

# *The Begonian*

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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See You at Convention!

August 30th and 31st

Editor.....Adelaide Brest, 3207 W. 186th St., Torrance 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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# Confused Begonias

DURING my travels in order to visit garden groups and attend flower shows, whether as a speaker, judge, or guest, I have had the opportunity to view a great many begonias.

Many of the rex begonias I do not know, that is, by name, and this is understandable for no one could possibly know the names of all the *B. rex*. Along with the names, many seedlings crop up each year and, with the further addition of the new named introductions it becomes progressively a greater problem to know the rexes.

Other points to be taken into consideration are climatic conditions and light factors. Colors will vary with light and climate to an amazing degree.

There are, however, some begonias with characteristics so different that they can be readily singled out. Three cultivars, hybridized and introduced by Leslie Woodriff, come to mind and can be used as an example.

*B. "Lavender Glow"* is an upright, branching rex. The coloring is a bright lavender with a deep purple border and center. Early in the season, or if grown with poor light, the bright lavender is a drab silver with a faint lavender cast.

*B. "Lavender Glory"* has a rhizome, and is not an upright, branching grower. The leaves are of a heavy, waxy texture, while *B. "Lavender Glow"* has soft textured leaves. The large leaf is rough, presenting a "raised blister" appearance in *B. "Lavender Glory,"* and it has a dark border, irregularly marked with bright green and greenish-silver spots and splashes. The center of the leaf, irregular, is a deep bluish-green, almost black. The mid-section is a blue-green, overcast with lavender.

The above two rexes are of easy culture and are strong growers, both growing with the average rex "know how."

The third, *B. "Purple Heart,"* has been more on the temperamental side for me and many of my friends, being more demanding for humidity, light, etc. The leaves have more of a transparent texture and the growth is upright, not doing much branching, and is rather lippy. The border and center are a deep purplish-black. The mid-center is a bluish-silver and overcast with a brilliant reddish purple. A well grown and good colored plant of *B. "Purple Heart"* is seldom seen in Southern California. When one is displayed it immediately draws a great deal of attention and is desired by many. The question, "Who is who?" would well fit this trio.

The beautiful plant of *B. "Purple Heart"* pictured on this month's cover was grown by Mrs. Beth I. Bath of Santa Ana, a member of the Orange County branch. It took first prize in its class (rex-cultorum, large-leaved types) at the 1957 convention, and was greatly admired at last year's show.

SYLVIA LEATHERMAN  
*Research Director*

—B—

## BEGONIA SONG

We're the lovers of begonias of the  
U.S.A.

We're the lovers of begonias  
to brighten up our day.

How we love our Rex and Fibrous,  
Love our Tuberous too.

Now we spend our nights and Sundays,  
Begonies, just with you.

How we'd love to have a lath-house  
in some sunny spot;

We could show our Rex in winter  
instead of just the pot!

We dislike those slugs and aphids,  
Worms and sow bugs too.

Any yard is made a garden,  
Begonias, just by you.

*(From an old Begonian)*



### A GARDEN ROOM

*The above beautiful display is that of the Sacramento Branch, and was its entry in the Sacramento County Fair in June. Repeating past successes, the branch took First prize in amateur competition and Best of Show in amateur competition. Reasons for the honors are clearly shown in Herbert Fitch's photo. Show Chairman was Frances Flannigan. Bravos to all!*

## Sacramento Scores

The Sacramento branch of the American Begonia Society undertook a most ambitious project: the staging of a patio garden with some begonias featured. The exhibit was held at the County Fair June 19-22, 1958.

The exhibit was designed and executed by show chairman Frances Flannigan and Herbert Fitch. A garden room with sliding glass door looking from the garden into the room, pink baselite walls and tile for the floor. The focal point

was an aqua figurine of "St. Francis With the Birds," with a bird bath at his feet.

Members cooperating were: Mr. and Mrs. Howard Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Schnauss, Mr. and Mrs. Al Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Fitch, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Crouch, Mrs. Esther Lang, Frances Flannigan and Clarence Fallon president of the society.

The exhibit was awarded first prize, a blue ribbon, and the award of merit for the best in the show.

MRS. LOTTIE CROUCH

# The Amateur Gardener

MAY 1 present some good philosophy gleaned from notes on a talk by our good friend Robert E. Saxe who was our 1956 Convention speaker in Hollywood.

"We amateur gardeners all get discouraged from time to time and especially during hot summer months. Even the times, newspaper headlines and just life in general may tend to make us feel low. We begin to wonder if anything is worthwhile. These things, together with our constant war with slugs, snails, the myriad of insects and plant diseases, all make us unhappy at times.

A friend of mine told me a story of how he once sent to England for some rock-garden plant seeds and paid "two and six" for five dear little seeds. He planted them and tenderly cared for them all through the long months. After eighteen months, four of the seeds came up. Then the slugs proceeded to eat two of the seedlings. His wife pulled one up, thinking it was a weed. Then the minister came to see the garden and being a very spiritual man and always "up in the clouds," he walked all over the lone seedling and never even saw it. That was a low, low moment for my friend.

There are times when utter discouragement sets in for every gardener. What should we do to combat these discouragements? Perhaps this verse would help us all. "Prove all things. Hold fast to that which is good." 1st Thes. 21. In other words, it is well to hold fast to those plants that have proven their worth in both performance and beauty. Why struggle with a plant that is difficult to grow if it is not exceptional in both these attributes?

When we are discouraged with our gardens, it is well to seek inspiration elsewhere. There is nothing more inspiring than a visit to a gigantic redwood grove. Go into the hills and valleys when the wild flowers are in bloom. Visit other gardens for encouragement, refreshment and a renewing of the mind. Buy good, worthwhile garden books and subscribe

to new garden magazines to get a new view point. Contemplate the new and enjoy these things wherever found. Learn new methods and techniques.

It is most important for all of us to have a place in our garden for quiet retreat and to find peace. The garden has not let us down, no, it is our own laxness and discouragement. An ideal cathedral is one which is never finished—so it is within the garden. We must keep building toward our ideal.

Have you had trouble in raising plants from seeds? It so, you might try what is called the Bell Glass method which is good for seeds as well as for rooting small cuttings. A clear plastic cake cover would do as well as glass.

Plant your seeds or cuttings in a pot of damp sand with a sprinkling of pulverized leafmold on top. Dust the soil and seed with Captan to avoid "damp off." Set the pot on a board larger in circumference than the Bell Glass. Cover the pot with the Bell Glass. Be sure that the Bell Glass edge is well inside the edge of the board so that no dry air gets inside. Set in a warm place with not too much light.

When using this method for planting seeds do not remove the cover until the plants are well up. The warmth and damp soil will cause beads of moisture to form on the inside of the Bell Glass which will be sufficient moisture until the seeds are up. Be careful of your seedlings when the minister comes to visit."

Anyone who is familiar with Mr. Saxe's inimitable wit and humor will know that I have not quoted him verbatim. However I hope that I have presented something worthwhile for you to think about. Mr. Saxe is not only a clever speaker but an inspirational one as well.

RUTHANNE WILLIAMS

—B—

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

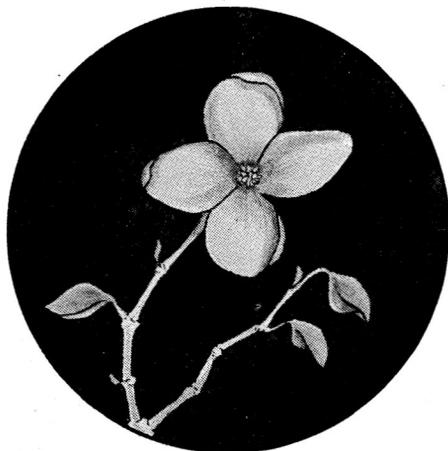
# Begonia "It"

By BERNICE BRILMAYER

ONE OF LESLIE WOODRIF'S most delightful and charming hybrid begonias is "It"—a cross made in 1941, *B. socotrana* x *rex*. It's an unusual name, and certainly an unusual plant, combining the best qualities of both parents. It's easy to imagine that, one day, Mr. Woodriff might have eyed this one outstanding plant among many seedlings and said, "This is It!" And thus, it might have been named.

*B. "It"* has richly colored and marked foliage of the *rexes*—but it flowers profusely. It has the clear, pink, abundant flowers of its tuberous parent—but it does not go dormant. It is neither too rank and robust, nor too delicate for the windowsill grower to enjoy.

"It's" habit is upright and branching; it grows bushy and compact. Its leaves are rather like a smaller version of *B. "It"* is wonderfully floriferous—seems to be



constantly in flower, or ready to flower, the year 'round.

Culture seems to be easy. In my cellar, fluorescent-light "greenhouse" it has neither dropped leaves, dried up, nor contracted disease. No problems, in fact, except that I can't keep it! Visitors admire it so enthusiastically, I can't resist giving it away—and then order another, and start again with a small plant. It propagates as easily as it grows—by stem cuttings, or by leaf. And when my latest purchase arrived, I took cuttings immediately so I could be sure to have *B. "It"* on hand.

This plant probably is not rare in the West. But in New York, it's still much sought-after. As far as I know, only Merry Gardens, in Maine, and Logee's, in Connecticut, have it for sale. But it's worth seeking. Because it's so charming, so satisfactory, because—"This is It!"



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LIFE—Like a cake, it can be ruined just as much by what we leave out of it, as by what we put into it.

A world without winter would never know Spring.

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God, nature and evolution, to intelligent people, are one and the same thing.

SEED—Plant some for the worm and some for the crow. Some to pull out—and some to grow.

# Seeds, Seedlings and Hybrids

By DON HORTON

WHEN you first cross two begonias the question is always, "What will the offspring look like?" If that question could be answered in advance a great deal of time would be saved to the hybridizer as he would know that the crossing of certain pairs of plants would yield nothing valuable. On the other hand, if he could foresee hybrids in advance he would only have to cross the parents that he knew would yield the exceptional plants and thus save countless crosses that would give only poor and mediocre offspring.

The odd thing is that a hybridist can often tell a lot about the brood of a certain cross before he makes it. He knows, from study of previous crosses he has made and the study of other hybrids, that certain characteristics are dominant and are certain to appear in the hybrids. *B. boweri*, for example, will pass on the dark markings on its leaf margin to its offspring. Hybrids of *boweri* three or four generations away from the species usually will still be carrying the black marks.

To exemplify some of these dominant characteristics and how they appear in the offspring let us look at three of my hybrids and the various characteristics on them in light of the same type of characteristics that their parents bore.

*Begonia* "Samson" is a cross between *macdougalli* and *barkeri*. This plant was named almost before it was out of the seed jar. Samson was a big man and *Begonia* "Samson," by necessity, is a big begonia. It had to be large because both of its parents are large. The seed parent, *B. macdougalli*, has a leaf that is completely palmately divided and held aloft by a petiole reaching 24 to 36 inches in length. The bloom stalk on it in its native Mexico climbs to a height of ten feet or more.

The pollen parent was a *B. barkeri* that has had its round leaves over 36 inches in diameter. "Samson's" leaf, which



*B. "Kumwha"*

is neither round nor divided all the way, but is cleft half its length, will spread out about twenty-four inches across. The leaves of both parents are an unmarked green and so are "Samson's."

One of the finest hybrids I have ever created is "Kumwha." This is a cross of *B. "Kenworthy"* on "Reichenheimi." "Kenworthy" is noted for its reddish purple leaves and peculiar star leaf shape. "Reichenheimi" on the other hand, has a predominately green leaf. The offspring, "Kumwha," has inherited the red color of "Kenworthy" but has a leaf almost as large as that of "Reichenheimi's." The leaf shape is somewhat intermediate between the two.

*B. "Reichenheimi"* has one of the nicest inflorescences of the rihizomatous begonias, carrying quantities of pink flowers held well above the foliage. "Kenworthy" also has pink flowers but not on so long a peduncle in proportion to the size of the plant. "Kumwha" holds its pink blossoms well above the foliage with the added dividend that it is almost ever-blooming.

Other crosses I have made and seen made with *B. "Kenworthy"* all show the purplish red color and a certain leaf modification that is typical of that plant. This is well illustrated in "Colonel Gale," a hybrid of Louise Schwerdtfeger, which is a cross between "Kenworthy" and *B. manicata*. Here the "Kenworthy" leaf

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# Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

**No. 1 B. Crispula**—Beautiful and rare. Consult Jan. 1958 issue for description and picture on front cover. Seed have been produced from hand pollinated blooms and sent to seed fund from France therefore they are scarce and difficult to grow. When we offered seed of *B. Crispula* a few months ago, Mrs. J. D. Shuler of Ohio grew several plants and has kept us informed in regard to their growth, et cetera, and recently wrote that she has one beautiful plant in her collection having lost one due to too much moisture. .50 cents per. pkt.

**No. 2 B. cantareira**—Brazil—We have been informed that this is the begonia we know as *B. acedosa* and as near as can be determined the descriptions are the same. The grower in Brazil states the following: rhizomatous plant with deep coppery, olive bronze leaves covered with white hair, wine-red beneath. 50 cents per. pkt.

**No. 3 B. heracleifolia nigracans**—Mexico. Handsome rhizomatous plant with palmately lobed, blackish-green leaves with contrasting pale green area along the veins. .25 per. pkt.

**No. 4 B. ovatifolia**—India. A new contact in India sent seed of this plant and describes it as small, leaves ovate-small, flowers white or rose-pink. .25 per. pkt.

**No. 5 B. Mexican species No. 38**—Mexico. Hardy little plant suitable for pot or basket culture. Leaves are green with brown tomentum beneath, flowers are pink in great profusion. Worthwhile and lovely. .25 per. pkt.

**No. 6 B. lecco**—Medium, cane type, well branched; leaves ovate-pointed, olive green, silver spotted at tip, red beneath, flowers are large, pink in short clusters. Resembles *B. Geneva*. .25 per. pkt.

**No. 7 B. nitida rosea**—We found this plant growing in a very old garden in Long Beach, California and as near as can be determined we have found it to be *B. nitida*. *Plana* is fibrous rooted, bushy, with glossy-green leaves; rosy pink flowers in clusters. .25 per. pkt.

**No. 8 B. Bronze mixed**—Contains seed of many begonias with bronze leaves. .25 per. pkt.

**No. 9 B. semperflorens mixed**—Choice seed from Dr. Frey, Texas—



Mrs. J. D. Shuler

The procedure he followed to produce seed will appear elsewhere in *The Begonian*. .25 per. pkt.

## GREENHOUSE PLANTS

**Sinningia**—Pink slipper. .25 per. pkt.

**Smithiantha multiflora** — Soft-hairy plant with velvety, cordate leaves topped by nodding digitalis-like, creamy white flowers. .25 per. pkt.

**Smithiantha mixed**—Crosses from several choice colors. .25 per. pkt.

**Columnnea sanguinea** — West Indies. Densely hairy plant with strong stems, resembles an *alloplectus*, leaves emerald green; blotched red beneath; small, hairy, pale yellow flowers. .25 per. pkt.

**Achimenes mixed** — Gesneriaceae — From a large and beautiful collection. .25 per. pkt.

**Episcia mixed**—Gesneriaceae—From two choice collections. .25 per. pkt.

**Saintpaulia mixed**—Fresh seed from a variety of colors and leaf patterns. .35 per. pkt.

**Ceropegia mixed**—Interesting vine for house or greenhouse—included in mixture are *C. woodi*, *C. barkleyi* and others. .25 per. pkt.

**Clerodendrum thomsonae** — Tropical Africa. "Glorybower" — Twining, evergreen plant with ovate, quilted, glossy leaves to 5" long; showy flowers in forking clusters with pinkish-white calyx, corolla deep crimson. Good greenhouse plant. .25 per. pkt.

## SPECIAL SEED

**Philodendron undulatum**—(Paraguay) Self-heading, waxy and lobed leaves,

somewhat cupped, carried on erect stalks. **P. pinnatifidum** — Self-heading with leathery leaves pinnately parted, metallic green, veins sunken; petioles spotted red.

We suggest that those wishing the philodendrons please place your order as soon as you receive *The Begonian*. Seed are fresh but should be planted soon as their germination qualities decrease with age. The price is .50 per pkt. or .25 per. half pkt.

### SEED FROM HAWAII

We have received many seed from Hawaii and while some of them are not hardy in cold climates, many can be grown in the greenhouse and are extremely popular for this purpose. Climatic conditions such as cold or dry air may retard germination to some degree therefore it is best to start seeds in a warm location and keep soil damp but not soggy. Those with hard, thick coatings may be filed or soaked in warm water before planting.

**Ipomoea tuberosa** — Hawaiian wood rose. Ornamental vine with yellow orange, bell-shaped flowers. Seed pods brown, to 2" in diameter, resembles roses carved from satiny golden wood, last for years and very popular as flower arrangement material. Vigorous grower in sunny location.

**Argyrea nervosa**—Baby wood rose—Flowers large, pale pink and downy outside, purple and smooth inside, bell-shaped. Seed pods brown, about 1/2" in diameter, leaves broad heart-shaped to 12" long, smooth above and densely covered below with white down. Growing conditions same as above.

**Corylyne terminalis mixed**—Numerous varieties, wide range of colors. Leaf size and form differ greatly in different varieties, some slender, some broad round or curled. Give plants plenty of water. Also called Hawaiian ti plant.

**Cassia fistula**—Golden shower—Ornamental. Flowers yellow up to 2" across, five petaled, clustered, resembles huge bunches of grapes. Leaves about 1" long, downy below.

**Schinus terebinthifolius**—Hawaiian holly—Shrub or small tree with fine cut foliage, dark green, flowers whitish.

**Psidium cattleianum var. lucidum**—

(Continued on Next Page)

### From a Seed Fund Contributor

June 3, 1958

Dear Mrs. Gee:

Sometime ago I purchased some begonia seed from the seed fund and now have some nice plants from them. I mentioned at time of ordering that I could furnish some semperflorens seed. Herewith I am sending some.

These are all fresh seed gathered over a period of the last three months. This particular batch is mixed but every seed pod has been hand picked and selected only from the choicest plants as regards color and size of flowers and quality of plant.

I raise about two thousand semperflorens, fibrous rooted begonias all of which have been bred by myself over a period of several years. By careful selection and hand fertilizing, some of my plants now produce the largest flowers I have seen in semperflorens, also choice as far as color and quality of plant is concerned.

I do not know the parentage of any of my present plants so far as standard named varieties are concerned, as I began several years ago to select seed from choice plants. However, I do have a detailed record of the parentage of all plants on hand in relation to my own kinds—all records by code for simplicity, no named varieties.

For my own planting I *protect the female flower till ready to pollinate then take the plant to a pollen-free room and cross with the pollen of my choice*. This is very complicated so far as keeping exact descriptive records is concerned therefore I do not have so many of such seed. However, have seed from several hundred plants so selected and as soon as I can get enough ready will send some of that too. They will have descriptions of both parents.

C. ELMER FREY, M.D.

Oak Place Hospital  
Houston, Texas

—B—

PLAN TO ATTEND THE 1958  
A.B.S. CONVENTION AND SHOW

# Seed Fund

(Continued From Preceding Page)

Strawberry guava, ornamental and fruit. Leaves dark green, smooth and shiny, fruit yellow and strawberry flavor.

**Carica papaya**—Ornamental and fruit. Flowers cream-white, narrow, five-petaled and fragrant. Leaves about 12" if grown in pots or larger in open ground. Fruit melon-like, golden orange and can be used in various ways as food.

All Hawaiian seed are .25 per. pkt.

## OTHER GENERA

**Hibiscus**—Large, white, fragrant flowers.

**Urginea maritima**—Sea onion—Strap-like leaves, flowers numerous and whitish. Bulbs thick.

**Heuchera sanguinea**—Coral bells—Medium growth, leaves basal, flowers in clusters of small, red, bell-shaped. Nice cut flower. All other genera .25 per. pkt.

As the year draws to a close, we wish to thank all of the seed fund patrons for their generous support and for the many kind remarks received during the past year, they have been greatly appreciated. The activities of the seed fund are sometimes frustrating but the compensations are many. We will be selling plants again this year at the flower show and convention and will have all of your favorite plants and will feature German rex begonias, European semperflorens, double camellia semperflorens and many more grown especially for the seed fund booth by John Thieben.

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

## Seedlings and Hybrids

(Continued From Page 175)

shape and color are again evident. These two interesting characteristics make "Kenworthy" a good parent especially in light of the fact that it is not a good grower and goes dormant for a period in the spring. This illustrates the point that in plant breeding you aim to breed out

## Squirrels Don't Eat Philodendron

PHILODENDRON, favorite tropical for indoor planter boxes and outdoor landscape schemes, can do better in Southern California than in its homeland, Southern Mexico.

This is the observation of Arnold Bowman of Rosemead, philodendron expert, who recently addressed the Orange County branch.

Bowman notes that most Mexican specimens growing in the wild look "ratty" because they are chewed by natural enemies. In Southern California, where their natural enemies have not followed them, they are attacked neither by aphid nor mealy bug—not even by squirrels. Bowman has landscaped the site of his trailer in the sequoias with various plants, and the squirrels have not set teeth on the philodendron, although they damage other shrubs.

Philodendron vary from one another in how much water they need since some come from low-lying desert areas, and

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the poor characteristics and retain the good.

Another example of this is found in my "Rama," which is a cross between the difficult *B. acida* and *B. "Reichenheimi."* The plant is easy to grow and contains much of the delightful puckering that makes *acida* an interesting plant. The all green leaf of *acida* has become flushed lightly with red as is *B. "Reichenheimi's."*

The small flowers of *B. acida* have become large like *B. "Reichenheimi's"* but contain little of "Reichenheimi's" pink coloring. Like its half-sister, "Kumwha," "Rama" is virtually everblooming, a characteristic which we would seem to have to credit to *B. "Reichenheimi."*

While this study of dominant characteristics was taken primarily from my own plants the same can be done with any hybrid of which you know the parents (knowing just one will help). Thus, by studying and learning dominant characteristics, you can plan your hybrids better and achieve far better results with the same amount of work.

## 26th Annual A.B.S. Convention and Begonia Show

PLUMMER PARK 7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD., LOS ANGELES

A.B.S. Member Registration 50 Cents—Public Admission 50 Cents

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday August 29th

Great Hall will be open from 12 noon to 10 P.M. to receive Competitive plants.

Saturday August 30th

- 8:00 A.M. Registration of delegates and Members.  
8:00 A.M. Great Hall will be open to 9:30 A.M. to receive competitive plants. At which time all plants must be in place as judging begins at 10 A.M.  
9:30 A.M. Show closed for judging.  
2:00 P.M. Show open to Members and Public.  
2:00 P.M. Annual Business Meeting in Long Hall.  
Mr. Frank, Coe, President, presiding. Presentation of Show Awards by Mrs. Ethel Arbuckle, Chairman of Awards Committee.  
6:30 P.M. Annual Banquet, Fiesta Hall, Plummer Park.  
Invocation by Dr. Merle E. Fish, Minister of Pico Arlington Christian Church.  
Mr. Clarence Hall of Glendale Branch, Master of Ceremonies.  
7:30 P.M. Introduction of Distinguished guests.  
Introduction of National President, Frank Coe.  
Introduction of General Convention Chairman, Bert Slatter.  
Installation of Incoming National Officers, Mrs. Maria Wilkes Installing Officer.  
Speaker—Mrs. Alice Clark, San Diego, Subject: Begonias and People.

Sunday August 31st

- 9:30 A.M. Registration of Members and Delegates.  
10:00 A.M. Show Open to General Public.  
6:00 P.M. Adjournment of Convention and Show.

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## Twenty-Sixth Annual Convention

THE TWENTY-SIXTH Annual Convention and Begonia Show of the American Begonia Society will be held at Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, Aug. 30th and 31st, 1958.

The Convention and Begonia Show will be sponsored by the Los Angeles County Park and Recreation Department under the direction of Mr. Norman S. Johnson.

The National Board, assisted by several local branches, will be hosts of the Convention and its activities.

The Convention will open with the annual business meeting Saturday at 2 p.m. in Long Hall, followed by the banquet and evening program at 6:30 p.m. in Fiesta Hall.

The Competitive Begonia Show will be open to the public in Great Hall Saturday, Aug. 30 from 2 p.m., till 10 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

It is anticipated from all reports the specimen shade plants will surpass all previous years. The Seed Fund will be in much evidence also, with a fine plant table where you may purchase, for a nominal fee, choice shade plants.

The popular snack bar, which is always in great demand, is asking for donations from you of cakes, pies, etc.

The Seed Fund booth also would appreciate plant donations. Branches which are planning to help cover the Convention expenses, please mail your donation to Convention Treasurer Mrs. Pearl Parker, 726 West 81st St., Los Angeles

(Continued on Page 191)

## To All Branches:

THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY National Convention and Flower Show for 1958 is to be held at Fiesta Hall, Plummer Park, Hollywood, Calif., on August 30 and 31.

THE BANQUET at the end of the first day is always an outstanding event, and this year it promises to be greater than ever. Price? Less than last year and a special bargain price for early orders. *Early Bird Savings.* The banquet ticket price is \$2.50 per person, or *you save* by mailing your reservations with check on or before August 14th, at the *bargain* rate of \$2.25 per person. (The post mark on your envelope will identify the date.)

THE SPEAKER: None other than our own Alice M. Clark of San Diego. She is an authority of long standing on begonias—an artist in her own right—a good speaker—and beloved by all who know her. Her subject will be, "Begonias and People."

THE DINNER will be just tops.

The bargain rate for tickets is an inducement for you to get your reservations in early. This allows us to arrange for the exact number who will attend. Adding more at the last minute requires the hiring of additional help, sometimes very difficult and always an additional expense. We are sure you understand.

Please inform your board members and your membership as soon as possible. Make your reservations NOW. Don't delay. Mail your reservation list with your check on or before August 14th to be sure of the \$2.25 lower rate.

Reservations postmarked August 14th to 21st inclusive, must contain remittances at the rate of \$2.50 per person. *The bargain price rate cannot be accepted after August 14th.*

Reservations *will not be accepted* if postmarked after August 21.

Tickets will follow in another letter as soon as received from the printers. BUT DON'T WAIT. ORDER NOW.

CLARENCE HALL  
*Banquet Ticket Chairman*

## President's Invitation

Every member is invited and urged to attend this year's annual Convention and to enter plants in the show. Let's make this event the best ever. I hope that you will arrange your Labor Day weekend so that you and your friends can enjoy this highlight of the American Begonia Society's year. Come, meet old friends and make new ones—I'll see you there!

FRANK COE

—B—

## Correction

### DIVISION A—B. SEMPERFLORENS-COLTORUM

- 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. Mexican species.
  6. Other bedding begonias, such as B. "Richmondensis" and B. "Catalina."
  7. Hanging containers of Classes 1-2-3-4-5-6.
  8. Wall pockets of Classes 1-2-3-4-5-6.

—B—

*A good thing to remember,  
And a better thing to do.  
Is to work with the construction gang,  
Instead of the wrecking crew.*

### FOR MOTEL RESERVATIONS

contact

**Dr. W. C. Drummond**

1246 N. King's Road

Hollywood 46

**Single, \$6.00; Double, \$8.00**

**3-4 persons, one room, \$12.00**

# Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

## FOOTHILL

The Foothill branch will hold a jitney dinner (each to bring their own table service and a covered dish) at 6:30 p.m., August 21, at the Flora home, 1872 S. White Ave., Pomona. One of the members, Miss Esther Smith, will show pictures and tell of her recent trip to Europe.

—B—

## GLENDALE

Our speaker was John Threlkeld, Superintendent of Descanso Gardens.

Mr. Threlkeld showed colored slides and talked on the comparative progress and adaptability of begonia plantings in the Gardens, especially those given by the American Begonia Society.

Plans are now being made for the National Convention and Plant Show to be held at Plummer Park on August 30th and 31st. The Glendale Branch has been asked to take charge of the Convention Banquet, hope you will all help to make it a success. Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger of Santa Barbara is Plant Show Chairman and she is hoping that every member of the A. B. S. will bring as many plants as possible, "says she wants begonias." Let's all help her. There will of course be classes for all types of shade loving plants so begin to get your pet plants ready.

Of course you all know this is the growing season, but just a reminder that your plants should be regularly fed, watered and groomed. Those in pots should be turned to get as even growth as possible, especially those you expect to show, either at the National or your own Branch Show.

—B—

## EVA KENWORTHY GRAY

Eva Kenworthy Gray Branch is planning an open house for the August meeting on the 17th, from 2 until 4 p.m., in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Charles

H. Calloway, 1311 Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla, Cal.

—B—

## MARGARET C. GRUENBAUM

Our meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Thomas Kilderry in Titusville, N.Y., on the bend of the Delaware river in the beautiful Delaware valley.

Program for the June meeting was a discussion and exchange of information on seed cuttings and growing. There was also additional planning for the begonia exhibit our branch was invited to stage in the Perkesie, Pa. Show in September.

—B—

## HOLLYWOOD

We were happy to hear the good news that Mr. Bert Slatter, President-Elect of the American Begonia Society, would be with us at our Regular Meeting, on June 18. He also spoke about the Convention and Begonia Show. Mr. Slatter had a special request to talk about his favorite fuchsias and begonias and his methods of growing them successfully.

There was our usual plant table and comments on the various interesting specimens, also a short begonia lesson.

—B—

## HOUSTON

Officers and membership for the Houston Branch of the American Begonia Society for 1958 and 1959 are; President, Mrs. U. D. Porter; Vice-Pres., Mrs. H. M. Puckett; Secretary, Mrs. A. F. Morin; Treasurer, Mrs. B. A. Russell; Representative Director, Mrs. C. E. Cooper, all of Houston.

Membership is as follows:

Mrs. Florance Brittan, Bellaire; Mrs. E. H. Claggett, Houston; Mrs. W. I. Como, Dickinson; Mrs. Grant Herzog, Houston; Mrs. B. H. Jenkins, Houston; Mrs. G. D. Beard, Houston; Dr. C. E. Frey, Houston; Mrs. Margaret Cerruti, Bellaire; Mrs. Ruby Ferguson, Rosharon.

## INGLEWOOD

Program for the July meeting was a panel discussion on Plant Identification—with question and answer period.

The Study Club met Tuesday, July 15th at "Hotaling's Garden". Another one of those wonderful pot luck dinner meetings. The subject of the meeting was miniature rex begonias.

—B—

## LONE STAR

The Lone Star Branch of the American Begonia Society held its annual picnic at the Dallas Garden Center in Fair Park on Monday evening, June 16th, at 6:30 p.m. Tables and chairs had been set up in the patio immediately behind the Garden Center building but an unexpected thunder storm forced a quick retreat into the beautiful air-conditioned auditorium where begonias could be studied at first hand in the well-filled planting boxes.

After a sumptuous repast which included Southern fried chicken, the meeting was called to order by President Major E. A. Wood. Business was quickly transacted and the subject of the evening "Cane Type Begonias" was outlined by Major Wood.

Mrs. Krause's book was used as a guide and each member was asked to discuss the particular type of cane begonia included in his or her collection. Mr. Hendrix described his specimen which grows on his back porch which is enclosed in plastic and which is now nine feet tall with fifteen clusters of

flowers on it. There was a very fine *B. "Lucerna"* in the Garden Center planter. Other types shown were "*Manicata*," "*Guinea Wing*" and *Mrs. de Lesseps*."

Recently elected president of the Lone Star branch, Dallas, Texas, is Major E. A. Wood, 4321 Rawlins, Dallas 19.

—B—

## LOUISIANA CAPITAL

The Louisiana Capital Branch of the Begonia Society met recently at the R. E. Watts home on Oaklon Dr.

Mr. C. L. McAdams was elected to succeed Mrs. J. D. Hubbs as vice president, and Mrs. J. C. Foreman was elected to take Mrs. Amy Rushing's duties as secretary-treasurer during Mrs. Rushing's leave of absence.

New members welcomed into the club were Mr. and Mrs. William L. Lang of Baker.

Guests were Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Broome, Mrs. Gladys Main, Mrs. Johnny Black and Misses Mary Lillian and Lilla Ann Simms.

—B—

## MISSOURI

We learned about English begonias from Mary Woods, who brought a book on the subject and gave us a talk about them as well as how English gardens are planned and designed, and we hope that she will tell us more in future meetings.

Our president invited us to a luncheon on June 17, and Mrs. Ware greeted sixteen members, seated around the table at "The Chicken Cuisine."

**If you raise Begonias, Fuchsias, and other shade plants, sooner than you realize you will be raising ORCHIDS too.**

We know, however, that thousands of you already have at least a few Cymbidiums, Cattleyas, or Cyrtipediums in your collection.

We do not suggest raising Orchids exclusively for the thousands of plants of the shade garden and greenhouse are a welcome complement to the infinite variety and beauty of Orchids.

Whether you have a lathhouse or greenhouse, we have Orchids for you.

We have two special lists, numbers 118 and 41. A postcard will bring them to you.

Why not visit our nursery? We are so easy to reach. Between Rosemead Blvd. and San Gabriel Blvd. on the corner of Burton and Las Tunas. Open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays.

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The whale itself is nature's largest organic factory on land or sea which transforms the sea vegetation into a perfectly balanced organic plant food. All the nutriment which have gone into the growth of this immense mammal are contained in *Liquid Whale*. The

natural feeding habit of the whale is the reason *Liquid Whale* does provide a truly consistent dependable and completely balanced diet for plant life. The whale chooses for its diet mainly the protein-rich krill and plankton which cover miles of the North Pacific during the summer season.

Why *Liquid Whale*? It dissolves instantly in water and is immediately available as plant food. It may be used as root feeding, leaf feeding or mist feeding (often done in greenhouses). *Liquid Whale* needs no nutritive supplements of any kind.

Guaranteed Analysis of *Liquid Whale*: 6% organic Nitrogen (not fortified with pseudo-organic urea), 2% available phosphorus, 1% soluble potash, ALL DERIVED FROM THE WHALE.

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Valley Garden Supply, 11239 Ventura Blvd., North Hollywood, Phone POplar 2-2165

Morningside Nursery, 8619 Crenshaw Blvd., Inglewood Phone ORegon 8-1981

Burkhard & Cole, 690 No. Orange Grove, Pasadena, Calif., Phone SYcamore 6-3841

Manhattan Garden Supply, 305 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Manhattan Beach, Phone FRontier 2-2635

Etows 101 Nursery, 1870 S. Elena Ave., Redondo Beach, Phone FRontier 4-5588

Olive Oak Nursery, 2312 W. Olive Ave., Burbank, Calif.

Hodges Nursery & Landscaping Co., 2727 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach, Phone GARfield 4-2397

Glendale Crest Nursery, 1441 E. Chevy Chase, Glendale, Phone CItrus 1-2846

Bishop's Patio Gardens, 850 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Manhattan Beach, Phone FRontier 4-7058

ABC Nursery, 1444 W. Redondo Beach Blvd., Gardena, Calif.

Cecil Houdyshel, 1412 Third Street, La Verne, Calif.

Rainbow Nursery, 1635 W. Florence Ave., Los Angeles 44, Phone PLeasant 3-6121

Kitano's Atlantic Nursery, 15601 S. Atlantic Ave., Compton Phone NEWmark 5-1590

Old Farm House Nursery, 9422 Broadway, Temple City, Calif., Phone ATlantic 7-6200

Swift & Company (Plant Food Division), 4060 E. 26th St., Los Angeles, Phone ANgelus 8-7211

Ramona Gardens, 8605 Ramona Ave., Bellflower, Phone METcalf 3-3475

Southern California Peat Sales, 17922 Grayland Ave., Artesia, Phone UN 5-2495

L & M Nursery, 8931 E. Lincoln Ave., Anaheim, Calif., Phone JACkson 7-1247

Kerrigan Nursery, 2143 Seminary Ave., Oakland, Phone LOckhaven 9-6500

Capitol Nursery, 4700 Freeport Blvd., Sacramento, Phone GLadstone 5-2601

Steve O'Neil, 1808 El Camino, Sacramento, Phone IVanhoe 9-4226

Bracken's Gardens, 3570 Eureka Way West, Redding, Phone 1555-W

Antonelli Brothers, 2545 Capitola Road, Santa Cruz, Phone GRGreenwood 5-3734

Seeley's, 1521 Slinton Avenue, Fresno, Phone DA 9-9583

5th Avenue Nursery & Greenhouse, 2510 W. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood, Phone PL 1-0874

Waltz Fuchsia Gardens, 148 Shady Lane, Ross, Phone GLENwood 3-1203

Robert E. Kern, 3724 N E 7th, Portland, Ore.

Gurson I. Kantos, 442 Glencrest, Solano Beach, Calif.

R. H. MacCully, 10181 Lebanon Avenue, Cupertino, Calif. (Monte Vista)

## PHILOBEGONIA

The June meeting of the Philobegonia Branch of the American Begonia Society met at the summer home of Mrs. B. Browning. Six attended and to say that we enjoyed our stay would be putting it mildly.

We held our meeting in the forenoon. As our program chairman was not there we tore native flowers apart and tried to remember the different parts. We all agreed that our past lessons had taught us a lot. A lovely lunch was served by our hostess and as we enjoyed our food we also enjoyed the beauty of the water and the cool breezes.

Our next will be on the Jersey shore.

—B—

## SEATTLE

Seattle Branch of the American Begonia Society present with the Seattle Park Department, our **FOURTH** Seafair Begonia and Sheltered Garden Show Saturday, Aug. 2, 1958, 2 to 9 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 3, 1958, 10 to 7 p.m.

Loyal Heights Fieldhouse, 21st N. W. and W. 77th (North Ballard), will be the place and 25c admission the charge.

The purpose is to stimulate interest in begonias and shade-loving plants and to encourage introduction and development of new types of begonias and related plants.

Show chairman's Herbert H. Warrick, 6543 26th N.E., Seattle, Wash., and co-chairman's Charles H. Tusler, 1777 14th N.W., Seattle.

—B—

## SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

"Gardens of Japan," a color travelogue of the recent trip to the Orient, was presented by Peggy Sullivan to the San

Many Varieties of  
**REXES**  
and Other Begonias  
Young, Strong, Healthy Plants  
**ALL \$1.00 EACH**  
Orders \$5.00 or Over Postage Paid  
List on Request

*Virginia I. Withee*

Hill Farm Road, Coventry Centre, R. I.

Gabriel Valley Branch Wednesday, June 25.

Vivacious Peggy is an outstanding garden lecturer, landscape artist and consultant for *Sunset* magazine. Holder of degrees in horticulture and entomology from U.C.L.A. and U.C. at Berkeley, she had the distinction of being the first woman inspector in the department of agriculture, entomology division.

In her world traveling, she photographs the flora of the different countries to see how the plants grow in their native habitat so that those conditions may be duplicated in Southern California where the "foreign transplants" appear in our garden landscapes. With the increasing interest in Japanese design in landscaping Peggy's pictures brought intimate garden scenes and ideas which can be duplicated in the modernization of our "tired" gardens or lay the pattern for new gardens. The quaintly beautiful and traditional gardens of Mishima, the sister city of Pasadena in Japan, were featured.

### WE USE, RECOMMEND AND SELL BLUE WHALE

This year we are offering the most complete selection of new 1958 introductions available in Southern California.



### FINE PLANTS IN 3-INCH POT SIZE NOW READY

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## SAN MIGUEL

The program for the June Meeting centered around tropicals. Mr. Reilley of the Smith & Walker Greenhouses was the Speaker. He led an interesting discussion on tropical and sub-tropical plants for the house and Patio, and their care.

We were surprised and honored by a visit from our National President Mr. Frank Coe and his wife. He was welcomed and introduced by Mrs. Edna Lowery, Pres., and responded with a short talk.

The New officers who will serve for this year are as follows: Edna Lowery, Pres. Mrs. Ferris Jones, Vice Pres. Mrs. H. L. White, Secretary; Mrs. Emil Stark Treasurer; Mrs. R. S. (Shirley) La Rue, National Representative; Mr. Ray Purtee and Mr. Austin Raymond Directors.

Mrs. Edna Lowery presented the membership with new yearbooks. The books were compiled and made by Mrs. Ferris Jones. A big Thank You to Mrs. Jones. The books will be a great help in the coming year.

—B—

## TARRANT COUNTY

The installation for the Tarrant County branch was held in the Williamsburg room. Tables were decorated with white gladiola and red carnation corsages were provided. Three new members were present—bringing the membership to eighteen—we are growing! Mrs. Olin Hughes was installing officer, and used the rainbow as her theme.

New officers are as follows: Mrs. H. O. Dickerson, president; John Wilson, vice president; Mrs. Joe Schad, Secretary; Mrs. Mattie Jewell, Treasurer; Mrs. James Burdick, Historian; Mrs. V. E. Hall, Parliamentarian.

—B—

## WHITTIER

July meeting was a pot-luck dinner. Mr. Frank Nakamura, of Blue Hills Nursery, spoke on "General Garden Needs in the Summer."

## *A.B.S. to Be Featured*

Mr. Bill Walton  
Membership Secretary  
American Begonia Society  
1415 Acacia  
Torrance, California

Dear Mr. Walton:

Interest in membership in the American Begonia Society as well as in starting new Begonia Clubs will receive a nice boost in the July issue of FLOWER & GARDEN magazine.

As you will see, this recounts the history of the Smoky Valley Begonia Society in Salina, Kansas, how the club was formed, how it has grown, and about the many activities of members of the club, by Elvin McDonald.

Mr. McDonald ends the feature with a fine plug for membership in the American Begonia Society and your name and address are listed so that those interested may get in touch with you.

FRANK ALEXANDER

### **KELLOGG'S GROW MULCH**

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loving plants



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## Minutes of the National Board Meeting of June 23

The meeting of the National Board of the American Begonia Society was called to order by President Coe at 7:35 o'clock p.m. June 23, 1958.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Aims and purposes of the Society were read by Pres. Elect Slatter.

Motion made by Mr. Walton, seconded by Mrs. Parker that the name "Herbert P. Dyckman" be shown as the Founder of American Begonia Society on the Masthead of the publication. Motion carried.

Treasurer Lovejoy presented his financial report which was accepted as read. Mr. Lovejoy presented a bill for \$8.50 from the American Horticultural Society, covering two memberships for 1958. He recommended that the subscription be reduced to one at a cost to the A.B.S. of \$5.00 per year. Moved by Mr. Walton, seconded by Mr. Slatter that the recommendation of the treasurer in dropping the second membership be approved. Motion carried. Treasurer Lovejoy then asked that the Board approve the transfer of \$300.00 from the Convention Fund to the Convention Treasurer. Motion made and carried that the \$300.00 be so transferred.

Pres. Coe stated that Pres. Elect Slatter had volunteered to take on the duties of Convention Chairman and asked for confirmation of the appointment. Motion made and carried that the appointment be approved.

Pres. Elect Slatter then gave a report on the Convention arrangements and committees appointed:

Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger of Santa Barbara, Show Manager; Mrs. Edna Korts of Glendale Branch, Co-Chairman; Mr. Clarence Hall of Glendale Branch, Master of Ceremonies; Mrs. Alice Clark of San Diego Branch, Speaker; Mrs. Maria Wilkes, Installing Officer; Mrs. Edna Korts, Nomenclature Chairman with Mrs. Schwerdtfeger and Mr. Rudolf Ziesenhenné as co-chairman; Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman, Research Chairman; Mr. & Mrs. John Fahey, San Gabriel Branch, Snack Bar; Mrs. Pearl Parker, Inglewood Branch, Treasurer; Mrs. Jenks, Hollywood Branch, Publicity Director; Banquet Arrangements by Glendale Branch, Mr. Hall Chairman; Dr. Merle E. Fish of the Pico Arlington Christian Church will give the Invocation. Dr. W. C. Drummond, Hollywood Branch, Motel Reservations.

Mr. Slatter asked for confirmation of appointments. Motion made and passed that all appointments be confirmed.

Mr. Slatter stated that the Schedule for the plant show will be published in the July copy of The Begonian. Full convention details will be in the August number.

Mr. Slatter also asked that all members of the A. B. S. offer donations of food for the Snack Bar as no provision is made for financing it and we hope to have it help defray convention expenses.

Mr. Hall gave a report on Banquet arrangements. He stated that a caterer had been engaged to furnish the dinner, that a letter had been sent to all branches explaining the way the tickets would be handled. That all reservations must be in by August 21st, none could be accepted after that date. Tickets will be \$2.50 each, with a rebate of 25c to those remitting for reservations by August 14th—no rebate will be made for those received between August 15th and 21st, when reservations close.

Mr. Hall reported that the public liability insurance policy covering convention activities should be renewed, premium \$15.00. Motion made and carried that the policy be renewed Convention Treasurer authorized to pay the premium.

Membership Director Walton gave his report of 44 new members and 105 renewals for the month.

Mr. Walton then stated he thought it well to reconsider the motion passed relative to the American Horticultural Society 1958 membership and moved that the motion to cancel the \$3.50 subscription be rescinded. Mrs. Korts seconded and motion was carried. Moved and seconded that the Treasurer be instructed to pay the \$8.50 as billed for 1958 and \$5.00 for one membership in 1959. Motion carried.

Begonian Editor Mrs. Brest gave her report for the month and stated there were many A.B.S. cuts now

in storage, that, because of being poorly made, mis-handling or poor storage facilities cannot be used again. Motion made and carried that a committee be named to go over the cuts and destroy those that could not be used. Mrs. Brest also stated that a proper storage cabinet should be provided for the cuts and brought to the attention of the Board the fact that an item approved for the 1958 budget set aside money with which to purchase a filing cabinet.

Research Director, Mrs. Leatherman, gave a report on her department and stated she would be on the television Saturday, June 28th, in connection with her work.

Treasurer Lovejoy read a report from Mrs. Gee, Seed Fund Chairman, showing \$90.00 remitted to the treasury.

Advertising manager Thieben reported \$57.95 collected and turned over to the treasurer with a balance of \$122.50 to be collected and remitted.

Public Relations Director Hall stated that the insurance policy covering National Library property should be renewed. Motion made and carried that the policy be renewed and premium paid.

Mr. Hall reported on the formation of a new branch of the A.B.S. in Rhode Island, presented Constitution and By-Laws and asked for acceptance by the Board. Motions made and carried that the Constitution and By-laws of the Rhode Island Branch be accepted and Charter issued.

Mr. Hall also reported he had received a request from the New England Branch that they be allowed to change the name of the branch to "The Bessie Buxton Branch." Motion made and carried that change be allowed.

Nominating Committee Chairman, Mrs. Arbuckle, stated that it had been necessary to make a change in the list of nominees submitted at the May meeting, and to add a name to complete the slate. She presented names of:

Charles R. Lovejoy, President Elect  
Mrs. Nancy Alvord, Vice President  
Mrs. Pearl Parker, Treasurer  
Mrs. Irma Jane Brown, Secretary

Mrs. Arbuckle then gave her report as Awards Committee Chairman and asked that the Branch directors please send to her at once their nominations, if any for the Eva Kenworthy Grey award for this year. Mrs. Lucy Sault, National Librarian, gave her report showing books purchased and sold and balance on hand.

Nomenclature Chairman, Mrs. Korts, gave her report and stated that a descriptive list of registered begonias would be ready for the August Begonian if they could be included in that number.

Branches reporting: El Monte, Glendale, Inglewood, Orange County, Redondo Beach, San Gabriel Ventura and West Valley. San Miguel Branch reported by letter.

Pres. Coe stated he had a letter from the American Horticultural Council stating that if we could not have a personal representative at the Horticultural Congress we were at liberty to send a three minute report to be read by the Secretary. Since it appeared we would not have a personal representative he appointed Mrs. Korts, Mrs. Leatherman and Mrs. Brest to prepare and mail such a report.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Irma Jane Brown, Secretary

—B—

"I won't" is a tramp.

"I can't" is a quitter.

"I don't know" is lazy.

"I might" is waking up.

"I will try" is on his feet.

"I can is on his way.

"I will is at work.

"I did is now the boss!

*We Use and Recommend*



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## **SPOONIT**

a highly concentrated, soluble flower food  
containing chelated iron

---

## **DOO SPRAY**

Stop Powdery Mildew on Your Begonias!  
Cooke Doo-Spray Furnishes Effective Control

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## **AMERICAN PEAT MOSS**

Twice as Much Nitrogen — 10 Times More Minerals — Ideal Acidity  
American Peat Moss is better quality at less cost!

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## **SPONGE-ROK**

the "artificial earthworm" which keeps the soil loose for better growing  
. . . and Sponge-Rok lasts for years

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## **FOREST HUMUS**

used by nurserymen everywhere  
as a potting mix ingredient

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*Leatherman's Gardens*

2637 N. Lee Ave.

El Monte, Calif.

## Philodendron

(Continued From Page 178)

others as high as 8,000 feet. If you are giving the plant too little water, it will wilt. If you give it too much the edges of the leaf show burning.

The amateur who brings his philodendron home from a professional nursery often finds that it goes downhill from then on. One reason for this is that the nurseryman grows the plant in a cheap medium and applies fertilizer to it every two weeks. There is no long-lasting nourishment in the planting mixture itself. All it does is to hold the plant while the nurseryman feeds it.

The new owner would be wise to repot the plant in a mix of one-half sandy soil, one-quarter leaf mold and one-quarter peat moss. Bonemeal should be added. A half-strength dose of liquid fertilizer can be added once a month to promote vigorous growth. If it is desirable not to have a plant outgrow a limited space, the amount of fertilizer can be reduced accordingly.

*Philodendron selloum* was one of the first to be used outdoors, and is still a good choice. Bowman cautions that the customer should not choose a philodendron hybrid that has been on the market less than two or three years.

Other tips on philodendron are to be sure it has the right amount of light, water and moisture. In addition to watering the roots, gardeners keep the air around the plant fairly humid.

## Discard Old Friends?

By MRS. HOWARD L. WITHEE

I HAVE read and am told that old Rex Begonia plants should be tossed out, that when over a year old they are passe'. My prize winning B. "Cardoza Gardens" was fourteen months old when it won the Ernest Kimball Logee Trophy for being the Best Rex at a show recently in Boston, Mass., because of its uniform shape, over-all healthy and lush appearance. Me toss this winner out?? It is still superb, is growing on several new leaves, no leaves are showing signs of age, none have died off so I can't find a single fault with it yet except for a couple of small cricket holes. Indeed, his activities came to a sad end for him! This most gorgeous rex "holds the lime-light" in the alcove, believe me.

"King Edward" is over a year old too. He does now sprawl more or less in regal comfort, basking in a south-easterly window and reigns supreme in the living room. Having spent most of his majestic time in the window it would be like parting with a beloved ruler. He is healthy and robust, ten new leaves are showing and some flower buds are about ready to open. Now how can I toss out this royal character? "Perle Hume's" silver spotted green skirts flounce down over the shelf below and billow out at the sides in graceful lines. She too is over a year old and I note five new leaves coming out at the top designing themselves into the shape of a fan. Indeed,

---

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"Perle" could be the belle of the ball. "Mrs. Frevert" holds her age well too; she airily fluffs her silvered green skirts in elegant style, reminding me of someone with a delightful sense of humor. "Fireflush" is another about a year old; its gaudy lovely leaves cascading into the sunlight remind me of "great balls of fire" and the seven new leaves are as brilliant a plush red as anything can be. Surely, I *do* see red as I look at this. Me toss out this beacon among rexes?

But my Rexes, old? so very lovely yet, those that I have mentioned. Toss them out? Age means nothing to me. Sturdy old friends to be discarded just on general principles? No, not for me. Hill Farm Rd. Rhode Island

### Calendar

- Through Aug 3—Santa Barbara Nat'l Horse and Flower Show, 10-10 p.m.  
 Aug. 2, 3—Seattle Branch Fourth Annual Seafair Begonia and Sheltered Garden Show.  
 Aug. 17—Eva Kenworthy Gray Branch—Open House, gardens of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Calloway, 1311 Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla.  
 Aug. 21—Foothill Branch—Jitney potluck 6:30 p.m., Flora home, 1872 S. White, Pomona.  
 Aug. 30, 31—Annual Convention and Begonia Show, Plummer Park, Los Angeles (details elsewhere in this issue).

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CONVENTION

(Continued From Page 179)

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BERT SLATTER  
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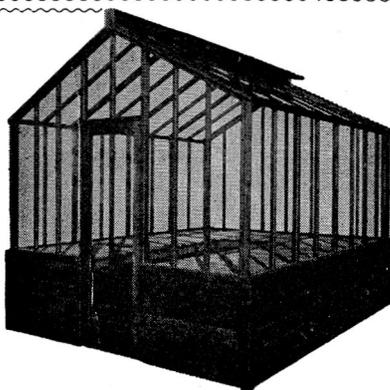
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