

The Begonian

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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*This Display Features More Than
100 Varieties of Begonias*

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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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Newcomers in Tenbyten

By ELSA FORT

WHEN a stranger comes to the door one never knows the pleasure the future may hold from a rare friendship thus accorded. And so it has been with so many of the new Begonias which have found welcome in Tenbyten. Many of them are so happy, but others just sulk and perhaps are homesick for their homeland with a far different atmosphere and sunshine. During the past few years there have been several new cultivars, as well as species, which have been raised very successfully in Tenbyten.

Begonia 'Kumwha' grew to be such a huge plant—leaves about nine inches in diameter and the flowers on sixteen-inch stems towering over the plant, many times four and five sprays loaded with the lovely pink bloom with apple green ovaries along the stem just like clusters of pink jewels. The new leaves are very beautiful—a rich red and very deeply pointed, and the new growth along the rhizome and from the root is very lush. 'Kumwha' really has everything one can desire in an Eastern environment. It is not a bit difficult nor demanding in its care.

B. 'Silver Jewel,' one of the new babies of Susie Zug, is very happy here in the East. *Imperialis* always left its habitation after a very short while, and *pustulata* Silver was never too robust, but 'Silver Jewel' has all the outstanding worthwhile lovely traits of both plants and is very easily grown under the gray skies of the winters here in the East and has very good stamina and substance.

B. 'Sir Percy,' while not new, is a wonderful plant for the spot requiring gray foliage and is a very sturdy, good grower, and not the least bit fussy, and never seems to attract any of the pests so many

begonias do. 'Ricky Minter' is simply lovely, but is prone to lose its curls during the days when there is little sunshine. Perhaps it requires lots of sunlight and I have found that it is rather particular about consistent watering and likes some manure tea periodically.

B. 'May Drew' is particularly satisfactory. The star leaves of its parent, *reichenheimi*, are rather small and have the beautiful coloring of that parent, but short stems like 'Paul Bruant.' The plant is very compact and a very neat grower, very colorful and the bloom held well above the plant. The color of the flowers is a very deep pink, and it is being a very profuse bloomer, gives rare color on the dull days of February and March.

A begonia simply numbered 27 came to the East when our Eastern Vice-President visited California. The parents are unknown to us, but the plant is a beautiful specimen in any collection and grows well under house conditions. It requires very little attention and will thrive under the same conditions that many of the old tried varieties take.

B. 'Pebble Lane' is very happy in the Eastern climate, grows rather slowly, but holds its color and lovely leaves very well, even without the strong light which is necessary to bring out the color and sheen of the leaves.

B. longibarbata is one of the most satisfactory begonias which it has been my pleasure to welcome to Tenbyten. The newness of this begonia is not known but it really has everything that one can wish for in a plant. First of all the color is such a fresh rich green, with a lovely red sinus, and it grows very compact and does not get leggy. It blooms continuously and is very neat for it does not drop the dead bloom as do the semps.

It sets seed very readily and is easy to germinate.

B. 'Iron Cross' is rather temperamental—very lovely but rather difficult. It requires little or no sunshine, for the cross fades out if the sun finds it. Watering is the main problem with 'Iron Cross'—too much and the plant will develop root-rot, too little will cause a dry brown papery edge to the leaves. The plant must be studied to find its requirements for the best growing. However, vivid green with the beautiful brown cross on the pebbly leaf of a healthy 'Iron Cross' gives one the thrill of a beautiful unusual plant that is really breathtaking in its real beauty. It does merit getting well acquainted with, and like so many new folks in life just grows on you till you feel it is really a part of your daily life.

B. 'Cool Waters,' a rhizomatous, is very easily grown, and the dark green leaves hanging over the pot's edge are very beautiful, having a satin sheen and the darkest green shade. I did not let mine bloom for I wanted the foliage instead of the bloom. I have found that sometimes it rewards one to grow just for foliage, especially in the rhizomatous, for the plant needs so long to recover its beauty after having bloomed during the Winter months. So I do the pinching stunt.

The rex which have come to me from California via our VP have been very lovely. Do not know the names of many but *B. 'Charlotte Hoak'* was particularly beautiful, but did have to go to sleep this late Winter—however it is coming to life again and required only a few weeks of rest. One rex in particular has been quite a joy—do not know the name, but it has the most beautiful red hairy stems and the darkest green leaves with almost aqua blue markings. The leaves are about ten inches long and about six inches wide, very sturdy and not the least bit difficult. Do not know the origin, but like so many of the rex they are just lovely plants with no names, and such a reward in the begonia collection.

Another cultivar which is very satisfactory is *B. 'Phoebe Mather.'* This begonia is rhizomatous but very close to

the pot with small rhizomes. One parent being *mazae* the dark coloring is present, but the other, 'Paul Bruant,' has been the source of the lovely shape of the leaves. This plant is very happy in the shade of the overhanging tall plants. 'Phoebe Mather' is not particular about watering nor does it require any particular attention.

In *The Begonian* and in the supplements to the Check List there are so many newcomers—which never find their way to the Eastern grower and which do sound so thrilling. Seems that we have the old standbys as our predominant possessions. Personally I raise all that I can from seed from the seed fund and some times I spot a new begonia in a glass-house I may be visiting. But plants from seed are so slow to grow to worthwhile plants, and many times do not come true to the name. While leaves are much quicker still one does have to wait seems a real eternity, no matter how much fun and love goes into the growing. I have lots of small newcomers in Tenbyten, but they have not been my friends and guests long enough for me to tell if they will be tried and true friends, or whether they will be just a real headache. However I know that the information given by the American Begonia Society as to parentage of the cultivars and the habitat of the species will be of real value when the Newcomers move to us in the East and will make their home a very happy and pleasant one. The welcome will be so sincere.

—B—

The Tragedy of It

Alas for him, alas for it,

Alas for you and I!

When this I think I raise my wit

To dry my weeping eye.

ALDEN CHARLES NOBLE

The night is a close-shut bud,

That holdeth fast away,

The bloom of the morn to be,

The flower of the coming day.

The folded flower of the day,

ADAH LOUISE SUTTON

Begonias for Amateurs--Branch Program Idea

By MRS. ERNEST JONES

TO PROMOTE interest in growing plants in the house the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, cooperating with the Philadelphia Flower Show, had a class for amateur horticulturists as follows: "One begonia to be grown by the exhibitor from a rooted cutting supplied by the Society before October 1st." These rooted cuttings were given to the growers in September or early October with the stipulation that they were to be shown—no matter how handsome a plant or how empty a pot—at the Show in March.

The class was well filled as fifteen plants of *B. 'Medora'* were shown by members of the Downington Garden Club, Drexel Hill Garden Club and the Wissahickon Garden Club. Fourteen plants of *B. 'Preussen'* were shown by members of the Berwyn Garden Club, the Germantown Garden Club, the Weeders, the Trevoise Horticultural Society and the Valley Garden Club. The members of the Valley Garden Club also grew six plants of *B. 'Thurstoni.'* Eleven plants of *B. 'Bow-Nigra'* were shown; nine of these eleven were shown by members of

the Margaret Gruenbaum Branch of A.B.S. who won the first, second and third awards in this section.

It is especially gratifying to notice how many clubs had members sufficiently interested in begonias to enter this class; in fact the Society was so surprised at the number of entries that root cuttings were ordered more than once. With sixty entries they closed the class. All plants shown had good color and showed that they had had careful attention all winter; *B. 'Thurstoni'* was a bit lanky as young specimens of this plant are likely to be, *B. 'Bow-Nigra'* showed a little while the 'Preussens' and 'Medoras' made attractive small plants.

It is noteworthy that all these plants were grown in the house which does go to show that one does not have to have a greenhouse to produce a fine plant. Mrs. Ballard, who runs a greenhouse commercially as well as for pleasure, says that she keeps her favorite plants in the house as she feels that they get more individual attention and seem to do better.

Maddox Team Honored

EVERY year for the past decade the Riverside Branch has participated in the Arbor Week celebration and has planted a tree in honor of a past president or prominent member of the branch. This year a silver maple tree was planted on the grounds of a new school in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Rowland Maddox, both past presidents of the branch.

The Maddox team, although raising begonias for just a few years, have a fabulous collection of nearly one thousand plants in their glasshouse and patio—all of them "show" plants. They have installed displays in the Los Angeles County Fair, Orange Show, Riverside Flower Show, and Del Mar—always bring home the blue ribbons, trophies,

and sweepstakes. Riverside is honored to have them as branch members.



In the first row, left to right, are Mrs. Ethel Prior, who made the dedication, Mr. and Mrs. Maddox, Mrs. Dorothy Cordell, our president, and Mr. Cordell.

What The Begonian Means to Me

By HERBERT H. WARRICK
Member, Seattle Branch

HAVE you ever taken a "philosophic look" at the American Begonia Society and its services?

Well, recently I did for the first time, and in looking through the back issues of *The Begonian*, I find evidence that others occasionally have done the same.

Of course, this is a continuous problem for the officers of our parent Society. The high quality of the organization and its publication is ample proof that they are doing an excellent job.

By the term "philosophic look," I mean an examination of the objectives of the Society, and an analysis of all the services that it gives to the members.

Since this particular story is based on the value of *The Begonian* to me, I will report on this service only.

My first contact with this magazine was in November, 1954, when Mr. Neill D. Hall, who is a member of the Seattle Begonia Society, showed it to me. Even though it looked awfully small, I recognized that it contained information that would be of interest to my wife. She had been growing various house plants all of her life without knowing any more than some were cacti, others were ivies, others were some kind of begonia, etc. I also had an inherited interest in plants, but my knowledge was even less than hers.

I gave Mr. Hall the \$2.50 to get the magazine as a Christmas present for my wife. I thought it would help her separate some of the plants by name.

Out of curiosity, I started reading the issues as they arrived, and soon it was I who was looking forward to each new copy. You can just about guess the remainder of the story. I was the one who was most severely bitten by the hobby. I dragged my wife to nearly every meeting of the Seattle Begonia Society, hauled her to every greenhouse I could find, took her on many plant-hunting visits

to local friends, built her a lean-to greenhouse, and filled it with so many plants she couldn't get in after they started growing a little. While I preferred all of the foliage begonias, she wanted general house and garden plants. I have won out temporarily, and she will continue to be swamped with several hundred begonias until I can build another greenhouse.

However, during all of this grand game of exploration and plant growing, a real serious and sober realization has come to us that we now have a most satisfying and healthful hobby that should carry on well into our retirement, which is about eight years away.

Finding the current issues of *The Begonian* so interesting, I purchased every available back issue from Mrs. Sault, the A.B.S. Librarian. Then I embarked on an indexing program that gave me almost as many begonia names as the Buxton Check List. In addition, I separated the titles of all of the articles of the magazine into subjects such as culture, hybridizing, seed growing, soils, troubles, etc.

I did this rather mechanically at first, and it wasn't until recently that I realized I wasn't "seeing the woods because of the trees." I heard the question—what good are the American Begonia Society and *The Begonian* to members of the Seattle Branch when this area specializes in tuberous begonias, and the California people write mostly about all types of the foliage begonias?

I couldn't answer this completely, because I had been very happy and occupied with all of the information about the fibrous, canes, rhizomatous, etc. However, this question started me off on a new analysis and search program that has prepared me for answering almost any question about the parent Society, its officers, members, and publications. My indexes are not yet complete, but I

have already determined what *The Begonian* means to me.

Here are a few of the outstanding features and benefits that I have seen so far. I am sure that other members can build up this list to many times the size:

1. It provides a rather complete history of every Branch that is active and interested enough to send in reports on their activities.
2. It contains good articles about almost every type of companion plant that either tuberous or foliage begonia growers can wish for. To me, foliage begonias are all of the non-tuberous types.
3. Members from every section of the nation and world can and do send in stories of their experiences on all types of plants that are normally encountered by the begonia grower.
4. Over a period of a year or two, every subject is quite well covered by both professional and amateur members.
5. The volume of material on tuberous and foliage begonias and all other types of plants is justified by the number of members who grow and write about them. For story material, the tuberous begonias are handicapped in not having the large volume of named cultivars that the foliage types do. However, for culture and discussion of flower types, they are very well covered.
6. Any shortage of material on any subject is caused only by the lethargy of the members in sending in articles, and not because of a shortcoming of the parent Society.
7. By properly filing the magazines and indexing the information they contain with a personal choice of headings, every question can be answered.

These divisions may include subjects such as soils, seed growing, cutting, culture, hybridizing, watering, feeding, protection and experiences with diseases and pests, pruning, potting, supplies, etc.

8. A personally prepared index also provides a record of the many writers who send in articles periodically, and a sort of a pleasant one-sided acquaintance develops between the writers and reader.

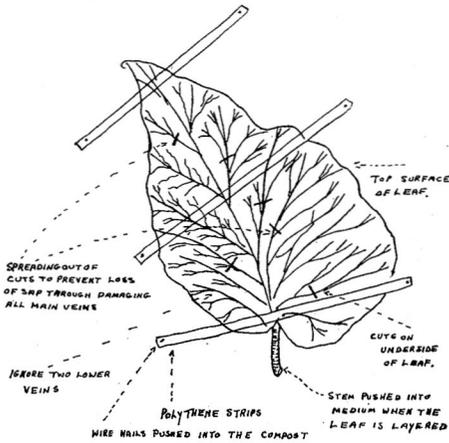
In those cases where the reader is personally acquainted with the writer, it is extra pleasant to read the stories. For me, this applies to articles by Marie Turner, Susie Zug, and Rudolph Ziesenhenné. They are the only out-of-state contributors that I have had the pleasure of meeting. To read such articles is almost like a visit with these folks.

9. It keeps all members in the nation up-to-date on new plants, tools, and procedures.
10. By this faculty of "keeping current," it supplements any and all related texts, reference books, and other periodicals.
11. It provides a common source of conversational material for members whenever they meet.
12. It generates new local ideas and interests when members read about the activities of the other branches in their respective environments.
13. It caters to the ever stimulating human-interest factor by showing photographs of members, our A.-B. S. officers, gardens of members, specimen plants, home-made greenhouses, lath houses, tube houses, miscellaneous structures, scenes from flower shows, etc.
14. For \$2.50, it now provides over 275 pages per year of text, stories, experiences, records, and current-event material along with the very necessary advertisements.
15. It provides a supply channel and challenge to every member who likes to grow unusual plants. The seed fund is extremely well handled and valuable, but only those who have tried this type of propagation can appreciate its benefits. If you wish, it can stretch the usual spring

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Leaf Propagation of Begonia Rex

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



A FEW SPECIAL HINTS

NOW THAT the Begonia Rex is becoming more and more popular perhaps a few timely hints concerning the reproduction of this delightful plant will not come amiss. And, although I have no desire to bore enthusiasts with the routine method of selecting and preparing leaves for propagation, I assume that many beginners still fail to appreciate thoroughly the finer points which must be adhered to if successful results are to be achieved.

The first concern is the rooting medium, which, needless to say, should be chosen with all due consideration to its stabilization properties. A medium consisting of three parts sand to one part of peat should be preferred to one which contains a goodly proportion of Vermiculite, as this otherwise useful product cannot be sufficiently stabilized to guarantee close contact between the medium and the leaf. With the medium *in situ*, thoroughly moistened, and the surface made as level as practicable, it is ready to receive the leaf.

The selection of the leaf should be given every due consideration, keeping in mind the fact that one which is too old, diseased, or damaged in any way, may not prove to be a good parent. (I know that many choose to use such leaves so as not to mar the beauty of

the plant.) A leaf which is approximately 80 per cent mature, free from disease, with well developed main veins, and not unduly malformed (puckered) is, in my opinion, one which will give the best results.

And now to the preparation of the leaf. The leaf is separated from the parent plant by means of a sharp knife, one inch of stem being retained on the leaf itself. The selected leaf is scored across in places on the underside, the cuts being made *part through* a main vein. I do not believe in treating the whole of the veins in this manner as this, I am confident, can only lead to the cutting off of the sap which is necessary to keep the leaf in a healthy condition until the rootlets are formed. This may be one of the reasons why some leaves tend to die out during propagation.

The best plan is to ignore the two lower veins, then cut one on the right, miss the one on the left, and vice versa until the necessary cuts have been made. The underside of the leaf is then laid flat on the medium, the short length of stem being pushed into the surface in order to allow it to derive a little moisture for the leaf. Metal pegs are generally required to ensure direct contact between the cut portions and the medium, but I do not think that these are a practical proposition to use on such a tender subject as the Rex leaf. Some growers place pebbles on the leaf, others use pieces of crock, but I think that the best plan is to hold down the leaf by using narrow strips of polythene.

Cut three or more strips of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide polythene (poly-ethelene) into lengths sufficient to straddle the leaf at all points, leaving a two inch overlap on each side. Insert a $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch wire nail into each end of the polythene, place each strip carefully across the leaf and then push the nails (not too firmly) into the compost. The cuts should, of course, be

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Seeds, Seedlings and Hybrids

By DON HORTON

Mixed Houseplant Seeds

IF YOU want to have a lot of fun and yet learn a lot about plants and plant classification get a package of mixed house plant seed. This is something that I have been doing for years and each time something different crops up.

Almost any seed dealer lists mixed house plant seed but some of the seed companies that deal in more varied plants than just the usual flower and vegetable seed will probably give you a greater variety in the mix.

Use a soil mix that is heavy in humus content—a good formula would be $\frac{1}{2}$ leafmold, $\frac{1}{4}$ peat moss, and $\frac{1}{4}$ Sponge Rok or coarse sand. Separate the larger seeds from the fine seeds and sow the larger ones in a flat, covering them with about a quarter of an inch of soil mixture. The fine seeds can be sowed on the surface of the soil mix in another flat or in a pot or two.

Do not cover these fine seeds but merely press them in lightly with the palm of your hand. Cover the flat or pots of these fine seeds with a pane of glass for extra warmth and protection.

Place the flats in the house, garage, or other protected spot, where they will receive ample light but not a lot of direct sun. Usually within a week the first seedlings will start peeking through. With experience you will recognize many of the plants almost from the beginning. Coleus, for example, come up quickly and have characteristic seed leaves that are half circles with a notch on the outside of each one. If this isn't clue enough, the true leaves that follow quickly take on the typical coleus shape and start to show some coloring almost from the beginning.

Other seedlings give more reason to ponder, even for the experienced grower. As they get larger you will identify more and more of them. Some will reach a fair size and when you identify them

you will be surprised at the way it looked as a seedling. And the next time you will know it when it is in the seedling stage.

Some of the plants you will not be familiar with. Some will bloom and you still won't know what they are so you can only identify them from asking other "experts," looking them up in books, and so on.

As the seeds germinate and grow, transplant them to roomier quarters. Prick out the larger ones first and put them into another flat, spacing them, or put them into pots. If you recognize some of the plants you will, of course, have a better idea of their wants and where to grow—inside or out. You'll find, for example, that many of the plants Easterners consider houseplants, we consider as easy to grow outside as weeds, and these can be put outside almost at once. Freesias, for example, will fall into this classification.

The flat or pots of fine seeds must be watched especially close for these fine seedlings are more apt to be the choicest house plants and can include such things as African violets, gloxinias, begonias, and even rarer things. They are also slower growing, tinier plants, and must be watered carefully lest they dry out or are washed out when water is applied. As they germinate and grow remove the glass gradually day by day until they are on their own.

If they are too thick—and they probably will be — transplant them into another glass covered flat or pot, spacing them farther apart. Here they can be left until they attain a fair size and can then be put into individual pots.

Although begonias are in their glory during the summer months, they also face their most troublous time. As a rule, merely avoiding extremes will see them through, as too much direct sunlight or too much water can be lethal to even the hardiest plant.

Streptocarpus as a House Plant

By ALTA WESTOVER

Reprinted from the *Gesneriad Journal*

LOOKING for a "different" houseplant? One with color blooms, rich foliage, easy and happy growing habits? Just grow a few *Streptocarpus* and you'll wonder "how-come" you've missed knowing about this cooperative little plant. Its friendly name is "Cape Primrose" because it originated around Capetown, South Africa, and because the foliage resembles that of a primrose. There are about 60 known species found in Africa, Madagascar and America. Four species especially popular are *S. rexi*, *S. dunni*, *S. Wendlandi* and *S. saxorum*. The latter, however, has a branching habit and leaves utterly unlike those of a primrose.

The *Streptocarpus* is related to the *Gloxinia*, being a member of the *Gesneriaceae* family, but instead of growing from a tuber, it has fibrous roots and propagates like an African Violet. New plants may be started from leaf cuttings, divisions of plants, as well as from seeds. Just wheedle your neighbor into exchanging a leaf of a different variety with you, or you can even use a damaged leaf of one of your favorites and start a new plant. If you want to use the damaged leaf, just cut it off at the base of the plant so that 1½ inches of stem remains, and plant about an inch deep in damp sand or in your favorite rooting medium. If the leaf happens to be a long one, awkward to handle, just snip off the top half. Roots should form within two or three weeks, at which time, transplant the cuttings into a good growing medium.

We have tried several potting mixes, all of them loose and rich. That's the nice part of growing *Streptocarpus*; they are not so particular as some of the other gesneriads. We have used various combinations of leaf mold, regular peat moss and dehydrated cow manure, but our last mix seems especially satisfactory. This is made up of three parts alder leaf mold,

two parts of compost and one part enriched peat moss.

The seeds of the *Streptocarpus* are huskier than you'd think as they are so very small. Plant them in December (or even earlier) in finely sifted leaf mold or in very fine vermiculite, or in good African Violet soil mix with peat moss added; we like leaf mold best. Sprinkle seeds on top of the soil, do not cover, and place a glass over the container to conserve the moisture. Place the container in a warm spot, but not in direct sun. Be sure that the seeds never become dry during the germination period (about 12 days) and if too much moisture appears on the glass, keep wiped off with a cloth. As soon as the sprouts appear, move the seedlings to more light and raise the glass top for a few hours each day to accustom the seedlings to ordinary room temperatures. When they start crowding each other (and they grow fast at this point) transplant into individual small pots or into flats spacing them about two inches apart. For this first planting, many growers use a sandy soil mixture with some peat moss added.

When the plants are getting started, keep them warm and in the shade, but after they are well established, they tend to get unhappy if the temperatures get over 75 Fahrenheit. But they need more light at this time and can even stand a little sun. Watering is a problem for some people; don't let them get completely dry, but don't overwater. Keep water off the foliage and make sure there is always good drainage in the pots. Don't feed until blooms start to form, and even then go lightly with the fertilizer. We feed once a month with dilute solutions of a highly concentrated balanced liquid fertilizer. Greenhouse grown plants bloom in about five months. It may take seven months for plants to bloom that are grown in the home, but

Begonias

Where to Plant Them in a Warm Climate

By RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE

BEGONIAS, a family which includes plants with delicate stems and leaves, heavy wooded stems and leathery leaves, tuberous roots with blossoms as large as plates, have fascinated amateur growers in our temperate zone for generations. Because the plants are natives of the Philippines, Mexico, Central America, South America, India, and Africa, a natural assumption is that they are from hot climates. Plant explorers, however, have found these moisture-loving plants on the shady side of mountains, in caves, under trees, and beside streams where the spray from waterfalls keeps a constant humidity.

Begonias find it difficult to withstand temperatures over 110 degrees.

Artificial conditions similar to the native habitat of begonias have enabled en-

lightened growers to maintain a great variety of begonias in warm climates. Placed under trees or shrubs, even tuberous begonias have withstood the extreme desert-like heat of the interior regions of California; the respiration of the protecting plants keeps a zone of cool air around the begonia and the surrounding leaves of the hardier plants trap moisture for the begonia.

The ideal temperature for begonias is below 80 degrees. Higher temperature or direct sun may cause the plant to give off too much water from the tissue of the leaves and stems and the plant may collapse. Putting the plants on the east or north side of the house, or away from the direct sun between 10 and 2 is found helpful.

give them plenty of light and it is possible for earlier flowering.

Streptocarpus can even be grown outside in some parts of the country, and they do well from June until fall, but they must be brought indoors before the frost hits them. We haven't given them a fair trial as outside plants here in the Pacific Northwest, but from time to time some enthusiastic gardener tells of his delight in having Cape Primroses blooming all summer long in his shaded flower bed. We pump all these growers for their techniques and it appears that the plants thrive outdoors if they are completely protected from wind and direct sun. These likeable plants demand light, moisture, some shelter, a spray, if aphids should attack them, and a little food once a month. Cater to their needs and you are rewarded with lovely blooms for many months.

The flowers of the Cape Primrose resemble the gloxinia blooms but are smaller. Sometimes people seeing them for the first time will exclaim, "Look at the beautiful petunias." Seven or eight

blooms appear at a time and come in shades ranging from pale, pale pink to deep purple. As the blooms fade, cut them off at the base of the plant, otherwise seed pods will form, discouraging further blooming. In spite of this, I think that whether you want to save your own seed or not, you ought to let a seed pod develop just to watch the fascinating growth. Streptocarpus comes from the Greek words *streptos* for twisted, and *carpus* for fruit, and there you have it. Remember that the seeds are very small, so hold the pod over a piece of paper when you harvest them or they may be lost.

You will find Streptocarpus in an increasing number of nurseries and flower shops. While the species are interesting to grow, we think for sheer pleasure you will like the hybrids with larger and more frilled flowers. There will be a period during the year, perhaps two to four months, when your plants will not bloom. But you will not mind, as the velvety green leaves are worth leaving the plants in a showy spot.

Some Begonias at Chelsea Flower Show, 1958

By L. MAURICE MASON

(from *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*, by permission)

(Mr. Mason got a gold medal for his begonia exhibit at Chelsea, and a picture of *B. serratifolia* appeared in the *Journal* with his article—that's why he mentions it first.)

BEGONIA SERRATIFOLIA was collected by the writer in the central highlands of New Guinea in 1954. A charming plant making a solid bush 2 feet high and as much through, it has, with its claret-coloured flowers and vivid deep pink spots on the wine-coloured leaves, become quite popular in collections of the genus.

What an easy, charming and diverse race the wild plants of the family are. Almost all of them ask for a minimum temperature of 45° F., shade from scorching sun, and to be watered sparingly in the winter months. Given these, surely not very difficult conditions, they will provide with their flowers, and brilliant and diverse foliage, a picture of more lasting beauty than most families of tropical plants. Divided as they are into four groups, the fibrous, tuberous, rhizomatous and bulbous, it is not easy to name the most outstanding.

My pride of place must go to that lovely and still undescribed plant known as the 'Iron Cross.' This was introduced by the writer to European and American cultivation six years ago, from Singapore, and is in my opinion undoubtedly a "good species," and is certainly one of the easiest. Here it has been nearly frozen, lost all its leaves, but has resurrected itself triumphantly in the spring.

'President Carnot' is still the best of the old cane-stem varieties and its huge hanging heads of deep pink flowers are seen at their best if it can be allowed a free root run. *B. evansiana* is nearly hardy and can be grown out of doors in many parts of England, the bulbils formed on the annually produced stems

making it an easy plant to increase. *B. imperialis* var. *smaragdina* with its small round leaves of lime-green velvet is charming, but demands a higher minimum temperature than most, as does that superb hybrid 'Arthur Mallet,' whose hirsute, almost royal purple, leaves are as gorgeous as any I know.

No mention has been made of the Rex varieties of which there are a legion. Almost any color and shape and form can be found by diligent search in those florists who cater for the house-plant trade, but a word as to their care may not be out of place. If you grow them in your house keep them away from a south window; any other will do. Report them in a standard mixture as may be necessary but keep them in shallow pans with plenty of crocks. They do appreciate feeding in the growing season and by no means be disappointed if all the leaves fall off in November. It is an even chance they will break in the Spring.

A list of the names of the begonias exhibited at Chelsea would be meaningless as many are perhaps of botanic interest only. Mention should be made of *B. vitichotoma*, with adventitious leaflets appearing on the large palmate green leaves, and of the double blood-red semperflorens variety 'Reddy.' These are outstanding and so is *peltata*, which as the name implies has silvery green felted leaves, and is a plant of great distinction.

Climbing begonias are many and several were shown, among the best being *B. scandens cordifolia*, with many clusters of orange flowers. *B. herbacea*, with leaves like a hart's-tongue fern, was among the more uncommon, but *B. crispula*, with leaves corrugated and wrinkled, was too precious to risk. For a brief season these species cannot vie with the gaudy large-flowered hybrids, but for interest throughout the year they stand supreme.

Smog Research Grant

THE UNITED STATES Public Health Service has awarded the California Arboretum Foundation, Inc., at Arcadia, a grant to conduct basic research at the Arboretum on the effect of smog on tissue growth of plants.

Research on the project will be conducted by a team consisting of Arboretum Director William S. Stewart, Wilfred Noble and Marcella Juhren, both of the Los Angeles County Air Pollution Control District. It is believed that relationships between smog and its effects on plant tissues will reveal similar biochemical relationships in animal and human tissues.

The study is now under way at the Arboretum. The researchers are using plant tissue cultures. These are portions of the plant, such as root, leaf, or stem tissue, which are grown in glass containers and fed the nutrients, vitamins, and hormones they ordinarily would have received from the other organs of the plant.

By subjecting these isolated tissues and organs to smog under carefully controlled conditions, the effects of smog will be made apparent. Otherwise these effects are obscured by a multitude of modifying factors. Some plants, for instance, simply close their breathing pores, or stomates, at the onset of smog, and so avoid its effects. In most plants, the onset of flowering brings biochemical changes that increase or decrease their sensitivity to smog.

The plant tissue cultures are being subjected to smog, automobile exhaust gases, and synthetic smog. The synthetic smog is generated by a machine developed for special research by the Caltech scientist, Dr. A. J. Haagen-Smit. For comparison with the treated plant tissues, some cultures will be exposed in a similar manner but to air from which all pollutants have been removed.

After establishing the responses of isolated plant tissues, the studies will be directed toward determining the extent to which these effects occur in intact plants.

Cover

MORE than 100 varieties of begonias—many of them new and relatively unknown in the East—filled a tiered exhibit which won a first prize for the Bessie Raymond Buxton Branch at the Boston Flower Show, March 10-15. The plants were massed artistically on "steps," and filled a space of 100 square feet.

Some outstanding "items of interest" were a large specimen of *B. 'Joe Hayden,'* which has been in the Show for the last five years; a magnificent, shimmering *B. rex 'Green Gold';* and some new hybrids of California origin—*B. 'Leslie Lynn,' 'Verde Grande,' 'Alto Scharff'* var. Ramirez, and rex 'Joel Gillingwaters.' Two Merry hybrids were also of interest: *B. 'Illsley'* and *Beatrice Haddrell.'*

As a whole, the Boston Flower Show was a most refreshing experience, and a source of practical down-to-earth gardening knowledge. Local gardening groups created for various sites and purposes—shade, sun, formal and informal, cultivated and wildlings, etc.—many of which displayed begonias as they can be used decoratively in- and out-of-doors.

—B—

Scale and Mildew

Scale—there are many different varieties of these tiny but very prolific insects, a year 'round pest with the crawler stage in spring and fall.

They breed rapidly, settling in massed clusters on stems and the undersides of leaves, sucking out juices. Some secrete a resinous substance, others a honeydew that becomes sooty fungus. Like aphids, they are considered the ant's "cows." Badly infested stems must be destroyed.

Mildew is a thin, gray or whitish growth produced on plant foliage, stems, buds and flowers by parasitic fungi during the spring and summer.

Mildew often results from watering or spraying too late in the day instead of early on a sunny morning, when insects are most active. Also caused by the temperature change between day and night.

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

No. 1 B. Rex—Spirals and plain leaf, many beautiful color combinations. This is the last time we can offer seed from this collection as the owner is ill and forced to dispose of his plants. This has been one of the outstanding collections and has taken many years of hard work to build and we are sorry there can be no more seed from such beautiful plants.

Rex begonias are the slow growing rhizomatous type and should be handled accordingly; seedlings should be protected until the second transplanting and will require a longer time to become established than other types. Seed are freshly collected and have been tested for germination. 50c per pkt.

No. 2 B. Rex—Germany. This type has become very popular with begonia growers and when they were offered a short time ago the supply ran out before all requests were filled. We hope to have an ample supply and can fill all requests. We first offered German rex on seed fund about four years ago and have had many interesting comments concerning them. Seed germinate readily when properly handled and those grown under fluorescent lights have more vivid colors than when grown by other methods. 50c per pkt.

No. 3 B. scharffi (Sometimes erroneously called *B. Haageana*)—Bushy plant with large, ovate-pointed, shallowly-lobed, soft white-hairy, olive-green, red beneath; flowers large, pale pink, pink, bearded without in large clusters. 25c per pkt.

No. 4 B. Fleecealba—A hybrid by Florence Knock, Minn. We offered seed of this one last month but space did not allow for an adequate description. The first two leaves of the plant are shiny, bright green, the third and succeeding leaves are pure white and heavily fleeced. As it grows it has a firm, glossy texture—leaves are peltate and have one point and resemble those of *B. kellermani* but are thicker, more cupped and larger. Flowers are pure white and numerous. 25c per pkt. Unusually sturdy and propagation by seed could not be easier.

No. 5 B. Sunderbruchi—Seed were collected and sent to seed fund by a friend in Canal Zone who describes the plant as growing profusely there and is about



Begonia fernando costae, a Brazilian species, was identified in 1948.

twenty-four inches high with large clusters of pinkish-white blossoms on stems twelve inches above the plant. The young leaves are very light green without the dark margins of the mature leaves, while the older leaves become more rounded and are solid dark green, maroon-red-dish beneath. The collector could not identify the plant but sent a drawing with the description and our nomenclature department has identified as above. 25c per pkt.

No. 6 B. Brazil species—Four distinct species from a friend in Brazil. 25c per pkt.

No. 7 B. Grey Lady—No description available. 25c per pkt.

No. 8 B. Jean Pernet—Resembles *B. Sachsen* and *B. Preussen* but more compact. 25c per pkt. Not many seed.

STILL AVAILABLE

All German heterosis *semperflorens* and *multiflora* begonia seed offered in March The Begonian at 25c per pkt. each variety. There is still ample time to grow them for your summer garden. We have many seedlings ready to be transplanted in our tropical garden where they will give a mass of color for many months. Please help clear our files so that we will have space for something new and different. Germination has been 100% on all of above and we hope you will try them.

GREENHOUSE PLANTS

Two varieties of *Anthurium* (Araceae) will be available in May. Others will be

available later, watch seed fund for information. Anthurium seeds are fragile and should be sown as soon as possible after collecting. Please select the type you wish and send your request as soon as you receive May The Begonian.

Anthurium pittieri (Costa Rica). Short, narrow, lanceolate, hard, leathery, dark green leaves; narrow spathe pale green. Six seed for 50c.

A. andreaeanum (Colombia) — Erect plant with long lobed, heart-shaped green leaves; showy, cordate spathe, waxy, coral-red, puckered. Six seed for 50c.

Philodendron bipinnatifidum—Upright with waxy green, stiff leaves up to 3 ft. long, bipinnate with 10-12 segments each side of prominent midrib, lobes are narrow and lobed again; spathe red on outside. 50c per pkt. or 25c per half-packet.

Philodendron raphidophora merrilli. Seed from Philippine Islands and the plant is described as growing in pools of water and clinging to the trunks of trees. 50c per pkt. or 25c per half-pkt.

Plumeria acutifolia — **Apocynaceae**. Also known as "West Indian Jasmine" and the "Temple Tree of India." Leaves wedge-shaped; flowers waxy white with yellow throat, very fragrant. Seeds should be barely covered with soil when sowing. 4 seed for 25c.

Aechmea augustifolia. One of the most beautiful and spectacular. 25c per pkt.

Gesneria cuneifolia (*Pentarhaphia reticulata*). Low growing rosette of leathery, glossy-green, long wedge-shaped leaves with toothed margins; tubular bottle-shaped flowers burning red, yellow inside, borne singly on short petioles. 35c per pkt.

Gloxinia—Germany. Hamburg red. 25c per pkt.

Streptocarpus wendlandi (Natal) Stemless plant, huge leaf with corrugated olive-green surface and densely hairy purple beneath; tall flower spikes sprouting from the leaf may bear as many as 30 violet-blue flowers. 25c per pkt.

FERN SPORES

Pteris cretica wimsetti—A robust and desirable fern, grown for its leathery toughness. Slender fresh green leaf segments irregularly toothed and some of

the tips terminate in small forks or crests. 25c per pkt.

Pteris cretica gauthieri — Similar to above but more crested and compact. 25c per pkt.

Nephrolepis plumosa — Ideal basket fern with long, arching fronds, wavy pinnae at tips. 25c per pkt.

Polypodium aureum var. glaucum— Graceful, wavy-leaved form of smaller habit with durable fronds and attractive, glaucous silvery blue, especially underneath. 25c per pkt.

OTHER GENERA

Rhipsalis x Kew Gardens? 25c per pkt.

Epiphyllum oxypetalum, 'Queen of the Night.' Best of the night blooming type with large, fragrant white flowers, reddish outside. 25c per pkt.

Epiphyllum angular — Leaves saw shaped, flowers small. 25c per pkt.

Cassia-latistipula—Small shrub with gray leaves and yellow flowers. 25c per pkt.

Arthrostemma fragilis—**Melastomaceae** —Shrub about three feet high, with four angled reddish stems. Beautiful pink flowers appear throughout year. 25c per pkt.

Tibouchina variabilis—**Melastomaceae** —Small tree with white flowers which later turn purple and the entire tree is covered with flowers of two colors. 25c per pkt.

Callistemon lanceolatus, 'Bottle-brush.' Sun loving drought resistant shrub with long linear, 3 inch leaves and cylindrical flower spikes with masses of brilliant crimson brush-like stamens with dark yellow anthers, out of a grayish, felted calyx. 25c per pkt.

The last three named were sent from Brazil and are interesting and different —hardy in mild climates, greenhouse elsewhere.

Please send questions regarding problems with begonias to: Mrs. Edna Korts, 3628 Revere Ave., Los Angeles 39, Calif. She will be glad to help you. Do not send to Seed Fund—please.

Free Seed — *Smithiantha* mixed and various types of begonia seed — send postage if other seed are not requested.

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

What The Begonian . . .

(Continued From Page 103)

planting and gardening pleasure into a continuous twelve-month round of satisfaction. As Alice M. Clark said in her article in the Oct., 1958, *Begonian*, a good member always likes to talk about begonias or any other speciality. Well, the seed fund and seed growing provides two of the best "limbering-up tonics" for the tongue that can be found.

16. The little quotations, verses, and bits of advice in prose that have appeared in recent years add the sparkle that encourages persual of the entire magazine. Thus, we read and learn more than our normal inclinations would provide.
17. In the past, *The Begonian* has printed "where to find" queries as well as questions and answers on plant culture. These are very beneficial to both beginners and advanced growers, but again it seems that such things are discontinued because of human inertia in letter writing. We would rather let a good thing drop than assume the initiative that would keep it going. Our magazine is a most excellent vehicle for giving and receiving information. Each member should "stick his neck out" occasionally by writing a question, an article, an experience, a suggestion, or something that will encourage others to do the same so that we can get even greater benefits than now. It really doesn't matter if we are embarrassed a little when we see our article in print, and notice grammatical errors, poor structure, multiple meanings, etc. The important thing for all of us to do is to participate in some manner. Our editor would probably be tempted to send a medal to each new contributor.

I would like to go on listing the benefits that I get from *The Begonian*, but others should be given a chance to sup-

plement my thought or to contradict me in their rebuttals.

My final expression of feeling about *The Begonian* is similar to the stimulation that can be obtained from the little verse on page 180 of the August, 1958, issue. To me, it indicates that constructive thinking and action will overcome all obstacles, and sustain indefinitely our interest in begonias and other plants that all begonia growers enjoy.

Herbert H. Warrick

Member of the Seattle Branch

—B—

Here and There . . .

One of the most delightful September garden pictures we have had for two years happened quite by accident. The north side of our garage is a "junk spot." I start cuttings and seeds there, and whenever I'm moving something, as happens constantly, and there is no other spot for it, there it lands. One summer I had to move some *Kerria japonica* hurriedly. I planted it near *B. evansiana*. *Eupatorium coelestinum*, which, like the poor, is always with us, had seeded itself there. Can you imagine the pinks, blues and yellows in September and October? I couldn't have done as well if I'd tried! Incidentally, I wonder why more people in the midwest don't plant *B. evansiana*. Even when I lose the parent plant in a bad winter, the little bulblets sprout the next spring, and we have more plants than ever. I've never been successful at bringing it in the house, however, and thought perhaps it needed a period of complete dormancy. I took a plant to a friend who has a commercial greenhouse and he has been able to propagate many from it. Perhaps I need a greenhouse for it.

ALICE K. SNELL (Mrs. W. D.)

Blue Mound, Illinois

—B—

If black spots with fringed edges appear on leaves, leaves turn yellow and fall, it is Black Spot. In the East, Middle West, and Pacific Northwest this fungus is one of the most serious rose pests.

Minutes, National Board, March 23, 1959

The regular monthly meeting of the National Board, American Begonia Society, was called to order by Pres. Slatter at 7:35 p.m., March 23, 1959.

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

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

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Pres. Slatter welcomed Mrs. Emma Carleton of Berkeley and Mrs. Stone as special guests.

Treasurer Pearl Parker gave her report for the month. Report filed for audit.

A letter from the American Horticultural Council stating the new membership rate for organizations of 2000 to 3000 members will be \$60.00 per year, was read by the Secretary.

Vice Pres. Mrs. Alva Graham reported she had visited the San Gabriel Branch February 25th meeting.

Membership Secretary Walton gave his report for the month showing 53 new, and 131 renewing memberships, with total receipts of \$469.45 and expenses of \$85.15.

Begonian Editor Mrs. Brest's report was read by the Secretary. The Secretary also read a letter from Seed Fund Chairman Mrs. Gee suggesting appointment of a member to carry on correspondence for a Question and Answer department.

Treasurer Parker read monthly report from Seed Fund Chairman Mrs. Gee showing \$104.20 remitted to the Treasurer.

Public Relations Director Hall reported that because of apparent non-renewal of memberships from some branches he had contacted them. Portland, Oregon, and Galveston, Texas, had not yet replied. Hawkeye State Branch has disbanded and their Charter was returned. Moved by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Ogden that the Hawkeye State Branch be eliminated from the roster of member branches. Motion carried. Charter passed to Secretary for filing. Mr. Hall also reported that they hoped soon to have enough renewing members so that they could retain their Charters. Mr. Hall then reported on letter from Haynes & Evans, Inc., relative to Workmen's Compensation Insurance to cover those members who receive compensation from the Society.

Librarian Mrs. Lucy Saulf gave her report for the two months, January 26 to March 23, 1959.

Awards Committee Chairman Mrs. Ethel Arbuckle gave a report on her department and at the request of Pres. Slatter read Minutes of a meeting at the Arboretum relative to the American Begonia Society Glass House. Pres. Slatter reported that the glass-house is almost finished and ready for Begonias.

Nomenclature Chairman Mrs. Edna Korts read a letter from Mrs. Bernice Brilmayer relative to the new publication of "Exotica," book should be ready for distribution by June 1, 1959. Mrs. Korts also read a letter from Dr. H. R. Fletcher of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, Scotland, stating that he would like to have a complete file of The Begonian for the Royal Botanic Library. Moved by Mrs. Korts, seconded by Mrs. Opal Ahearn that the A.B.S. send to Dr. Fletcher as complete a file of The Begonian as can be obtained from the National Library without charge. Motion carried.

Pres. Slatter asked for discussion relative to retaining membership in the American Horticultural Council since the rate is considerably higher than we have been paying. It was decided to retain membership. Attention was called to the motion for renewal passed at our February meeting and as

this motion was predicated upon the former yearly rate it would be necessary to withdraw the February motion and pass a new one. Mr. Lovejoy withdrew his second, and Mrs. Korts withdrew the motion made in February. Moved by Mrs. Korts, seconded by Mr. Lovejoy that the American Begonia Society retain its membership in the American Horticultural Council at the new rate of \$60.00 per year. Motion carried.

Pres. Slatter asked for approval of a nominating committee: Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman, chairman, Mrs. Ethel Arbuckle and Mr. Roy Joyce. Moved and seconded that the committee be approved. Motion carried.

Pres. Slatter also offered names for a Convention Committee to consist of Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger, show chairman, Mr. John Thieben, Mrs. Ethel Arbuckle, Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman, Mrs. Edna Korts, Mr. Clarence Hall as alternate, and himself as chairman. Moved by Mr. Ogden, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, that the committee be approved. Motion carried.

Advertising Manager John Thieben presented his report for February 23 to March 23, 1959, showing \$80.87 received and paid to the Treasurer with a balance of \$65.25 to be collected.

Branches reporting: El Monte, Glendale, Inglewood, Long Beach Parent Chapter, Pasadena, Redondo Beach and West Valley.

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

—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.

Calendar

- May 5—Theodosia Burr Shepherd—
Birthday Party, speaker, Al Brennan, "Cymbidiums," usual time and place.
- May 14—Inglewood—Joe Littlefield, "Colorful Gardens and Plants of Hawaii," slides. Usual time and place.
- May 20 — Hollywood honors Miss Charlotte Hoak. Plummer Park, 7:30 p.m. Miss Hoak will discuss begonia lore.
- May 27—Glendale—Annual May Festival, 7:45 p.m. Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central.

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Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

BESSIE RAYMOND BUXTON

The March meeting was held in Horticultural Hall, Boston. A hot dish luncheon was provided by the members. Mrs. Merry reported on the Branch exhibit of begonias at the Spring Flower Show, which won a first prize.

Mrs. Alvord then showed films, "Sound Movies on Plant Life," tracing development from seed to full growth, and ending with spectacular autumn views of the great Canadian maple forests.

—B—

ELSA FORT

Our business meeting was especially long because we were doing some long range planning which required much discussion. (You will hear more of this later.) The discussion was so general and every one so enthusiastic it was a heart-warming meeting.

Essie T. Morris reminded the members of a few basic facts which every grower of good begonias knows. 1. Now is the time to start cuttings. 2. Basal cuttings are the strongest. 3. After cuttings are started keep them moist but never wet. 4. Cuttings will root in water but this is not the best method. Begonias especially newly transplanted ones resent soggy soil. After transplanting they should be shaded from direct sunshine and given a humid atmosphere until active growth starts.

—B—

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY

Officers for the coming year, installed in April, are: Frank Quintana, president; Peggy Sweet, vice-president; Charles Colloway, treasurer; Mrs. J. W. Dickenson, secretary.

BEGONIA VERSICOLOR (Fairy Carpet); B. CRISPULA; B. VELLOZOANE BRADE; B. FOREST OF VAUX; CANE BEGONIAS (Old and New); RARE AND UNUSUAL HOUSEPLANTS

CATALOGUE 25c

TROPICAL PARADISE

3810 Bales Avenue, Kansas City 28, Missouri

A very fine talk on palms was given by Edward Moore, followed by excellent pictures of palms in Southern California and Florida locations also were shown at the meeting.

—B—

GLENDALE

The Glendale Branch will have a jolly time at its annual May Festival, to be held at the regular meeting date May 27, at 7:45 p.m. at the Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central.

There will be a grab bag table. All kinds of goodies—cakes, candies, hand made gifts and lots of nice articles for sale.

Another highlight for the evening will be our speaker, Dorothy Behrends of Encinita. Former member of the Glendale Branch and a life member of the Begonia Society, she is an experienced grower of begonias, ferns and shade plants. She will speak on Bromeliads and also will show colored pictures of her plants.

—B—

HOLLYWOOD

Members of the Hollywood Branch of the American Begonia Society request the *pleasure of your presence* at a meeting in honor of Miss Charlotte Hoak, outstanding horticulturist, at Plummer Park, Wednesday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.

She will discuss Begonia Lore, a subject dear to her heart for many, many years. She will have some interesting plant material from her garden.

—B—

INGLEWOOD

Speaker at the meeting May 14, 7:45 p.m., at the Inglewood Women's Club will be Joe Littlefield, who boasts 32

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years of practical horticultural experience, gardening, landscaping and garden trouble shooting. His topic will be "Colorful Gardens and Plants in Hawaii" with many beautiful slides of several of the islands.

The March meeting proved to be of great interest to all. Robert "Bob" Vargas, associated with Descanso Gardens, gave a talk covering "Features of Descanso Gardens," its history, and showed slides of the beautiful camellias, azaleas, begonias and historical roses grown at the gradens.

The historical roses shown covered roses from the present to many hundreds of years before Christ. Bob Vargas was bombarded with questions regarding the roses and the many aspects of the gardens. Only the lateness of the hour brought the meeting to a close. Mr. Vargas made mention of his greatest interest—the preservation of flowers and shrubs to be used in lasting bouquets over a period of months and years and promised to come back at a later date to talk on this subject.

Bill Kirker, our president, presided over the business meeting, after which plants were drawn from a well stocked plant table. Refreshments were served.

—B—

MISSOURI

The Missouri branch is planning a display for a finer show that is to be held in Shawnee Mission, Kansas, in May. Those who may be vacationing in the vicinity of Kansas City are cordially invited to meet with the branch on the third Tuesday of each month at the World War Memorial Bldg., Linwood and Paseo, Kansas City, Mo.

—B—

SAN MIGUEL

San Miguel branch held an election in March and installed its new officers on April 1, with Bert Slatter, National President, presiding. New officers are as follows: Mrs. Edna Lowry, president; Mrs. Mildred Jones, vice-president; Mrs. Ruth J. Brooks, secretary; Mrs. Emma Stark,

treasurer; Mrs. Shirley LaRue, national representative; board members, Mrs. Pearl Hegel and Ray Purtee.

President Bert gave an interesting talk on growing begonias and shade relatives and introduced Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman, who displayed the bronze medal recently awarded A.B.S. by Brazil.

—B—

SANTA BARBARA

The new officers of the Santa Barbara Branch are as follows: President, Rudolf Zieshenne; Vice-President, Mrs. Erika Weber; Secretary, Mrs. Mary Wegener; Treasurer, Mrs. Charlotte Polk; Branch Director, Otto Schwerdtfeger.

—B—

SMOKY VALLEY

The March meeting of the Smoky Valley Branch of the American Begonia Society was held at the beautiful suburban home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fury, March 15, 1959.

Our new Secretary, Mrs. Robert Nease, presented a very unique program which involved individual member participation. Each person was called upon to stand before the group and declare his or her favorite begonia and give a short explanation of why this particular selection was made. Needless to say out of the 28 members present, almost every variety was mentioned at least once but strange as it may seem the Christmas Begonia was discussed more frequently than any other. After the meeting plans



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Phone FR 2-2635

were made for our June 12 flower show, "A Garden Rendezvous," to be staged at Blair Hall of the First Presbyterian Church of Salina. Many suggestions were voiced and if enthusiastic participation in discussion and debate is a measure of success then this should certainly be our best show yet.

Our staff: President, Mrs. W. H. Vaupel; Vice-President, Mrs. M. L. Rose; Secretary, Mrs. Robert Nease; Treasurer, Mrs. Clyde Capell; Delegate at Large, Mrs. Chester Beineke; Corresponding Secretary, Lt. Col. John C. Irving.

—B—

TARRANT COUNTY

The Tarrant County branch met recently with our incoming president presiding. Both branches from Dall County were guests.

Officers for the coming year: President, Laura Swart; Vice-President, Glee Schad; 2nd Vice-President, Helen Richardson; Recording Secretary, Dorothy Burdick; Corresponding Secretary, Fay Wilson; Treasurer, Mattie Jewell; Publicity, Hattie Reinhardt; Telephone, Mattie Jewell; Historian and Librarian, Mary Wilcox; Parliamentarian, Ethel Dickerson.

—B—

WEST VALLEY

Joe Littlefield, well known garden consultant, was the guest speaker at the March meeting. He brought what looked

to most members like a full grown camellia bush. However, it was a branch that he took from one of his plants so that he could demonstrate to members the correct way to prune a camellia bush. He also talked on the subject of roses, begonias and Lenten roses.

Other honored guests were Mr. Bert Slatter, National President; Mr. John Thieben, advertising manager; and Mr. Clarence Hall, Public Relations Director.

Guest speaker at the February meeting was A. Roy Joyce, who also supplied the plant table with fuchsias. Mr. Joyce is first vice-president of the California National Fuchsia Society.

—B—

Leaf Propagation . . .

(Continued From Page 104)

left uncovered to allow the plantlets to form without restriction. Users will find that this method of holding the leaf in position far supersedes any metal or stone form of pegging.

There is no essential difference between a leaf cutting, and a stem cutting. Both need warmth, moisture and air. As soon as the roots form, the portions are severed and potted up separately.

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A little land well tilled,
A little wife well-willed,
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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 Belsler, 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
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.

PORTLAND, OREGON BRANCH

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

REDONDO BEACH AREA BRANCH

4th Friday Each Month
2308 Rockefeller, Redondo Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Pearl Riggles, Secy.
2042 Kathy Way, Torrance, 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.
Mrs. Ruth J. Brooks, Secy.
7151 Central Ave., Lemon Grove, 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.
Stowbridge 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

TREASURE ISLAND BRANCH

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

(Ed.: If your Branch has elected new officers, will you send in any changes so that this record may be kept current? Please include FULL address of your secretary, Thank you.)

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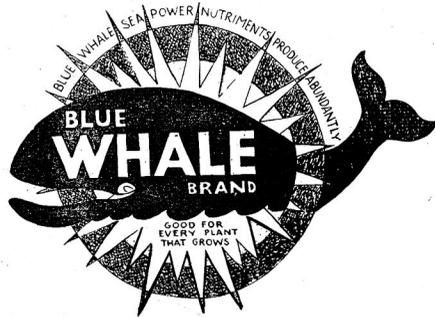
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