

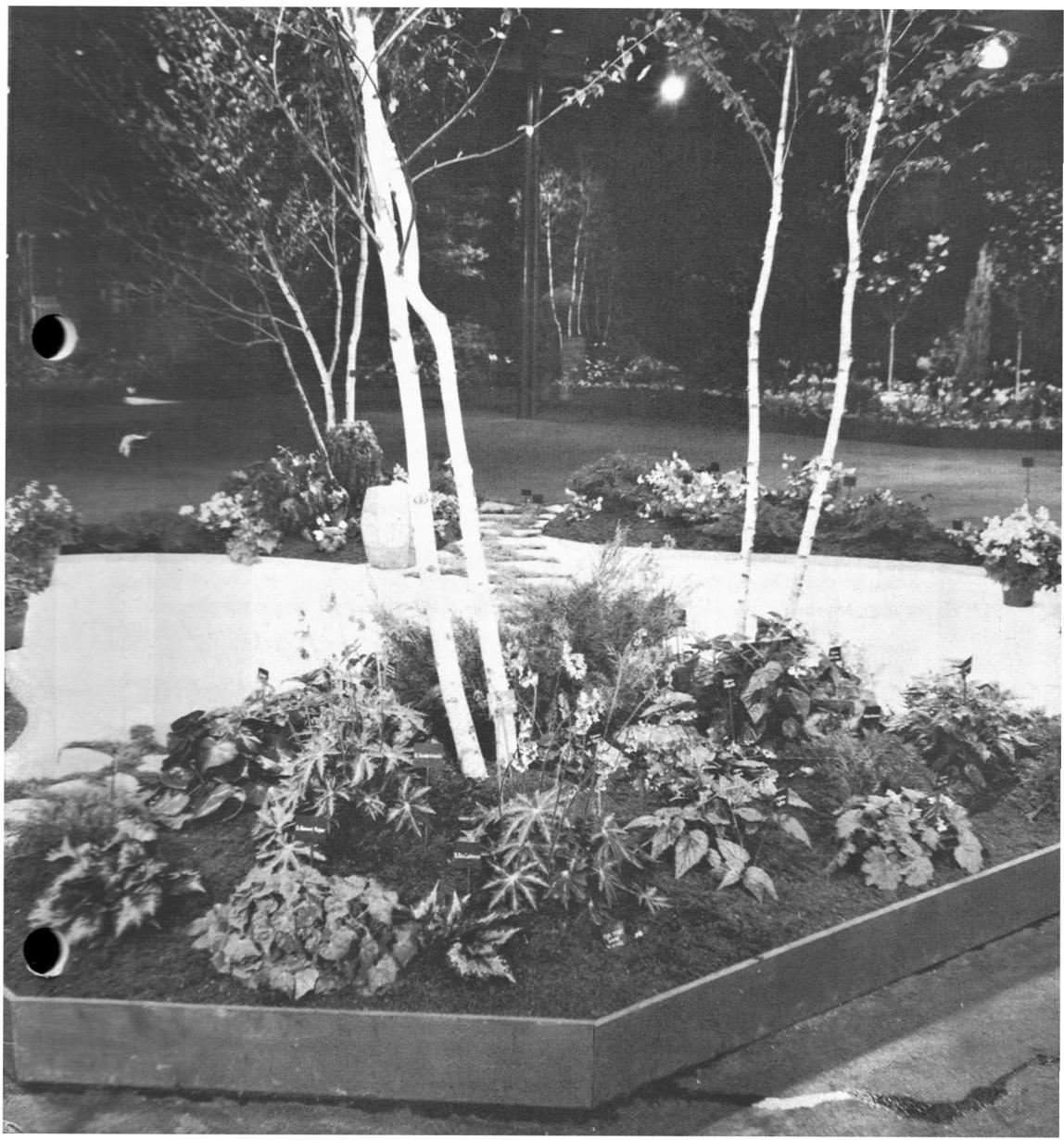
The Begonian

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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From The President—

The election is over, and the votes have been counted. It was very gratifying to receive such a large number of ballots. The total number of votes cast was 1378. There were 895 marked yes and 483 marked no. This means we are 24 votes short of a two thirds majority, so the dues will remain at \$2.50.

I am sorry I have not been able to answer personally all of the wonderful letters I have received. Your comments and suggestions are always appreciated. How I wish I could get to know each of you personally. My life has certainly been enriched by the wonderful friends I have made in the ABS. I hope those of you that cannot belong to a branch are taking advantage of the Round Robins. I do not have time to take part in this, but I know many of our members are making wonderful friends through correspondence. In fact, the Robins are growing so that Herb Warrick, the director, is overwhelmed. Let's keep him busy.

Don't forget the convention September 4th, 5th, and 6th.

From The Editor—

Perhaps a mid-term summary of the editorial department would be helpful to our readers. During the past 6 months I have written to all the branches and officers. These letters outlined some policies and also suggested reports from branches as to their activities and their members ideas on magazine improvement. To date I have heard from one president, and two branches. 6 letters with suggestions have been written and 2 unsigned which I did not even read but tossed into the waste basket.

There must be some corelation here as to subscribers versus magazine interest and Society interest. Not that this office needs more mail — I answer over 1800 letters a month — but you do like to know what is going on, and you would like to hear from branch presidents at least once a year;

We have had more letters thanking us for the magazine improvement from our advertisers and writers than I ever expected. So all things taken into consideration the past 6 months has been fruitful! During the entire month of April all California branches have had weekly promotion on radio and on TV with the hope membership can be built up. Some subscriptions have already been received as a result of the effort on several of my shows. That I think is the least an editor can do.

We have returned the officer page to the front as several of you have suggested. Also we have added a new department which will be given to reports from membership that do not participate in the round robins and other departments.

Have you been noticing the various national magazines and the publicity given on begonias? You in your own areas should use this for further publicity for your own group. You might make a display at a library . . . perhaps a bank . . . maybe the local chamber of commerce. It's not hard to get publicity if you go out after it!

The show coming up is attracting a great deal of wide interest. It will be listed in many national date columns. Our president has formed a wonderful group of hard workers around her and this portends to be the best show yet. Special attention this year will be given to our friends from out of the local area. Several gardens and events are to be given just for them for taking time out to come from a long distance for this fine event. The Arboretum is a great place to hold such an event and there is much to see and visit in the Arboretum plus the show. Plan to come!

Cover. This is the Bessie Raymond Buxton Branch exhibit at the New England Spring Flower Show held March 13 through 21 in Massachusetts.

Bonsai Pots For Begonias

By CARRIE E. KAREGEANNES, *Springfield, Virginia*

Bonsai begonias? Not quite. But bonsai pots are handsome containers for shallow-rooted rhizomatous begonias. You may not want them for your entire collection, but they are perfect to show off a few especially attractive begonias as house decorations or to dress up gifts.

When windowsill gardeners are finally able to overcome all their problems of heat, humidity, and light, to grow beautiful specimens, it is fun to display them separately. Greenhouse gardeners also enjoy bringing in a plant at peak perfection to decorate the living room, or to a shaded patio in warm seasons. A gift can be quite a show off in a special, landscaped pot.

I have only a few bonsai pots in use in decorative spots — a glossy *B. erythrophylla* in an unglazed, brown, footed pot; a silvery rex in a round, glazed, dark blue pot; a *B. 'Black Magic'* in a pale, mossy green, oval one; a young *B. mazaе* (from the ABS Seed Fund) in a flat, rectangular pot landscaped with a rock and two sea shells. The 'erythrophylla' started out as small as the *mazaе*, landscaped in the green oval bonsai pot, grew to fill it completely, and then was moved to its present larger pot. The rex has been happy in its same pot for about two years, with some top dressing. A pink African Violet is lovely in a smaller, round, dark blue pot.

A tray (the clear plastic kind, or even a china platter) of moist sand or pebbles will add to the "Japanese" setting, protect table tops, and provide humidity (for you as well as the plant).

Small plants can be started early in fairly large pots, because bonsai pots are shallow and drain well — if loose soil and normal care in watering are used. Place the plantlet to one side, to allow room for the rhizome to creep, and landscape the rest of the surface with a rock of interesting texture, a shell or two, a piece of drift-



wood, pebbles, or pinecones. These can be rearranged, changed, gradually removed as the plant grows — till finally the begonia fills the pot and takes the full spotlight.

All this satisfies my passions for rocks and shells, Japanese gardens, pottery — as well as for begonias!

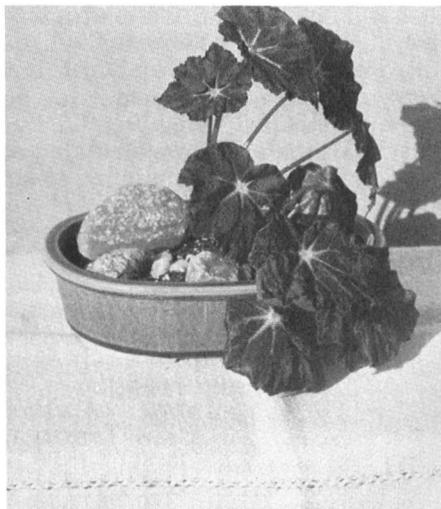
I have had difficulty finding shallow containers of any kind that are suitable for rhizomatous begonias. Clay bulb pans are not often available in my area, except in early spring. Bonsai pots seem made for them, whether glazed or unglazed. Different depths and shapes suit different plants.

Because they are shallow and often have as many as three holes, bonsai pots provide good drainage. Because they are wide or long, they provide room for the rhizomes to creep. Oval or rectangular pots are excellent for the creeping ones, while round, deeper, pots serve the ascending rhizomatous begonias well. A begonia with leaves that hang downward may need a footed pot, to provide a little more height. The dark Japanese blue is

lovely for most rex and violet colors, and the medium depth of round pots suits them. The dull brown, unglazed pots are good with most of the other begonia leaf colorings.

I have found a few bonsai pots at a shop that imports Japanese goods, and there are a number of mail-order houses. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden has miniature pots for sale. West Coasters probably can find nice pots, but we Easterners are always looking for good containers. A shallow, glossy brown, bulb bowl also does well.

Or, on the other hand, any kind of container that fits the plant can be used and then set inside a pottery or



porcelain bowl, a copper pot, or a basket — when the plant reaches show-off stage. A double blue violet in the cut-out bottom of a plastic chlorox container can be set neatly inside a silver bowl to make an elegant centerpiece for the dining table. Many small begonias could be used this way when in full bloom — or even when just in good leaf condition.

I use plastic ice cream containers for deeper pots, discarded styrofoam coffee cups for seedlings and cuttings,

aluminum cream-cheese-spread containers for baby rhizomatous seedlings — which later move to plastic salad containers from the office lunch wagon, before moving on to the shallowest clay pots I can find. More recently, I have found that I can knock holes in bottoms of clay pot saucers for the rhizomatous babies, to be used over and over as the original inhabitants move to larger ones. A hammer and a large nail have not broken one for me yet. I make two or three holes close together to get one larger hole.

Ten-cent-store pottery bowls at a dime each often can be found in pleasing shapes. I browse among white or brown dishes — but not among the porcelain or glassware. A nail can make drainage holes in pottery or earthenware, but not in porcelain or glass (at least, not for me). Turn the bowl upside down on a folded newspaper and stick on a piece of scotch tape if the nail slides. Again, make two or three holes close together to make the larger hole, or space holes apart for a larger dish.

A row of white berry bowls with seedlings of *B. mazaе* or *B. dayi* is charming. And when the plantlets outgrow these homes, you will no doubt need the bowls for the next batch coming along from those irresistible Seed Fund listings. Or, if you have been lucky enough to find homes for all your seedlings, the bowls make attractive gifts.

Larger, shallow, inexpensive dishes can be bought for the small plantlets, too (or for a few of them you want to keep), each one leaving room for the rhizome to creep. The bowls can be landscaped like the bonsai pots.

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BESSIE RAYMOND BUXTON BRANCH BEGONIA EXHIBIT

ORPHA C. FOX, *Dracut, Massachusetts*

Once again the Bessie Raymond Buxton Branch participated in the Spring Flower Show of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, the theme being Town and Country Gardens. The Branch displayed a large collection of begonias in pots, placed for the summer in a very attractive and simple garden, "designed for all season pleasure in maintenance."

The space assigned was a prominent one in the center of the large entrance patio, a plot twenty-five feet square with cut-off corners. Allowing for generous planting borders, the garden was divided into two slightly sunken areas of tear-drop shape, paved with large white marble chips. A path of Weymouth granite paving stones interplanted with thyme separated these areas, following the curves diagonally across the garden. Three varieties of spreading juniper were planted in the borders and trees used were large clumps of paper birch.

As this garden was to be viewed from all four sides and at close range, it was important not only that each begonia should be a fine individual specimen, but that the variety in form, texture, and color should blend into a pleasing whole. Among begonias used were x Braemar, x d'Artagnon, x argentea guttata, incana, hispida cucullata, the colorful Kusler hybrids, Vellozoana, Masoniana, x Erythrophylla, foliosa, x Sunderbruchi, compta, x Crestabruchi and several of the Scharffi type. Large baskets of x Catalina and x Richmondensis were in full bloom. White, pink and red semperflorens were placed in the "sunny" spots, while x Charm seemed to create its own sunshine amid a more somber grouping.

There were many rexes, and other begonias not in seasonal bloom were chosen for beautiful foliage. Large plants of a variety of B. heracleifolia were placed about the curve of one sunken area and B. x Beatrice Had-drell (not a miniature as it is often list-

ed), occupied a corresponding place in the second plot.

Accessories used were two beautiful Chinese rose-medallion garden seats, an exotic but appropriate touch as many of the begonias have their origins in the far east.

Mrs. Frederick Kingsbury of Brookline, Massachusetts, exhibit chairman, had made preliminary plans, when in November she entered the hospital for eye surgery. Her daughter and assistant in planning, Mrs. Morgan Plummer of Westwood, Massachusetts, stepped in as a most capable active chairman. Mrs. Plummer is a member of the Branch, the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and is a past president of the Fox Hill Garden Club. In other years she has worked with the Women's Exhibitions Committees of the Spring Shows. Members of the Branch assisted and provided begonias, but full credit must be given Mrs. Plummer who designed the charming garden and carried the project to completion, so successfully that it was awarded a blue ribbon and a silver medal.

"THE BEGONIAN"

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The Elsa Fort Branch of New Jersey Reviews - 1964

We shall long remember the summer of '64. No rain for more than eight weeks, with high temperatures and drying winds. It meant constant watering to simply keep precious flowers and trees alive. Unless one had underground irrigation, the lawn was just by-passed and if your water supply was from a well, you equally had hard luck.

Mildred Tait, who grows beautiful begonias, left for an 8600 mile motor trip to the coast before the drought began, after reaching California. She visited gardens from San Francisco to San Diego. That so many of the beautifully laid out and tended gardens were the work of elderly people was a surprise to her. Mildred's water supply is from a well; I shall leave to your imagination, what greeted her when she returned.

We were welcomed at Edelweiss Gardens in Robbinsville, N.J. for our July meeting. After eating our box lunches on a patio surrounded by rare, unusual, and exotic plants and shrubs, we toured the greenhouses. They were filled with unbelievably beautiful rex begonias with leaves 12 and 14 inches in diameter. They were growing on the floor under tables filled with cuttings of many varieties of familiar hybrids. We felt as though we were in California.

Mrs. McNulty and a friend, Mrs. Togle, members of the Rhode Island Branch, were traveling in the area, and it was a pleasant surprise for Marion Thompson to open her door and see them. Rest assured they were at no loss for a topic of conversation.

We usually do something different for our December meeting. We had begun paying extra in 1963 expecting the cost of the Begonian to be higher. When it was not, we had some extra money; so, we chartered a bus, invited friends to help fill it (there are only sixteen of us) and went to Longwood Gardens in Delaware. Enroute we

stopped in Kennett Square, a quaint village, and had lunch.

The conservatories at Longwood were just beautiful. As we stepped in the doors, hundreds of the Christmas begonias greeted us. Back of them standing high were breath-taking Chrysanthemums, at intervals stood large pots of B. Emily Clibron, while overhead immense baskets of B. Glaucophylla Scandens hung down. The beds were bordered by Baby Tears growing about 5 inches wide.

I could not describe Longwood Gardens if I had the space, for each house is filled with something different; begonias, orchids, roses, gaeanias, or maybe tropical plants and trees. I shall simply say we had a thrilling day.

The remaining months were used in study and reports on begonias.

I must tell you that we had two new members join our Branch. They are like a dose of Tonic.

CHECK POINTS . . .

(Continued from Page 108)

bearers of this plant genera and the blossoms are usually sacrificed for the sake of the color and form of the foliage. Fibrous canes and hirsute forms bloom freely, and the parts of the flowers trimmed with yellow stamens and minute hairs are scorers whether grown in upright form or hanging baskets. B. Orange Rubra was awarded one of the most coveted prizes the Begonia Society gives as a new introduction.

NEW BEGONIA HYBRIDS: Judges are usually selected with special care for this class of Begonias. They need knowledge of many Begonias and must select the most distinctive new hybrids that are outstanding in growth habit, leaf size, shape and color. In many instances, no award can be made as few plants can qualify for the rigid test of new horticultural specimens.

GENERAL COLOR must be clear and deep, no fading or yellowing in leaf
(Continued on Page 96)

This month Carrie Karegeannes of Springfield, Virginia has shared her notes on the germination of begonias as follows. If you will note and compare there is much to be learned from these notes.

BEGONIA	SEASON	NO. OF DAYS	TEMPERATURE	STERILE MEDIUM	LIGHT
<i>B. bradei</i> (seed fund)	May	13 days (sprinkling of seedlings)	70 - 75	Nursery and Af. Violet mix	Gro-Lux tube 15 hrs.
<i>B. catalina</i> (seed fund)	Jan.	nothing in 2 months	about 70	Wood soil - top layer sifted leaf mold (sterilized)	Daylight and working light in kitchen
<i>B. dayi</i> (seed fund)	Sep.	10 days (67 seedlings)	about 70	Vermiculite and potting mix (com)	Gro-Lux tubes 15 hrs.
<i>B. 'Dearest May'</i> (Odorata Alba) (seed fund)	April	no germination in 2 months	about 70	Sand-peat layer over mix of loam, vermic. peat, sand	Kitchen as above
<i>B. 'Di-Anna'</i> (seed fund)	(1) April (2) Aug.	no germination in 2 months 2 seedlings in 11 days 2 more in 28	about 70 near pilot on stove) 76 - 83 except for 1 night 68 and 1-70	sand-peat layer over light soil Living earth	Kitchen as above Kitchen as above
<i>B. dregei</i> (seed fund)	July	no germ. in 5 months (other half of pan Verde Grande in 10 days)	80 to 90 1st 4 days then 70	Vermiculite * (report from I.A. area reported germ. 7 days in com. potting mix)	Gro-Lux tubes 15 hrs.
<i>B. epipsila</i> (seed fund)	April	no germination in 2 months	about 70	sand peat layer over light soil	Kitchen as above
<i>B. evansiana</i> (nursery)	Feb.	13 days good germination	Near hot air vent. over 70	Layer of fine sand and leaf mold over Living Earth	None covered with paper
<i>B. fuchsoides</i> (seed fund)	July	8 days good germination	More than 70	Com. soil mix ½ covered with thin layer of sand which gave poorer results) ½ not covered	No light (kitchen floor)

YOUR BEGONIAN TESTING LAB

BY BEE OLSON, 13715 CORDARY AVENUE
HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA

LIGHT

STERILE MEDIUM

TEMPERATURE

NO. OF DAYS

SEASON

BEGONIA

<i>B. masoniana</i> Iron Cross Ruby Mae Budd. L.A. from Miami, Fla.	Oct. (1) April (2)	3 months 3 to 4 weeks 13 days	1/2 oak leaf mold 1/2 peat moss in bottle " " Sandy peat moss and perlite in pie plate, plastic envelope		
<i>B. 'Joe Hayden'</i> (seed fund)	Oct.	1 in 12 days 4 in 15 8 in 19	Sphagnum, moistened with rootone, water	Cool white fluorescent tube 15 hrs.	
<i>B. 'Josephine'</i> (seed fund)	Sep.	1 in 10 days 2 by 11th 4 by 13th sev. more 22nd	Vermiculite, watered with weak fertilizer	Gro-Lux tube 15 hrs.	
<i>B. leptotricha</i> (seed fund)	July	8 days good germ.	Com mix 1/2 covered thin layer sand (which gave poorer germ. than 1/2 uncovered)	Kitchen	
<i>B. 'Limninghei'</i> (seed fund)	Oct.	1 in 15 days 5 by 20th	Living Earth	Cool white flur. 15 hrs.	
<i>B. 'Lucerna'</i> (my own self-pollination)	June	23 in 20-25 days	Sphagnum topped by com. mix	1st 1/2 Gro-Lux then window lite (on vacation) (no sun)	
<i>B. 'Maphil'</i> (seed fund)	May	8 in 10 days Many by 13th (algae killed)	Com. mix (light-peaty sterile mix)	Gro-Lux Tube 15 hrs.	
<i>B. mazaе</i> (seed fund)	June	17 or less (good germination)	Vermiculite over above com. mix.	Gro-Lux tube 10 days then window (no sun)	
<i>B. mazaе viridis</i> 'Stitchleaf' (seed fund)	Sep.	3 in 10 days 5 by 20th 7 by 23rd 9 by 33rd	Living Earth	Kitchen table	
<i>B. 'Orange rubra'</i> (seed fund)	Jan.	2 in 19 days 3 more in 29	Woods oil and thin top layer sifted leaf mold	Kitchen table	

BEGONIA	SEASON	NO. OF DAYS	TEMPERATURE	STERILE MEDIUM	LIGHT
<i>B. pilifera</i> (seed fund)	Aug.	2 in 8 days more by 9th 30 in all	76 - 83	Living Earth	Kitchen table
<i>B. 'Pinafore'</i> (seed fund)		3 in 23 days 4th in 24 6 by 26th	68 - 72 (near hot-air vent)	Living Earth	Kitchen table 2 days - then new Gro-Lux
<i>B. rex (mixed hybrids)</i> (nursery)	Feb.	14-16 (jillions!)	68 - 72 as above	Sand and leafmold layer on top Living Earth	None - covered with paper
<i>B. sanquinea</i> (seed fund)	Jan.	4 in 27 days 2 more, 29th 7th by 31st 8th by 34th 12th by 41st	68 - 72 as above	Living Earth	On kitchen floor near hot air vent, till 1st germination then Gro-Lux
<i>B. scharffiana</i> (seed fund)	June	2 in 19 days 3rd by 20th only 3	78 - 80 plus	Vermiculite	Gro-Lux 9 days window 9 days (vacation)
<i>B. semperflorens</i> 'Christmas Angel' (nursery)	Feb.	10-12	68 - 72	Sand and leafmold on top Living Earth	None - covered with paper
<i>B. semperflorens</i> (seed fund packet)	June	3 in 20 days good germ.	80 plus	Vermiculite over com. mix	Gro-Lux 9 days window 9 days (vacation)
<i>B. tenusolia</i> (seed fund)	Oct.	2 in 14 days 5 by 18th 9 by 19th 10 by 22nd	70	Living Earth	Cool white fluorescent tube
<i>B. vellozoana</i> (seed fund)	Sep.	1 in 1½ mos. (day) planted same time and same conditions, soil, etc. gave 67 seedlings in 10 days)	70 - 73	com. mix (contains captan) plus vermiculite, moistened with fertilizer	Gro-Lux tube 15 hrs.
<i>B. 'Verde Grande'</i>	July	9-10 days good germination	80 - 90 dropped to 70 after 4 days	Vermiculite	Gro-Lux tube 15 hrs.

What have you been experimenting with lately? Please drop a note and tell us about it so we can share with you. Just write: Bee Olson, 13715 Cordary Ave., Hawthorne, Calif.

ON THE PLATYCKERIUMS

ALEX D. HAWKES

In past issues of *The Begonian*, I have published some comments on the marvelous Stag-Horn Ferns, of the genus *Platynerium*, whose collection and appreciation is an increasingly popular hobby with many of us in this country. So popular have these ferns become, in fact, that a *Platynerium* Society was inaugurated in California a couple of years ago. I believe that this organization has now expired, since I have heard nothing from it for a considerable period, but perhaps this is a temporary situation, as I very much hope.

The nomenclature of the single genus *Platynerium* has been among the most confused of any aggregation of cultivated ferns ever since these remarkable epiphytes and lithophytes first attracted the attention of the cultivator. Published articles dealing with their taxonomy have been amateurish (these including my own, certainly, since I based my information on the very scanty available material in print) or downright erroneous (several papers in national horticultural magazines are good examples).

In September 1964, Barbara Joe published a lengthy illustrated article entitled "A Review of the Species of *Platynerium* (Polypodiaceae)," in *Baileya*, that "quarterly journal devoted to the botany of cultivated plants and especially to their identification, nomenclature, classification, and history in cultivation." This periodical is one which I recommend very highly to all serious students of plants, and is available on a subscription basis \$3.00 per year) from The Liberty Hyde Bailey Hortorium, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

Mrs. Joe's article is the first contemporary study of the Stag-Horn Ferns, and I believe everyone who is intrigued by or who collects these strange plants should acquire a copy for serious reading! (These copies, incidentally, are available at 75c apiece, from the address noted; ask for the

September 1964 issue of *Baileya*, Vol. 12, No. 3, when writing.)

The author has done a tremendous amount of research, obviously, in the compilation of this work. But I fear that she is going to make almost every *Platynerium* collector as unhappy as I am by her decisions!

I possess a rather modest collection of these illustrious ferns, and find, upon perusing Mrs. Joe's article (of some 56 pages), that scarcely any of my plants are correctly named! And yet, do you know, she is apparently correct in almost all of her identifications?

The intricacies of nomenclature of the genus *Platynerium*, as admirably surveyed by Barbara Joe, are such that I cannot possibly attempt to mention them in the space of this notice. I very much hope, though, that both amateur and commercial fern enthusiasts acquire a copy of this article, which is certainly a very valuable contribution toward our knowledge of the genus.

Those of us who raise *Platyneriums* in Florida rather regret that she did not have the opportunity to study our plants in addition to those in California (where she resides) and in herbaria. For some of the new cultivars which she proposes are already so well entrenched horticulturally in this part of the world under names which she either considers synonymous or ignores that it is more than a bit disconcerting.

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B E G O N I A N N E W S L E T T E R

"The East Bay Begonia Society in the Bay Area of California, reports in their monthly bulletin by M. B. Dunkle, that "Rex do not need large or very deep pots, but they do need repotting from time to time. This is especially the case when the leaf mold disintegrates and a heavy, less porous residue is left. In this case wash the old soil out and carefully work new soil around the fine hair like roots. Do not however, repot late in the fall or during the winter, unless the plants have heat enough for normal growing conditions. Keep well in mind that the best soil and the best location will fail with Rex unless there is a uniformly moist atmosphere about the plant."

"The Begonia Leaf" from the Sacramento Branch reports through Dora Hale, that "Prevention is easier than a cure. This is true in treating mildew as well as insect pests . . . this includes allowing a free circulation of air among the plants, and trying to water in the morning so that the leaves and stems are dry by night time. Spray and spray again in a week or two. When spraying you might do a three-in-one-job by spraying with a spray containing a fungicide, insecticide and a fertilizer."

The Smoky Valley Begonia Society in Kansas celebrated their 10th anniversary recently. Hat's off to this midwestern group! Their anniversary meeting in February had half of their attendance in charter members.

W. G. McGregor of Ottawa, Ont., reports that his B. EVANSIANA he handles in his area the same way as tuberous varieties," lifting it in October and when dried off store in a temperature about 50 F. and start similar in the spring. Evansiana grows almost a foot higher than tuberous and most semperflorens varieties and makes a delightful background. I grow these on the east side of the house where they receive morning sun only. I have propagated these from stem cuttings, dividing the root bulbs, from seed or the bulblets in the leaf axils. However my plants send out the bulblets only in very favorable seasons, but when they do they give you a shower of them.

Evansiana multiplies so easily it should be in the collection of everyone growing the tuberous type." He reminds local growers that Cruickshanks of Toronto, Ontario, always catalogue it.

Begonia Chatter of the Seattle Begonia Society, 8 pages long, is always filled with lots of information. The branch has really grown and this is largely due to "members giving us the benefits of both their innate and acquired talents. Among us there are folks who collectively exhibit many talents in such fields as leadership, teaching, speaking, writing, poetry, clerical skills, musical skills . . . and others too numerous to list. In addition, through all of these runs the genuine willingness to work . . . it is a real pleasure to work in our club so don't 'HIDE YOUR LIGHT UNDER A BUSHEL BASKET.' Austin Sanderman, the president, said further "I expect that we will find many hidden talents that can be applied in making our club even better than it is today." Now there is a thought or two for all begonia club officers to think about. We have lots of buried talents in our members . . . let's get it out to make us grow!

CHECK POINTS . . .

(Continued from Page 91)

tones. Color in leaves of smooth Fibrous should be rich green. Color in extremely hairy Fibrous should glow through cilia. Plants having color overlay, as B. sanguinea, B. Kumwha and many Rex types should have polish distinguishing the overlay from the basic leaf color. Varieties with heavy tomentum or scurf should show basic color through the felt as in varieties incana, Kellermani and peltata. Color in veins of the leaf scores well as in B. sutherlandi, Richardsoniana.

SPECIMEN SHAPES: Most varieties appear at their best when exhibited in their natural growth form. Fibrous should be tall and bushy with foliage stemming from soil level on stalk. Staking should be inconspicuous and used only when really necessary. Properly fed

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KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH EXHIBITS AT THE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER SHOW IN NEW YORK CITY

By HERTHA A. BENJAMIN, *Publicity Chairman*

The Knickerbocker Branch of the ABS staged a begonia garden at the New York International Flower Show held from March 6-14, 1965. The attendance during the show was over 300,000.

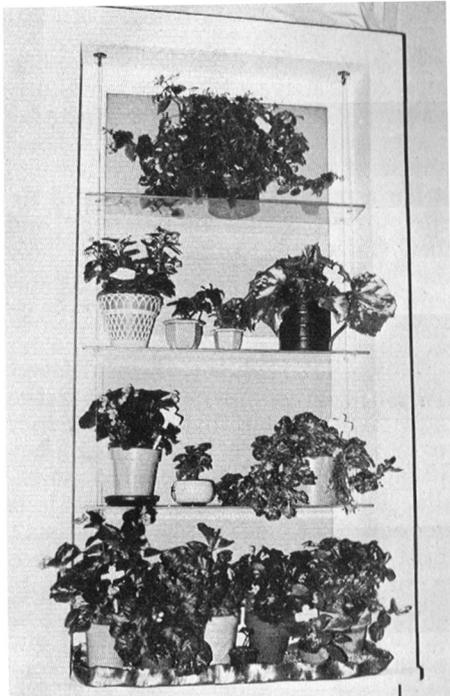
Many fine varieties of potted begonia plants and baskets were shown in 113 individual entries and seven non-competitive ones. The garden was featured around a fountain and, swinging above from a mobile suspended three scales in a Pennsylvania Dutch design, potted with *Begonia schmidtiana*.

To demonstrate the growing of begonias in a window and to decorate with them, two window frames were installed. From two hooks on the top of each window frame tiers of glass shelves were suspended by means of a monofilament nylon line, 80 lbs. weight, (obtainable in any sporting good store). The line was drawn through $\frac{1}{4}$ inch holes that were drilled at the four corners of the glass shelves. An one-eighth inch washer was placed under the holes and a knot in the line held the shelves in place and horizontal. On one sill was placed a planter with a drainage bottom to demonstrate the importance of proper drainage; on the other sill a tray filled with moist pebbles to demonstrate the importance of humidity. Shelves, planter and tray had an array of dainty begonia plants.

The growing under Grow-Lux fluorescent lamps was also demonstrated.

The amount of exceptional good stock of plant material displayed in the garden and the arrangement of the windows was complimented by the visitors.

The work and effort that went into this project by the many members of the Knickerbocker Branch was greatly appreciated by the management of the International Flower Show — Amateur Section.



Round Robin News

HERB WARRICK, ROUND ROBIN DIRECTOR
6543 26TH AVENUE, N. E., SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98115

In Flight #11 Mrs. Laurel Livingston of Geneva, Ill., was recently reviewing her problems of growing plants in her home. She used a novel phrase of picturesque speech that will strike a mutual chord for most of us. She said my "porch runneth over" and then she proceeded to describe how she had to provide additional space with fluorescent lights in their basement.

While the problem of insufficient space for growing our plants is the most common one that we have, it is really an indication that two wonderful attributes are functioning normally. The first attribute is ours, it is evidence that we like plants and can't resist occasionally adding one or two to our collection. The second attribute belongs to our plants, they grow for us. Combine these attributes and our space disappears. However, this condition is a very healthy one. It stimulates our ingenuity and gives us a whole host of minor problems. And we continue to be happy and healthy as we try to solve them.

If you doubt that anyone else could have problems like yours, just join a Round Robin and read what the other members write about theirs.

In the Round Robin column of the April issue of the *Begonian* many subjects were listed as possible specialties for new Flights. The provision of specialty Flights covering plants other than begonias was mentioned as being a possibility at some future date. Our original expectations were that the general interest Flights for begonias would also serve and satisfy the other shade plant growers. To a great extent this has been true but recently there is more insistence for Flights on the other plants.

While there are plenty of other

Societies which exclusively serve the growers of the companion types of plants, it appears that we have many members who want to retain membership only in the ABS, yet they want the ABS to furnish an equivalent Round Robin service. To determine the extent of this interest we will offer a few specialty Flights as shown below. Each of these will be of the general interest type for each genus of plants. Please send your request to me if you want to join one or more of these Flights. Bee Olson (our Research Director) and I will probably not have time to write in them as we have done in most of the earlier Flights. However, we will include our names on the Flight Lists so that we can select information for the *Begonian*. We can also become better acquainted with each of you and possibly encourage your further participation in the ABS with any articles or special studies that you can provide for the *Begonian*.

These new Flights will probably have to be content initially with fewer members. Flights of three to five members each may be the maximum at first.

Are you interested in a Round Robin in the ABS on any of the following types of plants? African Violets (*Saintpaulias*), *Episcias*, *Gloxinias*, Other *Gesneria*, *Philodendrons*, *Bromeliads*, Ferns, *Amaryllis*, *Anthuriums*, *Aralias*, *Orchids*, *Ceropegias*, *Epiphyllums*, *Fuchsias*, *Geraniums*, *Hoyas*, *Primroses*, *Ripsalis*, or any other type of shade plant which can be made into a specialty.

As with all previous Flights we will need volunteer chairmen from among the more experienced growers of each of these plant groups.

POTTING MIXES FOR BEGONIAS

By RICHARD HAMMOND
Northwestern editor

A topic of interest to growers of both tuberous and foliage begonias is how to prepare a proper potting mixture for your plants. There are probably as many individual formulas as there are growers. Conditions vary. Each grower does not give his plants the same care as do others. Ingredients used in different potting mixtures differ, so that a mixture calling for garden loam as the main ingredient could vary greatly between growers.

There are certain characteristics of a good potting soil mix that should be common to all. Bernice Brilmayer in her book *All About Begonias* lists the following characteristics of a good potting mix: "...should: feel light, porous; hold some moisture, but let excess water drain through; look

loose and airy at top of pot; test slightly acid or neutral; supply a minimum of plant food. It should not: pack down heavily; stay muddy after watering, or dry out immediately; form a hard surface crust; test extremely acid, or alkaline; be overrich in fertilizer."

A typical mix would contain equal parts of soil, some type of humus material, and sand or other material to aerate the soil. At a study group on soil for tuberous begonias conducted at a recent meeting of the Seattle Begonia Society, several typical mixes were demonstrated and analyzed. Following are five different soil mixes used by members:

(Continued on Page 101)

Books for Every Gardener



□ **FLUORESCENT LIGHT GARDENING** by Elaine C. Cherry. An amazing book by one of our favorite garden writers. All about gardening under lights with specific how-to for 300 kinds of plants. Everything you need to know to grow begonias under lights. Every gardener should own a copy of this book. Buy one for yourself and your best friend. 256 pages with outstanding index. Published 1965. \$6.95 per copy.

□ **PASSIFLORAS FOR YOUR GARDEN** by Florence Knock. Just published. 100 pages. Beautifully bound and jacketed. Illustrated in color, black-and-white and line drawings. Includes fascinating legend of the passion flowers, passiflora family album, culture outdoors and indoors propagation, and where to obtain rare varieties. \$4.95 per copy.

□ **GLOXINIAS AND HOW TO GROW THEM** by Peggie Schulz. Revised edition of the first book ever published on gloxinias. Completely updated. New material on miniatures, doubles and hybrids; soil mixes and pesticides; growing under fluorescent light; gloxineras. Profusely illustrated in full color, black-and-white and line drawings. Just published. \$4.50 per copy.

□ **BROMELIADS, THE COLORFUL HOUSE PLANTS** by Jack Kramer. Just published. The first book on this important group of plants since 1889. Informative, practical and beautifully illustrated. \$5.95 per copy.

□ **ALL ABOUT BEGONIAS** by Bernice Brilmayer. Today's authoritative guide to begonias. How to select, grow, propagate, decorate with, and exhibit endless fascinating varieties. One of the best indoor gardening books ever published. \$4.95 per copy.

□ **ALL ABOUT GERANIUMS** by Peggie Schulz. The most attractive, all-encompassing book on geraniums now in print. Published 1965. \$4.95 per copy.

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Diversity Books

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Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

MRS. FLORENCE GEE, SEED FUND ADMINISTRATOR
234 BIRCH STREET, ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95678

No. 1 — *B. griffithi* — India.

Recently reidentified as species *B. annulata*. Miniature plant best suited for a terrarium. Leaves soft and silky, in ruby, emerald and rosy bands. Requires warmth and humidity. Choice and seeds difficult to find. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 2 — *B. 'Deliciosa'* — syn. *B. Bhotan species. India.*

Leaves 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 light. Leaves are numerous.

The plant is rhizomatous, the rhizomes generally following the ground fairly closely, sending up many stems, which branch as the plant ages. Stems are from light green to reddish, marked with longitudinal short, light lines. They are stiff and do not need to be supported. The color of blossoms is pink, with the buds of the females deep pink, unfolding to shadings from pale to rose-pink and are not profuse, but are large enough to make a good showing. A lovely begonia that gives much pleasure with the minimum of care. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 3 — *B. josephi*

A denizen of the misty regions growing as it does, above 5000 feet elevation and can be easily recognized by its peltate leaves. Plant is variable in size with small, ovate-orbicular leaves, sometimes lobed, usually peltate when young. Flowers small rose-red. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 4 — *B. gemmiphra* — India.

Much incised and lobed has its flowers in pendulous cymes. Flowers are white striped with rose and are

of medium size. This curious species is found on moss covered rocks and tree trunks at high elevations. In some of the axils of the peduncles we find quadrangular cups, neatly and closely packed with small bulbils. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 5 — *B. cathcarti* — India.

Cordate leaves that are acute and glabrous. It is very easily distinguished by the numerous scattered on the stems. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 6 — *B. megaptera* — India.

Creeping root stock with erect stems. Leaves are unequal at the base. A large number of elongated peduncles rise from the upper axils bearing on each a number of pink flowers. The flowers completely cover the plant producing a pleasing effect. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 7 — *B. ovatifolia* — India.

Has roundish leaves about two inches in diameter and grows on steep slopes in Tista Valley. The peduncles are four to eight flowered, bearing white or rose-colored flowers. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 8 — *B. lacineata lutea* — India.

Leaves are usually cordate and acutely lanceolate. The peduncles are axillary as long as the leaves, bearing two to six flowers of which generally more than half of them are stamen bearers. Flowers are yellow. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 9 — *B. sikkensis* — India.

Thick rootstock, when mature it carries a stem fifteen inches high. The leaves are round lobed almost to the very base and the lobes themselves are also incised and lobed. They grow on rocks and like to rest in winter. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Comment: We are happy to offer the above India begonia seed for your growing pleasure. In order that everyone has an equal chance to purchase any or all varieties mentioned, we will

package them in small amounts. Seeds are very recently collected and germination is good under the proper conditions. Most of them thrive in moist, shady places in the subtropical zones of the world where the summers are warmer and the winters cooler, when compared with regions in similar latitudes. Owing to the humid climate and the absence of excessive cold at any season of the year, and from the dripping nature of the climate of the misty region which extends above four thousand feet from sea level, begonias are generally found on rocks, trunks of trees or growing on the ground. They are all most graceful objects and in the most moist uncultivated valleys, where undisturbed they attain their full luxuriance in small groups.

From our orchid collecting friend in Brazil we have received many seed of beautiful and unusual begonias. In most cases either picture or portions of plants were enclosed with the seed. Also we quote part of a letter from the collector which is as follows: "One of the plants were spotted by my wife in a gully below the road. It was steep and slippery clay and the vegetation so thick I couldn't see my feet but I must have stepped on an ants' nest because about a half dozen of the little beasties nailed me and I came out of there as if I were on fire. Ants are one of the worst insect pests because there are so many of them of all sizes and colors but all alike in wanting to inject you with a little formic acid."

We hope that you are aware of all the hazards and discomfort this man is going through to collect begonia seed for the Seed Fund.

BRAZIL BEGONIAS

B. Brazil sp. No. 1

Very beautiful colored picture of this one which shows it to be of the *semperflorens* type with rather large, cupped leaves, pink flowers, huge reddish seed pods and the leaves appear to be spotted white but this may be due to the dense vegetation — Plant found growing in dense forest just north of Sao Paulo. Price 25 cents per pkt.

POTTING MIXES FOR BEGONIAS

(Continued from Page 99)

- I. 1 part sand
1 part leaf mold
1 part Westover's compost
- II. 2 parts leaf mold
1 part cow manure
1 part Perlite #2

This grower starts his tubers directly in the pot in which they are to grow. The bottom 2/3 of the pot contains this mix. The tuber is placed in a layer of pure leaf mold on top of the potting mix. Thus the tuber does not have to be moved and one step is saved.

- III. 3 parts leaf mold
1 part sand
1 part Blue Whale
- IV. 6 parts leaf mold
1 part sand or perlite
1 part bone meal (raw)
FTE
Hoof and horn
Aldrin
- V. 1 part leaf mold
1 part sand
1 part loam
1 part cow manure
Aldrin

These mixes work very well for their respective users. Most growers start their tubers in straight leaf mold and then move them to their permanent pots. Pots should have plenty of drainage material in the bottom. Tubers may be covered with straight leaf mold, but take care not to get potting mix containing fertilizer on the top of the tuber or you may get stem rot.

CHECK POINTS . . .

(Continued from Page 96)

plants are sturdy and able to carry their foliage without support. In rare cases when blossoms are pendulous and heavy, staking is in order. Basket and half round containers should show an even distribution of branches around the arch. Rhizomatous Begonias should have uniformity on all sides of the container. Usually foliage hides most of the rhizomes but in large leaved classes the rootstock may show but must be contained in the pot. Curling, piling and branching rhizomes do not detract from plant beauty as the

(Continued on Page 102)

B. Brazil sp. No. 2

The leaf of this one is very much like that of *B. 'Limminghei'*, perhaps a little larger. It is a climbing type with smooth leaves and orange-red flowers. Seeds collected from dense, swampy forest at 300 ft. elevation south of Sao Paulo. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Brazil sp. No. 3

Very unusual little, perfectly round leaf, plants one to two feet tall with bright pink flowers. Seeds collected at Pico de Itapeva near Campos de Jordao, elevation 6500 feet in nearly full sun. At this elevation frosts are common in winter. Hope you will try this one — it is unusual. Price 50 cents per pkt.

B. Brazil sp. No. 4

Another small leaf variety, white hairy about one to three feet tall with many pink flowers. Found growing in heavy forest border on road from Curitiba to Paranagua at an elevation of 2800 feet. 50 cents per pkt.

B. Brazil sp. No. 5

Very small, 'angel-wing' type leaf serrated, slightly white-hairy. Plants 2-3 tall in scrub forest on south face of rocky escarpment on road to Curitiba. Elevation 3600 feet, plants in moist location on shallow residual sandstone soil. Price 50 cents per pkt.

B. Brazil sp. No. 5

One of the most beautiful of the collection and one that everyone must have. The colored picture shows brilliant red stems, fuzzy-toothed leaves, medium growth. Found in edge of dense forest 5km from Tapirai on the road to Junquid, elevation 3300 feet. Flowers pink. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Brazil sp. No. 6

'Angel-wing' type, medium with masses of pendulous orange-red flowers. From the garden of Mrs. Emmel in Itapeva about 30km west of Sao Paulo, elevation 300 feet. Exceptionally colorful plant. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Brazil sp. No. 7

Gorgeous begonia with long, narrow leaves, medium, pinkish white

flowers. Collected from 88km Tiete canyon elevation 1800 feet. Damp shady, south slope between large boulders growing in compost. South slope in Brazil is equivalent to north slope in North America. Price 50 cents per pkt. Sorry The Begonian can't use the pictures of all of these lovely begonias but they are in color.

No. 8 — B. incarnata — Mexico.

Mexico. Frilly, fluffy-looking plant with light green leaves fluted and scalloped on the edge; flesh pink flowers in winter. Price 25 cents per pkt.

No. 9 — B. tenuifolia — Java.

Upright and short branched. Many-pointed tapering leaves deep green above, lighter below, with rosy veins. Large abundant, delicate pink flowers. Price 25 cents per pkt.

Correction: In The Begonian, March issue — No. 6 — *B. Cane* type should have been listed at 25 cents per pkt. Seeds still available at this price. Also, under other general item number six should be spelled *Paulownia tomentosa*—

CHECK POINTS . . .

(Continued from Page 101)

leaves branch from the nodes of the power plant. Many "crowns" are desirable. Many small rhizomatous Begonias creep. These varieties lend themselves to wall pockets and hanging baskets and will be found in a separate class in Shows. Leaves must be in profusion and bare parts of rhizomes hanging are discounted. *B. Stitches* is an example of this type. Occasionally upright rhizomatous are in competition either without support or on totem poles. Here the size of the leaves in comparison with the "power plant" is a yardstick of culture.

BEGONIAS IN LANDSCAPE PLOTS:

Cardinal rule is proper placement in relationship of size to background.

Semperflorens in sun section, *Rexes* in semi-shade and canotypes in background.

Foliage texture should be featured. If a Begonia is used as the focal point of interest, it must be outstanding in every respect.

(Continued Next Month)

"BUMBIN ALONG WITH BEE"

By BEE OLSON, *Research Director*
13715 Cordary Ave., Hawthorne, Calif.

RE: THE MINIATURES

Terry Olmsted of Santa Barbara comments as follows:

"On the overall size, I can't see a limit set. One grower will grow a Rex in a 4" pot and the next one will put it in a 10" pot. That should not count against it, but preferably for it.

Leaf size — I've been out measuring and the 3½ to 4½ is okay. Dew Drop runs to 3½ and Roy Berry runs up to 3 inches. Of course it's a bad time of the year too.

Rhizome — nodes — petioles sound okay.

Size of plant, small and compact for type and individual plant. Some do grow different than others."

A well experienced grower from the Los Angeles area has this to say:

"Look at miniatures in this way — a plant can be starved and kept confined with the result — miniature. Properly grown some of these so-called miniatures reach a large size, not size of leaf, or rhizome, but a full plant.

I feel an extra class is badly needed — semi-miniature. B. cv. 'Dew Drop,' B. cv. 'Maidens Blush,' B. cv. 'American Beauty' etc. should be semi-miniatures. It is not fair to plants of other cultivars to judge as small leaved. B. cv. 'Tapestry' and B. cv. 'Berry's Autumn' in rexes and B. cv. 'Bow-Joe' are to me true miniatures, leaf and rhizome size. However, we grow these plants at least 2 ft. in diameter here. Grown as house plants these can of course be kept smaller. The miniatures should be tested — definitely it should be leaf and rhizome size based as a governing factor in the miniatures.

I feel a miniature, mature plant, leaf should not exceed 3 inches in diameter and rhizome about the size of a standard lead pencil."

RE: TENDER LOVING CARE 'tlc'

Mrs. Helen Matsubu of Fruitland, Idaho (a member of only one month)

writes her views:

"I think 'tlc' has a lot to do with how your begonias grow. Begonias are so much like babies (of which I've had 5 in 7 years). Like babies, when they are just born and a few months after, they take very much of 'tlc.' Begonias too take this care when they are young to make them grow into beautiful specimens. When babies are fussy you try to find the cause and try to comfort it. So too with begonias. They fuss just like babies so you try to find the cause and cure. Babies get hands and faces quite soiled when they start crawling and think they are big enough to feed themselves, but look like little angels after they are cleaned or after a bath. Again, begonias given a bath once in awhile become beautiful again. I guess this applies mostly to all growing things."

* * *

Last year we received an inquiry regarding B. serratipetala and we have been seeking information wherever we could find a grower of this plant.

Here are a few of the experiences as related by the growers:

Virginia Withee of Coventry Centre, R.I. says this:

"Serratipetala seems to be a fussy grower. I tried my 3 plants everywhere in the house I guess — I lost one. Come warm weather I put them outside and treated them as a semp. For no reason really, I let them get dry before watering, then I'd water deep — those rascals picked up and grew beautiful. Come cool nights I let them be — for, to be honest I wasn't sure if I wanted to fuss with them here in the house again — they enjoyed the cool weather it seemed — so I thought — semps like it cool — they like to be on the dry side — so I brought one into the house (by the way they had full forenoon sun outside). To make a long story short, I

treat this plant as a semp — and it received a special award at the show. One day I compared the stems with a semp and in my opinion they are very much alike.”

Ann W. Stiles of Medford, N.J. says: “*Serratipetala* did well all winter in a northwest window. Had lovely little red markings, so I suppose the exposure was correct. Suddenly, about the end of February it began to ‘sluff off’ losing leaves and rotted at the soil line. I took two cuttings of about 3” each. Placed them in vermiculite. The two cuttings rooted easily and have been planted in separate pots for nearly three weeks. I used a mixture of garden loam, builder’s sand and humus-peat. The plants look good.”

Carrie Karegeannes of Springfield, Virginia says:

“I bought a well-started cutting of *B. serratipetala* — it was 4½” tall in a 3” pot and had four leaves. I kept it on a tray of moist sand at an east window, with the sunlight filtered through leaves of taller plants on the bench. It quite quickly put shoots out along the stem and then some shoots from the bottom and in this respect could be said to grow like ‘*argentea guttata*.’ As *serratipetala* grew, I found it to prefer quite a bit of humidity and not much hot sun. (I have not tried it at very low temperatures, usually keep room at about 70° in daytime, 60°ish at night; temperatures were above 90° sometimes in summer.) The long slender tips brown very easily and leaves turn pale and dry and drop especially bottom leaves. I try not to keep it wet, but not to let the soil dry out really, either — seems to me to do better if kept a little more moist than most cane-stems.

“Side branches are so lax that I have finally put the plant in a hanging basket, where its gracefully curving branches look lovely. Since the morning sun in the fall, at the east window—particularly now that the plant is taller and not well shielded — seemed too much, I have moved the begonia in its basket to a north window,

where it hangs above rex plants and their tray of wet sand. The room is still too dry, though, and bottom leaves fall. (I don’t think this is because of too little feeding or wet feet).

“The plant is now in a plastic tub set inside a basket, with excelsior packed around it (which I can moisten). It is in a light soil mix — mostly leaf mold plus some woods soil, sterilized in the oven. Largest leaves are 2”x6”. I have taken quite a few cuttings (especially to make the plant full again after I had lost a good many bottom leaves), but the plant is now about 1 foot high (would be higher if not drooping). It grows up fairly slowly, but forms new branches often. It has not bloomed yet. I have fed it lightly every two or three weeks, more or less.

* * *

And now for our 5 begonias for this month.

(1) *Metallica* — hirsute — from Brazil in 1869 — leaves ovate-pointed, coarsely toothed, glossy, olive green with metallic purple veins above and red veined beneath, flowers light pink bearded with darker pink.

(2) *Medora* — chance seedling raised by Mrs. Eva Kenworthy Gray — small growth, branches, leaves long triangular-lance shaped-glossy green, heavily silver spotted, toothed margin, flowers pink.

(3) *Abel Carriere* — rex variety x *B. evansiana* — upright and branched — leaves ovate, silvery, light green along veins — flowers red. Developed by Svahn in France 1876.

(4) *Imperialis* — rhizomatous species from Mexico 1859. Leaves heart shaped, velvety, brownish with green veins, toothed margin, flowers white.

(5) *Froebeli* — tuberous species — disc. in Ecuador — winter bloomer — low growing, soft-hairy leaves green with lighter green veins.

What have been your experiences in growing any of the above. Write to me and tell me about them, giving special hints for successful growing. Write Bee Olson,, 13715 Cordary Ave, Hawthorne, Calif.

CHECK POINTS FOR BEGONIA JUDGES

JUDGE ONLY WHAT YOU SEE.

All visible parts of a plant must be examined in relationship to the whole. Include the following in your examination: stalk, rhizome, petioles, upper and lower surface of the leaves, leaf margin, sinus, stipules, collar and stem channels, adventitious leaflets in some varieties, and veining. Plants should show active growth in all stages. Specimen should be symmetrical on all sides as well as fairly uniform, viewed from the top. The number of separate plants in one pot cannot be ascertained by the judges. It is the duty of the Show Chairman to place these specimens in their proper category. No award should be made if the plant material does not measure up to good horticultural standards.

Definition of an "Accredited Judge of Plants" — "A person who can say very little with lots of big words" — Malcom Carpenter.

Pay special attention to the instructions to the Judges for it is customary for the Judges Chairman to denote the severity of the judging expected. Awards may be numerous, but sometimes, "no competition" rules out a ribbon award.

Be generous with your written comments to the exhibitors, include favorable and less desirable characteristics of the plants to promote the plant owners return to the shows. Your judgment is vital to the education and interest of the spectators in Flower Shows. Remember that it is the "plus" features in the Begonia plant that wins the Awards. Check with the Judges Chairman for allowances of plant damage due to transporting to Show. Remember that a Flower Show Schedule has been aptly defined as:

"Bewilderment reduced to Print" — Malcom Carpenter.

ONE of the most controversial issues of Judging is the item in the Point score system entitled "Difficulty of Cultivation." As a Judge, you have no knowledge of the exhibitor or where the plant is grown, nor under what conditions.

What is easy for one person to grow, may be hard for others. This is the time for discussion with other Judges serving with you to compare your experiences and agree upon points to be added or detracted from the score.

If you are assigned to Judge the Best Plants in the Show, or any other key awards, be prepared to point score all plants under consideration. Mr. Ziessenhenne has gone on record for averaging all the judges scores for these nominations as a duty of any judge. Do not hesitate to disqualify yourself from judging any class if there can be any question that you know the exhibitors or have a personal interest in the plant.

Your conduct as a Judge is under surveillance by the clerks and those serving with you. You merit their praise if you admit any errors or omissions. Consider the generosity of the entrants as they share their specimens for your judgment.

It is impossible for any one person to be familiar with all the Begonias grown, but the more plants you can recognize and grow yourself the better prepared you are for judging. It is a privilege to be a judge and to visit any show after all the manual labor is completed and you see the fine plants displayed. When all the workers are exhausted, you enter the scene and see nothing but Beauty.

Judging is fun when you can do so with confidence and knowledge of all things contributing to horticultural beauty in plant specimens.

SIZE OF SPECIMENS: A giant plant always attracts much attention from the public and amateurs. A Judge knows

(Continued on Page 106)

BEGONIAS — FUCHSIAS — FERNS
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MAY CALENDAR

May 4 — Inglewood Branch — Ken Terry of Hawthorne Nursery will cover tuberous begonia culture. He will also furnish seedlings.

May 6 — Westchester Branch — Pat Antonelli of Santa Cruz will talk on tuberous begonias and furnish plants for the table.

May 6 — Whittier Branch — Marguerite and Kenneth Drennon, San Gabriel Branch members, will present "Diversified presentation of begonias". Mr. Drennon will demonstrate propagation and culture with his wife giving the "romantic approach" using T.L.C.

May 14 — San Gabriel Valley Branch — Jean Kerlin on "Begonias".

May 20 — Long Beach Parent Chapter Branch — "Feeding and care of plants" by Mr. Bowen of the Kellogg Fertilizer Co.

May 26 — Glendale Branch — "Growing begonias in containers" will be the subject of Rudolf Ziesenhenné of Santa Barbara.

May 28 — North Long Beach Branch — Sylvia Leatherman on begonias with plants from her for the table. Pot luck 6:30 . . . Meeting and door prizes 7:30. Meeting on May 28.

JUNE ADVANCE DATES

June 1—Inglewood Branch—Feather-rock Co. will show film and slides.

June 3 — Westchester Branch — Pot luck 7:30. Dorothy Behrends on "Begonias with Fern Companions."

June 3 — Whittier Branch — Harold Hall of the Edison Co. will give a demonstration on "Backyard enchantment". A good program on how to light your yard!

CHECK POINTS . . .

(Continued from Page 105)

that size is merely one part of the whole number of points allowed for near perfection. Size does not always indicate a mature plant. Balance of plant at maturity is more important than size.

VARIETIES OF BEGONIAS IN GROUPS: One of the most interesting classes in a show plant schedule is variety and contrast, and distinctiveness in the selection is an important factor for winning awards. All plants in a group should be at the peak of perfection. Desirable choices should include Rex, Rhizomatous, Fibrous, Semperflorens and or semi-Tuberous or Tuberous. Texture of foliage should score high in a begonia group as well as color contrast in the

(Continued from Page 108)

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THE BEGONIAN

SHADE PLANT JUDGES

The following list of Judges is printed for the benefit of Branches having their own shows and wanting qualified shade plant judges. These are Begonia Society Members who have studied the plants, have the knowledge and are capable of good judging.

Ethel Arbuckle, 5932 Seville, Huntington Park.

Pearl Benell, 10331 So. Colina Road, Whittier.

Wilma Blough, 546 No. Loraine, Glendora.

Maxine Butler, 6124 So. Rimbank Ave., Pico Rivera.

Ruby Budd, 6440 Will Rogers St., Los Angeles 45.

Roy Joyce, 1435 Coronado Terr., Los Angeles 26.

Elsie Joyce, 1435 Coronado Terr., Los Angeles 26.

Jean Kerlin, 3262 Olive Ave., Altadena.

Edna L. Korts, 3628 Revere Ave., Los Angeles 90039.

Muriel Merrell, 823 No. Laurel Ave., Hollywood 46.

William Meyn, 326 No. Gregory Ave., Whittier.

Peggy McGrath, 1724 Solejar Dr., Whittier.

Vera Naumann, 346 No. Leland Ave., West Covina.

Terry Olmstead, 4373 Via Esperanza, Santa Barbara, Hope Ranch.

Beatrice Olson, 13715 Cordary St., Hawthorne.

Wilbur Olson, 13715 Cordary St., Hawthorne.

Loren Paulsohn, 1641 West 25th St., Los Angeles 47.

Irene Personne, 13801 Shoup St., Hawthorne.

Malcolm Rich, 2022 West 84th Place, Los Angeles 47.

Bert Slatter, 4600 Sixth Ave., Los Angeles 43.

Margaret Taylor, 111 Evelyn Dr., Anaheim.

Webster Willeford, 9371 Gallatin Road, Downey.

Maria Wilkes, 752 26th Street, Santa Monica.

Marie Zachau, 603 East Kelso, Inglewood.

1965 AWARDS NOMINATIONS

About this time each year, your Awards Committee asks all members and Branches to consider nominations for the two important awards presented by the American Begonia Society at the Convention in September. **Begin now to think and act so that this matter can have proper consideration by you and the committee. The awards are again explained in order to help you with your deliberation.**

THE EVA KENWORTHY GRAY AWARD. This award is to the memory of Mrs. Eva Kenworthy Gray who during her lifetime contributed so much of her practical knowledge to others.

It is given to a person for high standard of achievement as contributed to the American Begonia Society. These contributions are as follows:

1. Original literary material aiding members in their study of begonias.

2. Outstanding service in the furtherance of the American Begonia Society and promoting interest in the culture of begonias.

3. For promoting better understanding between members in their quest of the knowledge of begonias.

Please study the rules carefully regarding this high award. Note that actually the nominee should be someone contributing outstanding, original study material which promotes interest, goodwill and knowledge of begonias and the society. This committee cannot suggest names for this award but we do ask that it be understood that this is a very high award and the nominees should be persons of equally high achievement. They do not necessarily have to be within the Society but must be persons of outstanding success in this field.

THE ALFRED D. ROBINSON MEMORIAL AWARD. This is a award honoring the late Alfred D. Robinson of San Diego, California

who was known throughout the world as an authority on growing begonias.

This award is given to a begonia hybrid or cultivar. High standards are set but first the following qualifications must be met.

1. Nominee must be registered with the American Begonia Society's Nomenclature Director.

2. Originator of nominee must be a member of the American Begonia Society, either amateur or commercial.

3. Nominee must have been offered to the public for five years prior to nomination.

In this award the begonias eligible can be listed. Beginning with the year 1960 backward to 1957 the following begonias are listed: B. Skeezer, Var. green, B. Skeezer, Mirror Lake, B. Skeezer, B. Pink Supreme, B. Rose Supreme, B. Orange Frosty Lake, B. Skeezer, Brown Lake, Supreme, B. Scarlet Supreme, B. Blue Lake, B. Crystal Lake, B. Oneda Lake, B. Ada Lake, B. Meximperla, B. Decimperla, B. Bert Slatter, B. Houston, B. Rosanna, B. Jocko, B. Sonie, B. Erici-Magni, B. Zuensis, B. Organdy, B. Faustine, B. Lulu Bower, B. Connie Bower, B. Arabelle, B. Melisse, B. Rover, B. Fido, B. Emerald Jewel, B. Silver Jewel, B. Pebble Lane, B. Hansel, B. Gretel, B. Venice, B. San Miguel.

Going back as far as 1953 the following year, month and page is given in the Begonian for further listings. December 1953, page 266, June 1954, page 130, September 1954, page 208, September 1956, page 65, also page 211 in 1956. Registered in 1952 is B. Beatrice Haddrell.

The committee thanks all members and branches for their interest and cooperation. Please send in your nominations and make the project worthy of the Society.

The Awards Committee for 1965 are Margaret B. Taylor, Chairman, Anaheim, Calif., Mrs. C. E. Cooper, 716

Chelsea Bldg., Houston, Texas, Mr. Albert Fitch, 1125 54th St., Sacramento, Calif., Mrs. Darrell A. Bath, 2161 S. E. Mesa Drive, Santa Ana, Calif., Mrs. Bert Routh, Louisburg, Missouri, Mrs. Bessie Lockett, 150 Katherine St., Baytown, Texas, and Mrs. Alva Graham, Pasadena, Calif., Nomenclature Director, ex-officio member.

Margaret B. Taylor, Chairman
111 Evelyn Drive,
Anaheim, Calif.
Phone: 535-2652

CHECK POINTS FOR BEGONIA JUDGES

(Continued from Page 106)

separate plants. Spiral or crested varieties spice the selection. Unusual leaf patterns score high as B. squarrosa, Iron Cross, Paulensis. Bloom, especially on Semperflorens, and probably on Fibrous, heightens a Judge's interest.

SEMI TUBEROUS: Qualities, small treelike skeleton with medium sized leaves. Top quarter of tuber lies above the soil line and is knobby. Leaves are extremely thin in texture and colorful, sometimes dotted at the indentations of the margins. This class is usually compared to the maple leaf. The plants are very succulent with brittle stems and stalks. Nodes are close together and stalk branches freely. Average plant does not grow much over two feet in height. Blossoms are frequent and short stemmed, bloom color white, rose or pink. Examples are B. dregei, weltoniensis rosea, and sutherlandii.

BLOSSOMS: Most exhibitors bemoan the fact that at the time of the major shows, their plants are not in bloom. Semperflorens are the usual standby Begonias for bloom. The size of the blossoms must balance with the shape of the plant and the amount of foliage. Compactness of specimen and profusion of bloom is the first step in consideration for an award. Tuberos Begonias excel in size and quality of blossom. Variety is found in both shape and color. Depth of the blossom is a high scorer as well as the form. Judges must consider the size of the bloom in conjunction with the plant foliage.

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NATIONAL BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the board of directors of the American Begonia Society was called to order on March 22, 1965, at 7:30 P.M. in the South Gate Auditorium, by the president, Mrs. Mabel Corwin.

The renewal of the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag was lead by the president-elect, Muriel Perz, who also read the Aims & Purposes of the society.

Roll call, by the secretary, Peggy McGrath, showed 20 officers, chairmen, and representatives present. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The treasurers' report, given by the treasurer, Harold Burkett, showed a balance on hand on 3-18-65 of \$798.55. Seed fund chairman, Mrs. Gee, sent a remittance of \$90.00 to the treasurer.

Advertising manager, Miss Anne Rose, reported receipts of \$59.00 and accounts receivable of \$66.25.

Public Relations Director, Mrs. Vera Naumann, reported that her Southern Chairman, Mrs. Margie Sikkelee, of Dallas, Texas, was in Los Angeles recently, and had been in touch with her.

Membership chairman, Daisy Austin, reported 2521 Begonians disbursed, new members - 63, renewals - 148, a total of 211.

Flower show chairman, Carl Naumann, announced that the Arboretum Board of Governors has approved show dates as Sept. 4-5-6, 1965, and also approved a plant sale. The ABS has been asked to landscape a small area for the Festival of Lights & Fountains to be held in Descanso Gardens from July 1 through August 15 of this year. Mark J. Anthony, Supt. of Descanso Gardens, made the request. A motion by Edna Korts that ABS put a display in Descanso Gardens was carried. Edna offered any plants from her garden that can be used for this purpose.

Terry Olmsted reported that she has sent library books to a member in Germany and has answered other requests from members. She also stated that several books have been borrowed and not returned. Some of these books are no longer in print and are therefore irreplaceable. Letters have been sent to each person having an overdue book or publication. Terry was authorized to write a plea for the return of all books, for publication in the Begonian.

Roy Joyce, slide librarian, reported that two groups of slides are in use this month and he has a few requests for slides for future dates.

Branches reporting: Foothill, Glendale, Inglewood, North Long Beach, Orange County, San Gabriel Valley, Westchester and Whittier. Branches reporting by mail to Vera Naumann were: Eastside, East Bay, Sacramento, Seattle, San Francisco, Knickerbocker, and Missouri.

Mabel Corwin announced the flower show committee will consist of: Treasurer—How-

ard Small, Banquet—Lillian Steinhaus, Hospitality—Anne Rose, Banquet tickets—Bob Wilson, Research—Bee Olson, Membership—Daisy Austin, Educational exhibit—Wilbur Olson, Flower show—Carl Naumann and Bert Slatter, Plant sale—Ray Eppley, Publicity—Gordon B. Lloyd, and Judges luncheons—Marion Adams.

A nominating committee, consisting of Terry Olmsted, Pearl Parker, and Chuck Richardson, was appointed by the president and ratified by the board. They will report in two months, to the board; ballots will be in the July Begonians.

The president brought up the subject of anonymous letters, quoting authoritative parliamentary and legal sources for rulings on reading this type of letter at an open meeting and announced the policy that in the future all letters must be submitted to the president for approval prior to the meeting and if approved, will be read by the secretary.

Carl Naumann moved that 17 ballots known to have been cast illegally be declared void, carried. Carl Naumann moved also that any correspondence dealing with the election be sent to the president for handling. Seconded and carried.

The president appointed the following committee to count the ballots: Anne Rose, Elsie Joyce, and Muriel Perz.

Meeting adjourned.

PEGGY McGRATH, *Secretary*

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Branch Directory

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

BRITISH BRANCH

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

BUXTON, BESSIE RAYMOND BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members
Mrs. Percy Merry, Secy.
109 Brookside Rd., Needham 92, Mass.

DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS BRANCH

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

EAST BAY BRANCH

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

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
358 E. Arrow Highway, 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 Albertl, 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.

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, Loloia, 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.
Social Hall of Community Savings and Loan,
3901 Atlantic
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.
8784 Robertson Ave., Baton Rouge 5, La.

MIAMI BRANCH

4th Tuesday 8:00 P.M.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
Miss Rosemond Meriwether, Secy.
1882 Piascentia Ave., Coral Gables, Florida

MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 11 a.m.
Members' 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 Orange 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.
Miss Marie E. Smith, Secy.
5218 J St., Sacramento, Calif. 95819

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Barbour Hall
2717 University Ave., San Diego
Mrs. Nellie Castillo, Secy.
5443 Bonita Dr., San Diego, Calif. 92114

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. Ruth Eppley
9133 E. Longden Ave., Temple City, 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, 7:30 p.m.
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
2559 Puerta Del Sol
Mrs. A. D. Yost
888 La Milpita Rd., Santa Barbara

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.
Buena Trailer Villa, Space 71
Ventura, Calif. 93003

SMOKEY VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Monday of each month
Mrs. Lyle L. Melvin, Secy.
833 E. Jewell, Salina Kansas 67401

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH

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

TEXAS STATE BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 10 a.m., Garden Center
1800 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
Sec. Mrs. Frances Jean
8212 Reading Ave.
Los Angeles 90045

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m., Homes of Members
Mrs. Alfred Sles, Secy.
211 Arlington, Butler, 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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