

The Begonian

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, INC.

The purpose of this Society shall be: to promote interest in begonias and other shade-loving plants; to encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants; to standardize the nomenclature of begonias; to gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation and culture of begonias and companion plants; to issue a bulletin which will be mailed to all members of the Society; and to bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

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MY THREE BEGONIAS

By EDNA STEWART
Tarentum, Pennsylvania

The first I want to write about is *Begonia luxurians*. After several unsuccessful attempts, finally I was able to purchase a plant in the fall of 1959. It was a very sickly plant all that winter and just lived — that was all.

There was no new growth until warm weather arrived in the spring; and then it started to grow. Since I was busy with annual and vegetable plants, it received no attention other than watering until late summer. Every time I looked at it, it was dry and always falling over.

There were then two stalks about eighteen inches high in a four-inch clay pot. I decided to repot it, and now I have two plants in five-inch pots. I also took four cuttings and rooted them under a bell jar in sand and peat. They rooted quickly and are growing nicely.

One of the large plants has had a cluster of flowers for some time. The flowers are white with many yellow anthers. They are small but very showy since their inflorescence is held erect above the plant. The other large plant did not bloom but has a stalk coming from the ground about three inches high.

Begonia luxurians is one of the most satisfactory begonias I have grown.

Although mildew ruined much of the foliage of my Christmas begonias, it did not spoil the flowers. This is my first attempt to grow them and they are the most beautiful plants I have, with showers of deep pink bloom. I filled the windows of my sitting room with them as my Christmas decorations.

Now they have been in bloom for over two months and are prettier than ever.

I purchased them as three-inch potted plants in August and transferred them to four-inch clay pots. I used ordinary potting soil with a little lime added. They require daily watering and are in windows that receive the southern sun.

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EXPERIMENTS WITH 'MAPHIL'

By VIRGINIA I. WITHEE
Coventry Centre, Rhode Island

When that gracious lady, Mrs. Marion DeCoursey of Paoli, Pennsylvania, walked into the greenhouse the other day, I was delighted. What was talked about? Begonias — what else?

Upon learning that I was making an experiment with Begonia 'Maphil' for the Rhode Island Branch, she requested earnestly that I share my experiments with *all* the members, saying, "This would be of interest to everyone."

So, here is report one.

This subject will have to be a series of articles, because an experiment with plants is not done for a week or a month — if they live, that is — but extends into several months to determine the worth of various ingredients or their combinations.

I have decided to work with other than rexes to some extent, to explore several fields of culture, to find and create interest for myself and others.

I chose Begonia 'Maphil' for the Rhizomatous experiment because 'Maphil' is co-operative, is seldom resentful when disturbed violently, and enjoys growing.

The experiment I am making is to determine the effect and growth progress of various manures used with the same basic potting mixture. No other fertilizers have been added or will be added, and no "cocktails" will be given; only pure water will be used to moisten the mixture.

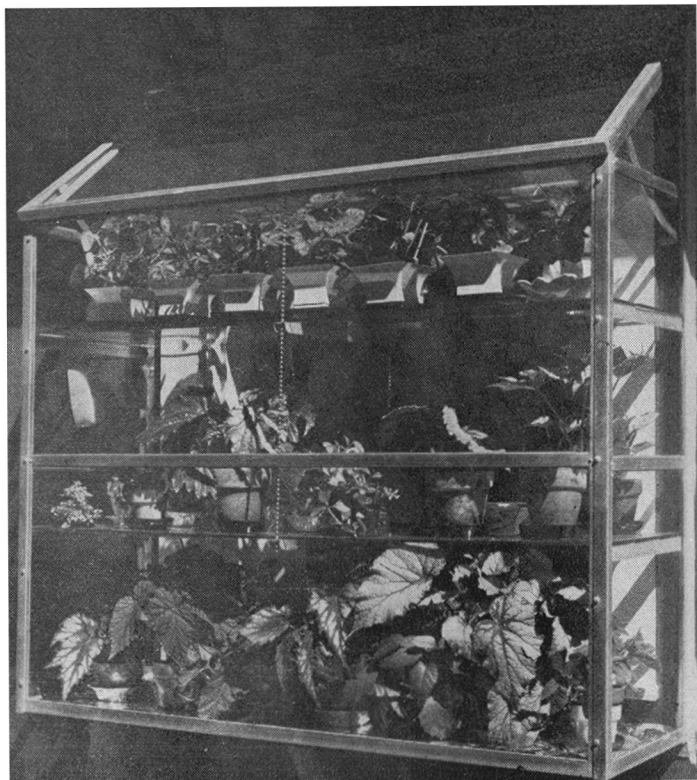
One thing to bear in mind is that this is a home experiment, under house conditions entirely. We are in our shortest days and our darkest months. These factors have a bearing on the progress and results.

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COVER PICTURE

Begonia manicata

Photo by Bernice Brilmayer



Happy begonias in an Emerson Window greenhouse. Rex Silver Sweet' is on right, bottom shelf. Rex 'Helen Teupel' immediately left of it.

Some Tender Plants Get Tough

By SONYA DORMAN
Little Neck, New York

As soon as we put up two Emerson window greenhouses, I began to experiment with various plants. The windows have a southeast exposure, which means lots of winter sun; but some shade can be obtained by putting a small plant, which doesn't want too much sunshine, behind a large plant in a big pot.

After four months, I've discovered that some of the begonias which I've been coddling can be acclimated to rough conditions. In cold winter weather, and with one electric heater (set at 72 degrees) on the bottom of one greenhouse,

the temperature ranges from 56 to 80 degrees. At 78 or 80 degrees I open the top ventilators a little.

Last winter, on my sunporch, I certainly did coddle *Begonia vellozoana*. It was on a saucer inside a bell jar, with an inch of pebbles and water under the saucer.

It summered in the garden, mostly in shade, and I rooted a leaf and got a new plant. The old plant went back into the sunporch for the winter, without the bell jar, and the new plant went into the warmer of the two window greenhouses.

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BEGONIAS 'THRUSH' and 'ROBIN'

By DOROTHY S. BEHREND
Encinitas, California

Elsie Frey of Santa Barbara is a superior hybridizer. She always has a goal in mind, whenever she applies pollen to a begonia flower, visualizing the possible results. Therefore, she creates a high percentage of excellent cultivars.

Many begonia hybridizers apply the ripe pollen to whatever variety of begonia is in bloom, especially in a limited collection. Others "just do not know."

Not so with Elsie Frey. She has a tremendous collection of begonias and plans her crossing judiciously, keeping a record of each cross.

Her upright miniature begonias are the finest to date. The late Roy Berry started the trend of producing similar types of begonias, by crossing small-leaved fibrous begonias with the rex begonias, in the early days. But Mrs. Frey has patiently created even finer results.

Two of these well distributed begonias are named for birds and although they are distinctly different, have been confused in recent literature. Begonia 'Thrush' and Begonia 'Robin'.

Begonia 'Thrush' is similar in shape to one of its parents *B. dregei*, but not in size. Its leaf surface is completely covered with tiny silver speckles, on an olive-green background. The undersides of the leaves are dark-red. The erect stalk is dark-red and appears quite succulent,

with dark-red stipules at each node, producing a smooth petiole.

Begonia 'Robin' has larger silver speckles; the leaf is larger, but similar in shape to that of *B. dregei* and the center zone of the leaf surface is a "Robin Red Breast" with sparsely placed, erect hairs. The undersides of the leaves are dark-red and the red petioles are sparsely hairy. *B. 'Robin'* has an erect rhizomatous root stalk with more closely set nodes than *B. 'Thrush'*.

These begonias each have a rest period — when they look a little dejected, but they do not go completely dormant.

As *B. dregei* is one of their parents and is a semi-tuberous begonia, it has a natural tendency to rest. The rex begonias also take a decided rest — naturally. So with this background in mind growers would do well to keep these two begonias slightly on the dry-side during their rest period. Do not discard them or "forget" them while they are resting. They are too scarce to take undue chances, possibly causing complete loss.

Photographic illustrations of Begonia 'Thrush' may be seen on p. 254, EXOTICA II (Graf). (It is not *B. 'Robin'*).

A single leaf photograph of *B. 'Robin'* may be seen on p. 17 of Logee's 60-61 catalog. (This black and white photo is

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B. 'Thrush'



B. dregei



B. 'Robin'

Friendly Garden Residents

By TRU PETERSON
Los Angeles, California

Many residents of the garden pay well for their stay, in spite of the gardener's natural aversion to most of them. Often the most repulsive creature is the most valuable, while the one with the most attractive appearance may prove to be a villain. By becoming acquainted with these visitors, the gardener can shake his fears and appreciate their true worth.

Snakes are an outstanding example. Most people feel the urge to kill every snake on sight, although the common variety of garden snake is absolutely harmless. He desires only to be left alone so he can search for insects, mice, and other creatures that are injurious to plant life. He will fight only when cornered, and even then his bite is no more serious than the average scratch.

The green snake, the grass snake, and the milk snake are common garden varieties. It is not recommended that snakes should necessarily be pets, and if you cannot overcome your fear of them, do not tolerate their presence, because their beneficial work is not sufficient to justify your constant revulsion.

Another valuable garden helper is the toad. Working at night, the toad devours an astonishing variety and quantity of material, ants, beetles, weevils, sowbugs, and cutworms. Upwards of 3,000 insects or their larvae may be destroyed by one toad in a summer month. The toad is an asset to any garden, and should be encouraged to remain.

Similar to the toad in habits, the lizard lives primarily on insects and insect larvae. It is harmless to animals and humans, and may often be cultivated as a pet.

The mole is a garden resident that is seldom seen because he lives almost entirely underground, and the raised ridges of earth pushed up from beneath by his burrowing are usually the only evidence that he is present. The mole has been unjustly blamed for much damage he does not do. Unlike the gopher, who

burrows and lives on roots and plant life, the mole feeds entirely on insects, beetles, worms, and mice, and in this way helps to eliminate garden pests. He does not bother birds or toads.

While his burrowing does result in some damage to lawns and tender plants, this is not because he is interested in the roots, but because his excavations disturb the roots, exposing them to the air and interfering with their supply of moisture.

Although he is not especially desirable as a visitor, the damage done by the mole has been greatly exaggerated. Too often the destructive work of the gopher is blamed on the mole.

Unquestionably the most valuable of all garden visitors is the bee — it is certainly a visitor rather than a resident, as it calls on many gardens in the course of a day's work. In fact, pollination of much plant life would be seriously impaired without the assistance of the bee. As it flies from flower to flower in its search for nectar, the bee picks up pollen from the stamens of one blossom and deposits it later upon the pistil of another. Most gardeners are familiar with this activity of the bee, but they do not appreciate its great importance.

Where wind, the other important pollinating agent, is restricted, the bee is especially necessary. Furthermore, the bee's transfer of pollen is direct from blossom to blossom, as compared to the less efficient broadcasting done by the wind.

The bee is not as vicious as generally supposed. If left alone, the bee seldom stings, and then only if it seems to be in danger. Certainly the slight discomfort caused by the bee is more than outweighed by the beauty of the blossoms he helps to create.

Above the activities of all these garden occupants, are the birds — to add charm and life to any garden. Their cheerful singing, their vigorous antics, and their

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BEGONIA BASICS

By BERNICE BRILMAYER
West Redding, Connecticut



WATER WHEN IT'S NEEDED

Of all the problems with begonias that perplex people who are interested enough to ask intelligent questions about them, the most worrisome seems to be the matter of watering. Everybody wants a specific schedule. Should begonias be watered every day, every other day, or once a week? And there is no such schedule.

Stated simply, begonias should be watered when they need it. And the need depends on the plant itself, the pot, the soil in the pot, the temperature and humidity it grows in, even the weather outdoors.

Most important is, of course, the plant itself. Some begonias like soil constantly moist; some don't. Some varieties must have their soil dry out completely before receiving more water; some wilt that way and may or may not revive. You have to know that particular begonia's preference; and in a plant family so widely varied, that's not always easy to find out without a certain amount of trial and error.

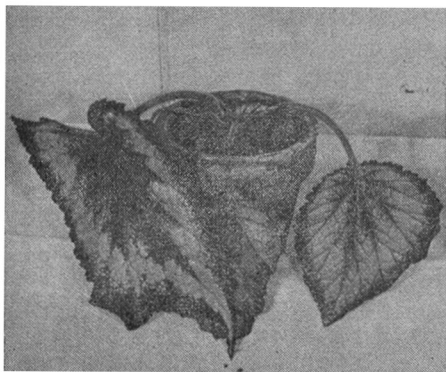
Here are some very general rules to start with, but not to follow blindly:

Semperflorens, angel wing, hairy-leaved, and large rhizomatous begonias — let the soil dry thoroughly; water thoroughly so all the soil in the pot is soaked; do not water again until dry.

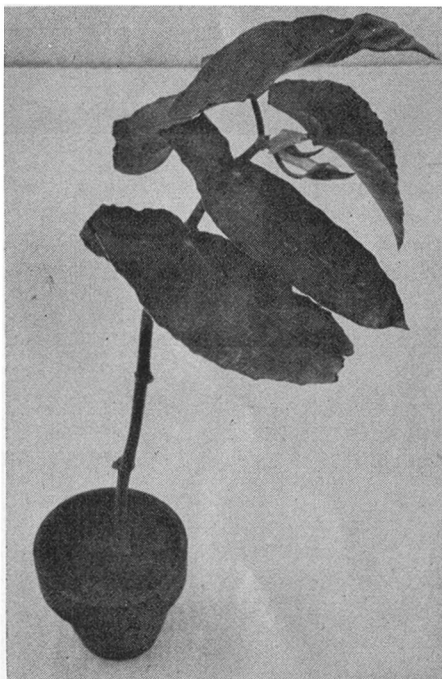
Rex begonias, and tender tropical canes (including some of the delicate rhizomatous species) — keep the soil always moist, but never soggy; do not leave pots standing in water.

On only two matters do all plants agree. A few tablespoons of water that moisten the top inch of soil in the pot do more harm than good. Water must seep down through, and the excess should drain out through the hole in the bottom of the pot. Also, any plant except an aquatic will rot and die if the roots, even any part of them, are constantly water-

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Delicate rex begonia 'Helen Lewis' wilts when the soil dries out, but will revive quickly when thoroughly soaked.



Over-watered angel wing begonias lose their lower leaves. Photos by John Kennedy

VINES NEED CARE

By NORVELL GILLESPIE
Vagabond Gardener

Planting for the proper exposure is more important with vines than with almost any other group of plants. So be sure that shade loving types are placed on the north or east side of a structure and that heat tolerant vines are placed on the south or west side. Ask your nurseryman about the vine's natural preference.

The second secret to vine care is to keep the plant in bounds. Keep it trimmed to the area you want covered. Don't procrastinate or it will get away from you. Immediately pull runners off electric wires, thin out matted areas, unsnarl tangled tendrils. Otherwise, growth will soon harden them into position.

Don't let the botanical name *Clytostoma calystegioides* discourage you from planting the violet trumpet vine!

One vine easily covers 100 square feet or more of space. Grow it in full sun or partial shade, on wire fence or stucco, brick or board walls if the vine branches are tied and trained to wire or lattice supports.

The flat bare wall of a two-story house can be made to look attractive by training and tying the vine to a lattice framework that is anchored to the house wall between the first and second-story windows. A trumpet vine covering a trellis firmly anchored in the ground between bedrooms of two close-set houses will furnish needed privacy and will deaden sound as well.

In late February or March many of the shiny green leaves drop off the vine, preparatory for April when the plant bursts forth with trumpet-shaped lilac-lavender blossoms.

During the tag end of the vigorous blooming season the vine unobtrusively finishes shedding its old covering of leaves and pushes forth new foliage for the year. A few blooms appear the rest of the year.

The vine may be slow to become established when it is first planted out. Soon

as the roots grow actively the plant grows moderately fast. Even the frosts fail to discourage it because vine stands cold down to approximately 20 degrees. The heavy frosts of the past month barely nipped the vines and only the outermost leaves showed touches of frost.

In purchasing this vine you may find it is still listed by some nurseries under its old botanical name, *Bignonia violacea*.

Growing Rhododendrons

Too much bunk has been written about growing rhododendrons in "shade or part shade," says noted specialist Howard Kerrigan of Oakland, a veteran grower for almost twenty-five years, he feels the facts should be cleared up.

Curious but true, it takes a reasonable amount of sun and light for rhododendrons to set buds. Without buds, no bloom. This is not to discourage the growing of rhododendrons in filtered sun or part sun, it is merely to point up a prime cause for failure to bloom.

If treated right, rhododendrons will reward you with the same huge trusses enjoyed in the big flower shows. If you're planning to buy rhododendrons this year, study the catalogs and learn about the new improved varieties which have come from Britain and other sources.

Rhododendrons are surface-rooted shrubs and will send fibrous roots out instead of down. You can plant accordingly. The hole does not need to be too deep, but it should have good drainage.

Rhododendrons thrive on rich, acid soil and for that reason, use leaf mold liberally in planting. Don't drown your rhododendrons, but water them liberally. And when watering, water from the top. They like wet foliage. A mulch will help prevent the shallow roots from drying out too quickly.

In fertilizing, feed with an acid type food. Three applications of a special acid plant food of liquid fertilizer during the growing season will supply all the needed food.



BEGONIA FROEBELI

CARE OF ACID PLANTS

The feeding program for azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons begins when the plants have finished blooming. The extensiveness of the home gardener's plan depends partly on whether he did a good job at planting time.

Not much can be done to remedy mistakes in site selection or failure to provide sufficient drainage. Re-planting is about the only alternative here. But if the plants are suffering from excessive alkalinity there are two suitable combatants: agricultural sulphur and a combination of ferrous sulphate and magnesium sulphate.

Gardeners who are uncertain of the conditions which are adversely affecting their evergreens should take a few discolored leaves to their local nurseryman. These professional gardeners can tell whether the problem is soil deficiency or an onslaught of pests. They can also recommend a cure.

Ordinarily the spring feeding is a simple matter. Major fertilizer companies market special camellia foods and foods suitable for other acid-loving plants. Some general chemical fertilizers may also be quite suitable. Following the package directions exactly insures excellent results.

Monthly applications of fertilizer are recommended until flower buds become noticeable in the fall.

TASTY SNAILS PROSPER

When the French vineyardist imported European snails to California back in those placid days in the 1850's, little did he realize what he was doing. He thought he was helping out brother gourmets by bringing to California the tasty snails which had graced so many Parisian restaurants.

The snails prospered in this fellow's vineyard in Santa Clara County, but some escaped from this Pandora's box out into the rest of the country. Ever since, home gardeners have been fighting off the attacks of snails.

This spring, as always, snails and slugs seem to have combined forces to eat the

young bedding plants and other tender growth. Hiding by day as they do, and coming out to eat only in the safety of the night, they are not considered easy to kill. Slugs — and there are many types ranging from the thin little slimy ones a half-inch long feasting on orchids, on up to the big Redwood slugs from Northern California — are responsible for a lot of damage.

That is why it is good news to learn that there is a dust which lures snails and slugs to a swift death. This dust can be sprinkled lightly on the ground around choice plant morsels and on the foliage. It can be used as any multi-purpose type of insect dust, or as a wettable powder spray.

The pest's first contact is usually enough, for it means a sure finish.

ARE YOU UPSET?

A few months ago I received a letter from a business man with whom I am proud to be associated. These words mean so much to me that I feel they should be passed on to you:

"Don't let the little things upset you. The job is to sift the important from the unimportant. Often we allow ourselves to be upset by small things we should despise and forget. Perhaps someone we helped has proven ungrateful — someone we believed to be a friend has spoken ill of us — some reward we thought we deserved has been denied us. We feel such disappointment so strongly that often we can no longer work or sleep.

"But isn't that absurd? Here we are on this earth with only a few more years to live, and we lose many irreplaceable hours brooding over grievances that in a few years' time will be forgotten by us and by everybody.

"No, let us devote our life to worthwhile actions and feelings, to great thoughts, real affections, and enduring undertakings.

"Life is too short to be little."

H. I. McKelvey
Long Beach, California.

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

No. 1—*B. cathayana*, Hemsley—

China. Growth erect, shrubby, 40-60 cm. high. Stems succulent, round, reddish brown, covered with soft white hairs. Leaves asymmetric, hanging down, about 20 x 12 cm. asymmetric cordate more or less lobed and dentate, ending in a point, velvety, dark, olive-green, with a light green area which becomes white toward the center, deep purple, velvety veins, covered with soft hairs, mainly at the margin and beneath. The lower side of the leaf is very red with reticulate venation. Petiole 7—12 cm. long, round, succulent, light green, and densely covered with soft white hairs. Inflorescence axillary, not long, densely covered with soft hairs, bending over, orange-vermillion twelve to fifteen flowers. Flowers relatively large. *Begonia cathayana*, Hemsley, is a beautiful and rare species with very valuable leaves, and should be in every collection. It is indeed an aristocratic plant. \$1.50 per pkt.

Comment: *B. cathayana*, Hemsley, requires hot-house conditions and is not recommended for room or window sill culture. Seeds were difficult to find, but due to the fact that the seed fund has friends in various parts of the world, we are able to find rare seeds for A.B.S. members. The task sometimes looks a little hopeless, but when we find something worth while, all the frustrations are forgotten.

No. 2—*B. Experimental mixture*—

Heterosis semperflorens from a trial garden in Holland. New varieties include B. 'Red and Pink Comet' and others not known in the United States. Interesting to try. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 3—*B. Dominican species*—

Syn. B. 'Peanut Brittle'. Small, glossy, rather crinkly leaves, fleshy with lots of growth close to the base. Free flowering in clusters of cupped flowers, like tiny water lilies, white with deep pink centers. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 4—*B. cubensis*—

Cuba. 'Holly-leaf' begonia. Fibrous

plant with small, crinkled, toothed, glossy green leaves with bronzed tips. White flowers in winter. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 5—*B. Costa Rican hybrids*—

The following description is from a member in Kansas who purchased seed from the seed fund about two years ago. She writes as follows: "These are the sturdiest plants I have ever had for outdoor use. In spite of all the wind, rain, and even one small hail storm. I never saw a broken branch on any of the plants. They have shiny, dark olive-green, rather crinkly leaves, underside reddish, red stems, and shaded flesh-pink flowers. The new pink tinted, pale green seed pods are as showy as the flowers." 25 cents per pkt.

No. 6—*B. bartonea*—

Syn. B. 'Winter Jewel'. An unidentified species from Puerto Rico. However, neither name has been found in literature. It is small, bushy, up to eighteen inches high, and sparsely hairy. Leaves ovate-pointed, toothed, rich deep green and, if grown in strong light, overlaid with a glistening jewel-like quality, margins red. Flowers bright pink in many flowered short clusters. Ornamental and easily grown. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 7—*B. schulziana*—

Syn. B. 'Mexican Rockery.' Haiti. Small species from the rocky ravines of Haiti. Low and spreading. Rhizomes slender and creeping; leaves broad-ovate to three inches, pointedly five to seven lobed to more than half the depth, white scurfy. Flowers pink in erect inflorescences. An interesting miniature begonia. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 8—*B. 'Lecco'*—

Medium tall, erect, branched. Leaves ovate-pointed, olive-green, silver spotted, silver splashed at the tip, red beneath. Flowers large, deep pink, in drooping, short clusters. Suggestive of B. 'Geneva' but not as tall. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 9—*B. Choice cane types*—

B. 'Superba'; B. 'Perfectiflora'; B.

'Minter's odora'; B. 'Annabelle'; and many others. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 10—B. Rhizomatous, canes, and semperflorens mixed—

From a member in Prescott, Arizona. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 11—B. evansiana alba—

China. To a foot or more in height. Stems are erect, and bulbils form in the leaf axils. If grown in the open ground, the bulbils drop to the ground and new plants will appear in the spring. Being hardy, *B. evansiana* will come up year after year in very cold climates with no further protection than autumn leaves. The young plants will require protection until well established. Leaves are medium sized, to six inches long, and slightly more than half as wide at the base, narrowing toward the pointed tip, and are green with purple veining underneath. The white variety offered here is not a myth as someone has suggested, but is indeed a reality. We have them growing in our garden. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 12—B. 'Cinderella'—

New type of fibrous rooted begonia (semperflorens). Bright, rose-pink flowers. Not all will come true. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 13—B. 'Tausendschon'—

Pink. Very durable, weather resistant, dwarf semperflorens. Ideal for outdoor bedding or borders. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 14—B. 'Mme Helene Harms'—

Syn. B. 'Helen Harms.' Multiflora with soft, canary yellow flowers. Still time to grow for summer bedding or pot culture. 25 cents per pkt.

GREENHOUSE PLANTS

Nemaranthus longipes—

Gesneriaceae. Rare and beautiful species from Brazil. Grows similar to *Columnea* and has brilliant scarlet flowers on very long petioles. Not common here and a rare addition to the gesneriad collection. 50 cents per pkt.

Gloxinia—

Double mixed. From one of the originators of this type. Sixty percent doubles. 50 cents per pkt.

**Chrysothemis
friedrichsthaliana—**

Gesneriaceae. Guatemala. Erect, tuberous-rooted, succulent plant with waxy, green, hairy, lance-shaped, crenate leaves to one foot long. Axillary flower clusters; the short orange corolla with dark-striped lobes peeking out of large greenish yellow calyx. 50 cents per pkt.

Streptocarpus caulescens—

Tropical East Africa. Succulent branching plant with light green, fleshy stem covered with white hair. Small, blunt cordate leaves, with slender axillary stalks bearing panicles of small one-half inch slipper flowers with spreading petals, beautiful violet with white throat. 50 cents per pkt.

Streptocarpus saxorum—

Tanganyika. Small, bushy plant from the Usambara mountains, with fleshy, pubescent, elliptic, one-inch leaves in crowded whorls. Flowers with white tube and oblique limb of large, spreading, pale lilac lobes, on long, thin stems, blooming over many months. 35 cents per pkt.

Streptocarpus rexii—

South Africa. 'Cape Primrose.' Small, fibrous-rooted, stemless plant with long, narrow, quilted, pubescent leaves in rosette hugging the ground; with several flower stalks bearing trumpets of pale lavender, lined with purple in the throat. 25 cents per pkt.

Rechsteineria warszawiczii—

Gesneriaceae. Guatemala. Erect, stout stems to five feet tall, with small, rough-hairy, downy, elliptic leaves, and axillary, inflated tubular flowers, orange tinting into red. 25 cents per pkt.

Rechsteineria macropoda—

Gesneriaceae. South Brazil. Tuberous species with unbranched stems bearing opposite, rather thin, rugose, velvety, bright green leaves. Small flowers in clusters, the slender tubes vermilion-red with the lower lobes marked brown-red. 25 cents per pkt.

Columnea banksii—

(*Oerstediana* x *schiedeania*) Gesneriaceae. Trailing plant as showy as *oerstediana*, with small, waxy, ovate leaves, red beneath, with downy, vermilion-orange,

slender, bilabiate flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

Columnnea gloriosa—

Gesneriaceae. Costa Rica. Epiphytic trailer with rooting and pendulous stems, small oblong leaves covered with brown-red hairs. Large, solitary, bilabiate, fiery-red flowers to three inches long, with wide open yellow throat, and broad, helmet-like upper lip. Good in baskets. 25 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, the bilabiate corolla three times longer, vermilion-red with yellow throat. 25 cents per pkt.

Gloxinia perennis—

Gesneriaceae. (maculata) Brazil. Fleshy, spotted stem to eighteen inches high, on scaly rhizome but no tuber, bearing large downy, bell-shaped flowers, purplish blue with darker throat. Basal leaves heart-shaped, crenate, waxy above and reddish beneath. 25 cents per pkt.

Asarina erubescens—

'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 corolla with pale throat spotted rose. Blooms in November. 25 cents per pkt.

Bromeliad hybrids—

Mixed. 25 cents per pkt.

Billbergia zebrina—

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

Peperoma maculosa—

Santa Domingo. Ornamental, fleshy species with long pendant, narrow-lanceolate leaves to seven inches long, waxy bluish gray-green, with silvery green to ivory ribs. Petioles prettily spotted red-purple; spikes to one foot tall. 25 cents per pkt.

OTHER GENERA

Clematis vitalba—

'The Old Man's Beard' of British hedges, rampant climber, white flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

Cassia corymoosa—

Sun loving shrub with pinnate foliage of three pairs of leathery leaflets, and showy clusters of nearly regular, rather cupped flowers of golden yellow. 25 cents per pkt.

Kalanchoe pinnata—

(Bryophyllum) 'Air plant.' So called because of the young plantlets produced from the scalloped leaves even if broken off. Erect plant with oval green leaves tinged red. Corolla reddish. 25 cents per pkt.

Ficus henneana—

Seeds were collected in North Queensland but no description came with them. 25 cents per pkt.

Correction—

In the February issue of THE BEGONIAN, the prices of the following were omitted: B. 'Helena,' 25 cents per pkt. and B. 'Sutherlandia major,' 25 cents per pkt.

We wish to thank everyone who responded to our request for seed. We wish to keep this department active and your contributions will help to accomplish this. You are helping others to enjoy a wonderful hobby and, at the same time, you are doing yourself a favor. Please keep the seed coming.

MRS. FLORENCE GEE

Seed Fund Administrator

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AT NURSERIES AND GARDEN STORES

BASICS . . .

(Continued from Page 55)

logged. So, if you grow begonias in decorative containers that don't have drainage holes in the bottom, make sure no water stands inside.

The size and kind of pot the begonia is growing in, and the kind of soil, also affect frequency of watering. In small pots, the soil dries out faster than in large ones; in clay pots, it dries more quickly than in plastic or glazed containers. Loose, porous soil can dry out in a hurry; hard, packed soil holds moisture longer.

Temperature and humidity have a combined effect on need for water. In warm, dry air, you would water more often; when the air is cool and moist, the soil does not dry out so soon. And here's where the weather gets into the act. On a dark, sunless, rainy or snowy day, plants require less water; when the sun is bright and the air is crisp, they need more.

If all this seems complicated, take heart. There are two very simple ways to know exactly how often to water begonias. First, know which types grow dryish, which need constant moisture. Then, feel the soil with your fingers. If it feels dry, doesn't stick to your fingers, it's time to water. If it feels moist and leaves particles on your finger tips, it's not time for most types. The ring of the pot when you tap it may tell you, too — but not the color of the soil; that can be misleading.

So far, I've found no substitute for getting one finger slightly dirty — and simply feeling the soil in each pot to see how dry it is.

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BELLFLOWER, CALIF.

We feature African Violets and Begonias

NO MAIL ORDERS

TENDER PLANTS . . .

(Continued from Page 52)

It's between larger pots so that it gets morning sun and afternoon shade, and there it grows splendidly, despite the temperature changes.

Another begonia in the window greenhouse which seems to be quite happy is 'Orange Rubra', which has never stopped blossoming since last fall, and which is on the cooler side, with geraniums and cyclamen. The warmer side, with an electric heater, is home to 'Pinafore,' 'Elite,' 'Argentea-Guttata,' 'Kenworthyii,' and a pot of cuttings from an unidentified canestem with red flowers. Those cuttings, standing on the top shelf and getting at least six hours of sun — and plenty of cold — are now in blossom. Cinderella begonias, which were raised from seed from the Society's Seed Fund, do especially well, producing magnificent and never-ending blossoms.

This is the first winter that I've had some begonias in blossom all the time, and there isn't a touch of fungus or mildew on any of the plants in the window greenhouses.

THRUSH AND ROBIN . . .

(Continued from Page 53)

difficult to ascertain whether it is 'Thrush' or 'Robin,' but appears to have a red center zone).

Begonia dregei may be seen pictured on p. 208, *BEGONIA* (Bohmig); opposite p. 166, *BEGONIAS FOR AMERICAN HOMES AND GARDENS* (Krauss); p. 264 *EXOTICA II* (Graf); opposite p. 4, *BEGONIAS AND HOW TO GROW THEM* (Buxton).

COPY DEADLINE

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.

PATRONIZE BEGONIAN ADVERTISERS

PAY DIRT

When a potted plant refuses to respond to normal care and attention, usually it is because the plant is root-bound.

The most positive method of ascertaining whether this condition exists is to knock the root system out of the container and examine the outside of the earth ball. If many roots are found to be on the outside, it is evident that the plant would benefit by being "potted on," that is, transferred to a pot one size larger than the one in which it has been growing.

When repotting, it is a good idea to place the plant in the new pot a good half-inch deeper than it was in the old one. This gives added assurance that the plant will get the full benefit from the food value in the new soil and will have ample opportunity for root expansion.

According to Pat Antonelli, famed begonia grower of Santa Cruz, California, care with watering is necessary during the first few weeks the tuberous begonia tubers have been shifted into pots. Always keep the foliage well sprinkled and keep the soil surfaces moist only until the growth is well developed and heavier watering is justified.

If you overwater in the beginning, the soil will become sour and the plants will make a sickly yellowish growth, and buds will fall off before blooming.

Ground cover is a term that can be applied to any living plant, but, through common usage, it means the many low-growing plants which are lawn substitutes or cover for problem areas.

It's time to think of the plants in their more functional sense — as living mulch. They grow so low they slow down evaporation water loss from the soil, stop chemical change, and keep roots of nearby plants cool.

Another ground cover advantage is the minimum of maintenance. The work of planting is paid for many times by less weeding and care under shrubs and trees. Banks and slopes are controlled by soil holding roots.

AFRICAN VIOLET SHOW

"Rainbow of Violets" will be the theme of the third annual African Violet Show presented by the Glendale Chapter of the African Violet Society on March 24 and 25, at the Glendale Y.W.C.A., located at the corner of Glendale Avenue and Lexington Drive, Glendale, California.

Displays will include many varieties of single and double blossoms, miniatures, species, arrangements, and educational exhibits. Also featured will be a sale of plants and supplies and a snack bar.

The show will be open from 2 to 10 p.m. on Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday. Admission will be 35 cents.

EXPERIMENTS . . .

(Continued from Page 51)

For the basic potting medium I used equal parts of old rotted sawdust, rotted oak stump, compost, and sand, and mixed them thoroughly. Then, separating this mixture into five equal quantities, I added a different kind of manure to each quantity, measuring the same amount of manure in each. Each of the five mixes was tagged to show the kind of manure used.

The five kinds of manure were: fresh rabbit manure, fresh hen manure, fresh cow manure, old cow manure, and a combination of old cow manure and old hen manure. Then, as there was some of each left over, I mixed them all together for a sixth mix.

Into each of these, I set a division of Begonia 'Maphil.' The divisions were quite uniform in size.

They were set on December 4, 1960, and at the time this is written there isn't much further to report, except that, so far, none has collapsed.

But there is always a tomorrow to wake up to.

Begonias belong to one of the most interesting and colorful families of the plant world. There are at least 1200 species and thousands of hybrids. No wonder beginners welcome a starter list that includes easy-to-grow kinds.

Judging Class Starts New Series

A new series of lectures on shade plant judging will begin Friday, March 3, at the South Gate City Auditorium, 4900 Southern Avenue, South Gate, California. Registration will be at 7:30 p.m. and the lecture will start promptly at 8 p.m.

Sponsored jointly by the American Begonia Society and the California National Fuchsia Society, the shade plant judging class will include lectures on judging fuchsias, begonias, ferns, and other shade plants. An accredited judge's certificate will be issued to any person who attends all class sessions and passes a final examination.

The first lecture in this series, on March 3, will be "Judging Fuchsias" by William Meyn, horticulturist, of Whittier, Calif.

Camellia Show At Descanso

The crowning event of this year's camellia season at Descanso Gardens will be its Seventh Annual Camellia Show on Saturday and Sunday, March 11 and 12.

Co-sponsored by the Los Angeles Camellia Council, Ltd. and the Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanical Gardens, the show will constitute the world's largest combined display of cut flowers and blooms on the plants.

Six camellia societies of the Southland have joined to form the Los Angeles Camellia Council, which is the world's largest affiliation of camellia fanciers, according to John Threlkeld, Descanso Superintendent.

Hours of the show will be noon to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, and from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday. The display will be free to the public. Descanso Gardens is located at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada, California.

Orchids at Eastertime Display

"Orchids at Eastertime," featuring species of orchids from all parts of the world, will be on display March 18 and 19 at the Alondra Park Recreation Hall, Redondo Beach Boulevard, Gardena, California.

The show will be sponsored by the South Bay Orchid Society and the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department. There will be display areas, individual plant entries, and arrangements, either competitive or non-competitive.

"We welcome participation by anyone who may wish to exhibit orchids. Hobbyists should start planning their entries now," said Loren Paulsohn, society president. "Plants which might be just ordinary to you will bring gasps of admiration from the visitors, many of whom have never seen so many or so varied orchids before."

Any society or grower who is interested in display space should communicate with the show director, C. P. Corliss, 1242 South Gertruda Avenue, Redondo Beach, California.

The show will be open to the public from 2 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, March 18, and from noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday, March 19. There will be no admission charge or entry fee.

Daffodil Show At Descanso

Sponsored by the American Daffodil Society and the Descanso Gardens Guild, Inc., the Second Annual Daffodil Show will be presented at Descanso Gardens on Saturday and Sunday, March 18 and 19.

The display will be open to the public, free of charge, from noon to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, and from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday. Exhibitors must have entries in place by 10 a.m. on Saturday.

Begonias Slanted Toward The Beginner

By Dorothy S. Behrends
Published by Wildcrafters

A complete handbook on propagation, culture, pronunciation, and new begonia descriptions. Well illustrated.

\$2.00 from the author
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Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

EAST BAY

Our new officers were installed at the January meeting. These officers have begun to sketch an outline for a new year filled with interesting programs, which will include some of the most noteworthy speakers around this area. We hope to create new interest within our group and to obtain new members.

We regret that our former vice-president, Charles Congdon, will be unable to continue full time attendance because of his health and other heavy commitments. He has given us a wonderful year of programs, including his own interesting lectures.

We extend the thanks of all our members to these who have served so well during the past year: Mrs. Jane Scalzo, our former secretary; Mrs. Myrtle May, our hostess; Floyd C. Jensen, our treasurer, who continues in this office; Mary and Lena Rufener for their pioneer work in starting the dish garden project for hospitalized veterans, and Mrs. Jean Jensen for taking over the duties as chairman of this project.

ELSA FORT

Betty Johnson, our retiring president, was hostess for our first meeting in 1961.

After the holidays everyone was in the mood for a chat, but Marian Jones, newly elected president, had other ideas, and we were soon ready for the afternoon's business, which proved to be just as enjoyable.

We completed our program for the new year. It calls for two field trips, causing us to wish that all the ice and snow were already gone.

Arianna Paynter led a review on *Begonia ulmifolia*, giving us a few points which our notes did not show. Then we judged three specimens of *B. vellozoana*, all grown by Elsa Fort. Two of our group took the A.B.S. judging course, but we just used the point system for judging begonias, printed on page 131 of the June, 1960, issue of THE BEGONIAN.

HOUSTON, TEXAS

Members met in the home of Mrs. B. A. Russell on December 9 for a Christmas party and exchange of gifts — begonia plants.

The flower show committee reported on plans for the Spring Show, "Blossom Time Houston," which is to be held April 8 and 9 at the Garden Center. The show is to be presented by member clubs of the Houston Federation of Garden Clubs.

The January meeting was held at the Garden Center, with Mrs. J. L. Linkenhager presiding. Mrs. Polly Cooper, our president, and Mrs. B. A. Russell were reported ill.

Mrs. M. G. Cerruti gave the program on growing rhizomatous begonias.

GLENDALE

Our 1961 officers are: Elsie Joyce, president; Leona Cooper, vice-president; Jimmie McElroy, recording secretary; Isabelle Compton, corresponding secretary; Frank Sobas, treasurer; Mabel Anderson, national director; Mrs. Clarence Hall, members' representative; and past-president, Alan Radcliffe.

INGLEWOOD

At the January meeting we were honored to have as our guest Mrs. Edna Korts, national president, who was introduced by our president, Pearl Parker. Mrs. Korts gave us some highly appreciated advice on several points regarding the best ways to handle some of our methods of operation.

Jean Kerlin was the speaker. Being an accredited judge, begonia grower, and lecturer, she was capable of highlighting every phase of begonia growing, from planting the seeds to pruning old plants, and including how to debug plants of any age. She brought many beautiful plants from the famous gardens of Rudolf Ziesenhenné and of Susie Zug.

PHILOBEGONIA

The January meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Fred Reuter, one of our

dedicated and most enthusiastic growers of begonias.

Our program chairman, Elsa Fort, well known in the East as an authority and hybridizer of begonias, gave us the first part of an interesting series on "Ferns," the first of a study program of three lectures.

SACRAMENTO

At the January meeting, Herbert Fitch showed pictures taken when he attended the convention and begonia show in Los Angeles last September.

New officers for 1961 are: C. E. Crouch, president; Mrs. Dora Hale, vice-president; Edward R. Reuter, secretary; and Ed Schnause, treasurer.

SAN FRANCISCO

January was past-president Irvin Kramer night. How good it was for the new members to meet the man who steered our group in 1947 and to learn a bit about him. The older members who already knew Irv enjoyed looking back.

Our annual Good Resolutions Party was held, with begonia tubers as prizes. Carl Meyer, Hyacinth Smith, Art Mann, and Irvin Kramer gave us the winter procedure we should be following to care for our tubers, and showed us just how to clean the tubers by digging or cutting out the rot and curing them.

This was the first month for our new arrangement display. We have a new trophy, the Emma O'Neill Trophy, which will be won by a member of our group at the end of the year for a new series of arrangements we have started.

Our plant table was resplendent with potted plants, ferns, colorful coleus plants, and arrangements.

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY

At our January meeting, plans were made to put in an exhibit of about 500 square feet at the California Spring Garden and Home Show to be held in Oakland on April 22 to 30.

Plans were also made to display begonias and other shade loving plants at the Alameda County Fair at Pleasanton in June and July.

It was decided to hold a rummage sale in August. So it looks like this will be

a busy year for our group.

J. E. Galatolo, representing an oil company, was our guest speaker. He showed a film, "Wild Flowers of the West," which showed, by time exposure, the opening of many wild flowers.

SANTA BARBARA

Rudolf Ziesenhenné, charter past president of the Santa Barbara Branch, was speaker at the first meeting of 1961 on January 12. He described the construction of an economical hot bed which could be adapted to small or large installations. Use of brooder-house heating elements, including thermostats, had proved successful over a period of twenty years, he reported.

Edwin Rockwell, veteran landscape gardener, addressed the group on azaleas and camellias at the February meeting, describing varieties successfully grown in the locality, and explaining the necessary steps to insure the rewarding blooms.

1961 Branch officers are: Mrs. Ethel Arnold, president; Mrs. Rolland J. Brines, vice-president; Mrs. Hilda Gundel, secretary; Hubert T. Jolly, treasurer; and Mrs. Otto Schwerdtfeger, Branch representative to the National Board.

THREE BEGONIAS . . .

(Continued from Page 51)

They are the most delightful Christmas flower I have ever grown.

Somehow, I had the impression that Begonia 'Iron Cross' (*masoniana*) was difficult to grow. Nevertheless I purchased my first plant in 1959. It just grew. Mildew did not affect it although it was right among the other begonias. It has never lost a leaf or been the least bit of trouble.

This fall the rhizome had reached the edge of the four-inch pot and was butted tight against it. I cut the rhizome in half, and then cut one half into four parts. Now they are well rooted and have made new leaves and are ready for potting. Cuttings were rooted in peat and sand over an electric heating cable, but not covered.

The original plant has several new leaves. I am well pleased with it.

USE YOUR CALENDAR

By BEE OLSON
Inglewood, California

The column called "Calendar," which appears in *THE BEGONIAN* each month, is *important* to you. Under this heading are notices of coming meetings of Branches, stating dates, names of speakers, their topics, special programs, parties — everything of interest to readers who might like to attend.

We are urged again and again to visit our Branches so that we can all become acquainted with others in the organization. But without information about programs, not many folks will go visiting. However, visitors will travel many miles to hear a speaker they particularly want to hear, or to listen to a discussion on a problem, or special instructions on something they are trying at the moment. To do this, they must know in advance what to expect.

Only three Branches and their meetings are listed in *THE BEGONIAN* for January; only two Branches in February. Another flower organization has seventeen Branch meetings listed in its publication.

It behooves all members to give this matter a little thought. If each of you who reads this would urge your publicity chairman or secretary to send in the notice of your meeting and as much information as possible before the fifth of each month — perhaps real results would show very soon. If more members and guests turn out for a meeting, you have a better meeting.

Give everyone a chance to come to your meetings — to visit your Branch! Send your notices to the Editor — NOW!

CALENDAR

March 2—Westchester Branch. Loren Paulsohn, landscaper, will show his three-dimensional slides of step-by-step planning and planting a home garden and patio.

March 3—Judging Class. First lecture in new series, 8 p.m. at South Gate City Auditorium.

March 9—Inglewood Branch. Guest speaker will be Mable Corwin, past-president of the San Gabriel Valley Branch, prize-winning begonia grower, and orchid enthusiast. Her subject will be "Prize Begonia Growing."

March 9—Orange County Branch. Neil Campbell will speak on "European Gardens."

March 11-12—Camellia Show. Descanso Gardens.

March 18-19—Orchid Show. Alondra Park Recreation Hall, Redondo Beach Blvd., Gardena, California.

March 18-19—Daffodil Show. Descanso Gardens.

March 22—Glendale Branch. Speaker will be Mrs. Cora Lee Walters of Temple City, California. Her subject, "Cymbidiums and Ferns." This lady is a well known grower of these plants and glad to tell you her growing methods.

March 24-25—African Violet Show. Y.W.C.A., Glendale, California.

April 6—Westchester Branch. Dorothy Behrends will speak on "Begonias Slanted Toward Beginners."



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MINUTES OF NATIONAL BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the National Board of the American Begonia Society was called to order at 7:45 p.m., January 23, 1961, by President Edna Korts.

Pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Mrs. Gertrude White.

Aims and purposes of the society were read by President-Elect George Schlanert.

Twenty officers, chairmen and representatives responded to roll call and one came in later.

Minutes of the November, 1960, meeting were read and approved.

President Korts reported attending the meetings of the Inglewood and San Gabriel Valley Branches and the Foothill Branch, where she assisted them by installing officers when the installing officer could not be present.

Mr. F. L. Mathewson of Montchanin, Delaware, accepted the appointment as Eastern Public Relations Director.

President Korts has been in correspondence with Mrs. Ballard, Eastern Judging School Chairman. Mrs. Brilmayer, Eastern Editor, and Mrs. Ballard are working together to set up a course of lectures for the east on begonia judging.

Mrs. Korts read a letter from the Knickerbocker Branch regarding the New York International Flower Show. They expect to make an exhibit at the Show of a collection of begonias and requested a cultural bulletin which might be sold for ten or fifteen cents. Discussion followed regarding a bulletin suitable for all areas and a more complete cultural bulletin than the brochure enclosed with new memberships. It was moved by George Schlanert, seconded by Leona Cooper, that 1500 copies of the four-page cultural bulletin, with necessary corrections, be printed for our use in shows here and in the east. Also that membership brochures be sent. Motion carried.

A letter of thanks from George Spaulding of the Arboretum was received for the contribution the American Begonia Society made toward the success of the Horticultural Congress in November.

George Schlanert, President-Elect, reported attending the December meeting of the Orange County Branch where he installed officers and gave the program. As advertising manager, he reported submitting to the Treasurer \$71.95, accounts receivable \$109.75 and expenses \$4.00.

Past President Clarence Hall read a letter from the *Flower and Garden Magazine* regarding advertising. Mr. Hall moved, seconded by Bert Slatter, that a trial ad be placed in this magazine for one month. Motion carried.

Mr. Hall is in receipt of a letter from the San Francisco Branch outlining proposals regarding the American Begonia Society Show and Convention and also the question of Society finances. This letter will be carefully studied and considered.

Vice-President A. Roy Joyce reported attending the meetings of three Branches. As Slide Librarian he has had a request from the Bessie Raymond Buxton Branch for 200 slides for a program.

Treasurer Leona Cooper gave her very excellent report. The report will be filed for audit.

Membership Secretary Dorothea Waddington gave the following report for the two month period: New members 138, renewals 302, receipts \$1128.72, expenses \$56.33. A request was received for a membership receipt book. Since these receipt books are standard and can be purchased in any stationery store, it was suggested that triplicate receipt book, Moore Rediform #8K808, be used by all Membership Secretaries and purchased by the Branches to save additional mailing expense. Mrs. Waddington is compiling Branch lists of delinquent members which will be available to the respective Branches if desired.

Seed Fund Chairman Florence Gee not being present, her report was read by the Treasurer. December \$80.00, January \$65.00. Expenses; December \$26.67, January \$21.60. Advertising \$20.00. The ad in the *Flow Grower* magazine was \$20.00 instead of the \$15.00 al-

Buxton Check List of Begonias

The Buxton Check List of Begonias is a "must" for hybridizers to check on previously registered names, and is a valuable reference book for identification and origin.

Send check or money order for \$6.00 (in California add 24 cents sales tax) to:

MRS. LUCY A. SAULT, *Librarian*
26938 DAPPLEGRAY LANE
ROLLING HILLS, CALIF.

lowed. The additional \$5.00 being authorized by the President.

Public Relations Chairman Ethel Arbuckle reported receiving a letter from the Librarian of the Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, requesting information regarding the American Begonia Society. A letter was received from Flossie Kelly, sister of Clayton M. Kelly for whom the seed fund is named, offering a valuable book for the library. This book, *Johnson's Garden Dictionary*, was given to Mrs. Lucy Sault for the library. Letters of thanks will be sent by Mrs. Arbuckle and Mrs. Korts.

Mr. Bert Slatter, Show Chairman, made a request for plants to be used in the begonia exhibit in the World Flower and Garden Show at the Pan-Pacific Auditorium in Los Angeles, February 24 to March 5. It was moved by Clarence Hall, seconded by Mabel Anderson, that \$50.00 be allowed Mr. Slatter from the show fund for expenses. Motion carried.

Mrs. Lucy Sault, Librarian, reported the following for the period of November, December and January: Balance \$323.85. Receipts \$45.25, Expenses \$312.61 (which includes \$173.85 turned over to the National Board), Balance \$56.49. New supply of *Exoticas* on hand at the same price.

Mrs. Bert Slatter was welcomed on the Board as Parliamentarian.

Mr. Roy Joyce reported that the Judging School would be resumed with the first lecture being March 3 at the South Gate Auditorium, Mr. William Meyn on Fuchsias. This year's course will probably have a series of six lectures.

A letter was received regarding payment due for 1961 on an insurance policy which will be investigated.

Branches reporting: Glendale, Hollywood, Inglewood, Long Beach Parent Chapter, Orange County, Redondo Beach, San Gabriel, Ventura and Whittier.

Meeting adjourned 9:57 p.m.

MARGARET B. TAYLOR
Secretary

FRIENDLY RESIDENTS . . .

(Continued from Page 54)

bright colors are a constant inspiration. Born thespians, their posing, preening, strutting, courting, and mating offer a continuous drama of magnetic interest to the observant gardener.

Of equal importance are the material benefits received when the birds decide to nest in or near the garden. The birds are most numerous and active just at the time when harmful insects are most damaging, and as insects constitute a large part of their food supply, their assistance in pest control is of inestimable value. They also consume large quantities of weed seeds when winds threaten to spread them.

While birds may sometimes help themselves to fruit or berries, what they take is paid for many times. To the flower grower, birds give only friendly assistance and cheerful encouragement.

If you enjoy your garden — and you are not a true gardener unless you do — you will welcome these friends of yours, the snake, the toad, the lizard, the mole, the bee, and the myriads of birds that make your colorful spot a part of call. You will study them and get to know them. Then you will realize more fully how much they contribute to your enjoyment, and you will be happy with your friendly garden residents.

From *The Fuchsia Fan*

Palos Verdes

**Begonia
Farm**

4024 Pacific Coast Hi-way, Waleria, Calif.

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

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Branch Directory

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

BRITISH BRANCH

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BUXTON, BESSIE RAYMOND BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members
Mrs. Percy I. Merry, Secy.
109 Brookside Road, Needham, Mass.

DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Members' Residences
Mrs. M. F. Scribner Corr. Secy.
1422 Marfa, Dallas 16, 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
Mrs. Isabel Compton, Secy.
2339 Mayberry St., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

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

GRAY'S HARBOR BRANCH

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

GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

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

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

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

HOUSTON, TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m.
Garden Center, 1500 Herman Drive
Mrs. E. H. Claggett, Secy.
4415 Austin St., Houston, Texas

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 8:00 p.m.
Los Amigos Club, Leta, 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. Bee Olson, Secy.
13715 Cordary St., Hawthorne, Calif.

KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Library, Horticultural Society of N.Y.
157 West 58th St., New York
Mrs. Gertrude 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.
Machinists Hall
728 Elm St., 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. R. H. Hyatt, Secy.
6812 Hunter St., Raytown 33, 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.

PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Members' Homes
Mrs. J. Perry Long, Secy.
6532 E. Cedar Ave., Merchantville, 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
 Constance D. Bower, Cor. Secy.
 2413 — K St., San Diego 2, 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, Barbour Hall
 2717 University Ave., San Diego
 Mrs. Mildred Sima, Secy.
 7655 Central Ave., Lemon Grove, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
 Garden Center, Golden Gate Park
 9th Ave. & Lincoln Way
 Mrs. Doris Howie, Secy.
 1407-42nd Ave., San Francisco 22, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
 Los Angeles State & County Arboretum
 501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
 Ruth Epplay, Secy.
 4858 Willard St., Rosemead, 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.
 Mrs. Hilda Gundel, Secy.
 1414 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
 E. Weaver,
 1325 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, Texas

WESTCHESTER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Westchester Women's
 Club,
 8020 Alverstone St.,
 Los Angeles, Calif.
 Mrs. Ruth Burr, Secy.
 8335 Fordham Rd., Los Angeles 45, Calif.

WEST VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Orcutt Playground
 Clubhouse
 21816 Lanark St., Canoga Park, Calif.
 Joseph Janatka, Secy.
 18641 Casandra, Tarzana, 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. H. Rowland Timms, Secy.
 Willow Lane, Wallingford, Pa.

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