

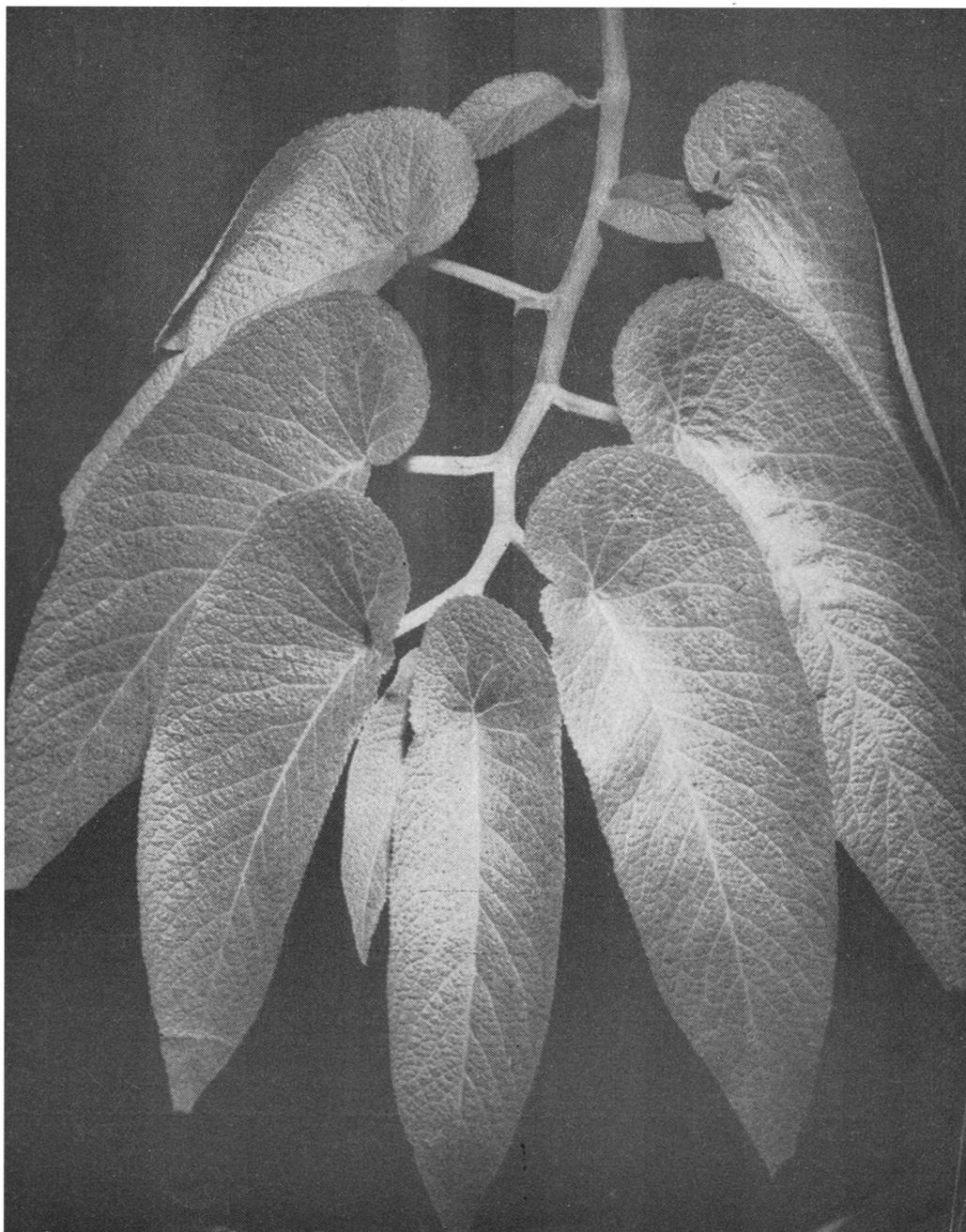
The Begonian

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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Bill Walton, Membership Secretary, 1415 Acacia, 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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1415 Acacia St., Torrance, Calif.

Advertising Manager.....John Thieben
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Eastern Editor.....Mrs. George E. DeCoursey
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From Your New President



"Bert" Slatter

It is an honor to have been elected as your New President, and, by the same token, being aware of the great responsibility, I will, with the help, and cooperation of the Board of Directors and all members, strive to maintain the high standards and principles laid down by our former officers.

As we go forward let us remember in Unity there is Strength.

With every good wish for a most happy, friendly and prosperous year for all our Branches.

Cordially,

BERT SLATTER, *President*

Begonias and the People

By ALICE M. CLARK

(ED: For those ABS members who, because of distance or other reasons could not attend the annual convention and show, we are happy to reproduce the fine inspirational talk given by Mrs. Alice Clark at the banquet. Mrs. Clark, long a friend of begonias and people, and possessing the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award—given for outstanding service to ABS—delightfully details many ways to strengthen the Society, the branches, and rekindle enthusiasm in individual members.)

WHEN the late Alfred C. Hottes gave his outstanding talk on "The Gardener's Answer to the Pursuit of Happiness," at this convention dinner several years ago, he said that he often used that title because it gave him a chance to say anything that came to his mind. I suspect I have chosen my subject for the same reason, as I want to talk about Begonias and the People from several angles.

Many years ago, when I wrote my first article for a San Diego newspaper, it was entitled: "When Begonias Were

People." It described the golden days when more new begonia hybrids were being made in San Diego than anywhere else in the country—or in the world, for that matter. Alfred Robinson, Constance Bower, Eva Kenworthy Gray, Midge Fewkes and many others were in their heyday as hybridists, and they often named their hybrids for local people. I had visited Mr. Robinson's Rosecroft Begonia Gardens on Point Loma many times, but it took the research on plant names to arouse my interest in begonias. When I realized that no one was taking note of the botanical history that was being made around me, I decided to do what I could to record it. It is my everlasting regret that I started too late to glean all the valuable information that Mr. Robinson could have given me. He died before I was fairly launched on the series of articles that began in *The Begonian* of 1943.

Before I was married I was an artist. When my children were grown it seemed foolish to go back to painting, after a lapse of twenty years. In planning to

write about begonias, it struck me that it might be helpful to do their portraits too. That is how I happened to make the illustrations.

Such a time as I had with the begonia sittings! First I must decide whether the profile or front view best suited my subject, and which of many branches to eliminate. Because I am slow, it took a week or more, working day and night, to complete each sketch. It was a mad race to catch the buds and leaves on paper before they unfolded to full size on the plants. I never knew begonias grew so fast. There was no way to persuade my subjects to hold still, short of taking us both to the deep freeze. It was the artist, not the sitter, who needed the rest period.

The first begonia I sketched and described was named for Mrs. Fred Scripps, who married into the newspaper family of that name. She was an English lady, whose family were jewelers, but she had a fondness for gardens. Within her estate she built a Scotch cottage, with thatched roof and the roses and herbs of Bobbie Burns' day. In another section she put up an adobe of Ramona's time, with Indian rugs inside, and a round bake-oven outside. Olive and fig trees, cacti and succulents graced the garden. Mrs. Scripps was one of the first to have a real lathhouse, down our way. It was stocked with the best begonias and ferns she could obtain. On the edge of the waters of Mission Bay, the misty climate was just what begonias liked, so it is not surprising that the distinctive begonia that bears her name should have volunteered there. She must have been a perceptive gardener, to have appreciated and preserved the young plant.

That is just one illustration of the stories that wait to be uncovered about the plants we grow. How much more we cherish *B. "Ricky Minter,"* beautiful as it is, because it was named by Marie Turner for the invalid son of Marie Minter. What fun it is, when we are proud of a fine *B. "Freddie,"* to think of the round, smiling face of its namesake, Mr. Ziesenne's son. Wouldn't you like to

know more about the French *B. "Paul Bruant,"* the Belgian *B. "Limminghei,"* the German *B. "Reichenheimi,"* *B. "Thurstoni"* from New Jersey, or the Californian, *B. "Houghtoni,"* named for the man who wrote a thesis on begonias for his doctorate? Like stamp collectors, begonia fans can, if they will, learn much of interest if they will study Begonias and the People for whom they are named.

Now think of Begonias and the People who discovered them. In addition to a comprehensive knowledge of botany, and the thousands of existent species, explorers must have the adventurous spirit and hardiness of pioneers, plus the patience, ingenuity and persistence of a scientist, in order to "bring them back alive." In the early days, these intrepid people were priests, botanists, navy men and doctors, often looking for medicinal plants; later they were scientific men like Ernest Wilson, who introduced so many flowering shrubs from China, and lost his life in the doing. The hunt still goes on, often with the more practical purpose of finding species that will increase the yield of our farm products.

To me it is amazing that we are still growing and hybridizing begonia species that were introduced in the eighteenth century. When we think of the effort that has been expended to introduce the beauties we take for granted today, such as those in this splendid Begonia Show, we should be humble and grateful before them. I can never understand my begonia friends who are not interested in the backgrounds of their plants. We admire Abraham Lincoln for what he did, but is it not the story of his early struggles that doubles our appreciation of his achievements?

Take *B. paulensis*, for instance. It was raised from seed given to Mrs. Schwerdtfeger by Mrs. Kem Weber of Santa Barbara. She received it from a botanical garden she visited in Germany, but the original plant came from Brazil. Do you wonder, as I do, about the Paul it was named for? Was he the one who found this unusual begonia and was honored by having it bear his name? That would be

like the fine large species Mr. Ziesenhenné christened *B. macdougalli* for the explorer who had sent him so many other good ones. When you study the how, when, where and by whom a begonia is introduced, it becomes a symbol of progress.

After these begonia species are brought in, there are the people who put them together and make new ones. Without the dedicated souls who hybridize begonias, simply because they love them, our gardens would stand still. There is little financial gain from this work, but sometimes these patient ones are lucky enough to have their names perpetuated in a rare species, such as *B. boweri* or *B. kenworthyi*. We hope there are some begonias still waiting to be discovered, that will answer to the names of *robinsoni*, *ziesenhennéi*, *zugé*, *turneri*, *schwertfegeri*, *horroni*, and many others who should be commemorated for their work.

There is another important way to show our appreciation of the people who make begonias. Keep your eyes open for their new hybrids. Grow the ones that please you until they are big display plants. If your friends admire them, don't give them cuttings — tell them where to buy them. Here are the names of a few that charm me at the show: *B. "Kumwha,"* by Don Horton, named for a town in Korea where he was stationed during the war; *B. "Otto Albert,"* Louise Schwertfeger's salute to her patient husband; *B. "Zuensis,"* Susie Zug's remarkable cultivar of *B. paulensis*; and *B. "Bert Slatter,"* the tall, big-leaved, dark-flushed hybrid of *B. incarnata* x *B. kenworthyi* that Rudy Ziesenhenné made. Pick your favorites and then have a hot argument with other growers over which are the best. Get excited over begonias, make them best sellers!

There should be a footnote here about Begonias and the People who fail to register their fine hybrids. Perhaps they are just too modest. Couldn't the Branches do something about this?

Begonias and the People who write about them are of this era. The little pamphlet printed by Eva Kenworthy

Gray, in 1931, was the first publication on begonias in the English language. Our begonia magazine was founded the next year. The first American book on begonias, by Bessie Buxton, came out less than thirty years ago, and the one by Mrs. Krauss dates from 1947. A German and a Belgian each wrote about begonias a little earlier.

I should pause here to mention the Bessie Buxton Check List, which is such a wonderful source of quick reference, especially at Begonia Shows. Every real begonian should have this book which has only been made available by the enormous personal effort of Alva Graham. We should give our deepest thanks to her for typing, compiling and financing this splendid volume. She is a true Begonia Person.

It seems to me that the old botanical publications described plants better than the big garden magazine of today. Probably the articles were more scholarly because people wanted them that way. It is you, the begonia growers, who can set the standard. If we want more of Mr. Ziesenhenné's fine botanical monographs on new species, I am sure he would do them. We are grateful for the Leatherman reports on Brazilian species. It is articles like these and those of other research writers that can put our magazine in the top bracket of garden journals. Remember, *The Begonian* is a botanical document, the only one published about begonias. We must want the best.

Every day something new happens in the begonia field. *The Begonian* needs more Kortses to record begonias, more Hortons to write about them, and more Leathermans and Thiebens for correspondence, and research testing of new species and the correction of old names. We shall always need a page for beginners and for the would-be growers who are far from nurseries and too scattered for clubs. Let's keep space for factual letters such as the good ones we have been getting, that discuss the varied problems of soil and climate across this vast country of ours. And we want to hear more from our fine Canadian neigh-

bors and foreign affiliates. Don't be bashful, we need volunteers and new blood. Pick a begonia subject you know about, or wish to know about, teach yourself to type, or even use a tape recorder, and get into this writing game. We have an excellent editor who would love to be snowed under with manuscripts or good photographs. It is not enough to grow begonias, you, the People, must read, write and think begonias to keep our standard high.

Now we can discuss Begonias and the People who club together in their name. What a big day it was for us when our beloved founder, who liked to be called "Pop" Dyckman, gathered his staunch friends about him and started this Begonia Society. There were people of real stature in that group. They came long distances to see and talk about begonias. Mrs. Dyckman, the Ziesenhennes, the Clarence Halls, the Hixons, Mrs. Arbuckle and her mother, Mrs. White, were among those early members who are here tonight. I would like to quote from the first part of a letter by A. D. Robinson, known then as the "Dean of Begonians." It was to be read on the seventh anniversary meeting of this group. He begins:

"Dear Victims: I am writing to you because, somewhat belatedly, I have discovered that I should act my age and not run around trying to give a demonstration of 'how to be young, 'though old.'

"By whatever name an organization functions, in whatever field it works, it has as its ultimate object the good of humans, either as a class, or in general. Many are frankly formed to fight other organizations, or individuals; others disguise this motive, but it is there nevertheless. This Begonia Society should have the special favor of the gods, as it is all FOR, rather than AGAINST. It is a fair assumption that the great majority of those present, if not all of them, have been bitten by the Begonia Bug. Wherever two or more of them are gathered together they discuss, when they don't cuss, begonias."

He goes on to hope that some firm

would build small lathhouses that would make it possible for more people to grow begonias easily—an item that has long been in the trade. He also stressed the need for municipal lathhouses, where the public could go to learn about begonia culture. The Arboretum at Arcadia may be the answer to that, if everyone will contribute to the fund for the Begonia Glasshouse to be installed there. Mr. Robinson envisioned one in every town. It has been said, "Old gardeners never die, they just spade away." Isn't that as though A. D. R. were still urging us on to realize his dreams for us?

At a special table in front of me are the officers and past presidents of our A.B.S. They are the only People who really know what begonias mean—lots of work.

Speaking of Begonias and the People who meet under their banner, we come to a topic that has given me serious thought for several years, and is the real reason I was happy to come here to speak to you tonight. I have tried to reaffirm that Begonias, and the People behind them, are something to be very proud of, whether you are thinking in terms of citizens, explorers, hybridists, writers, editors, founders, officers, or just good club members—in other words, People. My definition of a good begonia club member is one with whom you *want* to talk about begonias. No matter what types they are, they have Begonias written all over them. Who would think of talking politics with Susie Zug? When you see Emma Carlton of Berkeley, you get into a huddle over the names of certain varieties. You want to find out from a Sacramento member how they plan their prize-winning entries. Our indomitable president's name should be Bert "Begonia Convention" Slatter. Are the San Francisco conventionites still growing those outstanding big ones? You can't wait to quiz John Thieben as to what he feeds his amazing specimens that always take and deserve blue ribbons. Has Edna any new registrations for nomenclature? Is Rudy importing some rare species? How about Louise's 1958 hybrids? Let's

ask Marie Turner about the Arboretum. Has Sylvia any news from abroad? And how, oh how, did you do with that batch of seeds from Florence Gee's fabulous Seed Fund? I could go on and on (perhaps you think I have). Aren't you glad you could come here to get the answers to some of these questions, you *good begonia* members?

Now, about that thing that has been worrying me. Have our begonia branches become too devoted to the coffee and cake social hour, and the plant sale that is supposed to keep the organizations solvent? I am reminded of the young girl who was taken to see an exhibit of Impressionist paintings. When asked how she liked it, she replied, "It's not bad, but it certainly needs to be tuned in."

Is the begonia image becoming blurred? If our clubs were correctly tuned, wouldn't you see a great many more small groups? At the first turn of the dial you could blot out all of us old "spaders" of the "rocking-chair brigade," who only want to dream about the good old begonia days. You would get a clear picture of a beginner's daytime study group, with members taking turns looking up their subjects—begonias, of course. That is the real way to learn. Advanced sections would be studying and collecting species, new, local or old hybrids, and bringing to light good material for the magazine, with the help of our fine library. Super-advanced groups would be studying flower-show judging. You would see many members in the evening workshop division, growing and exchanging seeds and cuttings, or demonstrating potting and pollinating techniques. Each of these small groups would be enjoying the phase of begonias it prefers. There will still be a few who are often grand people, who are more for the social side. If you dial *very* carefully, you will find that they are associate members, paying double dues, hiring a hall for good travelogs and putting on a banquet for the regulars at the end of the year. In return, the workers will give them a garden tour, showing how truly beautiful begonias can be. If the an-

THE TREE

"Some people touch a tree and find it
but wood to feed a fire;
Yet, carpenters can feel a floor or
sense a soaring spire.
The sculptor looks upon its trunk and
carvings fill the air,
While other come and see the hearts
which lovers whittled there.
The farmer reaches for its fruit,
the traveler seeks its shade,
The boy can see a raft of logs on
streams of flowing jade.
The outdoorsman will think of crafts
to blunt an ocean's rage,
The pharmacist will see its roots, the
publisher, a page.
The bird finds one beloved branch,
but mothers see the beds
Wherein at nightfall, they will tuck
their precious curleyheads.
The artist grasps the golden flame that
leaves of autumn toss.
And some whose souls are deep as Time,
can see a Savior's cross."

— Frank H. Keith.

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tenna is right you will see begonias up on a pedestal, where they belong, out of the junk shop of chance sales, which will not be necessary because there is no rent to pay. Their plant sales will be just a few of the biggest and best begonias.

Don't let the social side come between Begonias and People. When you go back to your branches, resell them on Begonias, until they are aware of our heritage of begonia beauty and the people who have brought it to us. Be good begonia growers. If our eastern members can nurse their plants along indoors for nine months, against all kinds of odds, surely, with everything in California in our favor, we can raise specimens that will make begonia converts of all who see them as has been done at this show. Go back to your clubs, full of the inspiration and enthusiasm you have gained from this fine convention. Help President Slater carry out his plans for a big year. Take out the little words *between* Begonias and the People and let's all be what I call good Begonia People.

# Brazilian Begonias

By M. KUHLMANN

THIS species described in 1945 by Alexander Curt Brade, in "Rodriguesia No. 18," was first found in Santa Maria Magdalena, in the State of Rio de Janeiro, in 1941, and later in 1943 by Mr. Joaquin dos Santos.

The seeds were introduced into the Botanical Garden in Sao Paulo in 1944, where a few developed into satisfactory plants. They proved to be strong and healthy and resistant to direct exposures of sun, wind and rain. However, a heavy frost (in 1955) seriously damaged the leaves and flowering branches, but on the following year (the year in which this article was published in the Revista, etc.) the plants produced vigorous new shoots and flowered, since the temperature remained above freezing.

This begonia grows perfectly in cement troughs or boxes filled with stones and the fiber of fern trees (*Alsophylla atrovirens*). It also grows in well prepared soil in the gardens.

Propagation is by seed, side shoots or cuttings. So far propagation by leaves has not been successful, but may be possible in vermiculite.

As the photograph shows, the begonia is worthy of a place in our tropical gardens, rewarding the little care necessary with vigorous foliage of exquisite form and coloring. The white auxiliary flowers emerge from the buds with the two (only two) sepals of the calyx in juxtaposition as the valves of a shell, resembling tiny hearts with pink tips. The feminine flowers, insignificant, are then seen, two on each side, at the base of the first; and as generally happens in the begonias, the ovary, inferior is the most prominent, being in this case, quadrilocular. Such a number of locules (four) which should be a rule, has become an exception in the begonias so much that its verification gave to one of the rare species which carries it, the adjective which distinguishes it, from its kin.

English Abstract taken from the same publication.

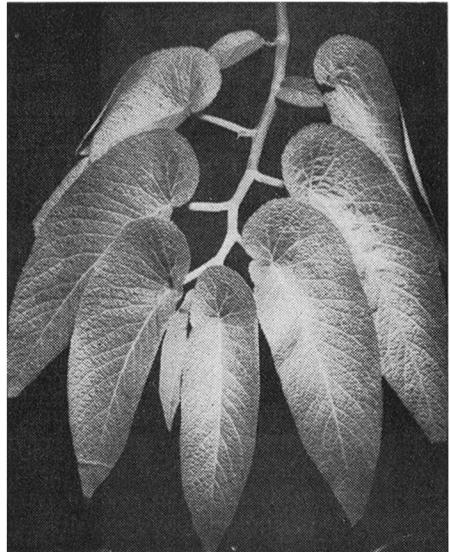
The author presents a large Brazilian Begonia, discovered in the State of Rio de Janeiro in 1943 and described by A. C. Brade.

The present specimen, raised from seed, was planted in 1944 at the Sao Paulo Botanical Gardens and is doing very well, the severe 1955 frosts did some damage, but the specimen is vigorously budding again.

The color is a beautiful green, with white flowers. The plant is tough and should be kept in large stone pots which will flower during the cold months. A short botanical description is given.

Photo shows the specimen growing at the Sao Paulo Botanical Institute, blooming June 1956. The largest leaves are over 12 inches long.

Permission for the use of the article and photo was granted by Paulo Nogueira Neto. The article appeared in  
(Continued on Page 234)



*Begonia quadrelocularis*



## A Begonia Personality

Doña María Mendoza de Maza, Ocozacoautla, Chiapas, Mexico, with some of her begonias. At the left hand of Doña María is a dark-leaved form of *B. mazaе*. The plant to her right is a self-sown natural hybrid, with the leaf color of dark leaved *B. mazaе* and the leaf form of a green leaved plant which does not appear in the picture. The town of Ocozacoautla has an ideal climate for begonias, although few grow wild in the immediate vicinity. *B. kenworthyi* is found twenty miles to the south and *B. mazaе* about an equal distance to the north. Neither of the species appears to have been reported outside of its type locality. *B.*

*mazaе* may well grow elsewhere in the vast rain forest of which it is a part. *B. kenworthyi* is very likely restricted to its own peculiar habitat.

Doña María's interest in native begonias dates primarily from the publication of her namesake. This also stimulated the menfolk of the family to bring in plants from the forest, so that now she has most of the leaf color forms—from maroon to green—of *B. mazaе* to be found in the habitat.

A prized possession of Doña María is a copy of *The Begonian* containing the original description of *B. mazaе* by Rudolf Ziesenhenné.

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### SUGGESTIONS FOR BEGINNERS

**CLEAN POTS**—This is fundamental. Give old pots a thorough washing and sunning to kill spores of fungi and mosses.

**PERFECT DRAINAGE**—Provide this by placing a layer of coarse gravel or pieces of clean broken pots in bottom of pots.

**THREE POINT POTTING SOIL**—In thirds: sharp coarse sand, well rotted manure, and oak leaf mold (not too fine). The proportions to be altered with experience.

# Seeds, Seedlings and Hybrids

By DON HORTON

## *New Hybrid Begonias*

IN THE November 1957 *Begonian* I wrote in this column "Beth Bath of Santa Ana, California...has now turned her attention to hybridizing. We are in for a real treat when she exhibits the best of these (hybrids) at the National Show next year."

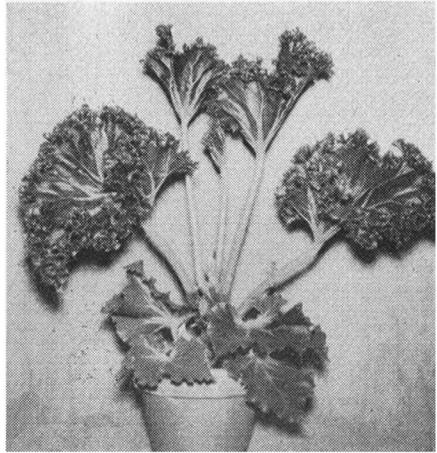
Although I have never professed to be much of a prophet, it is still gratifying to watch one's beliefs come to pass. This year Beth exhibited the best of these hybrids and one of them, "Madame Queen," took first place, and the Inglewood Branch Award, for highest rating new cultivar.

"Madame Queen" is a truly beautiful begonia. It is a cross between *B. manicata aureo-maculata crispa* and a sister seedling of "Leslie Lynn" ("Lexington" x "Bill"). Described in terms of its parents you can say that it has the habit and leaf shape of *manicata aureo-maculata crispa* and the coloring, leaf size, and robustness of "Leslie Lynn."

The plant has an upright rhizome with the leaves measuring about twelve inches by twelve inches. They are a dark red in color on both sides with wide light green veins providing contrast. The edges are crisped and curled in a most attractive manner. The petioles are about a foot long and are green with white streaks in them.

As a matter of interest to hybridizers, "Madame Queen" was one of five seedlings. Four of the seedlings were red—this includes "Madame Queen"—and one seedling was all green. All of the other seedlings were freaks evidently having inherited a weak trait from *manicata aureo-maculata crispa*. These other seedlings do not develop their leaves properly in that most of the leaf is folded and crisped.

It is unusual that there is such a marked difference in value between a



B. "Madame Queen"

cultivar and its sisters. Usually there are some that are almost as good as the one that is selected and named and is propagated from. Indeed, often two or three seedlings from a single cross are good enough (and different enough) to be named and introduced.

Placing second in this year's new cultivar competition was a begonia from another Orange County Branch member, my own. *Begonia* "Rosanna" might be called a family affair having been the result of a cross made by my mother, Mrs. Margaret Campbell of San Dimas, Calif., grown from seed to maturity by me, and named after my wife.

It is a seedling of *B. "Fuscomaculata"* (formerly known as "Rubella") and carries its chocolate markings on a very easy to grow plant. "Rosanna" has a branching, non-ascending, rhizome which makes it a neat looking and neat growing plant. The red-flecked petioles are very fuzzy and grow about twelve inches long. The star shaped leaves measure from six to eight inches across. The flower stalks are held well above the foliage. It is with more than just maternal (or is it paternal) pride that I can recommend this begonia.

# The Red Semperflorens

By J. P. GRIFFITH, *Horticulturist*  
Illinois State Hospital

IN NOVEMBER of 1956, the writer bought a carmine-red flowered begonia in a 6" pot from a local florist, carrying it through the Winter and Spring as a house plant in an east window garden. During the winter months I propagated several small plants from stem cuttings of the semperflorens in sand, which rooted readily, later potting them up in soil. Semperflorens (or fibrous rooted) begonias are of rather dwarf but vigorous habit and are very decorative. As the specific name "semperflorens" (always blooming) indicates, these plants are almost continuously in bloom. Common colors in the bloom of semperflorens begonias are red, pink and white (both single and double flower) on plants of compact habit and with waxy leaves.

As a house plant for the winter months, I would recommend a south or west window location, where the begonias can get at least a half day's sunshine for proper flower and leaf development. With plenty of light, greenhouse conditions are ideal for the best development of begonias of many kinds. In January of 1958, we had some 25 or 30 pot plants of red semperflorens growing in the hospital greenhouse, and in March, numbers of these and others were displaying profuse bloom. By sectioning the large matted growth (2' long by 18" wide) which was the summertime garden development of my original plant, we were able to pot up a considerable number of divisions for placing in the soil of 4" pots. For this purpose we used a rich black loam soil, 2 parts, 1 part peat moss, 1 part sand.

In early January also, I took ten single stem tip cuttings (about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " long) from excess growth of large potted red begonias and bedded these in the sand of the propagating bench. They all took hold quite readily in the sand, with bottom heat, and in three weeks were nicely rooted, when I transferred them to the good soil of 3" pots. With proper water-



ing and greenhouse care these ten small begonias, produced from cuttings, are growing vigorously and blooming in the small pots. Red semperflorens is a persistent bloomer, even from early cuttings in sand and in various stages of growth, with proper sunshine and heat.

Both the red and pink flowered bronze-leaf semperflorens begonias set seed quite readily here so that the varieties may be propagated in this way if one desires. I have found that this is a good way to increase one's stock of the "Pink Bronze Leaf" begonia, which is difficult to root in sand from cuttings, due to the tender stem and leaf growth. A number of volunteer seedlings of the "pink begonia" sprang up among the pots in the gravel of the greenhouse bench and I potted up some fifteen of these in rich soil of small pots, practically all having a good root system. They have grown rapidly (March 1958) and a few of them had to be repotted in larger pots just lately.

Some of our commercial seedmen (Burpee Co., etc.) offer begonia seeds by varieties or in mixtures for sale and it seems to be a good way to get new varieties or those difficult to propagate from cuttings established in the greenhouse. Other begonias growing here in the greenhouse are a white flowered semperflorens, one called "lettuce" begonia, *Begonia rex* (difficult), and "angel wing" begonia. It would be desirable to get a number of the other interesting showy members of the begonia tribe established in the Hospital Greenhouse.

# FLASHES FROM 1958



## FROM THE CONVENTION & SHOW

SPACE will not permit enumerating the many names of members who through united effort made our 26th Convention and Flower Show a real success.

To Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger, show chairman, and committee, to Mr. and Mrs. John Fahey and committee, in charge of the Snack Bar, who did an outstanding service, a special thank you.

To the Glendale Branch banquet chairman, Mrs. Marshal Holton, and committee, and banquet ticket chairman Clarence Hall; to all branches which donated to the plant table and to the following Branches: El Monte, Inglewood, Redondo, San Gabriel, Riverside, West Valley, Theodosia Burr Shepherd, San Miguel, and Alfred D. Robinson, which contributed to the Special Convention Fund, a grateful—THANKS.

BERT SLATTER

*Convention Chairman*

## ROSTER OF JUDGES

Hazel Snodgrass, Ventura  
Susie Zug, San Dimas  
Elizabeth Sackman, San Francisco  
Al Stettler, San Francisco  
Marie Zachau, Inglewood  
Sylvia Leatherman, South El Monte  
Mary Gillingwaters, Upland  
Ann K. Meyer, Ojai  
Emma Carleton, Berkeley  
Austin Pereley, Ventura  
Cora Lemmon, Moorpark  
Walter Knecht, Ventura  
Esther Allen, Santa Barbara  
Ann Marek, Glendale  
Mary Hazel Drummond, Hollywood  
Jessie Gale, Pasadena  
Barbara Philip, Santa Barbara  
Maria Wilkes, Santa Monica  
Harry Meyer, Ojai  
Rudolf Ziesenhenné, Santa Barbara  
Margaret Ziesenhenné, Santa Barbara

## ROSTER OF RECORDERS

Violet Moore, Eagle Rock (L.A.)  
Jean Thomas, San Francisco  
Alma Harlock, Ventura  
Irma Brown, Glendale  
Virginia Humphrey, Arcadia  
Ted Lemmon, Moorpark  
Edna Korts, Glendale  
Virginia Brandon, Alhambra  
Alva Graham, South Pasadena  
Roy Joyce, Los Angeles  
Elsie Joyce, Los Angeles

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There could not be a successful show without Judges and Recorders!

LOUISE SCHWERDTFEGER

# Convention and Show

## TROPHY WINNERS

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE TROPHY (best begonia in the show)—awarded to B. "Virbob," exhibited by John Thieben, Inglewood Branch.

JOHN R. WILLIAMS TROPHY (best rhizomatous begonia — awarded to B. "Virbob," exhibited by John Thieben, who also received the award for culture certificate.

GONDA HARTWELL CUP (best rex begonia)—awarded to an unnamed seedling and exhibited by Jean and Don Thomas. Also they received the award for culture certificate. They are members of the San Francisco Branch.

PALOS VERDES BEGONIA FARM CHALLENGE TROPHY (best tuberous begonia)—exhibited by John Thieben, who also received the culture certificate of award.

EFFIE CHAPMAN CUP (best fibrous begonia)—B. "Ellen Dee," exhibited by John Thieben, also the award for culture certificate.

CONNIE LEIGH HENDRIX CUP (best amateur flower arrangement)—won by Mrs. Jean Thomas, San Francisco Branch.

BEST CULTIVAR TROPHY, presented by the Glendale Branch—awarded to B. "Madame Queen," exhibited by Mrs. Darrell Bath, who also received the hybrid of distinction certificate. Mrs. Bath is a member of Orange County Branch.

REDONDO BEACH AREA TROPHY (best semperflorens)—won by John Thieben. He also received the award for culture certificate.

BEST BEGONIA IN THE NOMENCLATURE GROUP TROPHY, presented by the Inglewood Branch—awarded to B. "Glorietta," exhibited by Mrs. Hazel Snodgrass, Ventura Branch. Hybridizer, Mrs. Elsie Frey, Santa Barbara.

SWEEPSTAKES AWARD for the most points—won by John Thieben.

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT AWARD—won by Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman.

ETHEL G. ARBUCKLE  
*Awards Chairman*

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

WE WERE favored with three very beneficial articles by other publications during the year. One in *Flower Grower*, another in *Flower and Garden* and a third in a floral news sheet in the South. All three were felt by extra work load in my office.

You Membership Secretaries are really appreciated. Many of you do a right good job. When we receive a membership marked to show whether it is a new or renewing member plus all the other pertinent information, such as clearly written names and street addresses, city and zone numbers included, and the proper state shown, we are then able to process rapidly and accurately. This builds for better service through this office and fewer complaining members. The kind of job you are doing has helped us to build a better service that has resulted in an increase in membership. For this I thank you.

Now, should I tell you some of my troubles? By way of pointing up what not to do I could refer to the Mrs. Jane Doe who sent us by special delivery, the annual fee and a request to please rush the return of her membership card so she could enter a flower show. You know, we did everything we could think of to find that lady and finally had to wait about two months for her to write again to complain about not getting her card or magazines. And this time she sent her address.

Some Post Offices will return mail that does not bear a zone number.

Yes, we have even had a hard time finding out what state one person lived in. Turned out to be Georgia (Ga.) instead of Virginia (Va.).

We want to serve you well and we thank you for doing the good job many of you branch membership secretaries are doing.

W. E. WALTON  
*National Membership Secretary*

# How to Water the Begonia

By W. WILLETTS

THE BEGONIA, especially when grown in pots under glass, is totally dependent upon the gardener for its water supply, and this must be accounted one of the most important tasks with which the grower will have to contend during the season.

Rain water should be used in preference to tap water which, because it is "hard" (that is, containing lime and other chemical properties) may have strange effects on plant growth. It is also much colder than rain water. The water supply should always be kept in a clean storage tank, in the Greenhouse, so that it becomes aerated and the same temperature as that in which the plants are growing. Sometimes the use of water which is much colder than that in which the plants are growing may give a check to the root system, resulting in stunted growth and yellow foliage.

Begonias growing in pots and baskets need constant attention, especially when the weather is very warm and the root system nearing its maximum. Once thoroughly dry, irreparable damage is frequently the result, and bud dropping at a later stage is often traceable to such neglect and oversight. The art of watering is to moisten the whole of the root system. There is no set time for watering, and to work to a routine of giving a few drops at regular intervals is bad gardening indeed. It is evident that plants in a root-bound condition will require much more watering than similar plants not so well rooted, so one must guard against watering each plant alike. When the weather is very warm, with resultant rapid evaporation, there is not much risk of over-watering, but when the temperature is inclined to be low, this may happen accidentally to the best of gardeners. The best preventive is to test each pot before applying water. This is done by rapping the spot with a cotton reel fixed to a piece of cane. If a dull

sound is produced no water is required, but if a sharp, ringing sound follows then water is needed. But, *and this is very important*, if the plants have been potted lightly or the pot is cracked, the pot will give off a sharp, ringing sound nine times out of ten, and the grower may be lulled into a false sense of security. This has also been known to occur when the pots are root-bound. Perhaps the best plan is to practice handling the pots which, if the soil is dry, will be much lighter in weight than those which are wet. Plants that accidentally become bone-dry are best watered by immersion for twenty minutes or so.

Another pitfall to avoid is that of getting the potting compost too wet when potting up. Soil in this condition, when once it starts to dry out, will tend to leave the side of the pot and, instead of the plant getting its full moisture content, most of it will escape down the side of the pot. The use of a pot which is not thoroughly dry will also produce this effect.

And now to those begonia lovers who have to grow their favorite flower in the garden. Growing begonias under these conditions one must realize that the plants have a free root run, and the amount of water to be given will depend on the existing weather conditions. However, it is well to keep in mind that a well-moistened soil acts as a reservoir in times of prolonged drought, and if the surface evaporation can be slowed down by the use of a mulch of grass cuttings, peat, etc., the plants will come to no harm. The time for concern is when the foliage gets heavy and appreciates a shower of rain by diverting water from the root system to the open spaces in between the plants. Most heavy foliage plants are offenders in this respect, so one should inspect the soil beneath the foliage to determine whether or not the plants have benefitted. When watering,

however, remember to give the soil a thorough soaking, watering time and again until the soil is moist for at least a foot down. Inadequate watering only encourages surface rooting, and can lead to the loss of many valuable feeding roots, especially if these are exposed for any length of time.

Going away on your holidays? Perhaps this is the time when the begonia grower wishes he'd never booked up that holiday away from the hurry and bustle of everyday life. More particularly so when his plants are building up for the Show, and he hasn't an obliging friend or neighbor whom he can safely trust to give his plants all the attention they need. The two essentials the would-be absent one will have to contend with are watering and vegetation. If the greenhouse is provided with ventilators beneath the benches (and these are always a good investment) they can be left open without causing any ill effects. Failing this, however, the top ventilators should be left partially open, and a sheet of polythene fixed three parts of the way up the ventilator box in order to prevent the entrance of draughts and rain. If the Greenhouse is adequately shaded, that is, blinds or Summer Cloud being provided, the danger from scorch will be lessened. The water problem presents a greater difficulty however, and some means of supplying the plants with moisture must be put into effect. Everyone is familiar with the Capillary-method of watering (strands of thick wool leading from an elevated bucket to the soil in the pots) but this is very slow in its action and may have dire results in the end.

The best substitute, next to a kindly neighbor, I can recommend is as follows: First, give each plant a thorough soaking, then enclose the pot and the soil surface in a thick layer of wet moss, securing it with twine if necessary. Next put the pot in a polythene bag, securing the neck in such a manner that it is sealed just above the surface of the soil, about one inch up the stem and cane. This should keep both the pot and the soil in a moist condition for at least a week.

## New York Show

"A GARDEN COMMUNITY" will be the theme of the forty-second International Flower Show to be held in the New York Coliseum March 7 to 14, 1959, according to co-chairmen W. R. Coe and John H. Traendly. Opening Saturday at 2 p.m. and continuing through the following Saturday, the show has been extended to eight days for the first time in its history. The show is sponsored by the Horticultural Society of New York, Inc., and the New York Florists' Club, Inc.

Under the leadership of John F. Edwards, the show's new executive director, officers and directors have been laying the groundwork for the show since last April.

Leading organizations in the Horticulture field again will participate in the International Flower Show. Participants will include: The Garden Club of America, The Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, many educational institutions including Cornell and Rutgers Universities and the Long Island Agricultural and Technical School, the New York Botanical Garden, The Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the Queens Botanic Garden, the New York State Bureau of Plant Industry, the National Association of Gardeners, the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of America and the U.S. Veterans Hospital in Northport, Long Island.

The American Begonia Society has been invited to participate.

—B—

Begonia needs are human ones: food, water and dry feet.

### A. B. S. STATIONERY

(Cost Price to Branches)

|                    | per 100 | per 50 | per 25 |
|--------------------|---------|--------|--------|
| Letter, sm. ....   | \$ .80  | .40    | .20    |
| Letter, lg. ....   | 1.10    | .55    | .30    |
| Envelope, sm. ...  | 1.25    | .65    | .35    |
| Envelope, lg. .... | 1.55    | .80    | .40    |

For A. B. S. Stationery, Pins and Signs

Write to: Mrs. Alva Graham

515 El Centro, South Pasadena, Calif.

# Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

Listed below are some of the begonia seed that came to the SEED fund from Brazil. We have received no information as to proper names and as soon as we have this information it will appear in *The Begonian*. At present they are identified by number.

- B. 18430—Brazil.
- B. 18960—Brazil.
- B. 18917—Brazil.
- B. 18859—Brazil.
- B. 18816—Brazil.
- B. 18832—Brazil.
- B. 18510—Brazil.
- B. *paralis*—Brazil.

Above are 25c per pkt., each variety

## FRESH SEED OF CHOICE BEGONIAS

**B. Rathel**—Beautiful plant with dark maroon leaves covered with white tomentum. Flowers pink, nice hanging basket type. 25c per pkt.

**B. Jean Pernet**—Similar to B. "Sachsen" and B. "Preussen" but is more compact with more stems. Almost ever-blooming. 25c per pkt.

**B. richardsiana**—Leaves smaller and more finely lobed than B. *dregei*; flowers white or pinkish white. Sometimes erroneously called B. *richardsoni*. 25c per pkt.

**B. lacinata flava**—Leaves green, flowers yellow. 25c per pkt.

**B. Stitched-Leaf** — Rhizomatous — Leaves marked with brown veins. 25c per pkt.

**B. Inglewood (Woodriff)**—Low, rhizomatous, leaves large, pointed, dark bronzy green, red veined toward the base, pencil line of red at the edge of the margins, red tinged beneath; flowers drooping in tall panicles. 25c per pkt.

**B. Stiletto — Cooper (Texas)** — Cane type with dark green foliage 2½ to 3" long and very sharp pointed, beautifully silver spotted. 25c per pkt.

**B. Philippine Semperflorens** — Green foliage, pink flowers. 25c per pkt.

## GREENHOUSE PLANTS

**Allophyton mexicanum (Tetranema)—Sarophulariaceae**—"Mexican foxglove"—Sweet little plant with short stems, long, dark green, leathery leaves glaucous beneath, and angled purplish stalks with

clusters of small, nodding, trumpet-shaped flowers, orchid-colored with large, lobed, whitish lip and purple-violet throat. Nice little greenhouse plant. 35c per pkt.

**Rechsteineria macropoda (Brazil)**—Tuberous species with unbranched stems, leaves velvety, bright green; small flowers in clusters, tubes vermilion-red with lower lobes marked brown-red. 25c per pkt.

**Sinningia regina (Brazil)** — Tuberous species. Leaves bronzy green, beautifully patterned with ivory veins, red backed, nodding slipper type violet flowers. 25c per pkt.

**Columnnea schiedeana (E. Mexico)**—Climbing plant with long, lanceolate, green leaves covered with white plush, burgundy red beneath; flowers orange-yellow-striped and spotted crimson. 35c per pkt.

**Ramonda myconi (Pyrenees)** — Gesneriaceae — Small, Alpine perennial. Leaves small, deep green, soft-hairy in a rosette; showy flowers with broad, overlapping lobes and yellow eye. 25c per pkt.

**Rechsteineria lineata (Brazil)**—Large herbaceous leaves; red spotted stalks with arching clusters of tubular scarlet flowers, spotted deep red, orange in throat. Blooms over a long period of time. 25c per pkt. Sent from France.

**Kohleria lindeniana** — Erect, bushy, with velvety, ovate leaves, vivid green changing to copper toward the margins. Small white bell-shaped flowers with purple throat. Blooms in fall. 25c per pkt.

**Sinningia red**—White on lower petals only. 25c per pkt.

**Purple slipper** — Lower petals white. 25c per pkt.

**White slipper**—Pale purple edge. 25c per pkt.

**Red hybrid slipper** with white edge. 25c per pkt.

**Argyrea nervosa** — Hawaiian wood rose. New supply. Fast growing ornamental. Flowers large, pale pink and downy outside, purplish and smooth inside, bell-shaped. Seed pod brown, about ½" in diameter. Leaves broad, heart-shaped to 12" long smooth above and densely covered below with white down.

Requires a warm, sunny location. 25c per pkt.

**Araucaria excelsa** — Norfolk Island Pine. Much grown in its young state as a pot plant. Requires a cool greenhouse and partial shade. Branches are in regular tiers, leaves evergreen, always stiff. Popular decorative florist's plant but can be grown outdoors in mild climates. 25c per pkt.

#### OTHER GENERA

**Crinum Powellii alba**—An extremely beautiful white flowered variety that rivals the Easter lily in beauty. Many pure white, trumpet-shaped blooms on tall stalks. Interesting plant and seeds can be sprouted on window sill. Very large seed, 25c each.

**Habranthus**—Dark pink, large flowers. 25c per pkt.

**Habranthus robusta**—Light pink. 25c per pkt.

**Brodiaea uniflora**—Spring star-flower. Flowers white tinged blue. 25c per pkt.

**Schlumbergera gaertneri**—Easter cactus. Flowers scarlet about 2½" long followed by red fruits. 25c per pkt.

**Arum Italicum**—(Green Calla.) Foliage marbled and veined silver. Flowers parchment-like creamy green. Bright red berries in late summer. 25c per pkt.

**Cobea scandens** — Cathedral Bells — Rapid growing vine, producing large graceful bells. Color varies and will grow in sun or shade. Lucky plants have no enemies! 25c per pkt.

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

In September issue of *The Begonian*, copy should read: No. 1, *Hillebrandia sandwicensis*.

Also, under head of *Brazil Begonias*: No. 1 should read: *B. angularis* x-x unknown.

#### Calendar

Oct. 22 — Glendale Branch — Flower Show and talk by Rudolf Ziesenhenné. 7:45.

Oct. 24 — Redondo Beach Area Branch — Jitney pot luck dinner at 2308 Rockefeller Lane, North Redondo. 6:30.

## Garden of Year Winners

Elizabeth Banks, 1279-35th Ave., San Francisco, member of San Francisco Branch, American Begonia Society.

Mrs. Lydia Cook, 35447 Ave. E, Yucaipa, Yucaipa Horti. Society.

Mrs. Dorothy BaByliss, 26706 Monte Vista Dr., Hayward, Hayward Garden Club. (Also member of Southern Alameda County Branch, ABS)

Mrs. Orion C. Jones, Rt. 6, Box 302, Visalia, Visalia Garden Club.

Violet Wooden, 1917 S. First St., Fortuna, Fortuna Branch, ABS.

Mrs. Dorathea Warner, 2175 Casa Mia Dr., San Jose, Santa Clara County Herb Society.

Frances Young, 1037 Second St., Hermosa Beach, Hermosa Garden Club.

The state winner is Elizabeth Banks. She will receive a power lawn mower, sterling silver bowl suitably engraved and a portable radio, plus a supply of "Everready garden products."

The contest was a 100 multiple questionnaire prepared by an outstanding horticulturist. Club winners each received a certificate; state winners received prizes named in letter, national gardener which has not been announced was to receive a paid trip to New York City, plus several items.

—B—

## Nature Note

Now that winter is approaching, our tuberous begonias should be washed, dried and laid away in sand or vermiculite for their rest period. Keep them where the temperature does not go much below fifty degrees. The fibrous begonias should be well pruned each fall, removing dried branches and damaged leaves. Fall pruning will give the plant less surface to keep nourished during the sluggish period of growth. There is little evaporation on cool days so water sparingly and always in the early morning so that the leaves will dry before the day is over. Fifty degrees temperature is about right and will keep your begonias from becoming loggy and weak.

—From Sacramento Branch

## Minutes, National Board, Aug. 30

The Annual Business meeting of the American Begonia Society was called to order by Pres. Coe at 2:10 p.m. August 30, 1958, at Plummer Park, Hollywood, California. Meeting was held in conjunction with the Annual Convention of the Society.

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

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

Treas. Lovejoy gave his report for the month and pointed out that the general fund contained a balance of \$448.00 against a \$35.00 balance of last year. Report approved as read.

Pres. Elect Slatter reported having visited many branches during the past month, mostly talking up the Convention.

Vice Pres. Alva Graham reported that seven Begonia pins had been sold during the 1957-58 year and various items of stationery amounting to \$14.28.

Membership Secy. Walton reported there were 87 new members and 94 renewals received since his July report. His annual report showed there were 737 new memberships and 1298 renewals for the 1957-58 year. Mr. Walton stated he wished to thank the Branch Membership Chairmen for their fine cooperation in giving complete details when new memberships or renewal reports and checks are sent to him.

Begonian Editor Mrs. Brest reported on various items concerning the editorship and stated that during the past year a concerted effort has been made to bring the widespread membership of the society closer together, that she believed the acceptance of assistant editorship by Mrs. George DeCoursey of Paoli, Pa., had been of great help along this line.

Research Director Mrs. Leatherman gave her report for the year.

Identification Chairman Mr. Thieben stated he had nothing particular to report at this time.

Mr. Lovejoy read the monthly and Annual report

## Brazilian Begonias

(Continued From Page 224)

"Flores do Brasil," official review of the Sociedade Brasileira de Folciculture.

Translation from Portuguese to English was done by Ethne McGehee, Sao Paulo, Brasil. We appreciate the kind consideration of the above people and thank them for their co-operation.

I have been informed *B. quadrelocularis* has been reclassified to *B. egregia*, described by N. E. Brown, 1887, before the Brazilian naming.

A couple of years ago I obtained one of these begonias. I tried growing it under glass (hot-house) and it never developed into a full showy plant. After seeing the photo of the plant growing in the ground and reading of its characteristics, in turn I planted it in the ground (which is a special prepared bed) about three months ago. Numerous shoots are appearing at the base of the plant and it is growing quite rapidly.

SYLVIA B. LEATHERMAN  
Research Director

from Seed Fund Chairman Mrs. Gee. Remitted to the Treasurer for the month, \$100.00 and the annual report showed \$1103.62 from the seed fund for the year. Mrs. Gee also stated that since amount remitted to the treasurer for plants sold at the 1957 convention did not appear to have been listed in previous Minutes she asked that it be shown now as \$300.00.

Advertising man Thieben gave his report showing 87½ inches of advertising for August. Amount received during the month and paid to the treasurer \$86.20, balance due from advertising \$169.50.

Public Relations Director Hall reported two new branches had been organized during the year—West Valley Branch in California and Rhode Island Branch. He presented a bill for \$52.60 covering property damage and accident insurance for the Convention, and also to cover all National Officers attending regular monthly meetings. Mr. Lovejoy stated he thought the premium should be pro-rated over the Convention and regular monthly meetings, and moved to that effect. Motion seconded and carried.

National Librarian Mrs. Sault gave her Annual Report showing 81 books and 502 Begonias sold during the year, also 59 of the Buxton Begonia List books were sold and 28 copies were donated to various organizations by instructions of the National Board. The business of the library has increased considerably during the past year, 250 letters having been received and answered. She also called attention to the fact that the National Library is self-supporting.

A.B.S. Historian Mrs. Pearl Bauer reported for the year, stating she had compiled all of the material received. She asked for assistance from all branches to help make the History Book worth while.

Nomenclature Chairman Mrs. Korts not being present, she had asked Pres. Coe to state she had nothing in particular to report at this time. Pres. Coe called attention to the beautiful display of plants in the Nomenclature Room at the Convention.

Pres. Coe asked for a report of the treasury auditing committee. Mr. Walton as chairman stated that the committee had audited the books and found them all in order.

Mr. Lovejoy reported he had received a letter from the Editor of The Begonian relative to an increase in the cost of the magazine. We have been getting 2300 copies, 24 pages each, for \$320.00, that the new cost would be \$330.00. Each 100 additional copies would cost \$7.50. Four additional pages will be \$55.00 and eight additional pages will be \$105.00 per issue. Motion made by Mr. Lovejoy, seconded by Mrs. Bauer, that we accept the new price schedule of the printer. Motion carried.

Mr. Roy Joyce, chairman of the ballot counting committee, reported that all ballots received had been tallied with the results showing:

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Pres. Elect Charles R. Lovejoy..... | 206 |
| Vice Pres. Mrs. Nancy Alvord.....   | 209 |
| Treasurer Mrs. Pearl Parker.....    | 209 |
| Secretary Mrs. Irma Jane Brown..... | 207 |

Pres. Coe introduced out of town visitors to the convention and thanked them especially for attending. Pres. Coe also stated that for himself it had been a pleasure to serve the Society as president, that both he and Mrs. Coe had enjoyed the experience and he would go out of office feeling they had profited by the experience. He also stated he wanted to thank all of the officers, and various branch representatives who had served on the board with him, for their fine cooperation. Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Irma Jane Brown, Secretary

### Rare, Unusual Houseplants

Begonias, Passifloras, Gesneriads  
Ferns, Tubers, Seed  
Illustrated Fall Catalog 25c

### TROPICAL PARADISE

3810 Bales

Kansas City 28, Mo.

# Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

## GLENDALE

We are planning something really fine for our October meeting, and we invite all members, friends, and anyone interested in Begonias to share our good fortune. Our guest speaker will be Rudolf Zieshenne, authority on all phases of Begonia growing, and friend of beginners as well as experts. He has been an inspiration to many novices, and yet he has the ability of giving something new and interesting to experienced growers.

In addition to this wonderful opportunity of hearing "Rudy," Glendale branch is sponsoring a Flower Show on the same night, to which it is hoped that members and guests will bring plants.

We especially invite you, who feel that your plants are not in the "Blue Ribbon Class," to bring what you have. In this way, YOU share, WE grow in knowledge, and above all it is a pleasurable experience.

There will be the usual plant table, so expertly handled by our own Edna Korts.

Join old friends and meet new ones over a cup of coffee at the Glendale branch meeting on Wednesday, October 22nd at 7:45 p.m.

—B—

## MARGARET C. GRUENBAUM

Met at the home of our president, Mrs. Frank Oehrle of Hatboro Pa. Our program was the preparation of material and literature for an educational exhibit in the Perkesie Flower Show, September 9th and 10th.

The Begonia Song published in *The Begonian* was written by Tom Smith and sung to the tune of "I've Been Working on the Railroad."

We sing it every meeting.

—B—

## HOLLYWOOD

Mr. and Mrs. James I. Randall invited us to our favorite garden at their home, 4329 Berryman Ave, Culver City, Saturday, Sept. 13, for a potluck supper. Col-

ored slides were shown by Dorothy Baker and Mr. Randall.

FRIENDS OF PLUMMER PARK held their 13th Annual Fiesta at Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. the next day, Sunday, Sept. 14. Various hobby groups had exhibits and things to sell to help FRIENDS OF PLUMMER PARK in a cash contribution to Plummer Park.

—B—

## INGLEWOOD

Met Thursday, Sept. 11 at Inglewood Women's Club, 325 N. Hillcrest, Inglewood, at 7:45 p.m. James Giridlian of Oakhurst Gardens, Arcadia, was our guest speaker. His subject was "Bromeliads and How They Can Extend the Pleasure of Your Shade Garden." The program included colored slides.

Tuesday, Sept. 16, at the home of Lynwood and Elsie Hadley, 4820 Escalon Ave., View Park, a Pot Luck Dinner was served. Sept. 25 at 7:45 we visited the home of the National President, Bert Slatter, 4600 Sixth Ave.

We understand that many new members joined our Branch at the Convention. We are all anxious to meet them personally at the next meeting and get better acquainted.

—B—

## NEW ENGLAND

The New England branch meeting was held at the Merry Gardens, Camden, Maine. After a barbecue we visited the large greenhouses and noted the culture of the hundreds of begonia varieties as well as unusual plants. Mrs. Ross' interest in geraniums was evident in the unusual collection of various forms including rare miniatures.

The begonia house was so full of treasures, several hours were spent looking and choosing.

To mention just a few choice varieties B. "Iron Cross" was seen in large plants and all stages of propagation. B. "Cathayana" with its lovely velvet leaves, B. *imperialis* and B. "Silver Pustulata" shared the same section.

At least seven varieties of *B. "Calla,"* the beautiful Thimbleberry varieties and the double red leaved semperflorens in mass effect were noted.

A whole row of pendula tuberous made another green-house most colorful and the lath house was full of specimen begonias outdoors for the summer.

—B—

### REDONDO BEACH AREA

Put Oct. 24 on your calendar as a MUST for we are having a Jitney Pot Luck Dinner at our regular Oct. meeting. It will be held at our regular meeting hall, 2308 Rockfeller Lane, N. Redondo. The dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m.—the meeting to follow at 8:00 p.m.

At our regular meeting Dec. 26th we will have our annual installation of officers.

Redondo area branch of the A. B. S. contributed \$15.00 to the National Convention Fund this year.

—B—

### SACRAMENTO

News flash: We won the following at the State Fair:

|                                                     |              |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Blue Ribbon for Fibrous Begonias .....              | \$ 30        |
| Blue Ribbon for Rhizomatous Begonias .....          | 30           |
| Blue Ribbon for Collection of All Types .....       | 50           |
| Blue Ribbon for Specimen Rhizomatous (Verde Grande) | 5            |
| Red Ribbon for Specimen Rex (You name it) .....     | 4            |
|                                                     | <u>\$119</u> |

No expenses were incurred due to the kindness of Howard Sullivan who together with the aid of Al Smith transported all the begonias to the Fair (and home again). The success of the exhibit at the State Fair was due to two energetic ladies, Frances Flannigan and Ruthanne Williams, who worked diligently to set up the begonia exhibit.

—B—

### SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

"Unusual Planter Materials," presented by James Giridlian of Oakhurst Gardens, Arcadia, to the San Gabriel Valley branch pointed out that with the introduction of the planter as an integral part of many new homes and otherwise barren office buildings, philodendrons, rubber plants, ferns and other ficus have been used commonly. As a change from this ordinary material, there are at least twenty-five varieties of peperomias—short and spreading, hanging or upright—which lend much interest and variety.

The wandering jew family, *Tradescantia*, is not appreciated half as much as it should be. It has many of the less common forms upright or hanging varying in color from deep reds and purples to the variegated green and white with sky blue flowers, the heavy succulent types, the new woody or *T. velvetina* from Guatemala or the pussy ears with soft hair on leaves like their name indicates.

Bulbs grown for their ornamental foliage are ideal if one forgets about the blossoms. One of these desirable bulbs is the eucharist lily. *Spathiphyllum* has

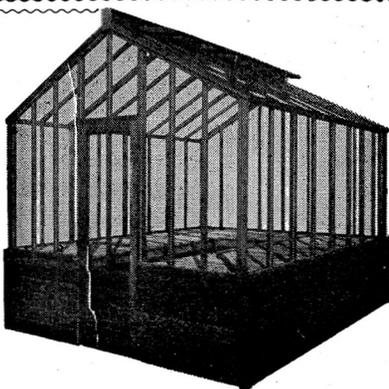
## Your Greenhouse Consultants

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interesting long shining leaves with hooded white flowers. A showy green and white variegated grass of the lily family is *chlorophytum*.

In the class of stiff foliated plants is the bromeliad, which is often known as the "living vase" plant because each leaf holds water and flowers may be inserted in each leaf base for display, but of itself it has its own exotic bloom. The miniature and dwarf forms of *sansevieria* lend interest in their stiff way with variegated and mottled leaves and spike of small yellowish flowers.

---

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF

The *Begonian*, published monthly at Torrance, California, for September 30, 1958.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:  
Publisher—American Begonia Society, Inc., 1415 Acacia, Torrance, California.  
Editor—Adelaide Brest, 3207 W. 186th St., Torrance, Calif.

Managing Editor—None.  
Business Manager—None.

2. The owner is: American Begonia Society, Inc., 1415 Acacia, Torrance, Calif.  
President—Albert J. (Bert) Slatter, 4600 Sixth Ave., Los Angeles 43, Calif.

President-Elect—Chas. R. Lovejoy, 827 Woodward Blvd., Pasadena 10, Calif.  
Past President—Frank Coe, 28904 Cliffside Dr., Malibu, Calif.

Secretary—Mrs. Irma Jane Brown, 3628 Revere Ave., Los Angeles 39, Calif.

Treasurer—Mrs. Pearl Parker, 15021 Gerkin Ave., Hawthorne, Calif.

Membership Secretary—W. E. (Bill) Walton, 1415 Acacia, Torrance, Calif.

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Vice-President, 2 years—Herbert Fitch, 1125 54th St., Sacramento, Calif.

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There are no stockholders.

3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.

THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY  
By Adelaide Brest, Editor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23rd day of September, 1958.  
(SEAL)

FRED M. HANSEN

Notary Public in and for the County of Los Angeles, State of California.

(My commission expires June 29, 1961.)

## SMOKY VALLEY

To prove that the love of flowers and the interest in an organization which promotes such a program is not necessarily confined to the fair sex, the male contingent of the Smoky Valley Begonia Society programmed, organized and staged a most successful Barbecue Hamburger picnic and party at one of our many city parks.

As is customary, and not at all unusual, the participation was nearly 100% with some 44 people attending and only three or four members not being able to attend.

In the absence of Lt. Col John Irving, who was called to duty as a result of the Middle East Crisis, Mr. A. C. Brodine assumed command of the operation and was ably assisted by all the men in the organization.

Last month the regional magazine "Flower and Garden" published an article which highlighted the "Smoky Valley Begonia Society." The article was entitled a "Kansas Flower Show."

—B—

## WHITTIER

A pot-luck dinner started at 6:45 p.m., after which a program of colored slides furnished by the Whittier Parks Dept. was shown.

Following are the officers installed: Pres., Gladys Bruce; V. Pres., Peggy McGrath; Sec., Carolyn Spatz; Treas., Edna Hill.

—B—

## WILLIAM PENN

The August meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Packard Laurd, with eight members present. Plans for our club flower show (members only to show) on Sept. 19 were completed. Our participation in the Swarthmore show, Oct. 24-26, was discussed, and plans were approved for our exhibit there.

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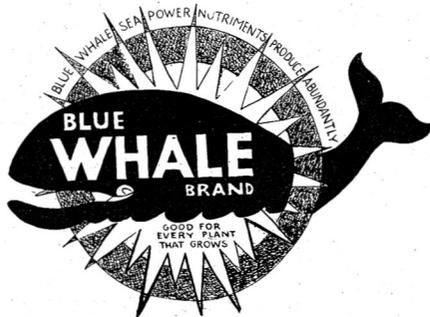
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