

# The BEGONIAN

*Devoted to the Sheltered Gardens*

BEGONIA

X

REICHENHEIMI

X MACDOUGALLI

(Ziesenhenne)



Plant of Mr. Fred  
Schultz, Inglewood



Ken Garrison Clarke  
Photo



APRIL  
1952



TWENTY-FIVE  
CENTS



VOL. XIX  
No. 4



# Easter Thoughts

By Mrs. Dorothy Pierson Barton, Flint, Michigan

Off repeated is the wise but ageless saying:

"As a Man Thinketh, So He Is."

From this I pondered and compared our minds to a garden. Likened the mind to a rich fertile field in which seeds of good impressions bear fruit and reward you with a fulfillment in harvest. Use good seed. Seeds impregnated with kindness, charity, tolerance and love will yield thrice-fold the rewards of happiness, joy in living, piety, harmony and infinite peace. This great harvest will repay not only you but all who touch your life, its ripples spreading out even to other nations.

Utmost possibilities exist in this garden of our innermost mind. We easily control our conscious mind and it is here that rank weeds carelessly allowed to scatter their numerous seeds infest and corrupt the unsullied fields of our inmost minds.

Two powerfully easy to germinate weeds are ever prevalent. Only by sheer will power can we pluck doubt

and fear from our mind garden, but by eliminating them we can achieve strength of purpose to perform deeds we know are right and to live each day by the guiding love of God. It is well-established that fear actually does structural damage to our bodies and that doubts can warp and paralyze our minds. Tear out these weeds and flood your mind-garden with the beauties God has given each of us and leave no space for seeds of frustration, envy or greed to take root. Thus by deliberate daily concentration each of us can make our own mind-garden flourish with poise, happiness and harmony, lit by the sun of our faith.

To hasten this peace-of-mind in our garden of living, choose carefully some very particular plants which respond to your own soul, striking chords of love like music. Keep these plants special and apart, tended with loving care, until there will seem to arise an unexplainable telepathy communing with Nature. You will feel lifted up out of earthly sorrows into a new immeasurable peace — a peace of your soul-garden.

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# CONTENTS

## Feature Articles—

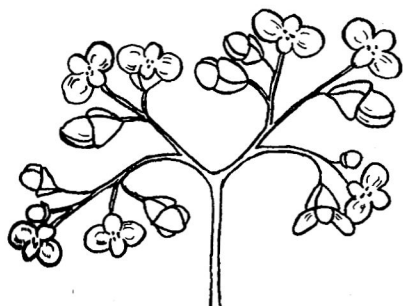
EASTER THOUGHTS — MRS. DOROTHY PIERSON BARTON .....	70
SLANTED TOWARD THE BEGINNER. DOROTHY BEHREND .....	72
NATURAL FRIENDS OF THE BEGONIAS — BILL BROOKS .....	74
THE REX BEGONIA — PERCY I. MERRY (reprint—"Horticulture") .....	76
NOW — GLENN W. MOTSCHMAN, TERRY OLMSTED, SIDNEY SAMPSON .....	78
BEGONIA X REICHENHEIMI X MACDOUGALLI — MARIE MINTER .....	79
PROPAGATING THE RARE BROMELIADS — DOROTHY S. BEHREND .....	80
GROWING BEGONIAS FROM SEED IN IOWA — MRS. ORVAL O. HALL .....	85

## American Begonia Society—

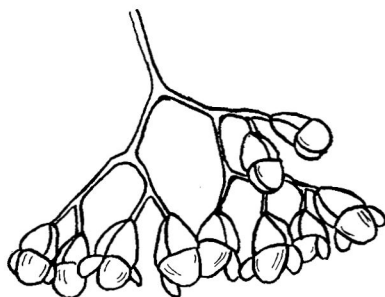
ARMCHAIR EXPLORERS .....	81
BEGONIAS ON EXHIBIT — DALLAS .....	86
— PENNSYLVANIA .....	84
— SAN GABRIEL .....	85
BRANCH IDEAS — MEETIN' HALL .....	83
BRANCH MEETING DATES & PLACES .....	90
BRANCH NEWS .....	81, 82, 87
CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS .....	89

CONDENSED MINUTES .....	91
CONVENTION BULLETIN .....	86
CONVENTION TRAVELOGUE .....	88
LIBRARY NOTES .....	77
PRESIDENT'S LETTER .....	87
QUESTION-ANSWER COLUMN .....	82
ROUND ROBIN NOTES .....	83
SHELTERED GARDEN BOOKS .....	77

# Botanical Terms Illustrated



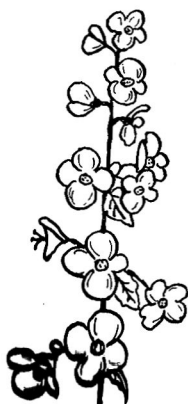
ERECT-CLUSTER



PENDULOUS-CLUSTER



CLOSE-CLUSTER



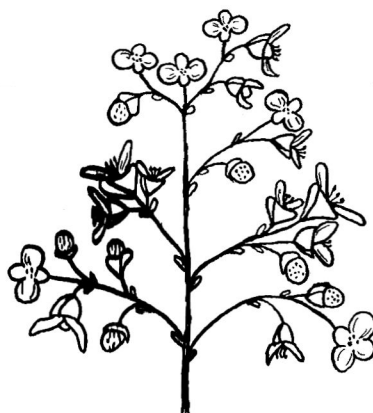
RACEME



CLOSE STEM-CLUSTER



PANICLE



CYME

DSB



## Slanted Toward the Beginner

By Dorothy S. Behrends

As specific begonia descriptive terms and illustrations are lacking in the *Glossary of Botanical Terms*, it appears necessary that this information be included in the *Begonian*.

The accompanying flower illustrations point out quite forcibly the reason begonias have been a hobbyist's subject for so many years.

The variety of form and color found in the begonia plants and blossoms is why people have found them such fascinating plants to study and to grow.

The flower descriptions for begonias vary only slightly from those found applicable to other flowers.

**CYME:** Is more often described as "terminal cluster" in begonia literature and is an inflorescence in which the central flowers bloom earliest. Succeeding flowers must come from axillary buds lower down on the stem. As the original flowers come from the central bud, this terminates development, although the buds lower down on the stem may continue to arise and flower. *B. angularis* is an example of this type of blossom.

**CLUSTER:** Is often used in describing begonia flowers. These may be erect-clusters or pendulous (drooping) clusters. An example of the erect-cluster type is found in *B. templini*. *B. 'lucerna'* is a good example of the pendulous-cluster type.

**CLOSE-CLUSTER:** Is similar to the drooping-cluster. It is merely a smaller, pendulous-cluster, often containing only twelve flowers. A good example may be found in *B. 'Limminghei'*.

**CLOSE STEM-CLUSTER:** Flowers resemble cherries (by stretching the imagination), and jut out from the stem in clusters, like cherries. Good examples are *B. Manni* and *B. Poggei*.

**RACEME:** A simple (or single-stemmed) flower cluster, the lower flowers blossoming earlier than the upper flowers. A good example is found in *B. Martiana*.

**PANICLE:** A branched raceme; the lower branches are longer and blossom earlier than the upper branches. The term is sometimes loosely applied to any irregular inflorescence. Two good examples, so described, are *B. 'reichenheimi'* and *B. 'ricinifolia'*.

**PEDUNCLE:** The stalk of a flower cluster or of an inflorescence consisting of one flower.

**PEDICEL:** In an inflorescence consisting of more than one flower, the footstalk or stem of an individual flower.

**CRENULATE:** Minutely crenate.

**CUSPIDATE:** Tipped with a sharp and rigid point or cusp, especially if leaf (or petal) is lance or spear shaped.

**HIRSUTE:** Hairy with rather coarse, stiffish, straight, beardlike hairs.

**PALMATE:** The term refers to leaflets (or organs) which are radiately lobed or divided, like outspread fingers of the hand.

**ADVENTITIOUS:** Buds produced in an unusual place, on any part of the plant other than the usual place.

**CILIATE:** Hair fringed; provided with eyelash-like hairs on the margin. (See *B. Boweri*).

**COMA:** Hair, especially if tufted, dense, long and soft.

**DICHOTOMOUS:** Two-forked; the forks or branches regular and nearly equal. (See *B. dichotoma*).

Although the series of articles *Slanted Toward the Beginner* is primarily for beginners and Begonia Study Groups, it is hoped that they will also be of benefit to all begonia enthusiasts.

See the December 1951 *Begonian*, page 260, for more begonia descriptive terms.

# Natural Friends of the Begonias

By Bill Brooks, Plant Explorer

(Last month you read of two of Mr. Brooks' introductions and here he tells you something of what he sees when he travels the mysterious back country of Mexico, so near yet so unknown. Mr. Brooks has been making trips to Mexico since 1933 and has lost count of their number, having made as many as six in one year. His growing curiosity about tropical plant growth was his incentive, with orchids his first temptation. He was the first to bring orchids to Southern California nurseries from across the border and still is their major source of Central American plants. His keen interest in plant life in its natural habitat has been his textbook and school master and he has passed Nature's rugged exams with flying colors.)

Begonias do not grow alone in Nature. Where they thrive many other plants also grow as near perfection as plants might grow exposed to the elements and natural conditions. Therefore, it follows that Begonias could be associated with such plants in cultivation as might find a liking for a condition in common with Begonias in the wild.

To form just the right *situs* for a begonia of a given type might mean the employment of another plant. In Nature trees, philodendrons, ferns and many other plants go to form the composite which affords to a begonia a condition which is to its liking. Given that the begonia fills a spot which better fits it than any other plant in the picture, yet the other plants are filling the spots the begonia did not find to its liking and all, in their places, round out a perfect composition. It is possible that many of the other plants could be replaced with other forms of begonias and this is idealistic in that the begonia lover might then revel among the plants of his choice.

But in Nature many of these plants afford a condition which gives to other plants the thing or things they need.

Among these things can be found the

forming of a more perfect pattern of beauty than if only one species prevailed. For instance, what beauty can be expressed where the more solid foliage of the begonias can be offset with the filmy appearance of a lacy fern! As most of the begonias are of a terrestrial nature, the planting of orchids and other epiphytes on rafts of wood or bark and branches hanging from above lends an enchantment akin to nature's way of presenting these same plants.

Recalling a scene from a portion of good begonia country in the State of Chiapas in Mexico brings to mind a memory of beautiful plants arrayed upon a steep hillside along a winding stream. Here grew a pretty begonia of a rhizomatous type with dark green leaves of good size 'neath small trees and a rainy sky. All was moist. The leafmold impregnated soil which filled the cavities of the rocky bank and lay thinly over the more level spots afforded the footing for not only the begonias but many anthuriums, philodendrons, ferns and other plants. Selaginella created a carpet in the spots unoccupied with the more robust plants, and peperomias vined through the low growing brush here and there. In the larger trees grew a variety of orchids while a few stems of *Epidendrum radicans*, a ground growing orchid, sported their orange to red blooms. In a more open spot, upon the edge of an overhanging ledge, grew a curly leafed bromeliad and a species of epiphyllum form of cactus.

This picture alone will call one's attention to the fact that each plant grew where it best could grow. Those plants which did not attain such position as they needed had probably long before been removed from the picture. Nature provides many seeds from each individual, and those unfortunate enough not to reach a favored spot perish. In this way only those reaching their needs are left. This is the process of selection. Other forms of plants

which can more or less command the situation by their size crowd out the smaller ones. Those which can grow under various conditions equally well find themselves filling any empty space where they might crowd between the larger and more vigorous plants.

Such is the situation of the ever-green type of begonias. Where the seasons are more or less of extreme opposites, such as dry at one period and wet at another, we find the begonias to fit the situation. As a rule they are tuberous. This allows the plant to flourish in the wet season and to store up enough moisture and food in tubers to carry it over the dry period and also to start growth early enough to take advantage of all the wet season for further growth. Here we find other types of plants associating with the begonias. In some places we find the conditions such that both types might prevail.

In the second of these two conditions we find the associating plants to be of a different nature from the first. Most of the plants of this region provide themselves with some manner of protection throughout a long dry season. Here we find many succulents such as echeverias, sedums and cacti. Yes, if the region provides the trees of sufficient size, there most likely will be orchids. This is made possible by the fact that most orchids, although not classed as succulents, have the same property, namely, the ability to store food and moisture in their pseudobulbs and to remain dormant over a period of time. The begonia is a persistent grower in Nature and will find a way to adapt itself to the situation.

In the foothills of the eastern Sierras along the line of the states of Chiapas and Oaxaca, where the blue Pacific Ocean dominates the horizon to the south, grows a begonia which has so far eluded any great amount of collecting. By virtue of growing among the very succulent roots of Sobralias, that beautiful-flowered terrestrial orchid, this begonia (which is tuberous and, of course, without leaves in the dry season) entered our garden unknown to us, and, when it began to grow in the spring, we found ourselves in possession of a new tuberous begonia. On first seeing it, Mr. Rudolf Ziesenhenné called it a "Philodendron-leaved Begonia", and we think the name may stay because of its being a very appropriate one.

This particular section is one where the begonias are mixed. This tuberous type is associated with another which grows in the same section and at times not more than a few feet away and is of the rhizomatous variety. Here many other plants have learned to

carry themselves over the dry season which persists in the winter months by one means or another. Here poinsettias bloom in the wild, framed at times by the bare stems of that beautiful deciduous type tree which produces highly fragrant white flowers, the frangipani. Monsteras and philodendrons are to be found, as are many orchids, upon the trees which abound in this section. Bromeliads are upon the trees and rocky cliffs which break the forest fastness to open their faces to the full tropical sun. Many types of cacti also grow here. Some are quite large and tree-like with hairy stems—*Cephalocereus Palmeri*—while others are slender and vine-like. Others are high growing opuntias, which are, on their lower portions, hosts to great amounts of lichens and mosses.

To conform all these types to one garden would mean to place many of them at a disadvantage, or to make a condition which would half-way suit them all. But, fortunate as we are here in Southern California, we might make one part of our garden to suit one type while arranging the other part to suit the other extreme, and in each we could associate our begonias with just the proper plants to make them feel at home.

All true plant lovers will understand what is meant by making them happy by association. One plant alone cannot make a garden any more than one type of person can make a well rounded form of society, but by placing a little of this and a little of that, we may attain a degree of success in forming a very pleasing garden. Of course, we might place the accent on begonias and give them the leading role, but far more attraction can be added by trimming the scene with the proper placing of such plants as readily fit into the same conditions as do our begonias.

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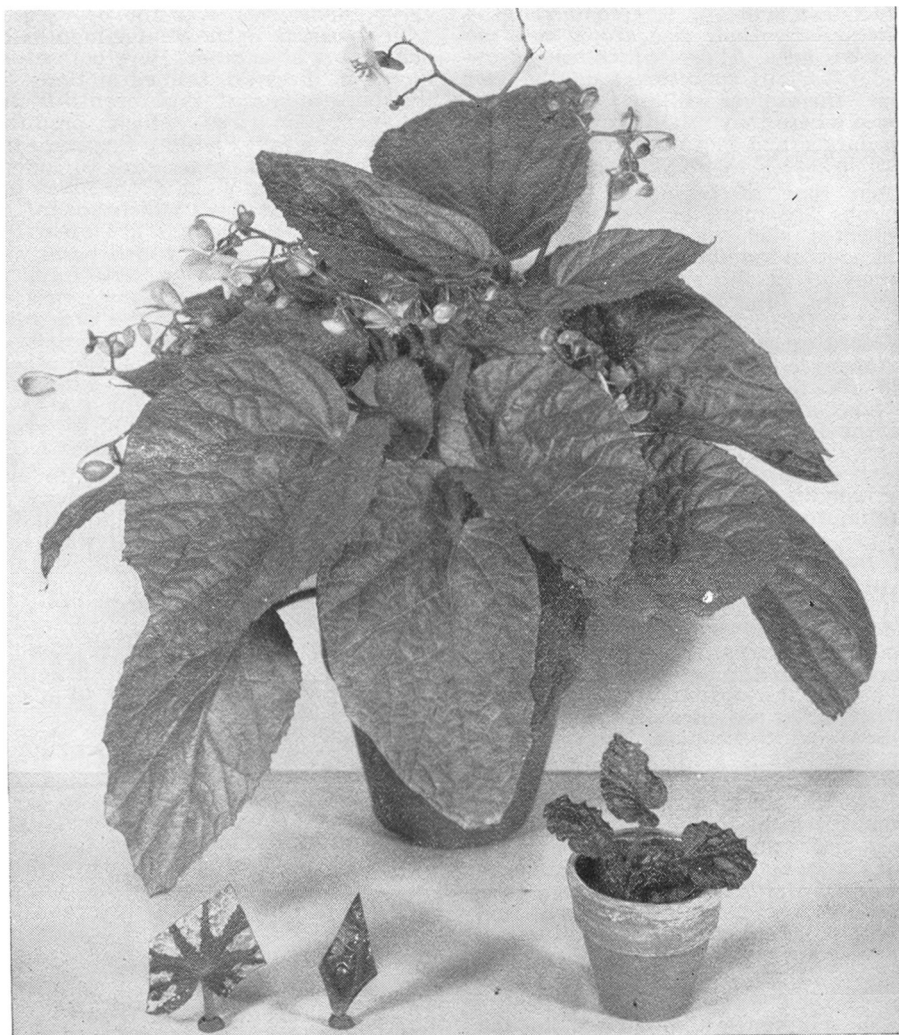
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Merry Photo

### **Rex Begonia 'Solid Silver'**

**Has silvery, light green foliage. Shown here are leaf wedges and a rooted cutting four months after transplanting.**

## *The Rex Begonia*

*Reprinted thru the Courtesy of "Horticulture"*

Not only for their handsome foliage, but because they present a challenge to the ability of the grower, the varieties of rex begonia (the King's begonia) are my favorite house plants. If conditions do not suit them, they go dormant all Winter, but my gas-free, steam-

heated sun porch facing the south provides a warm humid atmosphere in which they flourish all through the year.

#### **Soil Requirements**

I use a soil composed of sharp sand, loam, old cow manure, plenty of oak

leafmold, bone meal and superphosphate. I pack this light, friable soil gently around their fine delicate roots which bruise easily and provide for ample drainage. While they like plenty of water, I do not keep them in a wet condition, and withhold water entirely on dull days in Winter. Water on the leaves will cause brown spots to appear.

#### Propagate by Leaf Wedges

In February I start repotting and propagating. Propagation is from leaves, wedges cut from leaves and plant divisions. The latter method needs no explanation, the wedges or the leaves, with about a half inch of stem, I insert perpendicularly in damp sharp sand, firmly packed in an eight-inch bulb pan, which I then place in an old aquarium, cover with glass, and put on a plank on a radiator. I ventilate and water as needed. In two or three weeks, sometimes longer, they will root, and tiny leaves appear. When the plant is well rooted and strong enough, I transplant to a two and half inch pot, and

then repot as necessary. Hybridizing is fascinating, and has endless possibilities.

Mildew, caused by cold dampness, is their chief enemy, but is taken care of dusting the leaves with sulphur.

Large, small, or spiral leaved of smooth, pebbly, ridged or hairy texture, with infinite patterns of red, maroon, silver and shades of green—all rex varieties are beautiful and deserve to be more widely grown.

—Percy I. Merry, Needham, Mass.

*\*(This excellent publication, beautifully illustrated, has a flavor all its own and a really comprehensive coverage of our ornamental horticulture. America's oldest garden periodical, it more nearly resembles the finest old English magazines than any other. Especially good for Eastern gardeners but with a host of good data for Westerners as well. An exchange publication in the A.B.S. Library, and available for \$2.50 per year at Horticultural Hall, Boston 15, Mass.—Editor.)*

## Library Notes

New acquisitions for circulation to the membership for this month include *The Epiphyllum Handbook*, by Scott E. Haselton — useful to all growers of the phyllocactus and not only of value for the cultural directions but also for the fine background material regarding the origin and habitat of many of the plants of this family grown indoors by many of our members.

*Flora of Costa Rica* (Part II) by Paul S. Standley, publication of the Field Museum of Natural History, contains descriptions of thirty-five begonias found in that area and covers many of the begonias which we have obtained thru our Seed Fund in the last few years. This should prove valuable to Study Groups desiring technical knowledge of the plants and their habitat.

New members may obtain complete back files of the *Begonian* for the years 1949 and 1950 at \$2.00 each and for 1951 at \$2.50. Write for information concerning back numbers prior to those dates. A stamped, self-addressed envelope will bring you the new, up-to-date Library list, just off the press.

Gladys C. Nolan, Librarian.

#### SHELTERED GARDEN BOOKS

*Bromeliad Culture* by Walter Richter (Raising and Culture of the Bromeliaceae), 84 pages . . . publ. in Germany. \$1.75.

Anyone able to read German or fortunate enough to have someone translate this paper bound booklet, will find invaluable material.

Written primarily for the commercial grower, it sifts the less spectacular Bromeliads from those of ornamental value, from a ready-sales point of view. Therefore, we are given a list of the more desirable varieties on which to concentrate our efforts.

The details of propagation and cultural methods are covered thoroughly in this small volume and, without a doubt, it is the best contribution to date on this subject, of which so little has been written.

The illustrations alone are worth the small investment, but as with all collector's items, the items listed are scarce. That is why they are collector's items. Importing and growing from seeds seems to be the best answer. Although Bromeliads are truly Americans, as they are indigenous only to the Americas, the only available source of seeds seems to be from Europe.

After reading the account of the European work in hybridizing and the outcome, by Mr. Richter, it is certain that shade garden enthusiasts will want to include more Bromeliads in their protected gardens.

Although this book is published in Germany, it may be obtained from the A. B. S. Librarian. —D. B.

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## Timely Tuberous Tips

Glenn W. Motschman, Inglewood Br.

If tubers were started in March, they will have some top growth by this time. They should be left in the rooting trays until a top growth of three or four inches has developed.

Now is the time to select and prepare the beds for planting tubers late this month or early in May. Select a location that is sheltered from the wind, yet receives good light. Early morning and/or late afternoon sunlight is good, or a lathed-over area with laths running North to South, so that the sun and shade will continually change all day long. If the bed is in full shade, there must be good reflected light from buildings or a fence.

The soil should be a sandy loam containing a large amount of oak leaf mold. A mixture of one-third oak leaf mold and two-thirds sandy loam is a good bedding mixture. If your soil is heavy it is best to plant in raised beds containing the above soil mix to a depth of six or more inches.

Soil mix for pots or planting boxes should be about one-half oak leaf mold and one-half sandy loam.

Prepare your soil mix now for both beds and pots. A month before planting your rooted tubers, spread a layer of steer manure over the surface of the beds or your pile of soil mixture and water well for the next month. Before planting, mix the manure well into your soil mixture and you are then ready to plant your well-rooted tubers.

## Rex, Rhizomatous, Fibrous

Terry Olmsted, Hub City Branch

(You have seen Mrs. Olmsted and some of her plants on our pages in the past. She has consented to guide the amateur rex-lovers toward success such as she has attained. Similar operations must be performed by the eastern grower but timed a little later as a rule to allow the weather to warm up. —Ed.)

Take care of your rex begonias and rhizomatous now and they'll reward you with brilliant color and tropical foliage all the coming year. As soon as your rhizomes show new growth, knock them out of the pot. (Holding your fingers around the rhizomes, turn the pot upside down and tap the edges gently and firmly on a box or bench till the soil comes out with the rhizomes.) Gently shake all the old soil off of them.

If they are large and you want more plants, you can cut them into sections. Dust the ends with sulphur. Leave at

least two good eyes per piece. If they have roots, pot them in rich begonia soil. If there are no roots on some of the pieces, lay them on damp half leaf mold and half sand. Keep them only moist, so they don't rot before they start new roots.

Just shake off the old soil from the small rexes and rhizomatous types and repot them in larger pots in rich soil. Be sure and set them against the sides of the pots so that the rhizomes have the most possible room to grow across the pots. Soak them well in Vitamin B-1 solution. When they are growing well, begin your regular feeding program.

I like to take a shovel of manure and put it in a five gallon can of water. Let it soak a week then dilute so it looks like tea and feed that every three weeks.

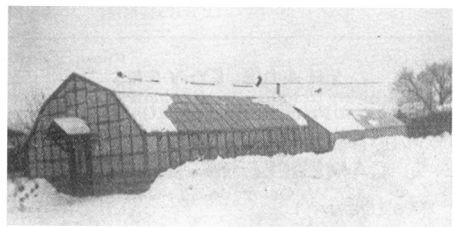
This is the time to get our fibrous off to a good start also. I cut out all the older canes and trim back to nice shaped bush any branches that are scraggly, saving the tips for cuttings. Repot if they need it or else top dress with rich soil and manure.

If you have put in any seedlings, take care of them now. They'll soon want to be transplanted. Keep them going first in flats and later in pots. I use half German peat and half screened leaf mold for my baby ferns and give them Vitamin B-1 for the first two waterings. After that I use either manure "tea" or fish emulsion. Don't ever stunt your seedlings by putting off transplanting. They'll never be the same.

## Cold Facts About Tuberous

Mr. Sidney Sampson, Duluth, Minn.

(Mr. Sampson writes of his experienced methods of growing beautiful tuberous begonias in short season country — see photo! He has conducted a small business in tuberous to make his hobby pay for itself, as greenhouse expenses are tremendous. He will endeavor to help you growers from the snowy lands to grow the queen of begonias as well as the lucky south-erners. —Ed.)



My two 35-foot greenhouses are run from about March 15th to late fall, say about the last of October, if not too cold. I close down in winter because we hit lows of 15° to 35° degrees below zero too often to justify the heating expense. About March 15th I start to heat my houses, using coal heaters.

My benches are clean, as I always take out my old soil in the fall and store it to use for seed flats, as it is generally free from weed seeds, which means less flat weeding. I grow annuals in the spring. My greenhouse soil I prepare the previous fall and leave outside all winter. I must use a pick axe in March to break it in chunks, which I wheel into the benches. In a day or so the frost is out and I can level off the bench. My soil is made of manures (whatever kind I can get), sandy loam, compost and peat. My method is to throw equal numbers of shovels on my large half-inch screen and rub it through with a rake, which produces a soil not too fine that drains well. Before planting I soak up my bench soil thoroughly, wait a day or so until some of the excess water has left the surface. I am then ready to plant my tuberous begonia seedlings. After planting same,

*I do not water them in.* I want no wet foliage. (You will note I soak my soil in the benches previously.) My seedlings are then covered with newspaper, raised about one inch or more above the plants. That keeps them and the surface from drying and avoids the need of watering while the seedlings are establishing themselves. You cannot water foliage when cold. The temperature frequently drops in March and April down to 45° at nights without any damage, while during the sunny days it will rise to 80°. Seedlings so grown will develop wider than they are tall and become very sturdy. As the season advances and the plants show growth, the paper covering is removed, but great care is used in keeping out direct sun. The greenhouses are shaded early.

I use fans in my greenhouses all during the growing season after watering to dry out foliage on cloudy days or hot days. Begonias planted close together will suffer from mold if moisture stays too long on the foliage and it is not possible to open the windows when it is freezing outside. My houses are kept closed in such weather and the fans are run continuously. The plants are ready to transplant outside the second week in June.

## Cover Picture -

# Begonia Reichenheimi X MacDougalli

By Marie Minter

Shortly after the introduction of the species plant of *B. MacDougalli* to the American public, Mr. Ziesenhenné crossed the species onto *B. x reichenheimi*. The resulting plant has proven very popular with growers of begonias and especially with those growers who are always looking for a plant that makes a large specimen and one that would be suitable for growing in the large redwood tubs so popular in patios.

It's always interesting to me to take a cross like this one and try to find the various characteristics of both the parents. In the size of the leaves and the light green coloring one may find the male parent. The rhizome also shows the male parentage. The shape of the leaves belongs definitely to the female parent, although none of the bronze coloring along the veins was transmitted. The flowers take after the male parent, too. *B. MacDougalli* was definitely the dominant parent in this case.

*B. x reichenheimi* (*B. heracleifolia* X *B. 'fuscomaculata'*) was developed a long time ago—1867 to be exact. Its leaves are described as being orbicular,

palmarately-lobed halfway into the leaf, margins toothed.

*B. MacDougalli's* leaf is divided into separate leaflets and often goes to an immense size. So take the description of *B. x reichenheimi* leaves, add the size (to 15") of the leaves of *B. MacDougalli*, and the light green coloring of *B. MacDougalli* and one has a pretty fair description of the leaves of this particular cross.

The flowers are carried on erect light green stems, very high above the foliage, in immense clusters. They are cream colored with a tinge of light green. When the plant is in full bloom, it will make one of the most talked-of plants in the patio.

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Palo Alto, Calif.



# Propagating the Rare Bromeliads

By Dorothy S. Behrends

Many gardeners having the yen to grow tropical plants have included Bromeliads as fine companion plants to Begonias.

As Bromeliads either hold their reservoir of water in their funnels or by use of their peltate scales, they must *not* be watered as frequently as the begonias.

They need warmth on cold days and nights and enjoy high humidity.

Most Bromeliads that are prized as collector's items today are found in their native habitat as epiphytes, growing in the trees, in places of extremely high humidity. Others are found growing under arid conditions, while still others are found on high mountains, enduring adverse conditions as to cold winds and rain.

The separate types must all be studied, just as the Begonia family, to learn to duplicate their wants and therefore be able to grow the plants as well as any transplanted tropical may be grown. To really see the plants at their best, would be to see them in their native habitat.

The next best bet is to grow them well 'in captivity'.

Advice on the production of more offshoots is often given freely by merely saying, "Plant them deep; they'll reproduce faster".

That will apply to all the Billbergias and some of the Aechmeas, but this is not good advice for Vriesias and Tillandsias.

As Vriesias and Tillandsias are not too plentiful, it is all the more necessary to learn how to propagate without loss. That is the only way the hobby of raising Bromeliads may grow —by producing *more* of these exceptionally beautiful plants.

The writer can recommend the following method, as it has been practiced without a single loss and has tripled reproduction.

After an offshoot or offset has grown to sufficient size and color, when it appears to be developing *mature color*, the severing process may be started.

Different types of plants will vary in size, so the *mature color* is the safest sign to follow.

Using a very sharp knife, cut *half* way (no more) through the fibre between the mother plant and the offset.

This will be enough to allow the young plant the life-strength it needs



VRIESIA CARINATA

D.S.B.

from the mother plant and also protect it from decaying. When an offset is removed completely, at this tender age, decay sets in easily before it is able to produce roots.

By only cutting *half* way through, nature gets busy and sends up another offshoot. The minor surgery makes the plant want to reproduce, fast.

Repeat the same process with any succeeding offshoots until finally the mother plant expires, and then all the offshoots may be completely severed from one another.

The writer has used this procedure on *Tillandsia Lindeniana*, *T. flabellata* and *Vriesia carinata*, obtaining three offshoots where one would be the normal expectancy.

The method will also be successful on Billbergias and Aechmeas.

Tillandsias and Vriesias inflorescences are similar in appearance to the amateur. Even the botanists have been undecided for years on naming some of these plants, records show.

The illustration is of a *Vriesia carinata* that has been a plant of startling beauty for three months, having sent

up the inflorescence that long ago. The erect scape has yellow bracts; the floral bracts on the inflorescence are a bright yellow, with the base a vivid red. The petals of the flowers are the same yellow as the floral bracts. As the flowers bloom intermittently over a long period of time, the plant is of decorative value for five or six months. The leaves are a light-green.

*Tillandsia Lindeniana* has an inflorescence shaped like *V. carinata*. It is a beautiful pink, instead of yellow. The flowers are a vivid sky-blue and the petals open wide, as a single rose. The color combination is something wonderful to behold. The foliage is narrow and more plentiful than that of the *Vriesia* illustrated.



## Armchair Explorers

Did you hear about the new Gloxinia Society? A young seed fund member—Elvin McDonald, about 15 years old of Gray, Oklahoma, started this Society, and he is publishing a very nice magazine. Elvin asked me to help him with the Seed Department and this I have undertaken. The Gloxinian is issued every other month at \$1.50 per year. Write to Elvin if you would like to get the Gloxinian.

In the mail came a letter and a price list from Wm. Kirch Orchid Co., 746 Kapahulu Ave., Honolulu. The price list mentions many kinds of orchids from community pots to flowering sized plants. I inquired about anthuriums, as many of you have been waiting them. Mr. Kirch replied that he could furnish strong young plants at \$1 each which should flower in six months, larger sized plants of flowering size in 6 to 7" pots at \$2.50 and \$3.00 per plant. I like anthuriums very much, can get nice foliage, but so far no flowers to speak of. I will welcome any suggestions from those of you who are successful. Mr. Kirch called on me several years ago and later sent me some nice seedling orchids and hybrid philodendrons which have done very well for me. The philodendrons have tried to crowd me out of the glasshouse.

The seed list in your January issue still holds good. Don't put off sending in your seed order because soon we

*Tillandsia flabellata* has a branched inflorescence, not as startling as the two previously named Bromeliads, but which remains decoratively in flower over a period of at least four months. It is miniature in nature, has bronze-green, narrow foliage and a scape with short, dark-rose bracts. The dark-rose floral bracts are set off with blue flowers, blooming intermittently over a long period of time. There are often four or five inflorescences on a scape, each having approximately fifteen flowers.

With such a long lasting decorative value, these choice plants will enhance anyone's collection of houseplants, and propagation is to be encouraged.

will have to break up the collections and offer the remaining seeds at from 25c to 50c per packet. The collections are low priced, mostly costing you but around 10c per packet. Thank you for the seeds you have been sending in. We need even the most common kinds of begonia seeds. You see, we send out free seed to new members, and we will give away seed again at the convention, and we need your help. Save your better seeds, too, and we will pay you for them or give you other kinds of seeds in exchange. Let's help each other all we can.

All seed orders have been mailed out. Write me if you have not received what you ordered. If you are not satisfied completely, do write and we will refund your money.

Seed offerings this month other than the January list which is still available are spores of *Adiantum formosum*, 25c per packet, and mixed seeds of flowering trees and lilies including Regal lily—large packet for 10c in stamps. A very special offer since all these seeds were given to our Seed Fund. I always wish I could send them to you free, but I need the stamps to carry on the search for more begonia seeds for you. Recently I ran across a seed collector in Argentina who I hope will soon have begonia seeds for us.

Your skipper,  
Florence Carrell,  
214 No. Yale St.  
Fullerton, California.

## Foothill Reorganizes

In the new meeting place, the La Verne Recreational Hall, we have commenced a new year with great energy and the blessings of our National President Cal Trowbridge and other national officers. Won't you visit us, too?

—Edwin O. Williams



## Q + A = Success

by Research Dept.

Rt. 1, 505 Hermes, Encinitas, Calif.

**Question:** How can I keep down the algae, green moss, or fungus that appears on my pots? Before the winter is over all my pots have acquired growth of some kind. Occasionally, even the pots in the lath house get it but never as badly as the ones kept on heated benches or in the cool glass house.

**Answer:** Mr. Ziesenhenné recently gave me a formula for the "Chestnut Mixture" that will help you. This spring, before you repot your begonias, soak your pots from twenty-four to forty-eight hours in the following mixture:

### "Chestnut Mixture"

Two ounces Copper Sulphate  
Eleven ounces Ammonium carbonate  
Mix in a jar and let stand one day tightly closed. To use, mix one-half ounce (one tablespoon) to one gallon of water.

**Question:** To the many correspondents that have asked me for information about controlling leaf nematode and for help in controlling the mildew that has been appearing on some begonias:

**Answer:** The 'Chestnut Mixture' has worked very well against both of these troubles. Another formula also supplied me by Mr. Ziesenhenné is as follows:

Dissolve one level teaspoonful of copper carbonate in two tablespoonfuls of ammonia and add one gallon of water. This does not discolor the foliage. It should be used immediately after it is mixed.

The 'Chestnut Mixture' is used as a spray. Copper sulphate and ammonium carbonate are both in crystal form.

**Question:** Can you advise me as to the proportionate amount of sodium selenate and water which can be used on plants?

**Answer:** Make a solution of 3 ounces of sodium selenate and about a pint of warm water in a gallon jar. Shake well until all the powder is dissolved or let it set awhile. Then fill the jug with cold water. Always shake before using. Mark the jar "stock solution" and wire a cardboard tag to the handle marked "Poison". Use 7 teaspoons of this stock to a gallon of water for watering the plants. Be careful when you throw the old dirt out, for vegetables take up the poison. The best rule is to destroy the dirt.

Use one-fourth cup to a 3 or 4 inch pot. One-half cup to 5 or 6 inch pot. One cup for larger plants. About every two months during the active growing season and about twice during the winter months.

A recent letter from the East gives me this information. "Cornell University discovered that a new Systemic poison called Systox was more effective in mite control than sodium selenate and that the plants could stand a much greater overdose of this material than they could of the sodium selenate. Unfortunately it is very toxic to humans and you have to sign your life away to get an opportunity to pay Plant Products, Inc., Kennedy Avenue, Blue Point, New York, \$10.00 a pound for the stuff. It goes a long way, though, and I used it very successfully last year to treat a thousand or more tuberous begonias, many of which were in bad shape from mites. There was no sign of damage to any plant from its use. Large growers of begonias may be interested in trying it. I know of no source of small quantities."

Continuing the letter, my correspondent said: "Capsule form of sodium selenate may be purchased from Mr. Neil C. Miller, Layton's Lake, Penns Grove, New Jersey. They contain one-quarter gram per capsule and cost a dollar for twelve capsules. Mr. Miller is an African Violet supplier and puts them up primarily for the violet trade."

### Seattle Expands

Seattle Branch had its first meeting in the University of Washington Arboretum Clubhouse in February and now is welcoming all interested persons to visit them in their new, spacious facilities. Mr. Scott McClanahan, organizer of the group, gave instructions on starting tubers and Lurline Simpson, Ph.D., Washington University, showed slides of South America. A question period during refreshment-time was shared by the guests and prizes were distributed, so each guest went away with a plant—Mrs. James F. Fariss, President. (That's the way to infect guests with the Begonia Bug!)

### Putting Begonias in Meetings

San Diego did it by inviting Miss Sally Bancroft to speak on "Different Classifications of Begonias" using her recently published drawings as a starting point.

### Southern Alameda County Branch

We're proud of our name and hope you'll all forego shortening it but call us by our full title, "Southern Alameda County Branch". Thanks. —Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss, Corr. Secy.



Dear Members:

At last Spring is upon me and with it comes that dreaded task of housecleaning. Let's make it a two-fold purpose this year. We hope that while cleaning out those dark drawers that some of the long lost Robins will come to life and start their flight again bringing happiness to the other members.

Any A.B.S. member who has a Robin in mind that she would like to have started, please write me. A notice of the Robin will appear in this column, and as soon as we have enough members signed, the Robin will start flying.

How about a "Shut-In" Robin for those unable to work in their gardens?

Hoping that you will keep my mailbox full,

Easter Greetings from your Round Robin Chairman,

*Sophia Baker.*

### LIST OF ROUND ROBINS

BEGONIAS IN GENERAL; BEGONIA COLLECTING; BEGONIA HYBRIDIZING; BEGONIA PROPAGATING; WHAT'S NEW IN BEGONIAS; HOUSE PLANT BEGONIAS; GREENHOUSE CULTURE; SEMPERFLORENS; FIBROUS BEGONIAS; TUBEROUS BEGONIAS; REX BEGONIAS; SMALL LEAFED BEGONIAS; SWAP ROUND ROBIN; LONE STAR HOUSE PLANTS FOR THE SOUTH; "NUT-HOUSE" REX (FOR THOSE WITH ADVERSE GROWING CONDITIONS); FERNS; RARE FERNS; SAINTPAULIAS; ORCHIDS; GESNERIACEAE; OXALIS; AMARYLLIS AS HOUSE PLANTS; BASKET AND TRAILING PLANTS (FOR THE SHADE).

All the above Round Robins are divided into elementary and advanced groups.

## Branch Ideas . . . Meetin' Hall

*By Fred J. Bozon, South Gate Branch,  
President South Gate Garden Association*

One of the most difficult problems facing most of the Garden Clubs is good facilities at a nominal rent to hold meetings, banquets, etc. Most garden clubs are financed through plant sales or membership dues which are not adequate to pay today's rentals.

Our South Gate Branch of the American Begonia Society was faced with such dilemma and something had to be done to remedy the situation. We decided to find out what other local garden clubs were doing along this line and discovered they were having the same trouble.

Within a month we had formed a committee from the various clubs to try and work out a solution to our problem. Our first step was to attend the regular City Council meeting and request permission to use facilities at the South Gate Civic Auditorium, for which we would gladly pay the necessary amount to take care of lights, gas and janitor services. The City Council referred the matter to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Answer: "No can do." Again to the Council. Back to the Commission!

Final results accomplished: A South Gate City-sponsored Garden Association. This association includes all local garden clubs having a membership of 25 persons or more. Each club must be a non-profit organization and all

regular meetings must be open to the public. Two members from each organization form the executive board of the South Gate Garden Association, and their duties are to plan and promote general meetings, flower shows, banquets, etc., which can be partaken in by all clubs within the association.

At the present time our association includes the South East Horticultural Society, South Gate Branch American Begonia Society, South Gate Branch National Fuchsia Society, and the Hollydale Branch of the California Fuchsia Society. Our membership is about 350 persons. Included on the Executive Board is a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, who is an ex-officio member and does liaison work between the clubs and the city of South Gate.

We had our first get-together in November at a pot luck dinner and 319 members were present. We hold our regular club meetings as individual garden clubs, and we have the use of rooms at the Civic Auditorium, also the use of an up-to-date well-equipped kitchen for a rental fee of \$3.00 per night.

Should anyone be interested in knowing more about our project, I will be glad to answer your questions. 3139 Illinois Street, South Gate, California.

# Begonias On Exhibit

By Elsa Fort, Merchantville, N. J.

Last November it was the writer's privilege to stage an exhibit of Begonias for the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society in Philadelphia. The time was the week of Thanksgiving and the Annual Meeting of the Society. Fortunately the weather was not too severe.

To take begonias from a greenhouse and transport them in an old Dodge sedan about seven miles, out in the cold, up three flights in an elevator for a week's stay in a hot building was quite an undertaking. The large plants were laid on a table sideways and wrapped in newspapers, clipped at the top, and carried in deep cartons, or the pots were placed inside very large pots to keep them from tilting over. The small plants were wrapped the same way but packed very tightly in shallow cartons so that they would not rub against each other. The hanging type presented the greatest problem, for 'Alpha Gere' and *Scharffiana* were very large and the pots were difficult to wrap. The plants were in bulb pans with a crock saucer on the bottom with wires fastened around the collar to suspend them from the greenhouse struts. We solved the problem by taking a carton, just about the size of the pan, stuffing the corners with paper and then holding the plant stems upright. We used asparagus tape to tie the stems together in many places. The method was very satisfactory and only one leaf on *B. Scharffiana* was bruised.

Tables with aluminum tops were provided so the spilling of water presented no problem. Although there were many tall plants to use in the background most anything was used to raise some of the plants to a higher level. The plants were graduated toward the edges of the tables then outlined with rex begonias. In the background there was *B. 'Mrs. Fred Scripps'* over seven feet tall with two bunches of bloom, *B. dichotoma*, *B. scabrida*, *B. 'Sachsen'*, *B. ulmifolia*, *B. palmifolia*, *B. templini*, *B. 'Viaudi'*, and several spotted cane-types, many in bloom. Birdcage stands were used for the scandens-type and they were most satisfactory, for the plant was framed with the curve of the stand where ordinarily a birdcage swings. A rex, *B. r-c. 'Crimson Flush'*, which measured thirty-seven inches across, was displayed on a metal stand all by itself, and below in front of it was a hybrid, a cross between *B. Scharffi* and *B. 'Thurstoni'*, with four luscious bunches of bloom. There was a large *B. incana* on display; just the wooly leaves, no

bloom. On the end of the table, where folks first came in to see the exhibit, were two very fine wicker baskets, the tops of ferneries. These were filled with the little tricky kinds of begonias: *B. 'Crestabruchi'*, *B. macrocarpa pubescens*, *B. frutescens*, *B. 'erythrophylla helix'*, *B. 'pearli'*, *B. 'speculata'*, *B. acida* and a seedling of 'Manda' x *B. Bartonea*, in full bloom and very tomentose. The sixty-three begonia plants of all different species and varieties included only three semperflorens of the double rose type.

All the begonias aside from *B. 'Mrs. Fred Scripps'* and *B. 'Fischer's Ricinifolia'*, stood the change and the long days very well. The *B. 'Mrs. Fred Scripps'* had very yellow foliage and the *B. 'Fischer's Ricinifolia'* had all the lower leaves limp and subsequently the sap in the stems completely dried out. The cane-type were next in condition, although few leaves were dropped. *B. 'Sachsen'* did lose some leaves, but it was in full bloom, so perhaps it was time to shed some of its leaves. *B. metallica*, *B. 'Margaritae'* and all the rex were exceptionally fine at the end of the exhibit. There was a lot to be learned as to the hardness of many begonias under adverse conditions. They had all been watered just as at home, yet some were almost defoliated while others stood the ordeal very well.

The exhibit was staged under my own name but the A.B.S. was prominently displayed. I was present most of the time the rooms were open, and I found it a pleasure to tell folk who came to view the display all about the American Begonia Society, and gave them the small begonia leaflets. Of course the exhibit was publicized in the Philadelphia papers under Garden Activities, but I little realized there are so many really interested people, just home folk, as those who visited the exhibit. There were over a hundred people who came to the rooms just to see the begonias, aside from those who came to the Annual Meeting of the Society. The most-heard exclamation was, "Why, I did not know there were so many different kinds of begonias!" Many exclaimed, "Do you mean to tell me this is a begonia?", when they saw *B. circumlobata* alongside *B. 'albo-picta'*, the one nearly two feet high with great big star leaves and little *B. 'albo-picta'* nestled under it. Admiration for the beauty of the leaves and the pride of the carriage of the stems was very apparent. Mr. Seymour,



Garden Editor of the American Home Magazine and the speaker for the annual meeting, said that he had never seen so many different kinds of begonias. I am hoping that some day he will find time to visit my little Greenhouse and see many more unusual kinds which had to stay home, for the little journey would have been the end of their careers.

I feel that the exhibit was very well worth all the hard work and worry and anxiety that went into it for I am certain that folks who saw it have learned more about begonias in general and the American Begonia Society in particular. Many, many of the visitors had never heard of the A.B.S. and did not know folk were interested in collecting and studying begonias. Sixty-three specimen begonias, all different, were a startling sight for these garden lovers.

## "A SHOW GARDEN"

The San Gabriel Valley Branch did it again. In the Pasadena Spring Flower Show they entered a beautiful garden landscape of tropical plants — rare bamboos, philodendrons, begonias, ferns, primroses, ginger lilies, evergreens. It received the highest award in their classification — a very realistic and gratifying display of artistic and lovely plants so arranged as to make an onlooker imagine he was just walking down a shady, green and very cool lane. Much help and enthusiasm by the members who furnished the plant material contributed to the success. A vote of thanks goes to the Pasadena Flower Show Association who sponsored the whole magnificent plant display. Hundreds of interested people remarked on the breathtaking beauty of the garden. —*Virginia Humphrey.*

## Growing Begonias from Seed in Iowa

*By Mrs. Orval O. Hall, Stuart, Iowa*

I have been growing begonia seeds for a number of years. Of course there have been a lot of disappointments, but not any more. I have learned to divide the seeds and only plant about half the packet, so if something goes wrong the first time there are always some left for a second try, before one can say they won't grow. I have learned that it takes much longer for some kinds to germinate than others. At present I have a jar of fern spores in which there are a number of begonias coming up. Quite a surprise, because the label on the jar says September, 1949, for date of planting—and to my knowledge no begonia seed was planted. (Could it be there were some choice begonia seeds among the spores?) So you see, it has taken these seeds over two years to germinate.

I find it is a great help in remembering important facts in planting seed if one will place a piece of tape on the container with the date, name, and the place obtained. I cover the data with scotch tape that is replaced with new if it becomes blurred.

We do not have a greenhouse for any plants, only a sunporch, and no facilities for bottom heat. If the seeds are planted in September or early fall they germinate readily in our climate. But I would say "no" for January, February and early March, here in Iowa. Begonia seeds that are planted during the cold weather are put on a shelf just above the electric stove in the kitchen. This gives enough heat to start germination promptly.

In reviewing some of the back issues

of *The Begonian* I found some seed growing facts among the writings of the late A. D. Robinson that interested me very much. He found the same conditions true in seed germination that I have related here. He recommended early fall planting or else early spring. He said the urge to grow seemed more apparent then than at any other time. Our early fall would coincide with some countries' spring, and it would then be their natural period to break dormancy.

I used to lose so many seedlings when transplanting them from the jars of sphagnum. One method superseded another until now I use 2 or 3 pound coffee jars or their equivalent in size. Mrs. Florence Carrell once recommended using pickle jars. Because of the extra space above the seedlings for air, they can become larger with better root systems and still not be crowded until they are transplanted. When transplanting we use old cooking utensils, filling them with good potting soil. The soil is well watered and the "babies" set in place. Then about a half an inch of very finely screened damp sphagnum moss is tucked in around the plants, completely covering the soil, and a glass bake-dish of some kind or a glass bowl is fitted snugly over the pan, and it is set on the shelf. We never lose our begonia "babies" any more and they need no water or care other than to remove the glass cover to wipe it dry on days when the moisture collects. The seedlings really grow and never seem to notice the change.



## Dallas County Branch First Anniversary Exhibit

☆ In celebration of their first anniversary, the members of the Dallas County Branch of the American Begonia Society exhibited 300 begonia plants on Sunday afternoon, February 24, 1952, in the Oak Cliff YMCA building.

70 varieties were shown, many of them rare and very difficult to grow in this climate. Most of them were grown by the members from seeds and from leaves.

The exhibit also included plants grown from seeds which had been

crossed and propagated by the members.

The main exhibit is pictured. Others were on tables at the ends and some hung from racks in large moss-lined baskets. In addition, an educational exhibit occupied one table. Here were seeds in glass-covered flats and in large jars lying on their sides.

300 people registered for this showing.

*Ruth Cook, Publicity Chairman.*

Many happy returns, Dallas, from the rest of us!

## CONVENTION BULLETIN

The Convention Flower and Shade Plant Show will be held at City College of San Francisco on Ocean Avenue—one of the finest locations, centrally located in the residential district and with accommodations for parking 500 cars, without parking meters!

Banquet and Hotel accommodations are also arranged. We have the finest Convention Hotel in San Francisco, The Whitcomb, 8th and Market Streets. They have reserved 100 rooms for us—more if necessary. After a personal inspection I find they will serve everyone according to taste and budget. Start filing your reservations with:

Mrs. Lillian Densmore, 2642 Twenty-second Ave., San Francisco 16, Calif.

### CURRENT ROOM RATES:

Sgl. with bath .....	\$5.00 to \$7.00
Dbl. with bath .....	7.00 to 10.00
Twin, with bath .....	8.00 to 10.00
2 rms., conn. bath (for 2) ..	8.00 to 11.00
2 rms., conn. bath (for 3) ..	10.00 to 13.00
2 rms., conn. bath (for 4) ..	12.00 to 15.00
Suites .....	14.00 to 30.00

Limited number rms., hot & cold run. water, detached bath, sgl., \$3.00-\$3.50; dbl., \$4.00-\$4.50.

Other committee appointments are: Flower Show Co-chairmen: Irvin Kramer, Art Boissier.

Flower Arrangements: Theresa Ferrero.

HATS OFF—to the Dallas County Br., Texas, the first Branch reporting a vote to participate in the show by shipping via air their exhibition plants to compete with California's finest. Also 4 of their members will be apt to vacation with us then.

Let's hear from the rest of you!

We will roll out the green carpet for each of our Royal Hobby members.

*Carl F. Meyer, Manager.*

### AFRICAN VIOLETS



LEAVES — PLANTS  
The best of the older varieties  
and many new ones  
Write for list

### ORCHARD NURSERY

4011 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, Calif.

### NOTE TO NEW BRANCH SECRETARIES:

Send items for publication in The Begonian direct to your editor at 808 E. Mariposa Ave., El Segundo, California, to avoid forwarding.



# AN OPEN LETTER TO THE A. B. S.

Hello there, it seems like ages since I wrote my last letter. A lot has happened since then. I have had the opportunity to visit some of our distant branches, met some interesting people, and in all have been very busy with the affairs of the Society.

The early part of January found me visiting the San Francisco Branch where I met for the first time a lot of the folk who will be on the action line when the 1952 Convention rolls around. During the course of the evening I had a chat with some of the representatives of some of the other Bay Area Branches in regard to the Convention. Take it from me, they are all busy as bees on various projects that indirectly benefit the Convention. Had a grand visit with Carl and Ann Meyers while there. Carl you know is the General Convention Chairman. I might state right here and now he is doing a bang-up job on the thousand-and-one details that always come up the few months previous to the Convention.

I have a little tip for those of you who are in doubt about coming to San Francisco on Labor Day week-end. We will undoubtedly see one of the outstanding displays of begonias ever gotten together under one roof on the Pacific Coast. If you miss that you will have only yourself to blame, as every effort is being put forth to make you comfortable and welcome by the host branches. Plan now to make your vacation an enjoyable one by attending the 1952 Convention, August 30th, 31st, and September 1st.

During the month of February I had the good fortune to journey down to La Jolla to a combined meeting of the San Diego Branch and the Eva Kenworthy Gray Branch where Rudy Ziesenhenné spoke. You know I have heard him many, many times but he was never better. The inspiration of being surrounded by so many beautiful begonias must have had something to

do with it, for the platform in the background was banked with various types of beautiful begonias in full bloom. What a breath taking sight to see all these lovely plants, with their cloaks of lacy blooms! It was a gala night for me. To make the evening complete, I had the opportunity to meet for the first time that grower of beautiful begonias, Mrs. Calloway. It was a thrill for me because, having read of the many fine things she has done with begonias, naturally I was curious and anxious to meet her. Then, too, I had an opportunity to renew my acquaintances with Mrs. Alice Clark and Mr. Alfred Hottes. Truly an evening well spent, wouldn't you say?

I cannot help but think that those of you who do not visit the different branches in your area are missing half the fun of belonging to the American Begonia Society. There has never been a time when I didn't come away from the various meetings I attend every month with the thought that it was time well spent. If you possibly can, plan to attend at least one extra meeting every month; see if I am not right.

Just a quick word on our current membership drive. We are doing a good job but I believe we can do better. Some of the branches are doing an excellent job and others haven't been heard from. Remember, time is getting short; the year will soon be up; so if you haven't brought in your new member, there's no time like *now* to start tracking one down.

We are now in the act of revising our cultural bulletins. When we get through with it, we will have one, 12 page, compact bulletin instead of the three we now have. This change is falling right in line with the streamlined policy we are following this year. The new bulletin will have the same basic information boiled down to easier reference.

*Cal Trowbridge.*

## PHOTO CONTEST

Sponsored by Floral Art, the photograph of the best flower arrangement stressing simplicity and design, as adjudged by three nationally accredited flower show judges, will win a silver trophy.

Full credit will be given the winner and his club and the photographer.

Only black and white glossy photographs 8x10 inches admitted. No entry fee but only one entry per competitor. For details and entry blank write: Floral Art, Contest Division, 405 Cedar Lane, Teaneck, New Jersey. Contest closes July 1, 1952.

## Cooperation

Other joint meetings recently were held by Ventura's Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch and their friendly rivals for show honors year after year—the Ventura Fuchsia Society and by La Jolla's Eva Kenworthy Gray Branch with the La Jolla Garden Club for a big Christmas party at the home of Arthur B. Goodrich, a member of both clubs.

**The swallows are coming back to Capistrano and the bees are getting busy. Why not be a busy bee and check our ads for your season's needs?**

# CONVENTION TRAVELOGUE

*By Ruthanne Williams, Vice-president, A. B. S.*

## COME TO THE CONVENTION!

The Northern California Branches are planning a gala time for you in San Francisco on August 30th, 31st and September 1st, 1952. We not only want you to enjoy the Annual Convention but we hope that you will make arrangements so this will be your vacation of the year.

With this thought in mind, I would like to travel up the coast with our members from Southern California and tell you of some of the interesting places to see along this highway. It would be fun to travel with all of you from the North, South, East and West of these United States, but of course this is impossible, although we suggest you also try this route, one way or the other, if you are coming to San Francisco from elsewhere. And won't the rest of you, as you journey to the Convention, make notes of the interesting things you see and write and tell us about them later?

The scenic beauty of Coastal Highway No. 1 is breath-taking, and you will be well repaid if you can spare two days for your trip to San Francisco by this route. There are many interesting and historical spots along this highway, the first of which is El Paseo in Santa Barbara, modernized but still intriguing. Then La Purisima Concepcion and San Luis Obispo Missions. If you do not spend too much time in these places (so easy to do, because they are so fascinating), you should be able to make Morro Bay the first night.

There are a number of good motels in Morro Bay, one of which is owned by our own Mr. M. F. Harpester, who has taken the Blue Ribbons for the best tuberous begonias at the Annual Show for the last three years and who carried home the permanent trophy last year. Morro Bay is a delightful place which you will regret leaving in the morning. Fill your tank with gasoline before leaving, for there are many miles ahead where service stations are few but the scenery gorgeous. You travel up the San Simeon grade where for so many miles you will see the Hearst Ranch towering like a medieval castle on top of the highest mountain. Here there are up and down grades for about sixty miles where, although the highway is excellent, the driver will take it a little slower on account of the curves. This gives the riders time to enjoy a more breath-taking view each time you round a

curve to see miles upon miles of blue ocean, rocks like mountains with the surf dashing as high as the sky.

You will then come to the Big Sur country where you will wish for a lunch to partake under the big redwoods, but don't do it! Wait until you arrive at Carmel, find one of the many quaint and interesting restaurants there for your luncheon; then prowl around for a couple of hours amid the artists and the scenery and visit Carmel Mission. Take the Seventeen Mile Drive out of Carmel. While it is a toll road, it is well worth the 50c per car which you will be required to pay. Drive around the Del Monte Hotel grounds and the older part of Monterey (where our own Mrs. Weitz of Ventura begonia fame played as a child with Robert Louis Stevenson). Here you will find San Carlos Mission and many other historical buildings all marked for your edification. You will pass Fort Ord, the huge infantry training center.

Stay on Highway No. 1, for if you go up the valley through Gilroy you will find it quite hot and you would miss Santa Cruz and the beautiful tuberous begonia gardens of Antonelli Brothers and Vetterle and Reinelt. This is also the home of Worth Brown, the author of "Tuberous Begonias" (exclusively a wholesaler). You will not be able to leave these gardens without placing your order for many of the most beautiful flowers in the world, and how much more beautiful they are in reality than in a catalogue! You have never seen tuberous begonias until you have seen them as they are grown here in Santa Cruz, so I hope you have your color camera along to take home pictures of these loveliest of flowers.

Upon leaving Santa Cruz, take highway No. 9, via Felton and Ben Lomond, which takes you through some lovely redwood country. This joins No. 5, which will take you into the southwestern part of San Francisco and the residential district. You will avoid the congestion on El Camino Real or Bay Shore highways by taking this route.

Be sure that you have a good warm coat along, for San Francisco can be very cool. One day it may be warm with sunshine all day and the next day it may be windy and foggy. A suit for the ladies is always good in San Francisco.

There are so many places to go and things to see in San Francisco that it

★   ★   ★   ★

## Calendar of Coming Events

(Visitors are always welcome!)

**April 17th**

**Southern Alameda County:** Pot-luck at 6:30 for members, families and friends. Other garden clubs have been invited. Door prizes! Color films: "Orchids of Hawaii" and "How to Grow Camellias and Azaleas." A plant table and a brief discussion and demonstration on begonias.

**April 23rd**

**Glendale:** Mr. Glenn Motschman of Inglewood Branch will talk on Tuberous Begonias and show his color movies and explain how they can be grown in our area.

**San Gabriel Valley:** Mr. Glenn Motschman will present his talk including all phases of Tuberous Begonia Culture. Come to the Jitney Potluck supper—bring your own service.

**May 24th**

**Missouri:** A.B.S. Branch display and educational exhibit in conjunction with the Kansas City Garden Club in the American Legion Building, Linwood & Paseo. Plan to visit us.

**August 30th, 31st**

**September 1st**

1952 Convention—Show at San Francisco.

**October 4th, 5th**

**Missouri:** All Begonia Show! Kansas City, Missouri, in the American Legion Building, Linwood & Paseo Streets. Bigger and better.

## CONVENTION . . .

is difficult to begin to tell you about them. Plan to go up to the "Top of the Mark" (Mark Hopkins Hotel) or the Star Lite Room in the Sir Francis Drake Hotel. China Town, out Grant Avenue, is a must. Drive to the top of Twin Peaks, then along the Marina, and visit Fisherman's Wharf. If you do not have time to stop in Stall 9 (one of the best restaurants there), buy a bag of prawns or shrimp and munch them as you wander along the walks lined with open stalls where the vendors are shouting their wares; watch them dipping live crabs and bright colored lobsters in the big cauldrons of hot water; see the little fishing boats tied up at the wharf — and then be glad you are not a fisherman who gets up before dawn to go out with the fishing fleet.

There are also many varied eating places in San Francisco. The cuisine in the large hotels, Grisson's Chicken and Steak House, Rickey's Town House (smorgasbord) on Van Ness Avenue are of the best. We especially like the smaller restaurants in the Italian quarter, such as Vanessi's and the Three Little Swiss (Caesar salad here is

really something). The Back Yard, The Blue Fox, The Forbidden City (night club), The Jade Palace (China Town), Omar Khyam's and Tarantino's are unique.

Now you have taken two or three days to come up to San Francisco. You have had a good time for three more days at the Annual Convention. Perhaps you will be able to spend a few more days in San Francisco and see some of these places and then if you have a few more days, why don't you come to Sacramento and see the great *California State Fair*? The Sacramento Branch of the American Begonia Society would like you to see its display at the Fair. It doesn't dare, of course, predict that it will win Sweepstakes this year, but they've always won plenty of blue ribbons, and it is worth stopping there.

Or how about driving down to Santa Cruz Branch for their meeting Tuesday, September 2, back to San Francisco Branch for their meeting Wednesday, September 3? (Only a few miles round trip.) Another week of vacation will take you across the Golden Gate bridge to your Petaluma friends, then up the famous Redwood Highway to attend the Humboldt County Branch meeting Monday, September 8. Just beyond the state line is the Woodruff begonia and lily farm and (if you're one who has to see what's around the next corner) turn inland and visit Salem, and a little way beyond, Portland — Gray's Harbor (meeting Sept. 8) — Seattle — all begonia centers! And of course, you far northerners will surely take time out to say "Hello" to Humboldt County Branch meeting on your way home. The other northern branches meet at less timely dates, but the welcome mat is always out whenever you can make the trip.

So—

*Come by auto, bus or train.*

*Short of time? Then come by plane!*

### AUTOMATIC-WATERING PLANT GLASWICKS

4" wicks: 7/32"-A each .08, 7/32"-B ea. 10c  
1/4" each 12c, 3/8" each 15. Use 7/32" A or B  
for 4" pots. Write for NEW bulk prices.

**JOHN P. TOBERMAN**

4313 Jonathan St.      Bellaire, Texas

### NEW AFRICAN VIOLET "PORTLAND ROSE"

Rose colored flower with darker eye and markings. Medium green leaf with red veins on back. Plants out of 3-inch pots, \$2.50 postpaid

**Mrs. Sophia Baker**

2733 S.E. 35th Place, Dept. B, Portland 2, Ore.

## BRANCH MEETING DATES AND PLACES

- CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH**  
1st Friday, Apr. 4, May 2  
Lounge, Florida Power Co.  
Winter Park, Fla.  
Mr. Ted Wolf, Secy.-Treas.  
Rt. 19, Box 3700, Orlando, Fla.
- DALLAS COUNTY BRANCH, TEXAS**  
1st Thursday, Apr. 3, May 1, 7:00 p.m.  
Member's Residences  
Mrs. Russell B. White, Secy.-Treas.  
919 N. Clinton St., Dallas 11, Texas
- EAST BAY BRANCH**  
2nd Thursday, Apr. 10, 7:45 p.m.  
Willard School, Telegraph at Ward,  
Berkeley  
C. F. Jensen, Secy.  
3720 Cerrito Ave., Richmond, Calif.
- EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH**  
3rd Thursday, Apr. 17, 8:00 p.m.  
Christian Church Fellowship Hall,  
304 E. Valley  
Jean Cross, Cor. Secy.  
1304 Elm, Alhambra, Calif.
- FOOTHILL BRANCH**  
1st Friday, Apr. 4, May 2, 8:00 p.m.  
La Varne, Rec. Hall, La Verne  
Mrs. C. W. Hall, Cor. Secy.  
358 E. Arrow Hwy., Upland
- FORT, ELSA BRANCH**  
1st Saturday, 2:30 p.m., Apr. 5, May 3  
Homes of Members  
Miss Lola Price, Secy.
- GLENDALE BRANCH**  
4th Wednesday, Apr. 23, 8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central  
Mrs. D. H. Bradley, Cor. Secy.  
1301 San Luis Rey Dr., Glendale 8, Calif.
- GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH**  
3rd Monday, Apr. 21, 7:30 p.m.  
Community House, La Jolla  
Tillie Genter, Cor. Secy.  
7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif.
- GRAYS HARBOR BRANCH**  
2nd Monday, Apr. 14, 8:00 p.m.  
(March through November)  
Hoquiam Pub. Library, or Messingale &  
Rosenear Music Store, Aberdeen, Wash.  
Alice Hardman, Secy.  
The Flower Studio, Aberdeen, Wash.
- GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH**  
4th Tuesday, Apr. 22, 10:30 a.m.  
Home of Members  
Box Lunch 12:30, Program following  
Mrs. Ernest Jones, Secy.  
R.F.D., Willow Grove, Pa.
- HEART OF AMERICA BRANCH**  
2nd Friday, Apr. 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Member's Residences  
Mr. George Knoupf, Secy. Treas.  
2912 Delevan, Kansas City, Kans.
- HOLLYWOOD BRANCH**  
2nd Thursday, Apr. 10, 7:30 p.m.  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Mrs. Florence F. Flynn, Cor. Secy.  
1319 N. Ogden Dr., Los Angeles 46, Calif.
- HUB CITY BRANCH**  
3rd Monday, Apr. 21, 7:30 p.m.  
Roosevelt High School Cafe  
1200 E. Olive, Compton, Calif.  
Mrs. Dorothy Sarson, Secy.  
1108 E. Glencoe Ave., Compton 1, Calif.
- HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH**  
2nd Monday, Apr. 14, 8:00 p.m.  
Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif.  
Miss Margaret Smith, Secy.  
P.O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.
- INGLEWOOD BRANCH**  
2nd Thursday, Apr. 10, 8:00 p.m.  
325 N. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.  
Mrs. Dorris Motschman, Secy.  
9601 Haas Ave., Los Angeles 47, Calif.
- LA MESA BRANCH**  
2nd Monday, Apr. 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Porter Park, University & La Mesa Blvd.  
Mrs. G. W. McManus, Secy.  
7313 Princeton Ave., La Mesa, Calif.
- LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER**  
2nd Tuesday, Apr. 8, 7:30 p.m.  
Colonial Hall, 10th & Locust  
Mrs. W. Cox, Secy.  
3592 Lewis Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.
- MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH**  
4th Tuesday, Apr. 22, 8:00 p.m.  
Simpson Memorial Garden Center  
Miss Elizabeth S. Hall, Secy.  
2572 Trapp Ave., Miami 35, Fla.  
L. B. Parent, Miami.
- MISSOURI BRANCH**  
3rd Tuesday, Apr. 15, 1:00 p.m.  
Amer. Legion Bldg., Linwood & Paseo,  
Kansas City, Mo.  
Mrs. Mary Wood, Secy.  
626 W. Charles, Independence, Mo.
- NEW ENGLAND BRANCH**  
Mrs. Lester H. Fox, Secy.  
170 Marsh Hill Road, Dracut, Mass.
- NEW YORK SUBURBAN BRANCH**  
Mrs. Dorothy F. Michaelson, Secy.-Treas.  
P.O. Box 818, Denville, N.J.
- NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH**  
2nd Monday, Apr. 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Houghton Park Club House  
Harding & Atlantic, N. Long Beach  
Mrs. Beatrice White, Secy.  
1411 Poppy St., Long Beach, Calif.
- ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH**  
1st Thursday, Apr. 3, May 1, 7:30 p.m.  
Farm Bureau Hall, 353 S. Main St., Orange  
Mrs. Evie Darden, Secy.-Treas.  
6701 S. Fee Ana St., Rt. 3, Anaheim, Calif.
- PASADENA BRANCH**  
3rd Monday, Apr. 21, 7:30 p.m.  
Casita del Arroyo, 127 S. Arroyo Blvd.,  
Mrs. Harold Benson, Secy.-Treas.  
3180 No. Crestford Dr., Altadena, Calif.
- PETALUMA BRANCH**  
3rd Friday, Apr. 18, 8:00 p.m.  
Dania Hall, 19 Main St.  
Mrs. Hazel Chappell, Secy.  
222 Bodega Ave., Petaluma, Calif.
- PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH**  
2nd Friday, Apr. 11, Members Home  
Mrs. Robert York, Secy.  
3311 Fremont St., Camden, N.J.
- PORTLAND OREGON BRANCH**  
4th Friday, Apr. 25, 8:00 p.m.  
Journal Bldg. Aud., Front & Yamhill Sts.  
Mrs. George Venner, Secy.  
7604 S. E. Tolman, Portland 6, Oregon
- REDONDO BEACH AREA**  
4th Friday, Apr. 25, 8:00 p.m.  
2308 Rockefeller  
Redondo Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Arline Stoddard, Secy.  
522 S. Guadalupe Ave., Redondo Beach, Cal.
- RIVERSIDE BRANCH**  
2nd Wednesday, Apr. 9, 7:30 p.m.  
Member's Residence  
Mrs. Arline Porter, Secy.  
4106 Adams, Riverside, Calif.
- ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH**  
4th Friday, Apr. 25, 10:00 a.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mr. Charles Cass, Secy.  
2229 Erie St., San Diego 10, Calif.
- SACRAMENTO BRANCH**  
3rd Tuesday, Apr. 15, 8:00 p.m.  
Garden Center, McKinley Park  
Mrs. W. M. Kelso, Secy.  
1848 Markham Way, Sacramento, Calif.
- SALEM, OREGON BRANCH**  
1st Tuesday, Apr. 1, May 6  
The Chapel, 685 Winter St., Salem  
Mrs. Dan Scharf, Secy.  
3460 N. Lancaster Dr., Salem, Ore.
- SAN DIEGO BRANCH**  
4th Monday, Apr. 28  
Hard of Hearing Hall, Herbert & Univsty.  
Mrs. Thomas Hofmann, Secy.  
2327 33rd St., San Diego 4, Calif.
- SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH**  
2nd Monday, Apr. 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Nel Schoenbrom, Secy.  
18635 Calvert St., Reseda, Calif.
- SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH**  
1st Wednesday, Apr. 2, May 7, 7:30 p.m.  
1641 Taraval St.  
Mrs. Anne Mitchell, Secy.  
2370 18th Ave., San Francisco, Calif.
- SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH**  
4th Wednesday, Apr. 23, 8:00 p.m.  
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.,  
Arcadia, Calif.  
Mrs. Cynthia Slater, Secy.  
2317 Whitney Dr., Alhambra, Calif.

#### **SANTA BARBARA BRANCH**

2nd Thursday, Apr. 10, 7:30 p.m.  
Girl Scout Clubhouse, 1838 San Andres St.  
Mrs. Ada Schaefer, Secy.  
1103 W. Micheltorena St., Sta Barbara, Cal.

#### **SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BRANCH**

1st Tuesday, Apr. 1, May 6, 8:00 p.m.  
V.F.W. Hall, 311 Pacific Ave.  
Miss Hazel E. Oxley, Secy.  
428 Davis St., Santa Cruz, Calif.

#### **SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH**

2nd Friday, Apr. 11, 7:30 p.m.  
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 7th St. Entrance,  
Santa Monica  
Mrs. S. S. Gross, Secy.  
1116 S. Carmelina Ave., Los Angeles 49, Cal.

#### **SEATTLE BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, Apr. 15, 7:45 p.m.  
Univ. of Washington Arboretum  
Clubhouse.  
Mrs. Paul Deiro, Secy.  
4618 13th Ave. South, Seattle 8, Wash.

#### **SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH**

1st Tuesday, Apr. 1, May 6, 7:30 p.m.  
Alice Bartlett C.H., 902 E. Main, Ventura  
Mr. Bernard Woods, Secy.  
575 Evergreen Dr., Ventura, Calif.

#### **SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH**

3rd Thursday, Apr. 17, 6:30 p.m.  
Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.  
Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss, Cor. Secy.  
26706 Monte Vista Dr., Hayward, Calif.

#### **SOUTHGATE BRANCH**

4th Tuesday, Apr. 22, 7:30 p.m.  
South Gate Municipal Aud., 4900 Southern  
Mrs. Juanita Pritchard, Secy.  
11150 Dumeau Ave., Lynwood, Calif.

#### **TEXAS STATE BRANCH**

4th Friday, Apr. 25, 7:30 p.m.  
Members' Homes  
Mrs. D. W. Briggs, Secy.-Treas.  
2349 13th St., Port Arthur, Texas

#### **WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH**

2nd Wednesday, Apr. 9, 11:00 a.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Walter H. Kirch, Secy.  
Clearview Rd., Glenshaw, Pa.

#### **WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH, CLEV., O.**

4th Wednesday, May 28, 8:00 p.m.  
Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St.  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Mrs. Edward Lobser, Cor. Secy.  
25912 Westlake Rd., Bay Village, Ohio

#### **WHITTIER BRANCH**

4th Tuesday, Apr. 22, 7:30 p.m.  
Union High School, Room 19  
Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.  
Carolyn Spitz, Secy.  
7721 Vanport Ave., Whittier, Calif.

CONDENSED MINUTES meeting National Board, A.B.S. held in Los Angeles City Hall, Feb. 25th, President Trowbridge presiding. Meeting called to order at 7:45, with Salute to the Flag and Statement of Aims and Purposes of the A.B.S. led by Past President Moore.

Present for the meeting: Messrs. Trowbridge, Moore, Lorenz, Small, Haskell, Spaulding, Terrell; Mesdames Korts, Schwerdtfeger, Spaulding, Powell, Nolan, Graham, Hartwell.

Branches Represented: Parent Br., North Long Beach, Poothill, Pasadena, Southgate, Hub City, Redondo Beach Area, Santa Monica, Glendale, San Gabriel Valley, Ventura, Whittier, Riverside, Santa Barbara, El Monte, Inglewood, Orange County.

Minutes of Jan. 28th meeting read and approved.

Welcome extended to all present, and continued attendance urged.

Reports of Executive Board members read and ordered filed as part of the minutes.

Director of Publicity, Mrs. Dorothy Powell, reported on her activity and assured branches

of her desire to assist and cooperate with them in preparing special articles on begonias for their local press; just call on her and give her a lead on your plans for publicizing begonias and she will be happy to work with you.

Board authorized Mrs. Korts to purchase 50 more Begonia pins for resale to members. These pins are proving quite popular and many of the branches are presenting them to past and present officers.

Librarian Mrs. Nolan reported on the loan, by Mr. Ziesenhenné, of a very important document, "Dr. Houghton's unpublished thesis on Begonias of North America and Begonias of the Island of Cuba," which is now being copied for our library. Secretary instructed to write a letter of appreciation to Mr. Ziesenhenné. See elsewhere for her full report. She now has on hand lists of books and documents in the A.B.S. library. If you desire a copy, just drop her a card.

President Trowbridge announced appointment of Frank Rich as Flower Show Chairman. Please keep him advised of your Flower Show plans and dates.

President asked for suggestions and assistance in securing a larger hall for our National Board Meetings, as present quarters filled to overflowing at each meeting.

President reported on his recent visit to San Francisco—Annual Convention will be held in City College; convention headquarters centrally located; watch your Begonian for details.

Editor asked for ruling from the Board with reference to loaning cuts to members and students for educational work. After discussion, motion was made "To leave it up to the discretion of our Editor, recommending use of mats." SO ORDERED.

Motion by Frank Moore: "I move that the money we are carrying as 'Seed Fund' be transferred back into the General Fund." SO ORDERED.

Reports of Branch Representative Directors indicated branches were all working hard to maintain interesting meetings; were securing good speakers and also gaining members from time to time; are using the slides for their programs and finding them very helpful; pot-luck dinners always prove enjoyable; meeting places not too easily found and meeting dates often conflict.

Respectfully submitted,

Gonda Hartwell, Sec.

*Better Begonias  
with*

**ATLAS FISH EMULSION**

*The original fish fertilizer emulsion*

- DE-ODORIZED
- NON-BURNING
- 100% ORGANIC

Frank Reinelt, of Vetterle & Reinelt, Capitola, Cal., says: "We use ATLAS Fish Emulsion. It is safe, gives excellent results." Unsuspected for all plants. \$2.00



PILGRIMS  
learned  
from  
INDIANS  
to use  
FISH  
FERTILIZER



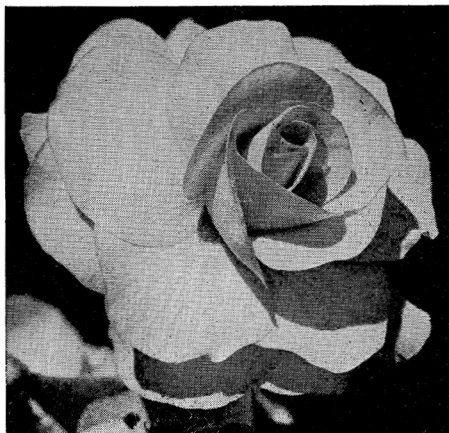
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**A BALANCED ORGANIC FISH FERTILIZER**



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The one and only Pacific Strain of  
**TUBEROUS BEGONIAS**  
Originated by Frank Reinelt

The largest assortment and finest new  
developments in rose form and ruffled  
novelties available this year.

WRITE FOR FREE CATALOG

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Dept. "B", Capitola, California

*Antonelli Brothers*

## BEGONIA GARDENS

WRITE FOR CATALOG

Capitola Road  
Santa Cruz, California

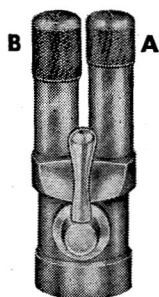
### SAVE MONEY

On the purchase of Begonias and other  
bulbs and plants, Joe's Bulletin tells you  
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standard catalog prices.  
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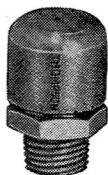
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### FOGGER NOZZLE

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