

# *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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# WINTER JEWEL – DAINTY MINIATURE

By BELVA NELSON KUSLER  
*Frederic, Wisconsin*

On my first reading of Bessie Buxton's book on begonias, I jotted down a list of those that sounded as though they would be beautiful as well as good for raising in the house. This was way back in 1946, and since that time I've succeeded in getting most of those on the list. There was one that I spent years trying to find and finally got it about three years ago. It is "Winter Jewel," a species whose correct name is *bartonea*.

Bessie Buxton describes it thus, ". . . . . the plant is a most attractive miniature. Low-growing and shrubby, its dark green leaves, one by two inches, on pale pink stems, have depressed veins that make the leaf look like dark velvet. The upper side has scattered bristly white hairs, the under side, lighter green, is quite smooth and red netted-veined. The tiny flowers are rose-pink, in clusters, on two-inch stems." That sounds good, doesn't it?

Well, it's not spectacular, nor showy, but it is dainty, precious-looking, and winsome; I guess it could safely be called "cute." It is very branched, making a compact little tree, with glistening, toothed, and pointed leaves. It is a free bloomer in the winter season. The tiny pink flowers are a nice contrast to the small matte green leaves. It roots readily from cuttings, of which there are many available.

My first plant grew to about a foot in height and was liberally showered with blossoms. I was happy finally to have the chance to raise it and thus see it after all those years of searching for it.

But my happiness was short-lived. One morning when I came to water the plants, 'Winter Jewel' was shockingly damaged. Most of the young growth hung wilted as though it had been frozen. I was really alarmed, as

I had read of the wilt that had struck beautiful collections in California and wiped them out, and had hoped I'd never suffer such a scourge. But if it wasn't wilt, what could it be? No other plant was affected. I thought of throwing it outdoors to freeze in the snow to avoid contamination of other plants, but figured then that I might never know what caused the trouble. I isolated it, put a cellophane-covered lamp-shade frame over it, and watched carefully for signs of the trouble in any of the other plants; but it proved to be only 'Winter Jewel' that was suffering.

It put out new growth, came into bloom again, and once more a lovely plant. It was still under the cellophane protector, isolated in the laundry windows. And then one day, here was a repetition of the trouble — all the growth hanging limp except the heavy stems.

When summer came I put it outdoors in the glass-lath-house and it again put out new growth. It did not collapse at any time outdoors in spite of some high temperatures, and some nights nearly down to freezing before it was brought indoors in the fall. But then the same round began again. I had made cuttings and rooted them and the same thing afflicted the small plants. I kept them isolated, trying various treatments: fungicides, insecticides, etc.

Finally, along came Bernice Brilmayer's book, *All About Begonias*,

(Continued on Page 79)

## COVER PICTURE

Begonia 'Winter Jewel' (*bartonea*), as a lovely miniature.

— Photo by Vera Dillard of Tropical Paradise Greenhouse, Overland Park, Kansas.

# Begonia Morellii Irmischer or Thwaitesii?

By MARY PUCKETT

Houston, Texas

According to material found in past issues of *The Begonian*, this little jewel is one of the "disappearingest" begonias in cultivation. In an article written by Bessie Buxton in the July, 1943, issue, it created "quite a stir in the Begonia world from 1853 to 1879. The plant was sent to Kew in 1852 by Mr. Thwaites, superintendent of the botanic gardens at Peradenia, Ceylon." The article then describes *thwaitesii* as having large, highly colored coppery leaves, a mixture of green and red-purple, redder beneath, with white blotches on the upper side. Both sides are thickly set with deep purple velvety hairs. The flowers are fairly large, white tinged with pink. This article says, "such a begonia would be valuable for hybridizing, if we could only get it."

Then, in the Seed Fund, December, 1958, appeared, "B. Thwaitesii(?)." Mrs. Gee wrote that the seeds were from Madagascar, and attempts to find any trace of this plant in America were unsuccessful; "it seems to have disappeared from cultivation. If this is the true B. Thwaitesii, we hope it has been rediscovered, as it is very desirable for itself and for hybridizing purposes."

I ordered these seeds from the Seed Fund, and grew a number of nice plants for distribution to the non-seed-growing members of our Branch. From the surviving plants, we have learned (the hard way, as usual) that this plant will not grow under greenhouse conditions, and that it will grow, at least for us, only in our homes, under fluorescent lights, with constant humidity and controlled temperatures.

The few of us who have this begonia agree that it is one of the most rewarding of our *smaller* begonias. (It never has attained the size described in *The Begonian*.) It grows ap-

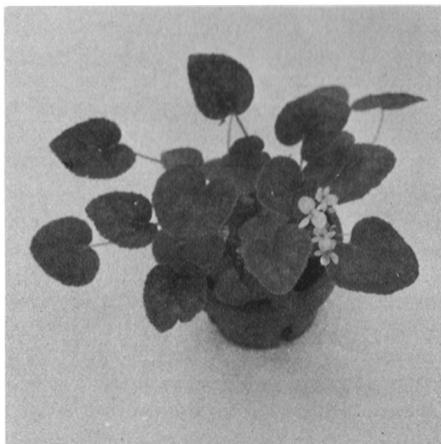
parently from an underground rhizome, which allows it to put up new leaves from the soil line, and from a really *tiny* size, each leaf or so is accompanied by a little delicate blossom.

It has remained one of our treasured plants, tagged as *thwaitesii*, until the March, 1962, issue of *The Begonian*, and now we learn that *B. thwaitesii* is a species from tropical Asia, and should now be called *B. morellii Irmischer*, and that those of us who received seed from the Seed Fund in 1958 can so re-label our plants.

Under any name, this begonia is a delight and joy forever, as its leaves strike easily; one member is even growing a little plant from a leaf that bent over and touched the rooting medium, making not only a plant from the leaf-stem, but the spot where the leaf-edge was touching.

It would be interesting to know whether other Branches planted these seeds, and whether their resulting plants have grown larger according

(Continued on Page 71)



*B. thwaitesii* (?), shown in a four-inch pot, is a seedling grown from December, 1958, Seed Fund offering. This picture was taken about a year ago.

# THE THRILL OF HYBRIDIZING

By RUTH AND PERCY MERRY

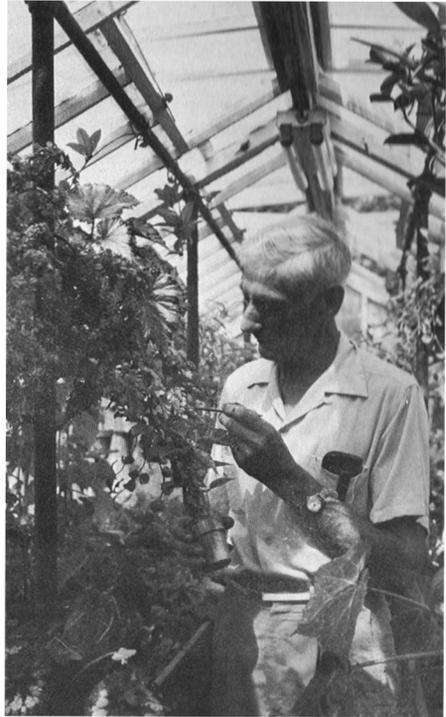
Needham, Massachusetts

In the growth and study of a plant genus, the most fascinating phase is hybridizing to try to produce something new that is better than any existing species or cultivar. In the genus *BEGONIA* there are so many species that are beautiful as they are, that there is not the same urge to hybridize that there is in other plant genera. But if hybridizing had not been done with the species *rex cultorum*, we would never have had all the beautiful *rex* cultivars; and, of course, there are now almost countless fine varieties.

First, the difference between a species, a variety, a cultivar, and a mutant, a difference which is still vague in many minds, should be clarified. The genus *BEGONIA* is composed of many species, all bearing the characteristics of the genus, but having distinct traits of their own. That is, the plant will still be monoecious and have assymetrical leaves, but, like the species *venosa*, the quality and shape of the leaf is all its own. Self-pollinizing of the species will result in seedlings exactly like the parent.

Pollinizing two different species, a species with a hybrid, or two different hybrids or the same hybrid will result in plants all different. The difference may be slight, but it is still there. These plants are called hybrids. A hybrid that has been selected to be named, propagated, registered, and eventually distributed, becomes a "cultivar." Exact duplicates of a cultivar can be grown only from divisions or from leaves. A cultivar may also be a mutant or sport, as it is more commonly called. If the sport is grown and introduced, it then becomes a cultivar. The best example of this is 'Templini,' a mutant of *phyllomaniaca*.

Only the selected and registered plants of any cross should be kept; cruel as it may seem to the novice,



Percy Merry enjoys the thrill of hybridizing begonias.

—Photograph copyrighted 1963 by Better Homes & Gardens.

all the rest should be thrown on the compost pile. Much confusion has arisen in the past because hybrids of the same cross very similar to the registered plant have been kept and eventually distributed under the name of the registered cultivar. The term Cultivar is preferred to the word Variety, although the difference is minute.

In the case of lilies (*lilium*) all the crosses are kept and introduced as a "strain," probably because all lilies are so beautiful and choice as well as because of the time it takes to build up a stock; but in most other cases — iris, *hemerocallis*, and *gladiolus* for

(Continued on Page 76)

# Tuberous Begonias are Easy to Grow

By ANTONELLI BROTHERS  
Santa Cruz, California

## ENVIRONMENT

Choosing the proper environment for begonias is essential. This is particularly true in regard to light conditions. Begonias do best in partial shade or filtered sunlight. Often this is the key to success. Exposure to excess sunlight results in burned foliage and flowers. At the other extreme, too much shade results in lush foliage and few, if any, flowers.

*The more sunlight a begonia receives without burning, the larger and more abundant the flowers will be.*

Some protection from wind is essential. Begonias are quite brittle and sometimes are damaged by strong winds. Light breezes are beneficial.

As begonias are tender, they should be started indoors and set out after all danger of frost is past in the springtime. The first light frosts of fall and winter will not harm the tubers. However, in cold climates, such as the eastern United States, it is advisable to lift the plants with some soil and move them to a frost-free place before a freeze sets in. In this way, loss of tubers by freezing will be avoided.

## SOIL PREPARATION

The most important factor to be considered in preparing any soil for tuberous begonias is perfect drainage. Begonias will grow in any good soil that drains well.

For starting tubers, we recommend well decayed leaf mold. If leaf mold is not readily available in your area, a mixture of one-half peat moss and one-half coarse sand is a satisfactory starting medium.

For potting, we recommend a mixture of approximately four parts well decayed leaf mold, one part garden loam, and one part coarse sand. If decayed leaf mold is not available, any good potting mixture will suffice. The

mixture should contain humus, and it should be well drained.

For outdoor beds, it is a simple matter to prepare the average garden soil for tuberous begonias. If you have a heavy clay-type soil or a soil which drains poorly, add leaf mold, sand, or both. If you have a very light or sandy soil, add leaf mold, peat moss, or some other organic materials. If manure is used, it should be mixed into the soil well in advance of planting time. Fresh manure is not advisable. Large amounts of peat moss are not recommended except in very sandy soils or when used with sand in the mixture.

## STARTING CALIFORNIA-GROWN BEGONIA TUBERS

It is very important that a sprout appears before the tuber is planted. If your tubers seem slow to sprout, move them from the cool storage area to a warm, dark place. When sprouts appear, the tubers are ready to be planted.

*Step 1* — Fill a nursery flat or similar shallow container with the planting medium. Well rotted leaf mold is recommended, but there are many satisfactory substitutes. The planting medium should be loose and well drained, and it should *not* contain fertilizer or manure.

*Step 2* — Space the sprouted tubers evenly in the flat — allowing four to six inches between tubers for root development. Bury the tubers — it is essential to good root development that the tubers are covered completely, as the roots develop from the tops and sides of the tubers.

*Step 3* — Water carefully. The flat should be lightly but thoroughly watered so that the medium is uniformly moist. Do not over-water. Do not allow the planting medium to become wet and soggy at any time.

*Step 4* — Place the planted flat in a warm place where it will receive filtered sunlight. A temperature of 60 to 70 degrees is ideal. The flat should not be watered again until the surface of the soil begins to show dryness. As the plants develop, they will need water more often and in increasing amounts.

Do not fertilize tubers until after transplanting them into pots or beds. It is important to keep the tubers in the flat until the roots are well developed. A good root system will insure a finer plant. When the plants have made four or five inches of growth and the root mass is well developed, they should be transplanted. Do not allow the plants to become crowded or spindling in the flat.

A larger tuber requires an eight-inch or nine-inch pot. Smaller tubers and seedlings need seven-inch or eight-inch pots.

Place a piece of broken crockery over the opening in the bottom of the pot. This prevents the soil from plugging the hole, thereby insuring perfect drainage. Fill the pot one-third to one-half full with potting mixture. We use a mix consisting of four parts well decayed leaf mold, one part loam, and one part sand. Into this amount of soil, mix two tablespoons of Full Bloom fertilizer or fish meal. Add about one inch of the potting mixture. Carefully remove the plant from the starting flat. Place it in the pot and fill in with pot mix around the roots, being sure to add enough soil to cover the root mass lightly.

After potting, the plants should be watered thoroughly but carefully. Then, do not water again until the surface of the soil shows dryness.

### OUTDOOR BEDS

The most important factor in planting begonias in outdoor beds or large planter boxes is perfect drainage. The level of the beds should be even with or slightly higher than the surrounding areas.

The most desirably soil is fairly loose, yet it has sufficient body and

nutrients to allow normal development of the plants. (See previous section on soil preparation.) Moisten the soil thoroughly several days before planting.

Mix a tablespoon of Full Bloom fertilizer or fish meal into the soil under the roots. Barely cover this with soil and set the plant in its place. Use care to see that the soil is not left mounded around the stalk of the plant.

When setting plants out in beds, each plant should be placed so that the points of the leaves face the front of the bed, as most of the flowers will face this direction.

Water the entire planting bed thoroughly but carefully. Use care not to let the soil become soggy. The next waterings should not be until the surface of the soil starts to dry out. As the plants develop, the watering will become more frequent. An oft-repeated rule is: *Water only when the surface of the soil shows dryness.*

For a longer blooming season with larger and more beautiful flowers, fertilize your begonias regularly with fish fertilizer at two-week intervals.

### PINCHING

To attain large flowers on the standard or upright type, all shoots should be removed except one. This is accomplished by breaking off, at any time, the growth that develops from the tuber.

On the hanging basket variety started from tubers, all the sprouts should be kept and the crown should be pinched from the first main sprouts when they attain four or five inches of growth. This pinching induces the development of the lateral growth and the growth of new sprouts. Lateral sprouts should not be pinched until just before or soon after potting.

Do not pinch the plants of the seedling hanging basket type the first year, as this does not allow time for flower production and does not allow the tuber to develop properly.

For a full basket of seedlings, it is best to put from two to four plants

in each basket, depending on the size of the container.

#### HOW TO WATER

Watering is one of the most important factors in growing begonias successfully. One who masters this problem should not have any trouble growing fancy begonias.

Begonias do require a little more water than the average garden plant, but the most common mistake made in growing begonias is over-watering.

Water carefully — do not allow the soil to become excessively dry and, on the other hand, do not allow the soil to become soggy at any time. Water only when the surface of the soil begins to show dryness.

The amount of water applied depends on the size of the plant, the size of the container, the type of soil, weather conditions, etc.

The frequency of watering depends on the same factors. For these reasons it is difficult to set down any hard and fast rule on how to water.

Water well — *but water only when the surface of the soil is starting to dry out.*

#### FERTILIZING

Although begonias seem to exist without any special application of fertilizer, the response they give to a regular fertilizing program is amazing and, to say the least, quite rewarding. The plants will be larger and more attractive, the flowers will be larger and more beautiful, and the blooming season in most cases will be longer. A regular fertilizing program is especially important to the successful growing of begonias in pots or hanging baskets where the nutrients in the soil are depleted rapidly.

Good results are reported from almost any fertilizer. Low analysis organic fertilizers, acid or neutral in reaction are best.

We use and recommend 5-3-2 fish fertilizer at the rate of two tablespoons to a gallon of water — applied every two weeks. Apply the diluted solution in the same quantity and in

place of regular watering. Start this twice-monthly schedule when plants are transplanted to pots or garden, and continue throughout the blooming season or until mid-September.

A healthy, well fertilized begonia has large, fleshy, dark green leaves.

#### SOWING SEED

Tuberous begonia seed is sown in January and February. Best germination results are from seed sown February 15 to March 1.

The planting medium and containers should be sterilized with steam or soil fumigant to prevent growth of fungus or weeds.

Use shallow flats or seed pan with ample allowance for drainage. Fill to a depth of one-half inch with moist, well decayed leaf mold, and level. Using a piece of ordinary window screen, sprinkle a thin layer of decayed leaf mold evenly over the surface. Moisten this thoroughly with a light spray of sterilized water. Broadcast the seed, taking care to spread it evenly over the flat to avoid crowding. Dusting the seed with Rootone will make it easier to see on the dark leaf mold.

Water carefully with a light spray of sterilized water. Do not cover the seed. Cover the flats with sheets of glass and darken them with paper until germination. Fog lightly with sterilized water during the fourth day.

Seed will germinate in six to ten days at a constant temperature of 65 to 75 degrees. As soon as the seed shows small white specks, the paper should be removed. Do not remove the glass until after the tiny plants appear. Use extreme care in watching that the surface of the soil does not dry out at this stage of growth. Two or three days later small plants will show.

The glass should be propped open gradually and then removed. Water carefully as needed. Sterilized water should be used until the third leaf shows on the small plants. The plants may be watered with fresh water for

*(Continued on Page 78)*



This secluded garden in the World Flower and Garden Show in Los Angeles captured the Sweepstakes for the Westchester Branch of the A.B.S. Charming visitors are Diane Midori, left, and Kyoko Uchiyama. —Photo by Culver City Star News.

## Westchester Branch Wins Sweepstakes

By RUBY MAE BUDD

The Westchester Branch of the American Begonia Society won the Sweepstakes Award for the best garden club display in the World Flower and Garden Show which was held at the Pan Pacific Auditorium in Los Angeles February 22 to March 3.

Titled "Garden Hide-away," the garden setting carried out the show's theme, "Pacific Pathways — Gardens of the Orient." Focal point was a bright red coolie-hat-shaped canopy suspended from a bamboo pole over a round tea table set with a Japanese tea service. Around the table were gaily colored cushions offering comfort in Japanese style. Surrounding all this was a lush garden of begonias,

azaleas, ferns, and bamboo.

Besides the trophy that was awarded, the Branch received a prize of \$300.

Irene Nuss, Branch President, credits this first prize to the hours of planning and work by John Thieben, show chairman, and his assistants, Ruth Pease, Walter Pease, Dick Pridham, Maurice Allen, La Neta Myears, Ruby Budd, Francis Jean, Ruth Burr, and others.

## Louisiana Rose Festival May 4 and 5

"The Rose — International Queen of Flowers" will be the theme of the second Louisiana Festival of Roses in the colorful setting of Hodges Gardens, near Many, Louisiana, on May 4 and 5.

# Bumblin' Along With

May T. Drew of Narberth, Pennsylvania, asks: The William Penn Branch of A.B.S. is undertaking the study of *B. dichroa* and its hybrids. Search of *The Begonian* and the Check List has revealed the names of nearly fifty hybrids, of which only about half are listed in any catalogs at hand. Can you, or any of your readers, tell us where we may obtain the following?

- B. 'Aunt Mary'
- B. 'Bob-o-link'
- B. 'Cernachroa'
- B. 'Connie Bower'
- B. 'Delight'
- B. 'Dickie'
- B. 'Dishasta'
- B. 'Dutchman's Breeches'
- B. 'Evelyn Grant'
- B. 'Flaustine'
- B. 'Flamingo'
- B. 'Lily of the Valley'
- B. 'Ludic'
- B. 'Melisse'
- B. 'Nadine'
- B. 'Orange Supreme'
- B. Oriole'
- B. 'Pink Supreme'
- B. 'Richard the First'
- B. 'Richard the Second'
- B. 'Richard the Third'
- B. 'Yvonne'

Dear Mrs. Drew: A list of these hybrids was passed out to each representative of an A.B.S. Branch at the last National Board meeting, with the request that Branches help to locate these hybrids. Any information sent to me will be forwarded to you immediately. We are hopeful that we may be able to send cuttings from some of the above-named in the near future.

Note to all Branches of the A.B.S.: Here is an opportunity to help a fel-

low Branch. Please check with members at your next meeting and try to locate these plants for the William Penn Branch. Information or cuttings may be sent direct to Mrs. May T. Drew, 635 Moreno Road, Narberth, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Drew has assured me that this information will find its way into *The Begonian* for all of us to enjoy.

E. C. of Columbus, Georgia, asks: How can I get rid of earth worms in pots? Is limed water safe?

Dear Mrs. E. C.: Yes, limed water is safe — one-half teaspoonful lime to one quart of water. However, another suggestion is to drop some permanganate of potash crystals in water, using just enough to color the water a deep pink. This brings the worms up at once. A preventive you can use when potting your plants is naphthalene flakes or crushed moth-balls in your drainage material.

Mrs. C. F. of Miles, Michigan, asks: I am trying to get some information about an old-fashioned begonia. My 89 year old aunt remembers one called "dewdrop begonia" with waxy, white, drooping flowers that hung in clusters and with fairly dark green foliage. If you know of this plant, I would appreciate your telling me where I can purchase one for her.

Dear Mrs. C. F.: "Dewdrop Begonia" is listed by several authorities as a variety of *B. dregei* (from Africa) called *B. macbethi*. It is semi-tuberous and goes dormant during the winter months. None of the catalogs that I have access to at the present time list this plant. However, perhaps another member will come to our aid and advise us where such a plant may be purchased. Also, there is a possibility that still another begonia

bore the name "Dewdrop Begonia" back in the old days.

*K. S. of Burrton, Kansas, asks:* During the middle and latter months of winter my Angel Wing begonia falls apart at the seams. First the leaves drop, then the stem falls apart at the joints. Why? I have it setting in a south window on a tray of moist oyster shells. The rest of the flowers bloom and are doing well. Please help.

*Dear K. S.:* There are several reasons why the leaves would drop from your Angel Wing begonia. If the soil is too heavy and kept too moist, this would cause dropping of the leaves and eventually gradual loss of the plant. Since your plant is indoors, temperature change may play a big part. Since the plant is in a south window where it gets daytime sun and warmth along with the warmth of the house, and then cold at night through the window and probably lowered temperature in the room, this could be your trouble. Where winters are severe, it is suggested that plants be kept several inches away from the window panes, and that plastic or newspapers be put over the window to keep them from getting too cold.

*Mrs. T. R. of Kansas asks:* Are B. 'Calla lily' and B. 'Charm' the same plant?

*Dear Mrs. T. R.:* No, they are not. B. 'Calla lily' is a mutation or sport of a semperfloren which probably originated in New England. The basal leaves are pure green, those about white spotted, and top leaves pure white in the shape of a calla lily bloom. Flowers are red or pink, single or double.

B. 'Charm' is a chance seedling of B. 'Calla lily.' The leaves are leopard-spotted, a more creamy white, and pale yellow spots. It is a fast grower and must be pinched back continually. Flowers are single and pink in color.

Here is a refreshing letter from Mrs. E.W. of the Louisiana Capital Branch, in Baton Rouge, regarding hybridizers and their willingness to pass along

their information:

"Here's one hybridizer who is never too busy to explain to any and all about the techniques of "mixing 'em up." I have a limited knowledge of genes, chromosomes, and such, but completely lose my head when I stand with a male begonia bloom dripping pollen. As a result of this, I now have about seventy lovely "rexes" obtained when I crossed Rex 'Lelia' and B. 'Logee's Elaine' (seed parent). Every seedling is almost 100 per cent rex in appearance, except for the stems and leaf petioles. These are not tender, but rather tough and woody.

"Some are cane-stemmed rexes, others will be miniatures, all are in combinations of lavender, green and silver. I have one lovely one which is like molten silver with a green eye. Another has silver leaves twisted like 'Dancing Girl.' Fun! I'll say — not scientific — but fun and easy.

Thanks so very much for your letter. You have me drooling — and there is not the slightest doubt in my mind that all members will be drooling when they read your letter. Why don't you write up an article for us? There have been many requests by members and it would be greatly appreciated.

For an answer to your question, write to:

Bee Olson  
13715 Cordary Avenue  
Hawthorne, California

## B. MORELLII . .

(Continued from Page 64)

to the descriptions in *The Begonian*, and if the leaf color is deeper — ours are grey-green with silvery spots, with the under side of the leaf having a faint coloration, but nothing of the deep color Mrs. Gee uses in describing it.

It would also be interesting to know whether the *B. thwaitesii* described in 1943 and 1958 as having such vivid coloring is *B. morelii Irmsher*, and why our plants in Houston, Texas, are so different in coloring and size.

# Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

## No. 1 — *B. fibergensis* —

Fairly new and rare species from Brazil. Infact, it is so new we have been unable to furnish an adequate description. According to our information, this begonia requires a great amount of warmth and humidity. Seeds are scarce — we suggest a second choice when ordering. \$1.00 per pkt.

## No. 2 — *B. epipsila* —

Brazil. Thick, polished,, leathery, green leaves, coated with red-brown wool underneath. Good basket; droops attractively. Showy white flowers. Winner of the President's Challenge Trophy for the best begonia in the 1961 show. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 3 — *B. sunderbruchi* —

(Variety of *heracleifolia*.) Favorite "star" begonia. Nine-fingered leaves are large, bronzy-green, strikingly marked with light green veins and splotches, mottled red and green beneath. Each finger is pointed and scalloped on the edge. Collar of red hairs at joining of stem and leaf. Pink flowers on tall stems. Plants are too small to tell if all will come true. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 4 — *B. 'Dearest Mae'* —

Syn. *B. odorata alba*. Round, glossy foliage, with large bunches of delicately scented white flowers continuously produced. One of the best of this type. Makes a good, bushy, compact plant. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 5 — *B. 'Di-Anna'* —

(*dichroa* x 'Annie Laurie'.) Free-flowering, heavily spotted cane type plant with salmon-orange flowers. Popular variety. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 6 — *B. Cuban species* —

Holly-leaved begonia. Small, glossy, dark green leaves, sickle-shaped. White flowers, in pairs, cover plant in winter. Bushy habit. 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 7 — *B. 'Leslie Lynn'* —

(*B. 'Lexington'* x *B. dayi*.) This is a cross made by Doris Motschman

several years ago. Most begonia growers know that seed of hybrids do not come true, so a few orphans may appear. This is a strong, sturdy, rhizomatous plant, with satiny, star-shaped leaves. 35 cents per pkt.

## No. 8 — *B. Rhizomatous, mixed* —

We have no way of knowing what this package of seeds contains as the grower gave no information. Price 25 cents per pkt.

Once in a while we receive a letter that intrigues us, and we would like to pass on to you a paragraph of this one from England:

"Recently I sent to you for a package of rhizomatous begonia seed — and would like to tell you of my success. I had just over one hundred plants with leaves all shapes and sizes and colors from near-black to pale green, and one not unlike *B. haageana scharffi*. Of course, lack of space limits me and what I shall do with them. I do not know. Also would like to tell you of seed I received from India, supposedly from *B. delicosa* but not a bit like the seed from the A.B.S. Seed Fund. The India seed I think would try the patience of a saint, as they would form into little corms after a year's growth and sometimes dry up, and after about a year, start growing again. When I am lucky enough to get them to flower, they are fragrant. I am now waiting for the plants from *B. delicosa* you sent to flower. Even the tiniest of the rhizomatous plants have bloomed and I have a basket of them on my table at present."

When I receive a letter like this, somehow I forget the worries of the Seed Fund.

## No. 9 — *B. 'Winter Fairytale'* —

Teicher's original 'Wintermarchen.' Heterosis semperflorens from Germany. Fast growing and rich blossoming. Very decorative. It is floriferous and the cooler the plant is kept, the greater the number of flowers and

the bigger the flowers. It can be cut back easily and is resistant to fungus. Seeding in summer will produce nice winter-blooming plants. 35 cents per pkt.

**No. 10 — B. 'Dornroeschen' —**

'Sleeping Beauty.' Heterosis semperflorens from Germany. Dark rose, free-flowering blooms are not easily damaged by rain. Does well under trees and in massed plantings in borders. It was granted the Highly Commended Award by the Council of The Royal Horticultural Society, after trials at Wisley in 1955. 35 cents per pkt.

The three India species that were offered in *The Begonian* in February are still available. They are: *B. megertera*, *B. picta*, and *B. xanthina*. 50 cents per pkt.

A new supply of *B. cathayana* seed from Michael Kartuz is also available. \$1.00 per pkt.

Descriptions of all have appeared several times in *The Begonian*.

**FERN SPORES FROM GERMANY**

***Pteris argyrea* —**

Polypodiaceae. Small growing. 35 cents per pkt.

***Pteris cretica alexandrae* —**

Montrose crests at the tips of the broad, leathery, light green leaves, banded white in the center. 35 cents per pkt.

***Pteris cretica mayii* —**

An elegant variety with some of the variegated character of *albo-lineata*, the white band on each leaflet forming a pleasing contrast with the bright green edge, but the plant is smaller. 35 cents per pkt.

***Pteris cretica albo-lineata* —**

Very pretty, useful, variegated form of low habit, with small fronds with broad band of creamy white down the center of each leaflet. 35 cents per pkt.

Ferns are enjoying new popularity as house plants. You will find the above well adapted to the indoors.

**OTHER GENERA**

***Fuchsia procumbens* —**

New Zealand. Trailing plant use-

ful for hanging baskets. Flowers in leaf axils; calyx orange-purple. 25 cents per pkt.

***Dodonaea viscosa 'purpurea'* —**

New Zealand. Handsome shrub with attractive, long, narrow leaves that turn dark maroon in winter. 25 cents per pkt.

***Puya floccosa* —**

Bromeliaceae. 25 cents per pkt.

**Bromeliad —**

No identity available. Leaves narrow, sharply toothed, recurving, urn-shaped or vase-shaped at base. Inflorescence bright red, turning black as seeds set. 25 cents per pkt.

***Clivia nobilis* —**

South Africa. Inflorescence with many drooping, narrow, funnel-shaped, erect flowers, salmon-red with green tips. Two seeds for 25 cents.

***Solanum macranthum* —**

Also called potato vine. Seeds were sent from the Philippine Island. There are two vines that we know as potato vines, and we do not know positively the proper name for the one offered here. The word *macranthum* means large-flowers. Perhaps this is the variety with large, lavender, trumpet flowers, pencilled inside with purple. 25 cents per pkt.

***Aristolochia elegans* —**

Also called calico flower. Vine, but makes a good tub plant with its exotic blooms hanging from slender stems, swaying and turning in the wind. Dark purple with white markings inside, yellowish green outside, and about three inches across. 25 cents per pkt.

**Comment —**

Since I moved to Roseville, an A. B.S. member, Norman Owens, has been testing seed for us. We have many seedlings that he has brought down from his greenhouse in Oroville, California, including *B. imperialis*, *cathayana*, *vellozoana*, Cuban species, *incarnata* and several hybrids as well as other genera.

We expect to install a Sylvania Gro-Lux unit shortly and see if we can stimulate faster growth as well as

try out seed. We have some misgivings, however, about the outcome, as my Siamese cat is attracted to all forms of warmth and we strongly suspect that the seedlings will be pushed aside and he will be found basking in the warmth of the Gro-Lux lamps—but who can resist the charms of a Siamese cat? We are anxious to try out this unit as so much has been said about the fantastic results obtained from Gro-Lux lamps.

We have been enjoying the beauties of spring in and around Roseville. At present the huge specimen trees of *Acacia baileyana*, with their feathery, blue-gray foliage and fluffy yellow flowers, are at their best. *Liriodendron tulipifera*, or tulip tree, is magnificent with its tulip-shaped wine-red blooms. We see them from very small trees to the very largest, covered with their gorgeous blooms and minus foliage. They bloom when very small.

Then there are the flowering peach, plums, and crabapple, as well as dozens of smaller shrubs such as camellia, spirea, and forsythia — also the ever-popular much-loved lilac in shades of white and lilac-blue. In rural areas we see acres of almonds and various types of fruit trees, all swathed in clouds of pink and white blossoms. It is indeed a beautiful season, not only to enjoy the beauties of nature but to get our own garden in order for the warm, sunny days ahead.

We wish to thank you for responding so generously to our close-out sale in February. It was hard work but appreciated.

Mrs. Florence Gee  
*Seed Fund Administrator*  
234 Birch Street  
Roseville, California

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## Index for 1962

The index last month was incorrectly titled for 1963 instead of 1962. To correct this error, cut out the figure 1962 as shown above and paste it over the 1963.

## THE SPEEDY WAY

By TERRY OMSTED

Well — did you plant those seeds last month the way I showed you? They should be up and ready to transplant by now. Mine are.

Wash some flats or clay seed pans. I prefer the seed pans. They could be about eight inches wide and two inches deep.

Sift some leaf mold so all the large leaves and sticks are out of it. Mix it half and half with peat moss and dampen it well. Pat it down in the pans about an inch or more in depth.

Take two orange sticks, one with a pointed end and one with a flat end. With a small knife make a V-shaped notch in the end of the stick that is flat.

Use the stick with the pointed end to loosen the tiny seedlings, and the V-notched stick to pick them up. With the pointed stick, make tiny holes in the planting mix, put your seedlings in these holes, and cover the roots. Be very gentle in covering them and don't place them any deeper than they were growing before.

Spray them with Semesan or whatever fungus controlling preparation you have. Be sure to do this because they are easy to lose now.

Cover the seed pans with saran or plastic cloth for about a week. If the plastic sheet tends to slip down, cut a couple of wires and cross them over the edge of each pan. Keep the plants warm and after a week or so, start to slip the plastic back a bit each day so that they will harden off and become used to the outside temperature.

After the plants get up to an inch or even more in height, you can transplant them again into a flat. This time place them two inches apart. Then when they fill the flat they are ready for pots.

Then off to the flower shows to show off what you did this spring

## BEGONIAS AT LOS ANGELES ARBORETUM

By MELVA SMALL

The following begonias are now growing in the glasshouse at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum:

*acetosa*, *acida*, *aconitifolia*, *alnifolia*, Alto Scharff, Ampel, *angularis*, Annabelle, Arabelle;

Barbara Wetzel, Bodman (rex), Braemar, Bunchi;

Cardoza Gardens (rex), Carlotta, Catalina, Catalina-Bronze, Charm, Colonel Gale, Cinderella, *compta*, Corallina de Lucerna, Countess Louise Erdoedy (rex), *cubensis*, *culcullata*; d'Artagnan, Dicolata, Digswelliana, *dregei*, Drosti, Druryi;

Elizabeth Lockhart, *epipsila*;

Feasti Spiralis, Feasti Erecta, *fernando-costae*, Fischer's Ricinifolia, Fleecealba, *floccifera*-Beddome, Franconiana, Freckles (rex), Freddie, Frutescans;

Geneva, Geneva Scarlet Beauty, Geneva White Beauty, Giant Semperfloren, *glabra cordifolia*, *glaucophylla*, Guy Fewkes;

*haageana*, Helen King, Helen Lewis (rex), *heracleifolia*, *heracleifolia var. nigricans*, Helen Teupel (rex), *hispidacucullata*, Houghtoni Dwarf, *hydrocotylifolia*;

*imperialis*, *incana*, *incarnata*;

Jinnie May;

Lady Clare, *liebmanni*, Lillian Sloan, Limminghei, *lindleyana*, *lobulata*, *longipes petiolata*, Lucifer;

Manicata Crispa, Manicata Cristata, Manicata-Flushed Red, Maccata, *macrocarpa*, Marion Louise (rex), *masoniana* (Iron Cross), Medora,

Merry Christmas (rex), *metallica*, Montalvo, Mrs. W. A. Wallow;

*nelumbifolia-macrophylla*;

*ocatifolia*;

*palmata*, *palmifolia*, Palomar, Pearl, Perfectiflora, Pink Camellia, Phyllomaniaca, *pepenoet*, Preussen;

Richard Robinson, *richardiana*, Richland, Richmondensis, Ricinifolia, Ricky Minter, Rola-Y, Rubra Orange, Rubra Rose, *rubro-venia*, Rudy Ziesenhennel Hyb. #12, Rudy Ziesenhennel Specie #9;

Sandersoni, *sanguinea*, *scabrifida*, *scharffiana*, *serratifolia*, Silver Star, Sir Percy, *sparsipila*, Speculata, Superba Cross, Superba Cross-Winnie May, Susie Zug (rex);

Tamo, Thurstoni, Tingley Mallet, *tomentosa*;

*velloziana*, Verschaffeltiana, Virbob;

Weltoniensis alba;

*zebrina*.

Look over your begonias. If you have one to spare that is not on the list, bring it to the meeting of the National Board at the Arboretum on April 21. It will be checked and put in the glasshouse.

### OLD BEGONIAS NEEDED

Old copies of *The Begonian* — any issue from 1940 to 1949 — are needed for binding into volumes for sale by the A.B.S. No magazines for later years are needed.

Magazines should be clean and in good condition. If you have any that you want to donate, send them to: Mrs. Edna Korts, 3628 Revere Avenue, Los Angeles 39, California.

### 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. LOLA FAHEY, Librarian

4943 FIESTA AVE., TEMPLE CITY, CALIFORNIA

## HYBRIDIZING . . .

(Continued from Page 65)

example — all are discarded but the few chosen ones.

While it is fun to put pollen here and there on every pistillate flower to see what results will be, it is much better to have a planned program. For instance, the leaf of *kenworthyi*, when well grown, is handsome. No other species has that bluish bloom on the lobed leaf. But the plant itself is not too good a grower; it reaches for the sky and drops the lower leaves as it ascends. Therefore, choose a parent that is in the same class — rhizomatous — and that has proved to be a good grower. Make the cross both ways, that is, use the pollen of *kenworthyi* on the selected parent and use the pollen from it on *kenworthyi*. Tag each flower with a number, and in the crossing or stud book, the entry should be:

#1 1/1/63 *kenworthyi* x Beatrice  
Haddrell'

#2 1/1/63 'Beatrice Haddrell' x  
*kenworthyi*

The name of the pistillate flower or mother comes first.

This particular cross was made, from which one plant was selected, named, and registered 'Kingsbury.' This grows better than the parent *kenworthyi*, has leaves ten inches long with the bluish bloom and many scapes of pink flowers in February, but still it is not too satisfactory. To improve it, new crosses will be made with 'Beatrice Haddrell,' also a Merry cultivar, to see if a better growing plant will result.

Sometimes many crosses have to be made to bring about the desired result, since the wanted trait, in this instance several stems rising from the base, may be recessive; and the unwanted trait — reaching for the sky — may be dominant. The old Mendelian law is in effect with begonias just as it is with all other plants and also people. It is the old story of the smooth and wrinkled peas and the

blue and brown-eyed children. Patience and plenty of space for the plants are essential.

When the seed pots are dry, shake the contents on a white paper carefully. The seed will roll, everything else will be chaff. Plant the seeds in a mixture of peat moss, sand, and compost, or in milled sphagnum moss. Cover the pot with glass, and water from the bottom. Label the pot with your crossing number and the date of planting. Germination should occur in a month, more or less, although some seeds are much slower.

When the second pair of leaves appear, or when the plantlets are big enough to handle, prick them off into a flat, still labeled. When they outgrow the flat, transplant into individual pots, every one labeled. In a year they should be nice blooming plants and a first elimination can be made; possibly more plants can be made from the most promising. It will take two years or more to learn the manner of growth and whether there is something worth keeping. Since there are now so many begonias, be very severe in judging, check your judgment with experienced growers, and, if possible, have someone else grow a plant for you, and if everyone agrees that you have a world beater, by all means register it.

By following methods such as these, exercising perseverance and patience, and using discrimination in judging, new worthwhile begonia cultivars may be produced, altogether a rewarding and thrilling project.

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### PATRONIZE BEGONIAN ADVERTISERS

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Several hundred seeds of *Strelitzia nicolai* (Giant Bird of Paradise) for sale or exchange for begonia or shade plant seed.

Five cents per seed — \$4.50 per hundred

**CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND**

234 Birch St.

— Roseville, Calif.

## Awards Committee Report

The awards recommended by the A.B.S. Awards Committee to the National Board of Directors of the Society and presented at the 1962 Convention were the result of careful study of the rules governing the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award and the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial Medal.

In July, 1962, the National Board of Directors voted to issue two Eva Kenworthy Gray Awards for that year. This action was taken because of the great interest shown by Branches and individual members who sent in nominations for this award. The committee's task was not at all difficult, for the great majority cast ballots for the final recipients of the awards, one award for each of the two qualifications specified by the original rules accepted by the National Board in 1955.

A beautiful plaque, inscribed to Bernice Brilmayer, reads: "For contributing original material to help members further their study and enjoyment of the Begoniaceae." It was presented by the American Begonia Society to her family, posthumously.

A similar shield award was presented to Albert "Bert" Slatter. This is inscribed: "For having helped cement good will and harmony among A.B.S. members."

Begonias nominated for the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial Medal did not qualify for the extremely high standards set by our American Begonia Society. The Awards Committee chose to maintain the fine standard of this award, and decided that no eligible begonia conformed to the standard for this year.

\* \* \* \*

Members of this committee thank all Branches and all members for their generous co-operation and interest in this department of your Society.

Awards Committee members for the 1963 season are as follows: Mrs. Jean Kerlin, chairman, Altadena, California; Mrs. Alice Schlanert, Santa

Ana, California; William Meyn, Whittier, California; Mrs. Lester Fox, Dracut, Massachusetts; Mrs. C. E. Cooper, Houston, Texas; and Herbert Fitch, Sacramento, California.

We ask all members and all Branches to consider begonia hybrids in your area, and begonia personalities, too, that could possibly qualify for the two top awards of the American Begonia Society. It is not too early to tell us of your plants and begonia people. We especially seek begonia hybrids that have competed in shows under competent judges and that may be recognized easily as being distinctive in form and color.

If such a begonia is not yet registered with the Nomenclature Department, call this to our attention.

Please send any criticism or letters of commendation regarding plants or personalities to the chairman of this committee. Your information will be forwarded to the members of the committee and each suggestion will be considered carefully. Help us to help you know and grow more fascinating begonias.

Jean Kerlin,  
Chairman, Awards Committee  
3262 Olive Street  
Altadena, California

## JUDGING CLASS LECTURES

The fourth in the series of lectures for the Shade Plant Judging Class will be "Judging Bromeliads" on April 12.

The fifth lecture will be "Judging Ferns" on April 26.

These lectures are held at South Gate City Auditorium, 4900 Southern Avenue, South Gate, California. Registration will begin at 7:30 p.m. and lectures at 8 p.m.

### NOTE PAPER AND ENVELOPES

Six different, original, hand-painted  
Begonia designs

12 for \$1.50 plus 10 cents postage  
(add 4% sales tax in California)

**DOROTHY S. BEHRENS**

442 Orpheus Ave., Encinitas, Calif.

## TUBEROUS BEGONIAS . . .

(Continued from Page 68)

fifteen to twenty days before transplanting.

A good mixture for transplanting contains six parts well decayed leaf mold, one part loam, and one part sand. At the first transplanting, the seedlings are spaced one inch apart in flats filled to a depth of one and one-half inches. When they become crowded they are transplanted again—this time spaced two or more inches apart.

After the first transplanting, the seedlings respond very well to weekly or bi-weekly application of a fertilizer solution prepared by diluting one tablespoonful of fish fertilizer in three gallons of water. In five or six weeks they will be ready for potting or planting in the garden.

### DROPPING OF BUDS

Although they are hardy and easy to grow under favorable conditions, begonias are affected by over-watering and dense shade. They require fresh-air circulation, and will drop their buds and flowers in a very few days if kept indoors.

If the center buds fall before they open, it is usually a sign that the soil is kept too wet. Care should be taken to avoid over-watering. In the cooler coastal areas, the use of peat moss should be avoided or used sparingly. If your plants become tall and spindling, with large leaves and few flowers, there is insufficient light. This may be remedied by removal to a less-shaded location.

### PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL

Tuberous begonias are relatively free of injurious pests and disease. Slugs and snails occasionally bother, but they are controlled easily by baiting. Earwigs sometimes eat small, round, unsightly holes in the leaves but otherwise do not harm the plant. Earwigs can be controlled by baiting or by treating the general area with chlordane or dieldrin.

Powdery mildew is the most serious disease affecting tuberous begonias, but this problem is decreasing year by year with the development of more resistant strains and the use of improved control materials. With just a little effort, begonias can be kept free of mildew. Prevention is the best cure.

An excellent program is to dust them with sulphur or Doo Spray at intervals of three or four weeks, starting early in the season. Then, if any signs of mildew appear, treat the infected areas with Doo Spray. After plants reach the blooming stage, it is not advisable to use sulphur as it will burn the flowers.

### SEEDLING PLANTS OR TUBERS?

Tubers produce larger plants which mature and bloom more rapidly than seedlings. Where growing seasons are short, as in the eastern United States, tubers started indoors are more re-

From the Andean region of the South American tropics — from the jungles and the humid valleys of tropical America—

*We offer members of the American Begonia Society the opportunity to obtain rare seed as follows:*

**REX BEGONIA VINE:** (*Cissus Discolor*). Climber having silvery leaves similar to Begonia Rex.

**MONSTERA:** Several types having large perforate leaves.

**BROMELIAD:** *Guzmania Musaica* Var. *Zebrina* seeds from selected plants having good leaf patterns or markings.

**CROTON:** Large-leaved types. Seed produced by hand-pollination.

**ANTHURIUM:** Species having ornamental leaves.  
**HERPETICA ALATA:** (*Cassia alata*). Compact shrub with beautiful yellow-orange flowers.

PRICES: 50 cents per package — 6 packages for \$2.50. Payment will be accepted in U.S. dollar checks, personal or otherwise.

Delivery via Airmail prepaid

-----  
Inquiries are invited for quantity prices of the above listings as well as other seeds and material which we can furnish. Exchanges are welcomed. Please let us know your requirements. We may be able to help you.

**MRS. J. D. GARRETSON**  
**Apartado Aereo 342,**  
**Barranquilla, Colombia, So. America**

warding. Begonias grown from tubers bloom from May until late September.

Seedlings treated as annuals in California and other areas having long growing seasons, produce an abundance of large, beautiful flowers quite rapidly. They bloom from July through November, and are a sight to behold when massed in large areas. Seedlings produce tubers at the end of the season.

#### DIGGING DORMANT TUBERS

Do not dig tubers while foliage remains green, as it is the latter part of the season when the tubers increase in size and store energy for next year. On the West Coast, tubers are not ready for digging until the first part of December. The first light frosts are beneficial and do not harm tubers.

Tubers should be removed from the soil when the plants turn yellow and start to fall apart. After foliage has died back, dig the tubers, wash or brush all soil free of tubers, and dry them in the hot sun for several days. Remove any trace of the old stems before storage. When the tubers are thoroughly dry, store them in a cool, frost-free, dry place for the winter. Do not store the tubers until they are thoroughly dry.

— From Antonelli Brothers Catalog

#### WINTER JEWEL . . .

(Continued from Page 63)

and here was the answer — a picture of a ruined *bartonea* (page 63) with the caption, "Delicate *bartonea* loves warmth, humidity — can suddenly shivel and die back in chill drafts." The picture looked exactly like my plants.

At last I knew what was the matter. However, I don't believe that it was a question of "drafts" alone, since the trouble occurred even in a closed atmosphere, but it was more likely the night-time drop in temperature, or the variability of the warmth in the window areas.

'Winter Jewel' (somehow this name fits it so well) is a lovely, dainty species, and I think it well worth trying.

#### Long Beach Show April 6 & 7

The Long Beach African Violet Society will hold its annual show in Norway Hall, 681 Redondo Avenue, Long Beach, California, on Saturday and Sunday, April 6 and 7.

The dates announced in last month's *Begonian* were incorrect.

#### Glendale Will Present African Violet Show

The Glendale African Violet Society will present its fifth annual show on Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27. The location will be the Y.W.C.A. auditorium, 735 E. Lexington Drive (at Glendale Ave.), Glendale, California.

"Violets in Fairyland" will be the show theme.

The show will be open to the public from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday.

#### Saintpaulia Show in Seattle

The Seattle Saintpaulia Society, Inc. will hold its Tenth Annual Spring Show and plant sale on Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5, in the Norway Center, 300 Third Street, Seattle, Washington.

The show will be open to the public on Saturday from 2 to 9 p.m., and on Sunday from noon to 7:30 p.m. Admission will be 50 cents for adults; children under 12 will be free when accompanied by parents.

#### NEW REX BEGONIAS

Bernice Brilmayer — Curly Merry  
Xmas — Little Angel — Helen  
Schaffer — Queen Mother  
Georgeous George — Sea Form

Catalog 25 cents

#### TROPICAL PARADISE GREENHOUSE

8825 West 79th St.  
Overland Park, Kansas

## CALENDAR

April 2 — Inglewood Branch: "The Gay Ninety" will be the theme of the annual President's Dinner at 6:30 p.m. in the regular meeting place. Dig into your old trunks for "Gay Ninety" apparel. Come and have fun. Jean Kerlin will speak on "Begonias Hilarious."

April 3 — San Francisco Branch: Speaker will be Richard Thomas, a recognized entomologist, who will speak on garden pests — the flying, crawling, burrowing, and creeping insects and rodents. He will offer helpful suggestions to curb and eradicate them.

April 4 — Westchester Branch: Wynona Jensen, queen of begonias, will be guest speaker. Her topic, "Begonias in Spring," will cover potting and care of seedlings.

April 4 — Whittier Branch: Slides from the A.B.S. slide library will show many varieties of begonias.

April 11 — Orange County Branch: Tony Todaro, an Orange County begonia grower, will talk on begonias and show slides.

April 12 — San Gabriel Valley Branch: Guest speaker will be Alex Mueller, of La Verne. An authority on horticulture, he will discuss the history and folklore of herbs, and will tell of some interesting herb recipes.

April 12 — Judging class at South Gate City Auditorium. Subject will be "Judging Bromeliads."

April 18—Foothill Branch: Alex Mueller, of La Verne, will speak on "Garden Talk." Pot-luck dinner at 6:30 p.m. Bring favorite dish, table service, and 50 cents.

April 20-21 — Riverside Flower show: Riverside Armory, 2501 Fairmont Blvd., Riverside. Admission 50 cents at the door or presale 3 for \$1.00. For presale tickets contact Mrs. Lillian Maddox, 7172 Mt. Vernon St., Riverside, California.

April 20 — Bessie Raymond Buxton Branch: Mr. and Mrs. Percy I. Mer-

ry, of Needham, Massachusetts, will be hosts to a study group at 11 a.m. At 1:30 p.m. Mrs. Edna Roberts will speak on "Tuberous Begonias."

April 26 — Redondo Area Branch: Daisy Austin will present a "something new" program, guaranteed to be a lot of fun. The title will be "Begonia For Today," based on a current TV program.

April 26 — Judging class at South Gate City Auditorium. Subject will be "Judging Ferns."

## April National Board Meeting At Arboretum

The National Board of the American Begonia Society will hold its April meeting at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 21, at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, California.

The San Gabriel Valley Branch will be host to the National Board and all other fellow-members of the Society.

At this meeting the San Gabriel Valley Branch will dedicate the new trophy case now installed at the front of the Begonia Glasshouse and present it to the Arboretum.

There will be a plant table following the Board meeting, with the proceeds being given to the national treasury. All Branches are asked to help by donating as many desirable plants as possible.

Come and get better acquainted with other members. Refreshments will be served.

### For a Better Garden!

#### ATLAS FISH EMULSION

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## Report of National Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society was called to order at 7:40 P.M., February 25, 1963, by the President, Carl E. Naumann. Twenty-one officers, chairmen and representatives responded to roll call.

The Treasurer, Earle E. Budd, gave the following report: Balance \$1836.81, Income \$697.94, Disbursements \$908.11, Balance \$1626.64. Total assets as of Feb. 18, 1963, \$4690.11, Assets Aug. 18, 1962, \$3,577.38. Gain during six month period \$1112.73.

The report from Florence Gee for the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund was read as follows: Balance \$100.00, Income \$132.70, Expenses \$32.70, Remitted to Treasurer \$100.00, Balance in revolving fund \$100.00.

A letter from Florence Gee was read regarding a request for free seed from the Youth Authority, a vocational training school at Ontario, California. The Board approved of this worthwhile project and it was moved by Mrs. Lee and seconded by Mrs. Perz that Mrs. Gee send the seed, of which there is a surplus, and that also a copy of *The Begonian* be sent each month for the following year. Motion carried. President Naumann suggested that anyone living in that area might give any other assistance possible.

The report of the Membership Secretary, Dorotha Waddington, was given as follows: New members 47, Renewals 140, Monies received \$486.25, Expenses \$50.24, *Begonians* mailed 2211.

A letter from the William Penn Branch to Mrs. Bee Olson, Research Director, was read by Grace Yerick. It was a request for cuttings, all hybrids of *B. dicroa*. Copies of the list were distributed with a request to comply if possible.

Mrs. Korts reported on the Judging School. The first lecture, February 22nd, was given by Maria Wilkes on Orchids. There was a good attendance. Because of the expense involved in having the lectures ready in advance, Mrs. Korts requested a further advance of \$50.00 George Schlanert moved this be allowed, seconded by Mrs. Naumann, motion carried.

Mrs. Korts remitted to the Treasurer \$17.50 for the sale of more bound books and again stressed the need for copies of *The Begonian* in the early 40's.

A bill for automobile insurance covering officers while using their cars on Begonia Society business was presented.

Reports of the Advertising Manager, Ruby Budd, was given as follows: Receipts \$27.45, Accounts Receivable \$67.25.

Mrs. Ethel Arbuckle, Public Relations Director, reported a request from the Seattle Branch for a duplicate Charter. It was moved by George Schlanert, seconded by How-

ard Small, that the duplicate charter be supplied at cost. Motion carried.

Roy Joyce, Slide Librarian, reported slides would be available again after April. The present glass slides are to be replaced. This will reduce possible breakage and the weight in mailing.

The Editor, Trumond Peterson, reported that it was necessary to obtain a new printer just at the time the March issue of *The Begonian* was ready to go to press. This was accomplished at no additional cost.

The following Branches reported: Glendale, Inglewood, Long Beach Parent Chapter, North Long Beach, Orange County, Redondo Area, San Gabriel Valley, Westchester, Alfred D. Robinson, San Miguel, and Eva Kenworthy Gray as reported by Mrs. Budd.

Information regarding activities of the Knickerbocker and Sacramento Branches was displayed.

A letter was read from the Ventura Branch regarding the proposed regional meeting. The meeting is arranged for Sunday, May 26th, at 1 P.M. in the Recreation Building, Ventura. The Branches are requested to donate plants for a plant sale, the proceeds to be given to the National. Santa Barbara will assist.

Mr. Peterson reported he had repeated requests for the names of Award winners. Mrs. Korts promised that she would see that this report is available. It was suggested that a full report be published as soon as possible after each Convention.

Meeting adjourned at 9 P.M.

Margaret B. Taylor  
Secretary

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# Branch Directory

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

## BRITISH BRANCH

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

## BUXTON, BESSIE RAYMOND BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members  
Miss Cynthia Webber, Secy.  
5 Hillside Ave., Bedford, Mass.

## DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS BRANCH

3rd Monday, 10 a.m., Member's Homes  
Mrs. George Wilkins, Secy.  
3625 N. Fitzhugh St., Dallas, Texas

## EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m., Willard School  
Telegraph at Ward, Berkeley, California  
Miss Dorothy F. Osburn, Secy.  
5015 Cochrane Ave., Oakland 18, Calif.

## EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

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

## FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
La Verne Community Bldg.  
2039 Third St., La Verne  
Miss Christine E. Kindell, Secy.  
338 W. 11th St., Claremont, 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. Ethel Arbuckle, Secy.  
5932 Seville Ave., Huntington Park, Calif.

## GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

2nd Saturday, 1:00 p.m. (except Dec. & Jan.)  
Seacoast Hall, 3rd and E St., Encinitas, Calif.  
Mrs. Charles Calloway  
1311 Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla, Calif.

## GRAY'S HARBOR BRANCH

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

## GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

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

## HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Mrs. Georgina Barton, Secy.  
2821 Herkimer St., Los Angeles 39, Calif.

## HOUSTON, TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m.  
Garden Center, 1500 Herman Drive  
Mrs. Grant Herzog, Secy.  
12601 Broken Bough, Memorial Station  
Houston 24, Texas

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

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

## INGLEWOOD BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 7:45 p.m., American Legion Hall  
3208 West 85th St., Inglewood, Calif.  
Mrs. Elyse M. Willick, Secy.  
13214 Merkel Ave., Paramount, Calif.

## KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Library, Horticultural Society of N.Y.  
157 West 58th St., New York  
Murray D. Morrison, Secy.  
2109 Matthews Ave., New York 62, N.Y.

## LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Linden Hall  
208 Linden Ave., Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Vera Ohlson, Secy.  
1925 Maine Ave., Long Beach 6, Calif.

## LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

1st Friday, Capitol Room  
1701 Main St., Baton Rouge  
Mrs. Elaine Wilkerson, Secy.  
5764 Robertson Ave., Baton Rouge 5, 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.  
Miss Nina Austin, Secy.  
1104 Askew St., Kansas City 27, Mo.

## NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

3rd Friday, 7:30 p.m.  
3901 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach  
Mrs. Rebecca Anthony, Secy.  
153 Ellis St., Long Beach, Calif.

## ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Garden Grove Grange Hall, Century and Taft Sts.  
Garden Grove, Calif.  
Daisy G. Austin, Secy.  
1510 Kimberly Ave., Anaheim, 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. Anne W. Stiles, Secy.  
R.D. No. 2, Box 43B, E. Delaware Trail,  
Medford, N. J.

## REDONDO AREA BRANCH

4th Friday each Month  
Lincoln School Recreation Center  
Ernest and Vail Sts., Redondo Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Margaret Buell, Secy.  
1441 - 21st St., 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. Lillian Maddox, Secy.  
7172 Mt. Vernon St., Riverside, Calif.

**ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH**

3rd Friday, 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members  
Constance D. Bower, Corr. Secy.  
1609 W. Lewis St., San Diego 3, Calif.

**SACRAMENTO BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center  
3300 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif.  
Elmer A. Thomas, Secy.  
913 Sonoma Way, Sacramento 22, Calif.

**SAN DIEGO BRANCH**

4th Monday, Barbour Hall  
2717 University Ave., San Diego  
Leah Jones, Secy.  
3734 - 40th St., San Diego 5, Calif.

**SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH**

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Garden Center, Golden Gate Park  
9th Ave. and Lincoln Way  
Lillian A. Beach, Secy.  
3006 Castro St., San Francisco 12, Calif.

**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH**

2nd Friday, 8:00 p.m.  
Los Angeles State and County Arboretum  
501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.  
Mrs. Lillian Hale, Secy.  
113 N. Ardmore Drive, San Gabriel, Calif.

**SAN MIGUEL BRANCH**

1st Wednesday, Youth Center, Lemon Grove, Calif.  
Andy Conely, Secy.  
19 East Cresta Way, Chula Vista, Calif.

**SANTA BARBARA BRANCH**

2nd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History  
2559 Puesta Del Sol  
Elnora Schmidt, Secy.  
3346 Calle Cita, Santa Barbara, Calif.

**SEATTLE BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.  
Meeting locations will vary; call the secretary at  
SUNset 2-2234  
Miss Bernice Moore, Secy.  
2842 West 59th St., Seattle 7, Wash.

**SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH**

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Alice Barlett, C.H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.  
Mrs. Claremont Morris, Secy.  
539 Jones St., Ventura, Calif.

**SMOKY VALLEY RANCH**

3rd Thursday of each Month  
Mrs. Robert Nease, Secy.  
410 South Phillips, Salina, Kansas

**SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH**

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
Burbank School  
319 B. St., Hayward, Calif.  
Mrs. Evangeline Muller, Corr. Secy.  
36937 Cherry 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.  
West Side State Bank, Fort Worth, Texas  
Mrs. E. E. Flippo, Secy.  
1916 Forest Park Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas

**TEXAS STATE BRANCH**

1st Tuesday Night in Members' Homes  
E. Weaver,  
1325 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, Texas

**TEXASTAR BRANCH**

1st Thursday, 10 a.m., Garden Center  
1500 Herman Dr., Houston, Texas  
Mrs. J. L. Linkenhogor, Secy.  
45 Caroline Trail, Houston 24, Texas

**WESTCHESTER BRANCH**

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Westchester Women's Club  
8020 Alverston St., Los Angeles, Calif.  
Mrs. Walter W. Pease, Jr., Secy.  
8101 Vicksburg Ave., Los Angeles 45, Calif.

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH**

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

**WHITTIER BRANCH**

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Palm Park Community Center, 1643 Floral Drive  
Anne L. Rose, Secy.  
1225 Ramona Dr., Whittier, Calif.

**WILLIAM PENN BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, 2:00 p.m., Homes of Members  
Mrs. Griscom Bettle, Jr., Secy.  
331 Station Road, Wynnewood, Pa.



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