

The BEGONIAN

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September
1948



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VOL. XV
No. 9



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The next meeting of the American Begonia So-
ciety Board will be held in the Los Angeles City
Hall, Room 55, 7:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 27,
1948. Park Lower Garage South Entrance on Main.

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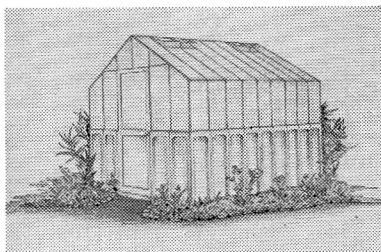
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PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY

Mary Hazel Drummond

As I look back upon a year of activity as President of the National Board of the American Begonia Society, I am imbued with a sense of deep gratitude, and a feeling of pleasant satisfaction for everything, and to each and every one of my co-workers. The first official event to occur under my official regime was a meeting, staged in the loveliest surroundings imaginable — namely, the gardens and lathed pergola covered patio of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Miller in Whittier—members of the Whittier branch. The surroundings were an inspiration and the members attending were so full of enthusiasm and ambition that one could not help but be carried away with a determination to equal, if not to emulate, all previous efforts.

Business matters were, of course, discussed and machinery for the coming year set in motion. In conclusion, each Board member was honored by having one of Miller's Seedling Rexes named in his or her honor.

Another event was the introduction of the book on *"Begonias for American Homes and Gardens"* by Helen J. Krauss, member of the Philobegonia Club Branch. This is one of the foremost works on Begonias and no gardening home should be without a copy. It is an honor to count such an eminent authority amongst our members.

I would be remiss if I were to neglect to bring to your attention the wonderful research work accomplished by Mrs. Florence Carrell, member of the Orange County Branch. New lights and facts relative to rare begonia seeds have been uncovered. The benefits of such research is never fully appreciated—nor is the inexhaustive behind-the-scenes work known to the lay person—in order to bring these authentic facts and matters to our attention. In this work Mrs. Carrell was ably assisted by Mrs. Maude Nichols, Hollywood Branch, and Mrs. Marie Minter of the San Diego Branch who was in charge of the correspondence club of the seed fund. My heartfelt thanks to these untiring and unselfish workers.

Another achievement of note was a new and up-to-date compilation of speakers' names, their subjects and fees, etc., in order to facilitate the work of the various branches in filling their evening's program. This work was very ably and efficiently carried on by Mrs. Grace Bayer of the Glendale Branch. To the untiring efforts of Mrs. Bayer also goes credit for collecting a very fine library of black and white and kodachrome color slides, available upon request, to the various branches for instructional entertainment of the branch meetings.



MARY HAZEL DRUMMOND

These slides are mailed in specially made carriers to make damage negligible.

Another very important factor was the formation of eight new branches during the ensuing year—under the guidance of our Director of Public Relations chairman, Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger of the Santa Barbara branch. Unless you have undertaken the work of contacting prospective branches and following up the contacts to a successful conclusion, you cannot fully appreciate the magnitude of the results obtained.

There were many shows at various events and many of our members and branches exhibited their talents and were successful in carrying away prizes.

As you are all aware Mrs. Maria Wilkes found other commitments which made it necessary for her to resign as the editor of your *"Begonian,"* and this position was assumed by Mrs. Dorothy Behrends. It was no easy matter to step in and carry on immediately the work of editing your magazine, but I believe the work is improving and no effort will be spared to make your magazine the best publication of its kind anywhere in the country. Toward this end your editorial staff, under the chairmanship of Dr. W. C. Drummond, are sparing no effort, nor leaving any stones unturned, towards the consummation of this ideal.

In June, the Hollywood Branch awarded to Mrs. Gonda Hartwell, a life membership card in recognition of and grateful thanks, for her seven years of faithful and untiring duties as secretary of the National Board and other work as a member of the San Gabriel Branch.

Mrs. Verna Johnson undertook the important work of securing ads for our *Begonian*, and to her we owe a debt of gratitude. Through

Turn to page 211

SURVIVAL BY NEGLECT

By Edwin O. Williams, Azusa, Calif.

Some twenty years ago an elderly neighbor and friend gave me a tiny star begonia for remembering her with a May basket. How proud I was when she gave me that plant.

Today I am still proud of that plant because it has survived through the years on sheer neglect.

What a story it has to tell. Like many old timers it has seen droughts and freezes, storms and pestilence, births and deaths, war and peace—and still it lives on. Through it all it has survived by its own determination to live.

Because of this star begonia I joined the American Begonia Society two years ago when a new branch was formed. At these meetings I have learned that all the rules of correct soil mixture, water, shade, light and air, etc., laid down by the experts, had been profusely and consistently broken. The life of that star begonia was constantly jeopardized.

Why did it continue to live and flourish? What were some of the contributing factors to the survival of the begonia?

In looking back over the years perhaps I can find some of the answers.

The first struggle to which the star begonia was subjected was a pot much too small for such an active grower. The rhizomes twisted and turned in all directions over the edge of the pot. Could this indicate that certain begonias like small homes, preferring to extend beyond the pot?

Not knowing any better, the soil in which the plant grew was common old garden dirt. Whenever it was shifted or repotted, a bit of dirt was taken from here and a bit taken from there. The only food available was what happened by chance to be in the soil. Apparently it was sufficient to keep the plant alive.

At one of the last begonia meetings the speaker pointed out that the trend in growing beautiful begonias is toward good old garden loam. "Not so much leaf mold. Let the plants work for their food. You'll have better plants by so doing," he stated. That is what I had been doing for years. I was not so far wrong after all, although it took an expert to tell me.

We all know that too much water will produce weak, spindly growth, providing it does not drown the plant. No, I am not going to say mine became an aquatic plant. On the contrary, it became a "desert rat," subsisting on what was provided by nature. An occasional rain or chance watering supplied the only moisture. The roots had to go down to the very bottom of the pot for that all important life-giving substance—water. Yet it lived.

Here one can conclude that aside from the

sparse watering the leaves did their share of the work in keeping the plant alive. How? By absorbing moisture from the atmosphere.

Since the plant was on the north-east side of the house, it had sufficient humidity at all times.

Perhaps the greatest contributing factor to the life of my begonia (I feel) was the free circulation of air day and night. By this means the elements contained in the atmosphere were constantly accessible to the plant along with the moisture. What better conditions could be provided—haphazardly, that is?

A plant lacking in sufficient light will not bloom, it is said. Since the early morning sun in reaching the plant did its share through photosynthesis, my begonia was showered profusely with delicate pink blossoms almost constantly. On the whole, were not the elements favorable—else the plant would not have bloomed?

You are wondering about winter care? It had none. The wall of the house served as its only protector against the wintery blasts of driving winds and pelting rains. It even endured the winter frosts and freezes the California Chamber of Commerce prefers to ignore. Only a few brown edges on the stary leaves showed the curious observer of the hardship endured.

To come back to the present, my star begonia, now known as *Begonia sunderbruchi*, is no longer left to chance survival. It has the best of care, living in a small greenhouse. It still loves to hang over the pot. The soil is practically the same with the exception that a balanced begonia food is added. Watering is more regular and is kept on the acid side by frequent additions of a liquid fertilizer. Humidity, light and air are carefully controlled to maintain the best of growing conditions.

Sunderbruchi has been exhibited recently in a shade plant show. The oh's and ah's elicited by the spectators amused the owner no end. If only those people had known how that star begonia had been treated, their oh's and ah's would have had an entirely different tone.

Considering all the factors, even though limiting, each one provided the means by which that begonia lives today. Left to its own devices of adaptability, it made the best of its environment—and lived.

Yes, begonias will survive on neglect!

Editorial note: Many large type rhizomatous begonias as *ricinifolia*, *Fischers ricinifolia*, *bunchii*, *feasti* (*erythrophylla*) *spiral feasti* and *Verschaffelti* will take more neglect and abuse than the smaller rhizomatous and fibrous-rooted varieties.

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Mr. Williams' *B. Sunderbruchi*

FLORIDA GEMS IN A CALIFORNIA SETTING

By Elmer Lorenz, Eagle Rock, Calif.

As our interest and knowledge of plants expands many of us begin to search for new and unusual plants to add to our collections. We seek something for our sheltered garden that will place it above the ordinary class. Most of us I presume, must limit our finances when buying plants so we must look for unusual plants that are inexpensive. Our search may lead us to many foreign lands in our endeavor to find these interesting plants. Because of the many hazards involved in importing seeds and plants we will often meet with failure. The impression seems to be that for a plant to be unusual it must come from some distant and exotic land. However this is not always the case. While seeking for plants seldom seen in lath gardens we overlook the beautiful plants that are offered by that small portion of the United States that is almost tropical, southern Florida.

Dr. Nehrling said, "Florida is a great silent poem of color and light, of bird song and plant beauty." Of the many shade gardens in southern California that I have had the pleasure of visiting I have seen very little evidence of Florida's "plant beauty" being cultivated. There are a number of beautiful and charming exotic plants from Florida that may be grown in California lath gardens. Among the most interesting are the epiphytes from the region of the "Deep Everglades." When these interesting plants are mounted on wood or short pieces of tree branches we have really moved a charming "bit" of Florida to our gardens.

Florida has a great variety of ferns of which many are epiphytes. Many of the ferns found growing "wild" in Florida have a wide distribution and will be found growing in other sections of tropical America and the Islands of the West Indies. This also applies to other plants such as orchids and bromeliads.

An unusual and curious fern is *Vittaria lineata*, which is usually found growing on the trunks of sabal palms. It is also called the Grass-fern or Shoestring-fern which aptly describes this interesting fern. The leaves are dark green, pendent, long and cord-like. It is a curious and interesting oddity to add to a collection of ferns. However it is not too easy to transplant and may require "special handling" until established.

Asplenium serratum, or Florida Birds-nest fern, somewhat resembles the Oriental species *Asplenium nidus*, the common Bird-nest fern with which we are all familiar. The Florida species has a much narrower, almost strap-like leaf and is a beautiful dark green. It likes shade and moisture.

The Strap-fern, *Campyloneuron phyllitidis*, grows in large tufts with upright growing leaves two to three feet high and one to four inches wide. It is a medium shade of green. It is a handsome plant for the lath garden.

The Resurrection fern, *Polypodium incanum*, is one of the most abundant of the epiphyte type of Florida ferns. It is more odd than beautiful. When the roots of the fern become dry the fronds roll up, but as soon as the plant receives moisture the fronds unfurl. This characteristic is also peculiar to some of the Southwestern native ferns found growing in arid regions.

Phlebodium aureum, the golden polypody, or hare's foot fern, forms beautiful huge specimens when grown in large baskets. The thick root stock will creep all around the sides of the basket and fronds will eventually be growing from all parts of the basket. The fronds are never produced in great profusion, but the beauty of each frond is enjoyed because they are never too crowded. The fronds are large and may reach three feet in length and are a beautiful bright green.

The ferns do not grow alone as they often have charming companions sharing their loft. A beautiful and interesting group of orchids may associate themselves with the ferns, or if they prefer will be found growing in colonies by themselves. The orchids indigenous to Florida are not the large showy type, but as the small diamond is considered the most precious of all jewels, so are the small flowering orchids the most charming of all in their daintiness and ethereal beauty. When seen flowering in the setting of beautiful plants in the lath garden they always bring forth words of admiration. They are all of easy culture requiring very little attention after once becoming established. They are just the thing for busy people who like to grow plants but only have a limited amount of time.

Epidendrum cochleatum is seen fairly often in California lath gardens as it is hardy and

very easy to grow. A well established plant will flower frequently during the year. Besides having handsome foliage it has odd shaped flowers. The flowers are a greenish yellow and the "lip" is a deep purple, almost black. A color combination in the modern manner. The "lip" resembles a cockle shell in shape from which the plant derives its name.

Epidendrum tampense is another easily grown and frequent flowering orchid. The flowers are small with brownish sepals and petals tinged with a bit of chartreuse. The "lip" is white with a rose or magenta purple center. The coloring is quite variable. It is a charming little gem that is worthy of a choice spot in any garden.

Epidendrum nocturnum is an unusual plant with a terminal head of rather large flowers of greenish-white. However it is the delicate perfume produced by the flowers at night that one enjoys the most.

Cryptopodium punctatum, the Bee Swarm Orchid, is the showiest of all the Florida species. However there are only a few protected areas in southern California where this orchid will endure our winters out-of-doors. In most instances it will require glasshouse protection during the coldest months of mid-winter. The plants form large specimens and produce an abundant "swarm" of flowers. The flower spike may reach four feet in length. The flowers are yellow with black or deep brown spots or cross bars. This orchid is a worth while addition to any collection of choice plants.

Oncidium luridum is another large growing orchid with showy yellowish green flowers barred or spotted with brown. The flower scapes are usually three to five feet long, but may reach eight to ten feet. A matured flowering plant is a magnificent sight and worthy of a choice spot in our garden. This plant will probably need winter protection in most sections of southern California.

Another interesting group of plants that are often found as neighbors of ferns and orchids are the various *Tillandsias*. They are hardy and of easy culture. These members of the Bromeliad family form a most interesting group of exotic looking plants and will enhance any group of plants. The *Tillandsias* should be mounted on portions of tree branches and suspended from the rafters of the lath house as this gives them the appearance of growing naturally as they do in the Everglades. It also affords the perfect drainage so necessary to their successful cultivation.

Tillandsia fasciculata, the Cardinal Air Plant, is probably the most beautiful and brilliant of all the native *Tillandsias* of Florida. The leaves long and narrow, being wider at the base and gradually tapering to a point. They are arranged in a symmetrical rosette that is

a common characteristic of so many bromeliads. The large flower-bracts are a vivid red enhanced by small blue flowers—truly a masterpiece of jewel setting by mother nature.

Tillandsia aloifolia, the Corkscrew Air Plant, is quite an unusual member of this beautiful family. The leaves form the typical rosette, but are twisted giving the plant a unique distinction from its relatives. It is a small grower with the leaves a little over six inches in length. The leaves are adorned with horizontal bands of deep green and brown. The flowers are inconspicuous, the beauty of the plant being its unusual growth and barred leaves.

Tillandsia Balbisiana is a small and interesting species. The lower portion of the rosette appears to be inflated forming a bulb-like growth which is the unique characteristic of this plant. The leaves are narrow and often twisted. The flowers are bluish-purple and short lived. However as is true of a number of Bromeliads, the stems and bracts are very colorful and lasts for months.

Tillandsia circinata, the Silver Queen, is a small species and somewhat similar to *T. Balbisiana*. When ready to flower the whole plant "blushes" and assumes a most beautiful rosey hue which lasts for a long period of time.

Tillandsia tenuifolia is still another little gem with blue flowers. The grass-like leaves grow upright and are very dense. The rich coloring of the leaves, especially when grown in strong light, is one of the plants most attractive features.

Tillandsia utriculata is the largest growing of Florida's *Tillandsias*. The leaves will often reach up to three feet with flower spikes up to six feet.

All of the plants mentioned are inexpensive and easily obtained. For those who must grow their tender plants indoors during the winter months will find the plants mentioned in this article easily grown in pots, and they will add interest to any window collection.

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BEGONIA ROXBURGHII

By SYLVIA LEATHERMAN

Begonia roxburghii is a species from the Himalayan region in India. It grows as a native at an elevation up to about 4000 feet. It is a begonia that thrives on high humidity.

Its thick stems are well branched and grow to about four feet tall, are strong and stand upright with very little support. The leaves are a medium shade of shining green, are quite large, growing to about eight inches long and six inches wide, being almost heart shaped. The edges are serrated and finely toothed. In running your finger across the leaf surface, the small raised dots feel rather bristly. The leaf has to be closely observed, to see the fine, short hairs.

The white flowers always intrigue me. They form in clusters of round buds with very short stems, close to the main stalks in the crotch of the leaf axil. Usually one flower opens at a time in each cluster. They remind one a great deal of a cluster of orange blossoms and buds. The individual flower measures about one inch in diameter. They have an abundance of pollen.

We have not had to give these plants any special pampering care and have found it is an easy plant to grow. It resents a soggy soil and good drainage is essential. We never water the soil as long as it is moist. For potting soil we use one half oak leaf mold and one half sandy loam. If loam is heavy use a little coarse sand and a little more oak leaf mold. To three gallons of this mixture we add one-fourth gallon of well rotted manure and two tablespoons of superphosphate.

Never over pot a plant. When it has developed a heavy root system in a three inch pot, shift to a four-inch pot and after developing a heavy root growth, shift to a six inch pot. An eight inch pot is a good size for the final potting. A ten or twelve inch pot or a redwood tub is best for a specimen plant.

When shifting a plant (and this is true of all begonias) you will have a ball of roots. We always encourage the roots to reach out for the new soil by gently loosening the roots and gently breaking the ball in a few places. Do not gouge deep into the roots. Rather, just scratch the surface to about one half an inch.

Propagation is by cuttings, a three eye cut-

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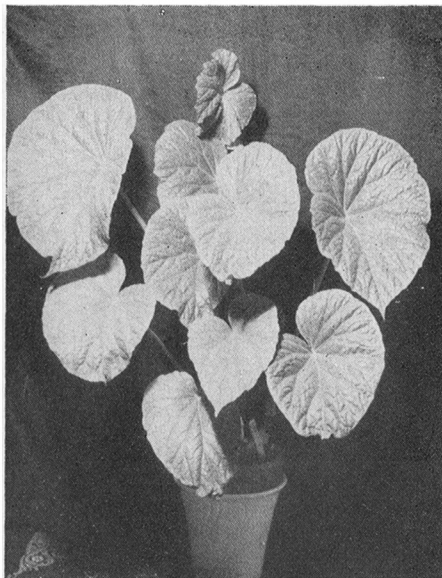
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BEGONIA ROXBURGHII

ting being an ideal length (each leaf node is an eye). Cut just below an eye and insert one and one half to two inches in the rooting medium. We remove all the large leaves from the cutting.

Shape your plant as it grows. After it has reached a height of ten to fourteen inches, top this stem by removing the tip. You may take three eyes from the top for a cutting if you desire another plant. Otherwise just pinch out the tip. This encourages side branches to grow. As side branches grow, top these at intervals to balance your plant. By topping and pinching at intervals you will have an attractive plant at all times.

Many people have asked me why I leave the stem on, from the bottom of the cutting to the next eye. In taking a cutting and removing it just below the eye there is a piece of stem bare to the next eye. In time this dries and calouses the eye below this stem. Many times cutting, just above the eye injures the eye and you lose the side shoots that develop.

I am sure if you ever grow *begonia roxburghii*, you will not be disappointed with this plant. It is a plant that draws a great deal of admiration.

Editor's Note: Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman need not be introduced to most of you as she has been writing some splendid articles on ferns. She is a grower and lover of begonias and has consented to write articles about the begonias she is growing, describing them and giving their culture. We shall all look forward to her articles.

GESNERIAS

By Mrs. E. Carrell, Fullerton, California

Everyone is familiar with the well known gloxinia and Saintpaulia and the streptocarpus is also becoming quite well known, but we are just finding out that the full order of this family of plants (Gesneriaceae) is indeed a large and charming one. Almost every plant of this family grows most readily from cuttings and a leaf will easily root in sand. From the East where come *Trichosporum*, *Chirita* and others, from Africa the *Saintpaulia* and *Streptocarpus*, from the mountains of Europe the hardy plants of *Haberlea* and *Ramondia*, from Central America the beautiful *Columnnea*, *Besleria*, *Drymonia*, *Kohleria*, *Achimenes*, *Alloplectus* and *Episcia*, and from South America the *Gesnera*, *Gloxinia*, etc. Plants of the *Gesneria* family are not difficult to grow, they can be had in flower nearly all the year and are very easily grown by amateurs either in greenhouse or as house plants.

These plants are mostly herbaceous perennials and few plants are more attractive than these with varicolored velvety foliage and bright tubular flowers. Some forty to fifty years ago European nurserymen sent out collectors to tropical America to gather bulbs and seeds of these choice plants known for their lovely foliage and beautiful flowers. The European firms have done much hybridizing with these plants and *Gesnerias* are very popular in Europe. It seems strange that such a very few of these plants can be found in nurseries in the United States. Since the war it has not been possible to get seed from Europe as most of the firms growing these plants have lost their fine collections of rare plants due to lack of heat and care, so these interesting plants must again be collected in their native habitat. A collector in Costa Rica has gathered a good many forms, some never before known to culture. In India, Africa, South America, Mexico and West Indies collectors are busy searching for seeds of these plants and the seeds are being distributed to growers of rare plants so that before too long at least a few of these grand plants will be introduced into our greenhouses and homes.

From Costa Rica come seeds of *Drymonia rubra* and *Drymonia parviflora*. *Drymonias* are scandent shrubby plants, climbing by the aid of aerial roots. *Drymonia rubra* grows to 8 feet in original forest shade, branches are brittle, leaves large, the flowers rather dark red with deep buff tube. *Drymonia parviflora* is one of the most conspicuous of all *Gesneriaceae*, as a foliage plant it is superb with its large variegated and varicolored leaves, flowers are of purest canary-yellow in huge clusters below the terminal leaf. The large bracts are paper white but as each flower fades its bract flushes a



SAINTPAULIA

lovely pink. *Besleria solanoides* grows to 4 feet and flowers when 2 years from seed, grows in damp pockets in shady forest by streamlets. A shrub-type with flowers orange color and berries deep orange, in flower much of the year. Many *Columnneas* are endemic to Costa Rica, but ripe seeds are difficult to find although some thirty-five species of *Columnneas* are found in that country. They are erect or scandent shrubs, leaves opposite, flowers usually solitary, tubular and mostly yellow or red shades. Leaves fleshy and velvety, often said to be the most gorgeous of all tropical greenhouse plants, the beautiful flowers seem huge in comparison to the small leaves. *Campaneas* are strong growing, some are vines. Leaves plush-like, often red beneath, flowers creamy yellow with purple spots. One species collected in Costa Rica is *Campanea Oerstedii*. *Kohleria strigosa* grows 2 to 3 feet high with erect stems, beautiful velvety foliage, many pink and rose colored flowers like little penstemons, but pubescent in bud and flower, it blooms for 6 months of the year.

Gesneria cardinalis comes from the American tropics but exact place of origin is unknown. This is a very beautiful plant with leaves of velvety green—bright light green. Flowers are in terminal clusters of bright red, velvety and large. This plant has very large tuberous roots, is also known as *Gesneria macrantha*. *Gesneria umbellata* is allied to *Gesneria cardinalis*, flowers are darker red and the plant is more free flowering.

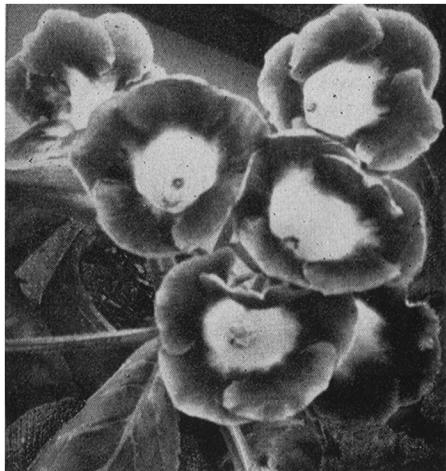
Isolomas are endemic to Mexico. Leaves are green and hairy, terminal heads of flowers in shades of yellow to red. They can easily be had in flower all the year if cuttings are continuously rooted. These make the best plants, for old plants from corms get straggly. *Naegelias* are allied to *Achimenes* and *Isolomas* and have similar caterpillar like corms. *Naegelias* have very beautiful velvety foliage, from green to crimson or variegated leaves. Water should

not be sprayed over the leaves of these hairy kinds. *Naegelia*s are mostly native to Guatemala and Mexico. Flowers of orange-yellow shades. Many named forms are being grown in Holland, such as *Naegelia* Golden King, *Naegelia* Orange Delight, *Naegelia* Orange King, *Naegelia* Rose Queen. *Tydaea*s are similar plants with light green foliage, tubular flowers with spotted throats.

Sinningia is the true name for the so-called "Florist's *Gloxinias*" we see so often. *Sinningias* all have tuberous roots while the true *Gloxinia* has knobbed rootlets. *Sinningias* are native to Brazil, but there are many fine hybrids and they can be purchased from almost any seed or plant firm, but you had better ask for "*Gloxinias*" for most nurserymen do not know them by their true name.

Trichosporum, also sometimes called *Aeschynanthus*, make good basket plants. There are 60 species native to the Indomaylayan region and China. They are semi-shrubs often climbing or pendent. Leaves are bright green fleshy or leathery, blooms in clusters of scarlet tubular shaped, short stemmed and very showy. These are very free flowering and most easily propagated by cuttings. Place cuttings or short pieces in sand with bottom heat or in glass jar with glass top, they will root quickly. Grow in loose open soil a mixture of moss, fiber, leafmold, charcoal and loam. These are very beautiful flowering plants and in their natural habitats are epiphytic on trees, much water is needed to keep them in good condition, and like all *Gesnerias* they prefer warm water. A basket of *Trichosporum pulchrum* in bloom is a beautiful sight. It should become better known. They are not bothered with pests and even when not in bloom are very attractive for their graceful growing habit and handsome foliage.

Episcia belongs in the Tribe *Columneae*, along with *Drymonia*, *Tussacia*, *Alloplectus* and several lesser known Genera. *Episcias* are very choice and extremely interesting greenhouse plants. *Episcia cupreata* is perhaps the best known species. Over thirty species are known and all are found in tropical America. *Episcia cupreata* has beautifully colored bronze-purple soft velvety leaves, a broad band of silver runs thru the center of each leaf. Flowers are small, red and tubular. The plant is stoloniferous, making runners from which many small plantlets form, they bloom and send out more runners and more little new plants, so a hanging basket of *Episcia* is something to be highly prized. It may be propagated easily from either leaves or the new little plants formed on the runners. *Episcia fulgida* charms one with the bright green shade along the veins, making it quite outstanding. These plants must be grown in the shade and they



MURRAY MINEHART'S GLOXINIA

do not like water on the leaves. In my opinion these are the most gorgeous of all greenhouse plants I have ever seen. For the soil mixture use a very rich fibrous loam mixed with peatmoss, leafmold and charcoal.

Achimenes belong to this same family group, but there have been many articles written on this genera and there is no need to go into it now. Leaf cuttings root easily and make little tubers. A charming tuberous rooted plant, it produces a continuous succession of large brilliantly colored flowers all summer, very pretty in hanging baskets or pots. The tubers should be potted in shallow pans in spring in rich light sandy soil. The plants need to be kept under shelter from sun and rains. Gradually dry off at end of growing season and store them during their dormant season in dry sand, or leave in pots they were grown in, being careful to keep them dry. Fifty species are listed and as many hybrid named varieties ranging in color from white, purple, yellow, red, spotted, semidouble and fimbriated forms. They are native to Mexico, Brazil and West Indies. Some forms develop tiny bulblets in the axis of the leaves, these can be planted. They are in the same tribe as *Gloxinias* and *Naegelia*s.

Strepocarpus are found in tropical Africa, they require a shaded place in a greenhouse and plenty of water during the growing season. In Southern California we grow them in the ground under lath or in shady beds and they live there from year to year soon making large clumps. Usually it is best to raise them each January from seed. Some forms have many leaves while a few have but one large leaf, and that leaf so extraordinarily huge that it attracts a great deal of attention (and takes up a large part of the flower bed). This type do best with the leaf pointing south. These

large leaves sometimes are over a foot wide and 2 feet long! Many stems of tubular flowers spring from the base of the leaf, ten to a dozen flowers to each stem. *Streptocarpus* flowers range in shades from white, thru purples, blues, pinks and reds. Mealy bugs love *Streptocarpus* even getting on the roots, so they must be watched carefully to prevent these pests from getting a head start. There are some thirty species of this genera of Gesnerias and a great many hybrids, some with huge flowers, especially lovely are those in the pastel shades.

Growing plants in small glasshouses is the choicest of hobbies and after collecting and growing many kinds of greenhouse plants, including fibrous, tuberous, and rex begonias, ferns and many kinds of orchids. Many have fallen for the charms of the Gesneriads. There is so much possibility in cross-breeding these plants, so easily grown from seed. The foliage and flowers vie with each other for beauty. If a plant belongs to the Gesneria family you can be sure that the flowers will be pretty. To cross pollinate a plant is a very simple process, you take a matured stamen, the part of the flower which bears the pollen, and brush it gently over the stigma, or sticky stem-like part of the flower which is to bear the seed. The stamens of the seed bearing plant should have been removed as soon as this flower you plan to carry the seeds opens, this will prevent self-pollination. Late spring or early summer is the best time because the plants are in better growing condition. Plan to do your hybridizing around noon when the air is warmer for then the pollen is more apt to brush off easily.

Seed can be sown all the year around, although early spring is better. The principle thing in growing Gesnerias is to always keep plants in good growing condition and to give them enough food for the best possible development. Pot in compost consisting of three parts of well decayed leaf mold, one part well decayed manure, two parts fine peatmoss, and two parts sharp sand. Never press the compost firmly, either in transplanting young seedlings or in potting. Keep plants at about 65 degrees F. and well shaded. Take care that plants do not become pot-bound, otherwise growth will stop, and they usually become pot-bound before you think they will. As soon as plants are of good size start giving manure water once a week, and try to keep a moist atmosphere. It is a good idea to spray regularly for pests. If your *Achimenes* appear rusty you can be sure they are bothered with thrips. Once neglected or wrongly treated, plants will never reach the highest point of perfection, but by careful watching and care your plants will reward you with a surprising return in flowers and pleasure.

HUMIDITY AND DISEASE

By Dr. W. C. Drummond, Los Angeles

In the growing of begonias as well as all other plants, we should know the climate of the plant's homeland, its nativity. To grow a plant in any other or unsuitable climatic condition would be difficult and most likely invite disease. To grow a xerophyte, as a cactus, in a climate of high humidity or a rain-forest plant in a semi arid climate, would not only be difficult, but again encourage disease. There are certain insects and disease which seem to be encouraged when plants are grown in a high or low humidity. When coleus are grown outside in summer and subjected to low humidity and a probable lower night temperature, (as in California) we find they are rarely attacked by mealy bug. When grown in a humid greenhouse with a possible higher night temperature, they are continuously attacked by this insect. On the other hand, red spider, a mite is rarely seen on plants in a humid greenhouse. In the garden when the humidity is low, as in late summer, red spider becomes a serious pest on many plants.

The following are some of the diseases associated with high or low humidity.

LEAF SPOT, a bacterial disease attacking begonias, starts with circular areas which appear on the leaf surface. They are usually brown with translucent margins. In the greenhouse, proper control necessitates more air and better spacing and destruction of all infected leaves by burning. Dead leaves falling and lodging on healthy leaves, are liable to encourage disease to develop.

BACTERIOSIS, another bacterial disease attacking begonias, is characterized by the rotting of the plant parts. Controlled by better ventilation, reduction of temperature and increased light.

BEGONIA BLIGHT, a fungus disease, not common, although the cause of serious damage once started. The leaf stem or bud becomes black, followed by the appearance of a brownish gray mold. It is infectious, spreading from plant to plant. Control means better ventilation, lowering the humidity, more light and spacing of plants. Spray with ammoniated copper carbonate (as Copper Queen) following manufacturer's directions, or use Bordeaux mixture as directed on package.

MILDEW, a fungus disease, is associated with high humidity and probable range of temperature between night and day. Where the humidity remains high, certain plants become badly infected with this fungus, such as roses, snapdragons, crepe myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) and many others. Do not water

plants in the evening. Dust with sulphur or use a good fungicide.

DAMPING OFF, a serious disease of seedlings, caused by such fungi as *Pythium debaryanum*, *Rhizoctonia*, *Botrytus*, *Sclerotinia* and others. They attack plants at the soil line causing the plant to rot and fall over. Control consists of reducing humidity, giving better ventilation and a reduction of temperature. Spray with Bordeaux mixture, using one ounce to each gallon of water. Use clean soil or sterilize the soil, or use Semesan or Phygon or Arasan as directed.

RED SPIDER, probably the worst of the insects attacking plants whenever the humidity becomes low. Look for red spider when the humidity is low in summer, in the garden or greenhouse. These mites attack the underside of the leaf, destroying the chlorophyll (the green coloring matter) making the leaf take on a silvery-brownish color. Learn to know this disease by the leaf color, because the spiders are so small they are not easily seen. Do not let this disease get started. because once a plant is badly infested it is weakened and diseases are harder to control. To control, give plants subject to red spider, a fine spray of cold water, of high pressure, on the underside of the leaves, regularly. Increase the humidity if growing in a greenhouse. Dusting with sulphur has been recommended or use ground carpenters glue, (one ounce glue to one gallon water) and spray the undersides of the leaves. Use Super Destruxal emulsion as directed. There are many new agents which will readily clean up red spider, but some of these agents are dangerous to handle. It may be in the future they will be so compounded, as to be safe in handling. Some of the shade plants subject to red spider are ferns, particularly the Holly fern (*Cyrtomium falcatum*), some begonias and many other plants.

Read the ads carefully. They are important.

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BEGONIA PRONUNCIATIONS

In pronouncing these names keep in mind the following rule:

à as in lane	í as in bin
á as in fan	ò as in tone
è as in eve	ó as in mom
é as in get	ù as in cute
ì as in line	ú as in cut

rhizome (rỳ-zohm)
rhizomatous (ry-zóhm-a-tus)
ácida (á-sid-ah)
aconitifolia (a-coniti-fòl-eeah)
acuminata (a-cum-in-àte-ah)
acutángula (a-cut-áng-ulah)
acutifolia (a-cuti-fòh-liah)
álba perfecta (álba per-féct-ah)
álba scándens (álba scán-dens)
álbo picta (álbo píe-ta)
álleryi (ál-er-ye)
alnifolia (al-ni-fòl-eeah)
Andina (an-dine-ah)
angulàris (an-gu-lày-ris)
argénteo-guttata (ar-jén-teeo goo-tày-tah)
ascotiensis (as-cotee-éhn-sis)
Bertínii (Ber-tín-eei)
boliviensis (bo-livee-éhn-sis)
braziliensis (bra-zilee-éhn-sis)
Búncii (búnchee-i)
cálla (cál-lah)
carminata (car-min-ày-ta)
caroliniafolia (caro-lin-ee-fòl-eeah)
Carrièrei (care-èerie-aye)
cathayàna (catha-yàne-ah)
Clárkei (clárk-eh-i)
coccínea (cock-sín-ee-ah)
Cómpta (cóm-p-tah)
conchaefolia (conch-eh-fòlee-ah)
corállina (cor-áh-line-ah)

Winners of the Contest

First Place—Lorraine and Edward Wimmer
Second Place—Edwin O. Williams
Third Place—Lena L. Schlafer
Fourth Place—Dr. Harry Goodman
Fifth Place—Beatrice Haddrell

The Judges extend a hearty congratulation to each of the many entrants for their fine articles. It was difficult picking the winners.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO AMATEURS

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BEGONIA NOTES FROM THE NORTHWEST

By S. A. McCLANAHAN, Seattle, Wash.

By this season your tuberous rooted begonias should have delighted you and your friends with a continuous display of exotic loveliness. Every tuber, even the ones which started late (and kept you in suspense as to just what beauty or fantasy would be forth coming) has by now satisfied your expectations. It is assumed that you were too eager to see the first flower from each plant to have pinched out the first flowering bud that appeared. It is a fact, however, that the later blooms will be of finer quality if the first bloom bud of the season is pinched out.

You have noted the usual three flowers growing on each flowering stock, the center one being the gorgeous male blossom and the two side single flowers being the female seed bearing blooms. You have probably also noted that the female flowers hang on tenaciously and do not fall off. But have your large male flowers been prematurely falling? This is usually caused by an unhappy situation for the plant, such as too much sunshine or insufficient moisture on the foliage or roots. It is not enough to keep the soil moderately moist in the dry summer time but the foliage which helps nourish the plant to a great extent should not become too dry. Also dirty, impure air which is sometimes brought to your flower bed by peculiar wind conditions will cause the large flowers to fall. It is thought by some that the addition of magnesium sulphate (common epsom salts) to the soil will deter this premature falling somewhat. This material may be added by sprinkling the dry salts over the bed in about the same manner and degree that one would apply table salt to a beefsteak. These salts will be dissolved gradually and carried to the roots in weak solution as the numerous light applications of water are applied to the plants.

It is desirable to remove the small female flowers after the male flower has fallen off, if one desires perfect flowers. The seed pods on these small flowers will develop and draw strength from the plant. The seed so produced is useless and will not germinate unless the female flowers were hand pollinated at exactly the right time and under the proper conditions.

Early in July the plants seem to react favorably to a mulch. Before applying this mulch all weeds should be removed carefully without unduly disturbing the soil. A good mixture for the mulch which should be applied one half to one inch deep is ten parts of sifted peat moss and one part of finely pulverized bone meal or sheep manure. This mulch com-

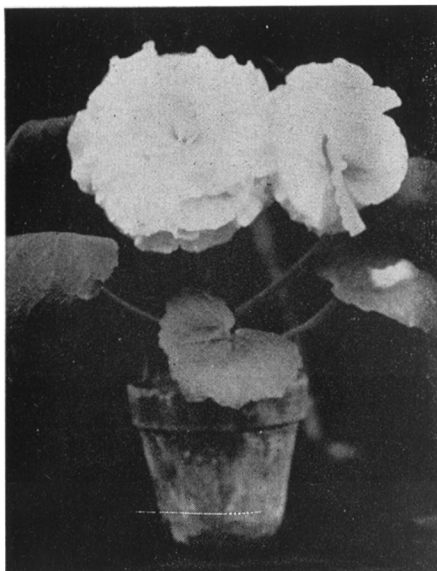
bined with the dense begonia foliage should eliminate trouble from weeds for the remainder of the season.

Sometimes the very rich growing medium in which tuberous begonias are planted becomes "mossy" and unhealthful before the roots have completely penetrated the entire area. If such is the case the begonia plant will be inclined to stop their growth and the leaves as well as the flowers will be smaller and will not be a picture of radiant, lush health. One's natural inclination under these circumstances would be to apply lime to the bed to correct the poor soil situation. However, unless a soil test shows the soil to be quite acid, the addition of lime is to be frowned upon. A mulch of the following will correct this situation and bring almost instant improvement in the appearance of the soil, foliage and flowers:

To three gallons of finely pulverized charcoal and one handful each of ammonium sulphate, superphosphate, muriate of potash and magnesium sulphate. Also add about two table-spoons of flowers of sulphur and a tablespoonful of borax powder. Mix thoroughly and apply one half inch deep over the entire bed.

This charcoal mulch, of course, is only a supplement to the weekly summer feeding of liquid manure diluted to the color of weak tea and to the half and half mixture of bone-meal and cottonseed meal which, no doubt, was added to the soil before tubers or plants were placed out of doors in the latter part of May. If by some chance this meal material was not completely covered with soil, when placed, it may now be molding. This mold is injurious to the begonia plants and will kill them. The charcoal mulch will eliminate any further trouble from this source.

Perhaps some of the begonia plants are falling over or have been damaged or broken by the wind because they were not adequately staked. It is not necessary, as a rule, to stake the multiflora, the pendula or the single flowered types of plants, but it is essential to stake the camellia flowered, the crispa, the fimbriata and the rotundaeiflora types. The approved method of staking, of course, is to place the stakes at the time the plant is placed in its summer location. If this was not done the "coat-hanger" method may be used at any time. In this method the hook is removed and discarded from a common wire coat hanger and the remainder of the hanger unbent until it is straight. Then this piece of wire is rebent at the center to make a shape similar to a gigantic hair pin. The plant may then be pinned against the prevailing wind by including the stalk in the pin and insert this pin at an angle into the soil. Care should be exercised so that the roots are not disturbed nor a



DOUBLE TUBEROUS BEGONIA

tuber punctured. This method is not at all unsightly and is adequate if done properly.

Occasionally small worms will attack the lower sides of the begonia foliage; eating holes in the leaves and giving the plant an unhealthy appearance. These worms are very easily destroyed by spraying thoroughly the under sides of the foliage with a weak solution of any good "chewing insect" spray. A caution against spraying the plant any more than is absolutely necessary is in order because the large male flowers are very sensitive to impurities in the surrounding air.

For those gardeners who do not have a bed of these 'mocking birds' of the flower world but are planning without fail to have them next year; also for those who are not securing results this season which meet one's highest "seed catalog" expectations; a review of the fundamentals of tuberous rooted begonia culture is in order.

In one's general education relative to shade gardening the following points, must be heavily stressed:

1. The soil should never be pressed firmly. It should at all times be loose and must have perfect drainage. Plenty of air in the soil is most essential. A mixture of one-third sand, one-third well rotted manure or leaf mold and one third peat moss or old sawdust with the addition of other summer food already mentioned makes a perfect growing medium. It is not necessary that this medium be over six inches deep, as the roots grow close to the surface.

2. Always plant in the shade. The shading medium should be at least shoulder high to allow free air circulation. A little morning or late evening sun is tolerable and helpful to begonia culture. Close along the north side of a building is acceptable.

3. The begonia bed should be sprinkled lightly as often as required. This may be three times a day in the dry August air of Eastern Washington or Oregon. The rule should be—water with a fine spray at least once a day and more often if the relative humidity is low. Under some conditions a fine spray of water on the foliage is a great deal more beneficial than a thorough soaking of the soil.

4. As the roots extending horizontally from the begonia tubers are very close to the surface of the soil the bed should never be cultivated after being planted. All weeds and foreign growth should be pulled by hand without disturbing the soil. The summer mulches described above are beneficial in preventing weed growth.

The tuberous rooted begonia family as we know it today, with its majestic and indescribably beautiful and variable flowers, is the result of years of constant hybridizing and improvement. These plants are easy to grow and have practically no insect enemies or diseases. It must be remembered, though, that their high breeding has taken from them the ability to care for themselves. So for perfect results constant, daily care is necessary through their blooming season. This blooming season will extend from late May until frost with the proper culture and if care is taken of the dormant tubers through the winter this performance may be repeated for many seasons to come.

* * * *

Although the above article was written for the spring and summer care of tuberous begonias, it is felt it will be beneficial to most of our members even at this date. Permission has been granted from the *Northwest Gardens and Homes* to reprint this fine article written by an A.B.S. member, Mr. S. A. McClanahan. The charcoal mulch is something new and while the addition of boron as borax is a very desirable trace element for the Pacific Northwest and the eastern United States, it is not necessary for the arid Southwest and probably should be left out. For the Southwest it is also better to use the sulphate of potash instead of murate of potash.

The Editor.

The seed of hybrids seldom produce plants the exact likeness of the mother plant. Therefore to reproduce a plant of exactly the same kind, use cuttings.

PASSING OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BEGONIAS IN REVIEW

By Charlotte M. Hoak, South Pasadena, Calif.

In passing the North American begonias in review one should have at hand Dr. A. D. Houghton's unpublished thesis entitled "A Monograph of the Begoniaceae of North America," which gives us an extended list of the begonias which are indigenous to this continent and its adjacent islands. It would save us a great deal of time which it is necessary to spend compiling this list from the various authorities who have written on begonias in general. The natural habitat of the North American begonia is in the tropical and semi-tropical rain-forests of Mexico, Central America and certain islands of the West Indies. This is the natural habitat or homeland of the greatest number of begonias which belong to the plain-leaved rhizomatous group although there are a few outstanding species coming from South America, India, China, and the East Indies exclusive of those which belong to the Rex-cultorum group.

Turning to Mrs. Gere's chart of the rhizomatous group in the front of "Begonias for American Homes and Gardens, by Mrs. Helen K. Krauss, you find the following species, eleven in all, along with their hybrids—if any: *B. heracleifolia*, *B. manicata*, *B. carolinaefolia*, *B. incana*, *B. rotundifolia*, *B. conchaefolia*, *B. Liebmanni*, *B. Schulziana*, *B. villipetiola*, *B. Popenoei* and *B. Valeri*. The first four species have many derivatives which are far better known than they are themselves. For instance, we have those of *B. heracleifolia*, such great favorites as *B. heracelicotyle* (*B. Mrs. Townsend*) *B. ricinifolia* and *B. Sunderbruchi*. The green *B. manicata* has been entirely eclipsed by the handsome gold-spotted *B. m. aurea-maculata* and the popular as well as beautiful *B. erythrophylla* known to us as *B. Feasti* and its mutant *B. Bunchi*. The old hybrid *B. Verschaffelti*, one of the handsomest of the hybrids with its glorious tall panicles of clear pink in early spring, but for the rest of the season often a gangling monstrosity.

B. carolinaefolia has been used by Leslie Woodriff of Oregon in producing some of his striking hybrids such as *B. Carol star* and *B. Carol imp.* That chance seedling *B. Mrs. Mary Peace* is well known to us all. Many of the bright stars in the begonia firmament, such as *B. bright star*, *B. silver star*, and *B. green star* come through this lineage from the hand of our Santa Barbara member Mrs. Elsie Frey. Other outstanding stars have been developed by twelve years of careful hybridizing carried on by Mrs. F. Sim of Manhattan Beach.

Derivatives of *B. incana* have been the source of other stars *B. pala*, *B. Palomar*, and *B. Ramola* are distinctive ones coming from Con-

stance Bower of San Diego, Mrs. Tillman of Baltimore has given us *B. suncana*. Eva Gray's special star is *B. grayola*. An unidentified star in the begonia heavens is *B. p. 13* (natural hybrid or of Mexican garden origin, nobody knows its origin). Realizing that the leaves and blossoms did not synchronize in the stars of the Sunderbruchi group, Alfred D. Robinson produced *B. Scharstar* which holds its foliage

The remainder of the group have no derivatives, but in the hands of ambitious hybridizers *B. rotundifolia*, *B. conchaefolia*, *B. Liebmanni*, *B. Schulziana*, *B. villepetiola*, *B. Popenoei* and *B. Valeri* have many possibilities.

Before leaving the consideration of the group and its outstanding hybrids mention should be made of Rudolf Ziesenhenné's splendid new one, *B. Freddie*, (*B. Barkeri* X *B. manicata aureo-maculata*), but the thick, lustrous leaves and the fine tall cymes of rose-pink, deeper than *B. manicata*, mark it for wide popularity in our California gardens. It also has added attraction of blooming not only profusely in the Spring but intermittently throughout the year. The begonia widely publicized as *B. Barkeri* is an unidentified Mexican species.

A large number of the rhizomatous group came to us in very early times. The creeping *B. rotundifolia* was one of Plumiers six. *B. conchaefolia* is a Costa Rican with conch shell spirals introduced in 1851. *B. manicata*, discovered in 1837, was catalogued by a San Francisco nurseryman in 1858. *B. Liebmanni*, *B. Schulziana* and *B. villipetiola* are of more recently introduced vintage.

The rhizomatous begonias have enjoyed a well-deserved popularity since their first introduction. They are still blue-ribboners at our flower shows and prime favorites with all amateurs, for they are hardy, not particular as to soil, and tolerant of considerable neglect. Many of them, twelve footers in their homeland, make fine outdoor specimens in Florida and California.

North America claims the honor of having the first begonia sent to Europe, *B. nitida* having been sent by Dr. Brown from Jamaica in 1777. *B. incarnata* came as a tramp stowaway and has two famous descendants: *B. i. Sandersi* and *B. grandiflora*. *B. odorata alba* though as yet unidentified has been used by Leslie Woodriff in a series of charming fragrant hybrids. *B. dominicalis* discovered in 1860 belongs to the large, leafy types with inconspicuous flowers. *B. macrophylla* was one of the very early arrivals being introduced into England by Captain Bligh of the Mutiny On The Bounty fame, in 1793. Very popular in the pioneer gardens of California was *B. fuchsoides* with its fuchsia-like crimson flowers. It is very ornamental and in its Mexican homeland it is much used as a hedge-plant. They call it Corazon de Jesus.



GENERAL IKE
Spring 1949 Introduction

DON'T FORGET FUCHSIAS THIS WINTER

By **DONNELL CULPEPPER**, Long Beach, Calif.

Fuchsias are a year-round job, despite the tendency of many amateur growers to neglect them at this time of the year. They have almost finished their blooming and are on the downgrade, so to speak.

A little thoughtfulness now, however, will go a long way toward helping you produce better plants, foliage and flowers next season.

In the first place, if you have taken proper care of your fuchsias, there still is beauty this season. If they have been well picked and pruned lightly and if all seed pods have been kept off, there still are blooming days ahead before the plants start to reach that dormant stage.

But if you have neglected your plants and they are becoming stringy and practically leafless, start working now for next season.

It is best to wait until the November-through-January period for the major pruning jobs. Don't forget that they can be cut back severely,—as much as three-fourths of this season's growth.

This is a period of the year to watch the watering. Don't overwater for two reasons: First, they do not require as much moisture; second, days are shorter and cooler and there is less evaporation. But be careful that the plants, especially those in pots and containers, are not allowed to dry out completely.

This also is the time to prepare for re-potting and transplanting after the first of the

year while the plants are at their most dormant stage. It is a good time to mix soil and let it age for such operations in February or March. Here is a good mixture that should be prepared now and kept moist through the winter:

One part sandy loam (or builder's sand), one part peat moss, one part leaf mold and one part of good steer fertilizer. If you wish, add the equivalent of one-tenth of that total mix a sewage-sludge rapid-grow fertilizer so that it can age along with the rest of the soil.

If you keep that soil moist and aging through the winter, you'll be amazed at what it will do for all shade-loving plants next spring. It's a natural for fuchsias. Camellias, tuberous begonias and other plants will thrive in it without any additional fertilizer for some time.

Do not feed your fuchsias through the winter period. There are growers who try to keep their plants in bloom throughout the year but such a practice is not good for the fuchsias. In a way, they are similar to roses; they want a rest.

When the winter is almost over, start re-potting and transplanting, using your new soil mix. As warm weather comes along, you'll be delighted with the results.

When the trimmed plants start to put on new growth, then is the proper time to take slips. March, April and early May are the best months for slipping. Slips taken in that period will produce the strongest plants. They will flower that year and the stems will prove to be the sturdiest in the garden. Later slipping results in weakened stems.

If you have a favorite that is growing old and ugly and there is little hope of pruning it into a neat plant, plan to slip it this spring. Put that slip in a pot and give it every encouragement and you will find that it will be large enough to replace the gnarled old parent the following year.

Next spring some of Fuchsia-La's new named varieties will be introduced for the first time. They are Pink Quartette, California Gold Centennial, General Ike, Long Beach and Downey. Among the new ones introduced this year were Checkerboard, Mission Bell and Thetis.

There are scores of amateurs who attempt hybridizing. There always is that one-in-a-thousand chance that the tenderfoot in hybridizing will stumble onto a variety that is distinctively new. If such occurs the grower will be repaid a thousand-fold for his efforts. Even though he develops a flower that won't take the fancier's eye, he probably will get a tremendous lot of joy in his experiment.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Roy Walker and Buddy Jones of Long Beach are busy at their tasks all year, striving for new varieties.

IT HAS BEEN SAID . . .

Some people complain it is too slow to grow begonias from seed. This time may be shortened by using bottom heat, either a soil cable or placed on top of the water heater.

Humidity, the moisture in the air, has much to do with plant growth. Begonias generally require a high humidity. They grow best with 70 or 80 per cent relative humidity. Our homes using hot air furnaces often are below 30 per cent. This is not healthy for ourselves or the plants.

When pruning your fibrous cane type begonias, not to remove too much of the old wood at one time, or your plant may die.

Organic matter in the soil helps keep the soil from becoming too alkaline.

That *chlordane* for ant trouble, is a wonder cure.

That an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Try spraying your plants regularly.

There are few shade plants demanding an alkaline soil. Begonias like a soil reaction of 6.5 pH.

The Begonian has a Question and Answer Department for the East and the West. Those of you with problems should write to these departments.

You may help others enjoy the distinction and pleasure of growing those rare begonias, by sending seeds of your plants to the Seed Fund of the A.B.S. for distribution.

The best time to repot most fibrous begonias, is in the spring.

The contributors of articles to the Begonian would like to hear from you, whether you like the articles or not. Address your comments, care of the Editor.

The Begonian makes an ideal all year birthday gift. The recipient will be reminded 12 times a year.

Semperflorens planted in wall-pocket baskets, make a beautiful picture of color.

Remember ferns and impatiens in your garden. They are fine companion plants for begonias.

Clivias will grow in deep shade and bloom. Do not overwater them. Hybrids are far superior.

CONVENTION NOTES

Civic Auditorium, 1401 Verdugo Road, Glendale, California, Sept. 11th and 12th, 1948.

Everyone is urged to bring their best begonias and shade plants to exhibit in the Begonia Show.

All during the Show, Gordon Baker Lloyd will be master of ceremonies, both Saturday and Sunday.

The Armchair Explorers Meeting is from 1 to 2 p. m. Saturday, Sept. 11th. There will be good speakers and the fun of growing begonias from seed will be explained.

The A. B. S. National Meeting convenes at 2 p. m. in the main Auditorium.

The Barbecue is from 5 to 7 p. m. at the picnic grounds, north of the Auditorium.

The Barbecue reservations must be in by Sept. 4th. Mail unsold tickets to our ticket chairman, Mrs. Carlisle Slattery, 3201 Perlita Ave., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

Branches—bring your banners, caps and fun makers to the Barbecue Supper—Advertise YOUR Branch.

Write your name, address and branch name on the back of your barbecue tickets. This is IMPORTANT, in order that we may have a correct check.

To get to the Auditorium, go north on Glendale Avenue which junctions with Verdugo Road, continue north past the Auditorium where there will be ample free parking space.

The evening meeting convenes at 8 p. m. and Mrs. Alice M. Clark of San Diego will be the speaker.

A number of Motels are available in the vicinity and a few Hotels are listed here.

Hotel Maryland, 202 East Wilson Ave., Phone Citrus 1-3121.

California Hotel, 345 N. Brand Blvd., Phone Citrus 2-6831.

Glendale Hotel, 710 East Broadway, Phone Citrus 2-4101.

Write or phone for reservations or contact your local travel bureau.

Get your complete program at the show early and read about all our activities, time, place, etc.

Added Schedule of Premiums

The GONDA HARTWELL CHALLENGE CUP will be awarded for the best REX Begonia in the show. This is a perpetual Cup and will be retained by the winner until two weeks before the next show, at which time it must be returned to the President of the American Begonia Society. This Cup is in competition in the Amateur Class only.

The HAZEL DRUMMOND CHALLENGE CUP will be awarded for the best TUBEROUS Begonia in the show. This is a perpetual Cup and will be retained by the winner until two

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weeks before the next show, at which time it must be returned to the President of the A.B.S. This Cup is in competition in the Amateur Class only.

In addition to the schedule of premiums listed in the August issue of the *Begonian*, there will be cash awards as follows:

- \$10.00 Best Begonia in the Show.
- 5.00 Second Best Begonia in the Show.
- 3.00 Third Best Begonia in the Show.
- 5.00 Best plant each division.
- 3.00 Second best plant each division.
- 2.00 Third best plant each division.
- 5.00 Best seedling in the Show.
- 3.00 Second Best seedling in the Show.
- Special Cash Awards to Branch Exhibits.

All entries must be in place by 10:00 a. m., Sept. 11th, 1948.

Hope to see you all in Glendale September 11th and 12th.

Frank S. Moore, President,
Glendale Branch, A. B. S.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

"Q"—I want to grow tuberous rooted begonias from seed for bloom next summer. Would you please tell me when to plant the seed? Must I have a greenhouse? When can the wax begonia seed be planted? Mrs. J. B.

"A"—The time to plant the seed of tuberous rooted begonias begins, in Southern California, about the middle of December and on through February. It is not necessary to have a greenhouse as the seed pans in which the seed is germinated can be kept where the temperature is suitable. Seed pans should be kept in a night temperature of 60 to 75 degrees F. although seed will germinate in lower temperature a little more slowly. Keep seed pans in a dark place or cover with a sheet of glass and a paper, until germination takes place.

"Q"—I have an angel wing begonia which is growing so nice. I am told I can take slips. Will you tell me how and when to do this? Mrs. C.D.N.

"A"—Cuttings of the fibrous rooted begonias, other than the bedding varieties as *semperflorens*, can be rooted at almost any time of the year as long as growing conditions are favorable. The ends of the basal lateral shoots which are not in flower and are about three inches long, are the best prospects. Coarse sand mixed with some peat moss or vermiculite mixed with peat moss, are the most suitable rooting mediums. It is better to root these cuttings in a container rather than in the open ground for they are then under your control as to surrounding conditions and temperature. Cuttings of these plants have been known to root in water if only an inch or two of the base of the cutting is kept under water.

PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY, from page 197

her efforts the advertisements have not only increased considerably, but have also improved, and by these efforts the revenue has naturally been very largely increased.

We are also indeed grateful to those firms who, by their advertisements in *The Begonian*, contribute largely to its successful progress and we would, indeed, be ingrate if we did not patronize the wares of the firms or when convenient, mention that you saw the ad in *The Begonian*. A word of sincere appreciation goes to Thomas J. Parker, Walter Knecht, Dr. M. B. Dunkle and my husband, Dr. Drummond, for their difficult task of compiling the Pest Control Bulletin.

I think, too, another forward movement is that of the Round Robins. How many otherwise strangers are brought together in a common cause and the good such work does is impossible to measure. To Mrs. Frances Downing we are indebted for the spread of this great work.

An important event of the year was the potluck picnic given by the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch, at Ventura, California. The occasion was to honor our founders, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert P. Dyckman. Many members from the various branches attended and everyone returned home happy, singing praises of a good time visiting with their fellow A.B.S. members.

We look forward to the completion of the History of The American Begonia Society, a compilation of facts being gathered by Mrs. Hugh Hixon, member Parent Branch. We hope to have this history completed by our annual meeting date.

There are one or two things to dream of towards the future — one in particular I refer to, viz, that it would be of inestimable value and prestige for the American Begonia Society to eventually own a Central Headquarters, a definite home—and I look forward to the day, soon to come I hope, when a building fund will be started, special activities created, the proceeds and benefits of which will be placed into that fund for the purpose of purchasing such a home.

And now we are soon to meet again in convention in September—on the 11th and 12th—in Glendale. To each and every one of you I say that my happiness and gratitude would be complete and perfect if you will afford me the opportunity to say "Thank You" personally on that evening.

It goes without saying—you are assured a pleasant and entertaining day and evening as guests of the Glendale Branch, whose hospitality needs no recommendations. Till then—or in conclusion—again I say thank you all—and keep up the good work.

THE CULTURE OF FERNS

By ALFRED W. ROBERTS

Due to the wide geographic distribution of ferns and the ability of many to adapt themselves to extreme temperature variations, it is possible to grow some of them successfully under many climatic conditions.

Ferns are most frequently used to add interesting foliage contrast among other shade loving plants. They create a still more striking effect if they are artistically grouped in grottos or dells in a manner complementing their varied foliage tones and leaf patterns. The variations existing among ferns are evidenced in their differences of height, spread and cultural requirements.

With few exceptions, most ferns thrive best when planted in the ground in a conservatory or in a cool, moist and wind-protected environment out of doors. Epiphytic species grow best in hanging baskets in a porous medium such as osmunda or when mounted on logs or live tree trunks. Such as the Staghorn and *Davallia Canariensis*. For the protected and frost free areas of the south and southwest the tree ferns; *Alsophila Australis*, *Dicksonia Antartica*, *Dicksonia Squarrosa*, *Dicksonia Fibrosa* and *Cyathea Medularis* add a crowning glory to the fernery, if planted discerningly to tower over and spread their protective fronds. Grotesque tree trunks provide a natural support to the graceful clinging fern *Lygodium Japonicum*. Its garland-like shoots add much charm to such a restful scene if allowed to hang from horizontal branches.

Editor's note: Mr. Alfred Roberts, for the past several years, has been a teacher of horticulture in the Los Angeles City High Schools. He is a grower of ferns and his collection is one of the finest, if not the finest and most complete in the western part of the United States. He has propagated millions of ferns from spores. In his early life he was associated with the Rothschild Gardens of Vienna and later with the Kew Gardens of London, England. At present he is secretary of the Southern California Horticulture Institute. The Editor is pleased to have his copy and looks forward to receiving many of his fine articles.

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LATE SUMMER CARE OF CAMELLIAS

By THOMAS J. PARKER

Many Camellias fail to do well because of insufficient moisture during certain seasons of the year. While it is of primary importance to supply an abundance of water and an adequate supply of complete fertilizer through the growing season from April on to flowering time, it is of the utmost importance that care be exercised in maintaining an even supply of moisture during the month of September particularly in Southern California where there is always promise of very hot dry weather. The flowering buds are forming now and if the plants are allowed to go dry at this time, bud drop will inevitably result. It may be stated that most bud drop trouble can be blamed upon allowing Camellias to dry out during the bud forming period. Sprinkle a little soil sulfur on the ground and place a two inch mulch of oak leaf mold or peat moss around the plants to conserve the moisture, also sprinkle the foliage of the plants before the sun gets too hot. Sprinkling the foliage can be done until the flower buds show color.

Sheltered Garden Book Reviews . . .

ABC OF ORCHID GROWING by John V. Watkins. Published by Ziff-Davis Publishing Co.—\$3.00

A book on American work of orchid culture. This is very welcome, as the late Professor White's book was published before the war.

Many new findings in this culture have been determined in the last few years and Mr. Watkins presents them in easy to read and understand language.

This book will appeal to amateur and advanced grower alike. He is very thorough in his explanations and refers to scientific investigators to substantiate his statements.

ABC OF ORCHID GROWING will be a welcome addition to the orchid hobbyist.

Reviewed by Frank Overton.

INTRODUCING

A new Begonia from Ocozocoautla, Mexico

A rhizomatous plant, with beautiful satinsheened, dark green, lobed leaves.

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Rudolf Ziesenhenné

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VENTURA CELEBRATES FOUNDERS MONTH

By ROSE C. HIXON, Historian

Ventura, July 25th, 1948. A date we shall remember for a long time.

The Long Beach Parent Branch of the A.B.S. (the "Pa" and "Ma" of all the branches in the begonia world) and more than three hundred and fifty neighboring "children" traveled by chartered buses and private cars, to spend the day with the oldest "child," Theodosia Burr Shepard Branch of Ventura. Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Weitz, god-parents of the new baby at its christening in 1937, were on the welcoming committee.

What a reunion it was in Foster Park, six miles from the city on the Ojai road!

Ventura busy, bustling and beautiful, opened its arms to us all and made us welcome to its flower gardens and beautiful homes.

The pilgrimage was made in honor of the Founders of the American Begonia Society, with Herbert P. Dyckman representing them and being the Guest of Honor.

The nucleus of the present organization was formed in 1932 by nine men who, with Mr. Dyckman, were begonia enthusiasts with collections of their own. The club was formed for the study of begonias and was named the California Begonia Society. After it had grown to include members from other states and even other countries, the late Mr. Robinson thought the name should be changed to the American Begonia Society, to include all who were devotees of our Royal Hobby. So the change in names was made.

At first a type written sheet was distributed among the growing membership; then a mimeographed bulletin was issued; finally our present Begonian, well-staffed, containing excellent articles and information for growers and amateurs, beautifully illustrated was issued and is now a leading magazine of a specialized subject.

Death claimed three of the founding members, leaving vacant chairs, but the Society found new helpers to carry on. Successful shows were held each year, members built lath houses to shelter the plants that needed special care and the summer tours revealed many innovations.

Mr. Dyckman and others had studied hybridizing, following in the foot-steps of Theodosia Burr Shepard, Eva Kenworthy Gray, Alfred D. Robinson and Constance Bower, to mention only a few of the old timers who were our inspiration. Scores of new begonias were originated here and in the East.

So, like the turnip in the old rhyme, we grew and we grew and the gospel of the begonia is spreading each day.

After the pot-luck lunch in Foster Park had been eaten and an hour of renewing old friendships and making new, we were escorted to the Bowl adjacent to the Park, where a fine program was presented. Mr. Clarence Hall was master of ceremonies and although space does not permit listing all the fine entertainers, special mention should be made of the Spanish dance executed by Mrs. Weitz, in costume.

After the program, Mr. Dyckman was introduced and presented with a camera and carrying case and a guest book with signatures of all attending the picnic. These gifts were presented by the president of the Theodosia Burr Shepard Branch, Mrs. Arthur Hodgins.

A newly discovered specie begonia, unnamed, was presented to Mr. Dyckman by Mr. Weitz in behalf of Rudolph Ziesenhenne and the Santa Barbara Branch. Mr. Dyckman named it after himself, after applause drowned out the suggestion of any other name.

Herbert P. Dyckman has stood through the years and still stands for unity of purpose, co-operation and loyalty among members of our Royal Hobby, that which there is none finer.

Remember when you ask your friends to join the American Begonia Society, you are *conferring* a favor, not begging for one.

Mail your BALLOTS to Mrs. Hartwell, by Sept. 7th, 1948.

Reservations for the Barbecue Dinner must be mailed to Mrs. Carlisle Slatery, 3201 Perlita Ave., Los Angeles 26, Calif. by Sept. 4th.

YOUR GARDEN NEEDS NITROHUMUS

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SEED FUND NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER

Calling ALL ARMCHAIR EXPLORERS. It is time to set sail on a new exploring adventure in our search for more rare begonias to grow in our gardens. It will not be so much of a gamble this trip for we already have twenty kinds of seed being packeted for our spring distribution. Here is the list, *B. Peltata*, Mexican rhizomatous, *Sunderbruchi*, *Nelumbifolia*, *Immense*, *Acutangula*, *Vitafolia*, *Laciniata*, *Rubro-venia*, Mexican dwarf species, *gracilis* var *diversifolia*, *hydrocotylifolia* hybrid, *Venosa*, *Heracleifolia* var *nigricans* and six different unnamed species from Colombia. All are fresh seed this fall. To get your name on the list send in your two dollar contribution to the fund for the purchase of seeds.

At this writing we cannot say for certain if there will be a separate pool for tuberous hybrids and species, but we will have one if we get enough seed. We have the promise of some very choice tuberous seed from England. Some of you have asked that we make up a joint order for tuberous begonias and gloxinia bulbs. Will these people and all who are interested, please write your Skipper immediately and we will get this under way. Lists have come in on some very interesting bulbs. The multifloras in *Flamboyant* (red), *Calle* (salmon), *Helene Harms* (yellow) and *Ami Jean Bard* (bronze yellow). *Gloxinias* in all colors. Price is approximately 12c per bulb if we can get a large order. Do not ask for less than 10 bulbs. These must be ordered NOW.

How are your plants growing? Mine are doing fine, I almost have to look them over twice a day for they surprise me so with their fast growing. The *Martianas* (hollyhock begonia) grow almost like weeds and I am looking forward to a lot of pretty pink flowers very soon. A heavy covering of peatmoss and steer fertilizer has done wonders for my plants, they are all responding and it looks as tho I will need to think of additional space soon. My little fern seedlings are the plants that are doing the most crowding right now. From the heated propagating cases I transplant them to flats and move them to an unheated case, then when they make more root growth they are planted in the ground in the lath house and soon to border beds around the yard. They are great fun. If you have not had good luck with your ferns from spores, do not give up, send me a stamped envelope and I will send you more spores to try, without charge. This also goes for anyone who failed with begonia seeds.

By all means do not miss our Convention booth in Glendale the 11th and 12th of this month. Your Skipper wants to meet you and to hear any suggestions you may have for the improvement of our Seed Fund.

This month we have several kinds of new seed that may interest you. Eight kinds of seed of the *Amaryllis* family, those interested write for list. We have some new creeping fern spores, three kinds of the lovely *Tibouchinas* and more bromeliads. *Fuchsia arborescens*, *boliviana* and mixed hybrids, *Fritillaria Meleagris*, *Solanum scandens*, *Peperomia* species from Colombia and a yellow *Calceolaria* species. From So. Africa we have *Streptocarpus multiflorus*. A special price on all seed this month is three packets for fifty cents.

Cheerio until next month,

Your Skipper, Florence Carrell

COLORED SLIDE LIBRARY

Slides are available to all branches. The branch requesting them should have access to a projector and screen. The size of the slides is 2x2. In making requests, I would advise your sending your choice of a first and second date to avoid disappointment.

At this time, I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. L. Turner and Mrs. Jay Jenks for their contributions of slides. We now have a total of two hundred and thirty-five slides in the library.

GROUPS OF SLIDES AVAILABLE FOR YOUR SELECTION

Selection No. 1, consisting of *Rex*, *Fibrous*, *Tuberous* and rare types.

Selection No. 2, a different selection of *Rex*, *Fibrous*, *Tuberous* and rare types.

Selection No. 3, Miscellaneous: *Fuchsias*, *Epiphyllums*, *Orchids*, and show displays.

Selection No. 4, Miscellaneous *Begonias* and shade plants and the annual *Spring Hat Parade* of the *Ventura Branch*.

Each of these selections is accompanied with a list of names in commentary form.

Grace L. Bayer, *Chrm. Slide Library*

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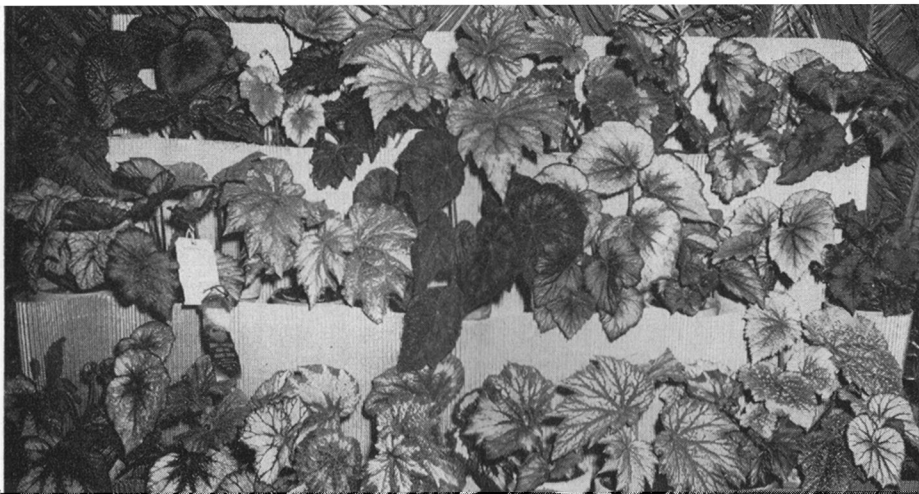
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Garvey Road
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Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger's Exhibit of rex begonias, winning a Blue Ribbon in the Santa Barbara Show. The Santa Barbara Branch Exhibit also took First Place in Booth Exhibits.

ROUND ROBIN NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER

A House Plant Robin for members from the east, north and midwest has been asked for. California is a simple matter. Wintering them where winters are bitterly cold, is a real problem. A Director is ready to start this Robin flying when there is enough members signed.

Our first Robin to start flying, the Begonia Robin No. 1, has room for a few members. The advanced Fibrous Begonia Robin No. 5 has room for new members. The Soils Robin needs a Director, as does the Primrose Robin, and the Apartment Dwellers Robin. Shut-ins would enjoy this Robin also.

Any member of the American Begonia Society may join any of the Robins. Write to the Director, Mrs. Frances Downing, R. F. D., Calera, Alabama. She will be glad to supply you with the necessary information you need. Tell her what you are interested in and she will tell you what Robins are already flying and which you may join.

APOLOGY

Your Editor extends a humble apology to Mr. Harry B. Fasmer of the Inglewood Branch for the deletion of his 'background story' from the list in the August *Begonian*. I herewith submit "Mr. Harry B. Fasmer of the Inglewood Branch as having been a Past Branch President for two years and Secretary this year. He is active in Civic Garden Shows and excels in fuchsias. He also has a very large collection of both shade and sun loving plants in his beautiful garden."

San Gabriel held a very successful Flower Show in Arcadia August 14th and 15th.

HONORS WON AT LONG BEACH

Four Branches of the A.B.S. won honors in the Long Beach Flower Show.

First Supremacy Award was won by Orange County Branch with a cozy fern dell scene, showing ferns, fuchsias and many types of begonias.

Third Supremacy Award was won by the Inglewood Branch with a lovely little white house and garden scene, showing the use of beautiful specimen begonias.

North Long Beach Branch was First in its Class with a cottage and beautifully arranged garden using primroses, gloxinias and many begonias.

Bellflower Branch was Second in this Class with their Crown of Jewels, using the rex begonias as their theme of the Royal Hobby. Begonias and shade plants played a very important part in the large Flower Show and congratulations are in order for these Branches.

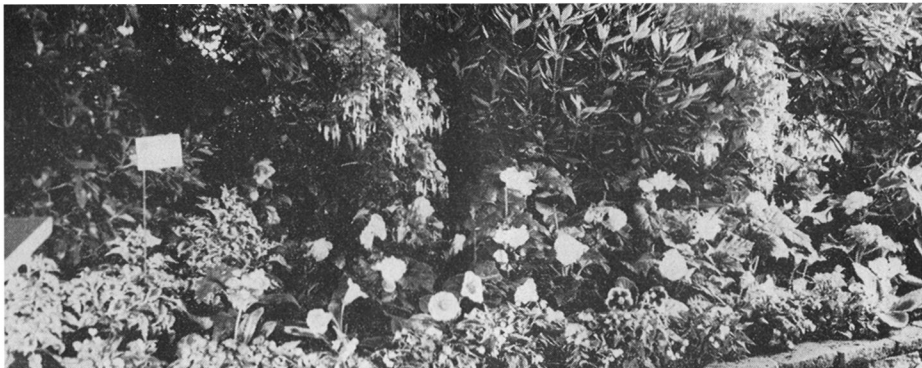
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Dr. Miller's Exhibit of the Western Reserve Branch in the Greater Cleveland Garden Show exhibited begonias, gloxinias, fuchsias and many shade loving plants from his own garden.

WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH: Held a Shade Tolerating Plant Show at the Garden Center of Greater Cleveland on August 14 and 15. A great deal of enthusiasm was shown over the lovely showing of begonias. Dr. B. E. Miller will talk on shade plants at their September 22nd meeting. Fuchsias will be the main subject.

Phil Meyer, *Pres.*

SAN DIEGO COUNTY BRANCHES: On August 9th, Dr. Drummond and I visited the La Mesa Branch of the A.B.S. at San Diego, and were tendered a most cordial welcome. Members from the Alfred D. Robinson branch, the San Diego branch, the E. K. Gray branch, were represented. Also present at the meeting was the well known author, Alfred D. Hottes, Mr. and Mrs. Sharp of the San Francisco branch, Miss Alice McIntyre and Mr. Jack Bailey of the Pasadena branch.

There was a very fine plant sale and the flower decorations were really beautiful. Entertainment and singing were enjoyable and a most pleasant evening was concluded with refreshments of ice cream and cake. We extend our sincere thanks to the La Mesa members for a memorable evening.

On Tuesday, August 10th, a group of the San Diego branch members honored us with a delightful potluck supper—served in the beautiful gardens of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Owens. During the afternoon we had the pleasure of visiting several gardens featuring all types of begonias, especially the tuberous kind, and also fuchsias and the gorgeous display was indicative of the fact that the plants were at their best, well grown and tastefully arranged.

On Wednesday Mr. Alfred D. Hottes was our host at his home in La Jolla, following which we returned to Hollywood—feeling that the work of the A. B. S. and membership in the Society really was worthwhile.

Mary Hazel Drummond, *Natl Pres.*

LA MESA BRANCH: Elected new officers as follows: President, E. C. Biddle; Vice President, Mrs. J. W. Lowry; Rec.-Secy., Mrs. Edwin F. Barker; Corr. Secy., Mrs. Lillian Patterson; Treas., Mrs. Edward R. Tweed.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH: Had a very lovely array of food at their annual pot-luck supper in Plummer Park. Mrs. Drummond decorated the tables with huge tuberous blooms donated by Mrs. Hunter of San Diego. Mrs. Grace Bayer showed colored pictures of rex and tuberous begonias.

Mrs. Edith Pedgrift, *Sec.*

MIAMI BEACH: Had a very interesting speaker, Mr. Cecil H. Cook, talking on Compost. He explained how to make a compost pile by using a pipe with holes in the sides, placed in the center will allow gases and heat to escape. He also urged the turning of the material at least every thirty days to hasten decomposition. He suggested the use of seaweed in the pile, for those living near the coast.

Francis Michelson, *Director*

PETALUMA BRANCH: Celebrated Founders Month at their July meeting. Rose Hixon's article on Founders Month was read by President J. C. Gould. Wayne Roderick spoke on fuchsias and Mrs. Bradbury was commentator for the colored slides shown from the Slide Library. A novel idea of a large menu card was passed among the members with needed items for the pot-luck supper (to be held in August) in separated squares. As each member received the card, they signed their name in the square representing the dish they would contribute to the affair.

Mrs. Cuma Wakefield, *Sec.*

DOROTHY PIERSON BARTON
BRANCH: Is having a Special Exhibition with the Yard and Garden Club in the I.M.A. Auditorium, September 11th and 12th. This Branch meets Quarterly and President Mrs. Edwin Crosby sends a mimeographed letter to every member, in between meetings, pointing out the interesting articles in the Begonian especially applicable to members in Michigan. The letters also announce forthcoming events which keeps enthusiasm at a high pitch.

Mrs. G. W. W. Barton, *Director*

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH: Had a very successful picnic in July at the Big Trees in Santa Cruz, with one hundred and three attending. They also had perfect weather to make the day perfect.

Anne Mitchell, *Librarian*

SAN FERNANDO BRANCH: Held their July Meeting in the lovely garden of Dr. and Mrs. W. C. Drummond. It was a pot-luck supper with several members of the National Board present. Dr. Drummond gave a talk on several of his exotic plants and Mrs. Drummond gave a corsage demonstration. The August meeting was dark due to many members away on vacations.

Mrs. Frank Ecker, *Secretary*

FOOTHILL BRANCH: Held their August meeting in San Dimas Park in the form of a pot-luck supper. They will also have a pot-luck supper for their September meeting and have a good plant sale. The Foothill Branch is proud to announce the winning of First Place in the Padua Hills Flower Show. Several of the members won prizes on their separate shade plant entries. This is Foothill's first attempt at such a venture and are very much encouraged by the outcome.

Mrs. Bertha Whisler, *Pub. Chairman*

THE HUB CITY BRANCH: Held an outdoor pot-luck dinner in the garden of Mrs. Blanche E. Watts, president. Mr. Herbert Dyckman was honor guest and the guest list comprised many visiting Branch members. The newly elected officers were installed by Mr. Dyckman and a lively plant sale was held.

Mrs. Grace Taylor, *Pub. Chairman*

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Condensed Minutes Meeting National Board, A.B.S., July 26, 1948, with President Mrs. Drummond presiding.

Board Members present—Mrs. Drummond, Mrs. Behrends, Mrs. Hartwell, Messrs. Lawrence, Walton, Dere, Bailey, Hixon. Branch Representatives from Hollywood, Glendale, San Gabriel Valley, Inglewood, Riverside, Ventura, Santa Barbara, Bellflower, Hub City, Southgate, North Long Beach, Parent Branch, Pasadena.

Reports of Editor, Treasurer, Advertising Manager, Membership Fees Chairman, Librarian, read; accepted as read and ordered filed as part of the minutes.

Librarian instructed to have a sufficient number of the Krauss Begonia books at the Annual Convention to take care of estimated demand and to work with Mrs. Crowder on manner of handling.

Mrs. Schwerdtfeger, Public Relations Director, presented Constitution and by-laws of the new El Monte Branch. Accepted as read and the new Branch welcomed into the fold.

Slide Librarian reported her department was progressing very nicely. Had requests from Santa Paula, Petaluma, South Gate and Glendale for slides for their programs which she had sent. 227 slides in the collection at the present time with promises of more.

Historian Mrs. Hixon reported she had at this time finished a rough draft of the history of the Society and was handing it to the President for typing. President in expressing her appreciation of the very painstaking and capable work done by Mrs. Hixon stated she felt the Society as a whole owed Mrs. Hixon a great debt as this work has taken many hours and much research.

Branch Reports—See August Begonian. Many Founders Day dinners; several coming Flower Shows; interest in general keeping up good reports of the Ventura Founders Day Celebration with many branches participating and a marvelous pot-luck dinner.

Mr. Moore, Chairman Annual Meeting and Flower Show in Glendale, outlined more of their plans; urged branches to make reservations for the barbecue dinner Saturday evening suggested everyone watch their Begonian for further plans and that Branches send as many delegates as convenient so this meeting and show may be well attended. Will try to send letters from time to time to the branches informing them of activities.

President appointed Messrs. Humble, Walton and Dere a committee to go into the matter of membership cards and report at the next meeting their findings.

Motion, following discussion, by Jack Bailey: "I move we have a pot-luck dinner meeting at the Miller Begonia Gardens, Whittier, on August 29th". Second Mrs. Korts. Carried. President appointed Grace Bayer as Chairman—she to make the arrangements, etc., for this meeting. Watch for word from Mrs. Bayer as to time and plans.

Mr. Frost, as Chairman of Nominating Committee, handed in report. See your August Begonian for ballot.

Committee thanked for their conscientious work and dismissed from further duties.

Suggestion made that the Representative Directors ask their respective branches to consider the matter of the 1949 Convention to be taken up at the 1948 Convention.

Due to lateness of the hour, meeting adjourned to meet again August 23rd, 1948.

Respectfully submitted,

Gonda, Hartwell, Secretary.

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Meeting Dates and Places

BARTON, DOROTHY PIERSON BRANCH

Regular meetings, Quarterly, 1st Fridays
Flint, Michigan, Nov. 5th.
Mrs. S. V. Clark, Sec.,
1919 Zimmerman St., Flint 3, Mich.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

1st Monday, Sept. 6, 7:30 p.m.
I.O.O.F. Hall, Ardmore and Palm Sts.
Mrs. Margaret Hanson, Sec.
9652 E. Center Street, Bellflower, Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Willard School, Ward Street
Mrs. E. Carlson, Sec.-Treas.
2130 McGee Ave., Berkeley 3, Calif.

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Sunday, Sept. 19th, 4 p.m.
Pot-luck, 245 S. Sultana St., Temple City
Mrs. Mary Bradley, Cor. Sec.
701 Asher St., El Monte, Calif.

FOOTHILL BRANCH

1st Friday, Sept. 3, 6:30 p.m.
Pot-Luck, San Dimas Park
Mrs. Phyllis Heth, Secretary
223 Bonita Ave., Azusa, Calif.

GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Sept. 28, 8 p.m.
Glendale Library Bldg.
319 East Howard St., Glendale, Calif.
Mrs. Joyce Lorenz, Secretary
5227 El Rio Ave., Los Angeles 41, Calif.

GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

3rd Monday, Sept. 20
Community House, LaJolla
Tillie Center, Sec.-Treas.
7356 Eads St., LaJolla, Calif.

GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

Mrs. W. E. Jones, Sec., Willow Grove, Pa.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Edith Pedgrift, Rec.-Sec.
6551 Fountain Ave., Hollywood 28.

HUB CITY BRANCH

3rd Monday, Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m.
Roosevelt Hi Sch. Cafe., 1200 E. Olive, Compton
Mrs. Eloise Scheller, Sec.-Treas.
3586 Imperial, Lynwood, Calif.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Sept. 13, 8 p.m.
Lanes Memorial Hall, 1st Christian Church
Miss Margaret Smith,
P. O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Sept. 9, 8 p.m.
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Harry B. Fasmer, Secretary
5129 So. Manhattan, Los Angeles 43, Calif.

LA MESA BRANCH

2nd Monday, Sept. 13, 8 p.m.
La Mesa Grammar School, La Mesa, Calif.
Mrs. Edna F. Barker
89 Central, Lemon Grove, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

3rd Tuesday, Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Robert Louis Stevenson School, 5th & Atlantic
Cafeteria, Lime St. Entrance, Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Rose C. Hixon, Sec.-Treas.
76 W. Home St., Long Beach 5, Calif.

MIAMI FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Sept. 28, 8 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
Mrs. Elizabeth S. Hall, Sec.
2592 Trapp Ave. Miami 35, Fla.

MISSOURI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2 p.m.
Mrs. Bruce Dill, Secretary
3715 Harrison, Kansas City, Mo.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Mrs. H. H. Buxton, Sec.
114 Central St., Peabody, Mass.

NEW YORK SUBURBAN BRANCH

Sunday, Sept. 12th, 2:30 p.m.
Crestwood Public Library
Crestwood, N.Y.
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Norman Hedley
71 Willard Terrace, Stamford, Conn.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

2nd Monday, Sept. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Houghton Park Club House
Harding & Atlantic, No. Long Beach

Miss Evelyn Peterson

1414 E. 68th St., Long Beach, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

1st Thursday, Sept. 2, 7:30 p.m.
Farm Bureau Hall, 353 So. Main St., Orange.
Sec.-Treas., Mrs. Ethelyn Morgan, 250 N. Center
Orange, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

1st Tuesday, Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m.
2031 E. Villa Street
Mrs. Frank Clark, Sec.-Treas.
2168 Cooley Place, Pasadena 7, Calif.

PETALUMA BRANCH

3rd Friday, Sept. 17, 7:30 p.m.
Danish Hall, 19 Main St.
Mrs. Cuma Wakefield, Secy.
47 Fifth St., Petaluma, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Mrs. Lillian Watts, Sec., 405 Cotswald Lane
Wynwood, Pa.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Sept. 8, 8 p.m.
Mrs. Wm. Allen, Sec.-Treas.
7904 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Sept. 28, 8 p.m.
Loma Portal School
3341 Browning St., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. Louise Gardner, Secretary
3212 James Street, San Diego 6, Calif.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, Sept. 21, 8 p.m.
Garden Center, McKinley Park
Mrs. A. Boyd Collier, Secy.
2777 Harkness Way, Sacramento, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Sept. 27
Hard of Hearing Hall, 3843 Herbert Ave.
Mrs. L. J. Elliott, Sec.-Treas.
3794 Grim Ave., San Diego 4, Calif.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Sept. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Pierce Jr. College, 6201 Winnetka Ave.
Canoga Park. Mrs. Frank Ecker, Secretary
21003 Devonshire St., Chatsworth, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Sept. 1, 7:30 p.m.
American Legion Hall, 1641 Taraval St.
Sec.: Mrs. Walter Ashe, 1855 33rd Ave.
San Francisco, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Sept. 22, 8 p.m.
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.
Mrs. Myrtle Jones, Secretary
132 May Ave., Monrovia, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Rm. 5. Com. Center, 914 Santa Barbara St.
Santa Barbara, California
Mrs. Bertha Ayersman, Secy.
1120 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, Calif.

SANTA MARIA BRANCH

Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Peter Mehlschau

SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Sept. 8, 7:30 p.m.
University High School, Room 232
11800 Texas Ave., West Los Angeles
Mrs. Denman Bemus, Sec.-Treas.
345 So. Anita Ave., Los Angeles 24, Calif.

SANTA PAULA BRANCH

4th Thursday, Sept. 23, 6:30 p.m.
Steckel Park
Margaret Richardson, Rt. 2, Box 242A
Santa Paula, California

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m.
Alice Bartlett C. H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.
Miss Carolyn Peyton, Secretary
335A So. Evergreen Dr., Ventura, Calif.

SO. ALAMEDA CO. BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Sept. 16, 8 p.m.
Scout Room, Markham School, Hayward, Calif.
Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss, Corr.-Sec.
26706 Monte Vista Dr., Hayward, Calif.

SOUTHGATE BRANCH

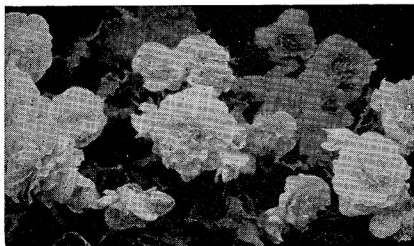
4th Tuesday, Sept. 28, 8 p.m.
Girls Scout Clubhouse, Southgate Park,
Mrs. Mary Casey, Sec'y-Treas.
4085 Tweedy Blvd., Southgate, Calif.

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WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH. CLEVELAND, O.
 4th Wednesday, Bimonthly, Sept. 22, 8 p.m.
 Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St., Cleveland, O.
 Mrs. Fred McCune, Secy., 1470 Waterbury Rd.
 Lakewood, Ohio

WHITTIER BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Sept. 28, 8 p.m.
 Union High School, Room 19
 Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.
 Mrs. Isamae M. Capell, Sec.
 445 N. Comstock Ave., Whittier, Calif.



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