

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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TOTEM POLE BEGONIA

BY RUBY MAE BUDD

There are many begonias that can be trained on totem poles, but I believe that the species, *Begonia convolvulacea*, is a favorite for this purpose because it grows to a height that is desirable for a well-shaped specimen plant.

Other begonias suited for totem-pole culture are *B. liebmanni*, *B. mazaе*, *B. Maphil'* and several others, but they do not develop the height of *convolvulacea*.

The *Buxton Check List*, published by the American Begonia Society, states that *convolvulacea* came from Sellow, in Brazil, in 1853. In my research I have found very little information on this interesting begonia. I have not found any hybrid with this as a parent.

Being interested in hybridizing, I have made several crosses from it to try to obtain a different shaped leaf or a different color with the same climbing habits, but this will take a few years.

In a basket or wall pocket, it is a showy plant the first year, with light green nasturtium leaves, but it gets leggy and should be cut back in January or February for new foliage — but at this time the blossoms are forming and I hate to cut them back before they bloom. On a totem pole I want long stems to tie up, and by just tip pinching I can encourage new basal growth to make a full, symmetrical totem pole.

In an article in *The Begonian* for June, 1962, Dorothy S. Behrends, from whom I received my cutting, states that *B. convolvulacea* likes moist and cool conditions, which is the way I grow it. It receives regular feedings, as all begonias like.

Tip cuttings are the best for totem poles.

The begonia shown in the cover picture is grown on a broom handle covered with sphagnum moss and chicken wire around the moss. It measures forty-four inches in height.

NORTHEAST MUSINGS

BY RUTH MERRY

Eastern Editor

Growing house plants in the northeast is really a challenge. Of course, we can all grow house plants to a degree without too much trouble, but when it comes to growing large perfect plants in eight-inch or ten-inch pots for exhibition, it takes real growing talent and the perfect conditions that only large commercial greenhouses and millionaire private growers can afford.

In such a greenhouse, for instance, we found huge foliosas of a beautiful shade of green in large, moss-lined hanging baskets, growing in an extremely lush manner. These were in the tropical house of a large range where palms, adiantums, orchids, etc.

were grown. A light green screening against the top lights of glass protected the foliosas from direct sunlight—which can be quite warm even in winter, especially when the ground is covered with snow.

In this same section were luxurious 'Thurstonis,' *sunderbruchis*, and 'Beatrice Haddrells.' Incidentally, at various times 'Beatrice Haddrell' (Merry) has been classed as a miniature, but it definitely is not; it grows just as

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COVER PICTURE

Totem pole *begonia convolvulacea*, four feet tall. —Photo by Ruby Budd

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH REPORTS PROGRESS

By MAY TAFT DREW
Vice-President, A.B.S.

The Begonian for June, 1963, told of the William Penn Branch's projected study of *B. dichroa* and its hybrids, with emphasis on the preliminary work of compiling lists and indexes of the material from several points of view. Considering that article as one of a series, this is the second, a report of progress.

We started out with no well defined aim, except to have a year of integrated programs. As we worked, we came to realize that we must decide what we were looking for. It became clear that we must look first for attractive and healthy house plants and secondly for the characters of the parents transmitted to their descendents, even to the second and third generations. Also, we soon learned that one year would not be enough for a serious study, largely because of the difficulty of finding the cultivars.

A few of the older and more widely distributed kinds were already in the hands of our members or obtainable nearby. A few apparently had never been "in the trade," and others had all but disappeared. One of the most elusive was *dichroa*, itself. Only a few dealers listed it and at a high price. Mrs. Bee Olson presented our want list in her column. From that and appeals to friends over the country, we were able to supplement what we could buy until every member enrolled in the study has at least three plants of this group, one of which is *dichroa*.

To finance the project, the Branch underwrote the purchase price and the members repaid \$1.00 for each plant received, no matter what the dealer's price. Cuttings and plants grown by members were less.

We solved the problem of presentation by grouping under the names of the originators, which gave a chance to acquaint our members with the leaders in our field.

We began with Leslie Woodriff, because we already had most of his *dichroa* seedlings: 'Ellen Dee', 'Oadi', 'Orange Rubra', and 'Tea Rose'. Only 'Pink Spot *Lucerna*' was missing. That was followed by the Robinsons' material, with 'Di-Anna', 'Di-Erna', 'Di-Shasta', and 'Delight'. Unfortunately, the later Rosecroft originations, except 'Flamingo', were unobtainable because the Hunters no longer ship plants and no one else seems to list the rest of the "Bird Series".

Later programs have presented William Atherton and his 'Dainty Spray'; Mrs. Alpha Gere and her 'Rubaiyat'; and Mrs. Belva Kusler and her lovely ladies, 'Anna Christine', 'Lenore Olivier', 'Sophie Cecile', and the 'Fleetham' sisters, 'Gigi' and 'Jeanne'.

Now that each of us has her own *dichroa*, we can begin to look for likenesses and differences. Even without this important parent, we have been able to reach some conclusions about the value of the cultivars we have, subject to modification as we watch our plants through another year. So far, this group seems to be sturdy and handsome, with the possible exception of 'Dainty Spray', which seems delicate, and 'Oadi', a fast and sprawly grower and a shy bloomer.

The common difficulty of confused names has seldom occurred so far, perhaps because many of the forms are fairly new. 'Rubaiyat' has appeared in two distinct forms, not much alike. I have been told that Woodriff distributed a whole seed-lot under the name 'Orange Rubra'. If this is true, we have here a strain, not a clone.

This is the tale of the first year of William Penn's much-discussed project. The second year has begun with *dichroa*, itself, before you read

(Continued on Page 144)

FLARE YOUR PLASTIC POTS

BY JOHN E. GREENE

Why don't manufacturers make plastic pots with rolled rims or flat surfaces at the top? Because of the cost of the molds and the small quantities that would be sold, only a few manufacturers have been willing to take this gamble.

Well — I have come up with a simple way that you can flare the rim or lip of a plastic pot, by following a few simple directions.

First, pour a pound of regular table salt into an eight-inch aluminum pie tin or any other flat pan and place it on a hot-plate or stove to heat. Then place a deep-frying thermometer in the salt. Bring the temperature of the salt to 300-325 degrees, or higher, depending on the thickness of the plastic being used.

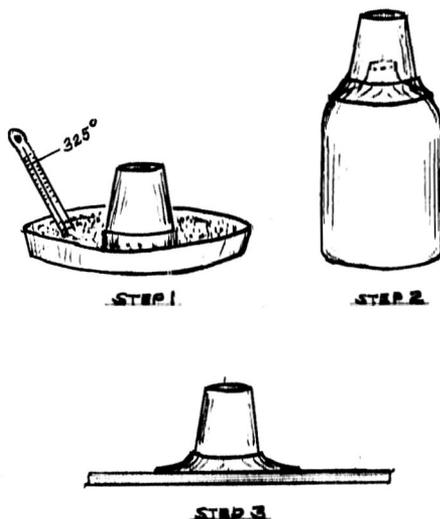
While the salt is heating, prepare a table next to the stove with a large sheet of paper on it — and make sure that the paper is flat.

Next, look for a round bottle to be used as your forming tool to start the flare — a pint bottle for a smaller pot, a larger bottle for a larger pot.

Now you are ready to start, if your salt has reached the right temperature. Try to maintain this temperature.

Take the pot in your right hand and place the rim into the salt about half-way, or about one-half inch on a two-inch pot. Rotate the pot in the salt for about five to ten seconds, then draw it out of the salt and force it over the neck of the bottle, starting the flare. Now put the pot back in the salt and heat it the same way, but not so long this time. Push it over the neck of the bottle quickly; then force it flat on the paper-covered table with an even pressure. The job is done and your pot has a flat rim.

This operation must be done several times until you get the feel of the way the plastic softens and how quickly you must move when it does. Do not feel discouraged if your first at-



Step #1—Soften rim of pot in salt heated to 325 degrees. Step #2—Flare rim of pot over neck of a bottle. Sep #3—Complete flare by pressing pot flat on table.

tempt does not turn out for you — just try again.

When all your pots are done, all you have to do is to wash the pots in hot water to remove the excess salt that clings to the pots. Be sure that you save the salt, as it can be used over and over again.

With a little practice, you will be able to flare many pots for your hobby.

THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION

September 5-6-7

At Los Angeles Arboretum

WATCH FOR DETAILS

NOTES ON DIEFFENBACHIA

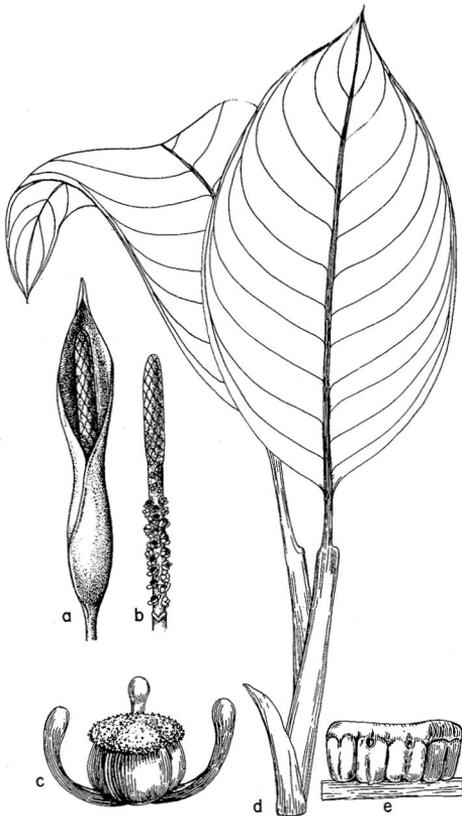
BY ALEX D. HAWKES
The Tropical Gardener

As is typically the case with the various members of the Aroid Family, the Araceae, the genus *Dieffenbachia* is only poorly known, when considered from a botanical viewpoint. However, according to most contemporary students of the assemblage, it consists of about 25 apparently valid species, these widespread in Tropical America from the West Indies and Mexico southward. In the wild, they are terrestrial plants, often found in boggy or otherwise moist spots in humid low-elevation forests or jungles, often being exceedingly common within a given relatively restricted area.

Dieffenbachias (the generic name is pronounced dee-fen-bak-ee-ah) today number among the most popular and widely-grown of all aroids in cultivation, with dozens upon dozens of reasonably distinct horticultural variants being available in the American and European trade. These are often utilized, with considerable success, as house plants, most of them thriving even under the general neglect attendant upon such specimens. The forms with foliage variegated or otherwise marked with white, yellow, or paler green than the base-color are frequently produced in cultivation, but also occur in large degree in the wild state, being found intermingled in colonies of the "normal" wholly green-leaved species.

Our illustration shows *Dieffenbachia seguina* (seh-gi-na), probably the most widespread of the genus in nature, occurring in various phases throughout the above-noted range of the entire group. I have encountered this handsome and robust aroid on a number of occasions, most recently in Nicaragua, where it is often very common (though localized) in swampy places near La Libertad, in the Department of Chontales, at elevations of 2300 - 2500 feet above sea-level. I have also found it in a few places in the marvelous "cloud forests" at Santa Maria de Ostuma (about 5000 feet elevation), and also very near the Rio Mico (about 200 - 300 feet elevation), so this plant enjoys a wider altitudinal range than most aroids will tolerate.

Our illustration, adapted from Standley & Steyermark's *Flora of Guatemala*, Part I (Chicago Natural History Museum, 1958), shows the following parts, these typical and characteristic of the genus *Dieffenbachia*: a, Flower with spathe and spadix, $\frac{1}{4}$ nat. size. b, Spadix, $\frac{1}{4}$ nat. size. c,



Dieffenbachia seguina

Pistillate flower, enlarged 4 times. *d*, Leafy apex of shoot, $\frac{1}{4}$ nat. size. *e*, Staminate flower, enlarged $3\frac{1}{2}$ times.

In the wild, this aroid is one of the most feared of indigenous plants, especially in Nicaragua, where the natives state that merely by brushing against it will cause agonizing ulcers to appear all over one's body — and often even a hideous and lingering death! The copious watery white or yellowish sap is (to certain persons, at least) somewhat toxic, causing mild inflammation in some cases, but its reputation seems vastly over-rated as a "killer." Like almost all of the Dieffenbachias, *D. seguina* gives off a powerful and very unpleasant "dead" odor when cut, and sometimes when the large, succulent foliage is crushed, as well.

As a whole, these handsome and variable aroids are ideally suited to use by the gardener, being pest-resistant and remarkably easy of cultivation and propagation. They do best in a shaded, moist, humid spot (though, as I have noted above, will tolerate the staleness of the home's interior for long periods at a time, without a severe set-back), preferably potted in a friable though rich, well-drained soil. They should never be allowed to dry out, and benefit (as do most of the commonly cultivated members of the Araceae) by frequent and liberal applications of fertilizer. Propagation is readily effected by cuttings of the cane-like mature stems, which quickly sprout either in water, or in moist sand, vermiculite, or sphagnum moss.

The common name of Dumb Cane has often been applied to Dieffenbachias as a group, this derived from their property of causing temporary paralysis of the vocal cords when the leaves or bits of the stem are chewed — though why anyone would wish to do this (for these parts are very acrid!), I cannot possibly imagine!

SEE YOU AT THE SHOW

BOOK REVIEW

How Plants Get Their Names, by L. H. Bailey. Dover Publications, Inc., New York. — \$1.15.

Liberty Hyde Bailey's original publication of 1933 is now a collector's item, but this husky paperback with nice big print is a "must" for your horticultural library. Everyone at some time or other has wondered how and why plants get such "funny" names, and has perhaps blamed Adam, who had the job of naming everything "in the beginning." But we are still at it, and there are even international, as well as American, rules, to guide us. And Mr. Bailey explains it all in his very readable prose. His well-known sense of humor crops out, too, as when he says that species is both singular and plural. He writes, "When only one is meant, I have seen it written specie: but that is quite another affair, representing certain interesting pieces of metal I have known other persons to have in their pockets."

The picture and story of the life and works of Linnaeus is certainly worth the price of this book. And besides all this, there are pages and pages of descriptive names, some 5500 of them, that are accented to help us pronounce them correctly. There is a wonderful amount of information in the less than 200 pages of this publication.

—Alva Graham

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SO SAY THE EXPERTS

By RUTH PEASE

From a stenographer's notes covering lectures given by a number of speakers, this is the second installment in a series which began last month.

REX BEGONIAS --- GENERAL

It is a well-known fact that it takes a lot of work to grow good rex begonias. They are shade lovers and do well in the lathhouse, as well as under the lath benches. In fact, one authority tells us that shade brings out their color.

After the dormant stage, when "eyes" start growing again, shake the soil off the rex rhizome and repot it in a smaller pot. They like a very loose, acid soil, and can be planted in straight leaf mold with no fertilizer. Using oak leaf mold that has been screened, place the coarse part in the bottom of the pot, and the screened part on the top. Plant your rex, water it, and it will take off. Grow the plant until it reaches a good size, then move it up to a 5-inch or 6-inch pot. Do not allow it to dry out. The plant should be like a ball of leaves to look right. Do not make your rexes reach for the light. They grow very nicely in baskets, too.

Repotting of rexes is done about three or four times each year. Repot them in August and again in September, but do not repot them if they are not sending out new leaves.

If the rex rhizome is bare in spots, repot it deeply. You can even break off the bare part, retaining only the healthy part, the part with roots.

One authority says she does not keep her rex begonias until they get old; instead, she grows them from leaf cuttings or divides the rhizomes when she sees new growth.

If you are growing rexes from leaf cuttings or rhizome cuttings for a show, be sure to "grow on" several plants. In this way, you will be sure to have one good plant available at show time. Using rhizome cuttings, cut off the part where the new leaves

are starting to grow and start that part by burying it slightly in the soil.

When the cuttings begin to grow, they grow rapidly and must be repotted often.

April is a good time to start rex leaves. You can start from the leaf stem by damaging the stem here and there. Plants will grow from the stem at the damaged spots and not from the leaf itself.

Water on the edges of rex leaves causes them to turn brown.

Rex begonia 'Dawn' is hard to grow. It is almost an extinct plant now.

In order to identify rex begonias, we are told to check the undersides of the leaves.

WILLIAM PENN . . .

(Continued from Page 140)

this. Further shipments of plants to widen the field have been promised. With their arrival, we can go on with the remaining cultivars and their originators. It is hoped that, toward the end of the year, we may review as large plants those seen in small sizes.

Thanks for gifts and suggestions are due to too many friends to be listed here, but special mention goes to the kind person who sent a box of cuttings without including her name. William Penn Branch is grateful to you all.

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PATRONIZE BEGONIAN
ADVERTISERS

Quibbling Along With



J. W. of Dover, Delaware, asks:

"What is the best formula for making fibrous begonias bloom? I am asking in terms of 5-10-5 or 20-20-20, etc. My books say that the food should be low in nitrogen. However, I see the first numeral for roses is 20."

Dear Mr. J. W.: The system of numbers as you indicate is probably known by most growers, including yourself, but for the benefit of the few who are not acquainted with the system, I will review:

The first numeral stands for the percentage of nitrogen in the fertilizer. Nitrogen is taken in by the plant for over-all growth. The second numeral stands for phosphorous, which is used to produce bloom, fruit, and seed. The third numeral is the percentage of potash, which works in conjunction with the phosphorus and adds to the structure and stamina of roots and stems.

It is generally agreed that a fertilizer of 5-10-5 is a good regular fertilizer, and that 0-10-10 is a good formula to apply at the normal blooming period of your plant. Nitrogen is omitted because, when you wish your plant to produce bloom, you want it to spend its energies for this alone, and with nitrogen it will produce growth. Since the plant cannot be expected to grow big and bloom at the same time, the formula is changed a few weeks before the plant has its normal blooming period.

First you must have a good, healthy, mature plant, and it is necessary to know your plant so you will know when it normally blooms. Most *semperflorens* and many of the canes bloom most of the year. However, other types have definite blooming periods.

One of the most important things to remember, aside from your fertilization program, is that it takes light to make a plant bloom. Many well fed plants will never produce blooms if they do not have sufficient light. Be certain that you provide as much light as possible, though not direct sunlight. *Semperflorens* love sun, but most begonias do not want direct sunlight.

L. E. H. of Whittaker, Michigan, adds a little information for our files:

"Thanks for the tip by M.C.P. of Mahaffey, Pennsylvania, on using a few drops of Clorox in the water to cure damp-off. It works. But perhaps I can add a few words. One big problem we have is mealy bugs — so, if Clorox is good for damp-off, what will it do to mealy bugs? So far, it has worked perfectly. Take a fine brush and touch the bugs and eggs with alcohol or kerosene, then water the plant, with a few drops of Clorox in the water."

This is a wonderful suggestion. Everyone with mealy bugs — please try this and let me know the results. Since mealy bugs are one of the major growing problems, it would be good news if this simple method will control them.

From R.W. of Metuchen, New Jersey, I have this question:

"I have been growing begonias indoors in sphagnum moss, which I understand is a sterile medium, yet the soil is infested with grayish white worms approximately 1/32 inch long, which I have been unable to identify. Isotox has no effect on these pests. My plants exhibit satisfactory growth, though they are not all I would desire. Can you identify these worms, tell me whether they are harmful, and advise how I can eliminate them?"

I have read books, books, pamphlets, and more books relating to worms until I am all squiggly, but I cannot find this worm — and I cannot make myself research further. Does any grower know this worm? Is he good or evil and how do we eradicate him? I need help.

L. C. F. of Brooklyn, New York, asks:

“Why won’t the buds of double-flowered semps open fully? I have them under two Gro-Lux lamps, with their tops about six to eight inches from the lights.”

Dear L.C.F.: While semps require more light and sunshine than other begonias, I believe you have them a little too close to the Gro-Lux lamps. You state that you believe your growing conditions are correct but I am wondering if you are giving your semps a little heavier fertilizer program than your other begonias. Semps are heavy feeders and if they do not have sufficient fertilizer the blooms will suffer.

Also, most authorities recommend pretty severe pinching-back on young semps to encourage bushy growth and heavy bloom. Double semps do better than the single type when they are a little cooler and with a somewhat higher humidity. I would suggest that you experiment now that the spring season is upon us. Try pruning, providing a little more fertilizer and humidity, and putting them ten to twelve inches from the lamps.

This department has one purpose — to help all members, whatever your problems, wherever you live. Write to:

MRS. BEE OLSON
Research Director
13715 Cordary Avenue
Hawthorne, California

PLAN FOR THE CONVENTION

CONVENTION BOUND

Plans for your convention and show are coming right along.

This year we are having a three-day show to display all the lovely plants that you have been grooming for months. We have an air-conditioned room so that those babies won't suffer from the change.

Your show committee decided to take the show to a different area this time. It will be held at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, California.

The dates will be September 5, 6, and 7.

There will not be an admission charge this year. All of our revenue will come from a huge plant sale, managed by our Past President, Carl Naumann.

Perry Omsted will be in charge of the dinner, which will be held at the Elks Hall, just a few minutes from the show, itself. The dinner will be at 7 p.m. on Saturday, the 5th.

That wonderful gal that we all love, Jean Kerlin, has graciously consented to be master of ceremonies for the fun evening that we are planning for you.

Read your schedule and get those plants in tip-top shape. There will be literally dozens and dozens of ribbons to compete for, and Show Chairman Bert Slatter has promised lots of trophies.

We'll see you all there.

TERRY OLMSTED
President

SEE YOU AT THE SHOW

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THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY PRESENTS ITS THIRTY-SECOND

Begonia and Shade Plant Show September 5-6-7, 1964

LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM
301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, California

Open 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 5 — 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 6,
and Monday, Sept. 7

Plans are being made for an outstanding show for our members and friends to bring their plants for competition. Only by your participation can this be accomplished.

Please read the rules and regulations as adopted by the National Board.

We are looking forward to meeting old friends and making new ones. Happy growing!

BERT SLATTER, *Show Chairman*

Special Awards

The following awards are competitive and are open to all exhibitors in the Novice and Amateur divisions.

Sweetstakes trophies will be awarded in both Amateur and Novice divisions. (See Rules and Regulations no. 16).

HERBERT P. DYCKMAN PERPETUAL AWARD—This award is given by Mrs. Dyckman in honor of her husband, the late Herbert P. Dyckman who was the Founder of the American Begonia Society.

The most outstanding new Fibrous Begonia exhibited each year will be honored with this award.

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE TROPHY — To be awarded to the Best Begonia in the Show displayed by either novice, amateur, or commercial entrant. The large trophy was presented to the A.B.S. by Calvin E. Trowbridge. Only plants which win division trophies may be considered for best plant in show.

PALOS VERDES BEGONIA FARM CHALLENGE TROPHY—Given for the outstanding Tuberous Begonia in the Amateur Division.

ORRIS R. MARTIN PERPETUAL TROPHY — For the outstanding Tuberous Begonia in the Novice Division.

EFFIE CHAPMAN CUP—For the best Fibrous Begonia in the Show.

CONDA HARTWELL CUP — For the best Rex Begonia in the Show.

JOHN R. WILLIAMS CUP — For the best Rhizomatous Begonia in the Show.

REDONDO AREA PERPETUAL TROPHY—For the best Semperflorens Begonia in the Show.

CONNIE LEIGH HENDRIX CUP—For the best amateur Flower Arrangement in the Show.

GORDEN BAKER LLOYD CHALLENGE CUP—For the best Seedling in the Show (less than one year old).

A.B.S. SWEEPSTAKES TROPHY—To the winner of the most points in the Begonia divisions of the show.

THE GLENDALE BRANCH AWARD — For the highest rating NEW CULTIVAR shown in DIVISION K.

THE INGLEWOOD BRANCH AWARD — For the most distinctive species in Division S.

JACK TAYLOR PERPETUAL TROPHY — Donated by the Orange County Branch. For the best hanging basket Begonia.

EDNA KORTS PERPETUAL TROPHY — For the best Cane type Begonia in the Show.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON MEMORIAL MEDAL—To the hybrid Begonia for 1956.

JACK BAILEY MEMORIAL CUP—For the best Branch Garden Plot Display.

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH CHALLENGE TROPHY — For a begonia that has been in cultivation for 25 years or longer. A member winning the trophy three times, not necessarily consecutive, has the privilege of retiring it from competition.

EDWARD L. KORTS PERPETUAL MEMORIAL TROPHY—Donated by Mrs. Daisy Walker. For the best three Rex Begonias under one year old.

ARTHUR STRANDBERG PERPETUAL TROPHY — Donated by the Inglewood Branch. For the best Fern.

BESSIE BUXTON BRANCH PERPETUAL AWARD—An eight-inch Paul Revere bowl of Sterling silver. For the best entry of six begonias of different varieties from the following: Semperflorens, Fibrous, Cane Type, Hairy Fibrous, Rhizomatous Small Leaf, Rhizomatous Large Leaf, Rex Plain Leaf, Rex Spiral Leaf (no Tuberous).

1964 FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE OF

DIVISION A—SEMPERFLORENS BEGONIAS

- Class 1. Foliage green, flower single.
 2. Foliage dark, flowers single.
 3. Foliage green, flowers double.
 4. Foliage dark, flowers double.
 5. Species, such as, Indian species, Mexican species, etc.
 6. *Begonias* 'Richmondensis,' or 'Catalina,' others similar.

DIVISION B—FIBROUS BEGONIAS, (Cane Type)

- Class 7. Tall types (over three feet), as 'Lucerna,' 'Orange Rubra,' etc.
 8. Intermediate types (18 in. to 3 ft.), as 'Medora,' 'olbia,' and others.
 9. Low growing types (under 18 in.).
 10. Any other cane type not covered in above classes. Thickened stalk type.

DIVISION C—HAIRY FIBROUS BEGONIAS

- Class 11. Hairy, as 'scharffi,' Feernando Costae.'
 12. Sparsely hairy, as 'Neely Gaddis,' 'Braemar,' 'Dorothy Grant,' etc.
 13. Heavy-textured tomentum—covered foliage, as 'incana,' 'kellermannii,' 'San Miguel,' etc.
 14. Distinctive foliage, erect growth, as 'Mrs. Fred Scripps' 'luxurians,' etc.
 15. Any other varieties not covered in the above classes.

DIVISION D—RHIZOMATOUS BEGONIAS (not rex)

- Class 16. Small leaves, as 'boweri,' 'imperialis,' 'rotundifolia,' etc.
 17. Medium leaves, star type, as, 'Glendale,' 'Silver Star,' 'Virbob,' etc.
 18. Large star foliage, as 'Ricinifolia,' 'heracleifolia,' 'Sunbar,' etc.
 19. Medium foliage, no marginal cutting, as 'Erythrophylla,' etc.
 20. Large foliage, no marginal cutting, as 'Freddie,' 'barkeri,' etc.
 21. Spiral or crested foliage, as 'manicata cristata,' 'Crestabruchi,' etc.
 22. Distinctive, unusual or odd foliage, as, 'acida,' 'Iron Cross,' etc.
 23. Hairy leaved types, as, 'Otto Alfred,' 'fusca,' etc.
 24. Rhizome upright, as, 'carolinefolia,' 'kenworthyi,' etc.
 25. Any other varieties not covered in the above classes.

DIVISION E—REX CULTORUM BEGONIAS

- Class 26. Large leaved types as 'Cardoza Gardens,' 'President,' 'Rajah,' etc.
 27. Medium leaved types, as, 'Helen Lewis,' 'American Beauty,' and many of the new rexes that are available.
 28. Small leaves, as 'Dew Drop' and others of approximate size.
 29. Large spiral-leaves, as, 'Bronze King,' 'Mt. Baldy,' 'Green Pastures,' etc.
 30. Medium spiral-leaves, as, 'Bronco,' 'Curly Haze,' 'Mary Ann,' etc.
 31. Branching Types, as, 'Van Ex,' 'Silver Van Ex,' 'Silver Sweet,' etc.
 32. Miniature leaves, as, 'Toy,' 'Annie Robinson,' 'Butterfly,' etc.
 33. Miniature spiral-leaves, as, 'Cute,' 'Berry's Brown Curl,' etc.

34. Any other classes.

DIVISION F—TUBEROUS ROOTED BEGONIAS (OTHER THAN "T")

- Class 35. Species, as, 'sull'
 36. Cultivars, as, 'W'
 etc.
 37. All *socotrana* and
 38. Any others not covered

DIVISION G—"TUBERHYBRIDA"

- Class 39. Single forms, flower
 40. 'Multiflora' and 'M'
 pact, and many flower
 41. Camellia forms, l
 double.
 42. 'Fimbriata Plena'
 flowers.
 43. 'crispa': large, sing
 44. 'cristata': large, s
 growth on each p
 45. 'Rosebud,' rose-lil
 46. 'Picotee,' irregula
 bleeding into the
 47. 'Marmorata,' cam
 ground blotched
 48. Ruffled camellia a
 ed from 'Fimbriat
 49. 'Marginata,' came
 thin, precise line
 50. 'pendula,' droopin
 containers; flowers

DIVISION H—WALL POC

- Class 51. Fibrous begonias,
 52. Rhizomatous bego
 53. Rex begonias, Cla
 54. Tuberous begonia
 No limit on entrie

DIVISION I—HANGING BASKETS

- Class 55. Fibrous begonias
 56. Rhizomatous bego
 57. Rex begonias, Cla
 58. Tuberous begonias
 No limit on entrie

DIVISION J—SPECIAL DIVISION

Collection of six p
 exhibited by a Br
 Branch show cha
 ribbon awards, p
 cash awards. Plan
 members.

DIVISION K—NEW BEGONIA IN

- Class 59. Open to all, Amat
 exhibitors unlimit
 ually by point se
 commendation up
 points. Begonias p
 be exhibited in th

DIVISION L—BEGONIAS GROWN

- Class 60. To be classified
 chairman, and chief

DIVISION M—NOVICE CLASSES

Any amateur who
 an A.B.S. show ma
 as classified in the

THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

ies covered in the above

D BEGONIAS (TUBERHYBRIDA)

'herlandi,' 'martiana,' 'davisi,' etc.
'eltoniensis,' 'Richard Robinson,'

derivatives.

covered in the above classes.

ONE SPECIMEN PLANT

vers suggestive of the wild rose.
'multiflora Alba,' low, bushy, com-
red, both single and double.
flowers camellia-like, single and

' large double, carnation-like

le, petal margins frilled.

ngle flowers with crestlike out-
tal.

to in appearance.

or border or a different color
dominant shade.

ellia form with a rose back-
and spotted white.

nd novelty types as distinguish-
a Plena.'

llia form, petals edged with a
of a different color.

g type suitable for suspended
: numerous, both large and small.

Classes 1-15.

onias (not rex), Classes 16-25.
asses 26-34.

s, Classes 35-50.

s in Classes 1 to 50.

Classes 1-15.

onias (not rex), Classes 16-25.
asses 26-34.

s, Classes 35-50.

s in Classes 1 to 50.

FOR BRANCHES

plants of different varieties, to be
anch under the direction of the
irman. First, second, and third
lus \$15.00, \$10.00, and \$5.00
its must be grown by Branch

PRODUCTIONS

eur or Commercial. Entries per
d. Each entry judged individ-
re and awarded a certificate of
on scoring a minimum of 85
reviously entered can not again
is class.

ON TOTEM POLES

according to entries by show
clerk.

h ever won a blue ribbon in
ay er plants in this division,
e previous classes, for a period

of three consecutive years. These will be staged
separately and judged accordingly. Class ribbons
and trophies will be awarded in this division.

DIVISION N—COMMERCIAL GROWERS

In this division Commercial Growers may exhibit
plants in any of the classes in this schedule. A
trophy will be awarded to the best plant entered,
which also may compete for the President's
Trophy. See Rules and Regulations No. 11.

DIVISION O—FERNS

Class 61. Mounted large-leaved epiphytic, as *Platycerium*.

62. Hardy North American species, as *Woodwardia
fimbriata*.

63. Hardy tropicals, as *Pteris* and *Polystichum*
varieties.

64. Tender and rare tropicals, as *Polypodium* varieties.

65. *Adiantum* (Maidenhair) varieties.

66. Hanging baskets, fine or heavy fronds.

67. Wall baskets, fine or heavy fronds.

67. a. Tree ferns.

67. b. Davallias.

DIVISION P—OTHER SHADE PLANTS

Class 68. African violets.

69. Bromeliads.

70. Fuchsias, upright.

71. Fuchsias, basket.

72. Gloxinias.

73. Any shade or tropical plant (not orchids).

DIVISION Q—FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Class 74. Begonia flowers and foliage, other than "Tuber-
hybrida."

75. Low container, tuberous begonia flowers.

76. Begonias and other plant material.

77. Rex begonia foliage only.

78. Corsage using tuberous begonias.

79. Corsage of begonia blossoms or foliage other than
"Tuberhybrida."

DIVISION R—PLANTERS AND TERRARIUMS

Class 80. Plantings of begonias.

81. Plantings with other house plants.

DIVISION S—BEGONIA SPECIES

Open to all. No limit on entries by any exhibitor.

DIVISION T—ORCHIDS

Class 82. Cattleya.

83. Phalaenopsis.

84. Species.

85. Other varieties.

DIVISION U—MINIATURE GARDENS

Not to exceed 30 inches square.

DIVISION V—BRANCH GARDEN PLOT PLANS

Open to all Branches outside of California. Plan
to be for a 10 ft. x 10 ft. display with a wall at
the back. Scale to be used: 2 inches for 1 foot.
Plan must include all materials used, names of
plants, focal point, props, etc. Judging will be on
the basis of the idea presented, not on architect-
ural exactness. Trophy for best plan.

DIVISION W—SNAPSHOTS OF A POTTED BEGONIA

Open to all members outside of California. Pic-
tures should be 3½" x 5" in size. Trophy for best
snapshot.

DIVISION X—BEGONIAS IN CULTIVATION 25 YEARS OR LONGER

Species or cultivars. The *Buxton Check List of
Begonias* will be the authority as to the age of
the plants.

A.B.S. Flower Show Rules and Regulations

1. All exhibits are, from the commencement to the close of the exhibition, in the charge of the Show Committee.

2. Competitive entries must be made according to division and classes.

3. All competitive entries must be in place by 9:30 a.m., Saturday, September 5, and judging will commence at 10:00 a.m. All entries not in by 9:30 a.m. will be eligible only for non-competitive exhibition.

4. All entries will receive sealed entry cards at times of entering plants, allowing same to remain sealed until after judging.

5. Chairman of Judges Committee will assume complete charge at start of judging and no person will be allowed to interfere, to offer criticisms, or to distract the decisions of the judges. Only judges and their clerks will be permitted in show room at time of judging.

6. Any chairman or members of committees engaged in the show preparation will be permitted to exhibit and to compete under the same conditions as any other exhibitor, with adherence to all show rules.

7. Each entry may compete for only one class award and only one entry per exhibitor may be made in any class with the exception of Division K.

8. All plants and flowers exhibited in competitive classes must have been grown by the exhibitor and have been in his possession for three months prior to the show. This rule does not apply to flower arrangements. Only class award blue ribbon winners may be considered for trophy awards in the novice, amateur, and commercial divisions.

9. *Novice*: A novice is an amateur who enters A.B.S. competition for the first time and he remains a novice for three consecutive years, after which he must enter in the amateur class. In the event a novice wins a total of five blue ribbons or wins one of the A.B.S. trophy awards prior to the expiration of this three year period he must thereafter enter as an amateur.

10. *Amateur*: An amateur is one who grows plants for self-pleasure and by self-effort and does not hold a commercial license. Any member of the family not falling into this category disqualifies the entire family as amateurs.

11. *Commercial Grower*: A commercial grower may enter any class. However, his plants will be judged only against other commercial entries. A commercial grower is a person who obtains his livelihood from the sale of plants.

12. The management shall have the right to exclude infected or diseased plants.

13. No plant may be removed from the show except by official permission.

14. While the management will exercise due caution and care in safeguarding exhibits, it cannot assume responsibility for loss or injury.

15. Judges shall award premiums as in their opinion an entry merits. Whether a group of entries is in competition, or an entry is without competition, it will be at their discretion to award only on merits. The decision of the judges is final.

16. Sweepstakes trophies will be awarded on total number of blue ribbons only in begonia divisions. In case of a tie, second and third place ribbons will be counted on the basis of 3 points for first place, 2 points for second place, and 1 point for third place.

17. All trophies must remain on display for the duration of the flower show.

18. Individual entries in the competitive show are open to all, members or non-members.

19. Challenge trophies are to be returned to the A.B.S. Flower Show Chairman four weeks prior to the 1965 A.B.S. Flower Show.

20. Any container, wire, clay, ceramic, wood, or metal, without hanger wires, may be entered as a potted plant.

21. Pictures submitted in Division W should be accompanied by the following information, which will be needed if they are reproduced in *The Begonian*: Name and address of exhibitor, name of exhibitor's Branch, name and approximate age of the begonia, and any interesting facts about its culture and growth.

22. Plans and pictures submitted in Division V and Division W will not be returned to exhibitors.

23. Plans submitted in Division V and snapshots submitted in Division W should be sent to Mrs. Bee Olson, Research Director. They must be received no later than August 15, 1964.

24. Perpetual and challenge trophies must score 90 points or over.

25. Perpetual and challenge trophies are for A.B.S. members only.

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CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND FLIGHT

No. 1 — *B. piresiana* —

New species, medium growth, bushy, dark green leaves, hairy underneath. Flowers in great profusion, white on short inflorescences. Grows in a moist, shady location. The plant was discovered between Sao Sebastiao and Bertiaga in the state of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 2—*B. Philippine Islands No. 2—*

Rhizomatous, not branching, large leaves, ciliated at the end which has hair-like projections similar to those of a squash, brownish underneath, green on the surface. Flowers held on foot-high spikes, cream-colored. Grows in shade but will tolerate some sun and likes plenty of water. Description is from the collector in the Philippine Islands. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 3 — *B. kenworthyi* —

Mexico. Rhizomatous. Textured leaves, shaped and veined like ivy, but more grey or powder-blue than green. Likes more sun and less water than the average. Flowers white. Keep warm and dry to promote new growth. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 4 — *V. 'Verde Grande'* —

(*B. manicata* x *B. 'Dark Sheen'*). This is a hybrid. Exceptionally fine begonia, with star-shaped leaves of smoothest green satin, edged with blue-black markings, pale eyes, and radiating veins. Strong and adaptable. 35 cents per pkt.

No. 5 — *B. dregei* —

True species leaves are purple-veined and bronze, red underneath. Flowers are white. Grow it warm and humid. The largest of the maple leaf species. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 6 — *B. incana* —

White-felted, fleshy, green leaves attached to the stem near the center, like a lily pad. Drooping white flowers in profusion. Grow it dry. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 7 — *B. gracilis* —

Also called "Hollyhock begonia." Tall stalks with rosy flowers close to

stem. Bulbils form in leaf axils. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 8—*B. Mexican species No. 38—*

Rhizomatous plant with large green leaves. Large sprays of white flowers, tinged pink. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 9 — *B. Tuberous species* —

Clusters of orange-scarlet flowers with golden stamens. Stalks are slender and should be staked if used outdoors. Can be used as a basket plant. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 10 — *B. Bertini hybrids* —

Tuberous. Flowers are red, pink, orange-scarlet. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 11 — *B. 'Paul Bruant'* —

(*B. heracleifolia longipila* x *B. frutescent*). A hybrid. Large, straight stems; light green, deeply toothed leaves, lighter veined. Fully open, round, pink flowers. New plants produced on stems. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 12 — *B. semperflorens* —

From France, with no information. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 13 — *B. coccinea rosea* —

Tall, cane-type plant, bright green leaves, flowers rose. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 14 — *B. 'Erythrophylla' x manicata aureo-maculata* —

A cross made by a member in Minnesota. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 15 — *B. Rhizomatous mixed* —

From the Philippine Islands. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 16 — *B. 'Prince Charming'* —

Double semperflorens in several unusual colors. A large supply from our friend in Australia. 50 cents per pkt.

GREENHOUSE PLANTS

Rechsteineria cardinalis —

Brilliantly flowered, tuberous plant, with round cordate, emerald green, velvety leaves, topped by large, tubular, bilabiate flowers, white-downy over scarlet, throat marked purple. 25 cents per pkt.

Crossandra undulaefolia —

Shrubby plant, with glossy, ovate leaves; showy salmon-red tubular

flowers with split limb in angled bracted spikes. 25 cents per pkt.

Vanda sanderiana —

Epiphytic orchid. Strap leaves; large, round flowers soft rose, spotted crimson near the base. 25 cents per pkt.

Hylocereus x Epiphyllum Hybrid Cooperi —

'Easter cactus.' Stiff, spreading branches of long, flattened joints, dull green with purplish crenate margins, a few bristles at apex. Star-like regular flowers, dark scarlet in March and April. 25 cents per pkt.

SPECIAL OFFER — CROTON WOOD

The Seed Fund is offering "wood" of live croton plants. We have a license to sell seed only, so the live material will be mailed directly from the grower who lives in South America, by first class air mail postpaid. Some general instructions will be included with the cuttings to aid the purchaser in rooting and growing them.

The following comment comes from the grower:

"We have a fine collection of crotons, grown to perfection in our tropical climate, consisting of standard named varieties and seedlings (hybrids) which have been grown from hand-pollinated seed, selected and reselected to have only quality as an end result. Practically all leaf shapes are represented, all colors and color combinations, and any customer who has a special preference for a certain type of color may be assured that we will do everything possible to carry out his wishes.

"There are three grades from which to choose, as follows: Good at \$1.00 each; better at \$2.50 each; and best at \$5.00 each.

"The best grades are the ones that we consider worthy of propagating further and introducing as new varieties. If anyone should like to do this, information will be available. If no special preference is given, we will select material which we feel will please the recipient."

Send all requests for croton wood to the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund and they will be forwarded. There may be a short delay in sending material as we will have to wait until sufficient requests come in to warrant sending them on to South America. Please note that croton "wood" is being offered — not rooted plants.

MRS. FLORENCE GEE,

Seed Fund Administrator,

234 Birch Street,

Roseville, California 95678.

YOUR HELP WILL BE APPRECIATED

Perhaps you are a member-at-large, that is, you rely entirely on this publication, with possibly a Round Robin Flight, for your information on begonias, and you attend no Branch meetings. You are one of a group which represents more than half of the membership of the American Begonia Society.

Or perhaps you are a member of a Branch of the A.B.S. but you live too far away to enter one of your cherished begonias in the forthcoming Begonia and Shade Plant Show.

If you live outside of California and you are a member of the American Begonia Society, you may win a trophy for your begonia without even bringing it to the show. You can display your potted begonia by entering a snapshot of it for show visitors to admire.

And while you are giving yourself pleasure and satisfaction, your participation will be a big help to the show — and your help will be appreciated.

Read the requirements for Division W in the show schedule and #23 in the rules and regulations, in this issue, then send your snapshot to Mrs. Bee Olson, Research Director.

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Wilbur Olson and his Best-in-Show fern.

FERN SHOW ENTRIES OUTSTANDING

BY RUTH PEASE

The recent Los Angeles Fern Society's Show, held in May, was one of the finest seen by many of us. Instead of using tables to display the ferns in the customary manner, Show Chairman Frank Pauker chose to suspend the baskets so that they could be viewed at eye level and placed others in iron stands and on redwood rounds set in redwood shavings on the floor.

Many outstanding ferns graced the show. Bee and Wilbur Olson won many trophies for their ferns. Besides winning Best-in-the-Show with their *Nephrolepis exaltata* 'Verona' (best in its class, also) they won trophies with their entries of a basketed *Algaomorpha coronans*, *Davallia fijiensis* 'Major,' and *Begonia* 'Virbob' seedling.

Betty Jo Miller won trophies for her *Adiantum farleyense*, totem of *Stenochlaena paulistris*, novel fern tree, and *Phalaenopsis* orchid 'Texas Star.'

Glen Scofield won the trophy for his *Platycterium grande*. Grace Yerrick received a trophy for her arrangement of roses and ferns, and Olive Alvey won a trophy for her corsage made up of succulents.

There were three entries in the Garden Display Division. Culver City Garden Club won the trophy here, and the one individual entry in this division was won by Betty Jo Miller.

FUCHSIA SOCIETY WILL STAGE SHOW

'Fuchsia Wonderland' will be the theme of the tenth annual Fuchsia and Shade Plant Show to be presented by the California National Fuchsia Society in the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium in Long Beach, California, on Saturday and Sunday, July 11 and 12.

The show will feature garden displays by Branches of the Society and exhibits by other garden clubs.

Individual entries — open to members or non-members — will include fuchsia blossoms, fuchsia plants, begonias, ferns, Africa violets, gloxinias, bromeliads, and orchids.

The show will be open to the public from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, and from 12 noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Admission will be \$1.00 for adults, 50 cents for children 12 to 16 years of age, and free for children under 12.

BEGONIA SHOW IN SEATTLE

Featuring the theme, "Puget Sound Sheltered Gardens," the Seattle Branch of the A.B.S. will present its Tenth Annual Seafair Begonia and Sheltered Garden Show on Saturday and Sunday, August 1 and 2. The place will be the Loyal Heights Field House, 21st Avenue N.W. and N.W. 77th Street, Seattle, Washington.

Hours of the show will be 2 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday. Admission will be 35 cents.

BREAKFAST IN LONG BEACH

The North Long Beach Branch of the A.B.S. will have a pancake breakfast on Sunday, July 19, from 8:30 a.m. until noon, at the home of Ralph and Bernice Sparks, 8541 Boyson St., Downey, Calif. Price \$1.00 per person. Money raised will be used for the annual show by the Branch.

ROUND ROBIN NEWS

Round Robin #12 is now in Flight, with Mrs. Anne W. Stiles of Medford, New Jersey, as chairman.

Flight #13 is being reserved for temporary assignments and correspondence while some members are waiting for a particular type of Round Robin to build up.

Flight #14 is for International members. Tentatively this appears to be principally for men in professional categories, although their experiences with begonia culture may be somewhat limited or recent. Four men are waiting for this Flight to develop.

These assignments bring the total number of members in the program to 95, as this is written on May 27, 1964.

The rate of growth of our program now appears to be about one new Flight per month. The new Flights which have been started since the program was expanded in March are beginning to return from their first round of members. It is wonderful to see the enthusiasm with which each Flight is received by every member in it.

If any of you folks who are not in this program have wondered how a group of members who have been total strangers to each other can get acquainted, I can tell you that it seems like a miracle. Our common interest in plants of all kinds is a strong motivating influence. In the first cycle of every new Flight, members have been giving an interesting account of themselves and their collections of plants. Whether they grow a lot of plants or just a few, these folks all share the same enthusiasm and they are friends from their very first letter.

Please, don't hesitate to write to me for an assignment to one or more Flights. Whether you are confined to your home or isolated in a remote location or traveling to work in the city every day, you will always find time to write your letter when your Flight arrives. In case you join a Flight and

find later that you can't continue, just let us know. The Flight chairman and I can change the schedule to relieve you. We can assure you, however, that the members will miss you.

The number of men who are active in this program is increasing — there are now fifteen. Men, also, like to write about their plants and they find the discussions, problems, and information very interesting and instructive.

Here are a couple of news items from the Robins this month:

Mrs. Geraldine Daly, Coventry, Rhode Island, Flight #1, has found a novel material to use in the bottom of trays in which plants are set when they are in the house. Normally sand, small gravel, or poultry grit is used to keep the pots off the bottoms of the trays and to assist in evaporating water for increasing the humidity around the plants. Mrs. Daly has found that ¼-inch thick sheets of sponge rubber, cut to fit the trays, is much neater, holds water effectively, has plenty of surface area for evaporation, and leaves no particle attached to the pots when they are lifted out of the trays. Besides, the colored sponge rubber looks tidy and also washes easily if it becomes soiled.

Mrs. Ethel Baker of Dallas, Oregon, Flight #6, reported that she prefers sharp sand as a rooting medium for all kinds of cuttings.

This brings up several good questions for the general membership of A.B.S. Please write to me and tell me what medium you prefer and why. Also, who knows what sharp sand is? In Seattle two common grades of sand are sold commercially—fine sand for mortar mixes and builders sand for concrete mixes. Both have sand grains smaller than 1/32" diameter. The builders sand also has particles 1/32" to 3/16" diameter. Under a magnifying glass, all particles look irregular and have quite sharp points. There are no dust or clay particles among the grains. There seems to be ample open space for roots to travel through.

Are clean particles and open spaces the only requirements for sharp sand as a rooting medium?

Also, how do other members feel about other media such as vermiculite, sponge-rok (perlite), pumice, lava, parakeet gravel, bird sand, sandy garden loam, leaf mold, peat moss, or other items and mixtures? I need the answers from fifty or more members, in Round Robins and among the general membership, to provide the data for a good report in *The Begonian*.

I received a very interesting letter from Dr. Fred A. Barkley of the University of Baghdad, Abu Ghraib, Iraq. He teaches bacteriology and several botanical subjects. He is also collecting and building an herbarium of native plants for the college. He reported that he is in the native habitat of the anemone, ranunculus, delphinium, tulip, narcissus, etc.

Among his many studies in the field of plants, Dr. Barkley has an interest in begonias and *The Begonian*, and he would like to join a Round Robin Flight.

Dr. Barkley also sent money for a subscription to *The Begonian* for the college library, so that he can read and review his own copy rather than have it frequently on loan to other interested readers. This is a genuine compliment to *The Begonian*.

We will make a special effort to set up an International Round Robin. Are there any other experts in professional or college educational fields

anywhere in the A.B.S. — in this country or around the world — who would like to join such a Flight?

The time for a cycle of this type of Flight will probably be considerably longer than a normal Flight within the United States and the mailing expense will be much higher, but the benefits should more than compensate the members. Please send a letter to me, asking to be placed on this Robin.

HERB WARRICK
Round Robin Director
6543 — 26th Ave., N.E.
Seattle, Wash., 98115.

NO RAISE IN DUES

On the proposal to increase the A.B.S. dues, the Ballot Committee reported to the National Board as follows:

Total votes counted	655
No votes	416
Yes votes	239
Ballots defaced	9

The proposal failed to receive the two-thirds vote necessary for approval.

Some members' votes were written and not on official ballots and could not be counted; others voted too late to be counted.

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WORKSHOP FOR NEW MEMBERS

BY MRS. T. J. ATKINSON

President, Louisiana Capital Branch

The April meeting of the Louisiana Capital Branch was different from our usual meetings. We began with a workshop on begonias from 10 to 12 in the morning, and had our business meeting at 7:30 in the evening.

At the workshop, which was slanted toward prospective members, we showed the difference between the male and female flowers, how they are pollinated and planted, how cuttings are selected, and why some don't root. We demonstrated mixing a good soil for begonias, planting leaves and leaf wedges, and rooting leaves in water.

There were talks on rhizomatous, canestems, rexes, and semps.

Afterwards, all the materials used in the demonstrations were given away. Each member and visitor also received at least one begonia. Containers of seedlings were given away — from tiny specks of green to transplanting size, and packs of begonia seeds saved by a member were distributed.

For the door prize we gave a large rex begonia 'Carmelita.'

Everyone enjoyed the workshop and the visitors wanted to be invited again. We received dues for three new members.

We think that other Branches might want to try our idea. It helps members to become more familiar with begonias so that they enjoy them more, and it stimulates interest for new members.

MUSINGS . . .

(Continued from Page 139)

large as one of its parents, *sunderbruchi*. These are only examples of what can be done here with ideal facilities.

There are some fascinating begonias that we try and try again, only to lose them every time because they are so susceptible to mildew. Among these

are 'Margaritaceae,' *olbia*, and *masoniana irmscher*, as well as some rexes. The cause of the mildew is the balance of heat and humidity and if it is not just suitable for the plants with leaves of delicate texture, mildew results. The varieties differ with growers, and the above-mentioned may grow very well for someone else. In fact, in one greenhouse I have seen beautiful large specimens of 'Iron Cross,' while another person, a good grower, has mildew trouble with it.

By using Karathane as a preventive measure at regular periods, Mike Kartuz has eliminated mildew from his plants. Mildex is another name for this product. It should be used as a preventive measure instead of waiting until the deadly white spots appear.

* * *

Among the most persistent and most difficult pests to eradicate are the mealy bugs. They seem to come from nowhere. On a few plants, alcohol applied with a small brush can be effective, or even squeezing them with the fingers, but on many plants this is quite a task. Malathion is recommended, but fumigating with tedian (in a greenhouse) is the last resort.

If plants are washed frequently, the insect population can be held down, but constant vigilance is necessary. Nature never stops, whether it is in growing weeds or creating insects.

* * *

Has anyone bloomed Ziesenhenné No. 27? We have had fine specimens of this variety but, even in the greenhouse, it has never bloomed. And has it ever been named? The leaves are so beautiful it really does not need flowers. Another variety that has grown immense without blooming is 'San Miguel'; both parents bloom like mad.

HOW CAN YOU WIN?

How can you win trophies on your plants if you don't enter them in the Begonia and Shade Plant Show?

CALENDAR

- July 2 — Westchester Branch: Show of members' plants.
- July 2 — Whittier Branch: Jess Chapman, representing Destruxol Corporation, will speak on "Safe Use of Insecticides." Pot-luck dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.
- July 9 — Orange County Branch: Colored slides and information on birds and shrubs that attract birds, by Mrs. Margaret Harding.
- July 16 — Long Beach Parent Chapter: "Fertilizing and Spraying Shade Gardens" will be the subject of a talk by Joe Littlefield, garden consultant and lecturer.
- July 17 — North Long Beach Branch: Russ Herrema will show pictures and speak on fuchsias and begonias.
- July 19 — North Long Beach Branch: Pancake breakfast for \$1.00 at 8541 Boyson Street, Downey.
- July 21 — Missouri Branch: Luncheon 11 a.m. — flower sale 12:30 — meeting 1 p.m. Mrs. Dulcie Wheelchell will be hostess. Program: Mrs. Ware, chapter 13, Odd and Rare Begonias; Mrs. Wood, chapter 10, Basket begonias. Discussion of July problems.
- July 22 — Glendale Branch: Joe Littlefield, garden consultant and lecturer, will speak on "Begonias and Other Shade-loving Plants."
- August 1-2 — Seattle Branch: Begonia and Sheltered Garden Show, Loyal Heights Field House, Seattle. 35 cents admission.

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

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER NOW AVAILABLE

A list of the names and addresses of all members of the American Begonia Society is now available for members' use. This roster will help you find other members living near you, so that you can become acquainted, discuss your common interests, and perhaps even start a local Branch. When you are traveling and want to visit begonia growers along the way, the roster will tell you where to find them.

Order your roster from the Membership Secretary. The price is \$1.00 including postage.

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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
Mrs. Daniel L. Comiskey, Secy.
64 High Rock St., Needham, Mass., 02192

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
Mrs. Isabel A. Hall, Secy.
358 E. Arrow Hwy., Upland, Calif.

FORT, ELSA BRANCH

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

GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central
Mrs. Katherine Alberti, Cor. Secy.
3322 Troy Drive, Hollywood, Calif., 90028

GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

2nd Saturday, 1:30 p.m. (except Dec. & Jan.)
Seacoast Hall, 3rd and E St., Encinitas, Calif.
Mrs. Alice E. Roberts, Secy.
523 Hermes Ave., Encinitas, 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, Corr. Secy.
Welsh and Veree Rd., Philadelphia, Pa.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Meetings temporarily suspended.
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. Frances Jean, Secy.
8212 Reading Ave., Los Angeles 45, Calif.

KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Library, Horticultural Society of N.Y.
157 West 58th St., New York
Mrs. Phyllis Cherot, Secy.
115-44 194th St.,
St. Albans 12, N. Y.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Linden Hall
208 Linden Ave., Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Mabel Gage, Secy.
3214 Delmar Ave., Long Beach 7, 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, 11 a.m.
Member's Homes
Kansas City, Mo.
Miss Nina Austin, Secy.
1104 Askwew St., Kansas City 27, Mo.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

3rd Friday, 7:30 p.m.
3901 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach
Ruby Tessier, Secy.
3737 Gundry Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Garden Grove Grange Hall, Century and Taft Sts.
Garden Grove, Calif.
Maybelle L. Woods, Secy.
604 S. Helena St.,
Anaheim, California, 92805.

PASADENA BRANCH

Meetings on Call, Homes of Members
Col. C. M. Gale, Secy.
2176 N. Roosevelt Ave., Altadena, 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

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Lincoln School Recreation Center
Ernest and Vail Sts., Redondo Beach, Calif.
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1304 N. Poinsettia Ave., 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.

BRINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

3rd Friday, 12 noon, 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
Emma Engelbrecht, Secy.
4562 Kensington Dr., San Diego 16, 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. William (Polly) Eilau, Secy.
469 West Norman St., Arcadia, Calif.

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Youth Center, Lemon Grove, Calif.
Mrs. Lucille Williams, Secy.
1261 Concord St., El Cajon, 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.
Loyal Heights Field House,
21st Ave., N. W. and N. W. 77th St.
Mrs. Janice W. Barnette, Secy.
2735 N. E. 53rd St., Seattle, Wash., 98105.

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

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

SMOKY VALLEY BRANCH

3rd Thursday of each Month
Mrs. Arthur Houlberg, Secy.
833 Sheridan St.
Salina, Kansas, 67401.

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
Lorenzo Manor School
18250 Bengal Ave., Hayward, Calif.
Jack Dunaway, Secy.
1650 Plaza Dr., San Leandro, Calif.

TALL CORN STATE BRANCH

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

TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m.
Members' Homes
Mrs. F. E. Mahler, Secy.
1815 Sixth Ave., Fort Worth, Texas

TEXAS STATE BRANCH

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

TEXASTAR BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 10 a.m., Garden Center
1500 Herman Dr., Houston, Texas
Mrs. J. L. Linkenhoger, Secy.
11310 Holliday Way
Houston, Texas, 77024

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. Alex Nagy, Secy.
R. D. #1, Box 305P, Altermoor Dr.
Natrona Heights, Pa.

WHITTIER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Palm Park Community Center, 1643 Floral Drive
Mrs. Evelyn Shute, Cor. Secy.
15344 E. Leffingwell Rd., Whittier, Calif.

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3rd Tuesday, 2:00 p.m., Homes of Members
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