

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

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The BEGONIAN

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Editor's Notes:

● If this year of The Begonian has been to your liking, may we ask you to give credit to all our fine contributors, who so generously have given of their time and their knowledge that we might benefit. The advertisers, who, while telling you of their wares, are also seeking to do you good through their materials and service that your gardens may be as lovely as possible, also deserve our recognition.

Dr. Drummond is preparing the 1944 INDEX which will be ready for publication in January, and if you look through The Begonian for the year you will realize how greatly some contributors have given of themselves.

The Editor is truly thankful to one and all for the support received and asks

that each one try to bring another member into the fold, that we might be enabled to make The Begonian still better in 1945.

December reminds us that there are many things yet left undone and the time is short. We should not fail to stop, think and ponder over the significance of Pearl Harbor Day, December 7th and the following day, December 8th, when our Nation was plunged into War No. 2.

Forty-one years ago on December 17th, Wilbur Wright made his first flight in an aeroplane. We marvel at the inventive genius of men as we consider the progress made since 1903 to 1944 and wonder what the next forty-one years have in store for our young ones.

(Continued on page 460)

Lovely As A Christmas Anthem

By FLORENCE KNOCK,
Crooks, South Dakota

• . . . Are these colorful Winter window gardens of the Mid-West. Each Begonia melior—and its relatives—seems to want to be THE highlight in the window during this festive season. Because the Fall months have been unusually sunny, many other Winter blooming begonias will also add to our cheerful Christmas decorations. October had 25 sunny days. How many did you have in California?

However, my Begonias may be delayed a few days because they went traveling in September. In Minneapolis the Begonias were planted in a sheltered, shady location for the Summer. The sun would reach them in the early morning and a while again before the sun set. During the heat of the day the house gave them 100% shade, but they had good light, space and a deep enriched soil bed. They responded well to the unlimited root space and abundant nourishment and the result was rich color in foliage and abundant colorful blossoms.

To bring 200 and more houseplants and bulbs with us to South Dakota involved much forethought and planning. Hence our splendid Begonian Editor has asked me to relate how this plant collection was brought from one home to another, a move of about 260 miles. Naturally, not one of the—about 70 different begonias could be left behind, except the many cuttings and small plants that were shared with other begonia fanciers.

The begonias basked in the freedom of the open border for 8 weeks only, because they had to be potted up early in order that they might have time to become well established in their pots before they would be subjected to the long ride in the trailer. Some of them were in such good bloom that it seemed cruel to lift them so soon in August. The supposed-to-be-fragrant blossoms did produce their delightful, delicious perfume while blooming in the border. When they bloomed in the house, sniff, as my friends and I would, never a suggestion of fragrance could we detect. However, the fragrance was at its best in the early A.M. before the sun and wind could do its best to scatter the dainty offering.

Two days before the date of our moving, the pots were generously watered, and individually wrapped with paper and

A.B.S. CHANGE OF MEETING DATE.

• The National Board of The American Begonia Society announces a desire to change the meeting evening TO THE FOURTH MONDAY OF THE MONTH. The meetings will be held regularly in the Edwards-Willey Bldg., Room 302, 609 So. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. It is hoped that this will facilitate attendance by those who are now otherwise occupied on the present meeting evening: the Second Monday of the Month. The December meeting will be held as usual, but January will see the change—unless it is found impracticable.

• The Begonian carries your good wishes twelve months of the year.

set into sturdy boxes. Since the trailer is almost the size of the farm wagon, ample space was afforded. The sides of the trailer were heightened to accommodate the taller plants and a weatherproof canvas was stretched over the top, leaving sufficient air space. Hitched to the car the trailer came right along and naturally the plants must have 'enjoyed' a great deal of vibration and jarring.

When we arrived at the Parsonage the moving van had arrived and after a good luncheon at a neighbor's, the 'moving in' was soon accomplished. Several willing ladies helped me get the plants in thru the side door, while the men brought in the contents of the van thru the front door. A bay window and several other spacious windows were soon well filled with plants, as was also the wide porch.

For several days the plants looked satisfied, but there occurred a reaction. I gathered up hands full of foliage that dropped. Many stems were almost bare, but in a short time—new, sturdy leaves appeared and now they look as tho' they had always lived in Crooks.

I do enjoy my plants a great deal but I do not know yet how they will go through the Winter in this house. Our home in Minneapolis had every window and door insulated and weatherstripped. The gas controlled heat helped so much. I could leave all the plants in the windows, even on the coldest nights though the inner window would be frosty for about an inch at the bottom on the coldest nights when the thermometer would be about 25 below zero.

This Mid-West story will be continued in the January Begonian.

Sixth National Begonia Show

By G. G. LAWRENCE
Alhambra, Calif.

• The Begonia Show held at Hollywood on September 16th, in connection with the annual convention was more colorful than previous shows due to the large number of tuberous begonias exhibited. The quality of the plants was excellent, and September is apparently a good month to hold a begonia show, at least on the west coast.

The division winners were as follows:

Division A — Fibrous Begonias

Best—W. C. Cocke, of the Hollywood Branch

Second—Mrs. H. V. Zechiel, of the Glendale Branch

Third—E. C. Rockwell, of the Pasadena Branch

Division B—Rhizomatous—Thick Stem or Procumbent Begonias

Best—Earl Wiltse, of the Inglewood Branch

Second—A. E. Nelson, of the San Gabriel Valley Branch

Third—Mrs. A. E. Wiley, of the Pasadena Branch

Division C—Rex Begonias

Best—Mrs. Hazel Grigsby, of the Inglewood Branch

Second—Mrs. Hazel Grigsby, of the Inglewood Branch

Third—A. E. Nelson, of the San Gabriel Valley Branch

Division D—Tuberous Rooted Begonias

Best—Reg G. Hudson, of the Orange County Branch

Second—Reg G. Hudson, of the Orange County Branch

Third—Reg G. Hudson, of the Orange County Branch

Division E—Hanging Basket Begonias

Best—Mrs. Hazel Grigsby, of the Inglewood Branch

Second—E. B. Flynn, of the Hollywood Branch

Third—Reg G. Hudson, of the Orange County Branch

Division F—Odd or Rare Begonias

Best—Russ Eaker, of the San Diego Branch

Second—Earl Wiltse, of the Inglewood Branch

Third—Mrs. Hazel Grigsby, of the Inglewood Branch

Division G—Flower Arrangements and Cut Blooms

Best—Hazel Hudson, of the Orange County Branch

Second—Ray Wilson, of the Hollywood Branch

Third—Elizabeth Whitehead, of the San Gabriel Valley Branch

Five dollars in War Savings Stamps was awarded to the exhibitor of the best begonia in each of the above seven divisions.

Three dollars in War Savings Stamps was awarded to the exhibitor of the second best begonia in each division.

Two dollars in War Savings Stamps was awarded to the exhibitor of the third best begonia in each division.

Russ Eaker, of the San Diego Branch, was awarded \$5.00 in War Savings Stamps for the best begonia in the show.

Mrs. Marie Turner, of the San Gabriel Valley Branch, was awarded \$10.00 in cash for the best new seedling in the show, and \$5.00 in cash for the second best new seedling in the show.

The Mrs. W. C. Drummond Cup was awarded to Reg G. Hudson, of the Orange County Branch, for the best tuberous begonia in the show.

The Gonda Hartwell Challenge Cup for the best rex begonia in the show was again won by Mrs. Hazel Grigsby, of the Inglewood Branch.

Mr. Reg G. Hudson also won the Sweepstakes Cup awarded to the individual winning the most points in the show.

The Sweepstakes Cup for the branch winning the most points in the show was awarded to the Orange County Branch.

The Begonia Show has developed to the point where it is one of the most important parts of the convention. It not only affords the members of our Society an opportunity to display their best begonias and to win worthwhile prizes, but it is also of an educational value. There one may see begonias properly grown and learn many of the proper names.

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BRANCH NEWS

San Gabriel Branch: V. Pres. Dr. C. H. Lauder reported that the meetings of this group will now be held in the evening at The American Legion Hall on the FOURTH Friday of the month. There will be continued good programs to look forward to monthly.

Inglewood Branch: Mrs. W. C. Drummond was the speaker in November. She gave a very entertaining and instructive demonstration of flower arrangements and corsages with some accent on the forthcoming Holidays, at which art she is very proficient.

The December meeting will be very special and none of the members or friends will want to miss it. It will be a Christmas party again this year. Each member is asked to bring a gift costing not more than 50c wrapped for the grab box. The election of officers will be held during the business part of the meeting and each member will want to cast his vote. Vice-President, Mr. J. S. Robson will play his Victor-Theremin. Many folks will remember how enjoyable his music was at the annual Banquet. Ice cream, Cake and candy will be served so be sure and **bring a plate and a spoon.**

We hope to have an especially nice plant sale and members are urged to bring a plant for this last sale of the year.

California Heights Branch: When gasoline supply is short and visits to places of interest are difficult, if made at all, the efforts of those who have made pictures and are willing to share them with others, are more than ever appreciated.

Mrs. Alvina D. Noland entertained the October meeting of this group by showing colored slides of wild flowers and places of natural beauty as well as flower farms in California. After this delightful floral tour she screened pictures of her own begonias, chrysanthemums and other flowers she cultivates in her own garden.

The December meeting of the Branch will be held at the home of Past President Jessie Jenkins, 3615 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif. on Friday the 8th, at 8 p.m.

Pasadena Branch: Miss Charlotte Hoak presented a list of twelve points by which to classify begonias at the Wednesday evening meeting of Nov. 8th. This was so interesting that the presentation will be continued into the December meeting. It is hoped that drawings of the

leaves and flowers of the begonias studied will be made on paper so that all may have the information readily at hand and thus become really proficient in recognizing the various plants.

Lt. Col. C. M. Gale was unanimously re-elected as President of the Pasadena Branch. Frank E. Collier was elected Vice-President. Lester F. Harrell re-elected as Treasurer and Secretary. Mr. J. W. Baily was elected Director and representative on the National Board and Mrs. L. E. Strickland will be Publicity Director for the local news.

Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch: It is reported that Mr. Wm. Jonson of Pasadena gave one of the most instructive talks this Branch has heard. The speaker is well known for his interesting manner of presenting his subject matter.

Glendale Branch: The National President, Mr. Arthur E. Nelson and Mrs. Nelson were among the guests of this branch with Mr. George Lawrence, Director Public Relations and Ch. Speakers Bureau and Mrs. Lawrence.

Everyone enjoyed the instructive talk by William Ross on Rexes and their propagation. He announced his departure for Vista to take over the Boulevard Nursery. Mr. Ross will be greatly missed in Glendale where he has been one of the leaders of the group for a long time. Good luck is wished for him by everyone. The Nominating Committee will present the slate of officers for 1945 at the November meeting.

Mr. Harold Hart of this Branch showed a splendid array of ferns, and Saint Paulia Violets with a beautiful plant of *Tolmiea menziesii* the 'Pick a back plant' that measured 30 inches in diameter from an 8 inch pot. He has given many plants away from this mother *Tolmiea*. . . . Quite often Mrs. Hart places some leaves in small pots and in a fortnight—loh, there is another supply of plants. It is one of the most prolific shade plants and has good looks to back it up. It never fails to draw comments from visitors to the Hart garden. It is a very ferny plant for the shade garden and a splendid "house plant which propagates itself" (see article by that title in February, 1941 *Begonian*, page 24-25) or "Youth-on-Age."

North Long Beach Branch: A special Christmas party is announced by this group to take place at 42 E. Market Street at 8 p.m. on Monday, December 11th. Pot-luck dinner will be the order

(Continued on page 460)

Questions With Answers

By HELEN R. BAILEY,
San Diego, Calif.

I AM NOT INFALLIBLE, and here is the proof.

I have received the following letter from the Division of Plant Pathology, University of California, College of Agriculture, Berkeley, California.

My dear Mrs. Bailey:

In the October issue of *The Begonian*, page 423, I read with interest your column entitled "Your Questions Answered." Referring to the second question from Mrs. P. L., Lake Grove, Oregon, I wonder if the mottled condition may not have been due to infection by a virus disease rather than to a lack of certain chemical elements in the soil. For some years I have made a study of the diseases of tuberous begonias, and hence my reason for raising this question.

If it were possible for you to obtain a new leaves from Mrs. P. L. to send to me, this matter can easily be checked. I shall be glad to assist you at any time in questions involving disease determinations.

Sincerely yours,
C. M. Thompkins,
Associate Plant Pathologist.

I am very glad to have this correction from Mr. Thompkins. Constructive criticism is always very welcome to me for I am just a student of begonias like most of the rest of you readers. Mr. Thompkins' offer to help in disease determination is more than welcome. At least, I know enough to know that the study of plant diseases is a big subject and one upon which I am glad to have help. I will be glad to forward any leaves from my fellow Begonians to Mr. Thompkins but they would arrive in better condition if they were sent directly to him. Be sure that all such leaves are packed in damp moss, cotton, or blotting paper and the whole wrapped in waxed paper to conserve the moisture.

Q. What is the name of the begonia that looks like frilly light green lettuce? It doesn't seem to have much of a stalk. How are they propagated?

From Mrs. S. F. Z., San Dimas, Calif.

A. The begonia that you describe is either *manicata crispa (cristata)* or *Crestabruchi*. There is a photograph of the latter on pg. 157 of the September, 1943 *Begonian*. It is propagated chiefly by division or rhizome cuttings.

Q. Is sand as good as leafmold to start Rex leaves?

A. Many people prefer sharp sand to leafmold for growing Begonia cuttings and Rex from leaves. I have tried both and find very little difference in results.

Q. I have found Helen Harms to be a most satisfactory type of tuberous begonia to use as a very showy border. The plants have a profusion of yellow blossoms over a period of many months. Can you tell me where I can buy more tubers to increase my stock?

From Mrs. C. C., San Francisco, Calif.

A. If any of our readers can tell us where Helen Harms can be purchased there are others of us who would appreciate the information also. Address letters to Mrs. Wilkes or Mrs. Bailey. In the meantime, Mrs. C. C., why don't you try increasing your number of tubers by cuttings. The method is described in our *Begonia Society Bulletin on Tuberous Begonias* and in the November issue of the *Begonian*, pg. 437.

Q. I wonder if you can tell me why some of my begonias do not bloom. Some of them had blooms on them last fall when I bought them and have not bloomed since.

From Mrs. R. G. R., Augusta, Ga.

A. I presume from your address that your begonias are house plants and that therefore your problem is one of light. Begonias do not like full sun—although some of my tall ones do most of their blooming where they stick through the roof of my lath house—but they usually refuse to bloom if they don't get enough light. Some like more light than others and it is largely a matter of experiment as to the particular location for a particular begonia. I would suggest that you not only try putting them where they get more light in the house, but that you keep them outside in semi-shade whenever there is no danger of frost.

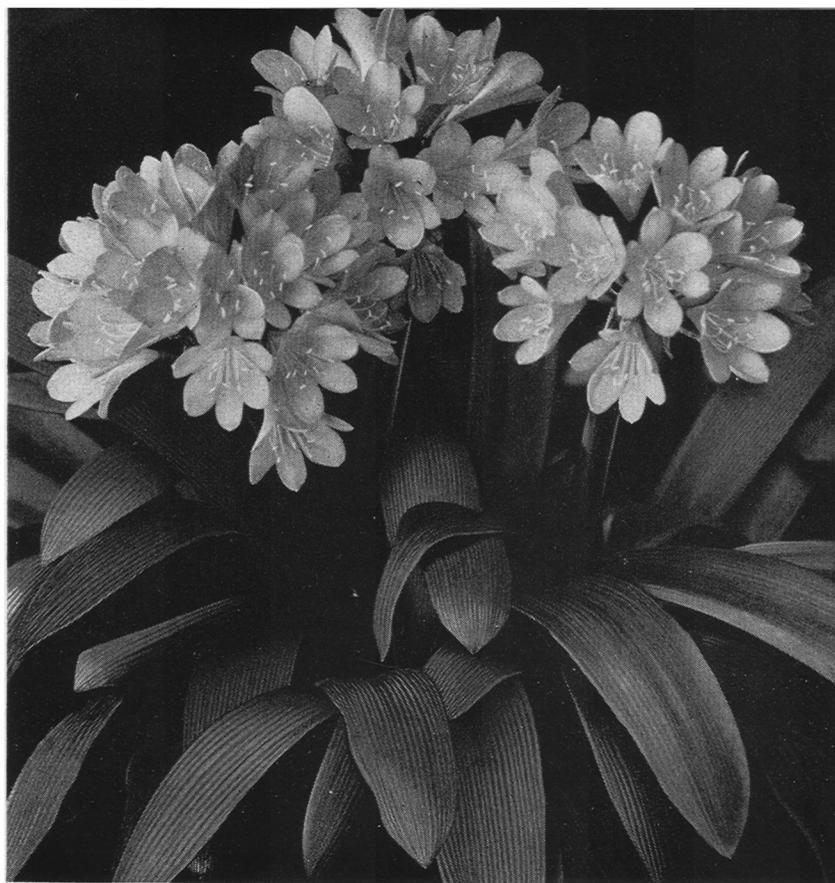
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MARIA WILKES

158 So. Oxford Ave., Los Angeles 4, Calif.



Clivia Hybrid — by Courtesy James Giridlian

Clivias

By MARIA WILKES
Los Angeles, Calif.

• The Clivias, (*Claai'via*) or (*Cli'via*) are now becoming well known, though still too rare in the shade garden generally. They are comparatively cheap when one considers the time it takes to propagate them. To offset this, forgetting the time element, consider the hardiness, the ease of growth, the prolific manner they have of propagating naturally and the simple methods with which even an amateur may multiply his stock of these Autumn, Winter and Spring flowering fibrous-rooted plants for shade. They do well even in deep shade. The Clivias are remarkably lovely plants to grow in pots or in tubs for house decoration and for porches or outdoor use according to the location. The Huntington Gardens in San Marino, California make excellent use of these beautiful flowering amaryllids. The huge oaks shelter hundreds of them nestled out as far as the drip line of the great and expansive branches, then they are either flanked with drifts or bordered with cymbidium

orchids. Can anyone imagine a much lovelier picture? That is something superlatively glorious and hard to beat, but that is no deterrent to the cottage gardener for he, too, can create an unbelievably attractive picture on a small scale. Clivias contrast wonderfully with more delicate foliage material. We are indebted to a good friend of ours, a new advertiser in *The Begonian*, for the splendid "cut" of one of the newer hybrid types of Clivia. From the *C. miniata*, the original South African species which was named for the Duchess Northumberland of the Clive family, and the *C. nobilis* to the amazingly aristocratic hybrids of European growers and particularly of Mr. Zimmerman in Southern California, all of them are outstanding plants for the cold season of the year into Spring. The seed pods which follow the inflorescence turn into a rich red after full development, holding on until the next flowering season, often remaining with the flowers which might be a light apricot-yellow with deeper edges or rich, warm, reddish-orange with pale centers and many tones

(Continued on page 460)

How Do You Ripen Off Your Tuberos Rooted Begonias?

• There are many ways of drying off the tuberos rooted begonias. So many questions are asked from innumerable quarters. If you are particularly successful in your method, won't you share the information with your fellow members?

Do you keep them in the pots in the soil in which they grew until the planting season is here again or do you take them out of the soil and remove all the dirt from the tubers—then store them in sand, peat, au naturel, with naptha flakes or nested in shredded redwood bark? or what ? Which is the best for you?

What is the day and night temperature of the storage place which has proved most successful for you?

What has been the worst trouble you have experienced in the curing, drying and storing the tubers of your begonias, and do these troubles correspond to the treatment of the tubers of Fancy leaved Caladiums and gloxinias?

The Editor would be grateful to those who will send in answers to these questions for a "ROUND-LETTER-DISCUSSION."

If you have not taken particular pains to notice results of various modes of storing tubers of these plants, then why not start now?

We shall be glad to hear from you.

The Editor.

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REQUEST FOR HERBARIUM SPECIMENS

• Mrs. Helen K. Krauss, Director The Clayton M. Kelly Research Dept., and Nomenclature Committees of The American Begonia Society, requests that members send her suitable Herbarium material so that she may continue her work in trying to compile as fine a collection of begonia dried specimens as may be had in United States.

Let us reprint from May, 1943 Begonian, page 85:—

"I have discussed the matter of the Begonia Herbarium with my fellow collector, Mrs. Albert H. Gere. She has very kindly offered to share in the work. . . . When we plant our begonias out of doors in May we may make herbarium specimens of parts we would ordinarily cut out and destroy. Mrs. Gere and I will be partners in this work and the printing of the names will be done by Mrs. Gere, who is an artist with her pen. I will supply the names and the authorities for the names."

Now they are ready for specimens from everywhere and we ask each member to look over the plants that do well in each district and make sizeable cut-

MOST COMMENDABLE RESPONSE TO LETTER

National President Arthur E. Nelson received a letter from Mrs. Alma Schmidt of Pleasanton, Calif., which he referred to the East Bay Branch Secretary.

The East Bay Branch members quickly and understandingly got together a collection of begonia plants for Mrs. Schmidt to start her off on the hobby which the Doctor hopes will do wonders for her. Beyond the many plants she has already received quite a few more are still to be taken to her by Mr. H. L. Swager, past President of the East Bay Branch.

We commend this action very highly, and hope others will be inspired to follow the good lead. We all hope Mrs. Schmidt will reap much spiritual and physical help through the daily care of these plants. Who knows where and to what the pursuit of this royal hobby will NOT lead her?

• Do be sure to send your subscription as early as possible to Mrs. Harker RIGHT NOW if it is due in December—to avoid extra work late in the month and less of The Begonian later. It will be appreciated.

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tings which may be mounted as specimens, pack these in moist cotton and wax paper then in a box that will keep the plant specimens from being squashed. If it is possible to press the specimens correctly, then they can be mailed to Mrs. Krauss, see address on front page, for proper mounting and labeling. We hope Mrs. Krauss will give us more explicit directions to follow by next issue, in the meantime—it will be appreciated if everyone interested will take action accordingly.

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Begonia X Duscharf

By ALICE M. CLARK,
San Diego, Calif.

• In the last Rosecroft Begonia Guide, issued in 1941, B. Duscharf, a hairy fibrous type, was listed for the first time. It is to be hoped that it did not come out too late to be well distributed among begonia lovers as it is worthy of high esteem. A Robinson hybrid, it is catalogued thus:

"B. x Duscharf. Seedling of Duchartrei and Scharffiana; much like Duchartrei, but incomparably better in habit, making well filled out specimens from the base up. Leaf rounder and heavier, showing the Scharffiana influence; also more floriferous."

The plant I have sketched, though only eighteen inches to its top-most flower, illustrates what its producer claimed for it. The lower leaf covers three healthy new shoots which start leafing right at the ground, like Scharffiana. The main stalk is not quite as red as the above parent and is greener near the top, though the red stain remains around the joints, which are about two inches apart. The hairs are white. Unfortunately I have lost my plant of true Duchartrei. I was astonished not to be able to find a picture of it in Bailey or the New York Botanical booklet (where it was not even mentioned.) Such neglect of a famous old hybrid! But Mrs. Fewkes says it is a bit delicate, so perhaps we are forgiven. There is a sketch of it in Chevalier's "Begonias," but it looks far more like Vesperia or Improved Marguerite.

The leaves are hairy on both sides, but instead of the all-over olive green of Scharffiana, they show a mottled light and dark green on the surface, with a faint reddish flush beneath, deeper on the veins. On top, the axis and veins are a pale green. The largest leaf on my plant is almost 7x12 inches and would probably be larger if grown in the ground. This was difficult to show in my sketch as the top part of the plant was so much wider than the bottom that I had to take a fore-shortened view to get it on the page. The leaf lobes do not overlap, as in Scharffiana, and instead of being so round they have curved corners. When mature, there is an extra fullness that gives a slightly cupped effect. The lower leaves in the picture are not really typical. The tail-like point is reminiscent of Scharffiana.

The petioles are 3 to 4 inches long, reddish with white hairs. The stipules at the base of the stem are brown and dry almost from the first, instead of pale green, like the species parent, but the young leaf has the same thick silky pucker, though not nearly as red.

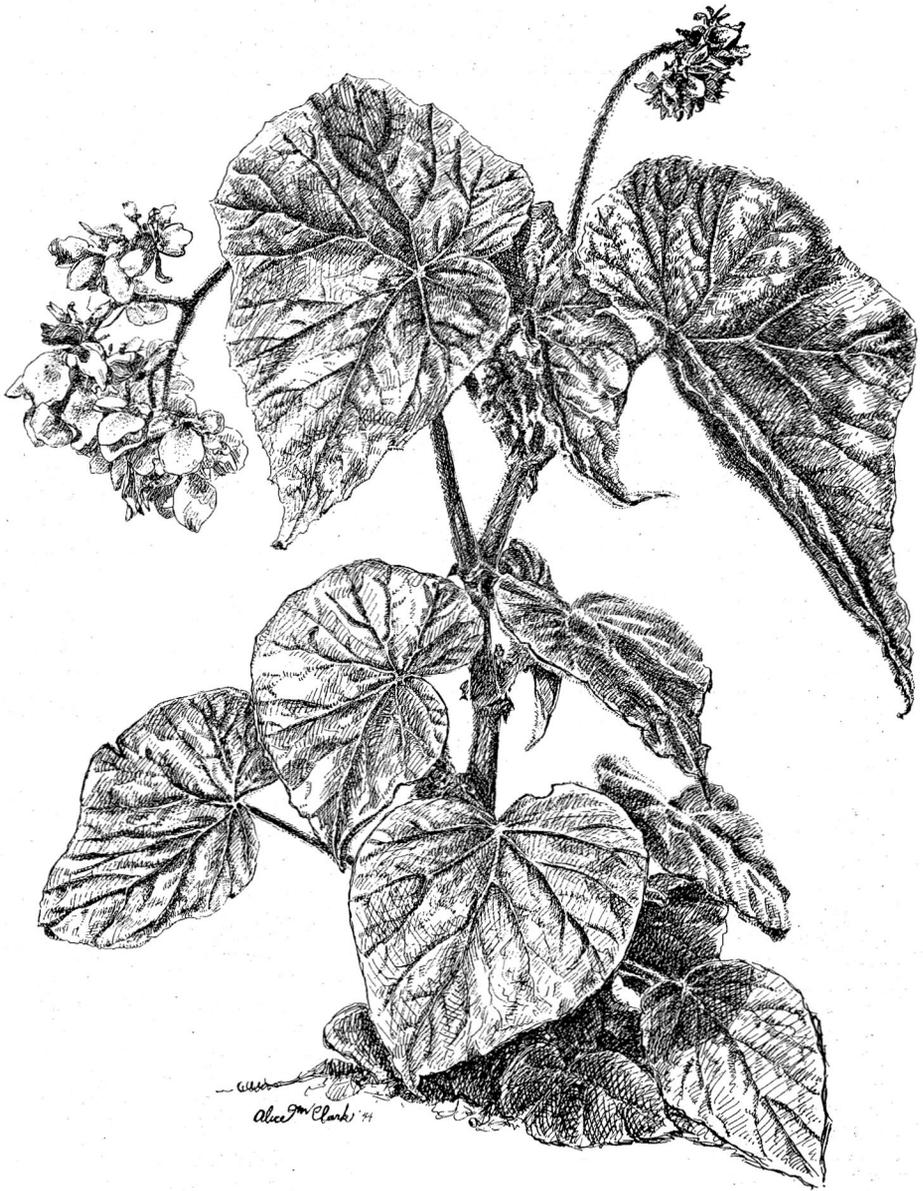
The largest inflorescence, which is about 7 inches across, being in the background, does not show its full size. The drooping peduncle is 12 inches long, becoming redder as it nears the blooms. The two outside petals of the male flower are $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, slightly ruffled, crystalline white, with red hairs that give a pink tinge to the whole cluster. When open, two slender puckered petals are disclosed with golden stamen. The female bloom is very insignificant, with four small petals covering a tiny fifth. The ovary is bright red-hairy. I do not know how well it forms seed. The ball of young flowers is feathered with soft fuzzy green bractlets that protect the buds.

This is one of the nicest seedlings to come out of Rosecroft and I am nursing my plant with care in order to propagate it in the spring. Mrs. Fewkes says they have just made over the beds at Montalvo with wonderful soil—bean straw, leaf mold in a thick layer and Milorganite so I think I will give it to her to see what good care can do. I hope the unlabeled plant I saw at the Hollywood show can be identified as Duscharf, so I may know there are others in circulation. We did not have one in the original collection that went to the Robinson Memorial.

CORRECTION. B x Chiala, depicted in March, showing a leaf on the inflorescence, has lost that characteristic. Not a leaf to be found on any one of the many flower clusters and it is the same and only plant of this name in the garden. Which goes to show that it does take more than a year's growth to prove the type.

Earn your Happy Christmas this year by taking a hardy plant to some convalescent service camp or to the home of a man who is overseas, to cheer those who wait for him. **IT'S REMEMBERING THAT WARMS THE HEART.**

• "It's remembering that warms the heart"—do it with a subscription to *The Begonian*.



B. x DUSCHARF

BRANCH NEWS

(Continued from page 453)

of the evening with the club furnishing coffee, rolls and Christmas desert. Everyone is asked to bring an exchange gift not to exceed 50c. Visitors are welcome. It will be a fine evening for all.

East Bay Branch News:

• All members and friends of the East Bay Branch of the ABS received a post card inviting them to "Follow the begonia arrows," on August 6th, 1944, to the home of Mr. H. W. Haberman, Sr., near Walnut Creek, Calif., for the between meeting picnic. When the count was made around the tables at 2 p.m., the tally stood at 42 and others kept coming till it was well over 50 by evening.

The tables were located in a circle of natural shade trees bordering a horseshoe bend in the little creek. After the first rush of dinner was over we were favored by a number of selections of music by Mrs. H. S. McJunkins with castenets and her daughter Georgia May with the accordion. I say castenets, they were what looked like the dried carved seed pods of the gourd. The McJunkins are the daughter and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Pasco. If you glance at the old Begonian files you will see that Mr. Pasco was our secretary a few years back.

Begonia experts, whether amateurs or professionals, advocate a rich compost for begonias. "Feed 'em" seems to be their motto. They follow the same plan at a picnic, it seems, for "Feed 'em" they did. Nothing too rich and too much of everything.

Mr. Haberland is an amateur of about two years standing. He became interested in begonias, particularly the flowering tuberous variety. He visited begonia gardens and flower shows, called at the Vetelel & Reinelt propagating gardens at Capitola, purchased bulbs, seed and absorbed as much instructions as possible. It was most instructive to learn how he has achieved real success with the difficulties he has to contend with. Next issue will tell the story.

FUCHSIA—LA NURSERY

"Fuchsias In All Glory"

Ferns, Coleus, Ivy, Saint Paulia Violets,
And Other Shade Plants

No Catalog or Mail Orders Until
Further Notice. Visitors Welcome.

3569 Atlantic Ave. Long Beach 7, Calif.

EDITOR'S NOTES

(Continued from page 450)

It is simple and nice to remember that after December 21st the days will be longer again. The symbol of Christmas shines out brightly in the distance. And what is Christmas Day if it is not thoroughly imbued with renewed FAITH and ETERNAL HOPE through heartfelt prayer for our dear ones who are out there warring for us?

Uncle Sam is asking you and me to invest in the 6th War Loan Bonds. We can greatly uphold our men and women who are fighting for us with Songs of prayer while we work, with confidence that we shall be victorious—if we also fight with our money. . . . What better way then, than to start the year with UNITED STATES BONDS?

May "Peace be within thy wall and prosperity within thy Palaces"—(Psalms CXXII. 7.)

To EVERYONE A FINE CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPIER NEW YEAR.

Your Editor.

Regret, thru lack of space must postpone continued articles on Humidity and Inorganic Fertilizers until January issue.

CLIVIAS

(Continued from page 453)

of these colors. Fine plants will measure up to two feet in height with a spread according to age. They like a firm soil enriched with a good compost and some bone meal with a constant moisture. During the rest period, they may be allowed to do with less water so that they will not expend too much strength in the making of leaves at the cost of more and finer flowers later. Look for them through this Winter and Spring.

OUR NEW FALL CATALOG

READY THIS MONTH

Lists many rare and unusual bulbs for your shade and sun garden.

— Send for your free copy —

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1415 Echo Park Ave. Los Angeles
(10 minutes from Downtown)

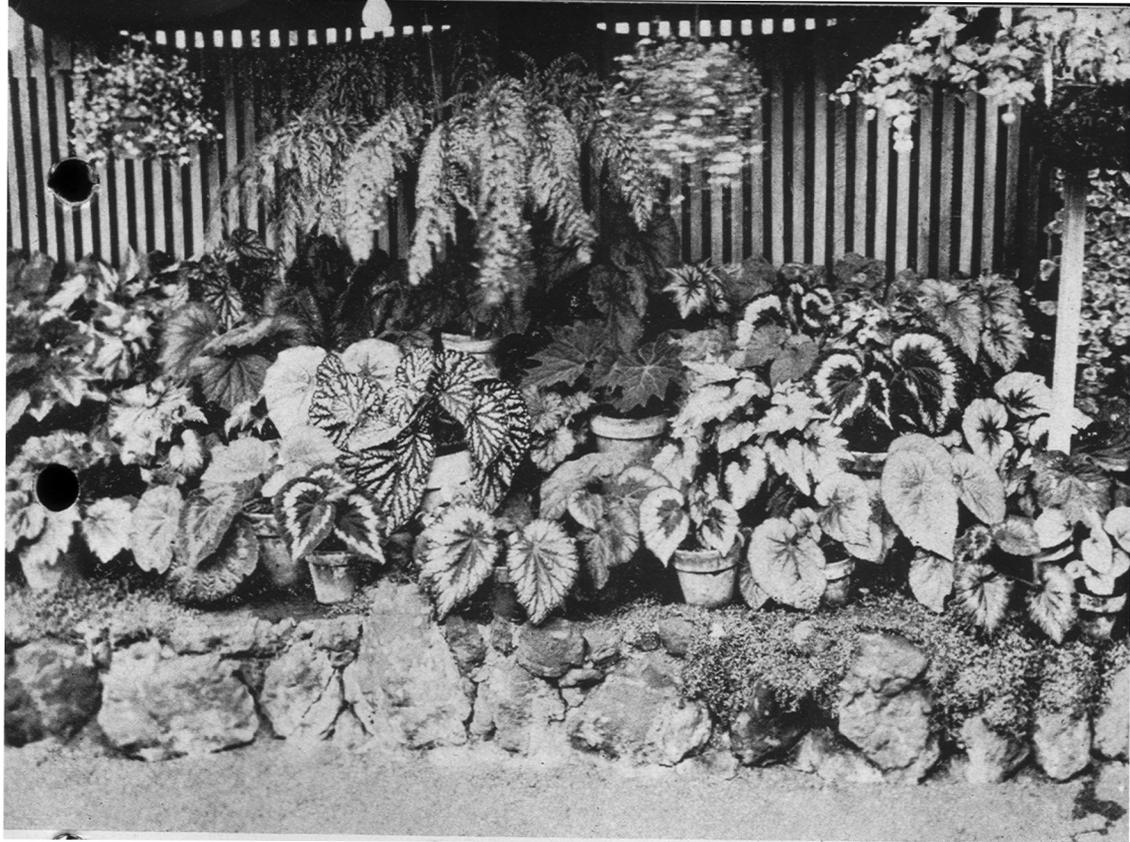
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BEGONIA SEED

— \$1.00 per packet —

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SANTA BARBARA, CALIF.



Three Tiers of B. Rex. Ten-foot bed at base with lath overhead, covered with burlap.
All photographs by Eugene Cooper.

SHADE GARDEN OF MR. AND MRS. EMERSON COOPER

By JO BREIFORD,
San Diego, Calif.

• Each garden offers a different treatment of display for shade and lath-house plants and the Cooper garden at 4519 Kensington Dr., San Diego, is a combination of out-door living and beauty as well as being ideally suited to the raising of shade plants.

About ten years ago, Mr. Cooper started with a few begonias, including Tingley Mallet, Haageana, Lady Waterlow and perhaps four or five other fibrous, which were grown in a small lath house. This lath house by the way still stands and has been converted into a rest house, with cot, chairs, handy tables and shelves, the roof was made solid so it's a retreat both Winter and Summer. It looks out to the pool with its lilies, grasses and colorful fish darting about in the sunny water.

From this small beginning the Coopers now have one of the finest collections of Rex, Fibrous begonias, ferns and fuchsias in San Diego. When one enters the garden, thru a gate at the side of the house, one finds a spacious patio, complete with gaily colored canvas covered

garden swing, chairs, table with guest book, and the floor covered with grass matting. Sitting there one has a good vista of the long, continuous terraced beds, filled with more than 115 varieties of specimen rex plants, all in pots and sunk into the moss outlined beds. Between the patio and the first rex bed is a large stone urn, filled with a huge hanging type of fuchsia. There are several of these urns spaced about the garden in nooks and corners.

These beds face the north and are open on that side, but are lath covered and also protected by a light burlap covering over the lath. Between these beds, but not breaking their continuity are tall shade trees, adding to the play of sun and shade. In front and over the rexes are baskets filled with lovely fuchsias, in full bloom, as well as a huge "Mother Fern," blue and white campanulas, etc.

Toward the rear of the garden is a 20-foot bed, also filled with rexes, coleus,



General View Center of Cooper Garden Photo by Eugene Cooper

gloxinias, tuberous begonias, and extra special pets. This bed faces the west and is shaded by the rest house.

Mr. Cooper's special pride is his begonia cathayana, and well it might be. It is one of the finest specimens this writer has ever seen. It stands 34" high and 28" across, covered with perfect leaves and even showing its exotic orange colored blooms.

Next to the rear 20-foot bed is the propagating room. Its shelves are filled with "babies," in pots and boxes. Leaf mold is stored in bins under the shelves and the roof is glass covered, making the room always pleasantly warm.

Then we come to the big lath house, 18x33 feet, facing west. This is filled with tall fibrous begonias, ferns, fuchsias. The fuchsias are all in hanging baskets, making the place look like a fairy land. There the red rock outlined beds are edged with maiden hair and bronze ferns.

A *Corallina Lucerna* reaches the roof, a red *rubra* goes right thru the lath roof, *Chiala*, *Mrs. Wallow*, *Argenteoguttata*, *Templini*, *Pres. Carnot*, *Orrell*, *Clemence*, *Pink Shasta*, *Perfecta*, just

to name a few of the exceptional, perfect specimens of fibrous, all vying with each other for attention. Mr. Cooper's Elaine was being sketched by Mrs. Alice M. Clark, at this time, for *The Begonian*, to be enjoyed by all of us. There is a Bird's nest fern, now 36" across that was bought as a very small plant only 3 years ago. I wish I knew the botanical names of all the ferns Mr. Cooper has in this lath house. There are baskets filled with fish-tailed maiden hair ferns, *Grandeceptis*, I believe, which are at least 3 feet across, and looking at the perfection of foliage in all the plants, one would think that all pests give the garden the "go-bye." But Mr. Cooper tells me he does have to spray regularly and puts out slug and snail bait as well.

In front of this lath house is a small lawn with umbrella and easy chairs. In the back of the house are beds of cacti and small succulents. All paths are covered with a pea sized gravel, so it's always clean under foot. Electric lights, makes the garden showable at night as well as day. In fact it's nothing uncom-



Coleus and Impatiens house Photo by Eugene Cooper

mon, after a begonia meeting to wind up at Coopers at 10 or 11 in the evening.

The Coopers have been members of the San Diego Branch, A.B.S. since its beginning in 1941. Last year Mr. Cooper was one of its directors. Before that the Coopers were members of the San Diego Floral Association and exhibited lath house plants at their annual shows, winning first with best lath house exhibits for three straight years, thereby winning a permanent trophy offered for that display.

The Coopers started 6 years ago to open their gardens to their neighbors, and a few came. This year 252 people visited the garden on "open" day. Their guest book contains more than 1700 names.

Truly the latch string is always out at the Coopers.

- Parent Chapter, Long Beach Branch News was lost in the mails, we shall hope to have the report for next issue.

BRANCH NEWS

At the San Diego branch meeting for October, Mr. Brooks, president, introduced Mrs. Florence Outwater. Her outstanding collection of color pictures brought forth many ohs and ahs of pleasure from one of the largest attendances to date. Many of the choice plants and arrangements shown were from plantings of Branch members and it became quite a game, to recognize one's own before someone else did.

Mrs. J. A. Hegel had many plants for the two sales, regular and special. The special sale contains beautiful full grown or blooming plants, mostly donated by the members.

Mrs. Russel T. Bailey was appointed information chairman for the A.B.S. convention to be in San Diego, come peace.

The next meeting will be held TUESDAY evening, Dec. 26th, that being the only evening we could have at the Hard of Hearing clubhouse. A social hour followed when the hostesses for the evening served cake and coffee.

BRANCH NEWS

East Bay Branch: The November meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Carlson, 2130 McGee Ave., Berkeley, where a begonia plant sale was enjoyed. Another feature of the meeting was the contribution of many plants to Mrs. Alma Schmidt of 531 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton, Cal., who recently lost her hearing, and who is, at her physician's request, taking up some hobby, which she has decided shall be begonias. She has a glassed porch for them. It is certain that she would be very appreciative of any plants that members of the Southern branches could mail to her.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, Dec. 10th, at 2:30 at the home of Mrs. Alma Ahrens, 1323 Oxford St., Berkeley. It shall be a Christmas party, the main feature of which will be the exchange of appropriate gifts, and the contribution of \$1.00 per member, to be given to the Red Cross with the request that it be used to provide Christmas cheer for the armed forces now stationed in hospitals, which might not have sufficient funds for this purpose.

Hollywood Branch: In the absence of the President Mrs. W. C. Drummond who was speaking at the Inglewood Branch, Mr. John Parker, Vice President, presided over one of the memorable evenings of the club to those who know the young speaker of the evening. Miss Peggy Sullavan's first public appearance for a full evening's talk, her subject "Shade Plants" was presented charmingly and instructively. She will be found worthwhile for she is well informed.

Several of the Hollywood members exhibited begonias in the Flower Show held in North Hollywood recently and brought home some very fine ribbons plus some new members for our society.

Whittier Branch: A new branch of the American Begonia Society was organized in Whittier on October 17, 1944, at a meeting held at the Millers Begonia Gardens. The gardens of Mr. and Mrs. Miller provided a beautiful setting for the meeting. Mrs. Helen Lewis, of the

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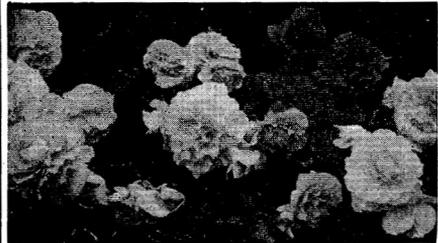
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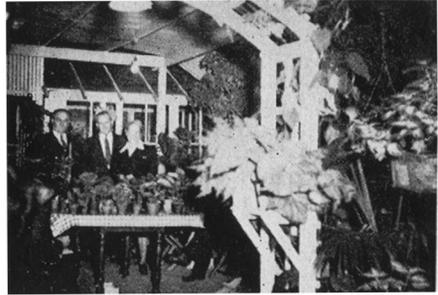
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Begonia Rex hybrid seedlings
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CLIVIA hybrids, special strain hybrids of rich color

7" pot size foreach \$1.50

Gardenias, large flowering variety gallon container, each 75c

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Lewis Begonia Gardens, Rivera, made a very interesting talk on the Shade Garden. Mr. Arthur E. Nelson, President, and Mr. George G. Lawrence, Director of Public Relations, of the American Begonia Society, spoke briefly on the history and purpose of the Society.

At the meeting held on November 6th the following officers were elected:

President, Mr. Clyde Irwin, 236 N. Whittier Ave., Whittier, California.

Vice President, Mr. P. J. Miller, 422 S. Newlin Ave., Whittier, California.

Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. G. E. Polentz, 1000 W. Broadway, Whittier, Calif.

Representative to National Board of Directors, Mr. Fred Bradford, 567 Olive Drive, Whittier

Appointive offices will be filled at the next regular meeting.

Future meetings of this branch will be held on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 P.M. at the Dailey School, at the corner of Comstock Ave. and Hadley Street, Whittier.

The many beautiful begonias grown in the Whittier district indicate that the people are interested in begonias. This branch while the youngest should soon become one of the large branches in our Society.

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34-36 Pico, Pasadena 2, Los Angeles, Calif.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Condensed Minutes of the Board meeting held in the Board Room, Edwards Wildley Bldg., 609 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, Cal. Monday, Oct. 9th at 8 p.m.

Meeting called to order by Pres. Nelson at 8:15. Present for the meeting Messrs. Nelson, Hall, Hart, Hawkins, Crawford, Lawrence, Mesdames Poole, Wilkes, Weber, Hartwell, McRae, Bayer, Jenks Stocklasa, Mr. and Mrs. Crowder, Mr. and Mrs. Harker, Dr. and Mrs. Drummond.

Minutes meeting Aug. 14th read and approved.

President introduced and welcomed guests, Mr. Crawford, Mrs. Bayer, Mrs. Jenks, Mrs. Stocklasa.

Reports of BUSINESS MANAGER, TREASURER AND MEMBERSHIP FEES CHAIRMAN were read and motion to accept each report as read, carried.

Pres. Nelson announced the following appointments:

Harold W. Hart, Chairman Ways and Means. Also Chairman Robinson Memorial.

Mrs. A. N. Hartwell, Corresponding Secretary. Mrs. Harry Harker Membership Fees Chairman; Mrs. Helen K. Krauss, Director Clayton M. Kelly Research and Nomenclature Committees.

Mrs. Nadine Woods, Nomenclature Rex Division.

Mrs. Russel T. Bailey, Question and Answer Chairman.

Mrs. J. W. Crowder, Librarian

Mrs. Clarissa Harris, Seed Fund Administrator G. G. Lawrence, Director Public Relations and Chairman in Charge of Speakers Bureau and Maria Wilkes, Editor The Begonian.

Librarian reported interest was keeping up in the library; also she was having The Begonian bound from time to time in order to supply the demand; also having photostatic copies made of special reference works for use of members.

Director Public Relations reported meeting to be held at Millers Begonia Gardens, Whittier on Oct. 17th at which time a new Branch would probably result.

Constitution and By-Laws of Parent Chapter presented for acceptance by the National Board. On recommendation of Mr. Lawrence same was accepted as presented and filed in the archives. Secretary instructed to so write the Parent Branch.

On advice of the Board, Editor instructed to postpone publishing lists of awards at the Hollywood Show until available space in the Begonian could be assured.

Representative Directors Mrs. McRae for Glendale, Mrs. Drummond for Hollywood, Mr. Crowder for Inglewood, Mr. Hall, Ventura; Mr. Harker, Long Beach Parent Chapter, Mrs. Stocklasa for North Long Beach Branch, Mr. Lawrence for San Gabriel were present and each gave a good report for the Branch they represent.

Mrs. Poole reported her findings in the matter of filing income tax report and on her recommendation the Treasurer was instructed to file under the non-profit form which would thus make it unnecessary for the unincorporated branches to do anything in this matter.

Mr. Harker was ordered to secure bids for printing of additional membership cards under the new form adopted recently.

Mrs. Poole announced receipt of plants of Calmo a semperflorens, root rot resistant, which she was turning over to Mr. Hart for the Robinson Memorial.

It was the feeling of the Board that the list of new members, as printed in each issue of The Begonian, should be discontinued and the space used for cultural articles.

On motion adjourned to meet the second Monday in November at 8 p.m.

A Merry Xmas to you all and a Happy New Year.



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Meeting Dates and Speakers

It would be much appreciated if the Secretaries of the Branches would send meeting data to reach the Editor **NOT LATER THAN THE TENTH OF THE MONTH.**

The October American Begonia Society Board Meeting will take place at Room 302 Edwards-Wildey Bldg., 609 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, Calif., Monday, December 11th, 1944, at 7:45 p.m.

WHITTIER BRANCH

Monday, December 4th, 7:30 p.m.
Jonathan Bailey School Room 19
Comstock Ave. & Hadley Street, Whittier, Calif.
Mrs. G. E. Polentz, Sec.-Treas.,
1000 Olive Dr., Whittier, Calif.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, December 5th, 7:30 p.m.
American Legion Hall.
North California St., Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Olive Hamilton, Secy.-Treas.
515 So. Evergreen Dr., Ventura, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, December 5th, 7:30 p.m.
Mrs. Jessie A. Topham, Secy.-Treas.,
4620 Arlington Ave., Riverside, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, December 6th, 7:45 p.m.
Social Hall, Calvary Methodist Church,
% 19th and Judah St., San Francisco, Calif.
Mrs. Theresa Ferrero, Secy.,
2183 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

DOMINGUEZ BRANCH

Thursday, December 7th
Mrs. R. L. Warren, Secy.
21718 So. Alameda, Long Beach, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, December 7th
Laurance Archibald, Secretary
1216 W. Chapman, Orange, Calif.

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS BRANCH

Friday, December 8th, 8:00 p.m.
Home of Jessie Jenkins,
3615 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.
Chalmers Bower, Secy.-Treas.,
1020 Belmont Ave., Long Beach 4, Calif.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, December 11th, 8 p.m.
42 East Market St., North Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Jean Stocklasa, Secy.,
5505 Olive Ave., Long Beach 5, Calif.
Pot-luck Dinner. Bring 50c gift.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, December 12th, 8:00 p.m.
At Home of Mrs. Esther McElhinney, Secy.-Treas.,
534 Darnell St., Bellflower, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

Tuesday, December 12th, 7:30 p.m.
Pasadena Public Library
Lester F. Harrell, Secy.-Treas.,
668 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Wednesday, December 13th, 7:30 p.m.
2218 East 4th St., Long Beach, Calif.
Miss Cecille Block, Secy.-Treas.,
1263 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, Calif.
Speaker: Maria Wilkes
Subject: "Colorful Shade Plants"

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, December 14th, 8:00 p.m.
Woman's Club of Inglewood
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. Harold S. Clark, Secretary
1618 1/2 W. 52nd St., Los Angeles 37, Calif.
Xmas Party, 50c gift

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, December 14th, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Helen Scherer, Secy.,
3722 Lanisa Dr., Los Angeles 26, Calif.
Speaker: Ferd Neels
Subject: "Begonias"

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, December 18th
Tillie Genter, Secy.-Treas.,
7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif.

PHIOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Thursday, December 21st, 10:00 a.m.
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Treas.,
362 Brookway, Merion, Pa.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Sunday, December 10th, 2:30 p.m.
Home of Mrs. Alma Ahrens,
1323 Oxford Street, Berkeley, Calif.
Xmas Gifts, \$1.00 per member
Mrs. Ruth Utter, Secretary
155 Ardmore Rd., Berkeley 8, Calif.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Friday, December 22nd, 10:30 a.m.
Hall Point Loma Community Church,
Udal Street at Poinsettia Dr., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. Merrel H. Taylor, Secy.,
2838 Chatsworth Blvd., San Diego, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Friday, December 22nd
720 N. First Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
Mrs. Velma C. Dunn, Secretary
244 No. Ivy St., Monrovia, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Monday, December 25th
Mrs. W. E. Jones, Secy., Willow Grove, Pa.

GLENDALE BRANCH

Tuesday, December 26th, 8:00 p.m.
329 No. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.
Mrs. Grace A. Dewar, Pres.,
709 Millford St., Glendale 3, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Tuesday, December 26th, 7:30 p.m.
Hard of Hearing Hall,
3843 Herbert Ave., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. George S. Bredford, Secy.-Treas.,
1146 Oliver Ave., Pacific Beach, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

Irregular Meetings
Thelma Sommerfield, Secy.,
210 E. Anapamu, Santa Barbara, Calif.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Mrs. David Finley, Sec'y.
New Canaan, Conn.

SANTA MARIA BRANCH

Mrs. Peter Mehlschau, Secy.,
Box 12, Nipomo, Calif.

POSTMASTER:
Please Notify Mrs. Harry Harker
2461 Fashion Avenue
Long Beach 6, California
On All Address Changes

A Happier New Year to You and Yours In The Garden

HYBRIDIZER - FRESH SEEDS

• • GROWER TO YOU • •

DWARF RUFFLED GIANT PETUNIAS

MOHNSTEIN'S RED OBCONICA PRIMROSE

WHITE OBCONICA PRIMROSE

PRIMULA MALACOIDES (Fairy-primrose)
white, red, lavender and pink.

GIANT FLOWERED CINERARIA DWARF VAR.

CINERARIA GRANDIFLORA (Med. sized flowers)

Dwarf STELLATA CINERARIA

MIXED TUBEROUS BEGONIA SEED

CYCLAMEN, MIXED COLORS, CHOICE VARIETIES

PER PACKET \$1.00

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... For greater success in your
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