

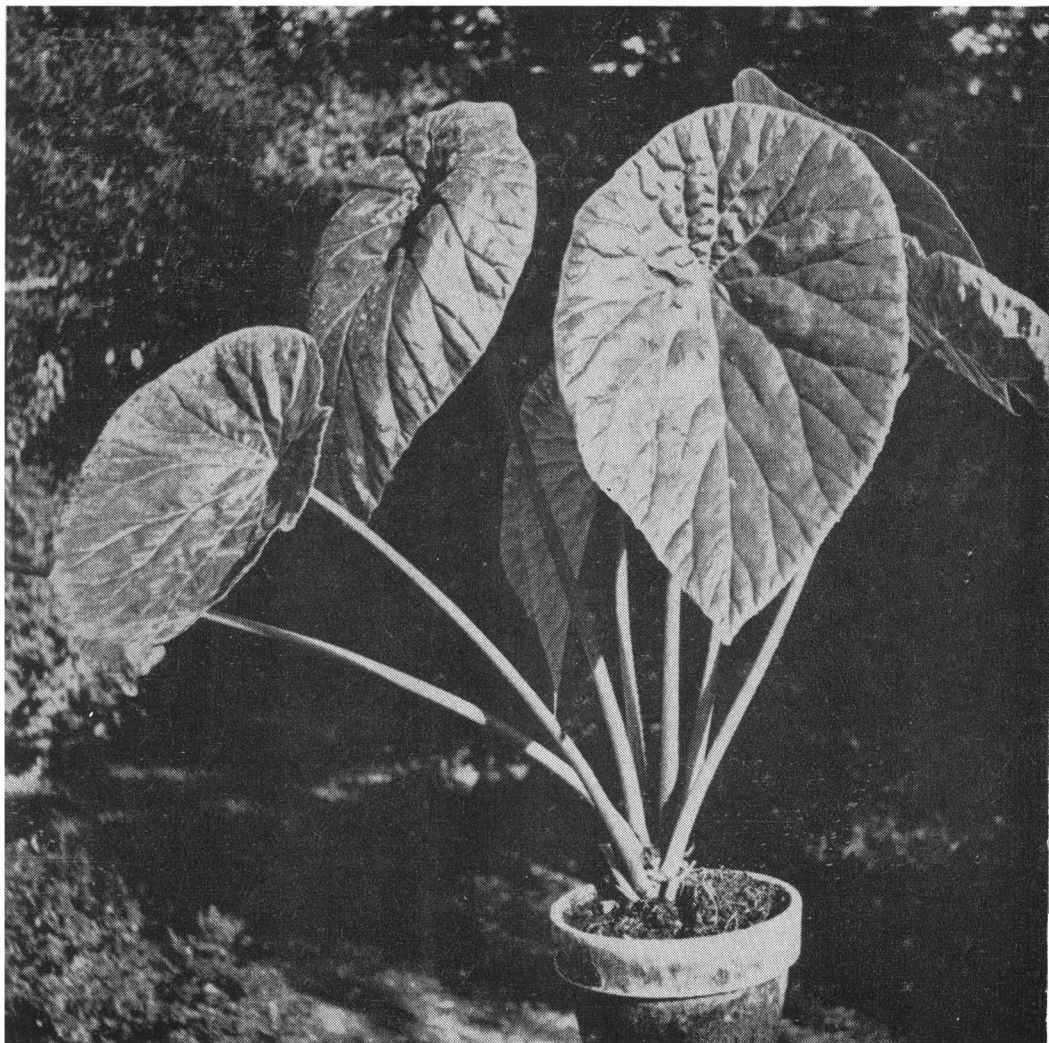
The Begonian

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

NOVEMBER, 1957

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VOLUME XXIV, NUMBER II



Begonia Nelumbiifolia

Editor.....Adelaide Brest, 3207 W. 186th St., Torrance Calif.
Advertising Manager.....Emri Stoddard, 768 Avenue B. Redondo Beach Calif.

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AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, INC.

The purpose of this Society shall be: to promote interest in begonias and other shade-loving plants; to encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants; to standardize the nomenclature of begonias; to gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation and culture of begonias and companion plants; to issue a bulletin which will be mailed to all members of the Society; and to bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

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Not as a Stranger

Begonia Nelumbiifolia in Hawaii

By ROY S. WARNACK

EXCUSE me if I borrow a title from a well known book, for the begonia which comes from many places is not native to Hawaii. We expect much in the way of beautiful flowers and trees when we go to the "islands" and we are not disappointed, even when we learn that most of the tropical and subtropical plants growing so well there come from other places.

These imports are not strangers very long. Adapting themselves quickly to the surroundings of their new home, they thrive with vigor when consideration for their natural habitat is given the attention it deserves. The Hawaiian group of islands is many climates; some areas tropical others sub-tropical, and some areas, especially in the higher altitudes are

rather cold. There are no steaming jungles,

The Islands have a great allure. There's a charm about them that stays with you long after the last dim vision of Diamond Head disappears from view. There used to be a saying in the South that if you ever drank of the waters of the Mississippi you would always return. Well, there's something about our 49th state (to be) that keeps pulling you to come back, once you have tasted the beauty that is all around you in the Hawaiian Islands.

This was my second visit, at a different time of year, and even more enjoyable than the first. While it may seem that there are no distinct seasons of the year, the weather being so delightfully balmy at all times, there is a lot of difference in

(Continued on Page 255)

Seeds, Seedlings and Hybrids

By DON HORTON

OFTEN after a gardener gets bitten by the begonia bug a complication sets in known as hybridizer's fever. This malady, like the first, is practically incurable.

Beth Bath of Santa Ana, California, has been so stricken. Having acquired a taste for begonias a mere three years ago, and not being content with winning virtually every cup and ribbon in sight since then, she has now turned her attention to hybridizing. She made her first crosses last winter and now has several hundred hybrid rex and rhizomatous seedlings coming along. A number of these show great promise and we are in for a real treat when she exhibits the best of these at the National Show next year.

Beth adheres to that first rule of good plant breeding which is keeping a record of the crosses. She uses the system suggested by Sylvia Leatherman of taking colored thread and assigning a color to each plant to be used in hybridizing. The colored thread is then looped around the pedicel (flower stem) of the female flower receiving the pollen.

To illustrate how this works, assume that *B. boweri* has been given green thread as a color and "Leslie Lynn" white thread. Now let us suppose that *dayii* has a green thread around the stem of one seed pod and white thread about another. When the seed is harvested we know the one with the green thread is *dayii* (female) crossed with *boweri* (male) and this is marked on the tag that is set with the seed when they are planted. Similarly, the other would be *dayii* x "Leslie Lynn." Note that the female is always given first in writing out crosses.

Beth uses the casserole method of raising the seedlings. She screens leafmold through a quarter inch screen and places it to a depth of one inch in the casserole. On this she adds a quarter inch layer of peatmoss screened through a window screen. This is thoroughly moistened and the seed planted on top. The lid is put

on the casserole and no water is added until the seedlings are transplanted.

She used to sterilize the soil by putting the moistened soil and casserole, lid and all, into the oven and baking at 200° for 3 hours. But one time she said she was in a hurry and didn't bother to sterilize and still had perfect results so she doesn't sterilize any more. If, however, you are having disease troubles or just plain want to play it safe this is an excellent method for sterilizing seedbed soil.

The casserole is placed on a seed bed in the greenhouse with bottom heat being supplied by a soil cable set at 70°. The begonias start to come up in 10 days to two weeks.

When the begonia seedlings start to develop their second true leaf she transplants them into a flat of leafmold and peat mixed. There is no fertilizer in this soil but almost immediately she begins to fertilize with a weak solution of a liquid fertilizer.

Although this method of raising seeds is equally applicable to the houseplants such as African violets and gloxinias Beth has never raised anything but begonias. She is going to try her hand at fern spores in the near future, which are raised exactly the same except that the life cycle of the fern is such that it takes much longer.

If Beth's hybridizing efforts follow the pattern of her other endeavors we have a new hybridist among us.

A. B. S. STATIONERY

(Cost Price to Branches)

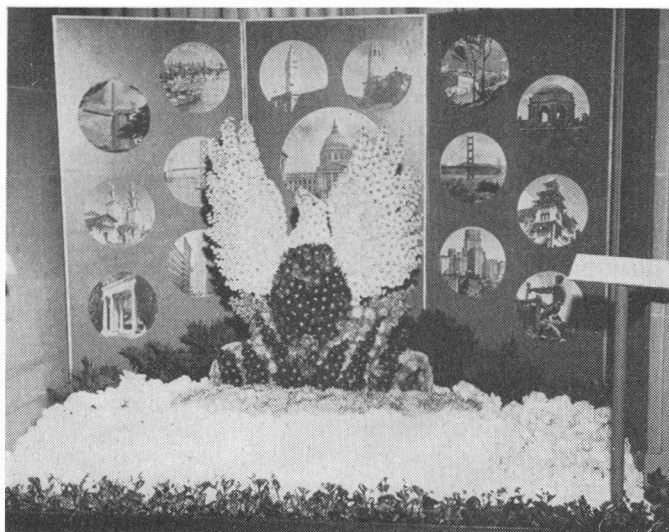
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Letter, sm.	\$.80	.40	.20
Letter, lg.	1.10	.55	.30
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Write to: Mrs. Alva Graham

515 El Centro, South Pasadena, Calif.

San Francisco Showmanship



*The Phoenix Bird, in Flowers,
Symbolizes City's Rebirth*

Exhibit of the San Francisco Branch of the American Begonia Society at the San Francisco City Hall Flower Show, August 22, 23, 1957. It represents the Phoenix Bird, symbolical of San Francisco's rebirth after the disastrous fire of 1906, done in yellow and gold chrysanthemums, rising from its ashes done in red and flame chrysanthemums, on a base of pure white begonia blooms, in front of a triple panel showing scenes of San Francisco. The exhibit was designed by Daniel Buckley, with the assistance of Harold Gaetjen, Hyacinth Smith, Carl Olgiati, and others, and was awarded a second prize in hot competition.

H a r d y ' s H o b b y

By CHARLINE HARDACRE

"THERE'S nothing like getting your hands into the dirt, to get your mind off of the dirt."

This quotation came to me several years ago from a garden enthusiast. I pondered it for some time and it stimulated me to the degree of putting it into practice. It has proven to be very true.

My first attempt at gardening was in the 1920s while living in San Francisco. I became a member of the California Alpine Club, which is a mountaineering club and they had a club house in Marin County across the bay. It was at this clubhouse that I started gardening and my first attempt was with nasturtiums. They grew and bloomed so profusely that I was encouraged to expand. The lot was

located on a side hill in a mountainous area, one side facing the road. My enthusiasm increased to the degree that flowers were soon growing on all four sides of the house. On the west on top of a rock wall was a bed of gazenias; covering the wall was a cascade of misembrianthemums. Next to the house in a narrow bed were snapdragons. On the north the lot was terraced where shade plants were planted. On the east was a steep embankment which was covered with agatheas. On the south next to the building was a bougainvillea vine. In a bed along the side of the house an assortment of annuals of different colors. On the embankment on this side were various kinds of

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Plant Hormone 'Gibberellin'

EXPERIMENTS on California wildflower seeds and seedless grapes, during the past year, with the new plant hormone, "Gibberellin" have produced remarkable results, it was revealed today by Dr. William S. Stewart, director of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum at Arcadia.

The tests with this new compound have been conducted at the Arboretum in Arcadia under a grant from the Longwood Foundation, Kennett Square, Pa.

Native California plant seeds, provided by Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden at Claremont, were used in the Gibberellin experiments, carried on by Francis T. Ching, California Arboretum Foundation employee.

The significant effect observed was that the Gibberellin treatment increased the viability of the seed. For example, on seed that were four years old the germination percentage was approximately doubled. "The significance of these experiments may extend far beyond the field of gardening and ornamental horticulture, as these seed treatments may be of great importance in food production for mankind," Dr. Stewart observed.

"The preliminary results obtained with the native California wildflowers will be expanded and investigated to determine the extent to which the effect of Gibberellin may prevail in other seeds."

In further demonstration of the effect of Gibberellin, also known as "Gibrel," Dr. Stewart said research has been highly productive with Thompson seedless grapes. These tests, in cooperation with the University of California Agricultural Extension Service, showed that treatment of the young grape cluster at full bloom resulted in grapes which were about 50 per cent larger than those on the non-sprayed vines.

In addition to increasing the size of the individual grapes, the sprays changed the ratio of length to width of grapes so that the Thompson seedless grapes were

longer in proportion to the width on the sprayed clusters than on the non-sprayed clusters.

The spray also resulted in the grapes having a higher sugar percentage, and a lower acid than in grapes on non-sprayer clusters. This latter effect may make it possible for the Gibberellin spray to be used to allow earlier harvests than would otherwise be possible.

—B—

Minutes, National Board, Sept. 23

Meeting of National Board of American Begonia Society called to order by President Frank Coe at 7:40 P.M., September 23rd, in Los Angeles City Hall. Opened with Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Past President Trowbridge and reading of Aims and Purposes of Society by President-Elect Slatter. President Coe gave a warm welcome to those present.

Secretary's report read by Arline Stoddard in absence of Secretary and approved as corrected. President Coe reported that he had received the resignation of Secretary Maude Smith.

Treasurer's report read and approved. President asked Vice President Graham to have charge of the stationery this year.

President Coe read the following list of appointments for the approval of the Board: Membership secretary, Bill Walton; Editor, Adelaide Brest; Research Director, Sylvia Leatherman; Seed Fund Administrator, Florence Gee; Public Relations Director Frank Moore; Chairman of Awards Committee, Ethel Arbuckle; Librarian, Lucy Sault; Historian, Pearl Bauer; Nomenclature Chairman, Edna Korts; Parliamentarian, Roy Joyce; Begonia Identification Chairman, John Thieben. Moved by Cal Trowbridge, seconded by Bert Slatter that the appointments recommended by President Coe be approved by the Board. Carried.

Finance Chairman, Cal Trowbridge, read the budget for the year and recommended that it be accepted. Seconded by Edna Korts. Carried.

Membership secretary Walton reported new members 62, renewing members 95.

Seed Fund Administrator Gee reported income \$195.28. Expenses \$15.28. Balance \$180.00.

Advertising Manager Stoddard reported Balance \$114.41, Received and paid to treasurer \$46.12. Discount 13c. Balance due \$68.16.

Research Director Leatherman reported a balance on hand of \$71.46.

Librarian Lucy Sault reported 2 books loaned, 32 books sold, Begonians sold 28.

Historian Bauer asked for more clippings and reports from the Branches this year so she can have a bigger and better book. Moved by Bill Walton, seconded by Clarence Hall that Mrs. Bauer be reimbursed for the cost of the History Book. Carried.

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The Begonias of Record

By PER. AGR. GIAN LUIGI SANI, Italy

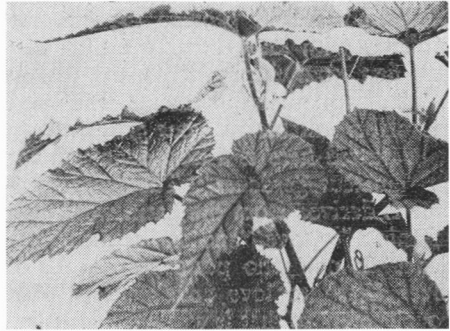
THERE are many begonias existing (if you think of the species and the hybrids). I chose these three among the prettiest that I know. We take truthfully, the most attractive among the pretty plants that beguile. Some of easy culture, that are for apartments and temperate nights for the out-of-door gardens, for grand effect if for flower or for foliage. These three form a splendid group for anyone.

In light soil and with frequent watering, with light sun, not direct, anyone that can cultivate a begonia rex should acquaint himself with these, of which the culture is similar. Of the three I personally prefer *B. "Subpeltata,"* even if this is a little more delicate than the others and isn't as large, the incomparable color of the leaves and flowers finds few rivals in the vegetable world.

If you once admire a plant in full bloom of *B. "Credneri"* I do not believe that you could resist the temptation to have one like it. The same could be said for *B. nelumbiifolia*. From the rest you can make your own selection; to you falls the choice to add to the three.

B. "Credneri": It is a pretty plant that gets its beauty more from the leaves than flowers. A hybrid from *B. baageana* (*B. scharffi*) x *B. metallica*. It inherited from the first its vigor and from the second the magnificent foliage. The flowers, that are small, the male blooms are white shaded pink, the female are pure white with long hairs of bright rose. They grow in tall panicles in huge volumes with magnificent effects. The foliage, very hairy, is a green metallic color on the top of the leaves and a deep red underneath. It is a good house plant. It resists the cold and blooms even in winter. It doesn't require much care but requires heavy pinching to develop into a heavy bush. It reproduces easily from cuttings, in March, under glass.

B. nelumbiifolia is a species that goes dormant in winter, originally from Mexico. The flowers are pink, small, in great



Begonia "Subpeltata"

bunches, on tall racemes 30-60 cm. (12-24"). It is grown more for foliage than flower and it is very ornamental. Imagine one in a vase (pot) that can be brought into the house. The leaves of this plant, as the name tells, resembles those of the aquatic plants. Good as a house plant and as the ones named before, has the same demands. Remember we are speaking of a species that is rhizomatous and to increase the line needs to advance the plant at least once a year. It multiplies easily by division of rhizome in spring. The rhizome doesn't grow in the ground; leave it more upright as when one plants the Iris.

B. "Subpeltata" is a form of hybrid of unknown origin, grown mostly for foliage. The flowers, in springtime, are a delicate pink. The leaves, which it carries in similar form to the *B. rex*, are vivid carmine in youth and a violet bronze in full growth. All of the foliage is covered with heavy hair. This begonia is more delicate than the others, especially in regards to water, which if too abundant will lead to corruption (rot). It multiplies easily by cuttings in March under glass.

The photos and article are from "Giardina Fiorito," the translation by Mrs. Perry Olmstead. Taken from the files of the Research Department.

Mrs. Gee offers seed for *B. nelumbiifolia* this month.

The Amateur Gardener

By RUTHANNE WILLIAMS

THIS column will provide the amateur gardener with know-how. We shall discuss first, your family needs, the garden design, the soil requirements, and then the plants suitable for your garden.

Presented here is a new definition for an "amateur gardener." The word amateur is derived from the Latin word *amo* meaning "to love," and an "amateur gardener" is one who performs a work of love. Learn to love your garden. Plan your garden, so that it will provide enjoyment for the whole family. If you enjoy spending your weekends in fishing, hunting, or in playing golf, then plan a garden that will require a minimum of care. Plant such things as flowering shrubs and perennials.

TIMELY TIPS FOR NOVEMBER: Clean up your garden good now and your work will be easier next spring. Each week scatter poison bait for slugs and snails. Put an ant killer containing fifty per cent chlordane around your house and along the flower borders. Spray the whole garden for mildew, rust, and insects. Any reliable nurseryman will recommend an all-purpose spray which will do all of these things for you at one time.

WORK SOIL: Turn over the soil wherever there are empty spaces in your garden. Work in one half to one pound per square foot of alfalfa meal or manure and leave the soil in the rough stage until planting time next spring. Alfalfa meal may be obtained at a feed store but is not generally found in nurseries. It will surprise you how thoroughly it will lighten heavy clay soils, as well as fertilize them. It may be safely used on the most delicate plants and in the vegetable garden. It is wonderful for African violets and house plants, as well as shrubs.

BUY BULBS NOW: Buy your tulip bulbs now which should be planted in a well-drained spot in the garden. Do not plant until December when the ground is cold. Work the soil to a depth of at least 12 inches. Lay aside the top soil and scatter

bone meal in the hole or bed; cover with a layer of sand on which to place your bulbs; cover with top soil and water well. Tulips should be planted about eight inches deep as they tend to break up and deteriorate if planted too shallow. They will last longer and flower better if planted at this depth. Plant your tulips and all bulbs in groups of three, five or seven, or you may place them in a figure eight. The effect will be so much more pleasing than in straight rows.

THANKSGIVING DAY: Make an attractive centerpiece for your Thanksgiving dinner table with materials from your own garden. As a base, use a flat burl or dark tray turned upside down. Anchor a piece of evergreen, for height, in a pin-point holder, between two or three squash of various sizes and colors. Arrange a couple of carrots, a green and red pepper, and a dry, sprouted onion around your squash. Drape a small bit of ivy or grape leaves on one side of your arrangement, which should graduate informally downward from the high point of your evergreen in the back, to the low point of the ivy leaves on one side. Three sprouted onions with sprouts of different length also make a striking and unusual centerpiece on a dark tray. This arrangement is particularly interesting with modern china.

Take at least a little time to thank God for your many blessings.

Calendar

Nov. 1—Redondo Beach Area—Annual Bazaar, Eagles' Hall, 10 A.M. to 10 P.M.

Nov. 6—Arboretum—"Uses of Herbs, Ancient and Primitive Peoples," 10 A.M.

Nov. 13—San Francisco—Annual Installation Banquet.

Nov. 14—Orange County—Jean Kerlin, speaker.

Santa Barbara Annual Show

THE SANTA BARBARA BRANCH of the American Begonia Society held its annual begonia show three days, September 20 to 22, in the Hale Flower Hall of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, exhibiting more than 200 specimens of the genus to more than a thousand visitors.

Mrs. Ethel Arnold, president of the branch, was in charge of the plans for the show and arranged for a special showing for the members of the Ventura Branch on Sunday morning and a lecture by Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger on Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Barbara Philip, show chairman, made a preliminary survey of members' gardens to arrange for the showing of the best specimens of each variety; her vigilance and the artistry of the arrangements resulted in the show's having been declared the most successful show of the year by museum officials.

Claiming chief billing in the show was *Begonia* x "Iron Cross" from Rudolf Ziesenhenné's garden. The striking begonia which came from the Singapore Botanical Gardens by way of England, was shown for the first time in a Santa Barbara show. Also shown for the first time were Mrs. Elsie M. Frey's brightly-colored rexes, *Begonias* x "Hansel" and x "Gretel," which occupied a brightly lighted case opposite from the Iron Cross.

At the entrance of the hall were arranged specimens of rex begonias from the gardens of Mrs. Esther Allen, Mrs. Frey and Mr. Philip. Claiming equal attention on the other side of the entrance were tuberous begonias from the gardens of Hubert T. Jolly and Charles H. Cannon.

Banked around the fountain at the far end of the room, among ferns from her garden, were Mrs. Philip's specimens of the unnamed rex hybrids introduced from Europe by August Elgi, Berkeley. Two giant *B. baageanas*, exhibited by Mrs. Arthur Hutchinson, stood in huge turquoise pots to the right and left of the rex display, while large rhizomatous and fibrous



Begonia "Iron Cross"

Picture Courtesy Sta. Barbara News-Press

specimens exhibited by Seth Langdon, Ziesenhenné, and Jolly were arranged nearby.

Hanging tuberous begonias were displayed by Ziesenhenné from the tops of display cases on each side of the front hall of the room, while specimens of fibrous and rhizomatous hangers continued the pattern to the back of the room.

Mrs. Philip displayed a giant *B. paulensis*, interesting to the Santa Barbara Branch because it was first grown in the United States by Mrs. Schwerdtfeger from seed brought in from Germany by Mrs. Kern Weber. Mrs. Weber's collection of calla-type *semperflorens* begonias attracted considerable attention. Miniature rexes displayed by Mrs. Allen included *B. x* "American Beauty" (Mrs. Lewis), x "Dew Drop" (Mrs. Lewis), x "Maiden's Blush" (Mrs. Lewis), and "Ming Toy" (Mrs. Allen).

All the plants in the show were labeled as to variety name, hybridizer, and year introduced, or discoverer, native habitat, and name and year of introduction. Each plant also showed the name of the exhibitor. Besides those listed above, exhibitors included Mmes. Arnold, Margaret West, Jessie Ayersman, William Hagen, Clara Jennison, and Marion Sanchez.

Library Answers Request From Egypt

HELLO, all you members in the green-houses and out in your gardens, let's go to press. (Apologies to Walter Winchell.)

Recently, a number of our branches received letters from the Flower Nest Gardens at Gia Naclis-Ramleh, Egypt, requesting material on gardening. Your Library personally sent them *The Begonian* for two complete years, and the Librarian personally sent them the book on "Flower Show Staging Exhibiting and Judging." We would like to suggest to the branches and to individual members, that material on shade gardening be sent to these people. It may lead to establishing a branch over there. The full address is, "Farm and Orchard Service, The Flower Nest Gardens, 653 Avenue Horria, Gea Naclis-Ramleh, Egypt."

Out here in California, where many of our shade plants can weather the cool months, it is also a good time for study and planning. Your Library has many books that will be very instructive, and enable you to plan for better and more extensive shade gardens next year. Any member may borrow or buy books from this Library, and it is our pleasure to serve you.

Another month has slipped by, and we are getting on to winter. For you members who live where it really gets cold, it is time to take all your tender plants inside. And in winter evenings, with a

H. M. Butterfield Honored

H. M. BUTTERFIELD, who has served us faithfully as Nomenclature Director for many years, has resigned because of ill health. We wish to thank Mr. Butterfield for his irreplaceable service to the Society, and accept his resignation with regret. The Members of the National Board, at the September Meeting, voted to send Mr. Butterfield, as a token of their esteem, a copy of the newly published Buxton Check List. Mrs. Edna L. Korts will replace him as Director of Nomenclature.

good fire going, you will have more time to study. We have, or can get, the books you may want to read, so don't forget to let us know what books you would like to borrow or buy.

Two very interesting books on ferns have been received, "Ferns of the Ottawa (Canada) District" and "Ferns and Fern-allies of British Columbia." The first consignment of the book on Ottawa ferns, which sells for \$1.00, was sold out immediately. More of them have been ordered. The book on the British Columbia ferns also went fast at 50 cents per copy. However, we have our second consignment and the books are available. Remember that the California sales tax is 4%.

Until next month, this is your Librarian saying good luck and a green thumb to all our members.

LUCY A. SAULT, *Librarian*

26938 Dapplegray Lane

Rolling Hills, Calif.

Phone: DAVenport 6-5218

—B—

Cal Writes NBS

... It is plain to see that your work with begonias is very much the same as ours here in America. I note that many of your growers restrict their plants to one stem, and one bloom, producing blooms from 8" to 11" across. I am particularly interested in obtaining information from you as to how your Judges judge tuberous begonias. Do they prefer one stem, or do they lean to more than one? That seems to be a problem here in the United States, and the question comes to our Society many times during the year.

I feel there is informatoin in some of the articles in your Bulletin that our members here would like to have, and I would appreciate to reprint some in our publication, *The Begonian*...

CALVIN TROWBRIDGE

ED.: The above is reprinted from the Fall, 1957, Quarterly of the National Begonia Society of England and Wales.

A Profile of Two Winners

A Queen of the Rexes

By ROSANNA HORTON

BETH BATH, a tanned and youthful brunette, delights in watching things grow—and this goes for her two sons attending college on scholarships as well as for her exquisite collection of begonias.

At the request of *The Begonian* edi-



BETH BATH AND JOHN

Photo by Westminster Herald

tor, who felt that "members in all parts of the country are interested in those who grow 'award' begonias," the Hortons called on the Baths, fellow members of the Orange County Branch of the A.B.S.

This article is trying to picture the woman behind the plants, cups and ribbons. For a begonia specialist's view of a corner of Beth's greenhouse, the reader can turn to Don Horton's regular column this month.

Beth's father, Dr. James F. Illingworth, professor of entomology at the University of Hawaii, started her off with a love of plants. He had great baskets of ferns behind a glass wall in the living room. As a child, Beth's job was to open the glass door leading to the glasshouse,

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Perennial Favorite

By ADELAIDE BREST

AS THE doors swing back and one walks into the lush land of nature that is the yard of Johnny Thieben, the thought is, "Here a man has created a wonderfully satisfying world for himself." When John himself emerges from behind the foliage and greets you in his quiet way, you know that your first impression was indeed true. Because, in his naturally courteous manner he thinks you, as a visitor, are most interested in the greenhouse, he directs you there first. Here are row upon row of plants, among which he points out various specimens, especially color—and most especially the reds, handling each plant gently, happy in their health and well-being. Also, however, not being one to hide the facts, he extends a pot in which all of his efforts at rooting have ended in failure. I should not have written "failure," for, simultaneously with his direction to the lack of life in the pot he says, "Next I am going to try, etc., etc., and you know Johnny will try again and again. One begins to see the attributes that have made Johnny the winner.

And so we walk slowly around the confines of the yard, stopping often to have a pot lifted and a short, revealing history

(Continued on Page 252)



KAY AND JOHN THIEBEN

Queen

(Continued From Page 251)

step down two steps, and water the ferns. For this she received 10¢ per day. Beth's mother had died when she was quite young, and her father did much to shape the interests of the children.

He was also research associate at the Bishop Museum, and his knowledge of insects caused him to be sent by governments and private companies trying to save their crops to various parts of the Pacific. Although most of Beth's early years were spent in Hawaii, the family accompanied Dr. Illingworth to Australia for five years.

After high school in Hawaii Beth went to stay with an aunt and uncle in Santa Ana and study cosmetology. Darrell Bath lived in nearby Anaheim. They met and were married in 1936.

In 1939 Darrell and Beth returned to Honolulu to show Dr. Illingworth his first grandchild, Jim; and Beth began her own first plant collection, orchids grown under lath. In retrospect orchids in Hawaii were very easy—she fed them once a week, and her only worry was to bring them inside during a prolonged rainy spell.

Darrell, who is now a superintendent of building for Pete E. Johnson, contractor, "grows good lath houses," and has seen to it that Beth has not lacked a home for her collection since that time.

Asked if she had ever worked outside her home or greenhouse Beth said she had worked briefly as a beauty operator before Jim's birth. Then Jack was born and she had two children to look after.

We commented that as a begonia beginner we had been struck by the extraordinary grooming of her plants. Each leaf fell into place according to a pattern, and although every plant had a different form, the leaves were shaped into a virtual "flower arrangement." We wondered if her early discipline as a beauty operator had something to do with it.

Beth said she had not thought of this

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Perennial

(Continued From Page 251)

told of that particular plant—it dawns upon you that this fellow is on more than speaking acquaintance with every growing thing in that yard. He has observed and likewise learned the secrets of their lives and individual needs.

We walk, enthralled with the myriad of plants banked along all of the walls—most especially with a corner which is a masterpiece of planning in design and growth. We are, meanwhile, mentally reaching to grasp the knowledgeable comments of our guide, but lost because of the light of delight upon viewing his own miracles that shows in his eyes. In this instance, the man is far more interesting than the plant because through him it came into being and was helped to grow. It is plain to see why his plants are winners, for they are tended patiently each morning at 5:30 a.m. before going to work, faithfully watered and fertilized, sprayed and dusted. They are products of what all doctors, even medical, have designated in recovery or well-being as "tender, loving care."

Reluctant as we are to leave that beautiful and colorful rectangle that is Johnny's yard, we realize that we will never learn more about the man who created this world until we have removed ourselves from it. While there his entire attention is focused upon the plants. So, we are happy when he invites us inside. We meet Kay, who is "daddy's helper," 16, blond and vibrant with life. She is beginning to carry on the tradition of her father's winnings, having just carried home the Leatherman trophy from the convention. We also greet the bulldog, Patches, a cat, unnamed to us, and parakeets, lively in their cage. We learn that there are two other youngsters, Karen, 19, and Michael, 17, all of whom help to cultivate, to quote John, "begonias and weeds."

A native son of Ackley, Ia., John migrated to California in 1939, bringing his "tall corn" thumb with him. He had

(Continued on Page 253)

New African Violet Food

HYPONEX African Violet Food is now making its appearance in the horticultural departments of retail stores throughout the country. A product of Hydroponic Chemical Company, Copley, Ohio, Hyponex African Violet Food is completely soluble in water and scientifically balanced to provide just the right amount of nourishment for roots, stock, foliage and blooms of these favorite house plants, according to information from the manufacturer.

It is claimed this new product is also effective with philodendrons, begonias, ivy, geraniums and other potting plants, providing more verdant foliage, healthier growth, and larger, more profuse blooming flowers.

The Hydroponic Chemical Company is one of the oldest and steadiest of *The Begonian* advertisers.

—B—

Perennial Favorite

(Continued From Page 252)

worked in Iowa as a meat-cutter and continued to follow this trade when he came to Inglewood. Seven years or so ago a neighbor gave him a few begonia tubers. This was the beginning of an interest that grew and grew into the enormous collection of specimens he tends today. He joined the Inglewood Branch of A.B.S., and became interested in other gardening groups as well. He says himself that all collections grow by sharing ones plants with others. He demonstrates this thought constantly himself, always eager to help others find the happiness and serenity nature imparts to those who love her.

When one asks John about his trophies, he replies, "Too many to count; they are all over the house." You realize that to this man winning of awards is strictly secondary—that bringing into vibrant life a plant, nurturing it to the point of perfection admired by the experts—is the main objective. In John Thieben the plant world as well as we has found a champion, in the fullest sense of the word.

A. B.

Your Membership Secretary Speaks

ALL OF you very nice Branch Membership people no doubt wonder sometimes exactly what is needed in this office as pertains to member information. We therefore offer pointers to you, which observed will improve our magazine service and reduce the complaints you receive from members, because we will be able to clear memberships with dispatch.

We need: (1) a legible name and address; (2) city, zone (if any), and state—this is basic information only. For record clearing we need: (1) a branch reference; (2) a statement of either new or renewing membership—these enable us to maintain accurate information on the members of each branch, available to you upon request.

We realize our is only a service job but our performance depends upon clear and accurate information. We therefore ask that you help us in order that we can better help you.

W. E. (BILL) WALTON

—B—

A Thought

The heart is a garden
Where thought flowers grow;
The thoughts that we think
Are the seeds that we sow.
Every kind, loving thought
Bears a kind, loving deed;
While a thought that is selfish
Is just like a weed.

We must watch what we think
Each minute, all day;
And pull out the weed thoughts
And throw them away;
And plant loving seed thoughts
So thick in a row
That there will not be room
For weed thoughts to grow.

KATHERINE MERRILL

in the Sacramento Begonia Leaf

Hardy's Hobby

(Continued From Page 245)

flowering plants outlined by a green border. A short distance from here were rose bushes.

The soil was so full of rocks that the beds had to be prepared with a pick and shovel, then filled in with redwood leaf mold brought up from the bank below. When I consulted a professional gardener as to ideas about landscaping, his reply was, "You might as well forget it for you never can make anything out of this place for the soil is too full of rocks." His remarks did not discourage me and the project continued just the same. As I was working San Francisco at that time, I could only go over to the Lodge on weekends. At such times I would carry knapsacks full of plants up the trail, a distance of three miles from Mill Valley. When these bloomed, I would carry armloads of cut flowers home to give to friends who did not have a garden. The garden proved to be attractive enough that people would stop their cars and look at it as they passed. That was gratifying and made me feel my efforts were worth while. "Hardy" is a nickname given me by the California Alpine Club.

In 1936 my work took me to Southern California. Since then I have lived in different cities and in each one have developed a garden to some degree. At present I am living on the grounds of an institution where I have been employed for three years. Soon after my arrival I received permission from the head gardener to plant a bed of flowers at the back entrance of the cottage where I live. As time passed, I saw opportunities for expanding and making the place more attractive by growing colorful plants. Now all four sides are under cultivation. This includes fuchsias, begonias, ferns, Pelargoniums, as well as other annuals and perennials.

At present the plants have multiplied until hundreds have been given to employees who are getting their gardens started. I think the greatest joy in gar-

dening is sharing what you have with others. I have made many fine friends through gardening for I feel that people who like gardening are good people. Working with nature is wholesome and constructive. It is stimulating to put a plant in the ground and watch it grow.

I became a member of the American Begonia Society in 1945 and the California Fuchsia Society in 1948 and have been active since then. The association with these groups has been most helpful and friendly. Much has been learned at each meeting that can be put into practice. It has occurred to me that it might be named "A Friendship Garden" or "An Experimental Station," since I have carried out every helpful suggestion, including the use of coffee grounds and earthworms.

The interesting thing about this garden is that they all told me it could not be done as the soil was adobe and too hard to be reconditioned to grow plants. The gardener told me it could not be done; now he tells me it is the most attractive spot on the grounds. The adage is: "Wherever there is a will, there is a way" and I seemed to have the will to keep-on-keeping-on.

More persons are recognizing the fact that gardening helps one mentally. One of our speakers told us at a meeting of a doctor who prescribed gardening for one of his patients and she was healed of the condition for which she was being treated. It gives one exercise, fresh air and frees the mind from any discordant thoughts. They just automatically vanish when working in a garden. Wonderful results have been accomplished with our mentally ill service men through gardening. This is being accomplished in the Brentwood Hospital in Los Angeles and many of these young men are being discharged as recovered through garden therapy. It has been my privilege to give my support to this worthy cause.

*A grateful heart a garden is,
Where there is always room
For every lovely God-like grace,
To come to perfect bloom.*

(From C. S. Hymnal)

Not as a Stranger

(Continued From Page 243)

the look of the landscape at different times of the year.

The plants and trees don't know about calendar seasons, but they separately and collectively set their own life cycles, so that no matter when you go to the islands there's always the flaming beauty of certain trees appearing as giant bouquets against a blue sky. Or perhaps, wild orchids to greet you, hidden among the giant ferns of the forest.

The Islands are a paradise and everyday is a field day for the shade plant lover. In this case it makes little difference what time of year you make your visit. Lush green in a myriad of shades; colorful crotons; ti-plants that grow to six feet in shades of red, purple and green; ferns of many varieties: these surround you wherever you go.

On Oahu you drive up to the Pali (high cliff) on the way to the west side of the island. You drive through a forest, all dense and green with ferns and other prolific growth crowding the paved highway. You see hundreds of giant philodendrons, 50 to 60 feet high, twining their way to the sky around the trunks of the forest trees.

On the west side, you go south passing sugar cane and pineapple plantations.

Suddenly you come upon great fields of Elephants' Ear; Colocasia, a truly spectacular sight. You wonder what on earth they are to be used for. You are told this is the variety "esculenta," the source of a starch from the plant roots from which a favorite food of the native Hawaiian is made. This is their poi, and if you go to a real luau while on your visit, it will be served to you. You won't like it!

On the west side of Oahu and in the environs of Honolulu and near Hilo on Hawaii are many beautiful homes. It is here that the cultivated shade garden reaches its highest perfection. The beauty of these gardens is beyond description. I had the rare pleasure of visiting a number of these gardens. Colocasias, alocasias, caladiums, ferns, spathiphyllums, anthuriums, tradescantias, crotons, ti-plants, many colorful grasses, and the large spider lily are the plants most widely used. Instead of fences when a property division is indicated they use hedges of colorful red acahypha, pruning it or allowing an uninhibited growth. The landscape people on the Islands have specialized on the shade garden until they are able to achieve a restful beauty that never palls.

I shouldn't get carried away with this little story. It was not intended as a travelog. It came about because of a conversation I had recently with your Florence Gee, and if you are a Begonian, you know Florence. I incidentally men-

in rose form and ruffled novelty

**New
for 1957
Striking
Advances**



TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Exact quality in color and form, from the prize-winning Pacific strain originated by Frank Reinelt. The very finest obtainable!

Choice tubers now being shipped

1957 COLOR CATALOG NOW AVAILABLE—WRITE FOR IT TODAY!

VETTERLE & REINELT

Dept. B Capitola, California

tioned the unusual specimen of *Begonia nelumbiifolia* I had seen in Hawaii and she said, "I wish you'd write a little piece about it for our magazine." Then she took me to her green house and showed me some small plants of this variety. None of them had as yet bloomed. I had better get on with the story I started to write.

I do not know how many varieties of the species *Begonia* there are on the Islands. I am not too conscious of the plant, being a recent convert to its charms, and might pass one up not even recognizing it, since there are several hundred in the genus. I first became aware of their presence by seeing immense specimens of *B. "Digswelliana"* on the grounds of the Halekulani Hotel at Waikiki. Since this is a variety that all beginners acquire, and having one of these in my own lath house, I could hardly fail to recognize this one, except that it did not conform to Bailey's description of "intermediate stature." Like other domesticated plants and flowers on the Islands these grow to "king size."

I was prepared then for the sight that greeted me on arriving on the big island of Hawaii. Driving up to the Naniloa Hotel at Hilo you come upon it on the side of the spacious circular entrance to the hotel grounds. There under the filtered shade of tropical trees is a large bed of "naturalized citizens" who came many years ago from Mexico: *Begonia nelumbiifolia*. They look as if they were natives and appear to be growing there without having been planted by human hands. Their lush leaves and tall flower stems surmounted by clusters of lovely white and pink tinted blooms is a sight any flower lover will long remember. The picture accompanying this story does not do justice to the subject. It was made by producing a black and white negative from a color slide and printing from that.

I do not know how widely this variety of begonia is grown in the States and do not recall seeing it in any California garden or greenhouse, excepting the small specimens Mrs. Gee showed me, but I would think it would grow in any area

Queen

(Continued From Page 252)

before, but it was true, "a lot of people wait till they go to a show to pick off leaves, but I can't stand to see a bad leaf on a plant. Of course, there is always that last minute grooming when you find a worm has eaten a hole in the leaf and you wish you'd left the old leaf on—maybe the worm would have eaten it instead!"

Beth did not start a begonia collection until 1954, when Jim invited her to pick a Mother's Day plant from a nursery that had *B. boweri*, with its tiny leaves and attractive white flowers, on display. It has continued to be her favorite begonia, although as a class she prefers the brilliant-leaved rex begonias. Jim shares her enthusiasm for begonias, with a preference for the rhizomatous. His winnings from the Orange County Fair of 1954, together with Beth's, went for materials for the first glasshouse Darrell constructed.

Beth considered it a great privilege to join the Orange County Branch, when she was told about the club by Maybelle (Mrs. Horace) Woods, who was a Fair official. She learned from the branch that *B. boweri* was hard to grow, and received cultural directions about begonias from the branch and the national magazine.

Asked what she considered the most important service that the national Begonia Society could perform, she said, "Sharing...I have no secrets. I don't think anyone else should either. I think we should have more people who are willing to give slips away and cuttings. I can't take a leaf off a rex begonia without wishing someone could have it."

~~~~~  
where the rhizomatous begonia grows: outside in filtered sunlight in mild coastal climates like our Southern California area or the Gulf States in zones 8 and 9, and anywhere under greenhouse conditions.

My final word! and I will borrow a Hollywood bromide. "Its colossal and spectacular"—why don't you try it?

# Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

Seed listed below are the Tom Thumb type and have been imported from England for the special benefit of those who like small plants or have limited space. They are ideal little plants suitable for edging, carpet bedding and greenhouse culture.

**No. 1. B. Dainty Maid**—Buds are deep pink, opening pure white edged pink; very free flowering and compact, leaves lustrous green edged-bronzed; also excellent for pot culture; 4 in. high. **No. 2. B. Pink Miniature**—Bright rose-pink; exquisite small bedding subject; 4 in. high. **No. 3. B. Scarlet Ball**—Glowing scarlet, green edged-bronzed foliaged; most effective and extremely floriferous; 5-6 in. tall. **No. 4. B. Snowball**—Pure white on light green foliage, compact habit. **No. 5. B. Crimson Scarlet**—Single and semi-double flowers. **No. 6. B. Orange**—Fringed, unique shades of tangerine, the flowers are beautifully frilled, single and semi-double; 2-3 in. across.

All of the above are semperflorens but the last two mentioned are a new range of bedding and greenhouse begonias, and are the result of new crosses. The plants are 8-10 in. high and bear the greatest profusion of flowers, standing up well throughout the season. Culture: Sow seed thinly on pots of finely sifted leaf mold, cover pots with glass to check evaporation being careful to move glass a little each day until the seed have germinated. Water by placing pots in a container of water until moisture shows on top of pot. The above are 35c per packet.

**Special seed: B. Jack Horner**—Extra strong, free flowering, dark-leaf double semperflorens. Flowers are deep pink, very double, and resemble a miniature camellia. Jock Horner makes a beautiful basket begonia. The seed have been tested and germination was very good, however, the supply is short, so we suggest you state a second choice. 35c per packet.

From Switzerland comes seed of the versatile multiflora begonias. Multiflora begonias do not come true from seed but the grower from whom we

purchased the following tells us that 90% will be double. They are a remarkable bedding plant, compact in growth, and extremely free flowering. Can also be grown in pots for the greenhouse. **No. 1. B. tuberhybrida multiflora fl. pl. Helene Harms**—Soft yellow. **No. 2. B. tuberhybrida multiflora fl. pl. Tasso**—The description of this one is in German; if our translation is correct the color is rose. Above 35c per packet.

Listed below are fresh seed of several varieties of often requested begonias. Seed have been tested and germination was good. **No. 1. B. foliosa**—This is the most fern like and smallest-leaved of all the begonias. Medium, smooth, bushy; stems and branches arching; leaves are very small, ovate, deep green; flowers are white or pink-tinged. **No. 2. B. Sharon**—Medium tall with foliage like *B. coccinea*; flowers pale orchid-pink. **No. 3. Pink Shasta**—Similar to the above except that the flowers are large and soft pink, and reminiscent of apple blossoms. **No. 4. B. rubro-venia**—Rhizomes are slender and creeping; leaves oblique, glossy dark green, green or red beneath with brown tomentum; flowers white with red veining on the outer side of the petals. **No. 5. B. peacei**—Tuberous species low growing, leaves broad-ovate, pointed, velvetlike dark green with light green veins; flowers yellow. **No. 6. B. Shepherd Cane**—Pink rubra type. **No. 7. B. compta**—Similar to *B. angularis* but differs in being of smaller growing habit and having lighter green leaves with gray striping along the midrib. Flowers are white in large clusters. **No. 8. B. nelumbiifolia**—Mexico. Large rhizomatous, leaves roundish, peltate, not unlike a lily pad, smooth, green; flowers white or pink-tinged in tall cymes. See story by Roy Warnack in Nov. The Begonian. Above are 25c per packet.

In our files are many varieties of choice fern spores and in order to clear them out we are offering you a real bargain and an opportunity to grow good ferns. Some of these spores have been listed before; consult back issues of The Begonian for descriptions.

**No. 1. Asplenium nidus** (Bird's Nest).

**No. 2. *Platyceerium bifurcatum*** (Stag Horn). **No. 3. *Microsorium scolopendria*** (epiphyte). **No. 4. *Dryopteris dententa***. **No. 5. *Phyllitis scolopendria***. **No. 6. *Microlepia platyphylla***. **No. 7. *Microlepia stringosa***. **No. 8. *Adiantum capillis veneris*** (maiden hair). **No. 9. *Pteris Roweri***. **No. 10. *Pteris ensiformis*** (Arguta). **No. 11. *Crytomium falcatum*** (Holly fern). **No. 12. *Alsophila australis*** (tree fern). You may purchase the above 12 packets for \$2.00 while they last. From the above you should be able to start a nice collection of ferns. We have had favorable reports on germination.

We have received fern spores from the Philippine Islands, called "**Lechos de Alambre.**" We are unable to find information on a fern by this name, therefore can only assume this is a name used locally. We received fronds from the collector which indicate it is of the "maiden hair" type, however, the leaves are much larger than any of the *Adiantums* that we know. This could very well be Philippine Maiden Hair, but we are not offering it as such. The spores are very fresh and should germinate readily. We would appreciate a report on these ferns.

Fern spores may be sown in pots or jars on well rotted leaf mold; containers should be kept closed until spores germinate. Do not cover spores with earth or water on top; they should be kept where the temperature is about sixty degrees. After the prothalli appear, a little more air may be given but do not try to transplant until plants are large enough to handle easily. Philippine spores 25c per packet.

**B. Tuberous**—Double mixed, special grower's packets. We have imported these from England and they are the famous Blackmore and Langdon strain. Sow seed from December to February for summer bloom. 50c per packet.

**Greenhouse Plants:** **No. 1. *Saintpaulia***—African Violet. Seed are from the greenhouse of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Sherer of Los Angeles, who have a large collection of all the popular varieties: Doubles, singles, pink and many of the desired colors and leaf patterns. 50c per packet. **No. 2. *Crossandra unduaefolia***, favorite greenhouse plant about one foot high. Constantly produces large, bright salmon flowers. Beautiful, leathery

green leaves with a waxy texture. Easily grown from seed, however seed are slow to start. Culture is the same as that of gloxinias. 25c for small packet. **No. 3. *Klugia Notoniana***—Gesneriaceae. Seeds were sent to seed fund from Ceylon. Plants are a quick growing herbaceous annual 12-18" high. Corolla tube is white, one half in. long, large blue lower lip with a yellow base, blooms in greenhouse from January to early summer. Named for Dr. Klug, a German zoologist. 25c per packet.

**Other Genera:** **No. 1. *Schlumbergera gaertneri***—Easter cactus, a favorite house plant. Flowers scarlet, about three in. long, followed by red fruits. **No. 2. *Epiphyllum hybrids***—Popular greenhouse or house plant with showy flowers in many colors. Plants should have rich soil and moisture. **No. 3. *Brunsvigia rosea***, new name for *Amaryllis belladonna*. This plant grows in great profusion out doors in mild climates and while it is fairly hardy, it should be treated as a pot plant in cold climates and grown in a greenhouse or protected locations. Flowers are pink. **No. 4. *Crinum Moorei***—Large, bell like flowers come in various shades of pink. Plants are fairly hardy and are perfect companions for other shade plants. These are fascinating seed to watch, if placed on a window-sill you can watch them grow. **No. 5. *Agapanthus orientalis albus***—Low growing with narrow foliage; blooms are pure white in large umbels on two foot stems. They bloom early in the summer and are of easiest cultural requirements. Plant in a sunny location and leave them alone other than an occasional watering in summer. **No. 6. *Iris dichnotoma (vesper iris)***—Greenishwhite flowers, spotted purple, distinctive. Flowers in late afternoon. **No. 7. *Seaforthia elegans***—King palm, beautiful feather palm, one much planted for ornament in mild climates. **No. 8. *Magnolia grandiflora***—Large, leathery leaves shiny above and rusty-woolly beneath. Flowers large, cup-shaped and fragrant, snowy white. For mild climates. **No. 9. *Antirrhinum maurandoides***—Ground cover. Other Genera, 25c per packet with the exception of No. 4. (*Crinum Moorei*). 25c per seed.

We have had numerous requests for a  
(Continued on Page 261)

# Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

## ELSA FORT

Our meeting was held in the evening at Jane Wright's home, and dessert was served. A report on our trip to the gala party held by the William Penn Branch at the home of Mrs. George DeCoursey, Paoli, Pa., was given by Mrs. Morris. Plans are already being made for another begonia party in the fall of '58.

Ann Simmons of Lawnside won second prize for an arrangement, "Stormy Clouds," and honorable mention for another entry, "Bright Sunny Day," at Lits-Camden Flower Show. There were 58 exhibitors.

Discussion at the meeting centered around plants raised by various members from seeds, and one of our green-thumb members has had especially good luck in this project.

—B—

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY

The members of the Humboldt County Branch held their First Annual Begonia Festival in Carson Memorial Auditorium. There was a large attendance and visitors expressed not only pleasure in the display but astonishment at the variety and beauty of the begonias shown. There were many compliments from the visitors from the Los Angeles area, too. The full length of the large room was a table display of tuberous begonias in full bloom; a right-angled corner held fibrous, rhizomatous and cane types; hangers and rex were on the stage, with a front row of display blossoms. Arrangements and table settings were shown, as were also a table of hybridizing results, a "book table" of literature, and a sale of begonia corsages. These last were made "on the spot" and they actually were so publicly accepted that they paid the rent! People seemed to enjoy visiting at the coffee tables too, where light refreshments were served. Plans are already afoot for a 1958 Festival.

## INGLEWOOD

October program was a new sound movie by Richfield Oil Co. This film has just been released and this was a first showing. Very interesting—all on plant life.

—B—

## ORANGE COUNTY

Jean Kerlin, who has judged and lectured widely in Begonia circles, will share her experiences with begonias in a talk before the Orange County Branch Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Garden Grove Grange Hall, Century Blvd. and Taft Ave. Meeting place is one block south of Garden Grove Blvd., two blocks east of U-Tel-Um Market.

Lou Scalley, president of the Orange County branch, said begonia enthusiasts from all branches and their friends would be welcome to attend.

—B—

## PHIOBEGONIA

We met at the home of Mrs. Curtis Paschall. The discussion concerned pointers on summer gardening. Slips of *Begonia* "Sir Percy" were given out by our president, Mrs. Alfred Bailey, to the 12 members who attended. It is interesting that Mrs. Bailey's original plant was given to her in 1954 by Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Motschmann. The group has had some field trips, attending a party given by the William Penn Branch and spending a day in Oxford, Md., at "The House Plant Corner."

—B—

## REDONDO BEACH AREA

The Redondo Area Branch had as its guest speaker Mr. Mark Anthony from Descanso Gardens, who showed beautiful colored slides of camellias, azaleas, and other plants from Descanso Gardens. These extensive grounds are open to the public for a very nominal entrance fee,



and are well worth a visit at any season of the year. Mr. Anthony also advised the members on the above plants during the question and answer period. A plant sale and refreshments brought to a close a very enjoyable evening.

—B—

## SACRAMENTO

There was a Garden Tour of three of our members' gardens Sunday, September 29. The gardens visited were those of H. F. Sullivan, Al Smith and Mercedes Matson. We met at the Matson garden at 1:30 P.M. Refreshments were served at Mr. Smith's.

We want to congratulate Ruthanne Williams, one of our convention delegates, who has passed her last tests and came out No. 1 on the list. She is now a Senior Account-Clerk.

—B—

## SAN FRANCISCO

At our October meeting, John Paul Edwards, well known to most of us as a lecturer on fuchsias and other gardening subjects, took us on a trip to Guatemala by means of his collection of beautiful color slides. Some years ago Mr. Edwards was a recognized top-notch worker in black-and-white photography; lately he has taken up color photography, and his pictures demonstrated his knowledge of the photographic technique and artistry.

At our plant table we are trying a new feature: Setting up perhaps ten or twelve named varieties of fibrous and rhizomatous begonias, we have every member write his name on a slip of paper, and the one who names the most correctly will be given a prize. It's another way of getting acquainted with the members too.

The members appointed a committee of Dan Buckley, Irving Kramer, and E. I. Pynchon, who, together with Jim Miller, will submit a slate of candidates to be voted on for the 1958 term at the November meeting. Nominations also may be submitted from the floor. Also, to complete our incorporation, we should amend the bylaws by adding "Inc." to our name.

## SAN GABRIEL

"Begonias" were discussed and questions on their culture and propagation answered by a panel of expert growers. James Giridlian from Oakhurst Gardens was moderator.

—B—

## WILLIAM PENN

The party held by the William Penn Branch at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Earl DeCoursey in Paoli, Pa., took the place of the regular September meeting and while the day began with a much needed rain, by party time the sun was out, doing full justice to the lovely gardens of the DeCourseys and the handsome begonias.

This affair, held every two years, began at eleven a.m. with a flower show of the choicest plants of the members, grouped and staged according to hairy, cane, rhizomatous, etc. All of these plants were in the large garage, and placed to great advantage on tables, with high shelves for the pendulous plants.

Mrs. Ernesta Ballard of the Valley Nurseries brought many, many large, handsome and new begonias for display and sale, using some to demonstrate her talk after lunch. This talk was most informative, covering mainly culture, care and disease of begonias suitable to house culture.

Box lunches were available, and were eaten in the gardens and terraces amidst a lovely late summer display of roses, zinnias and evergreens. During the entire day a plant sale was in progress and proved to be quite an attraction. All of the plants were the horticultural efforts of the members of William Penn, being cuttings and seedlings of some particular pet plant they had propagated for the party.

We were delighted to see our begonia friends from the New England Branch, Western Pennsylvania, Elsa Fort Branch, the Philobegonia Branch and the Gruenbaum Branch, and certainly do thank them for coming and supporting our party and only hope they had as good a time as we did!

## About Camellias and Azaleas

By MARGARET BUELL

It is possible to have camellias in bloom 6 to 8 months of the year if one purchases the variety of early and late bloomers offered today. "September Morn," a beautiful white peony type form, for example, is the first early plant to bloom.

"Alba Plena" is the best all-round early white. Camellias that have variegated leaves need more shade. "Debutante" camellia should be planted in partial sun for a lot of blooms. Some of the "Sasanqua" varieties are wonderful to prune for bonsai growing.

### Seed Fund

(Continued From Page 258)

seed list from the seed fund. It is impossible to compile such a list as we usually dispose of all seed each month via *The Begonian*. It takes a great many seed to operate this department and although we have contacts in many parts of the world, we are always in need of seed and would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who has surplus seed of begonia or other genera. Will buy or exchange.

Mrs. Florence Gee  
Seed Fund Administrator  
4316 Berryman Ave.  
Los Angeles 66, Calif.

—B—

### Minutes

(Continued From Page 246)

Mrs. Korts asked what should be done with the Business File that is now in her possession. Moved by Cal Trowbridge, seconded by Clarence Hall that the Business File be retained by Edna Korts. Carried.

#### BRANCH REPORTS GIVEN:

President Coe announced that Frank Moore was ill in the Glendale Hospital.

Moved by Alva Graham, seconded by several, that a copy of the Begonia Check List be sent to Mr. Butterfield. Carried.

President-Elect Slatter asked for the approval of the Board so he may continue as president of the Inglewood Branch until his term expires. Moved by Cal Trowbridge, seconded by Sylvia Leatherman, that Bert Slatter be allowed to continue to hold office in Inglewood Branch until his term expires. Carried.

Sylvia Leatherman requested that *The Begonian* be sent to Dr. Brady for one year. Moved by Alva Graham, seconded by Mr. Lovejoy that *The Begonian* be sent to Dr. Brady for a year. Carried.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Arline Stoddard, Secretary pro-tem.

Azaleas should be planted in peat moss only and above the soil line on top of the mix. There are many kinds of peat moss but Holland peat moss is the best you can buy. Clivia roots should also be planted a little high. "Cynthia" is a beautiful red rhododendron that is very hardy, grows tall, and is popular with everyone. Pine needles make a wonderful mulch for rhododendrons, camellias, and azaleas. The "Kumasaki" camellia likes to be planted on the east side of the house or where there is plenty of sun, but remember when planting to use it as background as it grows tall. *Reticulata* species camellias have the largest flowers, sometimes up to 7 inches in diameter. They are distinguished by dull green rather than glossy leaves.

One secret known to successful camellia growers is to start fertilizing with a good acid mixture early—March is a good month to begin and this may be done while the plants are blooming. They also need a good all-around fertilizer three times yearly. Prune camellias in April or late spring before they start new growth, and, as the new growth produces the blooms, even severe pruning may be beneficial.

ED.: Mrs. Buell reported the above points from a lecture by Mark Anthony of Descanso Gardens, given before the Redondo Area Branch.

—B—

### COPY DEADLINE

All copy for *The Begonian* must be received by the editor not later than the first of the month preceding publication date.

# Branch Meeting Dates . . .

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

## BRITISH BRANCH

F. J. Bedson, Secy.  
Kent, England

## CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Leo Spengler, Cor. Secy.  
15 West Preston Ave., Orlando, Fla.

## DALLAS COUNTY BRANCH, TEXAS

1st Thursday, 7:00 p.m.  
Members' Residences  
Mrs. Ruth Cook  
923 S. Edgeland, Dallas 8, Texas

## EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.  
Willard School, Telegraph at Ward,  
Berkeley, California  
Mrs. E. H. Ellerbusch, Secy.  
1051 Ordway, Berkeley 6, Calif.

## EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Friday, Members' Homes  
Daisy Morrow, Cor. Secy.  
2821 N. Musgrove Ave., El Monte, Calif.

## FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
La Verne Community Bldg.  
2039 Third St., La Verne  
Mrs. C. W. Hall, Cor. Secy.  
358 E. Arrow Hwy., Upland, Calif.

## FORT, ELSA BRANCH

1st Saturday, 1:30 p.m.  
Miss Lola Price, Secy.  
628 Beech Ave., Laurel Springs, N.J.

## GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central  
Mrs. Cleo Price, Cor. Sec.  
377 Myrtle, Glendale 3, Calif.

## GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m.  
Community House, La Jolla  
Mrs. Charles Calloway  
1311 Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla, Calif.

## GRAY'S HARBOR BRANCH

2nd Monday, 8:00 p.m.  
Hoquiam Public Library, or  
Messingale and Roseenar Music Store  
Aberdeen, Washington  
Mrs. Jessie B. Hoyt, Secy.  
1013 Harding Road, Aberdeen, Wash.

## GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Adolph Belser, Cor. Secy.  
Welsh and Veree Rd., Philadelphia, Pa.

## HAWKEYE STATE BRANCH

3rd Friday, Members' Homes  
Ruth Anderson, Secy.  
Underwood, Iowa

## HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Mrs. J. C. Jenks  
6807 DeLongpre Ave.  
Los Angeles 28, Calif.

## HOUSTON, TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m.  
Garden Center, Herman Park  
Mrs. Grant Herzog, Secy.  
12601 Broken Bough, Houston 24, Texas

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 8:00 p.m.  
Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif.  
Miss Margaret Smith, Secy.  
P.O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

## INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.  
Inglewood Women's Club  
325 North Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.  
Mrs. Hattie Bradford, Secy.  
1825 W. 73rd St., Los Angeles 47, Calif.

## LONE STAR BRANCH

3rd Monday, members' homes  
Mrs. Chester Terry, Secy.  
5511 Richmond Ave., Dallas, Texas

## LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
1925 Maine Ave., Long Beach 6, Calif.  
Mrs. Rosa Cox, Sec.  
3592 Lewis Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

## LOS ANGELES BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Homes of Members  
Mrs. Glenn Morrow, Secy.  
2821 N. Musgrove Ave., El Monte, Calif.

## LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

First Friday, Homes of Members  
Mrs. Thos. O. Day, Secy.  
4065 Hollywood St., Baton Rouge, La.

## MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Simpson Memorial Garden Center  
Mrs. Ray Rosengren, Secy.  
5530 N.W. 21 Ave., Miami, Fla.

## MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.  
Mrs. Hattie Taylor, Secy.  
P.O. Box 25, Raytown, Mo.

## NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members  
Mrs. Lester H. Fox, Secy.  
170 Marsh Hill Road, Dracut, Mass.

## OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 12:30 p.m., members' homes  
Mrs. Anna Peck, Secy.  
23 So. Gateway, Toms River, N.J.

## ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Garden Grove Grange Hall  
Century and Taft Streets  
Garden Grove, Calif.  
Mrs. Maybelle Woods, Secy.  
604 South Helena St., Anaheim, Calif.

## PASADENA BRANCH

Meetings on call.  
Homes of Members  
Col. C. M. Gale, Secy.  
40 N. San Rafael, Pasadena 2, Calif.

## PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Members' Homes  
Mrs. Charles J. Allen, Sec.  
Woodside Lane, Riverton, N.J.

## PORTLAND, OREGON BRANCH

4th Friday, 8:00 p.m.  
Members' Homes  
Mrs. Helen Parrott, Secy.  
3955 S.E. Kelly, Portland 2, Oregon

## RAYTOWN, MISSOURI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Mildred Schorr, Secy.-Treas.

**REDONDO BEACH AREA BRANCH**

4th Friday each month  
2308 Rockefeller, Redondo Beach, Calif.  
Opal Murray Ahern, Secy.  
1304 Poinsettia Ave.  
Manhattan Beach, Calif.

**RIVERSIDE BRANCH**

2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Shamel Park, 3650 Arlington,  
Riverside, California  
Mrs. Ethel Prior, Sec.  
4345 5th St., Riverside, Calif.

**ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH**

3rd Friday, 10:30 a.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Harlie Brown  
3233 Tennyson, San Diego 6, Calif.

**SACRAMENTO BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Mrs. Gordon Long, Secy.  
5416 Dana Way, Sacramento, Calif.

**SAN DIEGO BRANCH**

4th Monday  
Hard of Hearing Hall,  
Herbert & University  
Mrs. Maurice P. Mitchell, Secy.  
2329 Bancroft St., San Diego 4, Calif.

**SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH**

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Forest Lodge, 266 Laguna Honda Blvd.  
Mrs. Louise Allmacher  
1963 45th Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH**

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.  
Arcadia, California  
Mrs. E. F. Slavik, Sec.  
300 Hacienda Dr., Arcadia, Calif.

**SAN MIGUEL BRANCH**

1st Wednesday  
Youth Center, Lemon Grove, Calif.  
Ida M. Barker, Secy.  
7591 Central Ave., Lemon Grove, Calif.

**SANTA BARBARA BRANCH**

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Girl Scout Clubhouse,  
1838 San Andres St.  
Mrs. Maria Sanchez, Secy.  
1753 Glen Oaks Dr., Santa Barbara, Calif.

**SEATTLE BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.  
Green Lake Field House  
7201 Green Lake Way  
Mrs. Carl Starks, Secy.  
6116 Greenwood, Seattle 3, Wash.

**SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BR.**

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Alice Bartlett C.H., 902 E. Main,  
Ventura, Calif.  
Mrs. Oakley Murphy, Secy.  
119 E. Simpson, Ventura, Calif.

**SMOKEY VALLEY BRANCH**

3rd Thursday of each month  
John C. Irving, Cor. Secy.  
1940 Simmons, Salina, Kan.

**SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BR.**

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
Strowbridge School Multi-Purpose Rm.  
21400 Bedford Dr., Hayward, Calif.  
Mae Bolyard, Cor. Secy.  
2425 Thornton Ave., Newark, Calif.

**TALL CORN STATE BRANCH**

Mrs. Edna Monson, Secy.  
South Taylor, Mason City, Iowa

**TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH**

2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m.  
Garden Center, 3220 Botanic Dr.,  
Fort Worth, Texas  
Mrs. Joe X. Schad, Sec.

3766 W. 4th St., Fort Worth, Texas

**TEXAS STATE BRANCH**

1st Tuesday night in members' homes  
Mrs. William Demland, Secy.  
2400 19th St., Port Arthur, Texas

**TREASURE ISLAND BRANCH**

4th Monday, 7:30 p.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Harold Renshaw, Secy.  
2521 37th St., Galveston, Texas

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH**

2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Albert S. Lash, Cor. Secy.  
1228 Oklahoma Ave., Pittsburgh 16, Pa.

**WHITTIER BRANCH**

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Palm Park Community Center,  
1643 Floral Drive  
Mrs. Rebecca Olson  
714 N. Palm Ave., Whittier, Calif.

**WILLIAM PENN BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, 2:00 p.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Ernest C. Drew, Sec.  
Box 331, Narberth, Pa.

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