

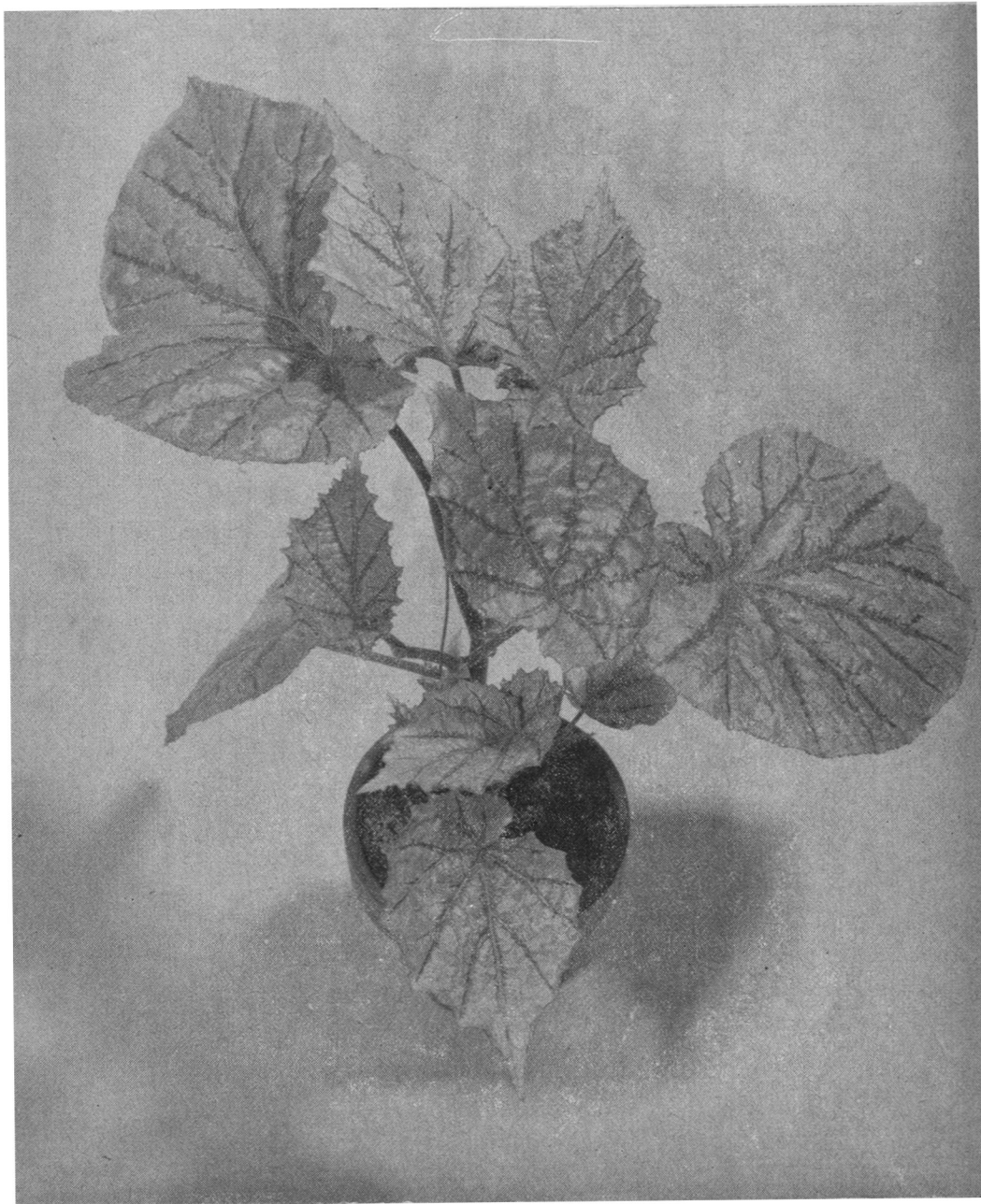
# *The Begonian*

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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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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# Begonias Celebrate Jubilees

By ERNST BENARY

'Primadonna' and 'Tausendschoen' celebrated jubilees in 1959, and for good reasons, indeed, both being highly approved breedings. When they appeared, fifty and twenty-five years ago, both varieties rapidly conquered markets far beyond the German borders, and both are still leading varieties of bedding begonias.

With *Begonia gracilis* 'Primadonna' I started my systematic Heterosis ( $F_1$  hybrid) breeding more than fifty years ago, putting into practice the knowledge that the first hybrid generation after crossing two varieties will become especially luxuriant. With my begonias this luxuriance displayed itself in sound and swift development, long life, floescence, remarkable abundance of flowers, and surprising resistance against extreme climatic influences. Seedlings of these begonias were reproduced one hundred per cent true to name—the result of careful breeding work by means of pure line parents.

In addition to my jubilee variety 'Primadonna' I succeeded in sending out further new Heterosis ( $F_1$ ) varieties: 'Pink Profusion' (1920), 'Broadcast' (1926), and 'Gruga' (1929), which are still holding their ranks.

Discovery of the good, compact *Begonia gracilis* 'Luminosa compacta' enabled me to bring out 'Tausendschoen' (Thousand Wonders) in 1934. Being the first dwarf compact Heterosis ( $F_1$ ) begonia, it supplanted, for good reasons, most of the varieties known by that time. Then followed, among others, the Heterosis ( $F_1$  hybrid) varieties 'Snow', 'Essen' (1938), 'Stuttgart' (1939), 'Benary's Rosy Red', 'Tausendschoen Red', 'Tausendschoen White', 'Sleeping Beauty', 'Organdy', and the novelty 'Matador', which has been christened in this jubilee year (1959).

This abundant assortment satisfies all pretensions and has received the highest awards on many occasions.

No wonder that the  $F_1$  hybridizing method has been appreciated and adopted, little by little, by other breeders. I was successful in using it for other plants besides begonias, for primulas, tomatoes, and spinach, too. A number of seed growers followed my example in breeding similar begonias. In the United States, where the hybrid corn belongs to the oldest acquisitions in this line, extensive work on petunias and vegetables such as tomatoes, cucumbers, and onions was started and proved extremely successful.

It is to be expected that the  $F_1$  hybrids will continue to bring us a good many improvements and surprises. Dr. Franz Frimmel, the enthusiastic scientific champion of Heterosis breeding, prophesied this development, but little attention was paid to his predictions at that time. Before his death in 1958, however, he was fortunate enough to see the grand verification of his prophecy.

While our two begonias were celebrating their birthdays,  $F_1$  hybrid breeding also held its jubilee, and we trust that it will be as successful for the next fifty years as it has proved up to date.



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## Cover Picture

Begonia 'Abel Carriere'.

—Photo by Kari Berggrav

# Increasing a Stock of Tuberous Begonias

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

The named tuberous begonia has gained great popularity during the past few years, and it is rapidly becoming a firm favorite with the greenhouse enthusiast. So, with apologies to those members who have already digested other similar articles, I hope that this brief summary on the propagation of the begonia will be of some service to the beginner.

The begonia produces its growth during the summer, and then, in common with the gloxinia and other kindred subjects, sheds its foliage in the autumn and then enters into what is known as the dormant period.

As all should know, the begonia is increased by cuttings taken from the main plant, and this is the only method which will produce progeny bearing all the true characteristics of the parent plant. The experienced grower, always a most cautious fellow, builds up a supply of these cuttings each season as a reserve against any tuber losses incurred during the dormant period. For instance, very often decay will attack a tuber, or the grub of the elusive vine weevil may decide to accept the offer of a free bed and board for the winter, and each season many valuable tubers are lost from these causes.

## Propagation of Cuttings

The first cuttings are obtained in early spring from the old tubers which, after being stored for the winter in a frost-proof place, are started into growth in a heated greenhouse in February. It is probable that when removed from the trays the tubers will be seen to have shrivelled a little. To stimulate early growth, soak them in tepid water for an hour, and then leave overnight to plump up.

Plant the tubers with the crowns just covered in well-drained boxes of compost, the ideal mixture being three parts loam and one part each of well-rotted manure, peat, and sand. Until the tender shoots

emerge, keep the compost just moist. The best thing to do on favorable days is to spray lightly with aired water. As growth gets stronger, give more water at the roots.

When the shoots are about three inches long (some will be more forward than others), cut out each selected shoot with a sharp knife, making the cut so that it is just below a joint. The grower must use his own discretion when taking these early cuttings, as some tubers are more prolific than others, but no one can go wrong if other "eyes" are present on the crown of the tuber. These "eyes" will soon develop into strong growth, and will, in my opinion, produce better flowering stems than those which came earlier.

After trimming away the lower leaves set the cuttings one-half inch deep in trays or pots of moist silver sand, then stand them in a propagating case or a glass-covered box. Keep the propagator closed and water very sparingly until roots form, at which stage air should be gradually increased until the plants get accustomed to their new environment. The young plants may then be potted into a good begonia compost, and will, if moved on to larger pots as required, produce good blooms late in the season.

More cuttings can, of course, be taken from the flowering stems of the older plants during the summer, but these should only be encouraged to make small tubers for the following season.

## Propagation by Tuber Division

This is not a very favorable method of increasing a stock of begonias, and is usually only employed on old tubers, the disadvantage here being that the blooms tend to get smaller as the tuber ages. Many growers believe that by cutting the tuber, a little more stamina is imported and, in any case, new stock can be obtained from the resulting growth. The

(Continued on Page 64)



# Seed Sowing and Propagation

By EDNA M. STEWART

This is my newest seed sowing method. So far, it has produced the highest ratio of seedlings I have ever had. I have tried various methods, and while the seed would germinate, the seedlings would just stand still and would seldom ever reach the transplanting stage.

This time I used my usual sand and peat mixture, but on top of it I put a layer of finely cut sphagnum moss that I had scalded with boiling water. I had a packet of mixed begonia seed from Harolds and I broadcast it over the moss on December tenth. On the twenty-first it was up. There must be a thousand. Now, in January, they have their first true leaves.

Streptocarpus was planted the same way, and I have never seen so many seedlings. Rex begonia seed, too, was planted in this manner, and they are just coming up.

The flats are in the greenhouse and on an electric heating cable. As soon as germination is completed, the flats must be removed from the heat and a weak solution of fertilizer given to the seedlings. I have fertilized mine twice.

The flats are on a shelf up near the roof. Since the roof is fiberglass, the seedlings will not be hurt. Anyway, we do not get much sunshine at this time.

Today I planted my double petunia seed the same way, also Begonias 'Cinderella' and 'Pink Profusion'. If they all germinate I will need another greenhouse.

Sand and peat moss has always been my medium for seed sowing and for propagation of cuttings, using two parts of peat moss to one of sand. I use the same mixture over and over, adding extra when necessary.

The one exception is when I plant geranium cuttings. As they are the only cuttings of mine that sometimes become

diseased, I root them in pure sand in small pots set in a flat. That way I can remove any pot with a diseased cutting and the disease is not likely to spread to the other cuttings.

Not all cuttings root, but it is not because of disease, but rather because they are taken at the wrong time of growth or season or are not handled properly. I take cuttings any time of year. They do not all root and I guess it is a good thing that they do not, because I wouldn't know where to put them.

I now have five hundred begonias in various stages of growth. As my rex plants were old and their growth had become slow, a few days ago I cut the old rhizomes off at the ground, cut them in small pieces, and put them in sand and peat moss.

My propagating bench holds twelve flats and is heated by an electric cable. Since the cable is thermostatically controlled, it keeps an even heat. When germinating seed over heat, the flat must be removed after germination is completed or the plants will stretch or damp-off. I like to set the flats on small flower pots to help prevent damp-off and to aid air circulation, which is necessary to avoid damp-off.

Leafmold seems to be the main rooting and planting medium of most growers who write for THE BEGONIAN. I had never used leafmold until last fall, when we went to the woods and brought some in. I tried it for rooting some begonia leaves but they all rotted. I never saw anything to hold water like that leafmold, sopping wet, yet not dripping.

I will stick to my usual medium for potting, garden soil, sand, peat moss, and cow manure, with some superphosphate and garden fertilizer added.

# Elva S. Swisher--A Tribute

By MRS. LESTER H. FOX

Elva S. Swisher of Sycamore, Pennsylvania, a begonia enthusiast and hybridizer of earlier days, died November 18, 1959.

Mrs. Drew's question in her article in the December *BEGONIAN*, concerning the present existence of the Begonia Round Robin Clubs, 1, 2, and 3, seemed oddly coincidental to the death of Mrs. Swisher, who was one of the original members of Round Robin 1, which was started thirteen years before the American Begonia Society was organized. It is not certain just how long Mrs. Swisher remained an active member but in 1942, Mrs. Eva Kenworthy Gray, of California, stated that of the original members of the first Round Robin Club started in 1921 by a Mrs. John Semple, of Ohio, only she and Mrs. Swisher were then active. Mrs. Bessie Buxton had previously refuted a statement that she started the club, saying that she did not join until 1925. These members carried on a faithful correspondence, exchanging experiences and sharing seeds and plants.

In 1935, Mrs. Swisher raised five distinctive begonias from seed of *B. Superba* Kenzii, of *aconitifolia* and 'Lucerna' ancestry. She named three for her granddaughters, Alma, Janice, and Patty Jean Milliken. A fourth was named *B. 'Elva Swisher'* by her friend, Mrs. Gray, and the fifth became *B. 'Lolita Gray'*, honoring the pen name of Mrs. Gray. Mrs. Buxton had stock of these begonias and at one time they were well distributed among members of the New England Branch.

In 1942, Mrs. Swisher again produced a group of five desirable seedlings from similar parentage. These were begonias of rich coloring, splashed and spotted with silver, showing a relationship to *B. 'Lucerna'* in their robust growth and to *B. aconitifolia* in their deeply lobed leaves. Four of this group were named for members of the Swisher family: Ross, Elvira, Dora, and Love Swisher. The fifth is *B. 'Querci'*, so-called for its leaf resemblance

to that of the oak. These had even greater distribution in New England, and stock was sent to Kew Gardens by Mrs. Buxton. In 1951, a beautiful *B. 'Dora Swisher'* was judged best begonia in the Harvest Show of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

In time, these begonias became hard to find and identities were confused. A letter to Mrs. Swisher several years ago brought the information that she was still growing these begonias and an interesting correspondence developed. Mrs. Swisher identified leaves of begonias sent to her and provided cuttings of others.

Another of her originations was a seedling of *B. subvillosa*, described as seeming identical except for pink bloom. This is not now in existence. Another, a *B. aconitifolia* seedling, *B. 'Dulcie Milliken'*, and several of the *coccinea* type, were named for other members of her family and for friends.

Mrs. Swisher's letters showed her to be quiet and unassuming but with a sprightly wit and sure horticultural knowledge. She was not well known in begonia circles of recent years, her frail health preventing this. Mrs. Swisher once wrote she loved all flowers but that begonias were her "life and dearest hobby." She had an absorbing interest in hybridizing, which remained with her until her last illness. She wrote that she never planted seeds without a sense of wonder and delight in the resulting new plants. However, she viewed them critically and distributed only those she considered outstanding in variation and beauty.

Mrs. Swisher should be honored not only for the lovely begonias she created, but recognition should also be given to her and to those others of the early Begonia Round Robin Clubs, who through their inter-change of letters, stimulated an interest in begonias throughout the country, helping in no small measure to promote the growth of the American Begonia Society in its early years.

# HARDY NORTHWEST FERNS

By NEILL D. HALL

Ferns make an ideal foil for your begonias after they go into the garden. Many easily grown ferns are fully hardy and a good portion of them are evergreen or nearly so. Most of them thrive in a loose, well drained soil that contains a good percentage of leaf mold. This is the same type of soil your begonias revel in.

One of our commonest Northwestern native ferns is *Polystichum munitum*, the common sword fern. This fern is evergreen and varies in size from eighteen inches to three or four feet in height. The old fronds should be trimmed off as soon as they start to turn brown. This will groom the plant and throw strength into the new fronds. The florist trade use great quantities of the fronds for greens in building floral sprays. Almost any moist woodland road in either western Washington or Oregon will be bordered with this fern.

If the road should climb a few hundred feet or swing out near the ocean another fern would be plentiful. This would be *Blechnum spicant* commonly called the deer fern. This fern is entirely different in that it has two forms of fronds. The fertile or spore bearing fronds will extend above the sterile fronds and the former will have narrower leaflets or pinnae. The barren fronds are inclined to grow out in a more or less horizontal manner. This evergreen fern will vary in size from well under a foot to two feet in height in an ideal site such as our rain forest.

When you stop to admire a water fall in practically any stream in the Northwest, you will see the mist covered cliffs clothed in maiden hair fern, *Adiantum pedatum*. This deciduous fern is also known as the five fingered fern. It makes a very graceful plant as the fronds are like lace, with the foliage angling to a horizontal plane. It will thrive in any cool, moist and shaded site.

Wherever the big leaf maple grows under woodland conditions, a regular com-

panion will be the *Polypodium vulgare* or licorice fern. This little rhizomatous fern grows on the rough bark of the maple and may often be seen growing thirty feet above the ground, but it likewise may be found growing in rock crevices. This fern adapts itself to cultivation, provided the rhizome is not covered and the drainage is good. The fronds are nearly evergreen, as the old ones turn yellow in the spring and are replaced by the fresh young fronds.

Large areas in the virgin forest of the Northwest are carpeted with a dainty little deciduous fern about eight inches high. This little ground cover is *Gymnocarpium dryopteris*, commonly known as the oak fern. It spreads by an underground rhizome. This rhizome may be cut up and this particular fern propagated in this manner. This fern does well in cultivation, and once it is established, will form a yellow-green ground cover of a lacy texture.

*Cryptogramma crispa*, the parsley fern, is another dwarf gem; but unlike the foregoing it will be found growing in the open. Generally it will be found with its roots tucked under a boulder or will be resting in a pocket of leaf mold on the surface of a rock face. The spore bearing fronds are always a few inches longer than the barren fronds. In the fall the fertile fronds will be covered with brown spore and the frond itself will take on a similar color.

One of our smallest native ferns is the *Asplenium trichomanes* or maiden hair spleenwort. This little black-stemmed evergreen generally does not exceed six inches. It seems to like a moist but well drained pocket of leaf mold.

Most of the foregoing ferns may be propagated readily from spore. This method of propagation is as easy as growing begonia seedlings. The fertile fronds with their spore are generally collected in the

(Continued on Page 64)

# Popular Ferns

By DON HORTON

It seems incredible that the common Sword Fern and its indoor variety, the Boston Fern, have sported over one hundred named varieties. These ferns enjoyed an immense popularity ninety years ago but lately have fallen out of favor.

Some of the Boston Ferns—Smithi is an example—have their leaves so finely divided that the plant is like a big ball of mist. You must be careful in watering these plants, for if those fine leaves in the center of the plant get wet they cannot dry out readily and will brown. Therefore, water from the bottom or use a sprinkling can with a long thin spout, so only the soil gets watered, not the leaves.

These Boston Ferns are propagated by only one method, but this is easily done. Periodically they throw out long leafless stolons, or "feelers". All that needs to be done is to peg down the end of one of these stolons in the pot and it will root and form a new plant, which may be separated when it is growing on its own and put into another pot.

A fern that is very popular today is the Hare's Foot or Rabbit's Foot Fern, *Davallia canariensis*. This fern has a frond much like a carrot leaf, and a creeping rhizome that winds around and around the basket it is planted in. The end of the rhizome is hairy and resembles a rabbit's foot, hence its name.

A hint in preparing the wire basket for the Hare's Foot is equally applicable for the preparation of a wire basket for any plant so grown. The old method was to line the basket with sphagnum and then fill it with your soil mix. This resulted in the soil mix falling through the sphagnum in weak spots.

After lining the basket with sphagnum, put in a lining of burlap and then the soil mix. The burlap holds the soil, and by the time it has rotted the plant has filled the basket with roots which hold the soil.

Hare's Foot Ferns are very easy to propagate. Simply take a foot, and put it into the soil mix, leaving the tip in the air. It will soon root without the aid of bottom heat. Some people like to shape the rhizome into designs. To do this, take the longest foot you can get. Soak it in water overnight and then you can bend it into any shape you desire. Then go ahead and root it in the manner described.

A good growing medium for ferns is straight leaf mold. It answers their natural requirement for a soil that is humusy and well drained. The time honored fertilizer is bloodmeal because it is an excellent source of organic nitrogen. Be careful not to overdo it—a tablespoon to a six-inch pot would be plenty—too much can burn.

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## PLANT-A-TREE WEEK

Plant-A-Tree week will be officially observed by the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum at Arcadia from Monday, March 7, through Monday, March 14.

Opening ceremonies will take place at the Arboretum's Fifth Annual Arbor Day program on March 7 at 3:45 p.m.

A feature of Plant-A-Tree week will be a special display of one hundred trees suitable for specific locations in Los Angeles County. The tree display, as well as gift seeds and seedlings to be given to children attending with parents, will be presented by the Los Angeles chapter of the California Association of Nurserymen.

The week will be observed also by open house in the recently completed wing of the Administration Building, which houses the reference library and herbarium.

# *American Seedling Begonias in England*

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

Members of the American Begonia Society will remember my comments on the performance set up by American seedling tuberous begonias here in England during the seasons 1957 and 58. Here then, is a report on the results of the third trial season, which also includes comments on the progeny propagated from the selected plants last season, and the outcome of a few plants which were grown in the open in our local park.

First, I would like to remind readers in the United States that we in England had one of the hottest summers for many years, and although it has been a welcome break from the wet summers we have had in recent years, it most certainly has proved that growing begonias in such conditions under glass can be very exacting.

The cutting tubers were started early in January, 1959, the parent tubers being held over until the beginning of February. Losses incurred during the propagation were slight, only two of the parent tubers failing to start, and by the middle of March most of the plants were given their first pot. The middle of May found most of them potted into the finals, the growth which followed this potting being so vigorous that by the beginning of June I was able to insert the first batch of cuttings.

At the end of May I decided to contact our local Parks Superintendent to see if he would try a few of these plants in the open, and he was only too willing to co-operate. This action, I'm pleased to say, has aroused much local interest in the cultivation of the tuberous begonia as a bedding plant, the plants having put up a wonderful show under really hot conditions.

My own plants, having been pruned to two and three shoots per plant, were showing sizeable buds by the beginning of July. And, with conditions being as they were (the temperature reaching 100

degrees on most days), heavy shading was very essential, and on most days the plants required water at least twice a day. I lost count of the times I had to flood the greenhouse floors to try to bring down the temperature. And yet, in spite of every precaution which I had taken to safeguard the plants, the fourth of July found me with a dozen badly scorched. Still, with the temperature standing at 110 degrees, one could expect anything to happen, and I know that other local growers suffered losses the same day. However, I'm pleased to report that once again the seedlings have put up a really good show, but I would like to stress that the blooms on the parent plants have not been quite so large as last season. But, when one considers that each plant was allowed to open all of its blooms (many had as many as six open at once), no one can grumble at blooms measuring from 5½ to 6 inches across.

The cutting tubers, trained to a single stem plus one sideshoot, are now at the peak of perfection, some of the blooms holding their own with the best of my named stock. The pick of the bunch this season is without doubt a lovely peach, the flowers being perfectly formed and showing a near-perfect rosebud center, and, as is usual with this strain of American seed, the blooms need no wire contraptions to keep them erect. I only wish a few of the English varieties would react in a similar manner.

The few picotes which I have are greatly improved, the centers having filled in more solid this season, but their beauty is somewhat marred by the presence of an ugly looking protruding guard petal. Still, I suppose that even this will be overcome in due course, and they are worth working on because their popularity is rapidly increasing with the English public. My selfs and bicolors have also proved true to type on the progeny, and I'm sincerely hoping to do very well next season when the tubers are more mature.

## MY IMPRESSION OF THE BEGONIA GREENHOUSE

By HERBERT H. WARRICK

During a short vacation trip to Southern California last October, my wife and I were invited by our friends, Marie and Leo Turner of Temple City, to visit the new greenhouse at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.

I imagine that there is a wide range of first impressions as different people visit this new project. After my first satisfying overall visual comparison of the greenhouse, with its green saran mesh shaded roof and side garden, with the picture on the cover of the August issue of *THE BEGONIAN*, I proceeded to read and analyze the dedication plaque over the doorway.

This plaque provides an inspirational record of which all those who contributed money and effort should be very proud. On it is inscribed:

THE BEGONIA GREENHOUSE  
DONATED BY  
MRS. LEONARD B. SLOSSON  
AND MEMBERS OF  
THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY  
SPONSORED BY  
THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH  
OF A.B.S.  
1959

As we entered the greenhouse, we found that the benches were already well filled with donated begonias. I understand that, as more plants are brought in, the species and cultivars will be divided into separated areas on the various benches.

The outside shade garden is also rapidly filling and will feature most of the other types of shade garden plants. The waterfall and small pools add interest, and I look forward to the time when I can see more photographs of the complete layout or sections of it in *THE BEGONIAN*.

The American Begonia Society, as a whole, should feel very happy that we have members and friends who initiate and carry out such worthwhile activities.

Positive thinking and actions of this type will insure that those who follow us in the future will appreciate the high ideals that we have today.

I am genuinely impressed by this structure and garden. I would enjoy living nearby so that I could offer my help on the remaining work. But, as I live in Seattle, I can only anticipate the pleasure of another visit to this beautiful place. It should be a fine focal point for all members as they vacation in the Los Angeles area for years to come.

## A TROPHY FOR CONNIE

An outstanding day for Connie Bower, of San Diego, California, was November 29, 1959. On this day Mr. and Mrs. John Thieben visited her—a first meeting and a most pleasurable one.

With puzzled expression, Miss Bower held out her hand to receive, from John Thieben, the beautiful junior-sized edition of this year's H. P. Dyckman Trophy Award for a new fibrous begonia cultivar. John Thieben won the original trophy for his entry of Begonia 'Arabelle' in the 1959 convention show at Los Angeles. Knowledge of this, and possession of the Award Scroll for introduction of Begonia 'Arabelle' was enough so-called honor for Miss Bower.

This additional sign of esteem was overwhelming, but nevertheless mighty heart-warming. We know, for this is Constance D. Bower saying so! Thanks to you, American Begonia Society, and to its members who decided on this friendly gesture.

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## LOLA E. FAHEY APPOINTED PRESIDENT-ELECT

Announcement of the appointment of Mrs. Lola E. Fahey as President-Elect was made by President Clarence Hall at the February meeting of the National Board. It is a pleasure to present her background and many qualifications.

Mrs. Fahey has been an active and enthusiastic member of the San Gabriel Valley Branch of the American Begonia Society since 1955. She was vice-president and program chairman of that Branch in 1957 and was president in 1958. In 1959 she was national director for her Branch and is currently their hospitality chairman and publicity chairman. She has been an active participant in A.B.S. National Conventions, she and her husband John having been chairmen and managers of the very successful snack bar in the 1957 and 1958 conventions.

In addition to her activities in the A.B.S. she is also a member of the San Gabriel Orchid Hobbyists and the American Orchid Society.

Of all her hobbies, her church comes first. She has been a member of the Rosemead Community Church since 1957 and now holds two chairmanships there. One of these is in the Women's Society of Christian Service and the other as social relations chairman of the United Council of Church Women.

Mrs. Fahey had her first birthday on a train bringing her from Iowa to California, and has lived in the Temple City-Rosemead area near Los Angeles most of the time since.

She is married and has one son and three daughters. Lola and Johnny are "retired" to the growing of all kinds of things, and especially begonias, orchids, and camellias.

We are very happy to present Lola Fahey to you, and we believe she will be of great help to the National Board and will work diligently towards betterment of the American Begonia Society and its members.



Lola E. Fahey, President-Elect.

## ONLY BY WORKING TOGETHER

All have a share of the beauty,  
All have a part in the plan.

What does it matter what duty  
Falls to the lot of man?

Someone has blended the plaster,  
And someone has carried the Stone;

Neither the man nor the Master  
Ever has builded alone.

Making a roof from the weather  
Or building a house for the King,

Only by working together  
Can we accomplish a thing.

(Author unknown)

Just a thought from your President-Elect—  
LOLA E. FAHEY

# Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

## No. 1—*B. crispula*—

Brazil. Produces a short rhizome, and the short-stalked, round leaves, five to six inches in diameter, spread out more or less flat on the surface of the soil. New leaves appear over the older ones, almost touching or even resting on them. Consequently, moisture easily stays between the leaves and the rough texture increases the danger of leaf rot to which this species is subject. Therefore, it must never be sprayed. Water must be applied only to the soil, never splashed on the plant. This is the only difficulty with this begonia, which is otherwise easy to grow if it is planted in a loose, humus soil and kept moderately moist. Growers have written to me that they allow their plants to become completely dry before watering.

The inflorescence is reddish; appressed-hairy peduncle is six inches high. The male flowers, white inside and pale pinkish outside, are slightly over half an inch in diameter. The female flowers are still smaller. The floral display is not outstanding, but the deeply crisped, shiny green foliage is very attractive. It is a rare and beautiful begonia to add to anyone's collection. Seeds germinated 100 per cent in about twenty-one days. \$1.00 per pkt.

## No. 2—*B. pedata*—

Mexico. Seed collected by MacDougall. Description by Rudolf Ziesenhenné.

Unusual tuberous species which sends up more than one stem from a tuber. Each stem makes its own tuber at the end of the season. Leaves are three-lobed, white-hairy beneath. Slender stems up to two and one-half feet tall produce beautiful pink flowers. Research reveals that seeds of this begonia have never been offered by the seed fund before. Something new and different. 50 cents per pkt.

## No. 3—*B. phyllomaniaca*—

(Martius) syn. *B. 'Jessie'*. Tall plant in favored climates. Stems and leaves produce from one to colonies of adventitious leaflets; stems erect, stout, few-branched; leaves ovate-pointed, glossy-

green, margins toothed, waved, and red-tinged. Flowers are pink in branched axillary clusters. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 4—*B. lecco*—

Seedling of *B. lucerna*. Medium tall, erect, branched. Leaves ovate-pointed, olive green, silver spotted, silver splashed at the tips, red beneath. Flowers large, deep pink, in drooping clusters. Similar to *B. 'Geneva'*. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 5—*B. asplenifolia*—

African species (not India). Described in detail in THE BEGONIAN for December. 50 cents per pkt.

## No. 6—*B. josephi*—

India. Variable begonia with small, ovate-orbicular leaves, sometimes lobed, usually peltate when young; usually stemless. Flowers small, rose-pink. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 7—*B. dichroa*—

Growth low, shrubby. Leaves grow on short petioles, oblong-elliptic, tapered toward a point. Glossy, dark green above, with regular, distinctly delineated silver-white spots; wavy and lobed at margins. Inflorescence axillary, large, raceme-like, pendulous. Flowers brilliant salmon-orange, blooming almost continuously throughout the year. A friend in Wisconsin has carefully collected a large amount of seed for the seed fund. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 8—*B. longibarbata*—

Brazil. A hardy begonia that is almost indestructible. Blooms in great profusion throughout the year, thrives on neglect, and seldom requires water or special attention of any kind. Bright green leaves with red sinus. Flowers white or pink and slightly fragrant. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 9—*B. Mexican species #38*—

Another hardy begonia, slightly cascading, and a profuse bloomer. Flowers are usually pink. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 10—*B. hirtella*—

Brazil. Low, bushy, hairy species, having small, broad-ovate, green leaves, lighter beneath. Inflorescences short; flowers small, white. 25 cents per pkt.

**No. 11—*B. cyprea*—**

*B. metallica* seedling. Erect, bushy, white-hairy. Leaves broad-ovate, pointed, one shallow angled lobe near the base, olive green with deeper green veins. Flowers large, white or pale pink, pink bearded without. 25 cents per pkt.

**No. 12—*B. Rex hybrids*—**

From the greenhouse of Mr. Todaro, Garden Grove, California. Crosses of American and German rex, also spirals. New supply available at 50 cents per pkt.

Many A.B.S. members are growing these colorful plants for plant sales and other projects. Why don't you? Seeds germinate 100 per cent in about twenty-one days with constant warmth of about 65 degrees.

We have more of the colorful and hardy heterosis semperflorens begonia seed from Germany, as follows:

***B. Heterosis semperflorens Primadonna*—**

Compact with pink flowers. Popular bedding plant. 25 cents per pkt.

***B. Heterosis semperflorens Stuttgart*—**

Dwarf plant with rose colored flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

***B. Heterosis Blumenmeer*—**

(Sea of flowers). Medium; bronzy-red leaves; scarlet flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

The following multiflora begonias are also available. Popular as bedding plants or grown in pots, they produce a great abundance of flowers over a long period of time and are easy to grow in comparison with the larger types.

***B. Multiflora erecta yellow*—**

25 cents per pkt.

***Multiflora erecta orange*—**

25 cents per pkt.

***Multiflora erecta scarlet*—**

25 cents per pkt.

**GREENHOUSE PLANTS**

***Aphelandra aurantiaca*—**

Erect with ovate, smooth, green leaves, gray in vein area. Showy, bracted spikes with brilliant, scarlet-red flowers, orange in throat and along tube. Scarce. Four seeds for 25 cents.

***Alloplectus vittatus*—**

Gesneriaceae. (E. Peru) Beautiful, erect, fleshy plant with showy, ovate, quilted, crenate leaves, bronzy moss-green with silver-white feathering along midrib, and covered with white hairs; glowing red-purple beneath. Yellow flowers in a cluster; orange-red calyx, red bracts. 25 cents per pkt.

***Asarina erubescens*—**

Scrophulariaceae. 'Creeping gloxinia'. Strongly vining, hairy plant, with alternate triangular, toothed, downy leaves and twining flower stalks bearing large, three-inch trumpet-shaped blossoms having broad, green sepals and carmine-rose corollas with pale throats spotted rose. Blooms in November and likes sun. 25 cents per pkt.

***Asarina barclaiana*—**

Perennial vine with thin stems climbing by means of coiling petioles, halbred-shaped leaves. Showy, axillary, trumpet-shaped, purple flowers, white in throat. 25 cents per pkt.

***Streptocarpus polyanthus*—**

South Africa. Collector's item. Flat, yellow and blue flowers seven to thirty in number. Leaves one foot long, six inches wide. 35 cents per pkt.

***Kohleria lindeniana*—**

Gesneriaceae. (Ecuador) Pretty plant with beautiful velvety, ovate leaves, vivid green, changing to copper toward the margins, and a pattern of silvery veins. Small, white, bell-shaped flowers with purple throat. 35 cents per pkt.

***Aeschynanthus pulcher*—**

Gesneriaceae. (Java) Trailing epiphytic plant with small, opposite ovate, waxy, light green leaves and showy tubular flowers, axillary or in terminal clusters. Calyx green and smooth; corolla vermilion-red with yellow throat. 35 cents per pkt.

***Billbergia zebrina*—**

Bromeliaceae. Attractive species with long, fluted leaves, purplish bronze in strong light, heavily crossbanded silvery white. Inflorescences with red-bract leaves and nodding blue flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

### **Alocacia odora—**

Araceae. Glossy, light green, stiff-fleshy, sagittate leaves to three feet long, with elevated ribs and rounded lobes on vaginate stalks from thick stems. Flowers fragrant. Plant grows to huge proportions outdoors in California but should be treated as a greenhouse plant in cold climates. Scarce. Four seeds for 25 cents.

### **OTHER GENERA**

#### **Cineraria—**

Super giants mixed. Huge flowers four to six inches across, each petal one to one and one-half inches wide. Unequalled color range. May be sown any time of year. 25 cents per pkt.

#### **Cyclamen persicum—**

Extra select strain mixed. All the known cyclamen colors. Grows outdoors where climate permits; also favorite pot plant. Four seeds for 25 cents.

#### **Grevillea robusta—**

Dainty, lacy, ornamental plant while small. Silvery, downy shoots with fern-like green leaves, two pinnate into finely lobed segments, silky-haired, giving them a grayish appearance. 25 cents per pkt.

#### **Torenia fournieri—**

Scrophulariaceae. Delicate, small, herbaceous annual, with ovate, fresh green, serrate leaves. Scattered, bilabiate, attractive, pale violet flowers with lower lip having three lobes of velvety deep violet and a yellow blotch in the middle of the lower lobe. Blooms almost continuously. Good semi-shade plant. 25 cents per pkt.

#### **Abutilon—**

Seeds were sent from South Africa. Plant is described as being medium height with huge, yellow flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

#### **Clivia Belgian hybrids—**

Aristocrats of the Amaryllis family, with wide, dark green strap leaves. Large heads of bright orange flowers borne on tall stems. Requires deep shade. Three seeds for 25 cents.

#### **Caryota mitis—**

Palmaceae. 'Clustered Fishtail Palm'. Numerous suckers growing up in clusters, with gray-green trunk, topped by dense

tufts of irregularly bipinnate dull-green leaves, nodding at the tips. Fruits blackish-red. Five seeds for 25 cents.

### **Comment from Anchorage, Alaska**

"The Anchorage Garden Club voted the begonia their flower of the year. Each member is to grow a begonia from seed and bring it to the club for discussion and to show what we have accomplished with seed."

We would like to repeat our request for seed of begonia, greenhouse, or shade plants. Anyone having anything in these categories please contact the seed fund. We are grateful for all the seed we received last month from our request. We wish to keep the seed fund active and cannot always depend on our friends in foreign lands. As their seasons do not always coincide with ours, sometimes we must wait many months for seed to reach us. In the meantime, we would appreciate hearing from anyone who has surplus seed.

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

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## THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The Good Book says, "Let there be light and there was light." Plants, animals, insects, and all forms of life respond to the ever increasing amount of light as the days steadily grow lighter and longer. The long winter days have started their count-down, and the great annual miracle of the resurrection of plant life has begun. The glorious promise of Spring is with us, and wanting to be part of this great miracle, we check our garden tools, to be certain they are ready, clean, and sharp for use in the magnificent days ahead.

Time still permits us to step back and, in perspective, take a look in two directions, backwards with warm appreciation of the blessings that have been ours in the months of contemplation, as the winter leaves gently fell from the calendar, and forward to wonder if there isn't something better and greater that we can do to help someone less fortunate than we. The chances to do little kindnesses and favors are all around us, and as we look forward to Spring, we can look forward to "give-a-ways", with some one. We may not know who that someone is, but in giving, we do know it will become an adventure, illuminating our day. Inviting and taking a friend to one of our Branch meetings and getting him to become a member would help scatter some of the good that A.B.S. members enjoy, and may be just such an adventure for you.

With the coming of Spring when everything seems so perfect, the announcement of the appointment of Lola Fahey to the office of President-Elect is very timely, and I recommend for your reading, her poem appearing in this issue—it is a summary of how she thinks and acts. You will find her to be a wonderful lady, very capable, and she will undoubtedly be an asset to the A.B.S. Board, and to the American Begonia Society as a whole.

Looking forward once more, it is a privilege to let you know that preliminary plans for the 1960 A.B.S. Convention and Flower Show are being made. A steering committee has been appointed

and discussions are under way to assure you of the most wonderful convention and show ever. But more of this in a later issue.

Just in case the theme of this letter, "Spring", carries us too far from reality, it might be well to close with Henry Van Dyke's observation on the matter. He observes, "The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month."

CLARENCE HALL  
*President*

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## JUDGING CLASS IN SECOND MONTH

Rudolph Ziesenhenné, of Santa Barbara, California, will deliver the third lecture to the Shade Plant Judging Class on Friday, March 11. His subject will be "Begonias".

Mr. Ziesenhenné has been a student of begonias for many years, being a professional grower and hybridizer, and is well qualified to teach the fine points on judging begonias. Do not miss his lecture if you are at all interested in learning to judge begonias.

Kenneth Terry, of Redondo Beach, California, will speak on "Fuchsias" for the fourth lecture in this series, on Friday, March 25. Although Mr. Terry is a horticulturist with years of experience in many fields, he has been acclaimed as an authority on fuchsias.

The Shade Plant Judging Class, sponsored by the American Begonia Society and the California National Fuchsia Society, is under the direction of Mrs. Edna L. Korts. Classes meet on the second and fourth Fridays of each month, at the South Gate City Auditorium, 4900 Southern Avenue, South Gate, California. Registrations for attendance will begin at 7:30 p.m. and the lectures are scheduled to start promptly at 8 p.m.

## ARBORETUM LIBRARY OPEN SATURDAYS

Under a new operating policy, the horticultural and botanical reference library of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum will be open to the public on Saturdays. Heretofore, the library has been open Monday through Fridays.

Saturday library hours will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to Librarian Russella McGah, Saturday hours will enable students, gardeners, homeowners, and others who are occupied on week days to use the excellent collection of books on plants and gardening.

The Arboretum library is housed in the new wing of the Administration Building, located at 301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, California.

## Increasing A Stock

*(Continued from Page 52)*

general rule is to divide the tuber in two, each part having both root and a little top growth, and it is not recommended that they should be cut in the dormant stage. The divided tubers should be potted immediately, watered moderately, and kept close until the roots begin to forage.

Another version of tuber division occurs when diseased portions have to be cut away from an infected tuber in an effort to save it from total destruction. In this instance, however, the tuber must be treated whether it has started or not, and the cut surfaces should be dusted with flowers of sulphur before being returned to the compost.

## Hardy Northwest Ferns

*(Continued from Page 55)*

fall and allowed to dry. After it is dry, the spore may be rubbed or shaken from the frond. The spore can be planted on a mixture of moist peat moss and sand. The container should be covered with glass and other covering to maintain moisture. After planting the spore, the container should be placed in a warm location away from direct sunlight. In about a month, if conditions are right, the shields or prothalliums will appear, and a short while later the immature fronds will grow from the shield. This frond does not identify the fern but the characteristic fronds will appear later.

The people of England have grown and propagated many hardy crested varieties as well as the true species. Their work with ferns started well over a hundred years ago. Sporlings from the crested varieties will not all come true and you will find new varieties among your young ferns.

The hybridization of ferns takes place in the prothallium or shield, so the life cycle in ferns is entirely different from seed bearing plants. It is important that the soil mixture be moist after the shields appear, as the moisture aids in the process of hybridizing. Furthermore, the fern spore does not provide a food reserve to carry the young fern along as is the case with plants grown from seed. As soon as the young ferns are large enough to handle, they should be transplanted to a loose mixture of leaf mold, peat moss, and sand. In a year or possibly less time, your young ferns will be ready to place in a permanent setting in your garden.

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# Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

## FOOTHILL

Officers elected for 1960 are as follows: Mrs. C. W. Hall, president; Mrs. Leo J. Caton, Jr., vice-president; Miss Christine Kindell, secretary; Mrs. R. N. Weaver, treasurer; Miss A. Esther Smith, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Rodney D. Talcott, national representative.

## LONE STAR

The first meeting for 1960 was held at the home of Mrs. Lane P. Davis, with the newly elected officers in charge: Mrs. W. J. Thomas, president; Mrs. Chester W. Terry, treasurer; and Mrs. C. Neal Sikkelee, secretary.

After an inspection of the hostess' beautiful collection of African violets, begonias, ferns, and coleus, coffee and doughnuts were served. The president then called the meeting to order, and various members were appointed to the following duties: parliamentarian, historian, flower show, year book, telephone committee, membership, program, publicity, and Branch coordinator.

President Thomas asked every member to grow begonias and other shade loving plants. With this in mind, seed will be distributed each month to members, and each member will be expected to raise good plants for distribution to the group.

Members were also asked to bring cuttings of their plants to the meetings for distribution. In this way, each member can acquire an excellent collection of plants, making it comparatively easy to hold outstanding begonia shows.

Programs will be arranged to provide the widest information on growing and exhibiting begonias. President Thomas reminded the members that a good way to learn begonia growing is to visit other members in their homes, examine new plants, and ask questions.

## PHIOBEGONIA

The January meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Dilwyn Senseman, in Merchantville, New Jersey.

Soils, with samples, were discussed.

Samples included sub-soil which dates from the beginning of the earth's formation, leaf mold, garden loam, and sharp sand, all of which were combined in the proper proportions to form the potting soil for begonias. The organic ingredients to be added to this mixture were outlined for the proper potting mixtures for the various varieties of begonias. All of the soils are obtainable in the state of New Jersey in the vicinity of Merchantville.

## RIVERSIDE

New officers were installed at our January meeting: Mrs. Lois Joris, president; Mrs. LaVern Krach, vice-president; Mrs. Hilda Sanders, recorder; Mrs. Ethel Prior, secretary; Rowland Maddox, treasurer; R. H. Terril, national representative; and Mrs. Mary Gillingwater, alternate representative.

## SAN FRANCISCO

The January meeting was a Good Resolutions party, at which we played games and won begonia tubers. As this was a meeting which everyone looked forward to, we had a large attendance. Everyone went home with at least one tuber and a much better knowledge of growing the beautiful begonia after hearing Hyacinth Smith tell us what we should be doing now.

Our new member for January was Mrs. Elaine Cochran.

Margo Corbelli, our new refreshment chairman, not only served a wonderful selection of cakes brought in by members, but she also had a lovely flower arrangement to grace the table.

## SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

Officers for 1960 are: Mabel Corwin, president; Margaret Moore, vice-president; Vera Naumann, secretary; James Giridlian, treasurer; Clarence Johnston, Branch director; and Wilma Blough, national representative.

## SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY

The January meeting was called to or-

der by President H. J. Bolyard. Following discussion about activities for the coming year it was voted to have a Birthday Anniversary celebration at our February meeting, to enter exhibits in the Oakland Spring Garden Show and the Alameda County Fair, and to hold a rummage sale in late summer.

Our guest speakers were Mr. and Mrs. Ray Alberts of Newark, California, who have been raising orchids for more than fifteen years. They gave an interesting talk of "Orchid Culture", with Mrs. Alberts giving a demonstration on the potting of orchids. Everett Hammond, who is in charge of the plant table for the year, offered many varied plants and products. Mrs. Cleo Peck, our charming hostess, served refreshments.

#### WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

At the December meeting the following officers were installed for 1960: Mrs. James Dougherty, president; Mrs. Ralph Hardy, first vice-president; Mrs. Mark Stewart, second vice-president; Mrs. Walter Cowles, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Walter Bowser, recording secretary; and Mrs. S. K. Harbison, treasurer.

The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. S. K. Harbison, of Pittsburgh, with eighteen members present. After luncheon and a Christmas gift exchange, Miss Elizabeth Miller demonstrated cone wreath making, using different pine cones and dried materials.

Our Branch was organized in October, 1949, through the efforts of Mrs. Leslie D. Perry of Brier Hill, Pennsylvania. She is still a member and seldom misses a meeting. She and her neighbor, Mrs. Walter Bowser, drive a trip of one hundred miles to each meeting. Mrs. Bowser is also a charter member. Of the sixteen members who signed the charter, eight are still members who attend regularly, including Mrs. J. E. Magill, Mrs. Henry Venable, Mrs. W. T. Barton, Mrs. John Brockmyer, Mrs. C. A. Echert, and Mrs. Walter Kirch, all of Pittsburgh.

Though seldom heard from, we are an active Branch, with no other Branch near enough for a joint meeting. Any Begonians visiting in our community would be welcome at our meetings or at our homes.

#### BESSIE RAYMOND BUXTON

Guest speaker at the December meeting was George Pride, Professor of Botany from Worcester, who gave an illustrated talk titled, "Voodoo and Orchids". Mr. Pride spent almost a year in the interior of Haiti.

Wonderful views of the newest developments in tuberous begonias from the lath-houses of Veterle and Reinelt, in Capitola, California, were also shown. During July and August, 50,000 of these handsome plants are in bloom at these gardens.

At this meeting, Mrs. Herbert E. Hurley was elected Branch president. Other officers elected for 1960 are: Mrs. Lester Fox, vice-president; Mrs. Frederick Kingsbury, treasurer; Mrs. Charles Scrymgeour, secretary; and Mrs. Charles Shepherd, historian.

Our Branch will prepare a sun room for specimen begonias at the Boston Spring Flower Show in March. "Modern Times" is the theme of the show. The display will occupy a space twenty-four feet long and five feet deep. Tentative plans call for a background of plexiglass panels and redwood shelving to set off the distinctive foliage of the begonias.

#### RHODE ISLAND

The Rhode Island Branch has been busy these past months, but publicity just did not get sent in as it should. We all should report every month or two, as it stimulates interest to know what is being done by other Branches.

That gracious lady, Mrs. Bernice Brilmayer, of Redding, Connecticut, was our guest speaker in January. She spoke on begonias and told us about her forthcoming begonia book.

Mrs. Geraldine Daly and Mrs. Virginia Withee exhibited a dozen new begonias, and Mrs. Withee led a group discussion about them.

It was voted that the Branch would hold its Second Annual Begonia and Houseplant Show in September at Daly's Gardens, in Coventry.

Our February meeting was especially enjoyable. Through Mrs. Jeanette Kingsbury, Northeastern Chairman of Public Relations, we extended an invitation to

all Connecticut people interested in forming a Branch in that state, to attend our meeting to become acquainted and to promote forming the new Branch. As the result of the efforts of Mrs. Kingsbury and Richard Logee, of Logee Greenhouses in Danielson, Connecticut, such a new Branch may soon be a reality.

Mrs. Geraldine Daly was speaker and gave a talk on various means of propagation of begonias. A tour of her greenhouse, which is filled with many beautiful specimens of begonia varieties, was enjoyed.

## CALENDAR

March 3—Westchester Branch will show colored slides of begonias and other shade plants. There will also be the usual informative plant study period.

Branch secretaries and publicity chairmen: If you welcome visitors at your meetings, announce your programs each month in this column. Send information to the Editor by the fifth of the month preceding month of publication; send notices for May issue before April 5.

Have you joined a Round Robin Flight? If you haven't you are missing a lot of fun. For information, contact the Round Robin Chairman:

MRS. EVELYN M. HURLEY,  
11 Woodland Road,  
Lexington, Mass.

## RENEW MEMBERSHIP EARLY

To be sure that you do not miss a single copy of THE BEGONIAN, renew your membership at least one month in advance of the expiration date shown above your name and address on the back of the magazine. Renew through your Branch or by mail to the Membership Secretary.

When you move, send your name and address to the Membership Secretary a month before the change is to be effective.

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## MINUTES OF NATIONAL BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the National Board, American Begonia Society, was called to order by President Hall at 7:35 p.m. January 25, 1960.

Pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Past President Slatter.

Aims and purposes of the society were read by Vice President Korts.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Leoti Fisher gave her report covering the period from November 19, 1959, through January 18, 1960. Report filed for audit.

President Hall called to mind that there were some offices on the Board that had not yet been filled, and that Mrs. Woods had resigned as Slide Librarian. He offered the name of Mr. Roy Joyce as Slide Librarian and Director of the Speakers' Bureau. Motion made and carried that Mr. Joyce be appointed. President Hall then stated he had appointed Mr. Jack Taylor as Parliamentarian. Motion made and carried that Mr. Taylor's appointment be confirmed.

President Hall then brought up the office of President-Elect and stated he wished to offer the name of Mrs. Lola Fahey of San Gabriel Valley Branch as President-Elect. Motion made and carried that Mrs. Fahey's appointment be confirmed. President Hall then asked Mrs. Fahey to come forward and take the Chair of President-Elect. Mrs. Fahey expressed her appreciation for the appointment.

Membership Secretary Schlantert gave his report for the two months showing 108 new, and 259 renewing members for the period.

Seed Fund Chairman Mrs. Gee not being present, her reports were read by the Secretary, showing \$200.00 remitted to the Treasurer for the two months.

Past President Slatter stated that he had been checking into the status of the Buxton Check List book account. He found 300 books had been purchased in August of 1957 at a cost of \$1397.00. This amount had been advanced by Mrs. Alva Graham with the understanding money would be refunded as books were sold. Thirty-eight books were donated to various organizations, and as of November 30, 1959, 82 books have been sold with payments to Mrs. Graham totalling \$594.42. Moved by Mr. Slatter, seconded by Miss Fisher, that three copies of the Check List be placed in the library so that we will have a record of the first printing. Motion carried. Motion made and carried that Mrs. Graham be paid for these three copies. After discussion, President Hall requested Past President Slatter, as finance chairman, to select a committee to study the matter of arranging for payment of the balance due Mrs. Graham as soon as possible.

Vice President Korts stated that she had sold several Begonia pins, both plain and with the chip diamond; that she has a good supply on hand for any members who are interested. Mrs. Korts read a letter from Prof. Richard Maatsch, Director, Institute for Decorative Plant Culture in Hannover, West Germany, giving an outline of their begonia research work and asking for a copy of the Buxton Check List. Mrs. Korts stated that she had delivered to the National Librarian two copies of the Buxton Check List that had belonged to the late Mrs. Emma Carleton and asked that the Board send one copy to Prof. Maatsch. Motion made and carried that the book be sent. Mrs. Korts, as Chairman of the judging class, stated that three lectures have been arranged, two in February and one in March; that she hopes to have the full ten lecture course arranged for soon.

Editor Peterson asked that Branches please report the addresses of their Secretaries as well as the names, as they are necessary for publication in their Branch Roster of THE BEGONIAN.

Business Manager Thieben gave his report for the two month period showing advertising amounting to \$132.75.

Mrs. Korts stated that the California National Fuchsia Society has advanced \$50.00 for expenses of the combined judging class and suggested that the Begonia Society do likewise. Motion made and carried that the \$50.00 be advanced.

Public Relations Director Mrs. Arbuckle brought up the tabled letter relative to the International Horticultural Exhibition to be held in Holland and asked the pleasure of the Board. No action was taken.

Mrs. Arbuckle reported that formation of the Knickerbocker Branch had been completed and that a charter had been prepared for both the Knickerbocker and Westchester Branches. She also reported that she had received additional names for publishing in LIVING GARDENS MAGAZINE, bringing the total to twenty-three gardens.

Research Director Mrs. Leatherman reported that she is doing some research work on the growing of tuberous begonia bulbs and would report more fully when her work is completed. She also stated that she hopes to have an item in THE BEGONIAN soon relative to preparation of begonia leaves and slips being shipped for identification purposes; that unless they are properly packed it is impossible to identify them.

Branches reporting: El Monte, Glendale, Inglewood, Long Beach Parent, Orange County, San Gabriel, Whittier, and Westchester.

President Hall stated that he had a request from Mrs. Dorothy Behrends that she be al-

lowed to use the title "Begonias Slanted Towards The Beginner" on a manuscript she has ready for publication; that she did not wish to infringe on THE BEGONIAN copyright without permission. Motion made and carried that permission be given Mrs. Behrends to use the title.

Letter from Los Angeles State and County Arboretum read, thanking the A.B.S. for indefinite loan of the original copy of the Buxton Check List.

Treasurer Leoti Fisher requested authorization by the Board for the president of the National Board to sign a card for safety deposit box and be given a key. Motion made and carried that such authorization be given.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

IRMA JANE BROWN  
Secretary

## DAFFODIL SHOW AT DESCANSO

The First Annual Daffodil Show at Descanso Gardens in La Canada, California, will be staged on March 12 and 13. Hours on Saturday will be from noon to dusk and on Sunday from 8 a.m. to dusk. Admission will be free.

Sponsors of the show will be the American Daffodil Society, the Descanso Gardens Guild, and the Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens.

Cut daffodil flowers will be displayed in plicofilm covered booths along the shady area of Descanso Gardens trails.

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All material for publication in THE BEGONIAN must be received by the Editor not later than the fifth of the month preceding month of publication.

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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. Jane Scalzo, Secy.  
1126 Keeler Ave., Berkeley 8, Calif.

## EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Friday, Members' Homes  
Miss Lenore Schroeder, Secy.  
1828 So. 7th St., Alhambra, Calif.

## FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
La Verne Community Bldg.  
2039 Third St., La Verne  
Miss A. Esther Smith, Cor. Secy.  
309 E. Foothill Blvd., La Verne, 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 Roseneau 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. W. I. Como, Secy.  
Box 220 E. RR No. 1, Dickinson, Texas

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

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

## INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m., Inglewood Women's Club  
325 North Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.  
Mrs. Ray Vollinogle, Secy.  
665 W. Athens Blvd., Los Angeles 44, Calif.

## KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Essex House  
157 W. 56th St., New York, N.Y.  
Mrs. Gertrude F. Ferris, Secy.  
415 9th Ave., New York 1, N.Y.

## LONE STAR BRANCH

3rd Monday, Members' Homes  
Mrs. C. Neal Sikkelee, Secy.  
3603 La Joya Dr., Dallas 20, 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. Leslie C. White, Secy.  
3013 Addison 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.

## ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Garden Grove Grange Hall, Century and Taft Sts.  
Garden Grove, Calif.  
Mrs. Mel Westerdahl, Secy.  
16422 Heim Ave., Orange, Calif.

## PASADENA BRANCH

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

## PHIOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Members' Homes  
Mrs. Anne W. Stiles, Secy.  
6737 Harvey Ave., Pennsauken 8, N.J.

## REDONDO BEACH AREA BRANCH

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

## RHODE ISLAND BRANCH

1st Saturday, Homes of Members  
Miss Ruth Harrington, Secy.  
372 Lloyd Ave., Providence, 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. Dora Hale, Secy.  
Route 2, Box 1350, Florin, Calif.

#### SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Hard of Hearing Hall  
Herbert and University  
Mrs. Phyllis Kansky, Secy.  
4543 36th St., San Diego 16, Calif.

#### SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

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

#### SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.,  
Los Angeles State & County Arboretum  
501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.  
Mrs. Carl Nauman, Secy.  
652 W. Bennett St., Glendora, Calif.

#### SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Youth Center, Lemon Grove, Calif.  
Mrs. Ruth Brook, 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  
Mrs. Robert Nease, Secy.  
410 South Phillips, Salina, Kansas

#### 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.  
37075 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. James O. Burdick, Sr., Secy.  
3211 Azle Ave., Fort Worth 6, Texas

#### TEXAS STATE BRANCH

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

#### WESTCHESTER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Westchester Women's  
Club,  
8020 Alverstone St.,  
Los Angeles, Calif.

#### WEST VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 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. Walter M. Cowles, Secy.  
1139 Mellon St., Pittsburgh 6, Pa.

#### WHITTIER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Palm Park Community Center, 1643 Floral Drive  
Anne L. Rose, Secy.  
1255 Ramona Dr., Whittier, Calif.

#### WILLIAM PENN BRANCH

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

## CONTENTS

Begonias Celebrate Jubilees . . . . .	51
Increasing A Stock of Tuberous Begonias . . . . .	52
Seed Sowing and Propagation . . . . .	53
Elva S. Swisher — A Tribute . . . . .	54
Hardy Northwest Ferns . . . . .	55
Popular Ferns . . . . .	56
American Seedling Begonias in England . . . . .	57
My Impression of the Begonia Greenhouse . . . . .	58
Clayton M. Kelley Seed Fund Flight . . . . .	60
Lola E. Fahey Appointed President-Elect . . . . .	59
President's Letter . . . . .	63
Leaves From Our Begonia Branches . . . . .	65

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