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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 no-
menclature of begonias; to gather and publish in-
formation 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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National Board meets 4th Monday, 7:30 p.m.
South Gate City Auditorium
4900 Southern Avenue, South Gate, Calif.

* * * * *
Views expressed in this magazine are not
necessarily those of the Editor, the Society, or
its officers.

LET US LOOK AT THE FACTS

As time and years pass by, the events and dates become dim in our minds, but the wonderful moments of recollections still remain forever.

This is a short resume of the Annual Flower Show and Conventions of our great Society. So at this time we will try to end the confusion of the number of conventions we have had.

This Society was begun at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert P. Dyckman in Long Beach, California, in 1932 and was known as The California Begonia Society, Mr. Dyckman being the first president.

Only one book on Begonias was available, so the members pooled their experiences, compared notes and plants and wrote their findings, which were later published as Cultural Bulletins.

Needed information on nomenclature and classification was supplied by The New York Botanical Journal, The Horticultural Society, and the late A. D. Robinson of Rosecroft Gardens, Point - Loma, California. Compiling this information and using their old standby Bailey's Encyclopedia, the group had their first official material to work with.

The enthusiasm of these members was so infectious, the Society grew by leaps and bounds.

The first Convention and Flower Show was held in August of 1939 in the First Congregational Church in Long Beach, California, Dr. W. N. Cacely was National President for the first Convention, the officers for the coming year were elected, Mr. Frank Harrison being elected President.

Also at this Convention the name was changed to The American Begonia Society. The incorporation papers were voted and approved to be filed with the State Incorporation Laws office.

This short-short resume of the A.B.S. will show we have had only 26 Conventions and Flower Shows, so the

1966 Flower Show and Convention will be our 27th.

We are looking forward to seeing those members and friends from near and far. Make preparations to attend, it is an event you should not miss.

Remember the 27th Annual Flower Show and Convention.

Begoniawise,
MURIEL PERZ
MRS. HERBERT P. DYCKMAN

PHOTOS FOR A.B.S. CONVENTION AND FLOWER SHOW

Members that live too far to attend the 27th Annual Convention and Flower Show can attend with photographs and slides of their begonias.

This Division of our Flower Show has become quite popular with the public to view and the members to enter.

There will be six classes this year.

Outside California you may enter three classes: black and white or color prints, and color slides.

Another Division in our photo schedule will be for California members. Anyone outside a 100-mile radius of Los Angeles may enter black and white or color prints and color slides.

All pictures must be sent in heavy envelopes and protected with cardboard. Please enclose return postage, unless you would like to donate them to the depleted photo library.

HINTS FOR PRIZE WINNING PHOTOS

1. Try to have gray or blue card or plain wall to cover all of background in pictures.

2. Keep plant far enough away from background so you will not cast a shadow on it.

3. Get as close to the plant as your camera will allow and still get a clear picture.

Happy "shooting."

MABLE RAGLE, *Photo Chairman.*
344 W. Truslow,
Fullerton, Calif. 92632.

Patronize Our Advertisers

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY EASTERN REGIONAL CONVENTION

Sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Branch of the A.B.S.

July 29, 30, 31, 1966

THE HOLIDAY INN

300 Tarentum Bridge Road, New Kensington, Pennsylvania

The Holiday Inn is close to the Pennsylvania Turnpike at the Allegheny Valley Interchange by way of route #28 north. New Kensington is 20 miles north of Pittsburgh.

PROGRAM

Friday, July 29:

- 12:00 - 10:00 p.m. — Flower show entries accepted.
- 12:00 - 6:00 p.m. — Registration. Get acquainted tea sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Branch, A.B.S.
- 6:30 p.m. — Welcome dinner.
- 8:30 - 10:00 p.m. — Slide program and lecture about begonias and related house plants, by Michael J. Kartuz.
- 10:00 - 11:00 p.m. — Get acquainted discussion and visiting hour coffee, sponsored by the National Officers present.

Saturday, July 30:

- 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. — Tour of the R.M. Hunt Botanical Library and Phipps Conservatory of Pittsburg.
 - 1:00 p.m. — Luncheon to honor Flower Show judges.
 - 2:00 - 10:00 p.m. — Flower Show open.
 - 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. — Workshop: "How to organize and carry out a study group program", by Mrs. Daisy Austin.
 - 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. — Question and answer panel.
 - 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. — Camera Bug session at Flower Show.
 - 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. — Grand banquet and awards dinner. Speaker: Mrs. Muriel Perz, President of the American Begonia Society. Awards presentation: Mrs. Sara Cabbage, President of the Western Pennsylvania Branch, A.B.S.
- After dinner program — "A Recent Trip to Japan", by Frank Curto, Curator of Phipps Conservatory.

Sunday, July 31:

- 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. — Flower Show open to public.

General Convention Chairmen:

Mrs. Edna M. Stewart	Robert L. Shatzer	Gerald A. Sausaman
R.D. #2, Box 491	Box 126	Box 126
Tarentum, Penn. 15084	Albright, W.Va. 26519	Albright, W.Va. 26519

For information about convention registration and fees, write to:

MRS. GLENN SCOTT
Gibsonia, Penn. 15044
R.D. #7, Box 333

BEGONIA AND FLOWER SHOW

with the

**American Begonia Society
Eastern Regional Convention**

MRS. RUTH PERRY—*Show Chairman*

SHOW SCHEDULE

- Div. 1—Semperflorens begonias
- Div. 2—Fibrous begonias, cane type
- Div. 3—Hairy fibrous begonias
- Div. 4—Rhizomatous begonias
(not Rex)
- Div. 5—Tuberous begonias
- Div. 6—Semi-tuberous begonias
- Div. 7—Rex begonias
- Div. 8—Species—new introductions
within the past five years
- Div. 9—Hanging baskets
- Div. 10—Collection, species and
hybrids
- Div. 11—Collection, three species from
one country
- Div. 12—African violets
- Div. 13—Gesneriads
- Div. 14—Unusual foliage plants
- Div. 15—Unusual flowering plants
- Div. 16—Ferns
- Div. 17—Collection, house plants
- Div. 18—Arrangements

Entries may be made from 1 to 10 p.m. on Friday, July 29, and from 8 to 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 30. Entries not in by 9:30 a.m. Saturday will be shown in a non-competitive exhibit.

For a complete schedule showing all classes in each division and for complete rules, write to:

MRS. ROBERT WOZNIAK
251 Elwyn Avenue
Pittsburgh, Penn. 15234

COVER PICTURE

Begonia 'Anna Christine'—Grown by Mrs. Ernesta D. Ballard of Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania.

—*Photo by* HERTHA A. BENJAMIN

Plan now to take part in some of the many colorful shows that will be offered to the public during the next few months.

A.B.S. CHECK LIST SERVES WORLD-WIDE

By ALVA GRAHAM

The American Begonia Society has published two supplements to the 2nd Edition of the *Buxton Check List of Begonias*, the last in 1962. A third supplement is in preparation by the nomenclature director and this will be issued later this year. A third edition of the *Check List* is also in progress with the publication date some time before 1968. This will contain over 12,000 names, both cultivars and species. Our *Check List* includes species names as new begonia species are being discovered from time to time, especially in Brazil, India, Mexico, and Guatemala. These are important in hybridizing. Also many species are included in collections and are popular as house and garden plants.

Over 200 cultivar names have been registered by the Begonia Society. Among these are some from Germany, France, Italy, Sweden, and England, as well as Canada and Australia. Our nomenclature representatives in several countries have cooperated by sending us complete lists from their growers, not all to be registered but to be included in the *Check List*. We also have correspondents in Japan and the Philippines, and would be glad to make contacts with raisers of begonias in other countries.

COMMITTEE TO SCREEN BEGONIAN ARTICLES

As noted in the minutes of the March 28th meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society, a motion was passed creating a committee to pre-screen all material for publication in *The Begonian*.

Therefore, all material submitted for publication in *The Begonian* should be sent to the chairman of the committee, Mr. Floyd E. Neff, 1501 North Van Ness Avenue, Compton, California, 90221.

Patronize Our Advertisers

ROUND ROBIN NEWS

The birds are flying thick and fast. New robins are still forming and new members joining our letter exchange. Most recent suggestion: a flight for children of members—or “Future ABS Members” Flight. Do you have young friends interested in growing begonias and writing about them?

Inheritance: Our fast-flying international robin 14 (around the world in two months), is delving into hybridizing, as are members in many robins. Jane Neal of Worthing, England, is noting dominant and recessive traits of species in crosses. She says *semp*s and *B. boweri* seem to be completely dominant, but little is known of others.

It would be helpful, she feels, to know what traits would show up in offspring of a cross. This search “adds to the spice of life. Every new cross should give some clue.”

Others mentioned the apparently dominant characteristics of the *rex*es, *leptotricha* (‘Woolly Bear’), *dichroa*, *imperialis*, and *nitida*. Freda Johansson of Winnipeg, Canada, obtained only more ‘Wolly Bear’ in crosses using it with many others, even *rex*es. But her *nigricans* and *ricinifolia* cross gave many different plants.

Mac MacIntyre of Liverpool, England, also has been experimenting, especially with ‘Orange Rubra.’ He mentions that ‘Corbeille de Feu’ and ‘Dancing Girl’ are sterile and wonders about ‘Richmondensis.’

Members of the new hybridizing specialty flight 33 include Chuck and Mae Tagg of Fullerton, California—who haven’t tried hybridizing since they crossed fruit flies in college to test Mendel’s law, but have read all they can find—and Elaine Wilkerson of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who has been trying it for seven years and took four blue and one red ribbon on five hybrids in her state show. Elaine likes to use a species for one of the parents, notes that ‘Weltoniensis’ is a good seed parent and crosses well with *rex*es.

Soilless Culture: Flight 7, studying

soilless culture, notes that deep containers are not needed by shallow begonia roots, that feeder solutions needed for growth are different from those needed for flowers, that plants will *not* grow twice as fast if solution is twice as concentrated. They are listing symptoms of different nutrient deficiencies and trying mediums without soil.

In seed specialty 27, Marie Moriarty of Houston, Texas, tested four mediums, planting several kinds of seed on each: Milled sphagnum: excellent results. Peat moss: good. Nursery mix (much perlite): fair. Peat, sand, leaf-mold (her own mix): very bad.

Aleks Bird of Jamaica, New York, tried a sample of ground tree fern from Central America, given to his Branch by Mr. Arndt of Edelweiss Gardens. Aleks found this germinated *rex* seed almost twice as fast as his usual medium. Seedlings grew fast, lifted easily for transplanting. Germination of other seeds seemed to give a higher percentage of seedlings, also—*luxurians* covered the dish without a bare spot.

Elaine Wilkerson’s druggist friend has weighed and marked measuring bottles for different fertilizers to use with Cornell mix.

Under Lights: Len Harris of Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, in light flight 25, reported small *rex* seedlings with only three or four leaves but already in bloom. He wondered if they bloomed early because they were under lights only ten hours daily—the short-day stimulated bud set.

Carol Cerimele of Kent, Washington, noted that *Pteris* and heavy-textured ferns do well under Gro-Lux tubes. Maidenhairs do not like it, and *rex*es burn (though other members report success with *rex*es). African violets sit, she says; *semp*s grow well. Fern spore and small, delicate maidenhair ferns do well under plastic coverings. Under wide-spectrum tubes, plants grow rapidly, need more fertilizer. She vaporizes with a mild fish emulsion as spring comes, alternating with water later.

Lily Fine of Brooklyn says that plants may be kept much closer to W-S than to Gro-Lux without burning the leaves, and Bob Shatzer of Albright, West Virginia, seconds this.

Cuttings: Eleanor Farris of Seattle starts *semperflorens* in water with a pinch of fertilizer, transplanting to light soil with a core of sponge rock when roots are about one half inch. She also starts cuttings in sponge rock in a small kitchen window greenhouse. She has started two dozen *calla* begonias for her Branch show. She does not like to give callas too much sun because they turn pinkish. Geraldine Daly of Coventry, Rhode Island, likes the pink shade of callas in the sun, however. She points out that often plantlets with green leaves grow more vigorously and develop white later on.

Geraldine's State University professor says cuttings in water root faster in blue glass than in clear glass.

Cane-stem begonias usually will not send up plantlets from leaves, unless a cortex cutting is taken, Bob Shatzer explains—or unless taken from a hybrid with tuberous or other ancestry. The leaf will root, but will not send up shoots. The leaf petiole does not have the right merismatic tissue to do the job, but a node or bud does.

Aleks Bird's report on Mr. Arnd's talk to his Branch included a new fertilizer treatment for plants and cuttings. He immerses them in a solution of brown sugar (one tablespoon to a gallon of water) and 20-20-20 fertilizer (2 teaspoons)—two and a half hours for plants, twenty-four hours for bare rhizomes, twenty-four to forty-eight hours for leaf cuttings. "Results were fantastic."

Tuberous Begonias: Anne Stiles of Medford, New Jersey, told of a tuberous begonia that was such a pretty little plant, but had not bloomed. When she took up her tubers in the fall she brought it to her window sill. She enjoyed the pink blossoms while snow was on the ground outside, but the tuber did run out over the winter.

Ben Hill of Vancouver, Canada,

adds that tuberous begonias are a real challenge to bloom in winter but that it is being done. "You can have them in February if you take cuttings in July, or start from seed or very small tubers grown on, with light and warmth."

Ben uses telephone wire from an electrician for plant ties. And he turns carbon dioxide from his propane gas heater in the tubehouse back onto his plants.

Problem Plants: Don Salmon of Millicent, South Australia, finds *sutherlandi* a chore to start from cuttings; it wilts and dies easily. Elaine Wilkerson can succeed with *acida* only in a terrarium or when it is covered with plastic. Her friend let 'Digswelliana' rest, cool and fairly dry, in the house all winter. In spring "it went crazy", covered with bloom. Geraldine Daly asks for an easy way to repot large rhizomatous begonias without damaging leaves.

'Iron Cross' (*masoniana*) is finally doing well for Margaret Winkler of Hudsonville, Michigan. It is in a pot surrounded by moist moss in a larger pot, and is on the kitchen window sill where dishwashing adds humidity.

The Taggs ask how to keep leaves on 'Orange Rubra'. Whether over-watered or given next to no water, under-potted or over-potted, fed or starved, "the thing blooms madly, grows new leaves at a fantastic rate, but drops them as fast".

MRS. CARRIE KARECEANNES,
Round Robin Director
3916 Lake Boulevard
Annandale, Virginia, 22003

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ADVERTIZERS

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RESEARCH REPORT

Major Sam L. Griedman of the USAF, after reading Mrs. Jane Neal's soil-less mix for begonias in the February *Begonian*, decided to try to work out a formula much like her's but substituting materials that are easily obtainable in garden shops in his area. This is what he is trying:

Mix five bushels at a time (4 pails to one bushel):

15 pails—3 parts sphagnum moss

5 pails—1 part coarse sand

½ ounce—potash (could substitute one pail wood ash, *not coal ashes*)

2 ounces—Superphosphate

1 pail—well rotted animal manure

Major Friedman says, "I would like to hear some more ideas on this soil-less mix through *The Begonian*. Has anyone in this country had success using it?"

With the advent of spring there has been much discussion in many of the Round Robins regarding the planting of *semperflorens* seed. A Pennsylvania member, Mrs. Edna Stewart, who has raised great quantities of them, gave us the following report:

"I have the best luck with B. 'Geneva Red' and B. 'Geneva White'. Nice, well-bushed plants, not growing out of bounds, can be cut back and will soon be in bloom again. Easy to propagate and bloom while small. They bloom almost continually. Mine are grown under greenhouse culture, of course. 'Charm', while classed a *Calla* begonia is much easier to grow and propagate and makes a beautiful basket.

A member of Ossian, Indiana, Mrs. Elinor Rodda, sent us a few "short cuts" that have been successful for her in growing begonias:

"I take three small cuttings of any of the smaller-type begonias, put them in a rooting medium in a three-inch pot. First I fill the pot about half-full with potting soil, then put a mixture of peat, vermiculite, and sponge rock on top of the soil. I insert the three cuttings and allow them to grow until they are getting too heavy for the pot. I repot into a five-inch pot of soil

without disturbing the roots and I have a nice specimen in much less time than it takes to grow one small cutting into a specimen. This works fine for the smaller leaf types, such as the B. 'Richmondensis Purpurea.'"

She relates an amusing incident which happened to her in doing this. "Last summer I took tip cuttings from some canes, and rooted them. Then when it came time for potting, I wanted to have as few pots as possible so I put three cuttings into one large eight-inch pot, thinking they were B. 'Orange Ruba'. Imagine my amusement when they bloomed and I had two B. 'Orange Rubras' and one B. 'Rubaiyat' in that pot. Anyway, I have a big specimen from it and they are all doing well."

The May-June, 1965, issue of *New Jersey Agriculture* contains an article by Eileen Brennan and others concerning their findings that chlorine in the air can damage our plants. This is the chlorine which is used to disinfect water. They found that the most prevalent damage problems of this toxicity were necrosis and bleaching of the older plant leaves. The harm is done when the chlorine is released in the air. They found that the amount of chlorine required to damage begonia plants was 1.0 ppm in four hours.

The South African Gloxinia, African Violet and Pot Plant Society has published a request in its bulletin from our A. B. S. Research Department that the American Begonia Society would appreciate photographs, descriptions, and information which can be used in articles for publication of the indigenous begonias of South Africa.

Mr. M. L. Mac Intyre, of Liverpool, England, has posed a question perhaps some of our readers might also like to speculate about. He asks, "Why is it that there are many well known hybrids whose parents are unknown? B. 'Axel Lange' and B. 'C. P. Raffill', for instance, who have no parent and who are the parents of B.

(Continued on Page 117)

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Compiled by MAX TAFT DREW

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BRANCH PRESIDENTS AND OFFICERS:

On April 11, 1966, there was a package of rosters sent you, from Herb and Bessie Warrick of Seattle, Wash., to be given or presented to each officer in your Branch.

Will you let us know if you received them?

As President of the American Begonia Society, this roster has brought pleasant moments of recollections of those I have corresponded with, and the anticipation of those I will write and hear from.

I feel this little book given to the officers of the A.B.S. will be of great value among the Branches.

This is my public Thank You to Herb and Bessie Warrick, and my comment on this roster, would the officers that have received this roster care to send their comments to Mr. and Mrs. Warrick or myself, we would like to know your sentiments on this.

Thank you
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CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND FLIGHT

No. 1 — *B. Brazil* sp —

Beautiful, fairly large plant with tall spikes of showy pink flowers. Found in edge of forest near Sao Paulo. Photo shows this to be an outstanding begonia. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 2 — *B. Brazil* sp —

Found on damp roadside on road from Sao Paulo to Curitiba. Grows in part shade or sun in swamp areas. Dark pink flowers, reddish stems. Easily grown and will flower when very young. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 3 — *B. luxurians* —

Brazil. Palm-like leaf, fuzzy, more or less limp. Many slender leaflets, large trusses of small white flowers. Many seeds. Grows well in tub or outdoors in warm climate. 50 cents per pkt.

Comment —

Our seed-collecting friend is leaving Brazil; therefore, we will not be receiving any more seed of *Brazil* sp. from him. We are growing many plants from the *Brazil* seed and some of them are very beautiful and different.

A few weeks ago we attended the begonia meeting in San Francisco, California, and heard Rudolf Ziesenne give a very interesting and informative talk. He brought a number of seedlings from the *Brazil* seed and several were outstanding, especially a cane type with smallish, shiny, angel-wing leaves with red veins, and a little trailing type.

Since we will not be getting any more begonia seed directly from the wilds of Brazil, we thought that perhaps someone who has just joined us or missed out on the previous offers would like to try some of the seed. Therefore, we offer the best varieties from a few months back. We hope you will try them, as we have plenty of seed of the following:

B. caragutatubensis —

A real beauty and easily grown from seed. \$1.00 per pkt.

B. paulensis —

Offered last month. One of the most beautiful. \$1.00 per pkt.

B. macdougalli vae *Brazil* —

Palm-leaf plant popular in tubs or outdoors in mild climates. 50 cents per pkt.

B. epipsila —

According to our information this is the original plant from Brazil known as *B. epipsila*. The photo shows it to be more beautiful than the one we have always called *epipsila*. A good basket plant for a warm, moist location. 50 cents per pkt.

B. convolvulacea —

Brazil. Climbing plant; graceful stems with light green oval leaves. White flowers. Likes a cool and moist location. \$1.00 per pkt.

B. acetosa —

Brazil. Neat, round, hairy leaves, short stems from rhizome. Top of leaf is subdued green, fuzzy; underneath ruby-red. White flowers. 50 cents per pkt.

ALSO AVAILABLE:

B. masoniana syn. *B. 'Iron Cross'* —

So much has been written about this begonia, we have run out of descriptive words. Seeds are sometimes slow to germinate but you will have plants if enough time and patience is given. \$1.00 per pkt.

B. picta —

India. A beautiful and ornamental begonia. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 4 — *B. pinetorum* —

Mexico. Heavy-textured leaves, brown flannel underneath, fuzzy white over lemon-green on top; scalloped edge trimmed with a brown pencil line. Flowers pink. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 5 — *B. 'Persian Brocade'* —

No description available — sounds exotic. 35 cents per pkt.

No. 6 — *B. 'Edith M'* —

(*B. boweri* x *B. 'Reichenheimi'*) 25 cents per pkt.

No. 7 — *B. 'Tamo'* —

(*B. incana* x *B. mazaе*) Erect and

freely branching from the base. Pointed green leaves, dark green above, fuzzy-red below, blanket-stitched on edge. Flowers white. 35 cents per pkt.

No. 8 — B. 'Verde Grande' —

A hybrid. (*B. manicata* x *B. 'Dark Sheen'*.) Especially fine star begonia of smoothest green satin, trimmed with blue-black braided markings on the edge; pale eye and radiating veins. Strong and vigorous. 35 cents per pkt.

No. 9 — B. 'Angie' —

No description available. 35 cents per pkt.

No. 10 — B. 'Carol Star' —

A hybrid. (*B. carolineaefolia* x *B. sunderbruchi*.) Upright with broad, glossy green leaves cut out almost to the stem end, saw-toothed on the edge. Spectacular. 35 cents per pkt.

No. 11 — B. 'Heracleicotyle' —

A hybrid. (*B. heracleifolia* x *B. hydrocotylifolia*.) Large, seven-pointed star leaves of fresh, clean green. Beautiful deep pink flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 12 — B. 'Stitch-leaf' —

A variety of *B. mazae*. Leaves medium green, blanket-stitched with black along the edge. Good basket plant. 35 cents per pkt.

No. 13 — B. 'Philippine Islands' —

Red leaves, pink flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 14 — B. 'Ricinifolia' —

Old-time specimen plant. Large star leaves on tall, strong stems. Pink flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 15 — B. heracleifolia nigrans —

Pink flowered. Robust star-leaf. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 16 — B. semperflorens —

X-rayed seed; second generation. Fantastic. 35 cents per pkt.

No. 17 — B. 'Rhine Pearl' —

Semperflorens F_1 hybrid about six inches tall. Very attractive shade of pink with salmon sheen. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 18 — B. 'Indian Pearl' —

Semperflorens F_1 hybrid about six inches tall. Scarlet-red flowers carried

above dark bronze foliage. 25 cents per pkt.

GREENHOUSE PLANTS

Gesneriad Rhytidophylon tomentosum —

Price 35 cents per pkt.

Vanda sanderiana —

Orchidaceae. Magnificent epiphyte, strap leaf type with 1-2 ft. stems dense with two-ranked leaves. Large, round, 3-5-inch flowers with dorsal and petals soft rose and spotted crimson near the base, longer sepals golden brown, veined with blood-red. 35 cents per pkt.

OTHER GENERA

Aristolochia elegans —

"Dutchman's pipe". A fairly quick grower with dark, heart-shaped leaves and shell-like flowers constricted at the mouth. Flowers about four inches across and pale yellow streaked and netted with reddish purple. 25 cents per pkt.

Hippeastrum vittatum —

Hybrid American origin. Amaryllis. Includes candy stripes, pure white, and pure pink. Seeds may not all germinate but packets will contain enough seed to produce a fair number of plants. 25 cents per pkt.

Spathodea campanulata —

Syn. *S. Nilotica*. Africa. Quick-growing, soft-wooded tree known as 'Nandi Flame' or 'Uganda Flame'. Large pinnate leaves covered with rough hairs. Large, bright orange-scarlet flowers produced in racemes at the ends of branchlets. 25 cents per pkt.

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The Begonian

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Responses to the April issue were fewer than the previous month, but most of those who wrote said they felt the column helped them, and we hope that this feeling is shared by many who did not write, but may yet do so.

Question: From Mrs. Marie Moriarty of Houston, Texas, comes the query as to whether anyone has successfully grafted begonias, especially rhizomatous and cane types.

Answer: I regret that I have no knowledge at all on this matter, and frankly never even thought of such a thing. But why not? If anyone has information on begonia grafting, please share it with us!

Question: Mrs. Grace Shatto of Idaho Springs, Colorado, asks why she has been so unsuccessful germinating begonia seeds.

Answer: As the letter did not contain information on how she was trying to germinate seed I have no idea what she was doing wrong. However, it may be of interest to members to hear of a recent experiment I performed. I divided a seed box into three sections, one containing only vermiculite, the middle section was a mixture of vermiculite and peat moss (the brown kind), and the third solely peat moss. After two months, under lights, only two seeds germinated in the peat moss. Germination was profuse in both the first and second sections, but the superiority of the root system in the pure vermiculite was fantastic. Another advantage of vermiculite, I find, is that the seedlings are extremely simple to remove, with entire root systems. If members have had great success with other methods we would appreciate information from you to pass on to others.

Question: From Mrs. James Arnold of Skaneateles, N.Y.: "My calla-lily begonia does not do well for me. I have heard of hardier varieties but do not know where to find them."

Answer: Since this column was be-

gun, there have been several letters stating the same difficulty and disappointment with Calla-Lily and Charm, and it has already been stated in previous columns that I have never had success with these varieties. As it seems the plant is a common one, it would be very much appreciated if those who grow them well were to write to us and tell us what they do, what they believe the "secret" is, and any information at all that would help others. Such suggestions as, "Move to Maine or Vermont where Calla-Lily grows like weeds" or, "Buy a greenhouse" are not particularly welcome! But I am sure that there are people growing them in their homes, with very few "special" pieces of equipment, and their letters would do much to help many.

As for "hardier varieties" the December, 1963, issue of *The Begonian* had an article titled "NEW BEGONIAS BY CHESTER NAVE" by Alva Graham in which B. 'Kallaking' was stated to be somewhat hardier. Perhaps Mr. Nave has some seed available which in another issue he listed at \$1.00 a packet. His address is 2555 West Ave. 134, San Leandro, Calif.

Mrs. Charles D. Webster of Islip, Long Island, N.Y., thoughtfully took the time to give some suggestions re *B. evansiana* in response to a letter by Mrs. Ciganek in the April issue.

"I might say that they do very well in pots or containers. For her terrace I suggest using a very attractive flared clay bulb pan. These plants are not deep-rooted and, to me, would be more attractive in shallower containers. They do not resent being moved when young but it should be remembered that their leaves are large and they don't want to be planted too closely together. I would also suggest shallow weathered-wood containers as their interesting leaves and pale pink flowers with the gray wood in the late summer would be lovely." Mrs. Webster's words should be heartening for those who ordered seed from Mrs. Gee's April listing. If the flared clay bulb pans are not available in your

local garden mart, write to me for the name of a manufacturer.

If a colleague may, I should like to take this opportunity to acclaim Robert L. Shatzer's fine contribution to *The Begonian* in each of his monthly pages. His detailed information and thoroughness is, to me, most admirable, and I feel that each issue in which his articles appear is a much more valuable and helpful one for his writing. Equal commendation for the superb drawing supplied by G. A. Sausaman which are of no less value in helping us identify the plants mentioned in the articles.

As those who have written to this column know, individual replies are sent upon receipt of inquiry so that the inquirer need not wait two months for an answer. May I ask, therefore, that with each letter return postage be included? This bit of thoughtfulness will be appreciated.

MURRAY D. MORRISON
(Knickerbocker Branch)
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The library of the American Begonia Society offers many books that can be borrowed, and books and *Begonians* that can be bought.

The following are for sale:

The Begonian:

1960 to 1965—25¢ each.

1950 to 1960—40¢ each, \$4.50 per year.

1940 to 1950—50¢ each, \$6.00 per year.

1939 to 1940—50¢ each, no complete year.

Buxton Check List: \$6.00 (In Calif. add 24¢ sales tax.)

Begonias Slanted Toward the Beginner, by Dorothy S. Behrends.

Begonias, pamphlet, A.B.S. publication: 15¢ (in Calif. add 1¢ sales tax.)

Available on a thirty-day loan basis are:

The Complete Book of Gardening Under Lights, by Elvin McDonald.

Learn of Ferns We Grow, by Sylvia Leatherman and Dorothy Behrends.

Bound copies of *The Begonian*, 1938 through 1962.

Send a stamped, addressed envelope for the list of books in the A.B.S. library.

The library is able to use the postal book rate of four cents for the first pound and one cent for each additional pound; this rate is for educational matter. When you return books to the library, ask your postmaster about this rate.

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RESEARCH . . .

(Continued from Page 108)

'Dancing Girl'? I would suggest that perhaps B. 'Argentea-guttata' might be one. I rooted a cutting of B. 'Argentea-guttata' not long ago, and it grew some weird shaped leaves to start with and then settled down. B. 'Dancing Girl' could be a mutation of B. 'Argentea-guttata', but surely someone ought to know."

The Research Department this month has had some requests for extensive articles on the following begonias. To do these, photographs, information from the members, and growing experiences are needed. Could anyone help us with these?

Mrs. Terry Olmstead, a past president of A.B.S., has suggested than an examination of the mottled-leaf types such as B. 'Otto Alfred', B. 'squarrosa', and B. 'Rubella', would be helpful. Another interesting suggestion came from Mr. Leonard Harris of Reading, Pennsylvania. He asked that research be begun on B. rex from Assom, India, which has been such an important ancestor to the *rex cultorum*.

ROBERT L. SHATZER
Research Director
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BEGONIA SHOW TEXAS STYLE

By ELIZABETH HERNDON

"Begonias in their Splendor", combined with other shade-loving plants, were on parade in the West Cliff Mall, through the cooperation of the Dallas County Branch of the American Begonia Society and the Merchants Association, on March 4 and 5, 1966.

Queen of the show was 'Fischer's Ricinifolia', exhibited by Mrs. M. F. Scribner. A close second was 'Carolina De Lucerne', entered by Mrs. Louise Mounger. 'Catalina', exhibited by Mrs. Elizabeth Herndon, was first in class.

There were two hundred and seven horticultural specimens entered by members. Many of these earned ribbons and awards.

Our deepest thanks and gratitude go to the A.B.S. members for the lovely flowers and cards in memory of our beloved husband, father, and grandfather, Roy Tessier.

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REPORT OF A. B. S. BOARD MEETING

April 25, 1966. The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of The American Begonia Society was called to order by Pres. Muriel Perz, at 7:30 p.m., in the South Gate Aud., South Gate, Calif.

Vice President W. Olsen led in the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag.

Pres.-elect E. Wright read the Aims & Purposes of the ABS.

Secretary, E. Keaster called the roll with 26 officers, Chm. and representatives reporting. Minutes of last meeting were approved as read.

Correspondence read included a letter regarding the recent Metropolitan Miami Flower Show. The Miami Begonia Society having entered a very successful sales booth in this show sent a check for \$25.00 to help defray the cost of printing a new Buxton's Check List. Also an invitation from the Fern Society for the Begonia Societies to enter into their May Show in Pomona Fair grounds.

E. Wright and Alyn Schlessinger gave a report on the recent show committee meeting at the Arboretum.

Membership Sec., Daisy Austin, gave her report for two months with 106 new members and 241 renewals. She also read a letter from the post office giving the new regulations for mailing.

Adv. Mrs. Anne Rose, reported receipts of \$55.00 and \$50.00 accounts receivable.

Research Dir. Robert Shatzer, reported by letter on the contacts made by he and his committee. These included S. Africa, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

Public Relations Dir. V. Naumann, reported several contacts relative to new branches to be formed. Also commenting on the recent article by H. Warrick on "Tender Loving Care".

Ruth Pease gave the report of the Judges Course Dir., also stating that the lessons for the Judges Course have been copyrighted in the name of The ABS. W. Olsen has a copy of this.

Librarian, A. Patterson gave report of the progress of the library, and that she has obtained two new books which are now available to members. If any member wishes a list of the books in the library, just request same and include a self addressed, stamped envelope to the librarian.

Historian, R. Pease, reported on the roster prepared by Mr. and Mrs. H. Warrick, and also gave a few excerpts from the news bulletin by Lily Fine of New York, thanking

the members here for their hospitality during her recent California visit.

P. Keaster suggested a revolving fund be set up for the ABS photographer. Motion by Celena Nichols, seconded by P. Keaster, for fund of \$25.00 be set up for the present time. Motion carried. Members are asked to notify the photographer when they have plants ready for photographing.

Business Mgr. Mr. Cocke, suggested more than one signature be required at the bank for entry to the lock box, also that many more of the important documents of the Society be placed within the box for safe-keeping. Mr. Neff suggested at least two copies of each important document be made. One copy to be in possession of the business manager, and the other with some other responsible person.

Mrs. Korts reported the information on the A. D. Robinson and E. K. Grey Awards should be in the Secretaries file. This cannot be located. She also gave a report on the Begonia Society property now in her possession. A copy of this report is on file accompanying these minutes. These possessions were given into the custody of the new Business Mgr. Mr. Cocke. A release of this property was signed by Pres. M. Perz, Pres-elect E. Wright, and Sec. E. Keaster. Edna Korts is to keep a duplicate file of all registered Begonias. At this time Mrs. Korts was asked if she has in her possession, or aware of a purported printing contract between the ABS and Mr. Bert Joseph? Mrs. Korts stated she was not aware of such a purported contract.

Discussion held on taped rolls of membership list purported to be in Sec. file. Such a list cannot be found.

Mr. Neff reported from the committee to assist in preparation of material for the Ed. He asked for two more members to be added to his committee.

President commented on suggested trip to Mde. Ganna Walskas Lotus Land. Motion by Vera Naumann to accept the invitation to visit this flowerland at Mde. Ganna Walksa's convenience. Motion carried. Olive Westcott was appointed to work with Mr. Gridlian in the planning of this trip.

The Eastern Branches are holding a regional Convention in July and it was suggested The ABS give some assistance by donating some trophies. Motion by Mr. Barnett, seconded by Mr. Neff that the ABS give one large perpetual trophy and four lesser ones, the total cost not to exceed \$50.00. Motion carried. Motion by Mr. Barnett, seconded by P. Benell, for the perpetual trophy be for "Best in Show" and be

awarded to a member of the ABS only. Carried.

Mr. Joyce had to give a very disappointing report on the Union Oil Co. credit card response.

Branches reporting were: Footthill, Glendale, Inglewood, Long Beach Parent, N. Long Beach, Orange Co., Riverside, San Gabriel Valley, Westchester, and Whittier.

It was announced that Mr. and Mrs. John Martin had been injured in a car accident. Mrs. Martin is in a brace and Mr. Martin is suffering from severe complications.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

EVELYN KEASTER,
Secretary

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CALENDAR

JUNE 2 - WESTCHESTER BRANCH: Pot-luck dinner at 6:30 p.m. (adults 75¢, children 50¢). Dorothy S. Behrends, author, lecturer, and columnist, will be guest speaker.

JUNE 8 - INGLEWOOD BRANCH: Pot-luck dinner at 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be Joe Littlefield, writer and lecturer, on the subject, "Begonias and Shade Plants". Malcolm Rich, Inglewood Branch member will share his knowledge on Rex begonias.

JUNE 9 - ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH: George Ogata will speak on "Bonzai". The plant table will be provided by Mrs. Margaret Hanna.

JUNE 10 - SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH: Guest speaker will be Cactus Pete, who will show slides and speak on the topic, "Growing Epiphyllums and Cactus".

JUNE 11-12 - Hawthorne Garden Club Flower Show.

JUNE 16 - FOOTHILL BRANCH: Wilbur and Bee Olson will speak on "Ferns".

JUNE 24-25-26-ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH: Begonia display in the California National Fuchsia Society "Fuchsia Fairyland" show, Orange County Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa, California.

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