

**Convention Program**

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*The Begonian*

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

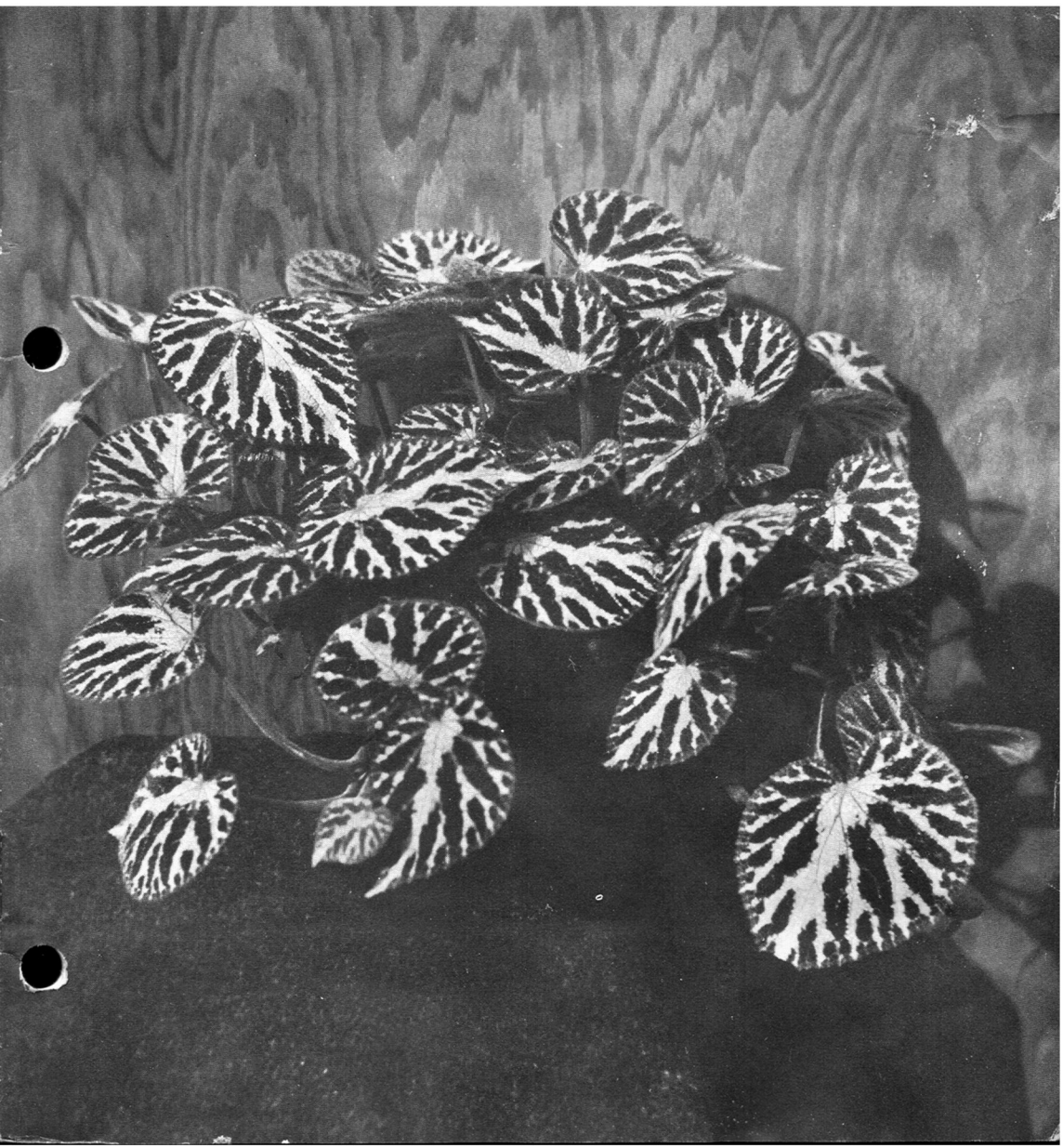
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Editor-in-Chief ..... Gordon Baker Lloyd, P. O. Box 36, Sierra Madre, Calif. 9-1024  
Eastern Editor ..... Mrs. Percy I. Merry, 109 Brookside Road, Needham 92, Mass.  
Northwestern Editor ..... Richard Hammond, 9401 26th Ave., S.W., Seattle, Wash., 98106  
Deep South Editor ..... Mrs. Don Wagner, 3074 Seeland St., Baton Rouge, La.  
Advertising Manager ..... Anne L. Rose, 1255 Ramona Drive, Whittier, California

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## MISSION 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; encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants; to standardize the nomenclature of begonias; to gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation and culture of begonias and companion plants; to issue a bulletin which will be mailed to all members of the Society; and to bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

## ELECTED OFFICERS

President ..... Mrs. Mabel Corwin  
4825 Willard Avenue  
Rosemead, Calif. 91770  
President-Elect ..... Mrs. Muriel Perz  
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## APPOINTED OFFICERS

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National Board meets 4th Monday, 7:30 p.m., South Gate City Auditorium, 4900 Southern Avenue

## From The President—

This is my last opportunity to write to you as president. My heart is full of gratitude for the wonderful help and support that so many of you have given. I am sure that some of the most wonderful people in the world belong to the American Begonia Society. At the same time I regret that we have not been able to accomplish more in accord with the Aims and Purposes of our Society.

It is my sincere wish that the newly elected officers will receive your assistance and full cooperation in the coming year. Untold hours of work are required to fulfill the demands placed upon your leadership. Your help and expressions of encouragement will make the tasks lighter.

As I now step into the role of past-president, I shall be found once again—you know where, in my garden with my begonias.



## From The Editor—

By the time some of you get this issue our 33rd National Convention will be in session. The setting is beautiful at the Arboretum and the area for the show is one of the finest in the country. The area is also very historical and will be of great interest to all visitors. Running through my garden, now covered by 30 feet of earth, was the old creek that worked its way down to the now present lagoon on the old Lucky Baldwin Estate preserved in the Arboretum.

The Arboretum is just a few miles from the base of the nearby mountains, about two miles. On the top of one of the high peaks, over a mile high, is the famous Mt. Wilson with its observatory and its many television broadcasting towers.

This is the setting of the show in the lovely San Gabriel Valley, not too far from Pasadena and in Arcadia. Wish you could all be on hand for the events. Anyhow, the program is enclosed and you can see what went on and who did the labor to make the three day event a success.

With this issue, our fine President, Mabel Corwin, winds up her term of office. For sure we had a very fine and gracious president. Her meetings were always well conducted with none of the scraps that mark so many board meetings. Her letter writing and tireless work will not soon be forgotten. She will be serving on the board for another year. The work of such people always go unsung and are unfortunately soon forgotten. I am sure she would love to hear from you whether you know Mabel as I have over the years or know her only by her office. She will still be growing beautiful begonias. I think her rexes and many of her plants are the finest I have ever seen. That much more credit to her and her husband Ralph for their support of begonias and the Society too!

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### COVER PICTURE

B. Silver Jewel (*imperialis* X *pustulata*). A small growing rhizomatous begonia, hybridized by Mrs. Susie Zug. Plant grown by Mrs. Mabel Corwin.

# CALLA LILY BEGONIAS

by VIRGINIA WITHEE

Conventry Centre, R. I.

As I make my "perusals" I note that that tempermental prima donna Calla Lily begonia is a word fetching consternation to most folks, including myself at times. I have raised this problem child for several years here in my home and in doing so have kept my adjectives well polished.

Calla begonias demand coolness — yet they want and appreciate more or less the sun — but not the hot direct sun of summer or as it shines directly through a window pane, as being on a window sill. In Merry Garden's Catalog (Camden, Maine) five varieties of Calla begonias are listed and I have found these to be nice strong plants, but all of them grow best when more green than white. Cutting of Calla begonias, if very white or even almost half white, are almost impossible to root. Divisions work the same way. Over the years I have never been without this begonia and in working with them I have made a few discoveries that seem to work well for me.

First, if one has propagation in mind, it is wise to have a healthy, happy plant to work with because there are usually cuttings to be had which are mostly green. I wonder if by any chance anyone believes a green cutting will not be a true Calla begonia? Such is *not* the case, believe me. The green cuttings, or near green cuttings, will develop into lovely true Calla begonias. When buying a Calla begonia, *don't* buy the whitest or nearest white just because they are lovely to look at — which they are indeed. Such plants are most difficult to grow on — they sometimes resent being moved from store to home — and last but not least seldom do such white plants produce cuttings that can be rooted. Cuttings or divisions of the Calla begonia have to be at least one-half green. More green than white is best I find for rooting purposes. We all know a Calla begonia lacks chloro-

phyll. This is why it is so tempermental and why cuttings and divisions do not grow on easily, or at all. I like perlite as a rooting medium and always dip ends of cuttings into hormone powder before setting. If cutting is extra green it might root in water, but this is a bit dangerous considering Calla begonias dislike constant wetness. Needless to say, I have the perlite damp — ready for cuttings — and after setting I water the cuttings in lightly and set pan where there is a circulation of air and some sunshine to ward off fungus causing damping off. *Never* cover the cuttings. Such would surely produce fungus. I found such out via experiment. Cuttings do not want to be in a dish of soggy wet perlite. Keep cuttings damp at base but not wet — water perlite when it is dry on top. Divisions I put right into regular Calla begonia soil — water — drain and set where it is more or less sunny and airy.

Calla begonias can be set in various places in one's house if you have two, three or more and, in this way, determine where they grow on the best. In doing this the 'color' of leaves may be different on various plants due to light intensity. Being variegated the Calla begonia requires some sun, but not hot enough to burn. They do not want hot dry air nor do they want hot humid air — give them coolness — cool sun — the humidity as received from other plants — porous soil and water when dry.

Here in New England the Calla begonia seems to be best at home — seems it originated here — and if my memory serves me well, it was Bessie Buxton who mentioned "washtub size". I have had a ten inch pot size—a glorious specimen and had it in east southeast exposure. I have tried Calla begonias in various soils, heavy soils just seemed to be taboo as were African Violet soils for me — both held



moisture too long about the roots. Plastic pots with any type of soil proved no good for me. I'm for the old fashioned clay pot which provides aeration for the roots.

For potting medium I use a sandy rich compost soil and some real old rotted cow manure. When I say sandy I do not mean fine sand — such packs and fine roots resent it—but sandy just coarse enough to insure quick drainage as *Calla begonias* demand such for at no time will they tolerate water lingering about their roots or crown. Water around edge of pot all sides. When water appears in saucer, pour off. Should the day be a dark one and drying out cut down, set on newspaper to absorb any excess moisture. Water *Calla begonias* when top soil is real crumbly.

I have often wondered if type of water has affect on plants — some plants resent certain water — some do city water I know — but over our country water is not alike because of mineral content. It could be that to try rain water or melted snow for *Calla begonias* might be of value to folks who can't seem to raise them. I use well water.

## **"I LOVE BEGONIAS"**

by

MRS. MARIE TURNER  
*Temple City, California*

While I have always liked plants and flowers and the great outdoors, it was some thirty odd years ago when I started collecting plants of every description in earnest. It was about that time when small farms were being popular in Southern California and the magazines and newspapers were full of articles and plans about gardens and various plants, that we moved from a small city lot to a half acre of ground. Way out to what was then country and being used for agricultural purposes.

At that time *Begonias* were only a name to me. Being intrigued by the various shaped leaves and their color-

ing, *Rex Begonias* became my first hobby. Therefore I started reading about them, and the more I read the more interesting the hobby became. So I had to start hunting for the various kinds described.

All my free time and week ends were spent trying to locate the plants. So all nurseries between San Diego and Santa Barbara were legitimate ports of call, and all varieties of *begonias* were progressively included.

I have worked with all of them and studied them while doing so. After all these years the *Rhizomatous* are my favorites. I use them more in hybridizing than other varieties. For a beginner I would recommend them, because they will thrive on average care. The only thing to watch out for is not to give them too much water. In fact no *begonia* will take excessive watering.

I always have been and am at present interested in species, for hybridizing. In buying plants it is to your advantage to get the small ones. Then you have the chance to learn their habits by observing them, under what method of growing and climatic conditions they do best. It is very important to be observant, that way you never lose. No *begonia* is hard to grow if you take the time to watch it closely. I have lost more plants to too much water than to anything else. There is no set time for watering. While the plants can't talk, they will show in other ways when it is time for a drink. On *Rhizomatous* the leaves will turn pale, the *Rexes* will wilt, and the cane types will drop their leaves.

When I am asked what I specialize in, all I can say is plants as anyone who has visited my jungle can readily testify. All plants are my favorites.

Good growing to all

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**ABS Convention**  
**September 4, 5, 6, 1965**

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# BEGONIA BRADEI

*From Mrs. Dale Shuler of  
Lexington Ohio*

Macrocarpa Pubescens — Laetivirides—and Alta de Serra—are they all one and the same plant? After much research, reading, with Bee Olsen help, who in turn went to Marie Turner for help, I am of the opinion they are all the same altho' some begonia books describe them as different plants, but the descriptions are so vague that one would fit another, and some catalogs list them separately but I am growing three of them and I cannot see a bit of difference. Why all the different names? Did three different people discover them growing in different places and each give it a name?

About three years ago I saw a very beautiful small begonia at Kingwood center, our horticulture center here. The name tag said "Macrocarpa Pubescens". It immediately became one of my "wants". After searching thru all my catalogs I finally found it listed in one catalog. I sent for the plant but imagine my disappointment when it turned out to be none other than Alta Sharffi—wrote and asked if they had sent the wrong plant but they never answered me so I still had no plant of Macrocarpa Pubescens.

Then in looking thru' another catalog I found a begonia called Laetivirides, the description fascinated me and sounded much like the plant I was looking for. When it arrived I was very happy to see it was the plant I wanted. Why the difference in names? I looked thru' Mrs. Krauss' book I found that Macrocarpa Pubescens was a new name for Alta de serra one of the parents of Alta Sharffi the other of course being Sharffiana. Still farther in my search, in some back copies of The Begonian I found an article by Mr. Ziesenhenné.

He said Laetivirides and Macrocarpa Pubescens were the same begonia. Later the seed fund offered seed of Bradei which I grew and came

up with the same plant. The only difference being that some of the Bradei have red hairs on the leaf and some are white but otherwise are identical. These with the red hairs are very beautiful under the lights and are as soft and silky to touch as my little granddaughters' kitten "Fluffy". I would like to know what the experts say about these begonias or begonia—which?

## THE BEGONIAN STAFF and the CONVENTION STAFF

*welcome you to the*

## 33rd Annual Convention

AND

## Begonia Show

SEPTEMBER 4, 5 & 6, 1965

## BUXTON CHECK LIST OF BEGONIAS

A reference book for identification and origin of begonias.

An aid to hybridizers to check on previously registered names.

Price \$6.00 (In Calif. add 24¢ sales tax)

Order from:

**Mrs. Terry Olmsted, Librarian**  
1926 E. Mission Road  
Fallbrook, California 92028

# Round Robin News

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

Mrs. Betty Northup, Wakefield, R.I. in Flight #10 mentioned that their Branch recently acquired one hundred different rexes for the members. These were obtained in a single order and the members each must buy and raise several from this group. Cuttings from these plants will be shared later. Other projects of this Branch include those where each member takes identical cuttings of some selected begonia. They all have fun making comparisons of their propagating methods and results.

Rufus Neas, Greenville, S.C., Flight #7, is a very generous person. Whenever he gets some new gadget or product the members in this Flight frequently are also the recipients of a free sample from him. Rufus, we appreciate this a lot even though we may neglect writing to you separately. Incidentally, it is hoped that the general ABS membership will give a good response to you and to all of the other commercial folks who advertise in the Begonian.

Mrs. Celia Evans, Memphis, Tenn., in Flight #10, included a small sample of 'cotton motes' with her letter. This material is the lint and trash removed from the seed in the process of making cotton-seed oil. Every section of the country has unusual items, which like the 'cotton motes', can be used in our soil mixes.

Flight #18, Mrs. Terry Olmsted, Fallbrook, Calif., Chairman. Occasionally accidents do happen even on the most carefully planned Flights. This was a new Flight last Fall. It got lost on its first trip. Mrs. Olive Lawson of Lawrence, Kansas, described the most common feeling about the Flight when she wrote in her letter, 'Will someone please tell me what this Robin is all about and what is its number?' It is really a mystery how it completed its first cycle but it did travel

to eleven members and reached the four corners of the country. Many thanks to all of the members who so patiently assisted with this long Flight.

Grant McGregor, Ottawa, Ontario, Flight #11, described a glorious trip which he and his wife were to start on April 10, 1965. For nearly three months they planned to tour the wonderful gardens in Europe and attend nearly every one of the famous flower shows. Grant retired on Jan. 22, and we hope that he will soon have time to write articles for the Begonian. His career was in the field of plant genetics.

A review of all Round Robins has disclosed a lot of praise for the ABS Seed Fund and its administrator, Mrs. Florence Gee. The widespread service and patronage of the Seed Fund should encourage every qualified member in the ABS to furnish seed of named cultivars, varieties and species, to Mrs. Gee. However, to guard against failures of some apparently good seed each member should test a small portion of their seed for germination, before forwarding it.

Mrs. Pat Woodman, Alexandria, Va., Flight #12, described an innovation for saving information from the Round Robin letters. She has access to a Xerox copying machine. With this she makes a copy of any or all of the information in the letters in her Flight. The Round Robin letters contain lots of helpful information and we sort of envy Pat her arrangement for so hand-

*(continued on page 191)*

**BEGONIAS - FUCHSIAS - FERNS  
(NO SHIPPING)**

"Gloxinia - Gesneria - Achimenes

**PATIO PLANTS**

4036 Moore Street

(South of Washington Blvd.)

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"We sell and recommend Likwid Gro".

# Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

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

## No. 1 — *B. caragutubensis*—Brade

New Brazil sp. identified by Rudolf Ziesenhenné and described by the collector as follows: We had good success in locating some of the rarer species of orchids in spite of getting our eyes and binoculars full of water when we looked up the trees. Everything was covered with moss and epiphytes, especially bromeliads. Presently I saw what looked like a bromeliad about ten feet off the ground on a tree trunk. This would indeed be a rarity so I took a closer look and found many of these plants which were small specimens of a begonia called herbacea Vell. Unfortunately no female flowers or seeds were available. However, a short time later, I did get some seeds of a very beautiful begonia (The one mentioned above) which I had seen on a previous trip. The leaves are up to a foot across beautifully shaped and textured and dark red on the underside, plants about two feet tall, tall panicles of white flowers. At the upper end of the leaf petiole, were several red-hairy bristly, rings or collars. Price 1.00 per pkt.

The collector sent a colored picture of the begonia described above and it is indeed one of the prettiest we have ever seen—not even 'Iron Cross' and some of the other rare types are in the class with this one. We have a fair amount of seed and can send out generous packets.

## No. 2 — *B. vitifolia*—Brazil sp.

Comment as follows from the collector—'While we were on a Sunday trip we spotted this one and at first I did not think it was a begonia. It was growing in a hedge of cacti and other plants in the front yard of a typical Brazilian country family. On approaching the house I clapped my hands and the owner came out. (One never knocks on a door in the back

country) and after some explaining in my horrible Portuguese, he was delighted to let me take some of the seed—in fact he threatened to take up the entire plant which would have filled our Volkswagen.' *B. vitifolia* branches from the base — Large, gleaming green leaves finely toothed on the edge, somewhat downy beneath. Flowers pink or white. Many seed—Price 25 cents per pkt.

## No. 3 — *B. luxurians*—Brazil sp.

Seeds collected from damp, shady gully in dense forest at 5850 elevation. Leaf, palmate fuzzy and limp, flowers in large heads, white. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Begonia No. 15 offered in August The Begonian — *luxurians* type has been identified by Ziesenhenné as *scheidweileri*—Koord. and is described as growing like *luxurians* and is a beautiful plant. *B. luxurians* mentioned above has also been identified by Ziesenhenné.

## No. 4 — *bradei*—Brazil sp.

Collected from dense wet forest at elevation of 2150 feet. Dainty, slim, arching, soft-hairy green leaves lined with red. Large, hairy seed pods concealed under foliage. Price 50 cents per pkt.

## No. 5 — Brazil sp.

Lovely, small leaves, large heads of white flowers. Rather tall plant found growing in dense, wet forest, Price 50 cents per pkt.

## No. 6 — *B. fernando-costae*—Brazil sp.

Beautiful, ovate acuminate leaves up to one foot across. Light green, cupped with white hairs on top and slightly matted hairs underneath. Medium growth with large, white flowers. Plants found in shady forest 100 to 1000 feet from open ocean at 30 to 300 feet elevation. Needs moisture. Price 50 cents per pkt.

### No. 7 — *B. limmingheina*

Climbing begonia from dense tropical forest at km 145 on road to Sao Paulo—Piedade, Tapirai, Juguia at an elevation of 2250 feet. Shining green, ovate oblique leaves and vines to twenty five feet in natural habitat and likes fern trunks in particular for climbing. Flowers orange-red. We have known this plant for many years as *B. glaucophylla scandens*. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Please note. Brazil sp. number one offered in July The Begonian has been identified by Ziesenhenné as *B. elata* Kl.

### No. 8 — *B. fusca*—Mexico.

Rhizomatous plant, large, green scalloped leaves. Striking white eye where veins converge on stem. The entire plant is covered with short, green hairs. In order to obtain choice seed from the collector in Mexico, the Seed Fund is obligated to make contributions to help finance the expeditions. Later, we hope to have seed of *B. boweri*. *B. fusca*—Price 1.00 per pkt.

### No. 9 — *B. richii*

Seed furnished by Herb Warrick from a plant he obtained from Marie Turner. This is a very large, rhizomatous begonia that resembles *B. macdougalli* but is entirely green. When grown out side it can become spectacular in size but in pots or tubs the leaf stems remain about eighteen inches. Can easily be grown from rhizome cuttings or from seed—Hybridizing with this begonia is intriguing as it does not readily set seed from any pollen but its own. Seeds were tested and germinated in about one week. Something different. Price 50 cents per pkt.

### No. 10 — *B. xanthina*—India

Densely bushy plant with yellow-veined green leaves, large orange-veined flowers. Price 50 cents per pkt.

### No. 11 — Philippine Islands

The same as offered several months ago and according to reports, several very good begonias came from these seed. Price 25 cents per pkt.

### No. 12 — *B. Bow-nigra* cross rhizomatous

Seed germinated in two weeks and all are from *B. Bow-nigra* pollen. Price 25 cents per pkt.

### GREENHOUSE PLANTS

*Stenochlena palustris* — Choic climbing type fern—Requires water Price 25 cents per pkt.

*Kohleria eriantha* — Also called *Isoloma hirsutum*. Erect, soft-hairy species from scaly rhizome, with deep green, ovate, toothed leaves having a conspicuous border of reddish hairs; orange-red corolla tubes widening toward the throat which is a pale yellow marked blood red. Nice. Price 35 cents per pkt.

### OTHER GENERA

Hybrid amaryllis from the garden of Marie Turner, California. Seeds collected from the choicest hybrids, mixed colors in all popular shades. Easily grown from seed, we do not recommend the use of peat moss in mixture for amaryllis seed. Many fresh seed—all you can use for 25 cents.

Mimosa—Attractive shrub or tree with bright red flowers. Price 25 cents per pkt.

### GREEN HILLS NURSERY

Exotic & Hardy Ferns — Begonias

Open Saturdays and Sundays

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment

2131 Vallejo Street St. Helena, Calif.

Mrs. E. Bolduc

### ALL POSTPAID

12 Rex Begonia Plants, all different labeled — \$7.00

12 Rex leaves, all different, labeled — \$3.00

Now growing over 75 varieties

10 different Begonia cuttings, not labeled — \$1.40, or labeled — \$2.50

10 different Fuchsia cuttings — \$1.40

6 Episcias, labeled — \$1.40

2 different double Impatiens plants — \$1.25

4 small stocky African Violet plants, labeled — \$1.40

African Violet plants, as many as you want at 25¢ each, Minimum of 4.

MRS. T. C. BEE

Route No. 3, Box 120, Newnan, Georgia



# **33rd. A. B. S. Convention**

**September 4,**

**Los Angeles State and County Arboretum •**

## **Events To See and Hear**

### **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd**

Set up displays afternoon and evening

### **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th**

All entries must be in by 9:00 AM

Judging from ten till noon

Judges luncheon at noon.

Show open to public from 2 to 6 in the afternoon.

Annual business meeting at 2:30 PM in the Seminar Room

33rd Convention Banquet, 7:00 PM at the Elk's Hall in Arcadia.

Master of Ceremonies will be Mr. Clarence Hall, Past  
A.B.S. President, Sacramento

Installing Officer, Mrs. Margaret Ziesenhenné of Santa Barbara  
Speaker of the evening will be Mr. Stary Gange of Visalia

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th**

Show open from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Sunday morning various garden tours.

Sunday afternoon 2:00 to 4:00 PM Seminar on begonias.

Speakers: Mabel Corwin and Gordon Baker Lloyd;  
Mr. Chester Nave, and Mr. Rudolf Ziesenhenné

Coffee Hour at 4:00 PM

### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th**

Show open from 10:00 AM till 6:00 PM

# **Annual n and Begonia Show**

**5, and 6, 1965**

**301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, California**

## **The Convention Staff**

Treasurer—Mr. Howard Small  
1034 Balboa Dr., Arcadia, Calif.

Hospitality—Miss Anne Rose  
1255 Ramona Dr., Whittier, Calif.

Banquet—Mrs. Lillian Steinhaus  
5632 N. Earle St., San Gabriel, Calif.

Banquet Tickets—Mr. Robert I. Wilson  
1249 E. Millbrae Ave., Duarte, Calif.

Research and Educational Exhibit—  
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Olson  
13715 Cordary Ave., Hawthorne, Calif.

Membership—Mrs. Daisy Austin  
1510 Kimberly Ave., Anaheim, Calif.

Flower Show—Mr. Bert Slatter  
4600 6th Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

Plant Sale—Mr. Ray Eppley  
9133 E. Longden, Temple City, Calif.

Publicity—Mr. Gordon Baker Lloyd  
Box 36, Sierra Madre, Calif.

Judges Luncheon—Mrs. Marion Adams  
3921 N. Pine, El Monte, Calif.

Show Hosts and Hostess—Mrs. Ruth Eppley  
9133 E. Longden, Temple City, Calif.

Coffee Hour—Mrs. Vera Naumann  
346 N. Leland, West Covina, Calif.

## **For Those Who Can't Come**

### **ENTRIES:**

Entries are sent in by photo. See previous Begonia issues. These photos have just as good a chance to win awards as the real thing. This is a great chance for out of state branches

### **REPORTS:**

Future issues will have information on the show and various reports. You are a part of the convention when you receive your Begonian. Most of the reports will start with the November issue as the deadline on the magazine for October issue is September 1, before the convention.

## Your Begonian Testing Lab

BY BEE OLSON, 13715 CORDARY AVENUE  
HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA

Throughout the various Round Robin questions, comments, experiments etc., have been mentioned regarding the rooting of cuttings in water. Here are some of the comments:

★ ★ ★

Barbara Walker of Niles, Ill. says — "I pot my leaves of B. Iron Cross (Masoniana) in plain old H<sub>2</sub>O. With a lump of charcoal in the bottom of an opaque glass and a plastic bag over it. Takes ten to twelve weeks. I add more water as it evaporates, but it roots every time. In growing the plant my only technique, if that's the word for it, is that I noticed it prefers drinking its water through the undersides of the leaves, rather than from the pot. Many rexes are like that, too. I keep the potting mixture barely moist, and three or four mornings a week (when the stomata are open) I spray the undersides of the leaves with a fine spray of room temperature water. I have an English brass pneumatic sprayer that is terrific for this—just holds one pint of water and is easy for me to handle."

★ ★ ★

A comment from Freda Johannesson of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada is a good follow up for the above from Barbara Walker. She tells that while visiting the Botanical Garden Conservatory in Montreal she noticed that when they were watering they covered the three gorgeous specimens of Iron Cross (Masoniana) with a sheet of plastic when they were watering close to them. Those were the only plants they treated in this manner.

★ ★ ★

Betty Tourgee of Peace Dale, R. I. says: "Think you all might be interested in how I root rex leaves in water, as well as other plants. A friend of mine, who loves my plants, but never has much luck with them herself, pick-

ed up at a rummage sale a couple of years ago a plastic gizmo that was originally used to make popsicles. It has eight deep holes, and I insert the leaves in water in these. When they are well rooted, I plant them in vermiculite, and place them in a small plastic bag, and put a paper clip at the top. When the plant is well established I transfer it to potting soil. To some it might seem like going the long way around, but I don't seem to have as good luck with potting them in vermiculite first. A prop box such as others use, (the President of the R. I. Begonia Society has wonderful luck with hers) doesn't seem to work as well for me. And Perlite never works for me at all, and some of the other members swear by it.

★ ★ ★

Herb Warrick of Seattle, Washington comments: "When transferring a cutting growing in water, first put it in vermiculite for a week or two, then the roots will pick up a ball of particles and transplant without loss."

★ ★ ★

Evelyn Hurley of Lexington, Mass. says: "Most failures with water rooting is due to the fact that people leave them in water too long. One inch roots are best — it always works for me that way."

★ ★ ★

Mack Barnette of Seattle, Washington says:

"Two years ago my wife got a multiflora plant. It bloomed the rest of the season, and, as it has a tuber, I stored it with mine over the winter and started it in a flat in the spring. After it was potted, she confused it with a hanging basket type and decided to pinch out the tips — and — when she pinches there are no holds barred. She stuck the tips in the edge of a planting area near the garage to see what would happen. They rooted

and bloomed all summer long. The main plant was set back by the pinching, but, when it took off, it was the biggest, bushiest multiflora I have ever seen. It was loaded with blooms until late in the fall.

★ ★ ★

Lily Fine of Brooklyn, New York tells us "When using a humidifier to help your plants be sure to get one with 'cool' vapor. A couple of years ago when I was very "green" I sent away for one and found that it sent out a jet of hot steam. It may be good for the croup, but certainly; not for the plants".

★ ★ ★

What have you learned from experimentation? Send along your results to Bee Olson, 13715 Cordary Avenue, Hawthorne, California.

## PATIENCE PLANTS

by Mrs. Don L. Wagner  
Baton Rouge, La.

This plant takes a back seat to none in my collection of begonias and shade plants. This is a charming plant for window boxes, porches, beds and borders. You can raise them without trouble and display a wide range of pleasing colors in any season.

Patient Lucy can be started from cuttings rooted in sandy soil, sand, vermiculite or plain water. It also can be started from seed sown indoors in spring and transplant young seedlings to individual small pots and later pot them on or plant them outdoors when cold weather is over. To have summer blooming plants, take cuttings in February or March.

They are subject to aphids, mealy bugs, red spider mites, and whiteflies. The best flowers are obtained when the plants are kept to a single stem, all side shoots being pinched out. This will also make a more compact bushy plant.

Patient plants need rich humsey soil as you use for your begonias. The best potting compost for these plants consists of two parts fibrous

loam, one part leaf mold or peat moss with the liberal addition of coarse sand. Don't let the plants get very pot bound, they bloom better if their roots have plenty of room to expand.

The common patients are varieties of East African *Impatiens Holsti*; perhaps hybridised with *Impatiens Sultani* from Zanaibar. The largest flowered of the cultivated Balasms is *Impatiens Oliveri* from East Africa: the plant flowers when 18-20 in. height in 6 in. pot. If moved into large when required and properly fed, Balsam will reach a height of 6-8 in. in a large pot or tub. The pale lilac flowers are 2½ in. across.

Old specimens dug from beds before frost may be pruned back and potted in pots only big enough to hold their roots. During winter a minimum temperature of 55 degrees should be maintained. In the spring return them to the beds or cut them up for new plants.

The patient plant can get along with less sun than most flowering plants, but will not withstand high temperatures or hot summer sun. They require the same water as begonias, but over wetness for long periods result in root and stem rot for the plant.

The color range of their flowers range from white to the deepest red along with lilac and pink. All need the identical cultural care.

Native to eastern North America is the *Impatiens befloia* (Jewel), it is used in wild gardens or partly shaded borders. It has ovate, coarsely toothed leaves and yellow flowers with red spots.

There are many varieties of the Impatient or Sultana. So far, I have about ten which are growing and flowering beautifully. I have planted seeds and hope I get some new plants to add to my collection.

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# programs

RUTH P. MERRY  
*Needham, Mass.*

It has been said that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach, and this could be amended to "the way to a begonia meeting is through the stomachs of the members". In reading about the meetings of the various branches, and I am not excluding my own, it almost seems that a feature is a hot dish supper or luncheon, or a meal at a restaurant, or a picnic, and these meetings are always the best attended. This conclusion is not confined to the A.B.S. either, but is true of all kinds of organizations, male and female.

The arranging of a year's program is a difficult task and takes much thought and care to present speakers with the background necessary to give pertinent information to begonia lovers. In my own area we could draw on professional gardeners trained at Kew Gardens in England or those with similar apprenticeship, but we now do not have men with that experience. This year we have used our own members on various subjects, covering cane begonias, hairy begonias, *Kenworthyi* seedlings and cultivars, methods of potting, seed sowing, propagation, to mention a few.

I think there should be much more attention paid to correct plant names. For instance, "Angel Wing" is not the name of a single cultivar, but only a class, in fact there is practically no limit to what can be called an angel wing begonia, since the leaves of all varieties are asymmetrical, at least to a degree. A program and study of cultivars in this category could be time well spent. In fact, nomenclature as a study could be very interesting. The derivation of plant names elicits much interesting information. Some plants are named for a characteristic, many are named for people, and others are named for places.

Another subject is when is a miniature not a miniature, or how small is

a miniature. To me, a miniature is really tiny, but I found that a whole series of rexes hybridized by Roy Berry are called "Roy Berry Miniatures" and without knowing anything about them, I could not see them to be small enough to be called miniatures, although much smaller than most of the rexes. In checking with the Buxton list where she refers to the article in the March 1951 *Begonian*, I found the whole story. But I still wonder how small is a miniature? In this connection the *Begonian* proved its worth and is really invaluable for research. Through the years we have had some very fine writers and in my file of *Begonians* from 1947 there is information not to be found elsewhere. Since we do use it as an authority, we should all be very careful about the information we give and the plant names.

The subject of insects is always with us, especially the mealy bug, and talks by experts from the local Agricultural Field Stations are most helpful. No matter what the pure food people say, the use of insecticides is necessary to keep plants clean and flourishing and chemists are continually working to find chemicals that are mild but still effective. The soil mixes for various plants have changed radically of late and talks on this question are most necessary and helpful.

But will the members come to meetings for subjects like these without a little frosting — that is, refreshments to the nth degree. Probably not, and the meetings that are attended by the most members and guests are those with most intriguing menus.

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## ABS Convention

September 4, 5, 6, 1965

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## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2 . . . Westchester Branch . . . Birthday pot luck supper at 6:30 PM

Rudy Ziesenhenne on "Begonias"

SEPTEMBER 10 . . . San Gabriel Valley Branch . . . James Giridlian of Oakhurst Gardens

SEPTEMBER 24 . . . Long Beach Parent Branch . . . Plant discussion by members. Plenty of parking.

SEPTEMBER 24 . . . Redondo Area Branch . . . Whoopee party . . . nominal fee of 50 cents to play . . . an evening of fun. Regular meeting place. Bring a plant or a gadget.

## ROUND ROBIN NEWS . . .

*(continued from page 183)*

ily retaining this data for future reference.

Oh, Yes! there is one precaution in mailing. Don't mail late in the week so the package has to lie over the week end at the distant city. Also if there is any doubt about the temperature at the distant city, add special delivery (35c) so the cutting won't have to cook or freeze."

Esther Ridenour of Flight #11 says: "Regarding shipping cuttings, I shipped a small blooming African Violet in a plastic bag without any damage to it. I removed the entire soil ball from a two inch pot and dropped it into a small baggie, poured in vermiculite to cover the plant entirely, closed it securely and put the whole thing in a small sturdy cardboard box, filled all crevices between the bag and box with tissue (crumpled) and just put it in straight parcel post. Arrived in two days in Baltimore and my mother said that it was in perfect condition."

Rudy Ziesenhenne of Santa Barbara in a recent talk to the Glendale Branch of the ABS related his experiences with cuttings and leaves in plastic bags. He told a customer in Hawaii sending several leaves for identification. They were placed in a plastic bag and sent air-mail. Rudy said they

were just as fresh as though they had just been cut. He identified the leaves for his customer and then tossed the bags. He told of a customer in Hawaii his desk. Two weeks later he ran across this bag and the leaves were still as fresh as ever.

About two months ago I was sent a cutting to identify. This cutting was carefully placed on a lightweight cardboard envelope size. Over the cardboard carefully folded at the corners and scotch-taped to the top of the cardboard was ordinary paper. It is still in good condition.

In Flight #11 since Laurel made her comment, other members of the Robin have been trying this coffee treatment with excellent results. Another member mentioned that she had been using coffee grounds in her potting mix to control pests and to help aerate the mix.

Tea and tea leaves have been used by many through the years, but in this particular flight it seemed that most felt coffee rated higher than tea. Thus it would seem that our plants perhaps benefit more from our habits than we.

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years! It could be the 60 mineral elements or the plen-  
tiful natural vitamins. But could these alone ex-  
plain the more friable soil? . . . Whatever the  
answer, you'll want to try it — both with and  
without fertilizer.



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proofed special fibre; vermin-  
proof; rib bottom; each holding  
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## NATIONAL BOARD MEETING

The American Begonia Society met on Sunday, July 25, 1965 for a regional meeting, in the Glendale Federal Savings Bldg. The meeting was called for 1:30 PM, with Glendale Branch of ABS hosting. Mabel Corwin, president, called the meeting to order.

The Salute to the American Flag was led by Mrs. Elsie Joyce. Aims & Purposes of the Society were read by Mrs. Muriel Perz, president-elect.

Mr. H. J. Titley, president of Glendale Branch gave a welcome, followed by a welcome by Mr. S. Haas of the Glendale Fed. Savings Bank.

Twenty two officers, chairmen, and representatives answered roll call. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by the secretary, Mrs. Peggy McGrath, and approved as read.

The report of the treasurer, Harold Burkett, showed a balance on hand of \$283.07, as of July 18, 1965.

The report of the Membership secretary, Mrs. Daisy Austin, showed: new members, 35, renewals 110, and 2562 Begonians disbursed.

Mrs. Bee Olson, research chairman, had on display a beautiful sempiflorens begonia sent from Scottsburg, Indiana, by Mr. & Mrs. Fred Cross. This is a sport of "Christmas Candle."

The advertising manager, Miss Anne Rose, reported \$46.75 received and \$54.50 receivable as of July 17, 1965.

The public relations director, Mrs. Vera Naumann, told of correspondence from a new member in New Zealand, and of his enthusiasm about Begonias and their promotion.

Mrs. Edna Korts, business manager, reported that \$300 in bonds have matured and are being cashed. The money will be placed in the ABS savings account. Mrs. Korts showed a drawing of the glass house which is the first place prize in the raffle for which Glendale Branch is selling tickets. The drawing will be held in December and proceeds will go into the Glendale Br. treasury.

Bert Slatter, show chairman, told of the urgent need for more trophies. These are to be awarded at the ABS show on Labor Day weekend.

Alva Graham, nomenclature chairman, spoke on the Buxton Check List which was published in 1958, after 10 years work. She observed that a new check list is badly needed to keep Begonia records up to date, and

suggested that foreign correspondents made members of the nomenclature mittee.

Roy Joyce, slide librarian, reported all slides in at this time.

Branches reporting were: Foothill, Glendale, Inglewood, North Long Beach, Redondo Beach Area, Riverside, San Gabriel Valley, San Miguel, Theodora B. Sheppard, Westchester, and Whittier.

B. Sudjanae (see June 1964 Begonian) was on display by Mabel Corwin. This plant was grown from leaves sent by Carl Jansson of Sweden. Ten small plants, been grown from the parent plant and sold to members of the society. \$2.50 was determined by affirmative on the motion of Carl Naumann. The mon will go into the ABS treasury.

A motion by Larry Stallings the Flower Grower adv. be renewed for a 3 months, was seconded and carried.

Mabel Corwin spoke of the coming convention and show and of the work that must be done in advance by volunteers, if the show is to be a success. Clarence Hall will be master of ceremonies and Mrs. Rudolph Ziesenhenné will be installing officer. Mabel briefly discussed plans which are being made for this 3 day event.

Anne Rose brought up the question of "Season's Greetings" which the branches will place in the December issue of the Begonian. Letters will be sent to each branch reminding them of the dead line and costs.

Carl Naumann called attention to an Arboretum ruling which requires a year's advance application for reservations of the Arboretum if ABS wishes to hold their 1966 annual show there. Alva Graham moved that a reservation date be applied for; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned for a social hour, plant table, and delicious refreshments which were served by Glendale Branch of ABS.

Peggy McGrath, secretary

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# Branch Directory

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

## BRITISH BRANCH

F. J. Bedson, Sec'y., Kent, England

## BUXTON, BESSIE RAYMOND BRANCH

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

## DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS BRANCH

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

## EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m., Willard School  
Telephone at Ward, Berkeley, California  
Miss F. Osburn, Sec'y.  
501 Locust Ave., Oakland 18, Calif.

## EASTSIDE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Natural Gas Co. Building  
Crossroads Shopping Center, Bellevue, Wash.  
L. C. Donahue, Sec'y.  
203-108th St. N.E., Bellevue, Wash.

## EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

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

## LA VERNE BRANCH

1st Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
Verne Community Bldg.  
27 Third St., La Verne  
Isabel A. Hall  
3 E. Arrow Highway, Upland, Calif.

## LAUREL SPRINGS, ELSA BRANCH

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

## GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central  
Mildred Radcliffe, Corresponding Secretary  
1607 Kenneth, Glendale, Calif.

## HOUSTON TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m.  
Garden Center, 1500 Herman Drive  
Mrs. Grant Herzog, Sec'y.  
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, Sec'y.  
P.O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

## INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Business and Professionals Women's Club  
820 Java St., Inglewood, Calif.  
Mrs. Frances Jean, Sec'y.  
8212 Irving 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. Sec'y.  
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, Sec'y.  
3214 Delmar Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

## LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

1st Friday, Sear's Garden Center  
6201 Florida St., Baton Rouge  
Mrs. Louis Sicard, Sec'y.  
4520 Clark St., Baton Rouge, La. 70811

## MIAMI BRANCH

4th Tuesday 8:00 P.M.  
Simpson Memorial Garden Center  
Miss Rosemond Meriweather, Sec'y.  
1552 Plascencia Ave., Coral Gables, Florida

## MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 11 a.m.  
Member's Homes  
Kansas City, Mo.  
Miss Nina Austin, Sec'y.  
1104 Askew St., Kansas City 27, Mo.

## NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

3rd Friday, 7:30 p.m.  
3901 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach  
Ruby Tessier, Sec'y.  
1625 Appleton  
Apt. H Long Beach, Calif. 90802

## ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

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

## PASADENA BRANCH

Meetings on Call, Homes of Members  
Col. C. M. Gale Sec'y.  
2176 N. Roosevelt Ave., Altadena, Calif.

## PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Members' Homes  
Mrs. Anne W. Stiles, Sec'y.  
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 Vall Sts., Redondo Beach, Calif.  
Opal Murray Ahern, Sec'y.  
1304 N. Polinsettla Ave., Manhattan Beach, Calif.

## RHODE ISLAND BRANCH

1st Saturday, Homes of Members  
Mary E. Tourgee, Sec'y.  
92 Rodman St., Peace Dale, R.I. 02833

## RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Shamel Park  
3650 Arlington Riverside, Calif.  
Mrs. Lillian Maddox, Sec'y.  
7172 Mt. Vernon St., Riverside, Calif.

## ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

3rd Friday, 12 noon, Homes of Members  
Constance D. Bower, Corr. Sec'y.  
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, Sec'y.  
5218 J St., Sacramento, Calif. 95819

## SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Barbour Hall  
2717 University Ave., San Diego  
Mrs. Nellie Castillo, Sec'y.  
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  
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. 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 Puesta 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. Truman Stearns, Sec.  
230 E. Vince St.  
Ventura, Calif.

**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

**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  
Sec. Mrs. Frances Jean  
8212 Reading Ave.  
Los Angeles 90045

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH**

2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m., Homes of Members  
Mrs. Alfred Slee, 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, Ca

**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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