

# *The Begonian*

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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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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# *Tuberous Begonias and Climate*

By HOWARD SIEBOLD

TUBEROUS begonias are so easily grown with uniform weather conditions, that we sometimes fail to consider the possible effects of adverse conditions. Some Northern and Eastern areas, last year, had several periods of combined cold and wet during the growing season. They lasted from one to three weeks.

These plants like it cool and require moisture, but they cannot tolerate cold and soggy wetness together for more than a few days. The possibility of stem rot or rotted tubers can be reduced if steps are taken to avoid some of the contributing factors.

The first step is to delay setting out started tubers until the middle or latter part of May. The heavy losses last year were taken by those of us who had tubers moved outside by May first. In this area (Westchester County) such early planting has only about a fifty per cent chance of success. During the three week cold wet period in May the plants outside that survived made little or no growth. Those not outside made a good root development and were better able to handle adverse conditions later in the season.

A large vigorous root system is vitally important. A plant with a good root system will usually send up new sprouts if the top is damaged. However, once the root system is damaged or is halted, it will seldom develop new roots. Even though some roots survive, they may not be adequate for supplying the needs of the top. The tuber is therefore used as a food supply. The tuber and plant are weakened, becoming susceptible to ailments such as rot.

You will notice that a vigorously growing tuberous begonia is not affected by

many diseases or pests. This is one reason medium should be damp, but not wet.

son for its popularity. It does like moisture, but the word moisture is not too descriptive. Let us say that the bedding

The foliage helps provide moisture for the plant. Proper humidity is rare, so in most areas it is desirable and necessary to spray the foliage. This should be a fine spray once or twice daily. During hot dry periods three times per day may be required. Here, the important point is adequate ventilation. Plants should be located and spaced so that air circulation is not impaired.

Prolonged wetness must be avoided. Keep this in mind even when starting the Tubers. For example, instructions for starting will often suggest Peat Moss as a starting medium. I never used anything else in California. However, I do not recall ever having any long periods of cold and wet during the growing season.

When Peat Moss is the starting medium, a large ball of it remains next to the tuber when it is moved outside. This holds water like a sponge and is sure to aggravate the effect of cold wet weather. Where these weather conditions are likely to occur, the starting medium should more nearly approximate the mixture used in the beds.

The best bedding mixture for your particular location will depend on several factors such as type of existing soil and drainage conditions. Try various combinations over a period of several years. There is only one critical point here—you must have good drainage. For this locality I like a mixture of one part garden soil, one part humus or leaf mold, one part Peat Moss, and three parts sand. This is a large percentage of sand, and

where the garden soil is sandy, less sand could be used.

Tuberous begonias do well in large window boxes. Good drainage and ventilation is usually very good. If the boxes are more than five inches deep, a layer of sand in the bottom is suggested. Where standard eight inch or ten inch pots are used this same procedure is recommended.

Adequate drainage in beds is more difficult to achieve. You can obtain better drainage with a little extra work. The easiest way is to raise the bed about four inches above the surrounding ground. For retaining the bed, use a border of stone, brick, or boards. I use the eight inch corrugated aluminum edging strip that is now available, burying three or four inches for rigidity.

Since the roots develop mostly horizontally, four inches of bedding material is enough. A couple of inches of sand below the bed would help where the garden soil is heavy. In problem areas, the results will depend on the time and labor you are able to spend in providing good drainage.

Avoid prolonged wetness. I have abandoned strips of cloth for use in tying up the plants. Wet cloth held against the stem for long periods can start rotting. I also believe that the splashing of soil, and especially peat moss on to the stems and into the crotches of leaves and branches, has the same effect. This may be caused by pelting rain or by careless watering. These points might be unimportant in good weather and with good ventilation, but where conditions are not ideal, thought should be given to avoiding anything that contributes to prolonged wetness.

Rot will often start in spots on the stem where it has been damaged. A common example is skinned areas caused by tearing the skin when removing a flower stem or a lower leaf. Use extreme care in such removals. If the skin is torn, treat with powdered charcoal, powdered sulphur or a similar agent.

Spots of rot on the stem should be carefully cut away with a very sharp knife. Disinfect the knife to prevent

spreading the disease. Dust the cut area with charcoal or sulphur. A healthy plant can heal a moderate operation like this.

Stem rot is encouraged by the bedding material touching the lower part of the stem. Some instructions advise keeping the soil away from the stem. Others suggest planting the tuber  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch to one inch deep. It is obviously difficult to do both. The maximum root system will be obtained by covering the tuber well. Roots form on the top portion and considerable growth will occur there. This is evidenced by the dished shape of most tubers. Your decision will really depend on whether you wish to play it safe or gamble on the weather. Just bear in mind that if the root system is well developed before setting outside, the tuberous begonia can resist almost any pest or disease.

—B—

#### ABOUT THE COVER

This month's cover picture is of *B. 'Bow-Chancee'* grown by Past President and Mrs. Frank L. Coe of Malibu, Calif.

'Bow-Chancee,' A.B.S. registered No. 31 by Della Larahan, a long-time member and officer, is a chance seedling of *B. boweri*. Mrs. Gee, in offering seed from this small, rhizomatous begonia in *The Begonian* for July, 1956 (p. 164) wrote, "The hybridizer has spent several years in developing 'Bow-Chancee' and a fair percentage have come true. A grower in Florida reports that she grows this plant in a moss-lined basket and the seeds fall on all sides of the basket and young plants spring up. We can't imagine anything more beautiful."

Judging from this month's cover, neither can we.—Ed.

—B—

#### WATCH FOR WHITEFLIES

Whiteflies are minute sucking insects about  $\frac{1}{16}$ " long, with wings and body coated with a white, waxy powder. Live on underside of leaves of many different plants, swarm when disturbed, quickly settle again. Suck juice from leaves so they turn yellow and drop. A single female may lay 200 eggs. Active in late summer and fall.

# Growing Exhibition Gloxinias

By W. WILLETTS, F.R.H.S.



*The author and prize Gloxinia*

NEXT to the begonia I have always been favorably disposed to the gloxinia, a greenhouse plant which bears brilliant colored flowers of many shades. "How do I set about it?" This question is often asked by those desiring to grow plants like those which are greatly admired at all leading flower shows. Here, then, is a brief outline of the cultural details which I use to produce such plants.

The propagation of the gloxinia is effected by seeds, division of the tuber, and by leaf cuttings. Seed may be sown early in January if a temperature of 65° F. can be maintained, and from such a sowing plants can be had in bloom in six months. From the point of view of the exhibitor, however, plants from such a sowing usually fail to produce the first season the abundance of blooms necessary to conform to show standards (from 20 blooms out at the same time). Each year I make a general practice of sowing seeds about the middle of February, the plants from this sowing being grown steadily on during the summer months until they are showing flower buds. At this stage all bud except for two on each plant are re-

moved, the two flowers being allowed to come into bloom just to test the quality of the shade, and the plants are finally dried off in the autumn. The tubers from these plants make excellent stock for exhibition purposes the following season. Named tubers can, however, be purchased from a reputable grower, and these will make first class plants the first season.

## STARTING THE TUBERS

Towards the middle of February the tubers are removed from the store trays, each one being carefully inspected for any signs of rot or shriveling. Tubers showing signs of decay are not persevered with, and those which show signs of shriveling are plumped up by immersing them overnight in tepid water. The tubers are best started in shallow trays of moistened leaf mold, light soil and sand, the tubers being pressed into the level of this, but with the crowns exposed. Placed in a temperature of 60 degrees F. they will soon begin to make roots and top growth. When the growth is about one inch high, they can be carefully removed from the compost and put into pots. (The size of the pot depends on the size of the tuber.)

The material used for potting is leaf mold, clean stiff loam and peat in equal parts. To this add one part of cow manure which has been dried and passed through a ¼-in. sieve, and sufficient grit to keep the compost thoroughly open. When the leaves reach the sides of the pot, pot on into 6-inch sized pots, this size being quite large enough for the first season.

It is essential that the drainage material should be a little above average, a gloxinia standing in a soggy soil is quickly transformed from a thing of beauty to a brownish looking mess. And do not be misled into using the potting

*(Continued on Page 131)*

# Bess L. Shippy Hybrids

By MARY ELLEN ROSS, Camden Maine



*Begonia* 'Marie B. Holley'

FROM 1940 to 1952 Mrs. Leo C. Shippy, then living in Lockport, N.Y., was hybridizing begonias with the result that many of her creations found their way into the trade. She has now moved to Florida where she still grows begonias, but has given up hybridizing in favor of writing and is at present writing a book on ivies. Many of her articles have appeared in *Popular Gardening*, *Flower Grower* and *Horticulture* in the past five years. Since I had the pleasure of introducing a few of her hybrids and very little has been written about them, I feel that a full account of the Bess L. Shippy hybrids should be printed in *The Begonian*.

*B.* 'Brocade,' introduced in 1952, has already been used as a cover picture of *The Begonian*, in the April issue of 1955. This was a cross of 'Silver Star' and is truly one of the most outstanding of Mrs. Shippy's hybrids. Its leaves are not as deeply cut as 'Silver Star' and have more iridescent purple and silver glow with red

underneath. Flowers are white, the same as 'Silver Star.' Habit of growth is more upright and branched than its parent, sometimes even trailing growth which would lend itself well to a hanging basket.

'Legacy,' introduced the same year, was also a seedling from the same cross as 'Brocade.' Habit of growth and shape of leaves are about the same, except that perhaps 'Legacy' is not as deeply cut but more star shaped. Foliage is glossy, bronzy green with red underneath and slightly hairy. Flowers are white as in 'Brocade.'

The most outstanding of Mrs. Shippy's hybrids is Leo C. Shippy. This was the end result of a lot of crossing of the best 'Ricinifolia' types. It went through several generations of seedling crosses. It is a rhizomatous star type with seven lobes. Leaves are emerald green with red veins. The red hairs underneath give it a red ruffled effect to the margins. The young leaves are yellowish green, beautifully flushed with red. Flowers bloom into the winter with large pink clusters, well above the foliage.

Shippy's 'Garland' introduced in 1948 is a cross between 'Limminghei' and *B. scandens cordifolia*. It is a beautiful hanging basket type, free branching with broad ovate pointed leaves up to four inches long, glossy light green and deeply



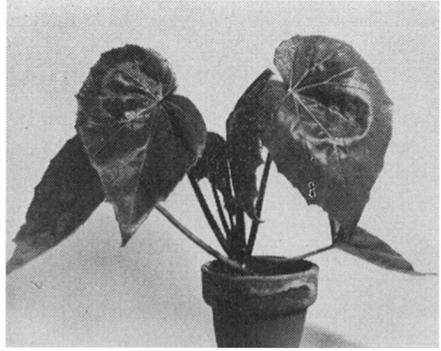
*Begonia* 'Leo C. Shippy'

veined, irregularly notched and crinkled. Flowers are very large, cherry rose, freely produced and blooming over a long period.

'Marie B. Holley' is a favorite of mine as I chose it among many of Mrs. Shippy's hybrids as one I thought should be introduced. This was introduced in 1952. This belongs to the small leaved branching group and just what its parents are Mrs. Shippy does not know, as it was a selection from a lot of seedlings she had of many different types of small leaved branching begonias, like 'Dregei,' 'Mac-Bethi' and *parvifolia*. I especially like it because it is stronger growing than *richardsiana* and the foliage is a glossy bright green with large, waxy, white flowers. Type of growth and shape of leaves is about the same as *richardsiana*—deeply cut maple leaf type. Its only drawback is that it tends to grow willowy if not kept pruned. I consider it a fine addition to the small leaved branching group.

'Grey Lady,' introduced in 1947, is a stronger growing *B. incana* type. It was a cross between two big tomentose species, *B. incana* and *B. venosa*. It makes a beautiful large specimen when well grown. But, when plants are small it is hard to tell the difference between it and *B. incana* and *B. kellermani*. All look very similar when small. But 'Grey Lady' will outgrow them all and quickly, too. Flowers are white, the same as its parents.

Michael L. Barnes,' introduced in 1952, appears to be a hybrid of *B. 'Fuscomacu-*



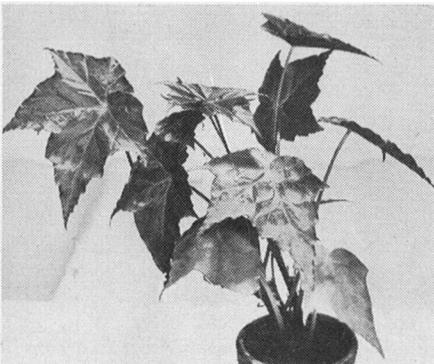
*Begonia* 'Michael L. Barnes'

lata,' although Mrs. Shippy is not sure. These are medium heart-shaped light green with chocolate spots and prominent spot at the sinus. Flowers are light pink on tall stems, usually blooming in the summer. It's blooming period is what makes it unusual as most rhizomatous begonias bloom in the Winter. It was Mrs. Shippy's idea that through this begonia, more types could be developed which would be summer blooming.

One of Mrs. Shippy's earliest hybrids is 'Niagara,' which came out about 1941. It is a rhizomatous type with leaf stalks about a foot long covered with silky golden brown hairs when young. Leaves are obliquely heart-shaped, pointed up to seven inches long, thick, olive green, red-veined underneath. The flower stems are more than a foot tall and carry large heads, composed of many large individual white flowers, which are fragrant, blooming over a long period.

'Alpha Gere,' developed in 1940, is a cross between *dichtoma* and *B. scandens*. It has light waxy green leaves obicular-pointed very shallowly and almost evenly two pointed. Stems are trailing to about two feet. Flowers are small white in large airy erect terminal heads. It is a strong handsome plant when well grown. A true clonal variety.

There are several others of Bess L. Shippy introductions, but the ones described are what I consider the most worthwhile and I am sure will be continued to be grown for years to come.



*Begonia* 'Legacy'

## 'Prolific' Is the Word for Rexes

By BERNICE BRILMAYER

REX BEGONIAS' peculiar and prolific manner of propagating from leaves has always intrigued me—particularly as they will frequently and spontaneously send up new plants on leaves of growing plants without benefit of contact with any rooting or propagating medium. 'Robin' and 'Marian Louise' have often done this for me. And Mrs. Geraldine Daly in Coventry, Rhode Island, has a magnificent specimen of *B. rex* 'Midnight' with a foot-long leaf lying flat on a table—still attached to the parent plant by a long petiole—with a sizeable new plant happily growing out of the apex where stem joins leaf.

Not long ago, I bought a copy of Longmire's quaint but practical little book, "Secrets of Successful Propagation." Beginning on page 113, he describes eight different methods of propagating rex begonias. I tried them all.

From a single plant of *B. rex* 'Salamander,' I took cuttings of various kinds and inserted them in a propagating box with moist vermiculite, under artificial

light in my cellar. Two months later made the following observations. Numbers correspond to Longmire's.

1. Veins were slit all the way through, and the leaf laid flat on the propagating medium. New plant appeared first at the apex.

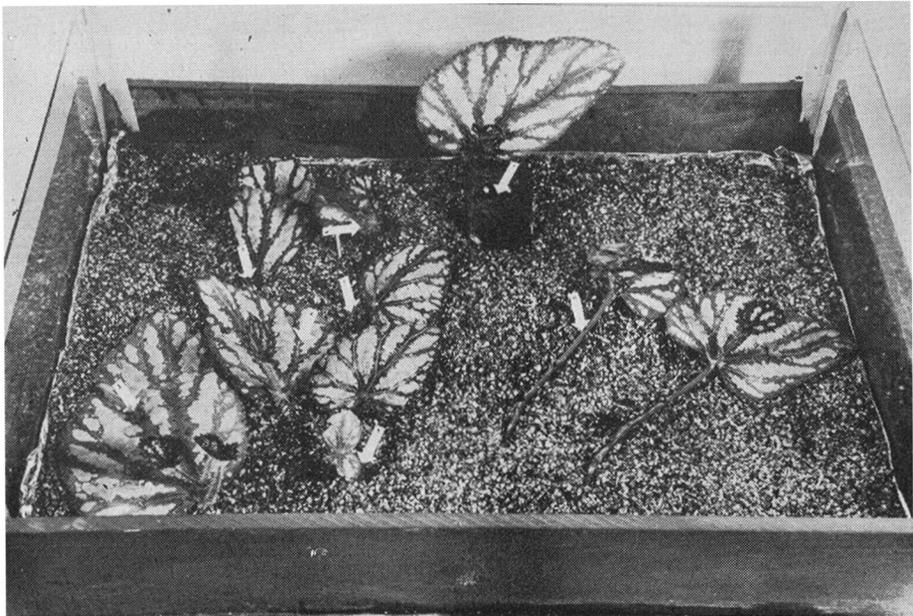
2. Veins were slit part way through, leaf laid flat. First plant grew at the apex.

3. Wedge-shaped sections of leaves were beginning to make new plants at the base. Each wedge had been cut to include some portion of the apex.

5. Leaf cutting with  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch section of stem left on, and inserted so that leaf stood above the propagating medium, produced small plants at the stem ends.

6. Leaf cut as in No. 5, but inserted in water made good roots, new plant at the apex.

The leaf at the far right was inserted for propagating in several ways. Stem was notched, veins were slit, etc. New plant is apparent at the apex, small plants were present at the vein slits; leaf was still crisp and healthy.



# Seeds, Seedlings and Hybrids

By DON HORTON

## *Epiphyllums*

ONE OF the most brilliant and exotic flowers found in nature spends 11/12 of its life as a rather dull and disinteresting cactus plant. But when the blooming month comes about this ugly duckling of the plant world certainly knows how to put on a display.

Before a recent meeting of the Orange County Branch Mrs. Gladys L. Vernon of Costa Mesa, California, presented an illuminating talk of her favorite pets—the epiphyllums. She has been growing them for many years and annually holds an open house so the public may visit her large lathhouse and enjoy their exotic beauty with her.

Epiphyllums are usually called Orchid cactus but Mrs. Vernon objects to the nickname for the flowers are not shaped like orchids. There is some justice in the nickname since they have a showy splendor, and may be had in the orchid colors as well as scarlets, oranges, and golds. The nickname reminds also of their jungle origins.

Ancestors of the epiphyllums grew high on trees in the tropics, not the desert. They were principally white in color. By mating them with the desert cereus, hybridizers introduced color, now there are 3,000 or more varieties.

The plant is of medium size and rather well suited to being a showpiece in a hanging basket. The branches are two to four inches wide and are flattened to perhaps a half inch thick. They are scalloped, and resemble cascading chains of leaves. The flowers are borne on the side of the stems.

Epiphyllums need to be out of direct sunlight, and for this reason they used to be collected on the old-fashioned front porch. Being accustomed to jungle rains they tend to dry out fast in the usual clay pot so that many collectors choose to raise them in tin cans.

Mrs. Vernon advocates planting epi-

phyllums in a mixture of part soil, two parts leafmold, one part rotted steer manure, and one part coarse gravel. To this she adds one-half cup bonemeal and charcoal per five gallons of mixture.

Blossom time begins in April and continues through May and June. She does not fertilize them during the blooming season, but other times makes a soup of steer manure to apply. She does not water in July, when they are dormant, then applies the soup in August, September, and October. In October she withholds water to harden them for winter.

Enemies include slugs, aphids, and scale, but snail bait and a watered down solution of malathion will get rid of these pests even during the blooming season.

Mrs. Vernon grows new epiphyllums by making cuttings, grafts, or gathering and planting seeds. When grown from seeds the epiphyllum starts life in a columnar shape, resembling other cacti, then flattens out as it gets large. It takes five to seven years to bloom from seed, but this is how new varieties and colors originate. The seeds are germinated and started much in the same way as you would grow begonia seeds. I have raised them in the same jar with begonias.

Mrs. Vernon says that young epiphyllums may change the color of their flowers when young and should therefore be bloomed for three years before you can be sure what you have. One of the present goals of epiphyllum hybridizing is a pure yellow flower. There are flowers where the outer petals are yellow, or even the tips of the petals, but no pure yellow as yet. It should be possible for yellow flowers do exist in the cactus family.

—B—

Thrips are minute insects, with mouth equipped for piercing and sucking, or rasping the surface of leaves, stems and flowers, leaving silvery streaks to indicate their presence. Often hide inside sheaves such as in gladioli. Damage buds, blooms.

# Begonia 'Hiemalis'

By JOY LOGEE MARTIN

AN EMINENT horticulturist once stated that *Begonia* 'Hiemalis' is the "Queen of all begonias." The name 'Hiemalis,' which means winterly, was given to this group of begonias by Karl Fotsch in 1933 and was printed in his *Die Begonian*. They are hybrid of the winter-flowering *B. socotrana*, discovered in 1880 by Prof. Isaac Bailey Balfour, growing among bare rocks on the Island of Socotra in the Indian Ocean. It is the only species which develops such bulbils. The first hybrid was originated by John B. Heal of James Veitch & Sons in England in 1882, by using *B. incarnata* as the other parent. Later other hybridists both in England and Holland used the Andean tuberous rooted begonias to secure the large double forms of some of our finest 'Hiemalis.'

They have been known in America as the English or winter-flowering begonias. Magnificent specimens were exhibited at all the outstanding Autumn flower shows in the East. These plants were primarily grown on private estate greenhouses, where their culture was a secret that only the old-time experienced gardener understood. For several years we have been growing these glowing treasures among begonias and have proved they are relatively of easy culture if one understands their simple requirements and background.

The propagation method of rooting plants from a leaf in the Fall, has been discarded in favor of stem cuttings taken when plants start active growth in the Spring. Cuttings are taken with two or three leaves from top growth, placed in a mixture of peat and sand, with bottom heat at 65° to 70°. They will root in about three to four weeks, then are potted in a light friable soil using one-third each of soil, compost and sharp sand with the addition of a good organic plant food, using a three inch pot to each bushel of soil. Course charcoal added to this mixture is wonderful drainage and helps to "sweeten" the soil.

First potting is into 2¼" pots, being sure the base of the stem with roots is close to the surface of the soil, which should be lightly packed. Begonias do not thrive in hard packed soil.

After potting the plants should be placed in the shade for about a week, then moved to a well lighted window. Water immediately after potting and then not again until the top soil is slightly dry. They should never be allowed to dry out nor should they at any time be standing in water. Good drainage is very important, using a little crushed broken pots in the bottom of each pot is helpful in supplying this drainage. Repot as soon as the roots are plentiful in the bottom of the pot. It is better to repot often, using only one inch larger sized pot, than to overpot a small plant. When plants have reached the four or five inch pot size, they can be pinched by taking out the top two or three leaves. This is done only until the middle of August. More flowers are produced on a properly pinched plant.

The foliage is bright green, leaves are large and rounded, some varieties having a bronzy cast. The usual flowering season is from October to January, but we have had reports of continual flowering throughout the winter on some varieties such as 'Altrincham Pink' and 'Rose Queen.' The plants are completely covered with bloom and there are many fine colors in both single and double flowered forms. Some of the single flowers measure three inches across and the ultra-double forms are as beautiful as the finest hybrid tea rose.

The following are some of the finest varieties obtainable in this country:

- 'Emily Clibran': double salmon pink
- 'Lady Roberts': a sport of 'Emily Clibran' in old ivory
- 'Marietta': beautiful shade of double apricot
- 'The President': glowing red double
- 'Man's Favorite': large single white, flower like dogwood, originated in

Holland by the firm of Man's  
 'Exquisite': single pink dogwood  
 flowered  
 'Snowdrop': pure white double  
 'Pink Perfection': perfect double rose-  
 bud pink  
 'Altrincham Pink': perfect rosebud,  
 double pink  
 'Rose Queen': semi-double, rose suf-  
 fuse with red  
 'Emita': single bright orange  
 'Flambeau': double salmon  
 'Van deMeers Gloire': single light  
 salmon

There are few insect problems with this begonia. If begonia mite occurs, which is detected by the curling of new leaves, spray with an insecticide containing malathion. They are sometimes exposed to a fungus known to growers as Powdery Mildew. It must be detected at once, and begins with tiny white spots on the leaves. If sprayed at once with the new antibiotic, Acti-dione, or Mildex, it is readily controlled.

Logee's Greenhouses  
 Danielson, Conn.

—B—

## Here and There

The lists of seeds in my last several *Begonians* sound too fascinating to resist, but I have forgotten whether or not the fee for joining the Seed Fund is two dollars.

Long ago I used to write articles for the "Begonian"—and had organized a Begonia chapter in Flint. When it disbanded and we moved from Flint, I had to drop my activities. Now, I am regaining my enthusiasm.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Pierson Barton  
 (Mrs. George W. W.)

6340 West Surrey, Fox Croft  
 Birmingham, Michigan

—B—

### DEADLINE

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

## Exhibiting Gloxinias

(Continued From Page 125)

stick to ram the soil in with, just use finger pressure.

Great care must be taken with ventilation and watering so as to avoid too much moisture content at any time, and particularly more so when the flower buds form and begin to show color. Feed every 10 days with weak liquid manure from about three weeks following the final potting.

Try to maintain a temperature of 55° to 60° M., and provide shade when the sun gets too fierce. And on no account must the plants be grown on a shelf which is too near the glass, the ideal staging being one which is open and at sill height. Allow ample room between the plants, remove any leaves which may be damaged, and avoid wetting the flower buds and the crown of the plant at all costs. Any buds showing the slightest sign of damp spots should be removed, and this also includes the stem part of the bloom, the latter being removed at the base with a knife or a pair of scissors. To attempt to remove the stem or foliage by pulling or twisting with the fingers usually results in the growth coming away from the tuber. This, of course, also damages the crown of the tuber, and this impairs its usefulness for another season. A well grown gloxinia should not require any staking or typing, but to prevent the heavy top growth from inclining to one side, as it sometimes does, push in four thin canes, about three inches in length, as near to the tuber as possible without actually coming into contact with it. A loop of thin tying material wound around the canes will thus provide a cushion for the stems. This should actually be carried out early in the life of the plant, and may be the means of saving many a plant when moving them about. When the plants have finished flowering and obviously show signs of going to rest, gradually dry them off by reducing the water content, allow the top growth to fall naturally (never pull it off or the crown of the tuber will be damaged), and then knock the tubers from the pots and store

# Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

**No. 1 B. egregia syn. B. quadrelocularis—Brazil.** Beautiful plant requiring little care and worthy of a place in tropical garden or greenhouse. Foliage is vigorous and of exquisite form and lovely green color. Flowers are white and numerous. Plant is hardy and will flower all winter with very little care. We refer you to cover picture on Oct. 1958 The Begonian. Since this picture appeared we have had many requests for seed and after long waiting for blooms to be pollinated and seed given ample time to ripen, we can offer them to you. 1.00 per pkt.

**No. 2 B. dayi syn. B. nigro-venia—Mexico.** Rhizomatous. One of the easiest to grow from seed. Named for Lambert Day, an early day begonia grower. Has shiny, wax-like leaves of yellow-green. The veining is a heavy dark brown on the surface, dark red on the underside. The blossoms are small and dainty, compared to the heavy texture of the leaves and are off-white in color. For best results grow in a basket or pot high on a wall and do not over water. 35c per pkt.

**No. 3 B. boweri—Mexico.** Attractive miniature begonia with creeping rhizomes. Leaves small, vivid deep green, with blackish mottling along the edges, from which long hairs stand erect. Flowers pink and dainty. 50c per pkt.

**No. 4 B. poponoei—Honduras.** Large, rhizomes, thick, ascending; leaves large, orbicular, pointed, bright green, sparsely hairy, red-tinged; flowers large, white, in tall, erect panicles. 25c per pkt.

**No. 5 B. 'Pink Parade'—**Dichroa seedling. Small cane type to 12 inches bearing clusters of large orange-salmon flowers. 25c per pkt.

**No. 6 B. mixed—**A short time ago, a member in New York grew plants from a packet of these seed and to her happy surprise 13 plants of B. 'Calla Lily' appeared. Many of you have asked for B. 'Calla Lily' seed but we have not been successful in finding them. The above offer is B. Mixed seed and not Cally Lily. 25c per pkt.

**No. 7 B. Brazil—**Tall growing type. A friend who lives in a small village near Sao Paulo, Brazil, collects seed of native begonias growing near her home and

sends them to the seed fund. She can not correctly identify them but describes them as being beautiful, tall growing and covered with great masses of flowers and found growing in shallow soil. Suitable for sheltered gardens and greenhouses. 25c per pkt.

**No. 8 B. Brazil mixed—**Also from same locality and contains about eight varieties of begonias native to Brazil. 25c per pkt.

**No. 9 B. semperflorens 'Salmon Queen'—**Salmon-red flowers and dark foliage. 25c per pkt.

**No. 10 B. semperflorens 'Saga'—**Extra dwarf, dense growth; small bright red flowers and ideal for bedding and borders 25c per pkt.

## GREENHOUSE PLANTS

**Peperoma maculosa—**Santo Domingo. Leaves very fleshy, ovate, lanceolate, 7"-10" long, bright shining bluish or bottle-green with ivory or white veinings and mid-rib. Petioles beautifully spotted with purple or maroon-fragrant. Tropical America and truly a magnificent plant. March 1958 The Begonian carried the full story and method of growing of this plant written by Harold Kane of Canada. Back copies may be purchased from Librarian at 25c per copy. Seed are 35c per pkt.

**Reichsteineria macropoda—**So. Brazil. Tuberos species with unbranched stems bearing opposite, velvety bright-green leaves; small flowers in clusters, tubes vermilion-red with lower lobes marked brown-red. 25c per pkt.

**Aeschynanthus splendens—**Seed were sent from So. Africa but we have not found information in the references we have. Perhaps some one could identify this plant. Not many seed. 35c per pkt.

**Actinophloeus macarthurii—**Feather Palm, New Guinea. Leaves are pinnate in a sparse crown, the pinnae glossy-green and rather soft, apex jagged and fingered giving the appearance of being bitten off; fruits bright red. 5 seed for 25 cents.

**Aechmea mexicana—**Mexico. Bromeliaceae. Large rosette of broad leathery, pale green leaves with darker green blotches becoming rose-tinted in the sun;

bold flower stem with long panicle of white berries. 25c per pkt.

**Billbergia porteana** — Bromeliaceae. 25c per pkt.

**Bougainvillea**—**Nyctaginaceae** — One of the finest creepers known and widely grown in California for its great beauty and versatility. Flowers are small, all the color coming from large, showy bracts, three of which surround each flower. Grown in greenhouses where climate does not permit growing out doors and may be grown as a trimmed pot plant. Seed were sent from the Philippine Islands and bracts are described as being lavender. Seed are scarce. 4 for 25c.

### FERN SPORES

**Platyserium wilhelminae reginae** — A variety of *P. grande* and one of the most magnificent ferns grown. A mature plant will have the shield fronds up to 38 inches tall and fertile fronds are about six feet long. This fern is rarely seen and if you wish to grow something rare and different this is your answer. Fresh spores from Germany, 50c per pkt.

**Phyllitis scolopendrium-cristatum**. **Polypodiaceae**. "Hart's Tongue," Rhizomatous, hardy fern with simple, oblong, lush bright green fronds and crisped margins. 25c per pkt.

### OTHER GENERA

**"Esporas"**—Brazil. For the summer garden and produces many flowers when very small. Grows similar to our larkspur. 25c per pkt.

**Oxypetalum** sp. So. Africa. Collector describes the plant as growing 2 feet high and bearing pale blue flowers. Something different. 25c per pkt.

**Metrocideris tomentosa** — **Myrtaceae**. Medium growth, much branched. Leaves 2-4 inches long, broadly oblong, mostly white-felty on lower surface. Flowers dark red. 25c per pkt.

**Melaleuca hypericifolia**—Hillock tree. Smooth shrub with rich red flowers in dense spikes. 25c per pkt.

**Leptospermum roei**—Australian shrub of the Myrtaceae family. Popular shrub grown for its showy bell-shaped flowers. Also a good greenhouse plant. 25c per pkt.

**Callistemon vinnialis** — Australian shrub of great beauty and widely grown for its handsome flowers. 25c per pkt.

Due to limited space we would like to close out the following shrub, vine and begonia seed. All have been offered in The Begonian in the past few months with descriptions therefore space will not in trays of peat or leaf mold. The tubers will store quite well in a temperature of 50 degrees.

allow for repeating. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to grow choice and interesting plants for your garden and greenhouse. Please come to the rescue and help clear our files.

**Doxantha**—vine.

**Kolenturia**—shrub.

**Mimosa pink**—shrub.

**Halesia**—shrub.

**Hau**—**Hibiscus tiliaceus** from Hawaii.

**B. 'Coral Rubra'**

**B. vitifolia.**

**B. 'Shepherd's Cane'**

**B. Cane type**—pink.

**B. sceptrum.**

Above—10 pkts. for 1.00 or 25c per single pkt.

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

—B—

## A Dream Come True

THE Mrs. L. B. Slosson Glasshouse for Begonias, the 1955 dream of the San Gabriel Valley branch, has become a reality. Through a very substantial donation by Mrs. L. B. Slosson, one of the founders of *Golden Gardens* and an ardent horticulturist and garden club member, and with the tireless effort of Howard Small, chairman of the Arboretum Glasshouse for Begonias Fund, the donations private and commercial and by some branches of the A.B.S. have been coordinated.

Amidst the begonia and allied shade plant show sponsored by the San Gabriel Valley branch the glasshouse will be dedicated and presented to the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum at 301 No. Baldwin, Arcadia, Calif., 2:30 p.m., Saturday, June 6, 1959. Mr. George Spalding, superintendent of the Arboretum, will accept the glasshouse which will present not only to visitors from California

and United States, but also to visitors from countries throughout the world, one of the finest collections of begonia species, very old and registered cultivars and begonias of distinction.

The 18' x 50' glasshouse is one of the most modern, lifetime, all aluminum structures. It has modern automatic cooling, heating and humidifying systems. The 24 benches are of a permanent type being constructed of galvanized steel. The seran covering which will shade the house is held by a galvanized pipe frame. The frame and seran are extended on the north to create a 20' x 50' outside protected garden. A waterfall, cascading from pool to pool, will be the center of interest in this garden which will be planted with begonias suitable to use in the home landscape. The gravel pathway from the road to the six foot sliding door of the glasshouse will be lined with dark leaved *semperflorens* begonias.

The Flower Show, under the direction of Mrs. Kirk Moore, who also was instrumental in securing commercial donations for the opening of the Glasshouse, will be held in the glasshouse, June 6, from 1:00 to 9:00 p.m. and June 7, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. All amateur growers whether members or non-members of the A.B.S. are invited to enter plants for competition for ribbon place awards. For the Sweepstakes by a non-member of the A.B.S., a medallion will be awarded. A fifteen dollar cash award will be given the best Branch garden display carrying out the theme, "Begonias in the Landscape." San Gabriel Valley Branch cup awards will be given to its winning members and one cup to any A.B.S. member. A new cup, the Wright E. Gougar Award for the most exotic color in a rex begonia, is presented by Margaret Moore in memorial to her father. This cup is open for competition by any A.B.S. member. Rules and schedules are available on request from: Mrs. Kirk Moore, 4729 Midsite, Covina, Calif.

Commercial donors are. Shaw Pump & Supply Co., Hinshaw Department Store, Santa Anita Race Track, Better Gardens, Monrovia Nursery, Armstrong Nursery,

(Continued on Page 138)

## Begonias in the East

MARION W. DECOURSEY

MANY begonia enthusiasts are fascinated by the beautiful and varied foliage, but during the winter when color is so cheerful in the house they crave flowers. There is no reason to be discouraged or to give up growing begonias—just know enough about these plants to pick the one which will give you both foliage and flowers. A number of years ago Mrs. Marjorie Withol grew begonias in her greenhouse and in her house and kept careful notes as to which plants gave her plenty of bloom, she very generously sent me her notes. Since some of her plants spent at least some of their lives in her green house it might be that growers who have to depend entirely on window sills may not have such a high score. Still free blooming is an inherent trait in some begonias and this list should insure plenty of color for months.

months of  
continuous bloom

1. "Preussen" .....	76
2. "Sachsen" .....	71
3. <i>coccinea</i> hy. ....	58
4. "Diana" .....	55
5. "Sylvia" .....	52
6. "Picta rosea" .....	47
7. "Woordi" .....	45
8. "Bayerne" .....	43
9. "Elaine" .....	42
10. "Catalina" .....	34
11. "President Carnot" .....	31
12. "Lecco" .....	30
13. "Bennett" .....	28
14. "Oadi" .....	27
15. <i>coccinea</i> .....	26
16. "Odorata alba" .....	26
17. "Minute" .....	25

Most of these varieties are available in the East. I would not know where to get *B. "Sylvia," "Woordi," "Lecco," "Bennett,"* or "Minute" but the others give plenty to choose from if we wish free blooming begonias for winter color. If other Eastern growers have had success with free blooming plants please share your knowledge with us.

# A Thing of Beauty

By MRS. L. H. MORRIS, Elsa Fort Branch, A.B.S.

LET ME tell you about Mildred Tait's flower boxes!

Our Begonia Party was held at Mildred Tait's home last September, and some of you saw her boxes then, but I wish you could have seen them as we did on a cold February afternoon.

Only a person with deep love for growing plants, and the know how to do it could have achieved so much beauty in the atmosphere of a living room where conditions are seldom favorable for growing many begonias and plants of that type. To do this, Mildred has built a corner picture window, each side 5 by 10 feet. Under each window she has stone boxes about two feet high and more than two feet wide, reaching from floor to window sill. There are no blinds, no draperies, and none are needed. There is a built in water pipe running under one of the boxes with a short length of hose attached, so there is never the problem of watering or sprayong.

As we hurried in the door out of the cold air, we stopped in amazement and just feasted our eyes on the beauty in that corner. The same gray skies, bare trees and sear lawns, which we had seen en route, framed those windows, but they were completely blotted out by all that beauty.

First we saw in the end of one box *B. 'President Carnot'* standing over five feet tall, with many canes more than an inch thick. The top branches hung with showers of huge panicles of that beautiful pink blossom it bears. Mid way along that box a cactus of the *cereus* variety, more than three feet tall, with smaller ones, maybe eighteen or twenty inches tall grouped about it, seemed to stand sentinel over the plants nestled around it. As we moved closer we could identify them as *B. dregei*, *foliosa*, "*Thurstoni*," *scharffi*, "*Medora*," *kenworthyi* and others, including a lovely double maiden hair fern. *B. undulata* stood waving above them. Luxuriant maiden hair fern

climbed high, almost against the panes, forming a feathery background for the smaller plants. They all looked so happy in that loamy soil they love so well.

Tumbling over the wide ledge and front of the planter were parsley ivy, gold dust ivy, sprengeri and several varieties of tradescantia. With delight we moved along to the corner of the boxes, where a crassula, grown into a tree, formed the background. Double semperflorens of different colors helped make this area an artist's dream come true.

The other planter held begonias of the huge leaf type. Framed in the background by more maiden hair fern climbing up the glass, we could recognize *B. 'John R.'*, '*Marian*,' '*Ricinifolia*,' '*Immense*' and others with leaves eight or nine inches in diameter, and correspondingly huge stems. In front of these beauties, our eyes, wandering along, could see *B. 'Paul Bruant*,' *compta*, '*Viaudi*,' '*Marguerita*,' '*Beatrice Haddrell*,' '*Joe Hayden*,' '*Maphil*' and many beautiful rexes. At the end '*Mrs. W. A. Wallow*' stood straight and tall, overlooking them all. They were interspersed with hoyas, aloes and several other eye-catching plants. The ledge and front of this box were nearly covered with fancy leaf ivy and pothos, their leaves nearly as large as one's hand. Regardless of type they were all luxuriant.

Pondering the secret of her success, I asked, "Mildred, what fertilizer do you use?" only to receive the answer, "I have not used any fertilizer for months." Mildred's new home is built in a deeply wooded section, and she has access to the kind of leaf mold which Nature has been making for ages, and which when dug into, is nearly knee deep. Maybe that is part of the answer to that lush growth which she maintains with apparent ease.

As we left, with many backward glances, I said a silent prayer, "Lord, help me to remember the Tenth Commandment."

## Exotica II

MORE than 425 different begonias will be pictured and described in the new, enlarged second edition of "Exotica, Pictorial Cyclopedic of Indoor Plants," by A. B. Graf. It will exceed 900 pages—including 16 full-page color plates with twelve plants each, reproduced by a new process which prints more natural hues.

There will be four color pages of begonias introducing the pictorial begonia section, and a brief summary of classification, culture, and propagation. The number of black and white photographs has been increased by nearly 50%, and pictures of other plant families are being increased proportionately. Many new plants have been added, and many photographs have been improved and replaced.

Those who were fortunate enough to buy the first edition of "Exotica" before it so quickly sold out have found it invaluable. It is the only book of its kind—the largest collection of indoor plant pictures, with a brief description of each plant plus a coded key to its culture. It's handy and useful in many ways—for identification of plants, tips on culture, information on natural habitat or hybrid parentage. It covers the whole field of indoor plants, from abelia to zygotealum.

For those who are interested chiefly in begonias, Mr. Graf is printing extra

copies of the begonia pages, and will bind them—with a more detailed, 9,000-word description of begonia classes and culture by A.B.S. member Bernice Brilmyer—in a flexible cover, to be issued as "Begonias—a Pictorial Handbook." This will be one of a series of "Exotica Guides on Indoor Plants," and will cost around three dollars.

"Exotica II" can be ordered directly from the publisher or through Librarian Mrs. Lucy A. Sault at the book store price of \$25.

### Calendar

June 11 — Inglewood — Round table discussion of shade gardens, including both successes and trouble spots, by members and guests. Usual time and place.

June 24 — Glendale — Jean Kerlin, speaker. Same time and place.

July 24 — Redondo — Mrs. Frances Young—usual time and place.

July 25 — Redondo — "Whoopee" party — Taylor patio, 301 Anita, R.B. 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 22 — Redondo — Annual Fun Day, Taylor patio, 4 p.m.-?

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1959 COLOR CATALOG NOW AVAILABLE

# Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

BESSIE RAYMOND BUXTON

The April meeting was held at the Arnold Arboretum, where magnolias, azaleas, forsythias, etc., were in bloom. Before the business meeting the group enjoyed a tour of the grounds and a picnic luncheon. Afterwards Dr. Burdette Wagenknecht of the Arboretum, who is an authority on the preparation of herbarium specimens, gave a demonstration, pointing out the special requirements in the case of begonias. This is a project which the branch has planned to undertake.

—B—

ELSA FORT

We were nine years old last month, and that meeting was one of the three evening meetings we have during the year. We have those three meetings so that two members who work on Saturdays can attend meetings other than when they are on vacation.

We had a delicious birthday dinner, including everything from tomato juice cocktail to candle-lighting angel food birthday cake. Lola Price and Jane Wright were co-hostesses.

After dinner, when Elsa Fort Webber brought out plants for our quiz, you should have heard us. "This is a party!" Elsa was smilingly adamant, so we wrote the answers to ten questions, such as, "How do you know this plant is a begonia?" Answer — "By its blossom (which was a beautiful pink inflorescence)." Another—"Knowing the parentage of each of these plants, what would a cross between them be called?" Answer—"A cultivar." And so on through the ten questions. At the next meeting the two persons with the highest scores will each receive a begonia.

Lola Price is such an untiring secretary, we usually give her a token of appreciation at our birthday party. This year it was a charming piece of driftwood mounted on a small wooden plaque.

HOLLYWOOD

Once again we had the honor and the pleasure of having Mr. Bert Slatter, national president of the A.B.S., with us for a talk on Begonia Culture, April 15 at Plummer Park.

We wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hall for being with us at our March meeting. Mr. Hall's talk was most enjoyable and helpful. When he told us how successful Mrs. Hall's mother was in starting *B. 'Ricinifolia'* by simply placing a long stemmed leaf in water, just as we start African Violets—it should be an inspiration to all of us to try it.

—B—

INGLEWOOD

April meeting was considered a huge success by all participating and attending the President's Dinner, the 11th annual event of its kind. Theme for this year was "Hawaii" and decorations were colorful, beautiful and very extensive—thanks to the talents of Mrs. Grace Yerrick and her crew of helpers. The dinner itself was thoroughly enjoyed by all, consisting of roast beef coupled with a menu suggestive of Hawaii, both colorful and delicious. Lucille Thompson receives credit not only for the delightful food but for the efficiency of the serving. Dr. Robert Atkinson spoke on "Bigger and Better Begonias," and all present were given plenty to remember and to think about. Presidents from the various branches were presented by Inglewood Branch's president, Mr. Bill Kirker.

Floyd Hambright further enhanced the Hawaiian atmosphere by rendering three lovely Hawaiian songs. Two lovely young ladies further entertained with three hula dances, dressed in native costumes and fragrant leis they were truly a sight to behold.

Following Dr. Atkinson's talk and the entertainment numbers for the plants on the overflowing plant tables were drawn and each and every one of the 188 mem-

bers and guests attending went home with at least one plant and most with many more.

Judging from the happy smiling faces and friendly exchange of conversation throughout the evening, the evening was a real success.

—B—

#### MARGARET GRUENBAUM

Our April meeting at the home of our president Mrs. Anna Oehrle was not altogether conducive to talking about summer care of begonias outdoors as it was a typical cold, rainy, April day. However, after lunch we got down to business and had a wonderful program. Three of our members won prizes at the Philadelphia Flower Show with a *B. 'Bow-Nigra.'* Each member had been given a rooted cutting in October with the understanding they be repotted and house-grown. Many varied sizes and shapes resulted but all were exhibited at the show.

Marion Beltsee, in charge of the day's program, shows different methods she uses in growing seeds and cuttings. She found that cuttings placed in damp sphagnum moss in a sealed plastic bag made faster growth than those planted in sand. Into each plastic bag she placed a handful of the moss with the cutting, sealed bag, labeled, and fastened with a safety pin to a curtain or other well-lighted area. She stressed the point of leaving the bag open after roots had formed to "harden" off before planting in soil.

Another method she found equally successful, but slower was the placing of sand in a 10" to 12" diameter flower pot. Inside she placed a smaller pot with bottom opening closed with a cork, and this she filled with water. The cuttings and seed were placed around the small pot. It was fascinating to see even the seeds growing all over the clay pots.

—B—

#### REDONDO BEACH AREA

Mrs. Frances Young, well-known authority on gardening, will be guest speaker at our July 24 meeting, to be held at our regular meeting place. So,

come on out for an enjoyable evening and the answers to your gardening problems.

Be sure to put down these dates on your personal calendar: July 25 and August 22. July 25 is the date for us all to play "Whoopee." If you have never played it, you have really never had fun. Bring a gift or plant for each player to Taylor's lovely outdoor patio, 310 Anita St., Redondo Beach. Time 7:30-?

Aug. 22 will be our big once-a-year Fun Day, also to be held in the Taylors' patio. Come early and have your dinner, for starting time is 4 p.m. Experience eating delicious food cooked outside in western style, surrounded by this lovely array of plants. There will also be games, plants, and prizes—so come early and stay late.

—B—

#### RHODE ISLAND

We met April 4 at the home of Mrs. Marguerite Armes, Broadview Ave., Warwick Neck, and the meeting was totally a show talk by all. Many points brought out and nicely explained by our Show Chairman, Mrs. Earl Harrington of Edgewood. The date will be July 25-26 at Daly's Gardens, Nooseneck Hill Road, Route 3, Coventry. All members decided that two days was as easy to do as one. Our show is titled, "Begonias and Other Shade Loving Plants."

Now, to create more interest and hoping to find rare and unusual plants throughout the state we have or are inviting any garden club, group, or person to participate and their plants will be eligible for judging and if they win the honors they will receive ribbons and prizes. Mrs. Gerald Coxe, 541 Warwick Neck Ave., Warwick Neck, entry chairman, requests that she be notified by

#### A DREAM COME TRUE

*(Continued From Page 134)*

El Rancho Markets, L. A. Beckstrom Lumber Co., Tucoma, Arcadia Lumber Co., Hayes Spray Co., Camsco Foundry, Wilson & George Meyer Co., Ted DeLaney Polishing, A. J. Bayer Co., Kusick's Reed Fencing, Crawford's Market, and Simpson's Garden Town.

letter on or before July 22 of anyone's wish to enter the show, kind of plants, and how many.

There will be an interesting Arrangement Class, as all arrangements must feature rex begonia leaves.

—B—

## SAN FRANCISCO

Our April 1 meeting was so very interesting. Mr. Lester McDonald of the Rod McLellan Co., and their "Acres of Orchids," spoke on "Orchid Growing for the Hobbyist." There was so much interest in his talk, and the questions were so numerous, that not too much time was left for our Question and Answer period for any problems pertaining to begonias, which was presided over by our President Les Kuthe. This is always a lot of fun and an easy way to learn so much about the care of the lovely Begonia, that at a later date we intend to have this subject again. The Rod McLellan Co. also donated a very beautiful orchid plant in full bloom for our plant table.

A Water-Wand was donated by Mrs. Kuthe as a door prize. For each MJB Coffee band or label presented for our "Extra Project"—that 72 cup percolator—a ticket was given. Mrs. Wade Johnson won the Water-Wand and was so pleased. We have had a lot of enthusiasm about this "Extra Project." Alice Gold's West Portal P.T.A. Braille Group have volunteered to help us complete our project and get our percolator. She brought in 117 bands from this group; then we will help them obtain their percolator—one good turn deserves another! Louise Allmacher brought in 43 points and 16 other members contributed bands. So, you can see, we are well on our way!

Jean Thomas is having our Begonia Clinic which will meet regularly on the last Thursday of each month. This month's meeting will feature pruning semperflorens.

Beth Sackman has lined up quite a program for us and Hyacinth Smith will demonstrate and teach us to make corsages from our garden flowers, with particular emphasis on begonias.

Coffee and donuts were served by our refreshment committee, Mr. and Mrs. John Worthington, and we all went home, feeling that we had had a wonderful evening.

—B—

## SAN MIGUEL

On April 1, the San Miguel branch was honored by having National President Bert Slatter as the speaker of the evening. Mr. Slatter chose as his subject, "Coping With Alkaline Water in Growing Begonias." He gave an interesting and informative talk on various ways to combat the ever increasing alkalinity of our water supply.

Later in the evening Mr. Slatter also installed the newly elected officers for the coming year. Those installed were Mrs. Joseph Lowery, president; Mrs. Ferris Jones, vice-president; Mrs. Jack Brooke, secretary; Mrs. Emil Starke, treasurer; Mrs. Richard LaRue, national representative; Mr. Ray Purtee, director; and Mrs. Joseph Hegel, director.

Out of town visitors who attended the meeting were Mr. and Mrs. Bert Slatter and daughter Muriel, Los Angeles; Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman, El Monte; Mrs. Virginia Brandon, Alhambra; Mrs. Gladys Mattuket, Monterey Park; Mrs. Dorothy Behrends and Alice Roberts, Encinitas.

Five new members were also introduced. They were Mr. and Mrs. J. B. O'Brien, Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Brown and Mrs. E. H. Hodgins.



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## Minutes, National Board, April 27, 1959

The regular monthly meeting of the National Board, American Begonia Society was called to order by Pres. Slatter at 7:40 p.m. April 27, 1959.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mr. Hall.

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

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Letter read from Chicago Horticultural Society relative to its 1959 Flower Show and 1960 show to come. A.B.S. invited to participate in 1960 show, space available without cost. Motion made and carried that the Society avail itself of invitation. Suggested some mid-west branch might put in display.

National Treasurer Mrs. Parker read report for month. Report filed for audit.

Pres. Slatter reported he had visited several branches during the month. Pres. Elect Lovejoy reported he had visited the Foothill Branch. Vice President Graham reported she had visited several branches and was very pleased to note the number of new, young members.

Membership Secretary Walton gave report showing 51 new and 116 renewing members for the month with a total income of \$425.50 and expenses of \$23.35. Mr. Walton estimates that by Convention Time the Society will have gained 300 new members during the year. More Begonians will be needed to meet increasing needs. Motion made and carried that Mr. Walton order additional copies of The Begonian as needed. Mailing envelopes also are needed. Motion made and carried that Mr. Walton be empowered to purchase 10,000 new mailing envelopes. New membership cards had been ordered, bill for same presented to Treasurer for payment.

Business Manager Thieben gave his report for the month showing \$49.50 collected and turned over to Treasurer, with a balance due on advertising of \$119.25.

Seed Fund Chairman Mrs. Florence Gee not being present her report was read by Treasurer Parker showing \$3120.74 turned over to Treasurer.

Public Relations Chairman Clarence Hall gave his report stating that he had received a letter from the Treasure Island Branch, Galveston, Texas, stating it has disbanded and Charter has been lost. Motion made and carried that the names of the Galveston, Texas, and Portland, Oregon, branches be removed from the branch roster. Mr. Hall also reported that Insurance Company needs much additional information before it can give estimated cost of branch insurance.

National Librarian Mrs. Lucy Sault gave her report for the month and stated Begonians had been sent to Edinburgh Botanic Garden as ordered by the Board.

Nomenclature Chairman Mrs. Korts read letter from Dr. Fletcher thanking the A.B.S. for the Begonians sent to Edinburgh Botanic Gardens. Catalogues received from Logee's Greenhouses and Merry Gardens.

Letter received from Santa Barbara Branch enclosing check to purchase life membership for Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger. Motion made and carried that recognition be made in the Minutes that Santa Barbara Branch has purchased Life Membership.

Mr. Walton moved that committee of three be appointed to establish a means of selecting a Nomenclature Director for a minimum term of three years. Seconded by Pres. Elect Lovejoy, motion carried.

Pres. Slatter stated that he had been asked recently if the A.B.S. was a non-profit organization. He had of course replied that it is, and asked the pleasure of the Board about having this information added to the Masthead page of The Begonian. After discussion it was decided to get information as to just how this should be done.

Pres. Slatter referred to the Standing Rules by which he had appointed a Convention Committee at the March meeting and stated he would entertain a motion suspending sections A and B of Item for this session and canceling his March appointments. Moved by Mr. Walton, seconded by Mrs. Graham, that sections A and B of Item One be suspended and March motion rescinded. Motion carried. Pres. Slatter then appointed Pres. Elect Lovejoy as Convention Chairman with privilege of naming his committee to assist. Moved by Mr. Walton, seconded by Mrs. Graham that appointment be confirmed. Motion carried.

The Secretary read a letter from Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger in which, because of ill health, she offered her resignation as Flower Show Chairman. Moved by Mrs. Sault, seconded by Mrs. Korts, that the resignation be accepted with regret and that the secretary write Mrs. Schwerdtfeger, thanking her for her work in the Society. Motion carried.

Pres. Slatter recalled the March request of Mrs. Gee that a member be appointed to take care of questions regarding culture, etc., of Begonias, and asked Mrs. Korts to accept the appointment. Mrs. Korts agreed to do so.

Branches reporting: El Monte, Foothill, Glendale, Inglewood, Long Beach Parent Chapter, Orange County, Redondo Beach, Riverside and San Gabriel.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Irma Jane Brown, Secretary

### BEST REXES & OTHER BEGONIAS

LIST ON REQUEST  
EXPRESS CHARGES COLLECT

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# Branch Meeting Dates . . .

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

## BRITISH BRANCH

F. J. Bedson, Secy., Kent, England

## BUXTON, BESSIE RAYMOND BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members  
Mrs. D. L. Comiskey, Secy.  
Valley Farm, Dover, Mass.

## DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS BRANCH

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

## EAST BAY BRANCH

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

## EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

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

## FOOTHILL BRANCH

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

## FORT, ELSA BRANCH

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

## GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central  
Mabel Anderson  
5226 Strohm Ave., North Hollywood

## GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

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

## GRAY'S HARBOR BRANCH

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

## GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

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

## HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

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

## HOUSTON, TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m.  
Mrs. A. F. Morin, Secy.  
2014 Commonwealth, Houston 6, Texas

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

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

## INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday 7:45 p.m., Inglewood Women's Club  
325 North Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.  
Mima A. Rich, Secy.  
2022 W. 84th Place, Los Angeles 47, Calif.

## LONE STAR BRANCH

3rd Monday, Members' Homes  
Mrs. George Wilkins, Secy.  
2621 N. Fitzhugh Ave., Dallas 4, Texas

## LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Linden Hall  
208 Linden Ave., Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Florence Haag, Secy.  
1025 Temple Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

## LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

1st Friday, Homes of Members  
Mrs. Amy Reddy Rushing, Secy.  
4938 Annette St., Baton Rouge, La.

## MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH

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

## MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 1 p.m.  
World War Memorial Bldg., Linwood and Paseo  
Kansas City, Mo.  
Mrs. Hattie Taylor, Secy.  
P.O. Box 25, Raytown, Mo.

## OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY BRANCH

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

## ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Garden Grove Grange Hall, Century and Taft Sts.  
Garden Grove, Calif.  
Mrs. Lionel Evans, Secy.  
10381 Orangewood, Garden Grove, Calif.

## PASADENA BRANCH

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

## PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Members' Homes  
Mrs. Ralph DeCou, Secy.  
107 Potter St., Haddonfield, N.J.

## REDONDO BEACH AREA BRANCH

4th Friday Each Month  
2308 Rockefeller, Redondo Beach, Calif.  
S. E. Sault, Secy.  
26938 Dapplegray Lane, Rolling Hills, Calif.

## RHODE ISLAND BRANCH

1st Saturday, Homes of Members  
Mrs. Geraldine Daly, Secy.  
Daly's Gardens, Coventry, R.I.

**RIVERSIDE BRANCH**

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

**ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH**

3rd Friday, 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members  
 Mrs. Chet Van Dusen, Secy.  
 4135 Merritt Blvd., La Mesa, Calif.

**SACRAMENTO BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center  
 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif.  
 Mrs. Leslie H. Watkins, Secy.  
 3070 Land Park Dr., Sacramento 18, Calif.

**SAN DIEGO BRANCH**

4th Monday, Hard of Hearing Hall  
 Herbert and University  
 Mrs. Leah Jones, Secy.  
 120 Upas St., San Diego 4, Calif.

**SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH**

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
 Forest Lodge, 266 Laguna Honda Blvd.  
 Elaine Jordan  
 95 Ravenwood Dr., San Francisco, Calif.

**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH**

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., Masonic Temple  
 506 S. Santa Anita Ave., Arcadia, Calif.  
 Mrs. Marilyn Jewett, Secy.  
 18324 E. Alford St., Azusa, Calif.

**SAN MIGUEL BRANCH**

1st Wednesday, Youth Center, Lemon Grove, Calif.  
 Shirley LaRue, Nat'l Rep.  
 1933 "O" Ave., National City, Calif.

**SANTA BARBARA BRANCH**

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
 Girl Scout Clubhouse, 1838 San Andres St.  
 Mary Wegener, Secy.  
 1611 Olive St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

**SEATTLE BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.  
 Meeting locations will vary; call the secretary at  
 SUNset 3-7122.  
 Mrs. Hazel M. Starks, Secy.  
 6116 Greenwood Ave., Seattle 3, Wash.

**SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH**

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
 Alice Bartlett, C.H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.  
 Mrs. Ted Lemmon, Secy.  
 P.O. Box 678, Moorpark, Calif.

**SMOKY VALLEY BRANCH**

3rd Thursday of Each Month  
 John C. Irving, Cor. Secy.  
 1940 Simmons, Salina, Kan.

**SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH**

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
 Strowbridge School Multi-Purpose Rm.  
 21400 Bedford Dr., Hayward, Calif.  
 Mrs. Chester Bartlow, Cor. Secy.  
 553 Arden St., Newark, Calif.

**TALL CORN STATE BRANCH**

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

**TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH**

2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m.  
 Scott Hall, Ft. Worth, Texas  
 Mrs. Joe X. Schad, Secy.  
 Rte. 1, Box 17, Saginaw, Texas

**TEXAS STATE BRANCH**

1st Tuesday Night in Members' Homes  
 Mrs. W. N. Foster. P.O. Box 964, Groves, Texas

**WEST VALLEY BRANCH**

2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m., Orcutt Playground Clubhouse  
 21816 Lanark St., Canoga Park, Calif.  
 Mrs. J. H. Holley, Secy.  
 22126 Gault St., Canoga Park, Calif.

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH**

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

**WHITTIER BRANCH**

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
 Palm Park Community Center, 1643 Floral Drive  
 Mrs. Pearl Benell, Secy.  
 10331 Colima Rd., Whittier, Calif.

**WILLIAM PENN BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, 2:00 p.m., Homes of Members  
 Mrs. Ernest Drew, Secy.  
 635 Moreno Rd., Narberth, Pa.

We are still receiving lists of officers lacking the secretary's full address. If you are not SURE this information was mailed with your new officers, please send it at once, for without it your branch notice cannot be brought up to date.

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