden seed, nursery seed and bulbs. I can assure you that your trouble will be cut down to a small margin, and your plants will come along better than if planted your way or the way some one has told you.

I use small boxes 6 x 8 or 8 x 10 inches, 3 inch sides. Fill the box one-half full of decomposed granite or pea gravel or any other kind of crushed rock, using what will pass through a one-quarter inch screen. Mixture used for seed plantings: use German peat which has been soaked in a tub or pail of water and turned out into a clean box to drain. Screen peat through one-quarter inch screen. Use two parts of German peat to 1 part of beach sand, the sand that is called "blow" sand and is far above high tide. Mix well and fill box level, then press down with the small end of a brick which will leave the surface one-half inch below the top of the box. When this is done it is ready for planting.

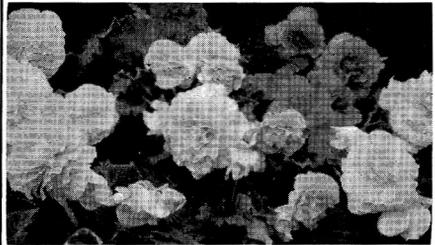
How to handle small seeds: Place packet of Begonia seed into a small wine glass putting one large tablespoon of beach sand with the seed. Shake well to mix seed with sand. Then sprinkle the contents over the surface, using a slight side and back movement of the hand to let the seed and sand spread evenly over the surface. Do not cover such fine seeds as begonias. When planting is completed place box into a clean pan or pail of water. Do not submerge the box, but sink it enough for the water to rise from the bottom till it darkens the surface of the soil. Then place box into a temperature of 55° to 60° and your seedlings will show in ten or twelve days. Free from weeds and fungus. I use a small glass to cover the seed box. The glass is sand blasted or frosted on one side, and in so doing it is not necessary to cover the glass with anything. Do not leave glass over the seedlings too long, or they will start to draw or pull up. After seed is well up and plants are looking good, remove the glass. Your seed planted this way will not make such soft top growth as when planted in leaf soil, but will give you a mass of roots

which when transplanted, will start off much faster than if rooted in leaf soil.

First transplanting: Use the same mixture as for seed planting. Second transplanting, use 2 parts leaf soil, 2 parts German peat moss, 1 part beach or river sand, 2 parts garden loam. Try this and get the results that you have been expecting. Results, that will be free from weeds and fungus, and eliminate failure.

SPRAY CHART AVAILABLE

Mr. Jerry Barfoot will send FREE to all who will send a card with their name and address, the 1940 BARFOOT SPRAY CHART. We have seen this chart and it has valuable information for all gardeners, also space to keep a record of the spraying of your plants. See the Barfoot ad on back cover for address.



PACIFIC STRAIN
of
TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

NEW DEVELOPMENTS
and

LARGEST SELECTION of
ALL TYPES and COLORS

Ask for Catalog

VETTERLE & REINELT
Capitola, Calif.

Submitted by Eva K. Gray

Naming Seedling Begonias

I certainly agree with Mr. Ziesenhenné about not introducing seedling begonias unless they have some outstanding merit.

We always want, naturally, to obtain a new begonia when we hear of one, or if it is catalogued, only to find when we grow it that it is very mediocre and no better than those of like type. I know that some begonia plants I have are so near alike that I have to keep a label on one to distinguish it from the other. It is very interesting to plant seed and get a lot of plants and hope for one that is different. Some species will come true to parent. I found that seeds from B. Mrs. Kimball are of those that do not vary unless pollenized with pollen from another variety. In the dozens of seedlings raised from B. Mrs. Kimball, all came true. Most of the canes will come true unless pollenized. But in growing a variety of the canes close to-

gether the pollen may be distributed by the wind or insects and give seedlings with a variety in color or in leaf formation. In the hybrids we find a throw-back into an original form. This is greatly true among the tropical species.

I crossed an Olbia with pollen from a Compta and the seedlings were varied, none coming true to either parent. Most of them were similar to Chiala rosea, no better, except one that was so slow growing it has taken it two years to show what it would be like. It had a leaf that had a very serrate edge, different from any other variety. There were no spots or markings. The leaf is all green and lightly tinted on under side.

The flower is white in bud form, but much larger than the buds on Compta. On the outside of bud is a tint of pink. Yes, I have given it a name for I thought it deserved one. But will watch with interest its future development. That is why growing begonias from seed makes it so fascinating. Some Incarnata seed sent around in the club letters had pods very green looking. I had little faith that they would germinate, but planted them just to see, and what was my surprise to see the little seedlings up in less than ten days. They apparently were ripened enough to start and as I'd never before seen a green seed pod I could not believe they had fully ripened. One thing in their favor is that they were fresh. I always wrap my begonia seed in cellophane until I plant them as I believe that keeps them from drying out. A club member reports that among her Scotch Luxurient seedlings is one with pink tinted blooms, and the leaves show a different texture. I am growing one now from her seed and hope it blooms pink tinted like hers. I've tried vainly, so far, to get a cross with other varieties on Multangular. I've tried pollen from Weltoniensis rosea and also from Sutherlandii, but none grew. I'll keep trying, for I think it can be done.

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AND YOUR PLANT IS TIED!**

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Your choice

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747 SOUTH TERMINAL ST., LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

Branch Organization

Members interested in organizing a Branch of the ABS in their vicinity may write directly to Mr. C. A. Hall, Public Relations Director in charge of Branch Organization, at 485 Jones Street, Ventura, California, for complete information and all the assistance you need.

The Picture on the Cover

The picture of *B. Glaucophylla scandens* on our cover page this month was furnished through the courtesy of Baake's (see ad on back page) Nursery.

Mrs. Buxton, in her book on Begonias, says this has the true trailing habit and is also known as *B. Glaucophylla*, *Glaucophylla splendens* and *Comte de Limminghe*. It is a native of Brazil, a winter-bloomer which makes it very valuable for pot culture.

Glaucophylla scandens has a smooth, light green leaf, deeply veined, with slightly ruffled edges. The flowers are coral-red and the buds striped with white. Specimens seen in Kew Gardens in large moss-covered baskets had trailing stems more than six feet long.

Truly no sheltered garden is complete without this beautiful begonia.

Orchid Society of Southern California

This live-wire group of orchid enthusiasts numbered over ninety at their second meeting held in Los Angeles, February 8, and due to the fact that so many interested in orchids are also interested in begonias future meetings of the Orchid Society will be held at 7:45 p.m. in the Committee Room, Exposition Recreation Center, Exposition Park, on the third Wednesday of each month so as not to conflict with any Branch meetings of the ABS.

Further information may be obtained from the newly-elected President, W. E. Severance, 315 West Ninth Street, Room 1105, Los Angeles.

The American Begonia Society extends sincere wishes for the future success of the Orchid Society of Southern California.

From M. C. G., Philadelphia: "Truly, each and every one of you is doing an excellent work for the American Begonia Society. Making the *BEGONIAN* adaptable for a binder is a very practical idea."

LONG BEACH PARENT BRANCH

A very timely lecture on pests and pest-control was presented to members and guests of the Parent Branch, February 8. Mrs. Ruby Liedler was appointed by President Hugh Hixon to send notices of future meetings to the Begonian.

Mrs. C. A. Rodenburg of Santa Monica will have charge of the program on March 14, so come early to get a seat.

EAST BAY BRANCH

By Harriette W. Bridges

The speaker at the March 25th meeting of East Bay Branch will be Mrs. Dora May Scudder, Hostess for the California Nursery Co., at Niles.

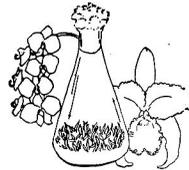
At our January meeting a most interesting talk was given by Mr. Howard Gilkey, landscape architect in charge of the Oakland Spring Flower Show. The theme this year will be "Fairyland." We are to have a place assigned us and we hope to have a worth while exhibition. Mr. Gilkey has recently returned from a trip to Europe and told of Flower Shows in England, Holland, and in our own East.

Newly-elected officers are as follows:
 Martin L. Boyd President
 E. H. Warren Vice-President
 Robert Barnhard Secretary-Treasurer
 Mrs. H. W. Bridges National Director

EDITOR'S LAMENT

In the confusion of adding names of new appointive officers and directors last month, the name of our Honorary Director, Mr. George Otten, was omitted from the list on page 2. The editor takes full responsibility for this error and promises to be MUCH more careful in the future.

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 GORGEOUS
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"WILD ROSE"

Tubers: 25 cents and up

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 REX, GLOXINIAS

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 Inglewood, Calif.



INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Friday, March 1, 8:00 p.m. Odd Fellows Hall, 159½ North La Brea Ave.
Mrs. V. SirKegian, Secretary,
413 W. Ellis Ave., Inglewood.

HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH

Tuesday, March 5, 7:30 p.m.
4316 E. 6th St., Long Beach.
Mrs. Frank Graves, Sec'y-Treasurer,
651 Loma Ave., Long Beach.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, March 6, 8:00 p.m.
1060 Francisco St., San Francisco.
Harry F. O'Donnell, Secretary,
1575 - 31st Ave., San Francisco.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, March 12, 8:00 p.m. Coca-Cola Hall, Ventura.
Mrs. Irene Van Fossen, 349 Jones St.,
Ventura, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT BRANCH

Thursday, March 14, 7:30 p.m. Community Hall, 9th and Lime, Long Beach.
Mace Taylor, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer,
520 E. Esther St., Long Beach .

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Friday, March 15, 7:30 p.m.
2112 Sixth Ave., San Gabriel.
Mrs. A. N. Hartwell, Secretary
1719 Alamitas Ave., Monrovia.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Monday, March 25, 8:00 p.m. City Hall Council Chambers, Grove Street and Allston Way, Berkeley.
R. L. Barnhard, Secretary,
2419 Oregon St., Berkeley, Calif.

There will be no National Directors' meeting in March.

HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH

The Herbert P. Dyckman Branch of the American Begonia Society met on February 6, at the home of its namesake, 141 West 53rd Street, for the regular meeting. About 40 members and guests were present.

Following the business meeting, Mrs. Mabel Anderson continued the plant study inaugurated at the January meeting by Mrs. Ruby Liedler, the subject being Begonia Aurea Maculata, a specimen of which she brought and donated to the plant sale.

Mrs. R. E. Wilson gave an interesting informal talk on the care and culture of tuberous begonias, and graciously answered questions concerning individual problems.

The plant sale, as usual, was most successful.

The ladies of the refreshment committee outdid themselves, the incentive being the 28th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert P. Dyckman. The highlight was a cake decorated beautifully and in a most professional manner by Mrs. J. A. Smith. Hope someone tells her about OUR anniversary.

—Irena M. Judd

From Mrs. L. M. D., Hartford, Conn.: "I have some thirty varieties growing in non-drainage pots. It seems to me that non-drainage pots are the answer to many problems when growing plants in heated homes. The January issue is very nice—I like the filing arrangement."

Mrs. Bessie Buxton writes on . . .

B. VIAU-SCHARFF

Do you ever find yourself pausing again and again, to study and enjoy some particular begonia? Always, when I water my plants, I stop to admire Viau-Scharff, a recent seedling of Mrs. E. K. Gray's (of San Diego). As the name indicates, it is Viaude x Scharffiana. The pointed leaves are about 2½ inches wide and 6 inches long, on my small plant, unusually flat, dark olive green, thickly set with short, stiff white hairs, and borne on long plum colored stems. The under side is a deep, rich plum color, white-hairy like the rest of the plant. The flowers are deep cream, set with dark red hairs, a very different color effect from any other Scharffiana seedling. The plant has inherited the large stipules of Scharffiana., pale green when young, drying to dark brown. It is distinctly brunette in coloring, and very much worth while.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Year Ending December 31, 1939

Departmental Balances:	
1939 Dues in advance	\$230.00
Research Fund	51.99
Mother Local	74.91
General Fund	32
Total Cash Balance	\$357.22

Receipts:

Dues for 1939	\$549.85
Dues for 1940	170.50
Total Dues Collected	720.35
Mother Local	171.30
Research Fund	140.04
Advertising	79.50
Seed Fund	42.94
Miscellaneous	91.24
Total Receipts	1245.37
Grand Total	\$1602.59

Disbursements:

Begonian	\$647.79
Research Fund	105.82
Seed Fund	18.43
Mother Local	210.10
Miscellaneous Expenses	278.05
Total Disbursements	1260.19
Balance on Hand	\$ 342.40

J. N. NUTTER, Treasurer

January 12, 1940

We, the undersigned members of the Auditing Committee of the American Begonia Society, have examined the records and accounts of Secretary-Treasurer Mr. J. N. Nutter, and found them correct.

We wish to commend Mr. Nutter for the efficient manner in which the books of our Society are kept.

TOM H. SMITH
FRANK LIEDLER

Dr. Van Gelder, who has been quite active in the Inglewood Branch and Chairman of the '39 nominating committee, has again shown his interest in the welfare of the organization by becoming one of our regular advertisers.

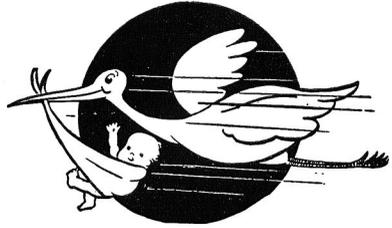
This is the kind of enthusiasm that makes a success of societies such as the ABS.

BEGONIAS Shade FERNS
AZALEAS Plants FUCHSIAS

Dodson

Water Gardens and Fernery

1064 E. Hermosa Dr., San Gabriel

LET'S END THIS SUSPENSE**ANOTHER BLESSED EVENT**

Yippee-e-e-e, Yes-sir, the ABS has gone and done it again! Another Blessed Event to be known to all and sundry as SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH, came into existence January 19. Since that time the Stork has been hovering over Multnomah and Portland, Oregon, Kirkwood, Mo., Philadelphia, Pa., Fowlerville, Mich., and Pueblo, Colo., trying to make up his mind where to drop the next bundle. Keep up the good work, Mr. Stork, and end the suspense, the ABS will back you to the limit!

▲ FLASH ▲

News of organization of Pennsylvania Branch with seven members arrived just at press time. Full report in April BEGONIAN.

When the sprouts on your tubers are about an inch high, place the tubers half their depth in flats of wet peat moss until a root system is formed.

Thoughtfulness

The ABS hereby sends a vote of thanks to the Bungalow Nursery at Colma, Vetterle and Reinelt at Capitola, Rosecroft Gardens at Point Loma and many garden editors for suggesting membership in the American Begonia Society in their catalogs and columns.

ALEXANDER B. SIM

305 North Sepulveda Blvd.
(Highway 101) Manhattan Beach

BEGONIAS-FERNS-FUCHSIAS
TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

All varieties and prices.

ENGLISH PRIMROSES
SHADE PLANTS

Visitors Welcome

We Close on Monday—Jan. to April

You Need A Glasshouse

FERD P. NEELS

To many readers the joy of a glasshouse has been but a dream. Until it has become real, the pleasure of working with growing things cannot be enjoyed throughout the year.

The size will be determined by space available and the good old pocketbook. I would suggest 7 x 12 as very practical and any amateur who's handy with tools can be his own carpenter.

There are two types, the V-roofed and the lean-to. The former is more fully efficient but the latter less expensive and quite adequate.

Protect from Wind

Either kind should have its length run north and south and be out of severe winds and from under the shade of trees. Now, if you haven't this supposedly ideal location, how about the roof of the garage?

There are two kinds of gardener's bench to have in the glasshouse. One for potted plants and one for propagation. Place a layer of pebbles on the bench for potted plants as they will retain some of the water and as it evaporates will help to maintain the humidity. There should be a layer of coarse, fresh water sand on the propagation bench.

Whether you buy new or second hand glass be sure that it is freshly whitewashed in the spring. This will remain until the rains come in the fall and as the plants need more sun in the winter this condition is favorable to them.

Use Aluminum Paint

Another thing of importance that has only recently been discovered is that by painting the interior woodwork an aluminum color a refracting light is obtained.

Even in a Southern California climate it is necessary that we install an adequate heating system. I am using the method described by Mr. Day in the November, 1939, issue of the *Begonian* and find it very successful.

I think that anyone who owns a glasshouse should own a coldframe, also. It is a convalescent home for the more delicate plants where they may gather strength before being transplanted into the garden.

The first temptation when one has a glasshouse, is to grow everything. However, since space is restricted, you must soon arrive at selective growing. Choose the types of plants that interest you most, especially those that you are not apt to grow outdoors.

One of the most interesting developments of the past few years is the acceptance of the orchid as a popular glasshouse plant. Where it was once considered a rich man's hobby, it is now a favorite of anyone who has a bit of glass.

In addition to the orchid, I would suggest growing some of the rarer and more tender begonias. Also streptocarpus, gloxinias, Saintpaulia Violets and tropical ferns and vines. Or your glasshouse may be used mainly as a propagating center where seedlings and cuttings are advanced through their preliminary stages.

Now, if you find that you do not have the time to build your own house, it is possible to buy one ready-made surprisingly reasonable. And, let me add, if you are really desirous of possessing a glasshouse, plan it now and have it well completed before fall so it can be stocked with plants before cold weather. You will enjoy it from the first and you will find it much easier to construct during the summer months.

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Lack of space prohibits publishing complete list of new members. More next month.

BOOK REVIEW

By M. B. DUNKLE

Introduction to Floral Mechanism, S. G. Jones, Chemical Publishing Company, New York. \$4.00.

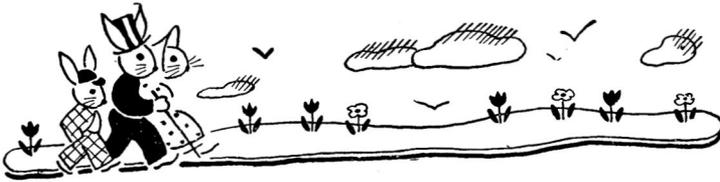
For those who are interested in the mechanics of heredity this book will be found a most valuable aid. It is thoroughly scientific and will give the botanically interested person a thorough technical knowledge of the flower, its parts and its functions.

Part I of the book is devoted to the flower; fruit, pollination, heredity and hybridization. This is the section that would

be of most value to our scientific experimenters.

Part II discusses some twenty-one selected families of flowering plants, and is intended to familiarize one with fundamental facts in regard to plant classification. It is particularly adapted to train one in the use of a botanical key.

The prospective reader should be warned that the language of the book is highly technical and, while well written for the scientist, must be considered difficult for the average amateur. Read a few chapters of this book carefully and you will be able to hold your own in a botanical discussion.



THE COMPOST PILE

From K. I. S., Hollywood: "I am enjoying the *BEGONIAN* and read it from cover to cover, advertisements and all at the hour of arrival."

From H. D., Los Angeles: "As one editor to another, accept my congratulations upon your little magazine, which is exceedingly well set up and attractive. I think you have done a splendid job. Best of luck to you and may your "*Begonian*" grow in size and beauty, and carry your message far and wide."

From Mrs. A. N., Los Angeles: "Just received the 12-pager! This is truly a big improvement over the old mimeographed folded copy of a few years back. All the articles were fine and I hope a 12-pager is the rule in the future."

If each member will make it a rule to bring in a new member occasionally and each new member will do the same, you'll get your 12-pager.

From C. S. F., Fowlerville, Mich.: "The February copy of the *BEGONIAN* was a very great improvement and contained much material of help as well as genuine interest. I have just had the formula made up for the begonia food mentioned in one of the articles."

From C. K., Long Beach: "The February number is a honey."

Tsk! Tsk! Such language from a retired school teacher!

From Mrs. C. E. M., San Diego: "Friends have given me slips and I have quite a display of healthy begonias. Have them and other plants in painted tin cans and do they grow! I buy coffee in four pound cans and fruit juices in the largest sizes so I may have the nice clean cans, and then I use neutral colored paints on them."

From C. B., San Diego: "I am proud of the *BEGONIAN* and its record and congratulate the Society for steady increase in membership."

From Mrs. E. M. C., Enid, Okla.: "The Royal Hobby of growing begonias has taken complete possession of me. I am having splendid luck in growing many kinds, rooting cuttings and also growing some species from seed. Good luck and lots of work to you officers for 1940, so that we Begonia Bugs may have a bigger and better *BEGONIAN*."

DON'T BLAME ME if the '41 nominating committee reads this!

From C. H., Ventura: "One squawk—and it's almost a squeak. I don't like the title "*The Compost Pile*."

Neither do we. Why not suggest a better one?

PLANT STUDY

By Mabel Anderson
(DYCKMAN BRANCH)

Begonia Manicata Aurea Maculata, probably a sport of B. Manicata, was discovered by "Lemoine," and introduced in Germany in 1884. It is a native of Mexico and Central America. The growth is thick-stemmed and rhizomatous.

B. Manicata has a smooth, almost round, light green leaf, edged with red hairs, and a collar of fleshy red hair at the junction or base of the leaf and along the leaf stem.

B. Manicata Aurea Maculata is similar, but the leaves are blotched with large patches of whitish yellow.

B. Manicata Crispa has the green leaves of B. Manicata, but has ruffled or crispate margins.

B. Manicata Aurea Maculata Crispa combines the crispate margins and yellowish white blotches, and makes a handsome hanging basket. A strong light is needed to produce the variegated color in the leaves. During the blooming season, which is generally in February, the long lacy sprays of pale pink flowers extending well above the leaves, make a beautiful plant. All four plants make good pot subjects.

BEGONIA ENTHUSIASTS ALSO RAIN "DOGS"

Despite the fact that Mr. Murray McNeil had previously appeared twice in January in Inglewood, there were 152 members and guests present at the February 2nd meeting. Were we pleased!

This new film of Swift and Company is really something—especially the border of begonias, pansies and alyssum all blooming at the same time. This is what we try to produce, but in vain. And the fields of huge poppies! Can words describe the brilliancy in acres of such flowers. Mrs. Lewis brought in some Rexes for display and lectured briefly on same. Dear Mrs. Lewis, just what do you say to your Rexes to get such coloring?

Eight "initiation" boxes of young plants were given to new members—one new member receiving hers at the January meeting. Several "old-timers" brought in new members and their request for plants is being given attention. We now have 105 members who have paid 1940 dues. Isn't this something!

It is most gratifying to see the results obtained from the publicity our branch is receiving from notices and articles in local papers. Mrs. Alice Nicklow, our Program Chairman, is also Publicity Director and would appreciate the out-of-town members sending her the name or names of papers covering your district—either news papers or trade papers. Her address is 1300 West 83rd Place, Los Angeles.

The Inglewood Branch takes this opportunity to thank Mrs. Pauline Ney for the good work she is doing—that last issue of the "Begonian" is a "hum-dinger" and more power to you, Pauline. You have our cooperation 100%.

So many times questions are asked about the Azalea and Camellia—while more home gardeners know about the Camellia, few know about the care of the Azalea. We, therefore, have secured Mr. Cundy of the Coolidge's Rare Plant Gardens to lecture on these plants March 1st. Colored slides will be shown.

Mrs. Sim of Manhattan Beach needs no introduction to the American Begonia Society. She will have a display of various plants and give a brief talk on same.

March 1st is the date—COME ONE, COME ALL!



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GARDEN GOSSIP

By R. A. Langley

Whether tuberous begonias are raised from seed or tubers, they should be placed where they will get fair light, but no direct sunlight. If you plant them in too dark a place, they will grow luxuriously, but they won't bear many blossoms, if any.

On the other hand, if you give them too much light, the leaves will curl under, and turn too shiny. With these symptoms diagnosed, you can plant accordingly. If you are planting in pots you can move them about until you've found the right sites.

Some years ago I experimented with turning the pots around so the leaves would develop evenly on all sides. Of course it didn't work, but I didn't know the leaves naturally point the same way, and I was merely forcing the plants to twist their necks around in order to face the light. The front is always where the tips of the leaves are pointing, and if you are planting in the ground you will want to remember that when you are setting them out.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

The San Gabriel Valley Branch of the ABS was organized January 19 and interested culturists who grow begonias as a hobby came from San Gabriel, Monrovia, Arcadia, El Monte, Sierra Madre, Covina and San Bernardino.

Officers elected were Carl Essig, President; Miss Lucille R. King, Vice-President; Mrs. A. N. Hartwell, Secretary; Mrs. R. Harrington, Treasurer; A. N. Hartwell, Representative Director; Arthur Nelson, Director, and Dr. J. B. Lauder, Director. Appointive officers: T. A. Dodson, Chairman Plant Sales; Mrs. W. M. Bisbee, Program Chairman; Frank M. Fox, Seed Research; Mrs. J. B. Land, Refreshments; Maude A. Fox, Publicity.

National President Frank Harrison and Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Pauline Ney, editor of the *BEGONIAN*, and Mrs. C. H. Harris, business manager, were among the national officers who attended the February 16 meeting held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Dodson, 1064 East Hermosa Drive, San Gabriel.

Maude A. Fox, Publicity Chairman

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So many inquiries have been received by H. Britton Logan, Jr., for more information and demonstrations on the chemical and vegetative doubling of chromosomes in plants that he is setting aside Wednesday afternoons for those who are interested and Mr. Logan will give a practical demonstration of the various chemical techniques used.

His letter continues: "I've just finished building a rather large and practicable greenhouse, so I'll be able to do more justice to the subject than I have in the past. So, if any member of the American Begonia Society would like to drop by on Wednesday afternoons, I'd be more than glad to show them the results of plant doubling of chromosomes, and work out a practical method for them to use in their own experiments.

"In doing this I, of course, would prefer that those who do come are really sincere in wanting to make such experiments, and are ready to undertake some of the more difficult work involved."

The Society is indebted to Mr. Logan for an excellent article which will begin in the April number of the *Begonian*. Mr. Logan's address is 242 North Layton Drive, Village Station, Los Angeles, California.

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