

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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AWARDS FOR 1964

At the annual Convention Show of the American Begonia Society, Award for Culture certificates were won by the following exhibitors for their outstanding begonias:

To Ruth Pease of the Westchester Branch for the best fibrous begonia (cane type), B. 'Pink Shasta' with a score of 90 points.

To Betty Jo Miller of the San Gabriel Branch for the best rhizomatous begonia, B. 'Rechii' with a score of 88 points.

To Vera and Carl Naumann of the San Gabriel Branch for the best rex begonia, B. 'Purple Petticoat' with a score of 92 points.

To Ethel Reid of the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch for the best tuberous begonia B. 'Cristata' with a score of 87 points.

The Hybrid of Distinction certificate was won by Ruth Pease of the Westchester Branch for B. 'Waltonia' with a score of 90 points.

These hand-illuminated parchment certificates are available for all Branch shows upon request to the Awards Chairman. They are beautiful certificates and add much to an array of trophies and are prized by the winners.

The Eva Kenworthy Gray Award will not be awarded for the year 1964.

The Alfred D. Robinson Memorial Medal, a very coveted award, was presented to Mrs. Beth I. Bath of the Orange County Branch for her begonia hybrid 'Madame Queen'. (B. *manicata aureo maculata crispa* X B. 'Leslie Lynn')

Mrs. Bath, who lives in Santa Ana, California, has the ability to grow all plants with exceptional finesse. Her garden is always a place of beauty and order. She has done considerable hybridizing as a hobbyist and her love of plants probably stems from an interesting background. Because begonia lovers will no doubt be interested, the following biographical sketch is

ALOHA

With this issue of *The Begonian* my services as your Editor come to an end.

The work has always been enjoyable. Of course, producing a magazine regularly month after month over a period of years has entailed a lot of work, but it has brought a lot of pleasure, too, and many new friends.

In an earlier issue I made this statement: "As your Editor, I want to work for all of you — not for any favored area, not for any favored group." I have tried to maintain this objective because I believed that my job carried a responsibility to the entire membership, and not to any small faction.

I am proud of *The Begonian*. Because many capable growers, writers, and photographers have been willing to share their knowledge, the magazine has been a source of valuable information about begonias and other shade-loving plants. I appreciate the help I have received from all these contributors, representing ideas from all parts of the world, and I am glad that my work could be a factor in making this knowledge more widespread.

And now I relinquish the Editor's desk because, apparently, the American Begonia Society has no further need for my services.

—TRU PETERSON, *Editor*

given of the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial winner for 1964.

Beth, the daughter of Myrtle and James Franklin Illingworth, was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, at the time Doctor Illingworth was attached to the Bishop Museum as an Entomologist. He is credited with saving the pineapple industry when pineapple wilt and mealy bug was serious problem. Later he was called by the Australian government to solve the sugar cane beetle problem there.

As a little girl, Beth had the task of watering her father's greenhouse of

(Continued on Page 219)

DELICIOSA

By BELVA NELSON KUSLER
Frederic, Wisconsin

In the hope that I can counter the statement frequently made in the literature that 'Deliciosa' is difficult, I write this article. I believe it to be the least difficult of the ornamental begonias, for house culture.

A number of years ago I gave my mother (more than eighty years old) a plant of 'Deliciosa'. She forgot that I had told her not to put it in full sun outdoors, and planted it in early summer in an unshaded south flower-bed along the wall of the house. When I saw it there I thought that this would be the end of it, particularly since it had been moved out from indoors. A projection some distance away in the house wall shielded it from the sun the last quarter of the day. The upper leaves burned in the sun, so she removed them as it rapidly put out new growth.

By fall the plant had grown to about three and a half feet in each direction. It was so dense with leaves that the stems were almost entirely hidden from sight and there were many dozens of clusters of large flowers. It was a sight to behold (and my regret is that I didn't photograph it). The wonder is not that it grew and thrived thus, as anyone can surely duplicate this, but that under those conditions it would perform so well and grow to be a beautiful specimen.

The leaves of 'Deliciosa' are deeply cut, with silver-tipped points, one longer than the rest. They are chatoyant, deep green heavily spotted with silver dots, the largest concentration being midway between the veins, with the entire back reddened. The veins are raised, fading to a light green sinus and petiole. Most of the leaves face upward and outward, depending on the direction of strongest light. They are quite numerous.

The plant is rhizomatous, the rhizome generally following the ground

fairly closely, sending up stems generously, which branch as the plant ages. The stems shade from dull light green to reddish, marked with longitudinal short, light lines. They are stiff and do not need to be staked and tied.

The light green pedicels, at maturity measuring four to six inches, arise in the leaf axils occurring toward the upper one-half of the plant stalks, and first appear with an elongated enlargement at the tip. This increases in size until it measures an inch or more in length (see side of blossom photo). The two large bracts encasing the buds then split apart, revealing a dichotomy of the stem, and freeing one centered male bud, but still each holding half of the remainder of the cluster. This male bud opens, while the two bracts drop off, exposing more sets of bracts enclosing other buds. The stems continue to divide, as per the accompanying pictures, buds appearing from within the bracts, the bracts dropping.

The upper blossoms are male, with two large petals, two much smaller, and a showy brush of yellow stamens with abundant pollen. The lower buds on the cluster now open into six female blossoms, five-petalled, long rather narrow, the petals varying in size. The ovaries are medium green with one elongated ala (like a long wing) flushed with rose towards its tip, and two small alas. The petals open out flat, making the flower about one and a half inches across. The yellow pistillate structure is prominent. The females remain some time after the last of the male blossoms open and fall.

The color of the blossoms is pink, with the unopened petals of the females deep pink, unfolding to shadings from pale to rose-pink. The coloring is very clear and soft and a lovely

contrast to the dark of the leaves. The plant is decorative enough in itself that it does not need blossoms to improve it; the flowers are a bonus. They occur steadily or intermittantly, are not profuse, but they are large enough to make a good showing.

For those of you who complain about slow growth, this plant is a rather rapid grower. It makes many cuttings so that one can share with others. Last winter I kept the plant in the picture in storage where it was cool and half-dark. Two and a half months later it was as you see it, not yet grown again into a perfect specimen but improving daily. You will do better keeping the plant growing without a storage period, but I was short of room (my perennial complaint).

If you are tempted to take the plant out of its pot and plant it directly into the ground for the summer, be prepared either to use a tub for a container to house the expanded root-structure, or to cut back the plant severely before bringing it indoors. (Envy the people who can plant it in the ground from the beginning and leave it there to keep growing). Perhaps you'd rather start over by taking a cutting any time of the year, as it roots and grows rapidly. I use any ordinary begonia soil. You can cut back the plant again and again and it will continue for years to send up new growth quickly to make a good sturdy plant.

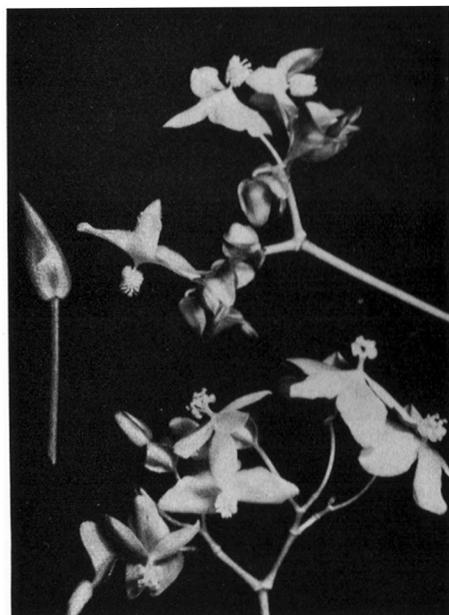
For you flower-arrangers, both leaves and blossoms of 'Deliciosa' are excellent in arrangements.

COVER PICTURE

Begonia 'Deliciosa' — described in story on this page.

—Photo by the author.

PATRONIZE BEGONIAN
ADVERTISERS



Close-up views of 'Deliciosa'

—Photos by Belva Nelson Kusler

A. B. S. BANQUET

By MARY HAZEL DRUMMOND

How fortunate are the members of the American Begonia Society who can attend the annual convention. Apart from the beautiful display of begonias and shade plants, the banquet is the climax which creates a friendly togetherness.

To celebrate the thirty-second convention, 155 people assembled at the Elk's Hall in Arcadia. After the "Happy Hour" we took our seats at the cleverly decorated tables which were done as usual by the talented Mrs. Grace Yerick and her co-worker Pearl Parker. Grace designed the Mardi-gras figurines of crepe-paper, and the colorful serpentine streamers gave a carnival effect. It was regrettable that the tuberous rooted begonia blooms, which are an annual gift from Vetterle & Reinelt, were damaged in transit. However, while the head table lacked flowers, the women looked lovely wearing beautiful cattleya orchid corsages which were presented by Mrs. Betty Jo Miller.

The President, Mrs. Terry Olmsted, opened the meeting with a pleasant welcome, and stated that, owing to an unavoidable circumstance, Jean Kerlin was unable to function as mistress of ceremonies. Past President Carl Naumann took over as master of ceremonies and conducted the meeting expertly. Howard Small gave the invocation. President-Elect Mrs. Mable Cowin led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The retiring and incoming officers and those sharing honors at the speakers table were introduced. Past Presidents were presented: Mrs. Edna Korts, Mrs. Mary Hazel Drummond, Ferd Neels, Col. C. Gale, Bert Slatter, and Carl Naumann. Greetings were extended to the Branches. San Gabriel Valley and Inglewood had the largest delegations; other branches were Glendale, Whittier, East Bay, Long Beach Parent Chapter, North Long Beach, Orange County, Pasadena, San



Wilbur Olson, installing officer, with Mrs. Mabel Corwin, new A.B.S. President.

Miguel, Alfred D. Robinson, Sacramento, Westchester, and Foothill. A telegram was received from Carl and Ann Meyer and Mrs. Hyacinth Smith of San Francisco, stating they were unable to attend, but sent their best regards. Miss Charlotte Hoak was given a warm welcome and praised for her generous contributions to the A.B.S.

Visitors from Northern California were Vice-President R. E. Hale and Mrs. Hale of Sacramento, Chester Nave of East Bay, and Charles Babcock of San Leandro.

Show Chairman Bert Slatter was asked to comment on the show. He thanked his committee and announced the winners of the Challenge and Perpetual trophies. Bert mentioned the plants posed a problem because



New A.B.S. officers (from left): Mrs. Peggy McGrath, secretary; Wilbur Olson, installing officer; Mrs. Mabel Corwin, president; Harold Burkett, treasurer; Mrs. Muriel Perz, president-elect.

—Photo by Ralph Corwin

they grow larger each year, necessitating more space to display them. He also spoke of the excellent quality of the plants, which made the judges work hard to arrive at a decision for the awards.

Mrs. Margaret Taylor presented the Alfred D. Robinson Medal for the outstanding begonia of the year, which was awarded to B. 'Madame Queen', grown by Beth Bath, member of the Orange County Branch.

The guest speaker, Frank Rich, landscape architect, praised Rudolf Ziesenhenné for the splendid work he has achieved in hybridizing begonias, and classifying the correct names. Mr. Rich recalled other members who have given their time to the building of the A.B.S. Past Presidents — Edna Korts, Cal Trowbridge; Public Relations — Bert Slatter, Elmer Lorenz, Mdmes. Gladys Nolan, Suzie Zug, Marie Turner, Louise Schwerdtfeger; Editors — Mrs. Dorothy Behrends, Stan and Frances Spaulding; Seed Explorer — Mrs. Florence Carroll.

The speaker emphasized that begonias should be planted in the garden, stressing *semperflorens*. Check the varieties with the best leaves and flowers and grow those which are adaptable to your climate. According to Mr. Rich, "begonias are worthwhile plants to consider in landscaping — we should grow more begonias in the garden."

Wilbur Olson, installing officer (substituting for Gordon Baker Lloyd) thanked the retiring officers for work well done and dismissed them. Elected officers were: President, Mrs. Mabel Corwin; President-Elect, Mrs. Muriel Perz; Treasurer, Harold Burkett; Secretary, Mrs. Peggy McGrath; Vice-President (3 yrs.), Paul Lowe. Mr. Olson installed the officers (Mr. Lowe, of Florida, was not present), charging them with their respective duties.

Mrs. Corwin thanked the members for their splendid co-operation in setting up the show. Bob Wilson an-

(Continued on Page 224)

1964 SHOW WINNERS

In the Begonia and Shade Plant Show, held September 5, 6, and 7 as a feature of the American Begonia Society convention, the following awards were earned by exhibitors:

PERPETUAL AND CHALLENGE TROPHY AWARDS

Herbert P. Dyckman Perpetual Award for the most outstanding new fibrous begonia — No award.

President's Challenge Trophy for the best begonia in the show — won by Carl and Vera Naumann for B. 'Purple Petticoat' (Rex).

Palos Verdes Begonia Farm Challenge Trophy for the best tuberous begonia in the Amateur Division — No award.

Orris R. Martin Perpetual Memorial Trophy for the best tuberous begonia in the Novice Division — won by Ethel Reid.

Effie Chapman Cup for the best fibrous begonia — won by Marie McCooley.

Gonda Hartwell Cup for the best rex begonia — won by Carl and Vera Naumann.

John R. Williams Cup for the best rhizomatous begonia — won by Betty Jo Miller.

Redondo Area Perpetual Trophy for the best semperflorens begonia — won by Walter and Ruth Pease.

Connie Leigh Hendrix Cup for the best amateur flower arrangement — won by Larry Stallings.

Gordon Baker Lloyd Challenge Cup and Earle and Ruby Budd Trophy for the best seedling less than one year old — won by Chester Nave.

Glendale Branch Award for the highest rating new cultivar in Division K — won by Walter and Ruth Pease.

Inglewood Branch Award for the most distinctive species in Division S — won by Betty Jo Miller.

Jack Taylor Perpetual Trophy for the best hanging basket begonia — won by Walter and Ruth Pease.

Edna Korts Perpetual Trophy for the best cane type begonia — won by Walter and Ruth Pease.

Edward L. Korts Perpetual Memorial Trophy for the best three rex begonias less than one year old — won by Mabel Corwin.

San Miguel Branch Challenge Trophy and San Miguel Branch Trophy for the best begonia in cultivation 25 years or longer — won by Wilbur and Bee Olson.

Bessie Buxton Branch Perpetual Award and Wilbur and Bee Olson Trophy for the best six begonias of different varieties — won by Mabel Corwin.

Arthur Strandberg Perpetual Trophy for the best fern — won by Wilbur Olson.

(For further reference see the Show Schedule in the July issue of *The Begonian*.)

AMATEUR DIVISION AWARDS

Div. A — Semperflorens begonias: Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch Trophy, won by Walter and Ruth Pease for B. 'White Xmax Seedling'.

Div. B — Fibrous begonias (cane type): Santa Barbara Branch Trophy, won by Walter and Ruth Pease for B. 'Pink Shasta Seedling'.

Div. C — Hairy fibrous begonias: Whittier Branch Trophy, won by Marie McCooley for B. 'San Miguel'.

Div. D — Rhizomatous begonias: North Long Beach Branch Trophy, won by Rose Yeast for B. 'Crestabruchi Seedling'.

Div. E — Rex begonias: Long Beach Parent Chapter Trophy, won by Carl and Vera Naumann for B. 'Purple Petticoat'.

Div. F — Tuberous rooted begonias: Alfred D. Robinson Branch Trophy, won by Marie McCooley for B. *dregei*.

Div. G — Tuberhybrida: No award.

Div. H — Wall pockets: Perry and Terry Olmsted Trophy, won by Walter and Ruth Pease for B. 'Ruby Jewel'.

Div. I — Hanging baskets: Paul and



The 1964 Show



Bert Slatter, show chairman, congratulates Mrs. Vera Naumann for winning the trophy for best plant in the show.
—Photos by Ralph Corwin

Margaret Lee Trophy, won by Ruby Budd for B. 'Pink Wave'.

Div. J — Branch's collection of six different varieties: First place (\$15.00) won by Sacramento Branch. Second place (\$10.00) won by Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch.

Div. K — New begonia introductions: Glendale Branch Trophy, won by Walter and Ruth Pease for B. 'Waltana'.

Div. L — Totem pole begonias: Foothill Branch Trophy, won by Betty Jo Miller.

NOVICE DIVISION AWARDS

Div. A — Semperflorens begonias: Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hodgins Trophy, won by Chester Nave for B. 'Kallaking Nomo'.

Div. B — Fibrous begonias (cane type): Mr. and Mrs. John Fahey Trophy, won by Chester Nave for B. *dichroa*.

Div. C — Hairy fibrous begonias: No award.

Div. D — Rhizomatous begonias: Robert Pyle Trophy, won by Robert Hale for B. 'Crestabruchi'.

Div. E — Rex begonias: Rudolf Zeisenhenne Trophy, won by Ethel Talley for B. 'Helen Teupel'.

Div. F — Tuberous rooted begonias: Westchester Branch Trophy, won by Robert Hale for B. 'Richard Robinson'.

Div. G — Tuberhybrida: San Francisco Branch Trophy, won by Ethel Reid for B. 'Tuberous Cristata'.

Div. H — Wall pockets: Barbara Phillip Trophy, won by Ethel Reid for Tuberous Seedling.

Div. —I Hanging baskets: No award.

Div. O — Ferns: Won by Wilbur and Bee Olson for Davallia.

Div. P — Other shade plants: Louise Lortcher Trophy, won by Chester Nave for Thessanguinea.

Div. Q — Flower arrangements: Muriel Perz Trophy, won by Larry Stallings.

Div. R. — Planters and terrariums:

Malcolm Rich Trophy, won by Cecilia Grivich.

Div. S — Begonia species: Inglewood Branch Trophy, won by Betty Jo Miller for B. *rechii*.

Div. T — Orchids: Carl and Vera Naumann Trophy, won by Ethel Reid for Phalaenopsis.

Div. U — Miniature gardens: Ralph and Mabel Corwin Trophy, won by Larry Stallings.

Rarest Fern: Orange County Branch Trophy, won by Violet Tate for *Drvnaria Rigidula*.

Amateur Sweepstakes and Sacramento Branch Trophy: won by Walter and Ruth Pease.

Novice Sweepstakes and Ethel Arbuckle Trophy: won by Ethel Reid.

Display Award: Palos Verdes Begonia Farm Trophy, won by John G. Stell.

Begonia 'Kallakings' Display: Bert Slatter Trophy, won by Chester Nave.

And now, as we close our 32nd Annual Convention and Show, it is with heartfelt gratitude I say thanks to the judges, clerks, exhibitors, and to all members who contributed to the success of the show. Profound appreciation to those who donated the trophies and to the firms who generously donated their products.

And to my successor — much progress in the days ahead.

—BERT SLATTER,
Show Chairman.

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

TROPICAL PARADISE GREENHOUSE

8825 West 79th Street
Overland Park, Kansas

FROM YOUR JUNIOR PAST PRESIDENT

As my term of office rapidly draws to a close, I would like one last chance to tell all of you how much I have enjoyed the privilege of serving as a part of your officers. It has been a wonderful, educational experience. I would like to thank all the wonderful people that were so generous with their time in helping me.

I am sure that we are off to another milestone-making year with your fine new Board.

I have enjoyed seeing all of you at the convention and show. Many thanks to all of you that supported me by coming to the banquet. I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did.

We all owe a vote of thanks to the Arboretum for letting us put on our show in their lovely air-conditioned hall.

Thank you all and Good Begonia Growing from your ex-president.

—TERRY OLMSTED

AWARDS . . .

(Continued from Page 211)

ferns, where she first began her love of plants.

Beth is married to Darrell A. Bath, a builder, who provides her with suitable structures. They have two sons following in the grandfather's footsteps: Dr. Jim Bath, an Entomologist at Michigan State University, and Jack Bath, who just received his Masters Degree from Cornell University in Taxonomy Entomology and will continue on for his Doctorate.

It does not fall to the lot of many to have this background as a foundation for growing plants, but Beth shares her knowledge with all who ask. Her many friends are happy for her in this recognition.

—MARGARET B. TAYLOR,
*Chairman, Awards
Committee*

TROPHY DONATIONS APPRECIATED

The appreciation of the Show Chairman and the National Board of The American Begonia Society is due the following Branches and members who donated trophies for the 1964 Begonia and Shade Plant Show:

Foothill Branch
Glendale Branch
Inglewood Branch
Santa Barbara Branch
Whittier Branch
Long Beach Parent Chapter
San Miguel Branch
Alfred D. Robinson Branch
San Francisco Branch
Orange County Branch
Westchester Branch
Sacramento Branch
San Gabriel Branch
Palos Verdes Begonia Farm
Los Angeles Fern Society
T. Burr Shepherd Branch
North Long Beach Branch
Fuchsia Land Nursery
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Naumann
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Ed. Hodgins
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Joyce
Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Olson
Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Yerick
Mr. & Mrs. Rudolf Ziesenhenn
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Olmsted
Mr. & Mrs. Earle Budd
Mr. & Mrs. John Fahey
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Corwin
Mr. & Mrs. Al Purz
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Martin
Mr. & Mrs. Malcom Rich
Mrs. Louise Lortcher
Mrs. Ethel Arbuckle
Mrs. Barbara Phillip
Mrs. Mary. H. Drummond
Mrs. Peggy McGrath
Mr. Robert Pyle

BERT SLATTER
Show Chairman

Patronize Our Advertisers

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

No. 1. — *B. yurimaguas* —

New species from Peru. The collector has a large acreage in Peru where this begonia was found growing in deep leaf mold and climbing up trees. After consulting the map, we find that the name given is the name of the locality in which this begonia was found and not the true name of the plant; therefore, we will have to wait until it is identified properly.

Use as a basket plant or provide support if it is used as an upright. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 2. — *B. Rex hybrids* —

Seeds from plants with beautiful foliage, many colors and color combinations. Produced by a grower of gorgeous begonias and saintpaulias. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

Here are a few simple instructions that may help in growing these colorful plants:

Rex begonia seeds are touchy about warmth. Bottom heat is desirable. Seeds require from three to four weeks to germinate, sometimes longer. Sow them especially thin, to give seedlings a chance to grow undisturbed as long as possible before transplanting. Do not try to transplant until seedlings have produced the second set of true leaves.

True characteristics will not be evident until at least the fourth set of adult leaves appear, and sometimes they are not permanent, as they may change color and texture during the first three years. Small or slow-growing seedlings should not be destroyed, as they may turn out to be beautiful and worthwhile plants.

No. 3. — *B. Rex Germany* —

Ever-popular German type with new and interesting colors. \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 4. — *B. 'Lulandi'* —

B. 'Lucerna' x B. sutherlandii) syn. *B. 'Sutherne'*. Woodriff. Evergreen habit with small tubers forming at base; low and spreading, thickly

branched; stems swollen at the nodes; leaves similar to those of *B. sutherlandii* in color and form but more crinkled. Flowers large, pink and similar to those of *B. 'Lucerna'* in form. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 5. — *B. Unidentified* —

Grown from mixed seed offered by the Seed Fund. Plant is green, with white-hairy stems and leaves; branches freely and is about two feet tall. Blooms white. Could be *B. 'Alto Scharff'*. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 6. — *B. macedougalli* —

Mexico. Handsome, stately, rhizomatous plant, with palm-like leaves. See cover picture on *The Begonian* for July, 1960. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 7. — *B. kenworthyi* —

Mexico. Leaves textured, shaped, and veined like the ivy, but more gray or powder-blue than green. Gnarled, erect rhizome. Prefers sun and less water than the average begonia. When it is resting, keep it warm and dry, because it comes from the dry country south of Chiapas, Mexico. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 8. — *B. kellermanni* —

Guatemala. Deeply cupped green leaves, completely covered with sheer white felt. Large clusters of flowers in late winter or early spring. Easily grown from seed. A very good begonia. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 9. — *B. bartonea* —

Sometimes called *B. 'Winter Jewel'*. A miniature. Branches freely; small, scalloped, russet-mottled leaves that glisten with silver. Clusters of dainty flowers in winter. Keep warm. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 10. — *B. 'Lucifer'* —

F1 hybrid with brilliant scarlet flowers and deep bronzy foliage. Semperflorens type. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 11. — *B. 'Red Wonred'* —

F1 hybrid. Extra dwarf and free-flowering, bright red semperflorens type. 25 cents per pkt.

About a year ago we sowed seed

of B. 'Cinderella' *semperflorens*. Practically every seed germinated, and in the early summer the seedlings were transplanted to the open ground on the north side of my house. They grew to be luxurious plants and bloomed in all shades of reds, pinks, and bi-colors. They have been magnificent all summer.

About a month ago three plants of 'Calla lily' type appeared in the bed and were transplanted immediately into pots — just to see what would happen. They are beautiful beyond description, with nearly all leaves either pure white or blotched with white. There is only one all-green leaf and the blooms are dark rose, large, fluffy, with yellow centers similar to B. 'Cinderella' blooms. The plant is about eighteen inches high and very well branched. Nearly all top leaves are pure white and curled, suggesting a miniature calla lily; leaf edges are slightly frilled. This is a sturdy plant and would grow very well out-doors with early morning sun.

We are wondering if anyone else has had a similar experience from the 'Cinderella' seed. If so, please write to the Seed Fund. This could be a hardy, non-fussy 'Calla lily' begonia.

Correction — In the August issue of *The Begonian*, item no. 12 was incorrect. The packet of seeds was labeled *B. cubensis*, but now we are told that this was in error and the offer should be *B. Cuban* species, which is an upright rhizomatous about thirty inches tall, a beautiful plant with colorful leaves and double flowers. Grows similar to B. 'Niagara' but larger and more colorful. Seed is still available at 25 cents per pkt.

GREENHOUSE PLANTS

Saxifraga sarmentosa —

Also called 'Strawberry geranium'. Tufted perennial spreading near the ground, strawberry-like, by thread-like runners bearing young plantlets. Soft, fleshy, rounded, bristly-hairy leaves coarsely toothed, deep olive-

green with silver-grey areas following the veins; densely spotted purple beneath. Numerous flowers on erect panicle. Can be grown outside as border plant or in pots. 25 cents per pkt.

Echeveria crenulata —

Showy stem forming rosette with broad, obovate leaves to one foot long, tapering to narrow petiole, pale green and glaucous bluish-grey margins undulate and red. Flowers yellowish red. Grow outside where climate permits. 25 cents per pkt.

Echeveria rosea grande —

25 cents per pkt.

Asarina erubescens —

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

Sinningia speciosa —

Mixed colors. 25 cents per pkt.

Gloxinia grandiflora —

Very large eight-petal blooms. Mixed colors. 25 cents per pkt.

Polypodium aureum —

Fern with stout creeping rhizome, metallic light green fronds. 25 cents per pkt.

MRS. FLORENCE GEE,
Seed Fund Administrator,
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ROUND ROBIN NEWS

Our report this month is quite limited because it covers Round Robin activity for the month of August. Because of vacations and other activities, the flights have slowed up considerably. While this is a natural summertime condition, the activity has been even less than expected; therefore, too few items were selected from the available Flights.

Those that were chosen are as follows:

Ethel McKay, Port Orchard, Washington, chairman of Flight #6, suggested to her Robins that all of them should put their soil-mix formulas in their letters. This is being done, and Bee Olson is taking notes on these mixes for future use in her column. This is an excellent idea and it is hoped that all chairmen will ask for this and other information that can be assembled for publication in *The Begonian*.

In response to our earlier requests, many comments are appearing concerning culture of the calla type *semperflorens* begonias. Tentatively, the concensus appears to be that callas do best when they are grown in a relatively sandy and well drained soil mix and in quite strong light. Items such as peat moss should not be part of the soil mix because they hold too much water. An air temperature of about 65 to 75 degrees seems ideal. While a temperature of 90 degrees can be tolerated at times, the lower temperatures range seems better. Temperatures below 65 degrees can also be tolerated, but care must be used to avoid a start of mildew. The use of fungicides and a reasonable amount of air movement or ventilation helps to prevent mildew trouble.

Other cultural information on these semps will be published when it appears in the letters.

Esther A. Ridenour, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania, Flight #11, reported that she recently ran across a sale of

plastic containers in a 10-cent store. As a result, she has solved a lot of problems in the care of her plants. She stocked-up on plastic bread boxes, covered refrigerator food boxes, and diaper pails. The transparent bread boxes have become little greenhouses that are handy for growing cuttings and small plants. The food boxes make fine enclosures for growing begonias from seed. The pails are used to hold various soil mixes and their components, and also to hold all the miscellaneous smaller packages that usually clutter work-center shelves. These pails helped to organize her work areas and she says they look very neat.

Flight #14, which is to be international, is still waiting for members. It will be started soon, so we hope more folks in other countries will hurry and send in their requests to be on this Flight.

Flight #17 is now forming. Please send in your requests. We can start any number of Flights with about six members each. Try one this fall. You can do yourself and the A.B.S. a real service by taking part in this program.

HERBERT WARRICK
Round Robin Director
6543 - 26th Ave., N.E.,
Seattle, Wash. 98115

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Qumblin' Along With

More about our worms: Mrs. D. W. of Seattle has written to us as follows:

"Just in case no one else has written to you about the worms which are a problem to R. W. of Metuchen, New Jersey, I am sure these are symphalids (sometimes symphilids). Cynthia Westcott writes about them in her "Bug Book" — *The Garden Bug Book*, I guess it's called — classifying them as the garden centipede. I do not own the new edition of this book, but in the 1964 edition her article on these bugs is on page 207.

"I have fought these little pests and they are mean things to get rid of. Actually, they seem to do little harm to pot plants, but I understand that in the fields where they can get so far underground that spray doesn't reach them, they multiply to the point that they can destroy bulbs. As R. W. said, Isotox does not affect them at all. I found that Miller's Tetradane killed them. It is also possible to drown them if the plants can stand the amount of moisture necessary, but it's not easy."

Dear Mrs. D. W.: I have checked with a local company whose business is to rid nurseries and gardens of all pests. Their man thought this worm is the garden centipede, a relation to our millepede, but he could not understand why it is difficult to control. He stated, "Just use DDT. That will get rid of it."

I hope that any of you who have more information on our worms will write to me. If you try Mrs. D. W. Miller's Tetradane or DDT, please send me the results so that we all may benefit.

I am still waiting for word from an entymologist I have written to.

Speaking of worms — a bit of help comes from Round Robin member Carrie M. Daniel of Mansfield, Massachusetts. She states:

"Here is one thought that may help someone. I have found that ordinary moth balls placed in the soil will prevent a very stubborn insect which hatches from a tiny white grub. The insect is a tiny, dark, fly-like creature, and it defies all the advertised insect destroyers. It seems to thrive in leaf mold from the woods."

Thank you, Carrie Daniel. Many members will be grateful for your suggestion.

L.E.E. of Millers Falls, Massachusetts, asks:

"How do you put tuberous begonias away for winter storage?"

Dear L.E.E.: In his book *The Tuberous Begonia*, Allan G. Langdon states:

"There is nothing whatever complicated about it. Firstly, the tubers should not be exposed to an excess of heat which will cause shrivelling and resultant loss of stamina; and, secondly, they must not suffer from an excess of moisture which may cause rotting at the crown. Should either occur, the tubers will probably be of little value, if not quite useless . . .

"Plants which have flowered in pots should not be pushed under the greenhouse and allowed to become brick-dry. Whilst begonias are flowering, the tubers are just acting as channels through which moisture and nutrition pass from the soil to the stems, leaves, and flowers. The tubers, during this time, increase very slightly in size, if at all, and it is not until flowering has almost finished and growth has ceased, that the tubers begin to

store food to enable them to survive the three or four months of inactivity which winter brings and be in a condition to produce strong, healthy shoots when restarted in the spring . . .

"When flowering has finished, those plants grown in pots can be removed and stood in a sheltered position with the pots partly plunged in ashes or soil to prevent them from being damaged by winds, and also to lessen the possibility of their becoming dry at the roots — at no time should they become bone-dry. Protection should be given at the first sign of frost — it matters little if the tops are slightly frosted but on no account must the lower part of the stems or tubers be affected or total loss will result.

'As the foliage drops, the main stems can be reduced by half or to within six inches of the tops of the pots. This will hasten the ripening process somewhat without detriment to the tubers. On no account should this be done to plants which still have their green foliage. Within a week or so after the stems have been reduced, the remaining portions will fall off at the junction with the tubers. Some plants will take longer than others, but the stems must not be forced off in any way or the tubers may be damaged.

"It is not necessary to remove tubers immediately — some amateur growers leave them in the pots until it is time to restart them. As a general rule, it is not recommended as it makes inspection of the tubers difficult. When they are removed, the soil should not be entirely shaken from them for a while.

"Tubers are placed, crown uppermost, in shallow boxes or on a bench in greenhouse or airy shed for a week or two and occasional inspections made to see that the crowns are drying satisfactorily. Should it happen that the crown appears to be rotting, all decayed portions must be removed by scraping and the resultant wounds exposed to the air for a few days — or they can be dusted with either

charcoal or lime and sulphur in equal parts.

"When the tubers appear to be thoroughly dry, the soil remaining on them can be removed and they will be ready for storing. Each tuber should be surrounded with some fairly dry material, sand or old potting soil — the purpose of which is to prevent the tubers from losing the in other words, to stop them shrivelling. They should be as sound and plump after their two or three months storage as when put away. Almost frost-free place will be suitable in which to keep them. Under the greenhouse staging or in a loft or attic—but, which place is selected, the temperature should be about 40 to 50 degrees F.

"Occasional inspection is sound practice. If any shrivelling is discovered, it may be that the material covering the tubers has become too dry and is absorbing some of the moisture from the tubers, in which case it should be replaced with other sand or soil which has been very slightly moistened."

For answers to your questions about begonias, write to:

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

BANQUET . . .

(Continued from Page 215)

nounced that he had donated two sets of shelves for the A.B.S. library. Thanks were extended to Mrs. Lola Fahey, former librarian.

Mrs. Olmsted thanked the Board members for their assistance throughout the past year, and a special thanks to the workers who made the 1964 A.B.S. convention a success.

Carl Naumann presented to Mrs. Olmsted her Past President's Life Membership card and a gift from the society, a set of *Encyclopedia*.

IN LOVING MEMORY

About 5 p.m. on August 20, 1964, the Lord opened His arms and said, "Come unto me". Mrs. Arline Stoddard answered His call. After several years of serious illness she is now at peace.

Arline is well remembered for her wonderful work as National Secretary for several terms and as Librarian, besides several offices in her own Branch of the A.B.S. She was a charter member of the Redondo Area Branch. She will be missed for her quick smile and ready acceptance of any job she was asked to undertake.

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CALENDAR

October 1 — Westchester Branch:
Frank Rich will speak and show slides on "Begonias in the Jungle".

October 8 — Orange County Branch:
By popular demand, Jan Groot will be the speaker. His subject: "Landscaping with Ferns".

October 9 — San Gabriel Valley Branch: Stan Spaulding, of the University of California South Coast Field Station, will speak on "Conditions Under Which Begonias Grow".

October 15 — Long Beach Parent Chapter: Guest speaker will be Jess Chapman, representing Destruxol.

October 17 — Knickerbocker Branch: Branch will present its own "Little Show" at the Henry Hudson Hotel, 353 West 57th Street, New York City, from 5 to 10 p.m.

October 20 — Missouri Branch: Hostess will be Mrs. Louise McIntyre, 3314 Euclid Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri. Luncheon at 11 a.m. Flower sale at 12:30; meeting at 1 p.m. Program: Chapter 8, Miss Nina Austin, "Hairy Leaved Begonias".

October 23 — Redondo Area Branch: Branch will celebrate its fifteenth birthday. As many Past Presidents as possible will attend the party. Potluck at 6:30 p.m. Jean Kerlin will be the speaker and will bring plants for the plant table.

October 28 — Glendale Branch: Mabel Corwin, President of the American Begonia Society, will show slides of her trip to the Seattle Begonia Show.

November 5 — Westchester Branch: Dave Roberts will speak on "Ferns".

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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.
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Mrs. Jessie B. Hoyt, Secy.
1013 Harding Road, Aberdeen, Wash.

GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members
Mrs. Adolph Belsler, Cor. Secy.
Welsh and Veree 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.
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Medford, N. J.

REDONDO AREA BRANCH

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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
Lilian 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. Barnett, 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.
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Salina, Kansas, 67401.

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3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
Lorenzo Manor School
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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 305F, 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.

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH

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