

# *The Begonian*

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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This Society shall be conducted on a non-profit basis, and its purpose shall be to stimulate interest in begonias and shade-loving plants; to encourage the introduction and development of new types of begonias and related plants; to gather and publish information in regard to the kinds, propagation and culture of begonias and other shade-loving plants, and to issue a bulletin which shall be mailed to all members in good standing.

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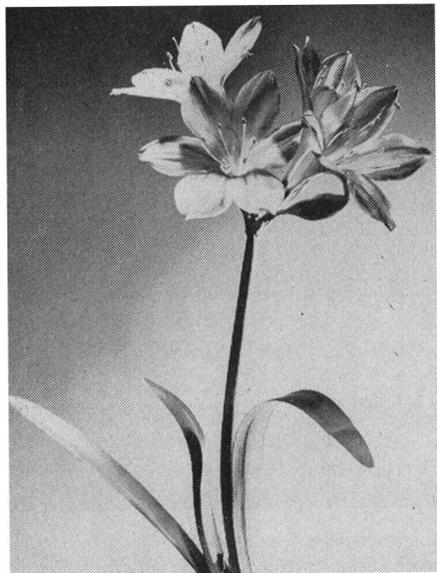
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# Bulbs for the Shade Garden

By J. N. GIRIDLIAN



Picture Courtesy Oakhurst Gardens

## Scarborough Lily

SOUTH AFRICA is rich in bulbs with beautiful flowers and one of the most beautiful of these is the subject of this article—*Vallota purpurea*. It is often listed as *V. speciosa* and several other names, but always it is the same plant. It receives the name *purpurea* not from the color of the flowers, which is a very brilliant orange scarlet, but from the purple stain at the base of the leaves and the neck of the bulb.

It is not very often that a rare plant is also very lovely. One reason for a plant being uncommon might be that it simply is not desirable from the gardener's standpoint. However, here is an exception because we have very few flowers that are as gorgeous and breath-taking as the flowers on this plant. It commands instant attention and admiration from everyone, and a potful of plants in bloom will "steal the show."

*Vallota* is in the amaryllis family. The bulb is about the size of a lemon and purple in color. The foliage is dark green stained purple at the base, of characteristic amaryllis form and upright growth; about one inch wide and up to twelve inches high, usually with six leaves on a large bulb. It prefers half shade and constant moisture with a soil that is sandy, well drained and rich in humus. When well grown, it will bloom in June with six to nine large and brilliant flowers on a fifteen inch stem. The flowers resemble those of clivia but with deeper red tones and twice the size.

Twenty-five years ago this used to be very plentiful in Orange County of California, especially in Anaheim where it flourished in the sandy silt soil, and nearly every garden boasted of at least one large clump, but now it is hardly seen, perhaps because of the ravages of the Narcissus Bulb Fly which attacks it if the pest is present. I have run across the plant in several gardens in San Diego area, and, there also they seem to be happy in this sandy soil along the coast.

This plant has a reputation for being a difficult subject to flower, and that may be one reason for its scarcity. However there is a very good reason for its shy blooming or its lack of bloom, and it can be laid right at the

very door of the gardener. Two of the most important conditions for flowering this bulb are, the bulb must be large enough, and the plant must be crowded or potbound. The average gardener is too impatient to wait for this to happen, particularly when he sees dozens of lovely young bulbs developing from literally all over the mother bulb. Right away greed sets in and the gardener wants to take off these young bulbs, and have hundreds instead of just one, with the natural result that the plant never becomes crowded enough to bloom. He may have dozens and hundreds of bulbs but no flowers, whereas if the original bulb were left alone he would have just as many bulbs but all in one clump and with dozens of flower spikes making the most spectacularly beautiful plant in town. Why this should be so, I have never been told, but my own theory is that one bulb does not produce enough foliage to feed the bulb, produce young ones and bloom at the same time. However, if allowed to become crowded, the leaves of all of the young plants help to nourish the bulb enough so as to produce flowers. So, when growing this plant be content with one large clump rather than a

(Continued on Page 163)

# Do You Know?

By SYLVIA B. LEATHERMAN  
A.B.S. Research Chairman

SUPPOSE you had a family of five children. Would you expect all five to grow and develop identically, and would all their characteristics be the same? We have a large family of begonias and they, like children, differ in some respects. You will have begonias that respond to the same type of care and some will sulk with this care.

Children with fair skin sunburn easily. In the begonia family, it is usually the begonias with dark foliage that resent sun and they fade and the color is not good. If one will place *B. "Templini"* and *B. manicata aureo-maculata* where they will receive some sun, preferably morning or late afternoon, or filtered sunlight, the yellow splashes and spots will become more predominating and an exciting pink flush blends in with the yellow. We realize rex begonias have better and truer color when grown where they get good light but no sun in hot, dry climates. Placing *B. "President Carnot"* in a growing location where it gets filtered sunlight will result in a transformation. The true coloring of this rex begonia is a silver bedecked dark leaf; the sun transforms it into a pink hued silver on the dark leaf. Eye brows may arch and doubts may arise, but it is the same named rex begonia. Light can and will do a great deal with the growing of begonias and sun will play another role in our growing.

*Begonia scharffi*, *B. "Loma Alta"* and many of the other hairy leaved begonias will have better texture and coloring with no sun but good light, however they will not bloom profusely. Given the cooler part of the day sun or filtered sunlight will encourage these plants to have an abundance of flowers. In this case, it is sacrifice flowers for foliage or vice versa. The lush foliage I will sacrifice to have a plant dripping with many stems of flowers.

*B. acida*, supposedly a temperamental, high strung child, is like the children that seem to have constantly running noses in the winter. *B. acida* is readily grown with some sun, some drafts and plenty of water, which results in wet feet during the summer, for me. During the "cold period" it requires warmth and feet that are not constantly wet. During the winter months I elevate it, by placing it on a shelf in a section where it does not get watered every time watering is done. When I run out of shelf space for these types, I resort to these

clamp-on wire pot holders and hang them up. This creates a never ending hazard of dodge and bump, but one, after a few knocks, soon learns where to duck and dodge.

In our animal kingdom we have bears that hibernate during the winter. *Begonia circumlobata* too will hibernate during late winter. Gradually the branches go down joint by joint. How many people have tossed it out thinking it had passed on to plant heaven? Keeping the plant, or the pot as it will look, just moist you will be amazed how short a length of time it hibernates. When it starts its new growth, it is hard to keep up with and the staking, tying and training will keep you busy. Each year the plant gets larger and bushier, sending up new growth from the base. *B. delicosa* and *B. India spotted* are two others that like to hibernate in the same manner. Do not become discouraged with *B. circumlobata* as it takes a period of two years to start to obtain a nice plant. One advantage to having *B. circumlobata* is that you seldom have to worry about pruning and pinching. When grown under glass with heat, you may have to help nature by removing a few eyes at a time in late winter. I do not advocate cutting it completely back at one time. Using nature as a guide will help you with many of your begonias. The eyes (leaf nodes) will be good material to root for more plants. *B. circumlobata* will also grow from a leaf stem cutting. If you will look back to the cover picture, *The Begonian*, September 1951, this plant of *B. circumlobata* was about one and one-half years old, with one stem. The same plant now has many stems and is about three feet in diameter and three feet tall, with many stems of buds, which will soon open, showering showy pink flowers. These blossoms are a deep pink color, especially for begonias. It will grow taller very rapidly and continue blooming all summer and fall. If spaced and given room and good light it will not become leggy. This plant would have been much larger, but having to confine it to a specific space, some side shoots were removed in past springs. Due to it being a species from China, many have dubbed it "The Chinaman Begonia."

Our begonia growing would be easier if our begonias were classed with what we see rather  
(Continued on Page 161)

# Cypripedium (Lady Slipper) Orchids

By GLENN H. HIATT  
*Orchid Research, La Canada*

CYPRIPEDIUMS form a large group of terrestrial and semi-terrestrial orchids that are widely distributed throughout the Philippines, Malay Peninsula, and tropical Asia. In their native habitat, Cypripediums grow in leafmold debris or on wet moss-covered rocks or stumps of fallen trees. There are two important types that can be grown either in a greenhouse or in the home. The first is the so called green leafed variety (not to be confused with the native lady slippers found in northeast United States). These enjoy cool temperatures such as 55 to 60 degrees at night and a maximum of 85 during the day. The temperature may go as low as 34 degrees at night and as high as 100 degrees during the day without harm. The green leafed type may be grown in pots outside in a cool, moist, shady part of the garden during the summer and then brought into the house when cold weather approaches.

The flower buds have usually started by this time and can continue to develop in the home.

The mottled leafed types should be grown indoors in a fairly light window, but not strong sun. Since they flower almost any time during the year, care should be taken to keep them moist at all times so as not to retard the new growths which will produce the flowers.

Potting mixture should consist of mostly humus material such as oak leaf mold, osmunda fiber, fir chips, peat, to which is added a small quantity of bone meal. Any of the powdered fertilizers which can be dissolved in water and used as a liquid can be used for feeding. Plants should be fed about every third time they are watered.

Cypripediums make wonderful pot plants, are very easy to care for, and when in flower make an attractive showing for up to three months. There are few other genera which offer so much for so little care.

## *Flowering Shrubs for Sun and Shade Areas*

MR. RAY WILSON, a true horticulturist, lectured about shrubs recently. The cultural information in his talk should interest all members of this Society. Mr. Wilson graciously gave his permission for this report on the material he discussed.

In city gardens, he advises us to use shrubs for more than one purpose. Textured foliage for landscaping that also bear flowers and fruit in season, combined with leaves that may be used for floral arrangements. Fragrance of flowers or variegation of leaves may also be considered. Mr. Wilson's selection of shrubs for small property owners included the following varieties:

*Clethra arborea*, often called the Lily of the Valley Tree, grows to twenty feet tall, is evergreen with fragrant white flowers in loose clusters. Blooms in late summer. In inland areas, needs some shade.

*Fagus sylvatica* and *F. atropunicea*, for foliage color, slow to start, a deciduous tree averaging forty to sixty feet tall.

*Impatiens oliveri*, for low growth and delicate pink bloom, especially nice in shaded areas. Propagated by seeds or soft-wood cuttings in the early spring.

*Correa*, Australian, rose-pink yellow and

green flowers, may be pinched back and controlled, easily propagated by cuttings. Likes sun and good drainage.

*Fatsia japonica* (*Aralia japonica*) variegated, an evergreen shrub with large palmate leaves, five to nine lobes, sometimes has golden yellow markings. Fine for arrangements. Give part shade, keep moist, but well drained.

*Nandina domestica*, from China and Japan, often called heavenly bamboo, grows to eight feet with narrow red leaves in sun or shade, has white small flowers and bright red berries. Wonderful for arrangements and for use in homes. Lasting qualities. Propagated by seeds and divided root clumps.

*Strelitzia nicolai* (Bird of Paradise) has unusual shape and color of flowers, sometimes known as the flower with the tongue from South Africa, with the banana like bloom. Can be propagated by division. Flowers long lasting in corsage and arrangements. This shrub likes sun and protection from wind.

*Choisya ternata*, Mexican evergreen shrub sometimes called the Mexican orange, grows to twelve feet, white flowers. Bush spreads, but may be kept compact by using foliage often as the plant is always well-dressed with

*(Continued on Page 160)*

# Greenhouses: Automatic Management

By MERRITT THOMPSON

tached at bench level, and no electrical connections are needed since the tube operates on a mechanical principal of expansion and contraction, worked out by Minneapolis-Honeywell engineers.

Hot water heating systems are currently recommended by the Southern California Greenhouse Manufacturers, both for California and colder areas. Water may be heated by electricity, gas, oil, etc., and hot water forced through copper fin tubing. This fin tubing is said to be highly efficient in heat distribution. One foot of 3/4" fin tubing would provide the equivalent in heat of 10' of 1 1/2" black pipe.

For plants in flats, flasks of seeds, or pots where bottom heat is desired for root growth, soil cable heating is growing rapidly in favor. Soil cable is covered with heavy lead or plastic covering which can be bent to conform to the bench. This type of heating device requires electricity. Electric thermostats control the cable.

Growing orchids and companion plants requires not only an efficient heating apparatus, but also control of humidity to keep the air moist, since these plants like more rainfall than is usual in Southern California. Automatic humidity controls are in fact better than relying on manual watering since the humidistat is always on the job to turn the sprays, on when the air becomes too dry. Proper humidity is necessary both summer and winter; indeed, such control is particularly necessary in the winter when high winds frequently arrive to dry the air, and when rainy weather makes it difficult to decide whether the greenhouse needs spraying or whether spraying should be withheld to avoid wet rot.

A complete humidity control can be installed with a small wrench. Copper tubing is run under the benches, with spray heads fixed at intervals. Three such sprays are enough for a 9'x 12' greenhouse. Two clever devices operate the sprays. One is a humidistat, which depends on a strand of human hair. As the air dries, the hair uncurls and lets a small micro-switch close. This in turn operates a magnetic valve. When current runs through the magnetic valve, the water is permitted to flow through the copper tubes and send a fine spray of water into the air under the growing benches.

On numerous occasions I have found, by

THE FUNDAMENTAL function of a greenhouse is to enable the grower to provide the proper conditions for the particular plants to be grown in that greenhouse, especially as to light, temperature and humidity. Beginners frequently fail to realize that all so-called greenhouse plants could not be successfully grown in one small house. Their requirements are much too varied, but there are many plants which can share the same house and grow well—cattleya and many other orchid genera, begonias, African violets and other plants which like the same tropical conditions.

Lath shades, running north and south, should control the light. Some growers cover the glass with white greenhouse paint, where appearance is not of prime importance.

I feel that cymbidiums do very well at a maximum of 3,000 foot-candles. My observations have convinced me that the alternate light and dark shade patterns provided by lath over glass produced better results with cymbidiums than those produced by painted glass. The momentary brightness followed by shade seemed to stimulate plant growth.

Southern California being the home of a multi-million dollar orchid and shade plant growing industry, shipping plants and blooms to all parts of the country, it is not surprising to find so many people in this area acquiring plants and growing orchids in their backyards. As you know, it is the home of the A.B.S. and the center of begonia growing too. In turn, this has contributed to the rise of a rapidly growing industry devoted to manufacturing prefabricated greenhouses and the specialized equipment to control them.

Gas heat is preferred by owners of small greenhouses who cultivate begonias, cattleya and cymbidium orchids, African violets and companion plants calling for a constant tropical temperature. Heating with gas is the most popular method of controlling the temperature in Southern California, due to the fact that most homes are heated with natural gas, and it is easy to extend a gas pipe to the greenhouse. The type of space heater I favor is a round model made of aluminum, standing 25" high—just right for under the benches—and vented through the roof. One pane of glass in the roof is removed and a flashing, easily cut to size with tin snips, is provided for the 3" gutter pipe that carries away any fumes. A rain cap fits over the exposed gutter pipe. The thermostat control is a narrow tube at

actual test, humidity under the benches to be as high as 86%, whereas the humidity over the bench in the actual plant area was 26%. To provide an even dispersion of humidity, a small fan mounted horizontally on a movable arm in such a way as to force the air from the floor of the greenhouse upwards towards the roof. When these fans (which when in use are swung out into the aisles rather than under the benches) are used in conjunction with properly regulated spray heads, a flow of cool humid air is spread throughout the greenhouse. With this humidity system, a marked improvement is shown both in plants and flowers. Fifty percent humidity seems best for cymbidiums during the flowering season and 75% during the growing.

How to cool a greenhouse in the heat of summer is a problem solved by an automatic vent control. A wall thermostat such as you use to control your gas furnace provides the activating force for the motor operating the vent. This is called a damper motor, and consists of a motor box and a rod with gears. When the thermostat turns on the electricity, the motor shoves the rod up and opens the roof vent. When the thermostat turns off, the weight of the vent forces the rod to slide

back to the closed position. This motor draws very little electricity, but is powerful enough to open several vents, either in the roof or at the base of the greenhouse, or both.

Another method of cooling which gives good results, is the use of evaporative coolers to pressurize the greenhouse. These are used in conjunction with flutter-vents mounted in the greenhouse gable. These vents were designed to open and permit air to pass through when pressure has been built up. Except for the opening of these vents, the house is otherwise closed completely. By properly directing the flow of cold air, it is possible to cool the house without creating any turbulence amongst the plants.

With these automatic controls to regulate the temperature and relative humidity in the backyard hobby greenhouse, the factors of human error are eliminated. Men and women who must be away from home during the day can enjoy greenhouse gardening by letting these robot controls stand guard over their precious plants, spraying the air with moisture when necessary, keeping the heat at a steady temperature, opening the roof vents when it gets too warm, and turning on cooling systems during the summer heat.

#### AVERAGE GROWING CONDITIONS FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA

	COOL	MEDIUM	HOT	
	Adult Cymbidiums, Tuberosus Begonias, Fuchsias, etc.	Adult Cattleyas, Cuttings, Seedlings, etc.	Orchid Seedlings, Anthuriums, Tropicals, etc.	Most Cypridium
LIGHT in standard foot-candles by General Electric light meter	2,500 FC to 3,000 FC	1,500 FC to 2,000 FC	600 FC to 1,200 FC	800 FC
HEAT	45° to 55° <i>Ideal 53°</i>	60° to 65° <i>Ideal 63°</i>	65° to 75° <i>Ideal 70°</i>	
HUMIDITY	60% Night 75% Day	60% Night 75% Day	70% to periodic sprinkling	
COOLING or TOP VENT	70° to 78° <i>Ideal 73°</i>	75° to 85° <i>Ideal 82°</i>	80° to 90° <i>Ideal 90°</i>	

If Automatic Cooler is used, set Automatic Top Vent 5° to 7° above cooler to act as safety device in event of cooler failure.

Prepared by SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GREENHOUSE MANUFACTURERS  
3266 N. Rosemead Blvd., Rosemead, California

Let's hear how you grow your begonias not only in California, but also in other regions in the United States and the world.

—B—

Heard at a flower show: "I don't see why that begonia won a ribbon. I have nicer ones at home." ED.: *Why wasn't it here in the show?*

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LEAVES — PLANTS  
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Photo by W. Givens

## B. 'Edna Morse'

BEGONIA "Edna Morse," a new hybrid of William Givens, made its first appearance at the Whittier Beautiful Flower Show, where it received a ribbon. Growing outdoors in adobe soil where it is more often dry than wet, this hardy fibrous begonia only 5 1/2 inches tall, with a spread of about 12 inches, hugs the ground making it an ideal ground cover. The shiny, olive-green, narrow ovate leaves have heavily indented veins. The slightly dentate, sparsely hairy leaves with a red sinus are borne on green hairy stems. The stipules are pale green. Small white flowers are formed in a close cluster.

—B—

## Vacation: Your Plants?

JUNE heralds the beginning of vacation time. What should you do with the potted plants? You still want them when you come back, but you can't or won't burden someone else with the care of them. Here is an easy solution.

If you have a lathhouse where you grow your plants on shelves or in hanging baskets, take them down and put them on the floor in a peat moss frame. The frame, which is filled with damp peat moss, is placed in the lathhouse where it is shady and out of the wind. The day before you leave for your vacation, thoroughly water your plants and bury the pots and baskets in the WET peat moss. PLACE SNAIL BAIT AROUND THE FRAME AND SPRAY THE FOLIAGE WITH 50 PER CENT DDT TO KILL THE WORMS. This will prevent leaf perforations.

When you return from your trip, place the plants in their original places, water and feed. This also applies to a greenhouse, but be sure to leave the ventilators open for air. This should take care of the plants for about two weeks.

MARIE TURNER

## Begonia Feeding

I HAVE BEEN ASKED a number of times to write an article on Begonias and have put it off as I don't like to write.

Mrs. Maddox and I have been growing begonias for some ten years for our own pleasure, and still grow them for the same reason. We have belonged to the A.B.S. for the past four years. Our stock has increased to some 400 or more plants as we have become more acquainted with Begonia Fans and the exchange in plants and leaves has been generous. We have outgrown a lath house, also an enlarged lath house patio, an 18' by 12' greenhouse, and almost all available protected space where begonias might do well.

We have been asked how we grow such wonderful plants in such a dry desert condition as Riverside. Of course we don't consider Riverside as being desert, but we do have some very hot weather in August and September—100 degrees and better. By keeping the floor damp and plants watered properly, we do produce a good number of blue ribbon plants.

We have also been accused of having some secret feeding formula, but if it is a secret, we're not aware of it. However, we do feed at regular thirty day periods. I don't think it is so important what you feed as it is that you follow the instructions on what you feed. If it says a teaspoonful per gallon, use just that and no more. Of course you can get two teaspoons from one heaping teaspoon and that I would avoid.

In our planting mixture we use a pound coffee can of bone meal per bushel of mix which consists of 2/3 leaf mold, 1/3 peat moss with gravel (concrete sand) and a generous supply of charcoal. The charcoal is of value only as a filter and mix sweetener, the bone meal contains some 5 per cent nitrogen and is a constant food supply for the plant that doesn't leach out of the mix from watering. Sand and gravel is a filter. Leaf mold is decayed plant material (oak leaf mold preferred) containing some nitrogen and other elements of plant nutrition. Peat moss is a filler and moisture retainer which is important in plant growth.

If it is available you can use hoof and horn meal, which contains 13 per cent nitrogen, instead of bone meal. Only don't use it so generously. Now with your 30 day period feeding with any good fertilizer containing your trace nutritional elements, you should grow good plants of blue ribbon quality.

Of course all plants are not alike in their

# Calceolarias

By H. M. BUTTERFIELD

GARDENERS are interested in two general groups of calceolarias, the shrubby varieties suited to outdoor culture and the greenhouse varieties.

## SHRUBBY CALCEOLARIAS

*Calceolaria integrifolia* (*C. rugosa*) and its varieties are usually the most popular among the shrubby calceolarias. The color is commonly yellow or a combination of yellow and maroon or brown. A compact form suitable for planting in borders comes either with yellow flowers or with larger maroon and yellow flowers. A form with small brown-spotted flowers has longer stems. *C. fruticobybrida* includes a number of varieties derived from garden plants, with prevailing colors of yellow, orange, or orange red, and occasionally yellowish white or dull red.

The ordinary home gardener is mostly interested in these shrubby calceolarias. The plants do reasonably well when planted outside in the early spring as soon as the danger of cold weather is past. Flowers are produced all during the late spring and early summer.

Shrubby calceolarias may be expected to grow well outside for a year or two, after which they should be replaced with younger plants. Some plants may live for several years, but there is a tendency for calceolarias to die out after a year or two, especially where the soil is poorly drained or where the weather is too cold.

The shrubby calceolarias do very well in the shade or where they are not exposed to a hot afternoon sun. Certain hybrid forms, seed of which is often listed in English seed catalogs, are rather susceptible to frost damage and should be planted in a protected situation.

If shrubby calceolarias are to be planted in any quantity, they may be purchased in flats from nurserymen. Home gardeners may

wants as to weather conditions, so by changing your plant from one side of the lathhouse to the other might help. There might be a draft there, or some other things you hadn't noticed before.

Mrs. Maddox and I invite you to come and see us and our begonias, if you are in Riverside. Our address is 7172 Mt. Vernon St.

R. A. MADDOX

wish to take cuttings in the summer or late fall. The cuttings should be about 3 or 4 inches long with two joints. Remove the lower leaves before inserting the cuttings in sand. The temperature should be between 45 to 50 degrees F. The cuttings should root in 4 to 6 weeks, when they may be transplanted to flats or individual pots.

The shrubby calceolarias are not seriously affected by insect pests or by diseases. Slugs and snails may occasionally cause trouble, but may be controlled by the use of poison baits that contain metaldehyde.

The loss of plants in the garden is more often caused by a soil fungus that rots the stems at or near the surface of the ground. Good drainage is the most effective control. The organic mercury compounds on the market may give temporary control, but no chemical treatment will be of any permanent value if the soil remains poorly drained or too wet. Replanting every two years with healthy young plants helps maintain the vigor of shrubby calceolarias under garden conditions.

## GREENHOUSE CALCEOLARIAS

Greenhouse calceolarias require careful regulation of temperature and moisture throughout their developing period, and are not suited to growing outside. They are often grouped under the scientific name of *Calceolaria crenatiflora*, while the name *C. herbeobybrida* is applied to dwarf forms of *C. crenatiflora*.

The best strains have a good color range, which is just as important, of course, as having good size of flowers and a good habit of growth. The colors range from yellow, orange, and red to rose. The flowers may be blotched, spotted, or laced with combinations of these colors. Seed companies specializing in greenhouse plants supply very satisfactory strains of greenhouse calceolarias.

The seed is started in the greenhouse in the spring or summer for blooming the following winter or spring. The seed is usually planted in a seed pan or flat. The temperature should range between 60 and 70 degrees F. at the start, and the plants should receive no direct sun until they are well established. Careful watering and ventilation are very important.

Damping-off of the seedlings may be very  
(Continued on Page 161)

# Slate of Officers

**FRANK L. COE**—*President Elect*

Frank L. Coe, native Californian, served with the A.E.F. in France. With the Sheriff's Office of Los Angeles County, 1927-1955, he



was a captain at three stations; organized and trained the Sheriff's Emergency Reserves and headed organization for five years; wrote the Manual for Los Angeles County Air Raid Warden Corps. Past President West Hollywood Kiwanis. Now business manager for Landscape

Society of Southern California; Brentwood Hospital Occupational Therapy Garden (for rehabilitation of war veterans).

**ALVA GRAHAM**—*Vice President*

Mrs. Alva Graham, an A.B.S. member of long standing, is now serving a second tour of duty as president of the Pasadena Branch.



She has been Historian of A.B.S. and was her Branch's representative on the National Board several years. In our library is her translation of the monograph on Begonias written by Charles Chevalier, noted horticulturist and curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens of the University of Liege,

Belgium. She is now retired from the school department of Los Angeles City.

—B—

**PEARL PARKER**—*Treasurer*

Pearl Parker, a member of the Inglewood Branch; served two years as secretary for it and now is National Director for this Branch. She has gone through the chairs of her Rebekah Lodge and is serving her third term as Treasurer. She has three sons, ages 15 to 23 — one married, one overseas and one at home.



*President Elect*

Charter member and Past President of the Riverside Branch of the A.B.S. Served as National Director for four years and National Vice-President for the A.B.S. from 1951-54. Has been the Garden Editor for the *Riverside Press and Enterprise* for the past twenty-five years.



—B—

**HYACINTH SMITH**—*Vice President*

A member of the San Francisco Branch of the A.B.S. for ten years. Has served two years as Treasurer and two years as Director.



Also as Vice-President and President. She is currently Junior Past-President and serves as National Director. She is also an Accredited Judge of Flower Shows of the National Council of State Garden Clubs and is a member of the Judge's Council of Northern California.

Will serve as third vice president, California Spring Blossom and Wild Flower Association, and is a director of the San Francisco Flower Show, Inc.

—B—

**OPAL MURRAY AHERN**—*Treasurer*

Born in Missouri and resident of California since 1943. Has been a member of the Manhattan Beach Property Owners Association for about ten years. During that time has been on the Board as Secretary and two terms as Treasurer. She was Treasurer of the South Bay Branch of the California National Fuchsia Society. Was Vice-President and President of that Association and is now a National delegate. Member Cactus and Succulent Society of America, and secretary Redondo Beach Area Branch, A.B.S.



## A.B.S. Flower Show Rules and Regulations

1. All exhibits are, from the commencement to the close of the exhibition, in the charge of the Show Committee.

2. Competitive entries must be made according to divisions and classes; nonconformity will be subject to disqualification.

3. All competitive entries must be in place by 9:30 A.M. Saturday, August 25 and judging will commence at 10:00 A.M. All entries not in by 9:30 A.M. will be eligible only for non-competitive exhibition.

4. All entries will receive sealed entry cards at time of entering plants, allowing same to remain sealed until after judging.

5. Chairman of Judges Committee will assume complete charge at start of judging and no person will be allowed to interfere, to offer criticisms, or to distract the decisions of the judges. Only judges and their clerks will be permitted in show room at time of judging.

6. Any Chairman or members of committees engaged in the show preparation are permitted to exhibit and to compete under the same conditions, as any other exhibitor, with adherence to all show rules.

7. No entry may compete for more than one premium, nor may more than one entry be made in any class with the exception of DIVISION J. Additional entries in any one class will be permissible by a second or third member of a family from the same garden.

8. All plants and flowers exhibited in competitive classes must have been grown by the exhibitor or been in his possession for 3 months prior to the show. This rule does not apply to flower arrangements.

9. Amateur Grower is one who grows plants for self pleasure and by self effort, and does not hold a commercial license. Any member of the family not falling into this

category disqualifies the entire family as amateurs.

10. A commercial grower may enter any class for exhibition only and will not be eligible for ribbons in that class. However, plant will be judged for the President's Challenge Trophy for the Best Begonia in the Show.

11. All plants and flowers must be clearly and correctly named. Errors in naming will not disqualify, but judges will recognize correctness and clearness of names as telling in favor of an exhibit in close competition.

12. The management shall have the right to exclude inferior or diseased plants.

13. No plant may be removed from the Show except by official permission.

14. While the management will exercise due caution and care in safeguarding exhibits, it cannot assume responsibility for loss or injury.

15. Judges shall award premiums as in their opinion an entry merits. Whether a group of entries are in competition, or an entry is without competition, it will be in their discretion to award only on the merits, or no award.

16. Trophy awards are limited to Amateur A.B.S. members only, with the exception of the President's Challenge Cup.

17. Sweepstakes Trophy will be awarded by the point system and will be awarded on total points on blue ribbons only in begonia divisions.

18. All trophies must remain on display for the duration of the flower show.

19. Individual entries in the competitive show are limited to A.B.S. members only.

20. Challenge trophies are to be returned to the A.B.S. Flower Show Chairman two weeks prior to the 1957 A.B.S. Flower Show.

### SPECIAL AWARDS

The following Challenge Cups will be awarded:

**PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE TROPHY**—To be awarded to the Best Begonia in the Show displayed by either amateur or commercial entrant. The large trophy was presented to the A.B.S. by Calvin E. Trowbridge.

**PALOS VERDES BEGONIA FARM CHALLENGE TROPHY**—Given for the outstanding Tuberos Begonia in the Show.

**EFFIE CHAPMAN CUP**—For the best Fibrous Begonia in the Show.

**GONDA HARTWELL CUP**—For the best Rex Begonia in the Show.

**JOHN R. WILLIAMS CUP**—For the best Rhizomatous Begonia in the Show.

**CONNIE LEIGH HENDRIX CUP**—For the best amateur Flower Arrangement in the Show.

**SYLVIA AND BUCK LEATHERMAN TROPHY**—For the best juvenile entry by a child under 18 years of age who is related to an A.B.S. member.

**GORDON BAKER LLOYD CHALLENGE CUP**—For the best Seedling in the Show.

**A.B.S. SWEEPSTAKES TROPHY**—To the winner of the most points in the begonia divisions of the show.

**THE NATIONAL BOARD EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY \$25.00 AWARD**—To promote knowledge of begonias. Open to all.

**ALFRED D. ROBINSON MEMORIAL MEDALS**—To the hybrid begonias for 1950 and 1951.

# 1956 FLOWER SHOW

of the American

## A.B.S. National Show, Plummet

### DIVISION A—B. SEMPERFLORENS-CULTURUM

- Class 1. Bedding Begonias, single flowered, green foliage.  
2. Bedding Begonias, single flowered, dark foliage, *B. "Carmen."*  
3. Bedding Begonias, double flowered, green foliage.  
4. Bedding Begonias, double flowered, dark foliage, *B. "Carmen Queen," B. "Pink Camellia."*  
5. Bedding Begonias, known as species, as Indian species, Mexican species.  
6. Hanging containers of Classes 1-2-3-4-5.  
7. Wall pockets of Classes 1-2-3-4-5.

### DIVISION B—FIBROUS BEGONIAS (COCCINEA GROUP)

- Class 8. Tall (over 3') types.  
9. Intermediate types (18" to 3').  
10. Low Growing types to 18".  
11. Hanging Baskets, scandent types.  
12. Wall Pockets, scandent types.

### DIVISION C—HAIRY FIBROUS BEGONIAS

- Class 13. Hairy Fibrous Begonias (*B. "Richland"*).  
14. Sparse Hairy Group (*B. "Dorothy Grant"*).  
15. Hanging baskets of 13.  
16. Hanging baskets of 14.  
17. Wall pockets of 13.  
18. Wall pockets of 14.

### DIVISION D—RHIZOMATOUS BEGONIA GROUP

- Class 19. Small leaved types.  
20. Medium leaved types, star, such as *B. "Glendale," B. "Silver Star."*  
21. Large leaved types (star).  
22. Medium leaved types (entire) ovate.  
23. Large leaved types (entire) ovate, without any marginal cutting.  
24. Spiral or crested.  
25. Distinctive, unusual or odd foliage such as *B. acida, B. "Versicolor," B. pustulata.*  
26. *B. boweri* and its hybrids.  
27. *B. imperialis* and its hybrids.  
28. Hairy leaved rhizomatous.  
29. Hanging baskets of Classes 19 to 28.  
30. Wall pockets of classes 19 to 28.

### DIVISION E—BEGONIAS REX-CULTURUM

- Class 31. Large leaved types, such as: *B. "Cardoza Gardens," B. "President Carnot,"* now *B. "President,"* etc.  
32. Medium-leaved types, such as: *B. "Helen Lewis," B. "Glory of St. Albans," B. "Chretien,"* etc.  
33. Small leaved types, such as: *B. "Silver Fleece," B. "Lucy Closson, B. "Dew Drop,"* etc.  
34. Miniature types, distinguished from the small leaved types by their short stubby rhizomes and very small

compact growth, such as "Toy," *B. "Butterfly,"*

35. Miniature spiral types, such as *B. "Berry's Gray Curl,"*  
36. Helix spiral types, such as "Curly Closson"  
37. Upright and branching "Nigger Tree," *B. "Sil"*  
38. Wall pockets, one spec

### DIVISION F—TUBEROUS ROOT BEGONIAS (TUBERHYBRIDA)

- Class 39. Species, such as: *B. su*  
*B. macbethi,* etc.  
40. Hybrids, such as: *B. "Richard Robinson,"* etc.  
41. All *B. socotrana* and de  
42. Hanging baskets, one s  
43. Wall pockets, one spec

### DIVISION G—TUBERHYBRIDA, O

- Class 44. Single forms, flowers s  
45. Multiflora and multifi  
many-flowered, si  
46. Camellia forms: flower  
double.  
47. Fimbriata plena: large,  
48. Crispa: large, single, p  
49. Cristata: large, single,  
on each petal.  
50. Rosebud: rose-like in a  
51. Picotee: irregular bord  
into the dominant shac  
52. Marmorata: camellia  
blotched and spotted w  
53. Ruffled camellia and no  
fimbriata plena, large  
54. Marginata: camellia fo  
precise line of a differ  
55. Pendula (syn. Lloydi)  
pended containers; flo  
small.

### DIVISION H—COLLECTIONS

- Class 56. Collection of 3 begonia  
57. Collection of 6 begonia

### DIVISION I—BEGONIAS GROWN

To be classified accord  
man, Classification Cle

### DIVISION J—NEW BEGONIA INT

Class open to  
Entries per exhibitor

# IOW SCHEDULE

## Begonia Society

### Park, Los Angeles, California

as: *B. "Annie Robinson," B.*  
etc.

ich as: *B. "Berry's Brown Curl,"*  
*B. "Cutie,"* etc.

as: *B. "Countess Louise Erdo-"*  
*B. "Bronze King,"* etc.

types, such as: *B. "Van-Ex," B.*  
*er Sweet,"* etc.

men plant of classes 31 to 37.  
ED VARIETIES (OTHER THAN

*berlandi, B. martiana, B. davisii,*

*Lulandi," B. "Weltoniensis," B.*  
2.

riatives.

ecimen plant, Classes 39 to 41.  
nen plant, Classes 39 to 41.

IE SPECIMEN PLANT

uggestive of the wild rose.

ra : low bushy, compact;  
gle double.

; camellia-like, both single and

double, carnation-like flowers.

tal-margins frilled.

lowers with crestlike outgrowth

pearance.

er of a different color bleeding  
2.

orm with a rose background  
ite.

elty types as distinguished from  
blooms.

rm, petals edged with a thin,  
nt color.

drooping type suitable for sus-  
vers numerous, both large and

—each of a different class.

—each of a different class.

ON TOTEM POLES

ng to entries, by Show Chair-  
and Chairman of the Judges.

ODUCTIONS

ber: amateur or Commercial.  
unlimited. Each entry judged

individually by point score and awarded a certificate of  
commendation, upon scoring a minimum of 85 points.

DIVISION K—JUNIOR GROWERS (CHILDREN OF A.B.S. MEM-  
BERS TO AGE 18)

Class 58. Fibrous Begonia, one specimen plant.

59. Rhizomatous Begonia, one specimen plant.

60. Rex Begonia, one specimen plant.

61. Tuberous Begonia, one specimen plant.

DIVISION L—FERNS

Class 62. Mounted, large-leaved epiphytic, such as *Platynerium*.

63. Ferns in soil mixture, such as: *Platynerium*, *Polypodi-  
um*, etc.

64. Hanging basket fine fronds or heavy fronds.

65. Potted specimen, such as tree ferns.

DIVISION M—SAINTPAULIAS

Class 66. Single crown plants, general foliage, all colors.

67. Single crown plants, girl foliage, all colors.

68. Multiple crown plants, all foliage, all colors.

DIVISION N—FUCHSIAS

Class 69. Upright fuchsias.

70. Hanging varieties.

DIVISION O—OTHER SHADE PLANTS AND TROPICALS

Class 71. Coleus.

72. *Philodendrons*, large-leaved.

73. *Philodendrons*, medium-leaved.

74. Any other shade or tropical plant.

DIVISION P—FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS (AMATEURS ONLY)

Class 75. Low container, begonia flowers and foliage, other than  
tuberhybrida.

76. Tall container, begonia flowers and foliage, other than  
tuberhybrida.

77. Low container, tuberous begonias (tuberhybrida).

78. Begonias and other plant material, any type, low  
container.

79. Rex begonia foliage, with other foliage, no flowers.

80. Other shade or tropical plant material, not listed.

81. Corsages, tuberous begonias (tuberhybrida).

82. Corsages, begonia blossoms or foliage, other than  
tuberhybrida.

83. Corsages, all other varieties.

DIVISION S—TERRARIUMS AND PLANTERS

Class 84. Planted with begonias.

85. Planted with other house plants.

DIVISION T—EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

Educational exhibit consisting of material assembled to  
promote increased knowledge and appreciation of be-  
gonias, such as: begonia seedlings, begonia illustrations,  
begonia literature, display of related begonias, begonia  
cultural techniques. Amateur or commercial persons  
will compete together.

# Point System for Judging Begonias

TOWARD AWARDING SWEEPSTAKES TROPHY  
First place..... 3 points

FIBROUS AND RHIZOMATOUS SPECIMENS  
Cultural perfection..... 50  
Foliage ..... 15  
Difficulty of cultivation..... 15  
Quantity and quality of flowers..... 15  
Correct and suitable labeling..... 5  
100

REX BEGONIA SPECIMEN PLANT  
Cultural perfection..... 35  
Foliage ..... 20  
Distinctiveness ..... 15  
Size of plant..... 10  
Difficulty of cultivation..... 15  
Correct and suitable labeling..... 5  
100

TUBEROUS BEGONIA SPECIMEN PLANT  
Number and size of blooms in  
proportion to size of plant..... 40  
Cultural perfection..... 25  
Flower stem strength..... 10  
Flower texture: color intensity..... 15  
Foliage ..... 10  
100

CORSAGE OF BEGONIA FLOWERS  
Color combination..... 25  
Proportion and balance..... 25  
Suitability of occasion..... 10  
Style and grace..... 25  
Distinction and originality..... 15  
100

BEGONIA FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS  
Color combination..... 25  
Proportion and balance..... 25  
Distinction and originality..... 25  
Relation to receptacle..... 10  
Condition ..... 10  
Suitable combination of material..... 5  
100

—B—

## AMPLIFICATION

FROM BEGONIA NOMENCLATURE DEPT.

*Begonia* "Sir Percy" developed by Susie Zug in 1950 and registered with the Nomenclature Department under file number fourteen, lists Frey's *B.* "Silver Star" as one of the parents. The other parent is now known to be *B. speculata*. This begonia is not to be classed under rex cultorum. All members should make this correction on their list of begonia hybrids that are registered: No. 14, *The Begonian*, June 1954, page 130.

## A.B.S. Judges

A.B.S. Judges' Cards have been renewed for the following persons:

Mrs. R. J. Wilson, 4620 Evergreen Drive, Port Arthur, Texas.

Mrs. G. W. Wilkins, 3625 N. Fitzhugh, Dallas, Texas.

Rudolf Ziesenhenne, 1130 Milpas, Santa Barbara, California.

Mrs. M. Ziesenhenne, 1130 Milpas, Santa Barbara, California.

Mrs. Marie Zachau, 603 E. Kelso, Inglewood, California.

Jean Kerlin, 3207 Perlita Ave., Los Angeles 39, California.

Mrs. Edna Korts, 3628 Revere Ave., Los Angeles 39, California.

Mrs. Ann Meyer, RFD No. 2, Box 495, Ojai, California.

Mrs. Mary Gillingwaters, 1083 N. Benson, Upland, California.

Mrs. T. C. Osborn, 136 S. Jourdan, Ventura, California.

Mr. W. H. Bauer, 1482 Buena Vista, Ventura, California.

Barbara Phillips, 600 N. Kellogg, Santa Barbara, California.

Mrs. Hazel Snodgrass, 265 N. Walnut Drive, Ventura, California.

Louise Schwerdtfeger, 1450 Cantera Ave., Santa Barbara, California.

Many other judges were sent their questionnaires and have not returned them. If any judge has a question about the procedure, please contact Chairman. Some questionnaires were returned without signature or address. Was one of them yours?

JEAN KERLIN, *Chairman*  
School of Judging

*Palos Verdes*

**Begonia Farm**

4024 Pacific Coast Hi-way, Waleria, Calif.

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Hi-Way 101

# Your Invitation to the 1956 Convention

PLANS are going rapidly ahead for our 1956 annual convention. Committees have been set up, groups are already at work on the many details that invariably accompany an undertaking as large as a National Convention.

We are looking enthusiastically ahead to meeting our "Begonia Friends" from the many branches throughout the United States. Convention time is always a gay time for us here with its many interesting personalities, and the flower show with its many fine specimen plants, some only exhibited at convention time. Please accept our invitation: The "Welcome Mat is being dusted off," prize plants are being groomed; and best of all, we are looking forward to meeting you again, many of you for the first time.

This year we are being sponsored by the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department under the direction of Mr. Norman S. Johnson, who has very generously offered us the facilities of Plummer Park to stage our convention.

We are planning a different type of flower

show than we have in the past in that we will not have any branch displays. All the floor space of the auditorium will be devoted to specimen potted plants. This year we are asking you, the members, to concentrate on individual plants for one really big competitive show. The branches of the local area voted not to have cash awards this year, however, the usual A.B.S. ribbons and trophies will be awarded.

All contributions from the branches to help defer expenses of the convention this year should be made out to the American Begonia Society and sent to our convention treasurer, Opal Ahern, 1304 Poinsettia Ave., Manhattan Beach, California.

For hotel or motel reservations, write to Dr. W. C. Drummond, 1246 N. Kings Road, Hollywood 46, California.

Banquet information will be available in the August issue of *The Begonian* as some details are not complete at this time.

CAL TROWBRIDGE  
*Convention Chairman*

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## Round Robin Notes . . .

THERE have been such fine reports from the members telling me how they have enjoyed the new Robins. This makes me very happy. They are all flying so well and with very little delay. May I make a suggestion?

If you are planning to be away from home on a vacation or for some other reason and cannot answer the Robin, please mail it on to the next member and we will understand or if you are going to be gone for any length of time, it would be nice to make arrangements to have it sent on by some one else. A friend, perhaps, would be glad to take care of it for you. In that way it will save a long delay and in some cases the loss of the Robin.

So many have sent in very fine letters to the Editor and I know she is very grateful for your help, so let's keep up the good work. Just sit down and write a letter telling of some plant you like, or grow, or about an idea you have that would be of help to someone.

Each letter we send in helps not only those who belong to Robins but also all the members of the A.B.S. and our Editor, who is doing such a fine job with *The Begonian*. There is always a demand for *more and more good material* and it is up to the members of the

Robins to do their best to help supply that material. Why not sit down now and send her a letter?

I have started another Beginners' Robin and have room for a few more names. If interested, just drop me a card.

A few suggestions came to me through the Robins which may be of help to the members:

"If you are repotting your ferns, place at least two inches of charcoal in the bottom of the pot for drainage. It will also help to keep the soil sweet. Roots of ferns must be kept moist at all times but not soggy wet." Mrs. H., Iowa.

"When potting your African Violets, try putting the soil around them rather loosely and see if it does not make a difference. They do not like their roots packed in the soil." Mrs. G. G., Ga.

"To start begonias, African violets, or gloxinias from leaves, try propping them up with a small wooden spoon on which you have written the name." Mrs. T. V., N.H.

MRS. MARIE REED  
*Round Robin Chairman*

—B—

When the ferns which are in the ground begin to show new growth, cut out old fronds to give the young ones a chance, thus avoiding the brown foliage in the summer.

M. T.

## Kangaroo Paws

THE UNUSUAL "Kangaroo Paw," said to be one of the oddest of flowers, is from South-western Australia. Because of its unique appearance, this showy herbaceous perennial plant, *Anigozanthos manglesi*, is exciting attention at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum where it is now in bloom. The "Red-Stemmed Green Kangaroo Paw" is a member of the Amaryllis plant family. The flower stalk shoots up from narrow, black tipped iris-like leaves. It consists of a woody, brilliant red stem about 20 inches tall, topped with deep metallic green fingers, or "Kangaroo Paws," about five inches long. "Daily the paws flatten until the end of each flower opens and the petals curl back almost in a leer," Arboretum Horticulturist Don Woolley says. "Six even buck-teeth or claws (stamens) protrude. It is because of these 'claws' or 'teeth' that the plant got the name of 'Kangaroo Paws' in Australia. In the Australian section of the Arboretum, it will soon be followed by other kinds of 'Kangaroo Paw' plants which have flowers of purple, buff, red orange and all green. None are quite as strikingly eye-catching as this species *manglesi*."

"Kangaroo Paws" has promise of becoming a novelty plant for Southern California gardens. It was grown from seed and the base leaves now form a cluster about a foot high. Older plants may become two to three feet in size.

Our Clayton Kelly Seed Fund has seeds of this plant.

—B—

The information given in June, *The Begonian*, on growing fern sporelings (Clayton Kelly Seed Fund), applies to these ferns: any adiantum (maiden hair) fern, pellea, cliff brake family, and Pitygromma (gold back fern). Information was from "Ferns for Garden and Greenhouse" by A. J. Macself, V.M.H., on sale by the Librarian, Lucy Sault.



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**BALANCED ORGANIC FISH FERTILIZER**

## Flowering Shrubs

(Continued From Page 149)

bright shiny foliage. It likes part shade, and should be kept moist.

*Acuba japonica*, shiny toothed evergreen leaves, sometimes called the "gold dust" plant, for the leaves are flecked with gold. This shrub is excellent for cutting as it stays fresh in the home for several days. It is especially handsome for foliage contrast in the shade garden. The all green variety has the same qualities. Both varieties are kept damp and given part shade.

*Hydrangea bretschneideri*, grows to ten feet tall with ovate leaves that are hairy beneath. Has white flowers, purplish in corymbs six inches across. Comes from North China and blooms in July in Southern California. When cutting for arrangements, cut and harden in cold water for one hour. For best results, prune severely in the spring after danger of frost is past.

Reported by JEAN KERLIN

## PATRONIZE

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*Single Frilled (Crispa)*  
*Crispa Marginata*  
*Hollyhock (Martiana)*  
*Daffodil (Narcissiflora)*  
*Improved Multiflora*  
*Double Marginata (Picotee)*  
*Hanging Basket (Pendula fl. pl.)*  
*"Santa" Varieties*

WHOLESALE ONLY

Available at Most Nurseries and Seedhouses

# Do You Know?

(Continued From Page 148)

than what we do not see. *B. circumlobata* is classed as a rhizomatous begonia and I am told the reason for this being that it has a rhizome under the ground. I have never investigated. As long as my plants are happy and growing well, I am not curious as to what goes on under the ground.

Have you had trouble rooting begonias which have hairs on the stems? The stem that is going down into the rooting medium is going to receive considerable moisture, the hairs on the stems gather and hold the moisture and the cutting rots. Getting the stem with your fingers (being careful not to bruise the cutting) to remove the hairs before putting the cuttings in may solve your problem. Your fingers will be stained and not fit for a social tea.

Have you begonias of upright growing habit, or supposed to grow that way? Perhaps you have had to crowd them in during winter months because of lack of room and they have resulted in long spindly weak stems. The stems are soft and droop and one wonders if the plant is ever going to look like or even resemble a begonia. Gently bring the stems down and twine them around on top of the soil in the pot, anchoring them in place by looping hairpins over the stems. This layering will provide a full bushy plant. It is important to get some of the joints (the stem part where leaves are supposed to be) to come in contact with the soil as roots will form at these joints (leaf nodes) and shoots eventually will grow at this point. This is one way to get a full plant of *B. phyllomanica* syn. *B. jessie* and *B. "Templini,"* a sport of *B. phyllomanica*. If you have had past experiences with these two begonias you know how difficult it is to get them to fill out. I encourage the young plants to grow down and every time I pass them I give them a gentle push. Sometimes if I have the room, I lay the pots on the side and later set the pot back up. The stem, if left in this position several days, will lop over. I encourage them to this position so they can be layered on the soil. Another way to obtain a full plant is to root a leaf node cutting. When it is rooted and small plants are growing, do not divide the individual plantlets but pot the whole cluster in one pot.

Begonia growing and begonias as a hobby produce a fascinating family of "children" and a "disease" that enters your blood stream. This begonia growing is a disease and it is contagious; a healthy disease and what fun.

How does your begonia family grow?

# Front Cover

ALL THE BEAUTY of the well planned shade garden can be found in the small area of an eighteen by twenty-six-foot garden. In walking to my patio, you look into a mass of blooms. Maiden hair fern circles the huge rock in the background. On the left is *Begonia boweri* with a Holly Fern separating the colors of the rex begonias. Along the wall on the left are baskets of ivy. Ferns and semperflorens in red, pink and white, are sprinkled around. Coming down the path to the mound, you will notice the beautifully colored lava rocks with *B. "Feasti"* in full bloom, all around the fish pond. In the mound, along the running water is the tree fern, Woodwardia, carrot and different types of five fingered ferns.

In the photograph, our patio doesn't seem as pretty as it is when we look down on it from the dining room window. I can truly say it is very relaxing to sit or read in the patio where there is music in the fall of the water and the song of the canary.

PEARL BAUER, Ventura

—B—

# Calceolarias

(Continued From Page 153)

serious if proper conditions are not maintained in the greenhouse. Steam sterilization of the soil may be feasible in some cases. Chloropicrin, a commercial larvicide, may be used well before planting time to treat the soil.

Calceolarias started in the greenhouse may be transplanted to individual pots and placed in cold frames during the early spring if the outside temperature is favorable. Watering must be regulated very carefully during this stage of development. Watering the plants more than once a day has been known to cause a serious loss. The plants should be returned to the greenhouse as soon as they reach the flowering stage or before cold weather sets in. As a general rule, these calceolarias are not suitable house plants, although they may occasionally be brought in from the greenhouse for temporary house use.

No serious pest or disease is prevalent on greenhouse calceolarias, although slugs and snails could be troublesome.

—B—

In planting a shade garden under a tree be sure that the tree is of a genera which can stand the heavy watering most shade-loving plants demand.

# Strelitzia Reginae (Bird of Paradise)

STRELITZIA REGINAE, the herbaceous flowering plant known as "Bird of Paradise," has banana-like leaves and exotic, showy blooms of orange, red, and blue, which are oddly shaped and resemble birds in flight. The plant is known as the "Craneflower" in its native South Africa. It was first listed in California in the catalog of Colonel Warren, of Sacramento, in 1853.

Other species of *Strelitzia* occasionally are grown in California, particularly *S. augusta*, tall plants of which are growing in the vicinity of Santa Barbara and other southern coastal cities. These other species may be interesting under garden conditions in mild districts, but they are not as promising for flowers as *S. reginae*.

## SUGGESTIONS ON CULTURE

The culture of *Strelitzia reginae* closely resembles that of the calla, except that it requires more sun and warmth to do well than the calla does. The plant will fail to bloom satisfactorily unless it is given plenty of water, plant food, and sufficient light.

**Location.** In its native home, *Strelitzia reginae* grows in the full sun on the fertile banks of streams where drainage is good and where the temperature is moderate throughout the year. In California it seems to thrive best in sunny locations of moderate temperature and considerable humidity. Near the coast from Santa Barbara south, very little trouble has been experienced in growing the plant under garden conditions. Outside of the districts having a mild climate, however, it is usually treated as a greenhouse or potted plant.

In the cooler northern districts, low winter temperatures have proved highly injurious to *Strelitzia reginae*, and plants have been killed when the temperature dropped only a few degrees below freezing. A night temperature not lower than 50° F. has been recommended for satisfactory flowering. Where the winter temperature normally falls below 30° F., it probably will be unsafe to grow *Strelitzia reginae* outside unless some kind of protection can be given. Wrapping the plant with burlap or similar material should protect it against a few degrees of frost. Plants which may be exposed to frost should be encouraged to go dormant well in advance of the cold period by not watering or fertilizing too heavily in the late summer.

**Soil.** The soil for *Strelitzia reginae* should be fertile and preferably heavy, though well drained. It should be liberally supplied with

organic matter such as leaf mold. The plant has done very well in soils that are about neutral in reaction to tests, although it tolerates water that contains considerable lime. A soil mixture containing up to 1/3 leaf mold is suitable for potting plants for greenhouse culture.

**Planting.** The best time to set out *Strelitzia reginae* plants is in the spring as soon as the soil can be worked satisfactorily and before new growth starts to push out. The best flowers are produced where the plants have plenty of room in which to grow. A distance of 2 to 3 feet between plants is suggested for outdoor culture. Greenhouse plants are set in 5- to 6-inch pots.

**Watering.** A regular and abundant supply of moisture is desirable for the best growth, but excessive moisture about the roots should be avoided by growing the plant in a well-drained soil. The soil should not be kept soaked with water.

**Fertilizing.** Garden soil may be fertilized once or twice a year with well-rotted cow manure. The first application should be made in the fall or early spring. If extra nitrogen is needed, then almost any of the commercial nitrogen fertilizers may be applied early in the growing season. Potted plants may be watered with liquid fertilizer about once a month at the rate of 1 teaspoonful of ammonium phosphate to a 4-inch pot.

**Pests and Diseases.** No serious pests or diseases attack *Strelitzia reginae*. However, poor drainage and excessive watering may cause root rot, and dieback may follow frost damage.

## PROPAGATION OF STRELITZIA

**Seed.**—Species of *Strelitzia* may be grown from seed where it is available, but under normal conditions no seed will be formed unless hand pollination is practiced. The seed is slow to germinate, and seedlings may require as long as six to eight years to reach a blooming size.

**Division.** Division of established plants is the most satisfactory method to increase the planting. Each division taken from the mother plant should have a fairly good root system before being separated. Division is not essential unless the plants become very crowded. This should be done in the spring before the new growth pushes out. Attempts to divide the mother plants in the fall have resulted in heavy loss.

While the plant is evergreen, it will nor-

# Reminiscing

WHEN we look over the list of branches of the American Begonia Society scattered over the world, some of us old timers get to thinking of the time when we had only the chapter in Long Beach which finished the year of 1935 with a total of 96 members. It was not known as the Parent Chapter then, for there were no "children."

Mrs. Weitz and I heard of the Begonia Society from our good friends, Mr. and Mrs. Rodenberg of Santa Monica, who had a small begonia and fuchsia nursery at their home. We joined the Begonia Society on their invitation in 1936 and started attending the meetings. It was only a 90 mile drive, but we enjoyed every mile of it from what we got out of the meetings.

In May of 1937, we organized the first Branch of the American Begonia Society at our home at 955 Front St., Ventura, California. We had eleven members at our first meeting. They were Mr. and Mrs. Gowdy, Mr. and Mrs. Lowdermilk, Mr. Hamilton, Mrs. Rudolph, Mrs. Hardy, Mrs. Bounds, Mrs. Dent and Mrs. Weitz and myself. Mrs. Weitz was the first president and Mr. Hamilton the first secretary.

We held the first two meetings at our home and the next at the home of Mrs. Myrtle Shepherd Francis. We then secured the use of the Coca-Cola Hall for our meetings and had many happy times there. From there we moved about to different locations and the Branch grew until at one time we had about 160 members. It was a case of personal solicitation. In fact, we had at one time in our branch members from different parts of the state and from several other states.

We had several members from Santa Barbara, and we finally did what any wise mother does. We nudged them out of the nest and in a nice way told them they should form a Branch of their own, which they did.

We also worked on some of our Santa

---

mally begin to develop new leaves in the spring. If it appears necessary to divide plants that have already started new growth, then extreme precaution against drying out or sunburn will be needed. Covering the plants with burlap or other protective covering for a few days after they are lifted will help prevent injury of this nature to plants grown outside. Such protection will not be needed under greenhouse conditions.

H. M. BUTTERFIELD

Paula members and a Branch was formed there, which after a few years changed to the Santa Paula Garden Club.

We have had two conventions here and the Begonia Society has been a co-sponsor of flower shows for the last eighteen years.

We still have many very nice begonia gardens and although several of the old-timers have passed on, the younger members are still carrying on. As long as there is an American Begonia Society, I hope that the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch will be in there carrying on the good work.

HERMAN L. WEITZ

—B—

## Scarborough Lily

*(Continued From Page 147)*

quantity of small ones, and you will be rewarded with color galore.

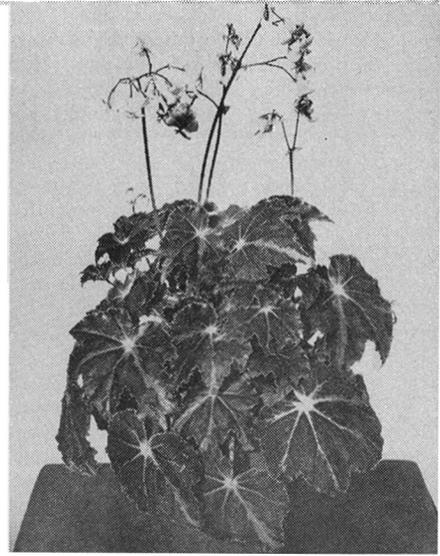
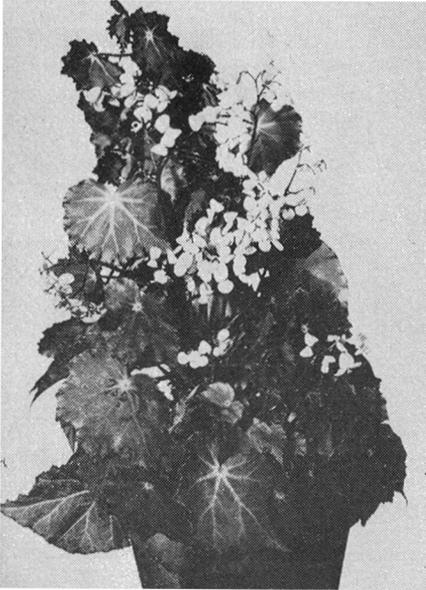
Since it likes to be potbound, it is a good idea to plant the bulb in a small size pot, say a four inch one. For cold sections (the bulb is tender below fifteen degrees above zero), it may be brought indoors to the window garden after the first frost of the season and may be set out again after the first of May. There is no reason why you should not succeed with this plant now that you know how to grow it. And, oh yes, what to feed it? Any old liquid manure or fertilizer will do just so you feed it regularly once a month, preferably by soaking the whole pot in the solution, because after the plant fills the pot there will not be enough space left on top of the pot to hold much liquid.

As is the case with most rare items, you can not expect to purchase these bulbs for two bits, but whatever you are asked to pay, it is well worth the price. Also, you are not likely to run across it at your local nursery, but you must search for it far and wide in order to locate it. Some of the nurseries specializing in amaryllis are apt to be able to let you have one, since no one carries a large quantity. There is not much call for it from the public, so the vicious circle develops. The nursery does not handle it because the public does not ask for it, and the public does not ask for it because the nursery doesn't handle it.

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*Request:* The seed fund uses many seeds and the sources of supply in this country are very limited. Therefore nearly all seeds are imported. This entails much time and expense. So we wondered if anyone has begonia (or other genera) seeds to spare. Seeds must be correctly identified and fresh. Will buy or exchange. Contact Seed Fund Department.

# Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight



Left: *Bow-Chancee*; Above: *Bow-Nigra*

No. 1. *B. BOW-CHANCEE*—A hybrid by Della MacLanahan, A.B.S. registered No. 31, chance *B. boweri* seedling. Freshly collected seed of this choice begonia have just reached the seed fund and we are happy to offer them to you. The plant is small, rhizomatous and lovely. Rhizomes are small, foliage is green with brown veins, flowers are white to pink. The hybridizer has spent several years in developing *Bow-Chancee* and a fair percentage have come true. A grower in Florida reports that she grows this plant in a moss-lined basket and the seeds fall on all sides of the basket and young plants spring up. We can't imagine anything more beautiful. Package 50c.

No. 2. *B. BOW-NIGRA*—A hybrid by Della MacLanahan, A.B.S. registered No. 32, *B. boweri* x *B. heracleifolia nigricans*. Is small, rhizomatous, foliage dark green with lighter green veins. Flowers pink, however, the color of blooms will depend upon growing conditions. The more light they have the darker the flowers will be. We have had a great many requests for small growing begonias, so here are two of the best. Seeds have just been collected, tested, and germination was good. 50 cents per packet.

No. 3. *B. JOE HAYDEN*—Rhizomatous. One of the best hybrids of *B. mazaе*. Leaves are dark bronzy green with a satiny sheen, red beneath. Leaves deeply lobed, flowers red-

dish. 50 cents per packet. No. 4. *B. PAUL BRUANT*—Medium growth; stem erect, having many adventitious leaves; leaves ovate-pointed, glossy green. Flowers pink in large panicles. Very beautiful. 50 cents per packet.

Collection of outstanding begonias: No. 1. *B. POPENOEI*—Honduras. Rhizomatous, large, pointed, bright green leaves. Flowers large, white, in tall straight panicles. No. 2. *B. PELTATA*—Gray green white, scurfy, peltate leaves. Flowers numerous and white. No. 3. *B. ULMIFOLIA*—Leaves green, rough-hairy, and elm-like in shape; flowers white and numerous. No. 4. *B. VENOSA*—Brazil. Fresh seeds still available of this unusual plant. Leaves are thick and succulent. Upper side being olive green covered with silvery hairs, giving a frosty appearance. Under side is white, woolly, mixed with red hairs. Flowers are small, creamy, and spice scented. Best propagated from seed and plants need light in winter. Beautiful and worthwhile. No. 5. *B. MACULATA* x *B. MACULATA WIGHTI*—A cross by John Cole, South Africa. Cane type. No. 6. *B. MACBETHI*—Small leaves, deeply cut, bright green, flowers white. 6 packets for \$1.50. Small packets available at 25 cents each.

Semperflorens collection just in from Denmark and Germany. No. 1. *B. SEMPERFLORENS BELLA*—Denmark. F<sub>1</sub>, original. Fine

compact growth, extremely free flowering with unusually large flowers in intense carmine-rose. Foliage green. No. 2. B. SEMPERFLORENS WHITE PEARL—Germany. Intermediate growth. Flowers snowy white flushed pink. Dark green foliage. No. 3. B. SEMPERFLORENS CARMINE — Dwarf. Light pink flowers, bronze foliage. No. 4. B. SEMPERFLORENS ROSE KING—Rose flowers, green foliage. No. 5. B. SEMPERFLORENS THE QUEEN—Pure rose. No. 6. B. SEMPERFLORENS GUSTAV KNAAKE —Red. No. 7. B. SEMPERFLORENS ENCHANTRESS. No. 8. B. SEMPERFLORENS CARMEN—Flowers dark scarlet, foliage dark green. 8 packets for \$2.00, or any 4 for \$1.00.

*A special offer of greenhouse plants:* No. 1. SAINTPAULIA—African violet. Fresh seed

A grower sends these suggestions for germinating seeds. Wet the container to be used thoroughly and let drain overnight. Planting mixture is composed of peat moss, leaf mold and sand which should be moist and sifted very fine. Sow seeds thinly over the top but do not cover with soil. Wrap planted container in polyethylene or put in large bag of same. Germination perfect.

*Other genera:* No. 1. PHORMIUM TENAX—New Zealand. Reddish purple flax. Striking plant grown outdoors in mild climates, greenhouse elsewhere. No. 2. DIMORPHOTHECA AURANTIACA—South Africa. Cape marigold. Perennial, easily propagated from seed. Yellow flowers, woolly foliage. No. 3. COTINUS AMERICANUS—Smoke tree. Small tree of the sumac family. Easily grown from seed and makes a handsome lawn specimen. The plummy fruiting clusters suggesting greenish-buff smoke from a distance. Seedlings require attention until well-established. No. 4. ALBIZZIA JULIBRISIN. Silk tree. Medium sized with a broad spreading crown. Flowers light pink in compact heads. No. 5. ACER RUBRUM—Red

from many beautiful varieties. No. 2. EPISCIA—Canal Zone. Cousin of Saintpaulias. Gesneria family. Requires warm moist conditions. Leaves reddish beneath, round or oval. Flowers scarlet. A handsome greenhouse plant. No. 3. SYNGONIUM — Mixed varieties. Beautiful foliage plant that requires greenhouse conditions. No. 4. CROSSANDRA UNDULAEFOLIA—For the window garden. Beautiful pot plant with tones of rich salmon blossoms. The seeds of the above greenhouse plants are in short supply so we offer them to you in small packets, 4 for \$1.00. We have a few seeds of the exotic *Stephanotis floribunda*. Madagascar jasmine. Flowers are wax-like, white and fragrant. Makes an ideal greenhouse vine but will grow outdoors in mild climates.

maple. Ornamental shade tree forming conspicuous red flowers before leaves. Leaves turn brilliant scarlet in winter. No. 6. COTONEASTER HORIZONTALIS—Evergreen ground cover. Low, trailing shrub of the rose family. Pink flowers, red berries. Widely used for its ornamental value. No. 7. CALLANDRA — Red powderpuff. Leguminosae family. Beautiful shrub with small flowers crowded in dense globular heads which are covered with silky protruding stamens. Give this shrub plenty of room to show off its beauty. No. 8. CALLISTEMON LANCEOLATUS—Bottle brush. Australia. Myrtaceae family. Grown outdoors in mild climates and in greenhouse elsewhere for its handsome flowers which are in dense showy spikes. Above 8 packets for \$2.00, 4 for \$1.00.

We have recently acquired a collection of worthwhile herbs which are quickly and easily grown in the open ground with very little care. Cooking with herbs is becoming quite popular so why not try some of these? You can turn an ordinary dish into a gourmet's delight. However, herbs should be used sparingly in cooking. Here in the West we have an Herb Society with many enthusiastic members who grow many varieties. Here are some of the most popular:

No. 1. OCIMUM BASILICUM — Sweet basil. Aromatic annual of the mint family. Uses are many and varied. Fragrant foliage. No. 2. MARJARONA HORTENSIS—Sweet marjoram. Fragrant shrub of the mint family. No. 3. ROSEMARY OFFICINALIS—Evergreen shrub of the mint family. A garden favorite because of its strong scented foliage. No. 4. NEPTA CATARIA—Cat-mint. Do you own a cat? We have three and nothing delights them so much as green and dried

leaves of this plant. Keeps them healthy and playful. Easily and quickly grown from seed. No. 5. THYME—Pleasantly aromatic shrub of the mint family. Widely grown for ornament and its fragrant foliage. No. 6. SALVIA—Sage. Annual herb of the mint family. Grown for its flowers and leaves and has many uses in cooking. Herb collection \$1.00.

MRS. FLORENCE GEE  
Seed Fund Administrator  
4316 Berryman Avenue  
Los Angeles 66, California

# Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

## GLENDALE

It was May Festival time with a cherry tree from which cherries were picked at 25 cents apiece which were exchanged for beautiful plants. Candy, cake, and cookies were sold. Many a "white elephant" became a useful possession to its new buyer. "Begonias" was the subject presented by Rudolf Ziesenhenn. An unusually large plant table was a joy to all.

An interesting begonia study class is being conducted by Edna Korts.

—B—

## MARGARET GRUENBAUM

Met at the home of Mrs. Thomas Hilderry in Titusville, N.J., on the bank of the Delaware River. Mrs. Odes Steele, one of our green thumb members, gave a very educational talk on cuttings, seedlings and their culture. A lively question and answer session filled the rest of the afternoon. Mrs. Steele had a number of cuttings and seedlings that she used in her demonstration and everyone went home happy, with her hands and head full of useful information.

—B—

## PASADENA

Officers for 1956 are: Pres., Mrs. Alva Graham; V. Pres., Mrs. Emil Breikreutz; Sec., Col. C. M. Gale; Treas., George Johnson; and Nat. Rep., Mrs. Constance Williams.

—B—

## WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

This branch has 35 members who travel a distance of fifty miles to meet at the homes of members. Six of the members go by bus and trollies. We travel far to enjoy our begonias and companion plants, and go to great lengths to keep our plants alive during winter. We only have about three months of out-door planting or getting our lovely begonias out on the porch or patio. Each member can boast of about 150 begonia plants and loads of seedlings. The branch purchases seeds from the seed fund and gives them to members to try. Many plant shows are held during the year in members' homes. Members hybridize many of their plants which in turn they share with each other. This is only a small part of the wonderful work a very active branch is doing. Hats off to the members of this branch.

Officers for 1956 are: Pres., Mrs. Clarence A. Eckert; 1st V. Pres., Mrs. Joseph E. Magill; 2nd V. Pres., Mrs. Walter Kirch; Sec., Mrs. Robert Beaumont; Cor. Sec., Mrs. Albert S. Lash; and Treas., Miss Sarah Schlag.

—B—

## THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD

Did you know that the first branch of the A.B.S. had a birthday in May? We are really growing up—nineteen years old. A beautiful cake, decorated with replicas of tuberous begonia blossoms, was the centerpiece on the flower decked refreshment table. As the fifty members and guests present marched around the table to view the cake, they dropped money into a box for a birthday gift for the Branch. This monetary gift will be used to purchase a book for our library. Four members of a study group, each taking a different type of begonia—hirsute, cane, semperflorens and rhizomatous, gave a ten minute talk. Each speaker had plants on display to illustrate his topic. On each plant on the "Display Table," we attach a card with all the obtainable information about the plant.



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DEPT. "B," CAPITOLA, CALIFORNIA

## CONDENSED BOARD MINUTES, MAY 28

The meeting of the National Board was called to order at 7:35 P.M. by President Taylor in Los Angeles City Hall and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and reading of Aims and Purposes of Society.

Secretary's and Treasurer's reports read and approved.

Moved by MacLanahan, seconded by C. Trowbridge that \$7.50 in Foreign Membership Fund be transferred to General Fund. Carried.

Mrs. Gee asked for something to be done in regard to obsolete motions about Seed Fund. Moved by Mrs. Korts, seconded by Mr. Trowbridge that obsolete motions in regard to Seed Fund be rescinded. Carried.

Business Manager Stoddard read new rates for Advertising as drawn up by Finance Committee. Moved by C. Trowbridge, seconded by Mrs. Korts that the rates be accepted as suggested by Finance Committee. Carried.

Moved by MacLanahan, seconded by Terrell that the new rates apply to copy received after July 1, 1956. Carried.

Public Relations Director Moore reported on amended by-laws of two Branches. Moved by Moore, second by Edna Korts that we approve the amended Constitution and By-Laws of So. Alameda County Branch and Redondo Area Branch. Carried.

Mrs. Korts stated we need new Certificates of Award, but Funds are too low this year. Moved by Trowbridge, seconded by Jean Kerlin that the matter of Certificates of Award be tabled until further recommendations are received from Awards Committee. Carried.

Convention Chairman Trowbridge stated he would like to have two flats of plants from each Branch for the Seed Fund Booth. He asked for money from Convention Fund. Moved by Trowbridge, seconded by Mr. Moore that we advance \$300.00 from the Convention Revolving Fund for use of Convention Committee. Carried. Mr. Trowbridge stated that we can have Convention facilities free by including in our advertising that we are sponsored by Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Department. Moved by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. MacLanahan that we accept the sponsorship of the Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Department. Carried. Trowbridge also brought up question of Convention Brochure, suggesting a four page brochure with no advertising. Moved by Mr. Moore, seconded by Jean Kerlin that the decision of the brochure be left to Convention Manager. Carried.

Mr. Hall gave the following report of the nominating committee: President-Elect—Frank Coe, Glendale; R. H. Terrell, Riverside; Vice-President—Alva Graham, Pasadena; Hyacinth Smith, San Francisco; Treasurer—Opal Ahern, Redondo; Pearl Parker, Inglewood. Moved by C. Trowbridge, seconded by Pearl Bauer that all nominations close. Carried.

Moved by C. Trowbridge, seconded by Edna Korts that the nominating committee be given a vote of thanks for their work. Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Moved by Edna Korts, seconded by Mary Gillingwaters that we refund the balance of the Life Membership as requested by Dorothy Behrends. Motion lost.

Mr. Terrell read and explained the revised Constitution and By-Laws. Mr. Terrell and committee given vote of thanks for many hours work. Vote of thanks given Mr. Hall and his secretary for mimeographing many copies of the report.

Respectfully submitted,  
Arline Stoddard, Nat. Sec.

## Calendar

- July 6, 7 and 8—Annual Ventura Flower Show, Ventura High School gymnasium, Poli and Catalina Sts., Ventura, Calif. Admission free. Begonias and fuchsias featured, also annuals, perennials and many other types of plants.
- July 11, Riverside Branch—Pot luck dinner and meeting at the adjoining gardens of Mr. and Mrs. H. Hile, 1170 N. Fifth Ave., and Mrs. Walter Hewitt, 489 West St., Upland, Calif.
- July 12, Orange County Branch Begonia Show. Jitney Potluck—meat loaf, coffee and buns furnished. Bring own service, hot dish, salad or dessert.
- July 12, Inglewood Branch—"Preparing Begonias for Public Exhibit," Hyacinth Smith from San Francisco Branch.
- July 13, Judging Class—Hyacinth Smith, nationally accredited judge, will discuss all phases of begonia judging. All students must be present. Home of Mr. and Mrs. Cal Trowbridge, 9600 Van Ness, Inglewood, Calif.
- July 20, Alfred D. Robinson—"Begonias" by Maria Wilkes at home of Mrs. John Clark, 3243 Harbor View Dr.
- Aug. 25 and 26, National Convention and Flower Show, Plummer Park, Los Angeles, California.

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## C O N T E N T S

Bulbs for the Shade Garden, Scarborough Lily.....	147
Do You Know? .....	148
Cypripedium (Lady Slipper) Orchids.....	149
Greenhouses: Automatic Management.....	150
Calceolarias .....	153
Slate of Officers.....	154
A.B.S. Convention and Flower Show.....	155-159
Strelitzia Reginae (Bird of Paradise).....	162

### *Your Greenhouse Consultants*

We invite our good friends in The Begonia Society to drop in and talk greenhouses at any time. And don't forget that we have a complete line of supplies, including GE Soil Cable—ideal for seed flats.

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