

The Begonian

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

NOVEMBER, 1964

PRICE 25 CENTS

NUMBER 11



From the President -

I am happy to have the privilege of serving as president of the American Begonia Society. I will try very hard to be worthy of the faith you have shown in me.

It is my plan to visit as many branches and members as my time and strength will permit. It would be a pleasure to hear from members in all parts of the country. Your suggestions and constructive criticism will be most welcome. I cannot promise to answer all letters immediately, but will do the best I can.

Recently my husband and I had the pleasure of attending the Seattle Begonia Show, and meeting some of the members of the Seattle Branch, and also the new Eastside Branch. What a grand bunch of people! They have so much enthusiasm.

The biggest problem we have now is financial. Our expenditures are exceeding our income, and we cannot continue this way very long. We are trying desperately to continue the magazine, but increasing printing costs make it very difficult. One of our members, Mrs. Margaret Barbour, of Sierra Madre, California, has given us three hundred dollars to help carry on. Some of the branches have made donations, and more are planning to help. For this, we are grateful. But it is very difficult for the officers to carry on under these circumstances.

I hope all of you are taking advantage of the things the ABS has to offer, such as Round Robins, Library, Seed Fund, etc. Speaking of the Seed Fund, Mrs. Gee does need seeds to carry on her department. If you can help in any way, please let her know. She is working very hard for us, most of the time without even a word of thanks. The officers are a dedicated, hard working, group of people working for you. Why not let them know once in a while that you appreciate what they are doing?

Mabel Cowin

From the Editor -

As the President of our Society has said, I also say — I will try hard to give you the best possible magazine that we can produce. In the publishing of any magazine, one must hold to the budget. The number of pages, cuts and so on in future issues will depend upon that. As Editor-in-chief, I have no intention in letting the "Begonian" go in the hole!

One of the first things as Editor-in-chief will be the appointment of several new regional editors, one in the northwest, one in the deep south, and one in the California area. In this way we can draw on a wider reader interest.

Because of the need to increase our advertising, and we should have more, we will also change some of the format of the magazine and broaden it out onto other shade subjects. We will always talk begonias of course, but we are going to try for other readers of the sheltered garden.

I will be traveling the 4 western states this year very intensively and will gather reports for you. Some may be short that we will place in the newsletter, others will be longer. To make any magazine interesting we need articles. Little stories, longer stories. Never mind whether you can write or not, send them in, typed if possible. Our staff will whip them into shape! We need more goings on and what was said in our branches — not just "so and so made an announcement and cake was served." Give us pithy things!

The Society business will be towards the back of the magazine so that a new reader won't think this is a club reporter magazine! We want the circulation to grow to where it used to be, and to do this we will make certain changes to make the materials more presentable. As any Editor-in-Chief, all kinds of suggestions and ideas will be welcome, so let's hear from you!

PS: Deadline for all materials will be the 1st of the month!

Begonias in Mexico

by Mr. T. Mac Dougall

The pictures on this page and next, were taken in a rain forest south of Tuxtepec, in the Mexican State of Oaxaca. The altitude range represented is approximately 3000 to 6000 feet. Here begonias often associate with plants of other species, but pleasing and interesting habitat groups.

These natural arrangements may be appreciated in person, whether they be in the shade, under clouds, in fog or rain, or with splashing waters. These are what may be termed "normal conditions". To record on film, the few groups shown here, I needed to be on hand during the less frequent periods of good light or of sunshine, in other words under "abnormal conditions".

Some of the smooth leaved species pictured here, seem to enjoy a nearly constant spray of water, figures 1 and 3. The beneficial effects of the rain forest, on these begonias is partly due to its regulating action on the water supply. Although there are two seasons, the rainy "when it pours" and the dry "when it rains", the small springs and streams remain fairly constant throughout the year.

The "rough leaved" begonias, such as *b. imperialis*, figure 6, need humidity and moisture, but they are not "water babies".

Additional species in this same rain forest include *b. Scandens*, *b. popenoei*, *b. Franconis*, and two or more species for which I have no identity.



A climbing begonias, *b. Reptans*, with other plant species, growing on the perpendicular face of a rock, and under the shower of a streamlet.



A closer view of the *b. reptans* in figure 1. Plant in center is probably a peperomia.

"Front page cover" — *Begonia Serratifolia*
grown by Mr. Carlton L. Hommedieu.

Picture by Hertha A. Benjamin, Bronx, New York



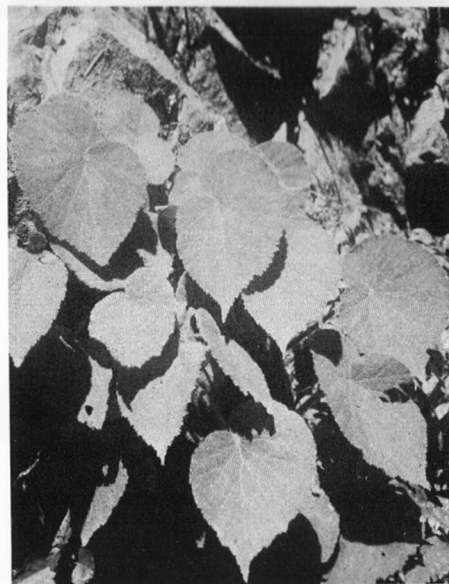
This begonia is also under a shower. It is a rhizomatous species, and does not require so much water.



This trailing species, *b. Liebmanni*, has luminous white flowers, pink in the bud, very effective against the dark background.



The begonia on the left is the same species show in figure 3, *b. manicata*. The large deep pink flowers are just beginning to open. The plant on the right is of fibrous rooted "cane" type *b. oaxacana*, var. *pilosula*, buds and white flowers are scarcely discernable in the picture.



B. imperialis, var., *smargadina*. Although nearly all the plants of this species in this area have plain green leaves, some few have silver and other markings, as if trying to escape the *smargadina* stigma?

Why Should Shade Plants Have Problems?

Part 1 -- Drainage

by Gordon Baker Lloyd

For beginners in shade gardening and for advanced gardeners, it might be well to look over again the reasons for shade garden failures. Since they are a few we must consider, let's begin with the most common problem, lack of drainage.

Why does a shade plant need drainage? We might divide plants, into two broad groups. Sun lovers, and shade lovers. In these two groups we have two kinds of root systems. The sun group have large tap roots, heavy roots that can penetrate soils; their roots can hold moisture; these roots can even stand excess moisture up to a point without rotting.

In the shade garden we have a group of plants with thousands of feet of feeder roots that are very fine, in fact we call this group of plants often fibrous rooted. These roots do not store moisture like the sun plants; they rot easily and quickly when in the presence of wet soil at all types; and they do not penetrate into hard packed, tight soil.

So, to correct our many soil conditions, we lay a great deal of emphasis on good drainage, for this group of plants; begonias, ferns, camellias and all the rest.

How do we make good drainage? The beginning gardener — and sometimes others too, figure it this way. Put some gravel in the bottom of the pot, put some gravel in the bottom of a hole, and this is drainage. Well, it's not! We put materials in a pot bottom to keep the drainage hole from clogging, but that in itself is not necessarily drainage. We put gravel in the bottom of a 2 by 2 foot hole for a camellia and this is no drainage at all.

Water will hold in the gravel area and literally you could plunge the plant up and down and throw out water if it got too much! Drainage is

just what it means — “the act of draining.” This means carrying water away. One of the nation's top camellia authorities has often told me that if he had the chance to control camellia and shade plant plantings of all kinds, that if the soil was it all heavy, he would not advise any type of soil conditioning, but would put everything in 18 inch raised beds — that's how he felt about drainage.

As you look at shade loving plants in their natural habitat, you find perfect drainage. Many of these plants grow in almost straight mixes of bark and rotted leaves. Regardless of the rain, the drainage is perfect.

To make good drainage, we can do two basic things:

1. Make raised beds filled in with the proper type of shade plant mixture.
2. Make large planting holes, at least twice or three times the size of a 5 gallon container . . . and at the bottom of this hole, with a post hole digger go out another two feet. In this put pea sized gravel.

In the latter method the moisture will be carried out beyond the planted plant. It may be that in beds of shade plants, begonias, ferns, and like plants, that a tile system for drainage going out into a seep hole, prepared for this type of soil, may be necessary.

Regardless of the area where you plan to have a shade garden, East, West or deep South, drainage for this type of plant is very important not only to prevent yellowing of leaves, but to give proper air in the soil. When soils get moisture filled, plant roots can't breathe. When soils get water logged, bacterial action stops and thereby plant foods are not released.

I know that about 90 per cent of all the problems attached to shade

plants, camellias, azaleas, rhododendrons, begonias, ferns, and the rest, come from poor drainage. It is no wonder that many sheltered plant gardeners turn to container grown plants, where this problem can be controlled.

"THE BEGONIAN"

Advertising rates

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Full Page	\$30.00	\$25.00
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Per Inch	3.00	2.50

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The begonia garden and home of Ray and Ruth Eppley, 4858 N. Willard Ave., Rosemead, will be the setting for a breakfast on Sunday, November 15, 7 A. M. to 1 P. M. This will be sponsored by the San Gabriel Valley Branch. A cordial invitation is extended to all members and guests. Come and enjoy a menu of fruit juice, hot cakes, ham or bacon, eggs, and coffee, for a one dollar donation. All proceeds will go into the national treasury.

* * *

November 19 — Long Beach Parent Chapter: Meeting will be November 19, in Linden Hall, 7:30 P.M., 208 Linden Ave. This is a membership participating program for the evening. Good plant table and refreshments.

* * *

November 5 Westchester Branch: Installation of officers. The Guest Speaker will be Dave Roberts who will talk about ferns.

* * *

December 3—The Westchester Branch Annual Christmas and Whoopie Party.

* * *

December 3 — Whittier Branch: Leona Shanks, Temple City will present "Holiday hints" which will cover gift wrapping, with suggestions for home decorations. Refreshments, door prizes. All are invited.

DIVISION "W" TROPHY GOES TO LOUISIANA

First place and Division Trophy went to MRS. DON L. WAGNER of Baton Rouge Louisiana for her picture of B. Cleopatra.

Second place went to MRS. ALFRED STIDHAM of Washington D. C. for her picture of B. Maphil.

Third place went to MRS. DON L. WAGNER of Baton Rouge for her picture of B. Bow-Nigra.

Special Award went to M. L. MacINTYRE of Liverpool, England for his picture of B. Clifton (Boweri-Mazae cross)

This year's entries covered rhizomatous, rex, semperfloren, cane and semi-tuberous. All plants were excellent plant material and posed a problem to the judges. Entries were received from Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, D. C. and England. Pictures were displayed in the main show room. Each picture framed in gold on a bulletin board with its description and story printed just beneath the picture.

A little human interest story goes with our trophy winner. Mrs. Wagner sent in an envelope with several pictures of her best plants. Somewhere enroute from Louisiana the postal personnel were either caught in a rain shower or fell in a pond for the letter had been very wet before its arrival. One picture remained in good condition (B. Cleopatra) the rest were hopelessly stuck fast. The unusable ones were immediately returned to ones we immediately returned to Mrs. Wagner with a plea for additional pictures — but the Wagners were on vacation. However they returned just before the deadline and hurriedly sent in additional pictures — among them B. Bow-Nigra. Thus fate takes good care of us begonia growers.

Trophy for this division was donated by Mrs. Grace Yerick of the Inglewood Branch.

Bumblin' Along With

by Bee Olson

Today I received a question from a new member in Australia — (ACM of Guilford, Australia)

He begins his letter by telling of growing seed from the seed fund stating that he has raised 60 plants of *B. venosa*. He states "the description as advertised reads in part 'this begonia thrives best in a warm location, where it gets a few hours of the morning and afternoon sunshine. This condition turns the leaves to a beautiful white. If the plant is placed in the shade permanently, the plant remains greenish'. In a later Begonian it states 'B. venosa which wants to be grown on the dry side, but should not be put out in the sun.' Please, how does a poor beginner grow this plant?"

Dear ACM: Thank you for your question. It is a very good question and I am sure of special interest to new members or perhaps I should say new 'growers'. The answer to your question is not a simple statement of directions for the growing of this plant, for both authorities are 'right' if all conditions are known to the reader. In the growing of plants there is considerable confusion, even among the experts. The reason for this is that growing conditions vary greatly depending on many things; temperature, humidity, water, potting mix or ground conditions and probably most important on the grower himself. *B. venosa* is grown out-of-doors with morning and afternoon sun successfully, but the conditions have to be just right. This can only be done where the climate is right for it and where proper drainage can be assured. Also *B. venosa* grows to a specimen plant in a greenhouse (such as you are doing). To become a specimen plant within a greenhouse it must be provided with very good light, should be grown on the dry side and water

should be withheld from the foliage.

Advice given for growing begonias can only be general. Experts know if a plant likes a great deal of water or does not like "wet feet" — they know if they do better in shade or prefer more light to bring out the perfection of the plant — they know if a plant can stand the cooler temperatures of whether they must be kept on the warmer side but unless they are your next door neighbor they cannot be specific for even a very little distance can change the temperature and humidity. This should NOT discourage a beginner — rather, this is what makes growing wonderful for all stages of growing. A rank beginner can know success where experts have failed just because through love of growing and perhaps a little 'beginner's luck' he hits on right conditions for a certain plant. The answer (at least for me) lies in experimenting and persistence. I know a grower that tried some over 20 different plants at different times of a certain species only to have them die and finally the last time he tried the plant grew beyond all expectations to a glorious specimen. That was all the proof I needed. If you enjoy a plant — keep trying.

It brought me pleasure, ACM, to note even before an answer could reach you, that you were experimenting. (Readers, ACM states in his letter that he has 30 plants where they receive morning sun but that he could see no improvement in the white tomentous cover and that the leaves inclined to twist. The balance of his plants are grown in the greenhouse) You will, by your methods, be in a position to answer your own question and perhaps pass on to the members the results of your experiment. When

(Continued on Page 244)

THE BEGONIAN NEWLETTER

In 1907 Wm. S. Lyon in "Gardening in California" said that he could not give a list of the types to plant because "odd botanical species of begonias are nearly superseded by the introduction of gardeners morgrels, and reference to them is made to the catalogues!" He did say however in a short page of culture "they revel in the partial obscurity of filtered or broken sunlight, yet many will make a brave show under the fierce sun of a southern exposure". He hit it on the head when he said "scooping out a hole and filling it with broken rock or rubbish, as frequently done, will serve no purpose unless the hole is carried through the hard pan or imperious stratum, or unless the fall of the land will admit of laying a drain pipe, box or tile" . . . how true this is!

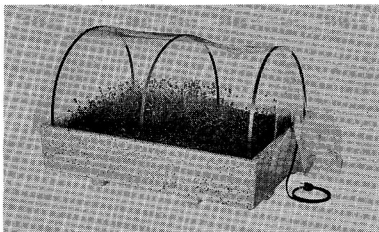
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The old books with their somewhat stilted language, still give the "good old basic facts" of gardening. They make interesting reading and it's surprising what you can pick up. Look at the changes over the years in begonia culture discussions, and begonia popularity, especially as house plants in the East . . . and lo and behold if the "California begonia Society" didn't show up last month in Gordo's comic strip by Gus Arriola! We have at last lived! . . . and that gal on television who says "I thought that was a tuberous begonia"! At least we are getting plugged!

* * *

In the summer bulletin of the National Begonia Society of England, Mrs. G. A. Barker Editor, reports, "When bringing pots of begonias into the house I always find a bulb bowl or other such bowl larger than the plant pot and pack the bowl with damp peat. When the begonia is placed in this it gets a certain amount of humidity by being surrounded by the damp peat and does not miss the greenhouse atmosphere so much. By using this method I have been able to keep my begonias flowering in the house."

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* * *

It's a queer thing about the location of begonias. They are either fairly close to the Equator, on the north, or south side of it. There are no begonias native to this continent or to Europe. Mr. Robinson, years ago said that to his knowledge "none of the begonias come from the real tropical, damp, sticky country, and it is a fact today (Oct. 13, 1938), that very few of the begonias will grow under real tropical conditions. Cool culture is always to be preferred to warm culture. Rex begonias grow perfectly well outside where temperatures drop to 20 degrees. In England they grow tuberous begonias outside and leave them in the ground where they freeze."

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. Terry Olmsted, *Librarian*

4373 Via Esperanza, Hope Ranch, Santa Barbara, Calif.

DEADLINE ON ALL COPY AND ALL ADS FOR THE BEGONIAN

Is the first of each month.

This will give us time to put together
a better magazine and better timing
in its arrival to you.

Deadline on January copy is December 1, 1964

Editor-in-Chief Gordon Baker Lloyd, P. O. Box 36, Sierra Madre, California 91024
Advertising Manager Anne L. Rose, 1255 Ramona Drive, Whittier, California

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General Offices, Dues, Address Changes or Magazines:
Daisy Austin, Membership Secretary, 1510 Kimberly Ave., Anaheim, Calif.

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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.

ELECTED OFFICERS

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Vice-Pres. 3 yrs. Paul P. Lowe
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National Board meets 4th Monday, 7:30 p.m., South Gate City Auditorium, 4900 Southern Avenue

Report of National Board Meeting

Peggy McGrath, Secretary

The Annual Meeting of the American Begonia Society was called to order by the president, Mrs. Terry Olmsted, at 2:15 P.M. on Sept. 5, 1964, in the Seminar room of the Los Angeles County Arboretum.

Mrs. Mabel Corwin, president-elect, led in the renewal of the pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. She then read the Aims & Purposes of the society.

The minutes were read by the secretary, Mrs. Peggy McGrath, and approved as read. Twenty nine officers, chairmen, and branch representatives answered roll call.

Mrs. Mabel Corwin announced a change in banquet plans. Wilbur Olson will be the installing officer of the incoming board. Mabel reported on the Seattle Begonia Show and told of the cordial and gracious welcome she and Ralph received there. She brought greetings from the Pacific Northwest members.

As stated in the letter to Mrs. Gee, read at the July board meeting, from Carl-Axel Jansson of Sweden promising material for propagating "Begonia Sudjanae", leaves have been received by Mrs. Corwin and are in the process of cultivation. Mrs. Corwin also received more correspondence from a Begonia hobbyist and grower in Japan and 57 slides of Rex begonias for which he requested identification.

Mrs. E. H. Dillard, of Tropical Gardens in Kansas City, is seriously ill. Cards will be welcomed by her.

Carl Naumann urged all present to buy plants from the show plant table and thanked all who furnished plants for this money making project. He especially thanked Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Hale of Sacramento who brought 100 plants. Mr. Hale, a vice-president of the American Begonia Society, also has plants in the State Fair as part of the exhibit of the Sacramento branch of the Begonia Society.

Mr. Chas. Babcock, of Richmond, Calif. was welcomed. He is a member of the East Bay Branch in Oakland.

Earle Budd, treasurer, gave a complete and comprehensive report, both monthly and annual. The present balance on hand, as of August 27, 1964, is \$58.18. The books have been audited by Malcolm Rich, Pearl Parker, and Vic Deautesch, and found to be in order. Mr. Budd gave the report of the seed fund chairman, Mrs. Florence Gee, showing she had received \$70.00 from June 22 to August 24, 1964. A revolving fund of \$100.00 remains in her account.

Membership chairman, Mrs. Daisy Austin, reported that the Japanese Horticultural Society has affiliated with the American Begonia Society, as members. She presented monthly and annual reports. Begonias disbursed for July were 2391.

Mrs. Ruby Budd, advertising manager, reported \$28.95 received and \$22.50 receivable.

Mrs. Bee Olson, Research Chairman; nothing new to report. Mrs. Vera Naumann, Public Relations Chairman, reported on her several contacts through out the USA. Roy Joyce, Slide Librarian, reported that all slides are in and from the original \$25.00 allocated to his department, \$17.00 remains. Librarian, Muriel Perz, reported that her department has been busy, having received orders for the Buxton Check List from Japan, Brazil, and British Columbia. The librarian's fund contains \$151.30 at the present time. Tru Peterson, Editor, commented on his work in gathering material to turn

Gloxinias—African Violets—Begonias
Varieties which thrive under
fluorescent light

New 1964 Catalog — 10¢

Michael J. Kartuz

92 Chestnut Street
Wilmington, Massachusetts

out a good magazine. Mrs. Marie Turner, Identification Chairman, no report. Historian, Ruth Pease, announced that the History Book is on display during the convention.

Bert Slatter, Show Chairman, announced that 33 trophies have been donated for the show by branches and individuals. Two new perpetual trophies were displayed and will be added to the list of perpetual trophies.

The Awards Chairman, Mrs. Margaret Taylor, read and filed her report. The Alfred D. Robinson Award will be presented to Beth I. Bath for B. Madame Queen. The awards committee voted to award the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award to Dorothy Behrends who declined to accept it. A motion by Mrs. Hodgins, of the Alf. D. Robinson branch, that the report of the Awards Committee be accepted was seconded and carried.

Branches reporting were: Glendale, Inglewood, N. Long Beach, Orange County, Alfred D. Robinson, San Gabriel Valley, San Miguel, Theo. B. Sheppard (Ventura), Westchester, Whittier, East Bay (Oakland), and Sacramento. The president of the Theo. B. Sheppard branch, Mr. Larry Stallings, was present and was introduced by their branch representative, Mrs. Hazel Snodgrass.

Mrs. Lillian Steinhaus, president of San Gabriel Valley Branch, was given a vote of thanks for the delightful luncheon her branch provided and served to the show judges and clerks.

Mrs. Edna Korts, Business Manager, clarified the status of "Reserve Funds" of the American Begonia Society, which is a corporation. Reserve funds are set aside to cover life memberships. This money is drawing interest. The principal cannot be used for any other reason. \$50.00 is added annually to cover the cost of life membership of the out going president.

It was announced that a regional board meeting will be held on Sunday, October 25, 1964 at 1:30 P.M. in San Diego. San Miguel branch will be hosts.

The committee appointed to count the ballots; consisting of Peggy Mc-

Grath, Ray Eppley, and Lillian Steinhaus; gave their report as follows:

Officers elected to serve in 1964-1965 are —

President-elect — Mrs. Muriel Perz
Vice-President — Paul Lowe
(three years)

Secretary — Peggy McGrath
Treasurer — Harold Burkett

Mrs. Mabel Corwin, president-elect for the past year, will automatically become president of the society.

A discussion about renewing the advertisement in the Flower Grower magazine resulted in a motion by Earle Budd to renew for 3 months. Seconded and carried.

Mr. Burkett suggested a raffle as a means of raising money for the ABS. Mrs. Hodgins offered a crocheted table cloth to be raffled at the October regional meeting.

Meeting adjourned,

BELVA KUSLER NEW HYBRIDS

Dorothy Barton, Victoria Kartact,
Nancy Gail, Gwen Lowell,
Delphine Fosmo

OTHER NEW BEGONIAS

Crispa, Miyo Berger, Grace Lucas,
Blue Bell, Curly Merry Xmas, Jean Herr

Catalog 50c

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Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

MRS. FLORENCE GEE
Seed Fund Administrator

No. 1 — B. 'Mexico' — Mixed. Seeds collected in Mexico by MacDougall north of Zanatepec at an elevation of 5000 feet. After consulting the map, we find that this locality is where many interesting begonias have been discovered by Mr. MacDougall. To name a few — B. *boweri*, B. *kenworthyi* *hispidavillosa* and many more. We have a generous amount of seed and something new and interesting could develop. We hope some one will grow them for identification. Have had many requests for Mexican species so here is your answer. Price 1.00 per pkt.

No. 2 — B. *Semperflorens*. From plants grown from irradiated seed, x-rayed with around 2500 roentgens. They make huge plants with enormous leaves, very large flowers and stems like a small tree trunk. Plants will be spectacular in borders and beds—at least something different. If you have room, hope you will try them. 35 cents per pkt.

B. Cane type — Medium, branched with huge clusters of pinkish blooms. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 3 — B. *vellozoana* — Brazil. Many fresh seed of this beautiful species which rivals B. *masoniana* in beauty and popularity. Dark green taffeta leaves, accented by light veins and ethereal pink tinges. White flowers, hairy outside, on tall spikes. Will root at stipules and is one of the easiest begonias from seed. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 4 — B. *dayi* — Mexico. Large, thick, shiny leaves, more yellow than green, the veins heavily penciled with dark mahogany on top, dark red underneath. Flowers ivory. Likes to grow warm and dry. 35 cents per pkt.

No. 5 — B. 'Tasso' — Multiflora, tuberous. Pink blooms in profusion. Price 35 cents per pkt.

No. 6 — B. 'Copper gold'. Yellow shaded copper. Multiflora tuberous. 35 cents per pkt.

No. 7 — B. 'Leuchtfleur' — Multiflora tuberous. Orange-scarlet 35 cents per pkt.

Multiflora begonias are a small-flowered tuberous group, of compact bushy habit. They are most useful for summer bedding, and are equally attractive as summer flowering plants. Being free flowering they make a blaze of color whether in the garden or greenhouse, they hold their flowers better than the large doubles, and will stand a few days in the house. With the exception of the *semperflorens* group they will stand more sunshine than any other begonia.

No. 8 — B. Tuberous, ruffled *comellia* type. Mixed colors of pink, rose, red, yellow and many more. The beautiful variations of frilling and ruffling that appears amongst these new forms made it one of the most popular groups of begonias today. They are enormously vigorous and in some colors 8-9 inch flowers are quite common. In this group also are some of the most mildew resistant plants. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 9 — B. Tuberous, rose form *picotee* — Mixed colors which includes shades of red, pink-rose, salmon and apricot. Of all types, this group brings proportion of uniformly fine form when grown from seed. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 10 — B. Tuberous, hanging basket type. Crimson. Their hanging habit, with great masses of blooms, makes them favored for decoration of greenhouses, open verandas or sun porches, where they can be protected against strong winds and light. Medium sized flowers and good hanging habit. Price 50 cents per pkt.

GREENHOUSE PLANTS

Chrysothemis friedrichsthaliana — Gesneriaceae.

Erect, tuberous rooted, succulent plant with waxy-green, hairy, lance-shaped, crenate leaves to more than

one foot long; axillary flower clusters, the short orange corolla with dark lobes peeking out of large greenish-yellow calyx. Price 35 cents per pkt.

Rechsteineria leucotricha — Gesneriaceae.

Stout, densely matted, white, later broen hairy stems carry one or two whorls of 3-4 large obovate leaves densely covered with shimmering, long silvery-white hair, with margins entire or obscurely crenate; slender tubular, inflated flowers soft coral-pink, orange-red inside, the lobes sometimes marked with crimson. Price 35 cents per pkt.

Saintpaulia — Doubles, singles many colors. 50 cents per pkt.

Gloxinia — Crosses of doubles — Popular colors and combinations. Price 35 cents per pkt.

Below is part of a letter from a member in New York. We found it both interesting and helpful: "I am employed by the New York City Parole Commission, which has jurisdiction over prisoners released on parole from our local penitentiary and reformatory, both located on 'Riker's Island'. There is a greenhouse on the Island and the grounds are beautifully landscaped. All of the work is done by the inmates, in conjunction with the rehabilitation program, and is supervised by qualified instructors provided by our Board of Education. The boys are taught to grow plants from seed, to propogate vegetatively, and generally to become proficient in greenhouses and garden practices. Of course I feel that if there is any way in which these boys can be encouraged to know and love plants, it is so much to the good. Most of them come from our slum areas, where they have never even seen a weed, but it is truly amazing how they develop the love of growing things.

I have been exchanging seedlings and cuttings with the officer in charge of the program, also have been contributing my excess seed and would like to be able to provide some of your complimentary seed for them, many of whom are serving up to a year or more. The greenhouse is operated all

year round and provides a wonderful outlet as well as relieving the monotony of prison routine. Also, after they are back in society again they are assisting in securing jobs in commercial greenhouses. At present there is a job paying 125 dollars weekly awaiting one of them in a greenhouse. Unfortunately there aren't many such jobs available, but at least there will be one boy will get a new start and head in the right direction. I have worked in this field for more than 25 years, and our only justification for professional existence is such successes — restoring them to a decent, useful place in Society" —

Now we were wondering if some one else would like to grow plants for a good such asout lined above. There must be various twpes of institutions and gardening projects in every community where there is an outlet for plants — they would welcome your help for their projects as part of their therapy. We have many seed that could be used for this purpose and will be happy to send them to any one who will send postage for them. The seed available are not the rare and exotic type — please do not request that we send you these. They are mostly mixed and easy to grow varieties.

PATRONIZE BEGONIAN ADVERTISERS

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

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ROUND ROBIN NEWS

by Herb Warwick

Mrs. Hurley is chairman of Flight #3 and in the last cycle asked the members to name their favorite shade plant that is not in the begonia genus. The distribution of answers was very widely spread. This is one question that would surely stagger the statisticians. They would have a difficult time trying to apply a "normal distribution curve" to the answers. The minimum and maximum likes and dislikes of people would probably create a flat line instead a curve that is low on each end and high in the middle. Is there anyone in the A.B.S. who would like to explain this so the rest of us can understand it?

Mrs. Beryl Allen, Tampa, Fla., chairman of Flight #10 reported that she has had fragrant begonias in the past. She no longer has any. She is asking the other members in her Flight to look these up. This is a good question for the whole A.B.S. If anyone knows which begonias have fragrant flowers, either mildly or heavily scented, please notify Bee Olson, our Research Chairman, so she can publish the information for us.

Mrs. Betty Northup, Wakefield, R. I. Flight #10 told a story about 'Black Horse'. Her notes were as follows: "I don't know what methods your Branches use for raising money for the Branch. One way we have is the 'Black Horse'. We take cuttings to the meetings, not only of begonias but our other house plants and in the Spring, divisions of our garden plants. As an example, this past meeting I got a cutting of *Episcia* Chocolate Soldier, and a piece of a Day Lily. After the business meeting our Treasurer passes out slips of paper, three for 25c, that we put our names on and then place in a basket. These slips are drawn until the cuttings are all gone. It is not very often that most of us do not come home with at least one new plant".

There are probably many similar interesting procedures in use among

the other A.B.S. Branches. I will appreciate it a lot if each Branch will send their "ways and means" procedures to me. I can submit a summary to the National Board for their study and recommendation.

Flight #18 is now starting with Mrs. Terry Olmsted, Santa Barbara, Cal., Junior Past President of the A.B.S. as chairman. This Flight will also have in it the first Medical Doctor in the Round Robin program. William J. Hitschler, M. D. of Philadelphia, Penn., considers himself to be an amateur in the begonia world and would like to talk and write to others about these very interesting plants. We thank you Dr. Hitschler for joining our eighteenth Flight. By coincidence you are also the eighteenth man in the program. Maybe more men will now be encouraged to join a Flight.

We were also encouraged by the recent receipt of a request from Mrs. Belva Nelson Kusler, the famous begonia hybridizer, of Frederic, Wisc., to join Flight #14 which is the Professional and International Round Robin. We welcome you Mrs. Kusler and we feel confident that you can contribute a lot in the exchange of cultural information in this Flight which is now wending its way to members in Australia.

Flight #17 is now on its way. Mrs. Lily Fine of Brooklyn, N. Y. is the chairman. While Mrs. Fine has a very responsible and time consuming job and is also a member in Round Robin Flight #9, she consented to be the chairman of Flight #17. We certainly thank her for this sincere and helpful interest in our A.B.S. activities.

In the Round Robins most all members explain their jobs and tell a lot about themselves, their families and also their plant growing experiences. In the recent cycle of Flight #9, Mrs. Fine included a lot of information about her job. It is so unusual that we want to tell the whole A.B.S. member-

ship about it. We marvel that she has any time left for her plants. She is the "Chief Parole Officer" of the N. Y. City Parole Commission. She has 45 people under her supervision. It is rare to find a woman in such a responsible position in this type of work. She admits the pressure is high and the responsibility is a real mental strain and that there are often very frustrating and depressing situations among the many really successful cases that they handle. She uses begonias and her garden as antidotes for the worries of the job. Plants give her relaxation and revive her spirits when the going is tough. She has been an A.B.S. member for only a little over a year.

It is wonderful that the A.B.S. can hold the interest of professional people like Mrs. Fine. We will welcome others from the professional fields.

Mrs. Evelyn Hurley, Lexington, Mass., Flight #3 recently used an expression in her letter that would be worthy of the "Pictureque Speech" category in the Reader's Digest. In caring for some of her special show plants in her house she watched them almost constantly. She said she was "chasing slivers of sunlight" that got through the curtains and windows and were "trying to burn holes in her rex leaves". These word pictures are very novel and arouse sympathetic feelings in all of us who have had similar problems.



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BUBBLING ALONG . . .

(Continued from Page 235)

you find the time to write us again do tell us more about the year round climate, temperature, humidity, watering conditions, potting mix, etc. Through this column and the Round Robin we are endeavoring to file information from all parts of the world on growing conditions of the begonia.

Good luck to you in your seed growing and best regards.

D. W. of Des Moines, Iowa, asks:

I grow my plants on a window sill, but they do not do well and I have been told that they need humidity. How can you give your plants humidity when grown indoors on a window sill?

Dear DW: Thank you for your question. It is difficult to grow plants indoors and provide sufficient humidity to satisfy the plants. You do not say how you are growing them at present. However here are a few ideas tried by other growers in window sills. Plants may be grown on trays covered by bird gravel, very fine charcoal which is kept wet. Others have used sphagnum moss on the trays — others have used the thin sheet of foam rubber. In other words moisture is provided from an area below the potted plant. Another way is to place your potted plant in a larger pot with a layer of sphagnum moss between the two pots. This can be kept moist and provide extra humidity: If you do not obtain sufficient humidity in this fashion you may have to provide a miniature greenhouse. This can be done with plastic. Some have made a frame covering the back sides and top with plastic but leaving the front section open for viewing. Usually this will provide the needed humidity. A large fish tank or wardian case is very often used for plants and when tastefully planted in a beautiful addition to any room. If time permits a spraying of an extremely fine mist daily will help. One member says she has beautiful indoor plants grown on a tray of fine gravel but admits to the spraying of a fine mist once daily and several times when the weather

is extremely warm and dry. Again it seems to fall back on the individual to experiment with what is on hand what is most convenient and with persistence our love of plants usually finds a way. Good luck and we would appreciate hearing what finally solved the problem for you.

M. A. of Coronado, California sent in a slip to be identified together with a suggestion as follows:

"I have discovered a little trick with my rexes. The leaves were beautiful and shiny when I received the plants but as they grew larger the leaves became dull looking. I decided they needed more moisture — my husband had some strips of 4 inch foam he had cut off from his camper mattress so I cut the strips into 6 inch pieces, dipped them in a pail of water and put them around the rex pots. Well, they just took off like mad — the leaves are big and shiny and beautiful. Of course I have to do this every day if the weather is warm — but it isn't work — just joy."

Dear M. A.: Thank you for your suggestion and we loved your comment "it isn't work — just joy". That is the way most of us feel where our begonias are concerned.

I. K. of Agate Beach, Oregon comments as follows on our 'worm':

I want to express my views and experiments with worms similar to ones discussed in the September Begonian. I, too, lost a flat to a cutworm. I know mine was a cutworm. I am a biology minor (college). I saw the adult moth in my bedroom window. Later, a flat of seedlings on a table by the window were eaten up. I dug and found the worm. If these are cutworms as mine was, they can be controlled by the use of poison bran bait. We used to use lots of it for control of cutworms in the fields and gardens in Kansas while on the farm.

I don't believe they are selective as to soil. I think it just happens to be the selection the adult makes for the deposit of her eggs. Of course they prefer some plants to others and begonias seem to be favorites.

It would be interesting to read every one's view on this matter. I am anxiously waiting to find out if they were cut worms.

Dear I. K.: Thank you for your experiences with our 'worm'. Unfortunately I have not been able to identify the sample worm. I sent our sample worm to the Entomology Departments of our University only to receive a reply that the worm was not in good enough condition to identify — so I must obtain another sample (though when the worm left here in the mail it was my belief that it was in a 'good' condition). However I have still more information as follows:

From R. C. N. of Greenville S. C.:

Please excuse my delay in giving you a follow-up report regarding the grayish-white worms. I have been trying to develop another flat of the little fellows without success.

As to date I have not discovered anymore worms in the flats filled with milled Sphagnum. Neither in sterilized soil nor milled Sphagnum covered with about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of sterilized soil. The feedings have all been made with the same fertilizer as previously mentioned. I had an idea that the source of the worms came from the fish emulsion fertilizer. As you probably know, the flesh of a few kinds of fish become infested with small worms, very much like the ones in question, at certain times of the year.

The only product available that will possibly control the grayish-white worms is V-C 13 Soil Insecticide.'

Dear R. C. N.: Thank you very much for your letter. I believe that this exchanging of experiences, viewpoints and solutions to problems is truly helpful to all growers. We will appreciate hearing from you if, in your experimenting, you note anything of further interest. Your sharing is greatly appreciated. For you members that would like to know where to purchase the V-C 13 Soil Insecticide suggested by RCN please drop me a line and I will provide you with the address which was furnished by RCN.

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.

EASTSIDE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Natural Gas Co. Building
Crossroads Shopping Center, Bellevue, Wash.
Lois C. Donahue, Secy.
2508-108th St. N.E., Bellevue, Wash.

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 Verree Rd., Philadelphia, Pa.

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
Luis Lopez, Corr. Secy.
421 East 64th St.
New York, N.Y. 10021

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 Askew 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

4th Friday each Month
Lincoln School Recreation Center
Ernest and Vail Sts., Redondo Beach, Calif.
Opal Murray Ahern, Secy.
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.

ROBINSON, 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. Irene Cretin, Secy.
3060 Crane St., Lemon Grove, 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. V. O. Harman, Secy.
306 Cody, Houston, Texas, 77009

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, Altamoor 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.

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH

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



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