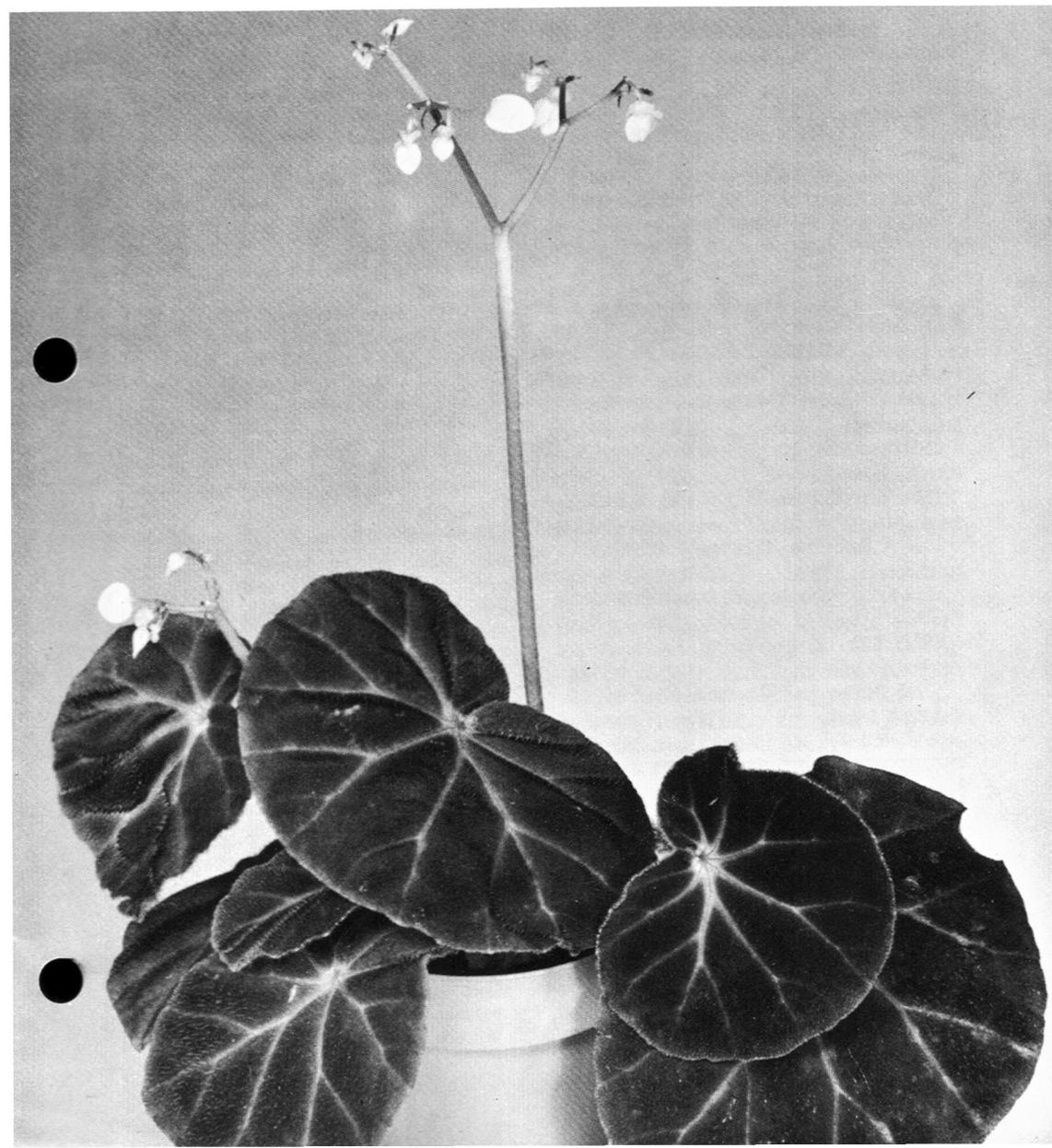


The BEGONIAN

MAY, 1967

VOL. 34 • NO. 5



General offices,

dues, address changes, or magazines:

Pearl Benell, Membership Secretary
10331 S. Colima Road
Whittier, Calif. 90604

Subscription \$2.50 per year. Foreign, including
Canada, \$3.00. U.S. air mail rate \$4.50.

Entered as Second-class Matter at the Post
Office at Whittier, California, under the act of
March 3, 1879.

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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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★ ★ ★

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

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

About 300 letters are flying merrily around the United States and a number of other countries, carrying cultural notes, descriptions, questions, seed, photos, drawings—in forty-three A.B.S. round robins. Are you a part of these?

Seed Sowing: In one seed specialty flight, a paper from Park's Seed Company stressed the importance of uniform moisture in the seed medium. Alternating wetness and dryness expand and contract the germ, weakening it. Another cause for failure may be impatience. Sometimes a fresh lot of seed will not germinate, only to do well a few months later. One fall, several flats of begonia seed failed to germinate in one full month, were placed under a bench and forgotten. In February, four months after sowing, a perfect stand of seedlings was discovered. Too low temperature at first? Or did the seed just wait for spring?

Seed of *B. cathayana* kept on germinating at different times for Arline Peck of Pascoag, Rhode Island, new seedlings appearing even with the larger seedlings after transplanting. She believes seed does have cycles of viability, as others have wondered.

To sow seed, Mike Michelson of Miami sterilizes two three-inch pots, turns one down inside a one-pound coffee can, fills the other with vermiculite, and sets it on top of the first. He fills the can with water and, when the vermiculite is moist, sows seed in it and puts a wide-mouthed one-gallon glass jar over the can to form a miniature glasshouse. Moisture will be held in the pot even after a month's vacation.

Helen Matsubu of Fruitland, Idaho, and others, have begun to favor gentle bottom heat (on top a water heater or refrigerator or on a controlled

heat cable) rather than lights for germination. The heat is even, and algae is less than under lights. Once up, seedlings are given light.

More on Rexes: Virginia Withee of Coventry, Rhode Island, says 'Green Gold' resists mildew well, but 'Mt. Haze' is a rascal for picking it up. 'Robin' or 'Thrush' is likely to pick up mildew easily, too. 'Helen Teupel' seems to ignore it, as do 'Sunburst', 'Can Can', 'King Edward', 'Merry Christmas', 'Queen Mother', and 'Black Monarch'.

To combat mildew, Daisy Austin of Anaheim, California, suggests using a one-gallon tea kettle or electric vaporizer, filled with water and some sulphur (amount depending on size of room and heaviness of mildew). Close all ventilation, go visit someone, and let the teakettle sing for several hours.

B. rex 'Ranee', one of Virginia's favorites, likes more sun than some rexes (if it is not too hot), and sun brings out lovely tones of pink and green. With large leaves — and forty to sixty of them — it demands plenty of water. No rex should dry out, as drying damages fine feeder roots, although it should not be overwatered either. 'Ranee' is one of the easiest to grow, though Virginia does not think rexes are difficult. They appreciate fresh air, some humidity, and coolish air, not hot. They like to be kept moist, to have good root room, good drainage, a soil rich in nutrients. By drainage, she means a soil that drains readily; not too fast, but easily. With rain-water, a feeding of manure-water every few weeks, and freedom to grow without crowding, rexes will cascade their glorious leaves beautifully.

Bob Shatzer of Albright, West Virginia, put dormant rex rhizomes in a plastic box of vermiculite close to fluorescent tubes. Results looked promising for bringing them out of dormancy. Len Harris of Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, finds that even rex seed-

(Continued on Page 98)

COVER PICTURE

Begonia velloziana

—Photo by MERRY GARDENS.

BEGONIA FORMOSISSIMA — VENEZUELAN GEM

By JULIAN A. STEYERMARK

Instituto Botanico, M.A.C., Caracas, Venezuela

Beauty is prevalent throughout the begonias. Yet, every so often one encounters among the Begonia clan one which seems to surpass all others for one reason or another. Such, I believe, is the case with *Begonia formosissima*.

It was first brought to the attention of the scientific world in 1942 when the late Noel Y. Sandwith, one of the world's leading botanists, described this begonia from the Andes of Mérida in Venezuela (Kew Bull. 1941: 223-224. 1942). The original plants, upon which the description was based, were collected by J. Hanbury-Tracy on October 25, 1938, from the Páramo de las Lajas, near Mucutuy, at an elevation of 2550 meters.

Although I had previously collected over a period of years many beautiful species of begonias from Venezuela, I had never had the good fortune of encountering *Begonia formosissima*. But the lucky event finally happened in August and September of 1966, while I was on an extensive collecting trip throughout the Venezuelan Andes. My companion, Marvin Rabe, and I were in the Venezuelan state of Táchira, not too far from the Colombian border. Our car had been twisting around hair-pin bends of the Páramo de la Negra between 3000 and 3300 meters, and now we were descending to a slightly lower zone of dwarf cloud forest below the páramo on the road to Pregonero.

Here, between 2500 and 2900 meters, the road traverses countless mountain streams pouring down through the dense dwarf forest of small trees, whose branches are everywhere, laden with thick epiphytic growth of mosses and hepatics, bromeliads, orchids, ferns, and peperomias. Patches of the giant rounded-leaved *Gunnera brephogea* clamored

for attention as the road cut across the stream courses. Salvias and fuchsias, purple-flowered monninas, blackberries, showy aroids, handsome climbing bomareas, clumps of the terrestrial bromeliad, *greigia*, together with various showy orchids (*Oncidium falcipetalum* and *O. zebrinum*) and tree ferns, all met the eye, and kept us wondering what would be next.

In this climate of constant cool temperatures, with the air saturated by moisture-laden clouds, one who journeys here is required to wear jackets and sweaters for comfort. Amidst such surrounding, the vegetation is crowded together to produce a varied, almost inexhaustible array of flora which challenges one's attention at all times.

It was while we were engaged in this breath-taking wonderment of the varied flora, when rounding a sharp bend of the forest-clad road, that our eyes suddenly met some brilliant splashes of scarlet. At a distance, we had no idea what the plants were which were responsible for this vivid display. Imagine our astonishment when we discovered them to be flowers belonging to a begonia; not an ordinary-flowered begonia, mind you, but one of giant size. The conspicuous bell-shaped flowers dangled on slender stalks from the ends and upper sides of the twiggy stems. The showier staminate flowers had four intensely scarlet sepals which varied in length from 4.5-6 cm. and in width from 1.2-3 cm., the two inner sepals being longer than the two outer sepals. In their arrangement, they somewhat resembled a tulip in shape, but turned upside down in position. In the center of the staminate flower a mass of golden stamens was prominent.



Begonia formosissima in natural surroundings

After the sudden jolt of coming face to face with these breath-taking flowers, we were now able to focus our attention on the rest of the plant. Instead of a compact mass of basal leaves, as is the case in some of the tuberous and Rex begonias, our *Begonia formosissima* was seen to be a widely branched type of plant with the stems elongated a meter or so, slender and twiggy branched, and rooting along the moist, steep, forested slopes along the road. Especially the middle and upper parts of the stems were leafy, with rather small, ovate or roundish, pointed, doubly toothed, deep green and smoothish leaves, varying from 3.5-5 cm. long by 1.5-3 cm. broad. Although the leaves superficially appeared to be glabrous, upon closer examination the upper surface was found to be sparsely hairy with fine hairs along the main nerves. The 1-3-flowered peduncles, which bear the flowers, are much longer than the leaves and vary from 5-12 cm. in length. The pendent pedicels of the flowers are very slender, and are 3.5-5 cm. long in the terminal flowers, but shorter in the lateral ones.

This begonia was seen in various portions of this general area, but in all cases the habitat invariably was that of moist soil along small streams



Bell-shaped flowers

in semi-shade, in dwarf forest between 2500 and 2900 meters altitude above sea-level. Other places where it has been found thus far in Venezuela in the state of Mérida, likewise indicate a cool moist type of habitat of the type of dwarf cloud forest, which occurs just below the zone of treeless páramo vegetation. In the páramos themselves, where vegetation is exposed all day to sun and wind, and where shrubs or dwarf trees are represented by scattered individuals or patches only, this begonia is not present.

(Continued on Page 88)

NORTHEAST BEGONIAS IN MAY

By ELDA HARING

The month of May is a busy one in the northeast for those of us who have outdoor gardens. Our growing season is so short that we must make haste to plant our gardens before they are taken over by weeds which seem to spring up overnight. However, all of us who have collections of begonias somewhere find time to see that they are not neglected.

Many of the plants in my own collection are benefited by spending the summer out-of-doors. My terrace is shaded by an old apple tree which is surrounded by a raised wall. On this wall I place plants of 'Skeezar', 'Pinafore', *metallica*, 'Crestabruchi', *cubensis*, 'Pink Rubra', 'Thurstoni', 'Marjorie Daw', 'Medora', 'Pinafore', 'Preussen', 'Beatrice Haddrell', *nitida*, 'Odorata Alba', 'Woolly Bear', 'Maphil', Angel wings of all varieties, calla lily types, and others. Although the terrace is quite windswept, these all grow beautifully in this spot.

The rexes are planted in the shade of a tree at the north foundation of the house. The *pustulata* group, of which I have several, are kept indoors as I feel their beauty might be damaged by adverse weather conditions out-of-doors. I have also a number of miniatures such as 'China Doll', 'China Boy', 'Bartonea', 'Illsley', and *hydrocotylifolia*, which I keep indoors not only because I want to keep a close eye on them, but because I like to keep them where they can be enjoyed on days when it is too hot to work in the outdoor garden.

Winter bloomers, such as 'Templini', 'Aureo-maculata', *epipsila*, 'Silver Star', *sunderbruchi*, and *heracleifolia* are placed in the shade of old trees near the terrace. All of those placed in the outdoor areas are situated where it is convenient to reach the pots with the hose to keep them properly watered and cared for. Mature plants are fed twice a month through-

out the summer with a water-soluble fertilizer.

Before moving my begonias out-of-doors, I knock them out of their pots to determine if they are ready for re-potting. If such is the case, they are shifted to the next size pot, or in some cases to pots two sizes larger, and watered thoroughly.

BEAUTIFUL CURE FOR APHIDS

By AVERY MONESSON

I have found an effective — and fascinating — aphicide.

An outbreak of aphids in the plant room failed to respond to repeated dousing with tobacco juice and soap suds, and I did not want to use such toxic materials as a systemic or malathion close to the living quarters. I sent to Auburn, California, for one-half pint (the smallest size offered) of *Hippodamia convergens*, ladybug beetles, a bargain for \$1.50.

I did not know what I was getting into, but I will try anything once.

A small, screened box, crawling with thousands of active beetles, arrived a week later. Open the box I did, and out came what seemed like an invasion — but within twenty-four hours not an aphid could be found.

Lacking food (ladybugs eat only aphids, never plants), they congregated at the window, where the temperature was about 50 degrees, to hibernate until spring, when they will be put outside. They were well behaved and stayed in the plant room.

A more beautiful (they are orange and black), efficient (they investigated every inch of plant), and interesting aphicide cannot be found. Besides, they are nonchemical, inexpensive, and perpetuate themselves. This may be an extreme method, but I dare an aphid to show!

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CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND FLIGHT

No. 1 — *B. itaguassuense* —

New from Brazil. Rhizomatous type with large, velvety, round leaves, dark green above, paler green beneath, with a pink sheen. Flowers white or pinkish-white. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 2 — *B. valdensium* —

Brazil. Beautiful foliage shaped like the grape but variable as to leaf color, sometimes with beautiful silvery veins, red petioles. Flowers showy, white. A novelty. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 3 — *B. masoniana* syn *B. 'Iron Cross'* —

Said to be one of the most beautiful begonias in cultivation and certainly one of the most popular. Leaves are large and puckered, Nile-green, marked with a contrasting bold pattern of brown-red, resembling the German iron cross. Stems are white-hairy and reddish. Flowers are waxy, greenish-white, with maroon bristles on the back. Seeds should germinate in from four to six weeks under proper conditions, and we suggest that ample time be given for plants to appear before you become discouraged and give up. Seed of this plant is difficult to obtain and we do not like to think of its being wasted, so patience in germinating them is essential. \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 4 — *B. hugelli* —

Brazil sp. Broad, one-sided olive-green leaves; red underneath; white beard on white flowers. Good begonia. \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 5 — *B. 'Leslie Lynn'* —

(*B. 'Lexington'* X *B. dayi*). Strong sturdy hybrid with dainty, star-shaped leaves. Large sprays of pink flowers. Please note: Seed came with others from a collector in Brazil who has mostly species type begonias. We do not know if the seed offered here will produce *B. 'Leslie Lynn'* or if it is a native that resembles it. 35 cents per pkt.

No. 6 — *B. Brazil species unidentified* —

Recently received from Brazil with information that it is beautiful and choice. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 7 — *B. Verde Grande* X *B. crispa* —

A hybrid. 35 cents per pkt.

No. 8 — *B. 'Orrell'* —

Lucerna seedling. Sturdy plant with ruffled, silver-spotted fresh green leaves, short clusters of cherry-red flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 9 — *B. India mixed* —

Four varieties. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 10 — *B. 'Sleeping Beauty'* —

Fi semperflorens, six inches high, bright carmine, extremely free-flowering. Sun and rain proof. 35 cents per pkt.

No. 11 — *B. 'Lucifer'* —

Semperflorens with deep bronzy, almost black foliage, nine inches high. Brilliant scarlet flowers. 35 cents per pkt.

No. 12 — *B. 'King of the Reds'* —

Dwarf, 5-8 inches high. Glowing red flowers, a valuable variety of vigorous but compact growth. Excellent for pots or bedding. 35 cents per pkt.

Three *semperflorens* above may be purchased for \$1.00 or 35 cents per single packet.

GREENHOUSE PLANTS —

Streptocarpus Wiesmoor hybrids —

Cape primrose. New hybrids represent something exceptional. The beautiful blooms, rich in their forms and colors resemble orchids. Very showy in pots and excellent for cutting. 50 cents per pkt.

Coleus —

Dondo strain. Glowing red shades and copper shades. Excellent for combinations, pots, and bedding, in complete or partial shade. Received many medals in German flower shows. Finest strain of *coleus* obtainable from seed. 35 cents per pkt.

FERN SPORES —

Ctenitis effusa var '*Grandiflora*' —

Nice airy fern suitable for baskets

or elevated beds. Not too large. 35 cents per pkt.

Pteris Cretica cultivar 'Rivertoniana' —

Very showy, easy to grow, medium sized, 12-14 inches high. It is evergreen, clustered, and a terrestrial fern, stands much light, but does best in partial shade. It can be grown indoors or grows well in the garden. 35 cents per pkt.

Blechnum brasiliense —

Rosette growing on a scaly trunk, leathery green fronds deeply pinnatifid, widest in the upper third, the midrib broad, with pinnae overlapping and wavy and coppery when young. 35 cents per pkt. The above three may be purchased for \$1.00.

BROMELIAD SEED —

Guzmania minor —

Compact rosette of pale green leaves with some pencil lines. Erect flower spike, reddish star-shaped bracts with white flowers. 50 cents per pkt.

Tillandsia bulbosa —

Bulbous base with narrow, leathery leaves. The inflorescence is pretty, magenta and white. An oddity best grown out of a pot on a piece of fern or driftwood. 50 cents per pkt.

Tillandsia streptophylla —

Medium sized with a bulbous base and grayish-green curving foliage. The inflorescence is branched, almost the same color as the leaves, with pink bracts. One of the most handsome of this group. 50 cents per pkt.

The Bromeliads are among the most adaptable of all house plants because they hold water between their leaves and don't suffer from dry indoors conditions. Will grow in light or shade, highly decorative even when not in flower. Seeds should be sown on a light, porous medium such as osmund fiber, should be kept moist and at an even temperature, from 65 to 75 degrees. Never allow seed to dry out during germination.

OTHER GENERA —

Amaryllis hybrids —

All the popular colors, large, gorgeous blooms. 25 cents per pkt.

Amaryllis hybrid —

Pure white. Five seeds for 25 cents.

The friend who supplied the above states that he germinates the seed by floating them in a bowl of water, and transfers them to a growing medium after they have sprouted.

MRS. FLORENCE GEE
Seed Fund Administrator
234 Birch Street
Roseville, California 95678

VENEZUELAN GEM . . .

(Continued from Page 85)

The name *formosissima* is indeed very descriptive of this begonia, as it indicates "very beautiful" or "most beautiful". It seems strange that such a beauty has remained unknown to the world until a relatively recent date, but then there are so many sectors of mountainous areas in Venezuela awaiting botanical exploration that other surprises among the begonia clan are likely to turn up in years to come. Actually, there are a number of endemic species of Begonia in Venezuela, including *B. montana* (DC.) Warb., a close relative of *B. formosissima*, which is endemic to the Venezuelan Andes.

Although living plants and cuttings of *Begonia formosissima* were brought back to Caracas for cultivation, the plants, unfortunately, did not survive the trip. Seeds of this species were likewise collected, but failed to germinate. It is hoped that this begonia will eventually be successfully introduced into cultivation, as undoubtedly it is one of the real prizes for begonia enthusiasts. Few other begonias can rival it in the intensity of its red color and in the large size of its flowers.

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INDEX OF THE BEGONIAN FOR 1966

Compiled by MAY TAFT DREW

This index is divided into four sections: American Begonia Society affairs; a general index of subjects; a list of contributors; and a special begonia index. An asterisk (*) indicates an illustration.

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

- Acknowledgements — 14
- Awards — 89, 212-3
- Board of Directors Report — 17, 56-7, 76-7, 98-9, 118-9, 141, 163, 183, 221-3, 243
- Branch Directory — 18-9, 78-9, 142-3, 202-3
- Branches:
 - Bessie Raymond Buxton — 58, 157
 - Dallas County — 59, 117
 - Elsa Fort — 89*
 - Greater Baton Rouge — 59
 - New London County Nutmeg — 219
 - North Long Beach — 157
 - Orange County — 136
 - Rhode Island — 137
 - San Francisco — 137
 - San Gabriel — 136
 - Santa Barbara — 179
 - Seattle — 137, 176
 - Texas — 117
 - Theodosia Burr Shepherd — 137
 - Westchester — 137
 - Western Pennsylvania — 38-9
- Calendar — 19, 39, 59, 79, 99, 119, 140, 162, 182, 203, 223, 243
- Candidates for office — 138
- Checklist — 3, 105
- Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight — 10-2, 30-2, 50-1, 73-5, 91-2, 113-4, 135-6, 156-8, 173-5, 198-9, 214-6, 234-5
- Constitution & By-laws — 57, 69
- Convention & Show — 103, 131, 143, 154-5, 199, 207*, 217
- Eastern Regional Convention — 23, 104, 139, 143, 218
- History — 103
- Ice Cream Social — 179
- Identification Garden — 83, 152
- In Memoriam:
 - Ethel (Gray) Calloway — 183
 - A. B. Clarke — 88
 - Fanny B. McIlvaine — 88
 - Violet Moore — 223
 - Mel Morton — 17
 - Ruth Richardson — 58
 - Roy Tessier — 161
- Judging Course — 23, 98, 213
- Library — 116
- Nomenclature — 3
- President — 63, 83, 103, 187, 207
- Questions & Answers — 15, 34, 53, 63, 94, 115, 180
- Registration — 236
- Research Report — 16, 35-6, 66-7, 83, 97, 108, 117, 138, 158
- Round Robins — 14, 35-6, 52-3, 68, 77, 93-4, 106-7, 128-9, 159-60, 172, 181-2, 200-1, 210-1, 232
- The Begonian — 23, 105, 143

GENERAL INDEX

- Achimenes — 201
- Adiantum capillus-veneris — 31
- Adiantum cuneatum, cv Gracillum — 235
- Adiantum Cluster Glory — 136
- Adiantum hispidulum — 3, 215
- Adiantum multiceptum — 136
- Adiantum nebulosum — 136
- Adiantum raddianum — 31
- Adiantum cv Fritz Luthi — 215
- Adiantum cv Pacific Maid — 235
- Adiantum tenerum roseum — 135
- Adiantum trapeziforme — 136
- Adiantum variegata tassellata — 136
- Aechmea luddemanniana — 136
- Aglaomorpha meyeniana — 235
- Amaryllis — 11
- Aneimia phyllitis — 157
- Aristolochia elegans — 114
- Asplenium belangeri — 235
- Asplenium flaccidum — 31
- Asplenium lucidum — 51
- Athyrium japonicum — 31, 51
- Bears Paw fern — 215
- Begonias —
 - Basket — 48, 57
 - Brooklyn Botanic Garden — 4-5
 - Chlorine damage — 108
 - Cold hardness — 35
 - Cultures — 43, 55, 75, 86, 129, 151*, 153, 179, 180, 199, 208, 219, 231, 239
 - Diseases & pests — 14, 34, 128, 210
 - Fertilizers — 15, 52, 107, 124, 172, 201, 211
 - Fragrant — 14, 172
 - Glasgow — 150, 161
 - Humidity — 35
 - Hybridizing — 24-6, 46-7, 52, 53, 68, 106, 147, 158, 159, 201
 - Inheritance study — 46-7
 - Japan — 228*-9, 239
 - Judging — 98, 213
 - Mexico — 87, 99
 - Miniature — 93
 - Northeast — 13, 52, 179, 200, 231, 239
 - Pollenating agents — 211, 232
 - Potting mixtures — 15, 32, 67, 108, 124, 153, 159, 181, 211
 - Propagation-cuttings — 35*, 36-7, 52, 53, 90, 107, 108, 160, 190-5, 200, 232
 - Propagation — seeds — 35, 52, 66-7, 68, 93, 106, 108, 115, 159, 170-2, 232, 233
 - Seed germination — 67, 170-2, 201
 - Seed vitality — 93, 160
 - Soil-less culture — 106
 - Sunlight tolerance — 200
 - Transportation — 54, 77, 88, 180, 231, 239
 - Winter flowering — 64*-6*
- Begonias anyone? — 127, 129
- Belamcanda — 136
- Bilbergia zabrini — 74
- Blechnum Moorei — 235
- Bromelia belansae — 74
- Bromeliads — culture — 157
- Canistrum lindenii, var. roseum — 136
- Carvell Patients' Garden Club — 197
- Catasetum fimbriatum — 92
- Clintitis glabella — 31
- Cyathea dealbata — 51
- Cyathea smithi — 51
- Cyrtopodium andersoni — 175
- Davallia pentaphylla — 215
- Davallia solida — 214
- Dicksonia fibrosa — 31, 51
- Dicksonia squarrosa — 31, 51
- Dryopteris opposita — 235, 237
- Exotic gems of the garden — 9, 12
- Ferns — 10-11
- Ferns — Brazil — 10-11
 - Propagation — spores — 11, 31-2, 209, 217
- Flower Shows — 152, 176, 212

Ganna Walska Estate — 229, 239
 Gloriosa — 11
 Gloxinera x sinningia eumorpha — 136
 Growing begonias in three-inch pots — 86
 Guzmania monostachia — 215
 Habranthus — 75
 Hart's Tongue Fern — 235
 Hippeastrum vittatum — 114
 Histiopteris incisa — 31
 Hybridizing — 24-6, 201
 Hypocyrta radicans — 50
 Impatiens balsam (balsamina?) — 157
 Indoor greenhouse — 196
 Indoor Light Gardening Society — 55
 Inglewood African Violet Show — 58
 Kitchingis uniflora — 136
 Leptopteris hymenophylloides — 51
 Leptopteris superba — 51
 Lucopodium microphyllum — 92
 Mayhem in the greenhouse — 43
 Mealiebugs — 14, 49*, 66, 128
 Mexican Tasseled Fern — 215
 Mildew — 53, 210-1, 232
 Mist Maidenhair — 235
 Mites — 94-5
 Nidularium innocenti, var. wittmackiana — 216
 Our members write — 51
 Pellaea adiatoides — 235
 Peperomia maculosa — 216
 Phyllitis scolopendrum, cv. crispum multifidum — 235
 Phyllitis scolopendrum cristatum — 31
 Phymatodes diversifolium — 31
 Phytoillumination — 34, 53, 68, 94, 106-7, 129, 196, 232
 Pitcairnia flammea, var. pallida — 136
 Pityrogramma hybrida — 215
 Plant exploitation — Korea — 211
 Plant hunters' paradise — 87, 99
 Platycerium alcorniae of 'Wilhelmina Regina' — 92
 Platycerium coronarium (biforme) — 215
 Platycerium grande — 135
 Platycerium willinkii — 92
 Podranea brycei — 199
 Polypodium aureum — 215
 Polypodium aureum cv. 'Mayi' — 215
 Polypodium squamulosum — 215
 Polypodium subauriculatum — 235
 Polystichum richardsi — 31
 Polystichum vestitum — 53
 Peris cretica albo-lineata — 31
 Peris cretica cv. 'Alexandrea' — 215
 Peris cretica rivertoniana — 31, 199
 Peris cretica wilsoni — 31, 199
 Peris dentata — 215
 Peris macilentia — 51
 Peris wimsettii multiceps — 31
 Puya alpestris — 136
 Rechsteineria leuchttricha — 12
 Rechsteineria macropoda — 50
 Rhytidophylon tomentosum — 114
 Schlumbergera makoyana — 175
 Scottish Begonia Society — 5, 17
 Sinningia 'Doll Baby' — 199
 Sinningia pusilla — 51
 Sobralia leucoxantha — 30
 Spathodea campanulata — 114
 Stanhopea cuccephalus — 175
 Strawberry jars — 151
 Streptocarpus rexi — 92
 Streptocarpus Wisemoor tetrad — 51
 Thelypteris opposita — 235, 237
 Tillandsia daisyiflora — 136
 Tropical Gold Back Fern — 215
 Tube Houses — 230
 Vanda sanderiana — 114
 Vriesea x no. 840 — 136
 Wet Fern — 235, 237
 Zimbabwe creeper — 199
 Zygocactus — 157

CONTRIBUTORS

Aitchison, John — 5, 17
 Austin, Daisy — 38
 Barton, Dorothy Pierson — 126
 Blough, Wilma — 229, 239
 Bowker, Bernard C. — 167
 Budd, Ruby Mae — 196, 228-9
 Corwin, Mabel — 218
 Cullen, Jane — 233
 Curtis, E. W. — 150
 Fine, Lily C. — 86
 Graham, Alva — 3, 105, 147, 152-3, 236-7
 Hammond, Richard R. — 176
 Haring, Elda — 13, 152, 179, 200, 231, 239
 Heginbotham, Mrs. William C. — 90
 Jensen, C. Floyd — 9*, 12
 Kalmbacher, George — 4*, 5
 Karageannes, Carrie — 24*, 6, 190-5, 216
 Kusler, Belva Nelson — 125*, 130
 Leatherman, Sylvia — 209, 217, 237
 Lewis, Charles A. — 44*-5*, 58, 227, 239
 L'Hommedieu, Carlton — 123-4*, 130, 218-9
 Lothman, Torbjorn — 168-9*
 MacDougall, Thomas — 33
 McGregor, W. Grant — 46, 47, 151
 Martin, F. J. — 55
 Neal, Jane E. — 54
 Olson, Wilber W. — 230
 Perz, Muriel — 103
 Rich, Malcolm — 188-9, 195
 Schlesinger, Alyna — 212
 Shatzer, Robert L. — 6-8*, 13, 33-49, 64-6*, 84-5, 96, 148-9, 162
 Shepard, Iva Gard — 208
 Stephenson, Don — 170-2
 Thomas, Robert C. — 87, 99
 Wagner, Mrs. Don L. — 43, 48, 57, 127, 129, 197
 Walker, Barbara — 88

SPECIAL BEGONIA INDEX

Abendrot — 77
 acetosa — 50, 113, 128
 acida — 107, 132, 192
 aconitifolia Faureana — 74
 acutangula — 16, 97
 Alba perfecta — 148
 Alba perfecta grandiflora — 140
 Albert Martin — 84
 Albo-coccinea — 216
 albo-picta — 93
 albo-picta rosea — 128
 Alice-Mac — 129
 Alto Scharffi (Alto Scharff) — 132
 Altrichan Pink — 64
 American Beauty — 37, 53, 86, 132, 200, 201
 andersoni — 35
 Angel Series — 158
 Angie — 94, 114, 172
 Anna Christine — 52, 101, 232
 Annie Robinson — 132
 annulata — 97
 arborensis — 97
 arborescens — 16
 Argentea-guttata — 117, 150, 161
 aridicaulis — 53, 93, 150
 Aristo Mixture — 10
 Arthur Mallet — 125
 ascotiensis — 6
 Axel Lange — 108
 Baby Fingers — 93
 Baby Rainbow — 93
 Ballet — 129
 balsimiana — 97
 barbana — 16, 97
 barkeri — 12, 132
 Bavaria — 16
 Beefsteak — 38
 Bell of Ireland — 192
 Bella — 84
 Bella-Vista Series — 96
 Berry's Brown Curl — 132
 Bessie Buxton — 91-2
 Bijou de Jardin — 34, 63
 Black Magic — 192
 Black Richmondensis — 7*, 8
 Blonde Angel — 158
 Blushing Angel — 158
 Blushing Baby — 151
 Bo-Jo (Bow-Joe) — 200
 Bob-o-link — 39
 Bois de Vaux — 84
 boliviensis — 173

- Botanical Garden — 193
 Bow-Arriola — 129, 200
 Bow-Chancee — 180
 Bow-nigra — 52, 68, 74, 170, 191*,
 192, 200
 boweri — 57, 93, 113, 132, 192
 boweri major — 192
 boweri nigra-marga — 93, 171
 bradei — 171, 234
 Braemar — 132
 Brazil species — 10, 12, 30, 74,
 113, 135, 156, 170
 brevicaulis — 97
 Bronze — 132
 Bronze King — 132
 Brown Lake — 192
 Butterfly — 132

 C. P. Raffill — 108
 Calla — 47, 75, 107, 108, 115,
 126-7, 181, 198, 200
 Calla — x-rayed — 53
 Camellia Type — 132
 Can-can — 32, 53
 caragutatubensis — 10, 113, 171
 Cardoza Gardens — 132
 Carmen — 2, 9
 Carol Star — 114
 Carolineafolia — 92, 114, 132
 Catalina — 6, 7, 8, 132
 Catalina Bronze — 8
 Cathayana — 35, 73, 135
 cathcarti — 35
 Chantilly Lace — 191*, 192, 200
 Charm — 108, 115, 132, 181
 Cheimanthus — 64*-66*, 90, 97, 150
 China Doll — 200
 Chocolate Soldier — 232
 Christmas Begonias — 64*-66*
 Christmas Wreath Angel — 158
 Cinderella — 24, 47, 151
 cinnabarina — 174
 Cinnamon Candy — 7
 Cleopatra — 86, 214
 coccinea — 27, 150
 Colombia species — 174
 convolvulacea — 50, 113, 150
 Coral Rubra — 135
 Corallina de Lucerna (Lucerna) —
 214
 Corbeille de Feu — 8, 106, 150
 Cornwall-Nash — 97
 Crestabruchi — 132, 213
 crispa — 44, 201
 Crispa Type — 132
 Crispie — 238
 crispula — 198
 cristata — 44
 Cristata Type — 132
 Crowsfoot — 36
 cubensis — 8, 200
 Curly Haze — 132
 Curly King Edward — 5
 Cute — 132

 Dainty Spray — 57
 Dancing Girl — 86, 106, 117
 Dark Catalina — 8
 dayi — 13, 135, 190, 192, 232
 Decorus — 149*, 162
 deliciosa — 91, 156
 Dew Drop — 93, 128, 132
 Dianna — 199
 dichroa — 106, 135
 Diclata — 162
 Dierna — 199
 Digswelliana — 6-7*, 8, 57, 107,
 200
 disticha — 6
 Dorothy Grant — 132
 dregei — 14, 65, 73, 128, 132, 150,
 170, 201, 210
 Drooping Heart — 7
 Dutchman's Breeches — 162

 E. O. Orpet — 39
 Edith M. — 113
 egregia — 156
 Eldorado — 125
 Elephant's Ear — 216
 Ellen Dee — 39, 57, 213

 Elm Leaf Climbing Type — 214
 Elsie M. Frey — 39
 Emilie Clibran — 64
 eminii — 173*
 engleri — 73
 Enchantment — 193
 epipsila — 113, 200
 Erythrophylla — 132, 172, 193
 Erythrophylla helix — 213
 evansiana — 63, 66, 74, 115, 152,
 160, 170

 fagiola (fagifolia?) — 27
 Feasti — 193
 Fernando-costae — 11, 156, 171
 ficicola — 150
 Fireflush — 77, 229
 Firefly — 129
 Firesea — 84
 Fischer's Ricinifolia — 117
 Flamingo (cane) — 1*
 Flamingo (semp.) — 63, 219
 Fleecealba — 181
 Florence Carrell — 39
 Flosia Type — 174
 Freddie — 132, 193
 Freude — 66
 Frosty — 214
 Frosty Dwarf — 5*
 fuchioides — 6, 8, 161
 fusca — 11, 132, 171
 fuscomaculata — 129

 Geneva Red — 108
 Geneva White — 108
 Gigi Fleetham — 81*
 glabra — 57
 Gladaw — 39
 Glaucoppola — 39
 Glendale — 132
 Gloire de Lorraine — 25, 65, 66,
 150, 211
 Glorie de Sceaux (Gloire . . .) —
 156
 Glory of Chatelaine (Gloire . . .)
 — 30
 Glory of Cincinnati — 65
 gogoensis — 30, 35, 91, 198
 Gracia — 84, 96
 gracilis — 33*
 grahamiana — 216
 Green Gold — 182, 232
 Green Pastures — 132
 Green Star — 38
 griffithi — 97

 haageana — 150
 handellii — 14
 Happy New Year — 129
 Heidelberg — 66
 Heinrich — 66
 Helen Harms — 30, 93-4, 234
 Helen Lewis — 132
 Helen Teupel — 77, 200
 Helen W. King — 57
 hemsleyana — 185*
 heracleiocytele — 114
 heracleifolia — 114, 132, 200
 heracleifolia nigrans (nigricans?) —
 114, 198
 herbacea — 150
 Herman Lons — 66
 hidalgensis — 16
 Hiemalis — 64*-66*, 150
 hispida cuculifera — 173
 Hollyleaved — 8
 hydrocotylifolia — 114, 172, 234

 Illumination — 30
 illustrata — 198
 imperialis — 75, 106, 132, 198
 Improved Digswelliana — 7*
 incana — 113, 132, 232
 Indian Maid — 219
 Indian Pearl — 114
 Indian War Mask — 129
 Ingrami — 8
 Inka — 66
 involucreta — 175
 Iron Cross — 107, 113, 128, 138,
 174, 232

 Iron Cross x Silver Pustulata —
 159-60
 It — 86, 93, 232
 Ivy Ever — 39

 Jerrata — 232
 Jewelite — 151
 Joan Strong — 24, 129
 Joe Hayden — 95, 129, 193
 John Heal — 64
 Johnson's Pride — 129
 Jose Gaspar — 236

 Kallaking — 115, 132
 Kellermanni — 132
 Kenworthy — 12, 132, 171
 Kewensis — 149
 King Edward — 77
 Kumwha — 35, 191

 Lady Francis — 83
 Lady Francis Jean — 234
 Lady Mac — 61*, 65
 Lady Waterlow — 7*
 Laila — 96, 156
 Lawrence H. Fewkes — 86
 Leo Rowan — 91
 Leo Turner — 93
 leptotricha — 106, 172
 Leslie Lynn — 135
 Lexington — 135
 Liebmanni — 13
 Limminghei — 27*, 29*, 39, 57,
 66-7, 156
 limmingheiana — 27*.9*, 39, 66-7,
 148, 156, 172
 Linda — 84, 156
 listida — 36, 83, 97
 Little Pet — 93
 lubbersi — 12, 135, 159, 176
 Lucerna — 38, 97, 132, 232
 Lucifer — 10, 214
 Lucy Brooks — 97
 Luminosa Compacta — 84
 luxurians — 12, 106, 113, 132, 150,
 171

 Macbethi — 132
 maccougalli — 10, 113
 Mme Lionnet — 125*, 130
 Madonna — 128
 malabarica — 77, 171
 manicata — 92
 manicata aureo-maculata — 232
 manicata aureo-maculata crispa —
 35, 201
 manicata maculata crispa — 214
 Manors Glory — 219
 Maphil — 57, 193, 200
 Marginata Type — 132
 Marjorie Daw — 57
 Marjorie Gibbs — 65
 Marmorata Type — 132
 Mary Ann — 132
 masoniana — 52, 91, 107, 113, 128,
 132, 137, 150, 165*, 174, 181,
 190, 193, 229
 Matador — 151
 mazae — 113, 160
 mazae viridis Stitched Leaf — 194
 Medora — 93, 132, 153
 megeptera (megaptera) — 234
 Melior — 65
 Merry Christmas — 77, 200
 metallica — 38
 micranthera — 73
 micranthera fimbriata — 73
 micranthera foliosa — 73
 minor — 36
 molecaulis — 12, 156
 Mrs. Fred Scripps — 132
 Mt. Baldy — 132
 Multiflora Type — 30, 213

 Naomi Mallet — 125
 Neely (Neeley) Gaddis — 132
 New Guinea Species # 2 — 214
 nigra-marga — 12
 nigricans — 106
 nitida — 36, 106, 162
 Nomo — 172

- Norah Bedson — 194
 Nympe — 66
 Octavie Mallet — 125
 odorata — 6, 36, 162
 Olbia — 132
 Orange Rubra — 106, 107, 108,
 132, 135, 156, 160, 211, 229,
 232
 Orange Rubra Miniature — 135
 Orangeade (semp.) — 50, 135, 214
 Orania — 96
 Otto Alfred — 117, 132
- Pale Pink Poi — 236
 paranaensis — 198
 pariles — 171
 Paris Market — 84
 Paris Market gigantea — 65
 paulensis — 35, 73, 113, 190, 194
 Pauline — 39
 Peanut Brittle — 200
 pearcei — 173
 Pennywort — 234
 Perfectiflora — 145*
 Persian Brocade — 113, 174, 194
 Pet — 192
 Philippine Islands — 11, 86, 114
 Picotee Type — 132
 picta — 74, 113
 pilifera — 36, 172, 232
 Pinafore — 57
 pinetorium — 113
 Pink Parade — 50, 172
 Pink Shasta — 199
 President Carnot — 150
 Preussen — 16, 53
 Primadonna — 84
 Prince Charming x Pink Calla — 74
 princeps — 16, 97
 Purple Petticoat — 212, 213
 purpurea — 11, 232
 pustulata argentea — 159
- quadrialata — 150
- Rajah — 132
 Rambo — 160
 Ramo — 160
 Rane — 128, 182
 Red Admiral — 152
 Red Dash — 92, 193, 194
 Red Leaf Ricinifolia — 194
 Red Poi — 236
 Reichenheimi — 113
 Reiga — 16
 rex (species) — 117, 167
 Rex Bearded — 74
 Rex Cultorum — 3*, 5, 9*, 14, 36,
 37, 63, 75, 77, 106, 117, 128,
 180-1, 188-9, 194, 195, 200,
 232
 Rhine Pearl — 114, 214
 Richard Robinson — 93
 richii — 12, 97, 171
 Richmondensis — 7*, 8, 106, 132,
 229
 Richmondensis purpurea — 7*, 8,
 108
- Ricinifolia — 106, 114, 132
 Ricky Minter — 132, 160
 Robinson's Vedderi — 97
 Rosa Tausendschon — 84
 Rosalia — 86, 96, 156
 Rose Poi — 236
 Rosea Gigantea — 200
 Rosebud Type — 132
 Rossi — 135, 172
 Rote Perle — 96
 Rote Tausendschon — 84
 Rotes Wunder — 96
 rotundifolia — 132, 194
 Roxburghi — 132
 Rubaiyat — 108
 rubella — 117
 rubro-venia — 12, 171
 Ruhrthal — 16
 rupicola — 16
- Sachsen — 16, 53, 86
 San Miguel — 132
 Sandersi — 6
 Sandersoni — 6
 sanguinea — 50, 200
 Saundersiana — 6
 scandens — 27
 Scarletta — 84
 sceptrum — 12, 132, 172, 232
 scharffi — 38, 86, 132
 schmidiana — 26, 172, 200
 semperflorens — 6, 26, 43, 47, 53,
 57, 83, 84-5*, 96, 106, 108,
 151, 158
 semperflorens gracilis — 84
 semperflorens Peony flowered —
 172
 semperflorens x-rayed — 12, 53,
 114, 174
 serratipetala — 94, 212*, 123-4,
 127, 130
 Sheila — 96, 156
 Shippy's Garland — 39
 Shorty — 5
 Silberglanz — 66
 Silberglanzette — 66
 Silver pustulata — 159
 Silver Queen — 5
 Silver rubro-venia — 171
 Silver Skeezer — 93
 Silver Star — 132
 Silver Swastika — 226
 Silver Sweet — 93, 132
 Silver Van Ex — 132
 Sir Percy — 194
 Skeezer — 13, 200
 Sleeping Beauty — 30, 151
 Smaragd — 66
 socotrana — 64*-6, 73, 90, 150,
 156, 170, 201
 Sophie Cecile — 21*, 86
 sparsipila — 91
 Spaulding — 232
 speculata — 198
 squarrosa — 117
 staudti, var. dispersipilosa — 173*
 Stitched Leaf (Stitch Leaf) — 57,
 93, 114, 128, 194
- Strawberry Parfait — 50, 236
 Stuttgart — 214
 subpellata — 125, 156
 subvillosa — 12, 156
 sudjanæ — 91
 Sunbar — 132
 Sunderbruchi — 114, 190, 194
 Super Orangeade — 236
 Super Strawberry Parfait — 125,
 214
 Superba-Azella — 36
 Superba-Azella x Pink Shasta —
 199
 Suretta — 83, 97
 sutherlandi — 107, 210
 Sweet Home — 30, 234
 Sweet Theresa — 83
- Tamo — 113-4, 195
 Tasso — 30, 234
 Tausendschon — 86
 Tea Rose — 8, 201
 Tedro — 93, 128
 tenuifolia — 12
 Teupel's Hoffen — 66
 Texastar — 53, 95
 Thimbleberry — 168*-9
 Thrush — 129
 Thurstoni — 38
 thwaitesi — 172
 Timothei — 16
 Tingley Mallet — 125*, 130
 Tubera Hybrida — 5, 9*, 10, 41*,
 44*-5, 58, 68, 107, 128-9, 158,
 225*, 227, 239
- ulmifolia — 129
 undulata — 27, 148*-9, 162
- valdensium — 205*
 Van Ex — 132
 Vedderi — 16, 97
 vellozoana — 91, 198
 venosa — 14
 Verde Grande — 114, 95
 Vershcaffelti — 92
 versicolor — 60
 villipetiola — 91
 Virbob — 132, 200
 Viscountess Doneraile — 64
 Viva — 85
- Weepy — 129
 Weisse Tausendschon — 84
 Weltoniensis — 38, 86, 106, 150,
 172, 181
 Wettsteini — 8
 White Poi — 236
 White Robe — 93
 White Rubra — 199
 Woolly Bear — 166
- xanthina — 171, 234
- Youth and Old Age — 127
- Zee Bowman — 200

NATION'S CAPITAL SEES BEGONIA GARDEN

By CARRIE E. KAREGEANNES

Glowing at the center of a flowing crowd at the National Capital Flower and Garden Show this spring was a new feature for Washington, D.C. — a vivid begonia garden staged by the University of Maryland's Department of Horticulture.

Outlined by a brick retaining wall around a circle of grass, many varieties of semperflorens begonias sparkled, each plant a perfect mound of fresh pink, red, or white against shiny green or bronze foliage. The bright clear colors brought many exclamations before onlookers bent to examine names of other begonias they knew less well.

In the background grew a few canes. In front were groups of B. 'Richmondensis' and B. 'Tea Rose', both full of graceful blossoms, as well as specimen plants of B. *metallica*, B. 'Erythrophylla', B. 'Argentea-Guttata', silvery upright rex hybrids and other, low-growing, richly colored rexes. A full plant of B. *serratifolia* in bud and flower caught the eye.

Varieties of semperflorens included were 'Pink Camelia', 'Scarletta', 'Pink Tausendschoen', 'Rose Comet', 'White Comet', 'Firefly', 'Bazaar', and 'Robin Hood' — each vying with the other in perfection of flower and growth.

A lath shelter stood in an angle of the background fence, and a placard gave brief notes on the origin, varieties, propagation, and culture of begonias.

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BUXTON BRANCH SCORES IN SPRING FLOWER SHOW

By RUTH MERRY

At the 96th New England Spring Flower Show of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society March 16 to 23, the Bessie Raymond Buxton Branch of the American Begonia Society staged a display of begonias covering an area of more than five hundred square feet, arranged to show the infinite variety of leaf forms and manner of growth by class of this fascinating family.

Included in the group were the interesting *listrada*, 'Sophie Cecile', *luxurians*, 'Chantilly Lace', *richardsiana*, many colorful rexes, 'Templini', and 'Dorothy Barton' — up to nearly a hundred plants. All were first-prize plants and they were placed so that each plant had space to show itself individually.

Helping in the show were President Olive Scrymgeour, Bob Scrymgeour, Yarmilla Scholberg, Evelyn Cronin, Frank Eich, Michael Kartuz and his brother, John, and Percy Merry, without whom the chairman, Ruth Merry, could not have staged the show.

The exhibit received a score of 97, first prize, and a gold medal.

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4. **FOLIAGE PLANTS** — *Schefflera*. Good potted house plant. 'Umbrella Tree'.
Aglaonema commutatum. Durable green house plant, with white markings on leaves.
5. **PALMS** — *Chamaedorea elegans*. Slow-growing, nice house plant. 3 plants to pot.
6. **VINES** — *Hoya carnosa*. Wax plant. Lovely flowers with pink flush.
Hoya exotica. Same as above but more variegated.
7. **ORCHIDS** — *Epidendrum bractescens*. Small flowers in March and April. Mounted on tree fern slab. Very dainty and pretty.
8. **FERNS** — *Nephrolepis biserrata furcans*. Long arching fronds, forked toward the tips.
9. **LILIES** — *Crinum* sp. White striped with red-purple.
Crinum sp. Pink to rose colored flowers. Will grow as pot plants.
10. **OTHER HOUSE PLANTS** — *Maranta kerchoveona*. Sometimes called 'Prayer Plant' or 'Rabbit-track Plant'.
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KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH IN INTERNATIONAL SHOW

By LILY C. FINE

Once again the Knickerbocker Branch of the American Begonia Society was afforded the pleasurable privilege of exhibiting in the Amateur Area of the International Flower Show in New York, from March 4 through March 12. For the benefit of the uninitiated, we feel that a brief discussion of the purposes and organization of the Amateur Area would not be amiss at this point.

Recognizing the importance of the role played by the amateur plant-grower, the Horticultural Society of New York sponsors an Amateur Area annually for the express purposes of instructing the public and providing an opportunity for the exhibition and evaluation of superior plants grown by amateurs. Since the number of visitors usually exceeds 300,000, the effectiveness of the amateur display is tremendously important. Local plant societies are allotted space at the Coliseum in accordance with their requirements. Usually represented are such plant-groups as begonias, gloxinias and other gesneriads, African violets, bromeliads, geraniums, cacti and other succulents, etc.

Representatives of the various organizations are responsible for the administration of their exhibits, including preparation of class schedules, appointment of judges, acceptance of entries, staging, and providing for an information booth, all of course in cooperation with the Horticultural Society.

Since 1967 was the Golden Anniversary of this International Flower Show, particular pains were taken to insure the outstanding quality of the plants to be exhibited.

The Knickerbocker Branch exhibit consisted of 73 entries in 20 classes, by both members and non-members. In staging the exhibit, emphasis was placed on the individual plants rather than a stereotyped garden arrange-

ment. They were harmoniously and tastefully arranged in graduated groups at floor level, against a backdrop featuring a display of unusually fine specimens of hanging-basket begonias. Thus each of the beautiful plants could be appreciated for its own character rather than being submerged and "lost in the crowd".

Of the 73 entries, 40 were judged worthy of first, second, and third prize ribbons, with 16 "blues" in the group. The awarding of the ribbons was based on merit scores, as follows: blue, 95-100; red, 90-94; yellow, 85-89. Additionally, in each plant-group there was a special 50th Anniversary Gold Trophy for the best exhibit, as well as an Outstanding Exhibitor Award for the greatest number of blue ribbons. The Gold Trophy was won with a superbly beautiful hanging basket of Shippy's Garland, while the Outstanding Exhibitor Award went to another of our exceptionally fine growers for having garnered seven blue ribbons.

We in the Knickerbocker Branch are very grateful to the Horticultural Society for having had the opportunity to participate in so important and impressive an event. However, we are equally proud of our contribution to its beauty and success. To quote from the Exhibitors' Guide, prepared by the Horticultural Society, "The Society feels that the amateur is a most important member of the horticultural community and that his contributions should be appropriately recognized and encouraged."

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ALFRED D. ROBINSON & EVA KENWORTHY GRAY AWARDS

By MARGARET M. LEE

The time is here again to consider the Alfred D. Robinson Medal and the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award. This year it is a little earlier than in the past because of changes in the rules approved by the Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society.

One of these changes requires that all nominations for these awards must be in the hands of the Awards Committee *no later than July 1* of the year such nominations are made.

The Alfred D. Robinson Medal is given for a begonia cultivar that has been registered with the American Begonia Society and has been available to the public for at least five years prior to the nomination. The originator of this begonia nominee must be a member of the American Begonia Society.

The Eva Kenworthy Gray Award is presented to a person who has rendered outstanding service in promoting interest in the culture of begonias and the furtherance of the American Begonia Society, or has promoted better understanding between members of the American Begonia Society in their quest for knowledge of these plants, or has contributed original material to aid members in their study of begonias. To qualify for the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award, the nominee may or may not be a member of the American Begonia Society.

Another change in the rules requires that each nomination for the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award must be accompanied by a list of specific reasons why the nominee is thought worthy of being honored with this award, and *no nomination will be considered without this list of reasons.*

Give this matter your most thoughtful consideration, and make your nominations to one of the members of the Awards Committee, who are:

Mrs. Paul P. (Margaret M.) Lee, chairman, 1852 31st Street, San Diego, Calif. 92102.

Mrs. Bert Routh, Louisberg, Missouri 65685.

Mr. Carleton L'Hommedieu, 370 Locust Avenue, Oakdale, Long Island, N.Y. 11769.

Mrs. Beryl Allen, 6814 10th Street, Tampa, Fla. 33604.

Mrs. T. M. (Thelma C.) O'Reilly, 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, Calif. 92041.

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REPORT OF A.B.S. BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society was held Monday, March 27, in the South Gate Auditorium. The meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m. by President Everett Wright.

Roll was called, with fifteen officers and eleven Branches reporting.

Wilbur Olson asked the American Begonia Society to have a display in the Fern and Tropical Plant Show to be presented by the Los Angeles International Fern Society on May 20 and 21 at the Los Angeles County Fair Grounds. President Wright announced that he had asked for a table for the American Begonia Society Membership Secretary, to sign up new members for our organization.

The Treasurer, Walter Barnett, discussed the insurance we have been carrying. Anne Rose made a motion that we cancel this insurance because it does not do us any good. Seconded by Mr. Barnett, the motion carried.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$1,021.06 on March 18.

There was discussion about the advertisement we have in the *Flower and Garden* magazine. The Membership Secretary pointed out that we obtain about thirty members each month from this advertisement. Charles Tagg made a motion that we renew this for six months. Seconded by Alice Martin, the motion carried.

The Membership Secretary, Pearl Benell, reported 44 new members and 141 renewals for the month. She mailed out 2,642 *Begonians*.

The Advertising Manager, Anne Rose, reported that she received \$117.75 and has \$90.00 accounts receivable.

The Public Relations Director, Vera Naumann, thanked the Board for the five-drawer filing cabinet which was purchased for the safe-keeping of all the charters and by-laws and things pertaining to the Branches.

Sylvia Leatherman, Judging Course Director, reported a balance of \$267.43 on hand and \$20.56 cash on hand.

A motion was made that the Secretary write a letter to all elected and appointed officers and committee chairmen, asking that, if they are not going to be at a meeting, they send written reports to the Secretary not later than the 20th of the month. The motion was seconded and carried.

Alice Martin reported on the rummage

sale which was held March 20 and 21. The Society cleared \$180.65.

Alice Martin announced the hamburger dinner which will be held at the Martin residence on May 6. The proceeds of this will go to the American Begonia Society.

Charles Tagg, President-Elect, made a motion that we authorize Mr. Warrick, of Seattle, to proceed with printing the back issues (1934 to 1937) of *The Begonian*, that we advance Mr. Warrick \$235.00 to do the job, and that we ask for a deadline date so as to advertise in *The Begonian*. Seconded by Walter Barnett, the motion carried. These back issues will be reproduced on 8½" by 11" paper and will be available at the price of \$6.00 for the four-year set.

Terry Olmsted, Librarian, will be going away for about three months, so it was decided that the library should be moved to the home of the President, Mr. Wright, until a new term begins and a new librarian is appointed.

— LUCILLE WILLIAMS
Secretary

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ROUND ROBIN . . .

(Continued from Page 83)

lings can be forced into dormancy with short days of eight to nine hours of light — blooming before starting dormancy. Len had beautiful seedlings of *B. rex* 'Changeant' in an interesting range of colors, though seedlings were similar: white, pale pink, dull red, to duller purple and mauve.

Cuttings: Helen Matsubu started *B. 'Enchantment'* from a leaf about a year ago, and the plantlet is just now starting to look like its mother. Another member started 'Cleopatra' from a leaf. The first young leaflets looked like 'Chantilly Lace', but successive leaves developed the parent's shape and coloring. Helen adapts greenhouse cuttings to home conditions successfully by placing them in plastic boxes, then gradually hardening them off.

Lucile Mearns of Louisville, Illinois, thinks *dregei* is propagated best by seed. Slips will root, but not as easily as 'Weltoniensis', one of its hybrids. Edna Stewart of Tarentum, Pennsylvania, broke up her *boweri* and her *boweri nigramarga* for cuttings, and they both bloomed in the rooting flat, in vermiculite.

Humidity: Phyllis Wright of Seattle found that *aridicaulis* was happiest in a fish bowl. Her wee one took off, is now a solid mass, very pretty. Anita Sickmon also had difficulty with this one, almost losing it. She put a plastic bag over it, and it has grown an inch. Too much water and not enough humidity before, she thinks. Anita's *versicolor* leaf segments were growing beautifully in a closed candy dish. Phyllis had trouble with 'White Robe' also, so set a four-inch pot inside a large fish bowl filled with sphagnum moss. It is content, its silver leaves lovely against the glass. And Pat Burdick's *B. 'Blush'* was happy in a glass bowl in a south window, in Savage, Minnesota.

B. dichroa: Pat grows the orange-flowered species from Brazil in a 50-degree greenhouse, right under a vent,

and it seems to love it — despite reports that it "demands heat and no chills". She grew hers from seed in 1964. It took two years to bloom, now always has at least three large red-orange clusters.

B. pariles: Although both Anita and Daisy Austin found *pariles* a slow grower, Don Stephenson in New Zealand recommends it to all. His was in flower in January (summer in New Zealand) — a beauty, like a tiny winter rose.

Bloom and Pollen: Most of Lilian Bergeron's rhizomatous begonias were in bloom in February, in Baton, Louisiana — except *stitched leaf*. Her 'Bow Nigra' seems to cross with many other begonias.

Edna Stewart in February was selfing *manicata aureo-maculata crispa* by rubbing flowers together, still attached to the plant, the flowers were so numerous. She had set nine pods on *kemworthyi*, six selfed pods on 'Orange Rubra', five selfed on *bartonea*, two on 'Delight', and two on *malabarica*. *Dayi* was showing pollen on greenish-yellow flowers, small before opening and merely tinted when open. *Pope-noei* and *pilifera* had beautiful clusters, also. 'Paul Bruant's large clusters needed staking. *Boweri* (many small, pink-spotted flowers), 'Chantilly Lace', 'Maphil', and many others were blooming. *Scharffi* was still full of white flowers with pink or red hairs on the backs, and small seed cases, some with three wings and some with four. *Nitida rosea* (or *odorata rosea*) was heavy with pollen, and 'Kumwha' carried many seed pods.

Edna had seven weak seedlings from her tuberous-rex cross and finally lost all, but not before one showed a rex leaf.

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CALENDAR

May 4 — Westchester Branch: Gil Daniels, a member of the Southern California Horticultural Society, will lecture and show slides of his "Trip to Peru".

May 10 — Inglewood Branch: Mrs. Edna Korts will be guest speaker. She will talk about begonias that have won the Alfred D. Robinson Award.

May 12 — San Gabriel Valley Branch: A special program by Mabel Corwin on "Preparing Our Plants for Our Show". She knows what she is talking about and has the trophies to prove it.

May 16 — Seattle Branch: Phil Aaron will talk on hardy ferns, their propagation by spores, and general spring culture.

May 18 — Foothill Branch: Henry Zepeda will speak on MagAmp and its use as a fertilizer.

May 19 — Long Beach Parent Chapter — Will meet at the home of Mrs. Lucille Williams, 1006 N. Burris Ave., Compton, Calif.

May 20-21 — Los Angeles International Fern Society's Fern and Tropical Plant Show. (See ad for details.)

June 1 — Whittier Branch: Phyllis Ferguson of La Habra, a member of this Branch, will discuss gesneriads of various types.

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