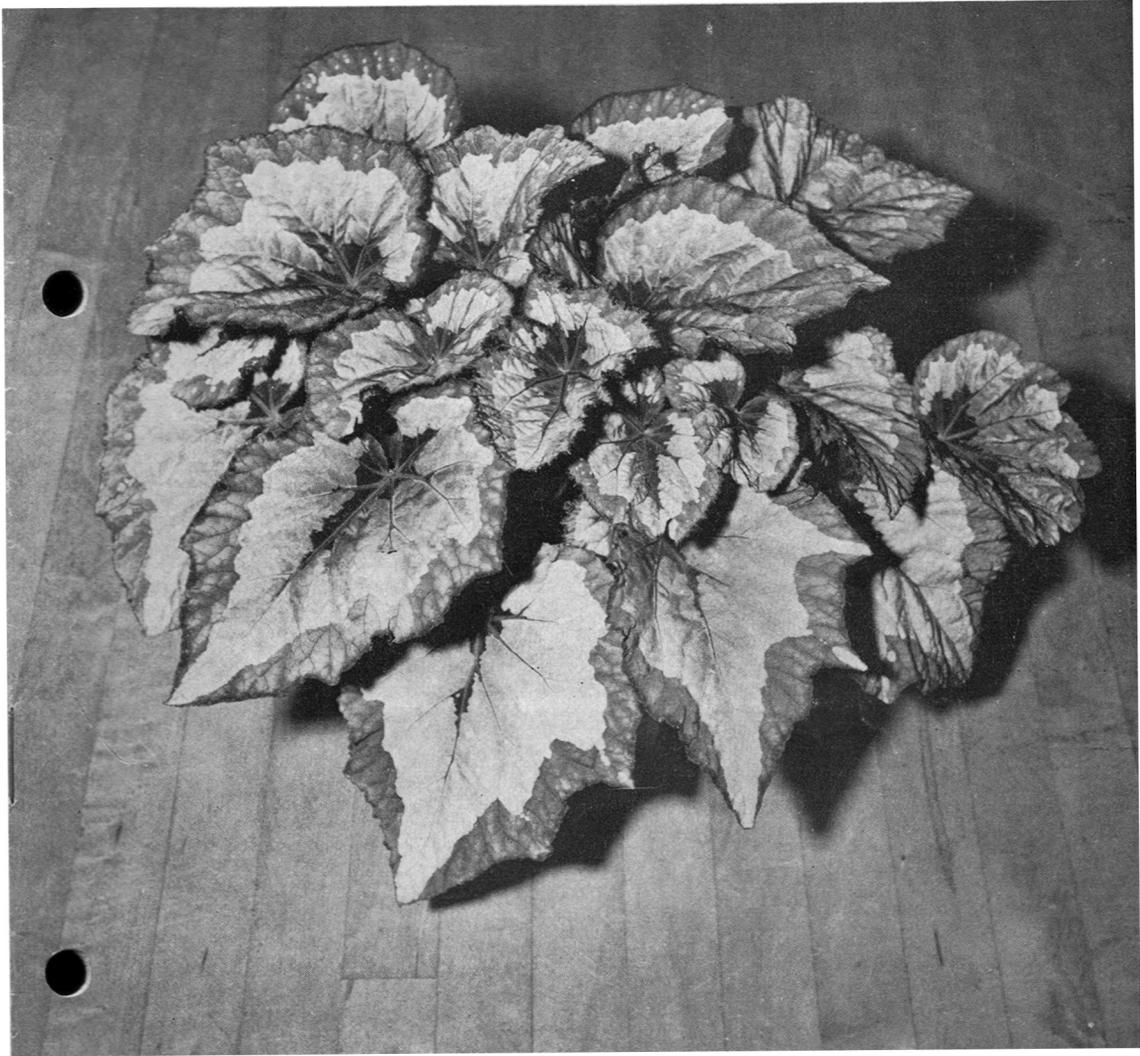


The BEGONIAN

AUGUST, 1968

VOL. 35 • NO. 8



General offices,

dues, address changes, or magazines:
Pearl Benell, Membership Secretary
ship to 10331 S. Colima Road
Whittier, Calif. 90604

Subscription \$4.00 per year. Foreign including Canada,
\$4.50. U.S. 1st Class \$5.50. Foreign 1st Class in-
cluding Canada, \$6.50. U.S. Air Mail \$6.50.

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

Editor.....Mrs. Mae Tagg
2123 W. West Ave., Fullerton, Calif. 92633
Eastern Editor.....Mrs. Hertha Benjamin
1927 University Ave., New York, N.Y. 10453
Southern Editor.....Mrs. Don Wagner
4338 Washington St., Baton Rouge, La. 70802
Northwestern Editor.....Mrs. Phyllis Wright
536 N. E. 98th St., Seattle, Wash. 98115
Contributing Editor.....Mrs. Elda Haring
120 Cutler Road, Greenwich, Conn. 06830
Advertising Manager.....Anne L. Rose
14036 E. Ramona Dr., Whittier, Calif. 90605

ELECTED OFFICERS

President.....Charles E. Tagg
2123 W. West Ave., Fullerton, Calif. 92633
President-Elect.....Walter Pease
8101 Vicksburg Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90045
Past President.....Everett Wright
4508 West 133rd St., Hawthorne, Calif. 90250
Secretary.....Mrs. Virginia Barnett
1213 S. Mullender Ave., W. Covina, Calif. 91790
Treasurer.....Walter J. Barnett
1213 S. Mullender Ave., W. Covina, Calif. 91790
Vice-Pres. 1 year.....Wilbur W. Olson
13715 Cordary Ave., Hawthorne, Calif. 90250
Vice-Pres. 2 years.....Herbert H. Warrick
6543 - 26th Ave. N.E., Seattle, Wash. 98115
Vice-Pres. 3 years.....Mrs. Frederick Kingsbury
225 Lee St., Brookline, Mass. 02146

★ ★ ★ APPOINTED OFFICERS

Awards Chairman.....Mrs. Margaret Lee
1852 31st St., San Diego, Calif. 92102
Business Manager.....Mrs. Muriel Perz
2141 West 29th St., Long Beach, Calif. 90810
Classification Chairman.....Mrs. Ruth Pease
8101 Vicksburg Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90045

APPOINTED OFFICERS (Continued)

Cultural Adviser.....Mrs. Edna Stewart
Rt. 2, Box 491, Tarentum, Pa. 15084
Historian.....Mrs. Edna Burkett
3341 Hedwig Rd., Los Alamitos, Calif. 90720
Hybrid Registration.....Dr. W. Grant McGregor
630 Westview Ave., Ottawa 3, Ontario, Canada
Judging Course Dir.....Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman
2637 N. Lee Ave., South El Monte, Calif. 91733
Librarian.....Mrs. Lucile Wright
4508 W. 133 St., Hawthorne, Calif. 90250
Membership Secretary.....Mrs. Pearl Benell
10331 S. Colima Rd., Whittier, Calif. 90604
Nomenclature Dir.....Rudolf Ziesenhenn
1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, Calif. 93103
Parliamentarian.....Walter Pease
8101 Vicksburg Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90045
Photographer.....Gene Daniels
Box 83, Camarillo, Calif. 93010
Research Director.....M. Carleton L'Hommedieu
370 Locust Ave., Oakdale, Long Island, N.Y.
11769
Round Robin Dir.....Mrs. Carrie Karegeannes
3916 Lake Blvd., Annandale, Va. 22003
Seed Fund Admin.....Mrs. Florence Gee
234 Birch St., Roseville, Calif. 95678
Show Chairman.....James Somes
4849 W. 130th St., Hawthorne, Calif. 90250

★ ★ ★

Public Relations Dir.....Mrs. Vera Naumann
346 N. Leland Ave., West Covina, Calif. 91790
Northwestern P.R. Chairman.....Mrs. Eleanor Fariss
17721 Bothell Way N. E., Seattle, Wash. 98155
Southern P.R. Chairman.....Mrs. Margie Sikkelee
3603 La Joya Dr., Dallas, Texas 75220
Northern Calif. P.R. Chairman.....Mrs. J. H. Smith
2479 29th Ave., San Francisco, Calif. 94116
Northeastern P.R. Chairman.....Mrs. F. Kingsbury
225 Lee Street, Brookline, Mass. 02146
Northeastern Co-Chairman.....Mrs. Virginia Withee
Hill Farm Rd., Coventry Centre, R.I. 02817
Eastern P. R. Chairman.....Miss Lily C. Fine
1240 Carrol St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11225
New Zealand P. R. Chairman.....Don Stephenson
56 Mortimer Ter., Wellington, C2, New Zealand

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

AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, INC.

The purpose of this Society shall be: To stimulate and promote interest in Begonias and other shade-loving plants; To encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants; To standardize the nomenclature of Begonias; To gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation and culture of Begonias and companion plants; To issue a bulletin which will be mailed to all members of the Society; and To bring into friendly contact all who love and grow Begonias.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is the big month for many of us. Some of the branches have already held their annual shows. Others are to be held this month. On August 24 and 25, the A.B.S. will hold its 36th Annual Show and the 1968 Annual Convention. Before many of you have received your September issues, the Connecticut Branch will host the Third Annual Eastern Begonia Convention. Whether we are seasoned veteran Begonia growers or rank beginners at this fascinating hobby, we all have much to learn and enjoy at these important events. All of us should do our best to attend and help as many of these shows as possible. The Show Dates are on page 170. Put them on your calendar and take full advantage of your membership.

The A.B.S. and each of the members have benefited during the past year by donations of the many who helped keep the Society out of the red until the new dues came into effect. The Eastside Branch in Bellevue, Washington has donated the equivalent of an extra dollar per member per year, sending a check each month for \$3.00. This represents half the income from their plant table each month, and has contributed \$18 since January. The William Penn Branch of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the Bessie Raymond Buxton Branch of Quincy, Massachusetts, and the Western Pennsylvania Branch of Butler, Pennsylvania have each sent \$50. All are known from the past for their generosity and faithful support of the ideals of the A.B.S. We are very proud to say that many individual members have voluntarily increased their own dues by 50 cents to \$1.50 since Janu-

ary as they renewed. One member even sent \$10 anonymously. These members have sent \$62.50. Altogether, these donations add up to \$230.50.

As costs increased during the past seventeen years, it became impossible to send *The Begonian* and live within our income. These donors made it possible to maintain our status until the increased dues became a reality. Your vote should renew the faith of these wonderful people who have done so much to make this year a financial success, rather than a dismal failure. We may all look forward to the A.B.S. thinking in terms of the services, knowledge, and pleasure we can provide the members, rather than what we can afford to eke out.

As President and leader of the Board of Directors, who have the responsibility to make all of you proud to be members, THANK YOU most sincerely for your faith in our ability to manage this organization. Even more important, THANK YOU for giving us the means to manage a promising Society.

Chuck Tagg

COVER PICTURE

B. 'Ruhrtahl', a German rex, shows the unsurpassed beauty of rex foliage. Their color, pattern and texture provide beauty and variety for the shade garden or apartment window. German rexes have been bred specifically for vigor and hardiness but there are lovely rexes with thin, soft, velvety leaves which are more difficult and dwarfs and miniatures a little on the finicky side. They are all well worth the time and effort. Rex Begonias are easily propagated from leaves (see page 166) or rhizomes.

Photographer Unknown

SOIL—KEEP IT SIMPLE

By CLARENCE HALL, *Sacramento, California*

Read any two books or listen to any two speakers and they will give you four different and sure ways of making the right soil mix for your Begonias and shade plants. They are very sincere in giving you the directions for making their sure-fire mix; it works for them, so why not for you? But how confusing this can be to the beginner. Yet each of us went through these growing pains, and we all tried this mix and that mix until finally we hit upon the one that seemed to suit our plants best. A mix that suited our own personality and method of growing. "Personality" I believe is the right word, for seemingly each of us tend our little pets in a way peculiar to ourselves. First we adopt someone else's ideas until we finally develop the one that does the job best for us.

I attended a study group of the Inglewood Branch several years ago, and listened with rapt attention to Malcolm Rich tell of his experiments with different mixes for fibrous Begonias. He took three different mixes, planted fibrous of the same variety and size, watered them carefully and gave each the same attention as the others; developing a thorough test. The plants now grown to maturity were displayed at the study group and we were asked to guess what mix was used for the one that showed the most growth and beauty. None gave the correct answer, and when our mentor told us the different mixes he had used and that the best looking plant had been grown in soil he had scraped from the rose bed and the others had been planted in the fancy mixes most of us guessed had been used, he could hardly be believed. To think that this specimen plant was in plain old garden dirt, to use current vernacular—I could have flipped! Malcolm grows excellent Begonias, but even though his experiment was so conclusively in favor of soil from his

rose garden, I'll bet my "Dewey for President" button against a thin dime that he's using a different mix than that right now.

For twenty years I lived on the Southern California coast where foggy days were the usual rather than the unusual. Tuberous Begonias, the show-offs of *Begonia*, just loved that weather. I grew them from seed and tubers and often wondered why other Begonia fans living inland and further south couldn't grow such beauties. They were common enough to me, so that they had to be just right. If they did not hold up their heads or the flower was not just right, they would be rogued and thrown onto the compost pile. Can I imagine doing that now? I shudder at the thought of it. For circumstances have changed and after eleven years of drought, as far as tuberous Begonias are concerned, living in the dry-hot San Fernando Valley during that time, I moved to Sacramento 400 miles or so north. Here we have humidity, plenty of heat during the summer months of 100 degrees or more. Yet I saw tuberous Begonias in bloom in November when looking for a home and that was one of the deciding factors in locating here after retirement. The first thing after moving to Sacramento was to purchase some tuberous Begonias. It was too late for tubers so seedlings were used, and lo and behold I found the little beauties blooming rampantly on the patio as the fall months approached. Then came the following year and wanting large good tubers to start my stock, I went the catalog route receiving catalogs from the Pacific Coast, the Northwest and from the East. I avidly read each one and again brushed up on tuberous Begonia lore and how to grow them. I devoured the information. It was a refresher course and I needed it. But what

amazed and confused me was the variance in growing methods recommended by each of the retailers. I almost believe that one nationally known concern had their genes mixed, and were describing what was best for something other than a tuberous Begonia. Thoroughly befuddled, I finally settled down to using my own tried and true mix and they responded marvelously. Then I listened to that superb grower of tuberous Begonias, Hyacinth Smith of San Francisco, expound on her favorite subject. (She's Mrs. Tuberous Begonia and should be crowned queen of all growers. If you haven't seen her plants, try to fenagle an invitation to see her garden around August or early September. If you succeed in getting that invitation, you are in for a glorious sight for she grows them better than anyone I know. And this is written with due respect for the mighty growers around Santa Cruz and Capitola way.) So I'm all ears and off on another binge trying Hyacinth's mix thinking I can do the same as she. Once more I fall into the pit, trying her mix with all my plants, and fail to get the results I had the previous year with my own mix which has stood in good stead over many years. Has "personality" of the grower anything to do with it? One hobbyist is highly successful growing one variety that I can't do anything with. He likewise, finds something lacking in growing a variety which I find quite easy to do. One plant refuses to grow or respond in one spot in the lathhouse or greenhouse, and after giving up entirely, you disgustingly put it out of the way and out of sight in an insignificant spot and when it is almost forgotten, you are pleasantly surprised to find it flourishing again. Have you ever thrown a rhizome onto the compost heap as a piece of rotted plant life to later find it flourishing and threatening to become a prize plant? Plants too have their likes and dislikes.

) Let's get back to mixes. A "good garden soil" is recommended by most

catalogs as part of the growing mix for potted plants and those in containers of any kind. What is a "good garden soil?" A very successful grower of all types of Begonias in Southern California, has a reputation as being "tops" in that avocation. Her plants are always lush, green and prolific of both foliage and blossoms. She is in great demand as a speaker on growing of Begonias and will readily tell you that her mix is no secret and that she uses two parts course leaf mold and one part Blue Whale peat. To imitate her mix, I drove 400 miles to get the specific kind of peat she uses. I carefully made a large batch of the mix, transplanted my rexes and found out very quickly it became too dry for my personal use and the rexes definitely didn't like it. Does she use another ingredient (maybe a miracle ingredient!) which she is withholding from us? Certainly not. Begonia hobbyists are just not that way. They share things. So once again, I had to get back on the trail and use my own mix to be sure of the results I wanted.

What mix is compatible to your growing methods? Your personality? Mine is very simple, hence the title of this article. Prove something to yourself. Take four cuttings of any Begonia, potted and well rooted, so they are well established. Be sure they are of the same age, the same kind and came out of the same starting medium. Now repot them, one into your own mix; another into a mix that sounded so good when you heard about it; another into some of that "good garden soil" the catalogs talk about; and another into pure peat (dampened, of course). Keep a record of when propagated, when repotted, what mix they are in, and set them side by side; then in two or three months compare the results. You may well be surprised to see the one growing in straight peat as healthy and as lush looking as the others. If peat can do this and seemingly is such a big factor, why go to all the trouble to

(Continued on Page 167)

BEGONIAS IN FLORIDA

By ELDA HARING

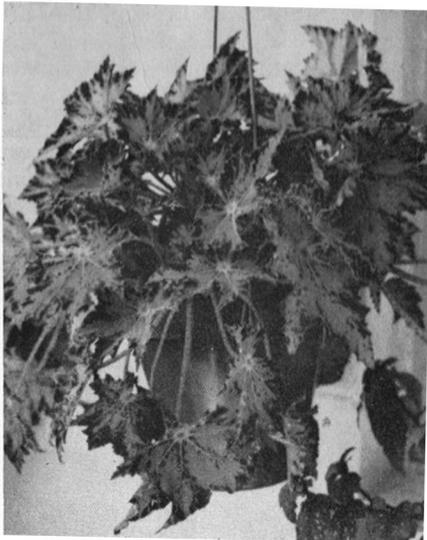
This month ends two years during which Mrs. Elda Haring has been a monthly contributor to The Begonian. At this time we are discontinuing her articles on Northeast Begonias and starting next month you will be reading "Begonias Galore." Mrs. Haring is a regular contributor to The Floral Magazine, author of a book on propagation, and has recently signed a contract for another book. She is a very busy person and we are very grateful that she shares her knowledge and experiences with us. Photos for this article by Eunice Claggett, Orlando, Florida.

Editor

For many years Florida friends have asserted that Begonias are very difficult to grow there, although I personally have seen many magnificent specimens of *B. 'Ricinifolia'* growing in gardens in Southern Florida. My bother and his wife, Eunice, live in Orlando, Florida. Eunice has always been fascinated by my Begonia collection and from time to time I have given her rooted cuttings. At first she had no success with them for she tried to grow them the way I do—in doors. They did not thrive because

blinds and drapes are usually kept drawn against the constant brilliant sunshine the year around. Out-of-doors, the plants suffered from too much light and the soil in the pots dried out quickly during the winter months for there is a constant breeze. In the heat and humidity of the Florida summer, stems of many of the Begonias molded and suffered stem rot.

Eunice is not only a determined young woman but something of a perfectionist as well. Two years ago my brother decided to build a covered patio outside the Florida room. This necessitated removal of some cherished foundation plantings. My brother was persuaded to leave planting pockets at the foundation wall under the windows and here Eunice planted directly into the ground some of her Begonias. To her amazement and delight they grew beautifully. My brother, who occasionally complains that I keep getting him into all kinds of trouble, was prevailed upon to build two plant shelves directly under the windows and the Begonias were placed on the top shelves while the lower shelves were given over to a collection of African Violets. This solution was a happy one but still my sister-in-law was not quite satisfied, feeling that the packaged potting mix



B. 'Maphil'



B. boweri



she used did not contain the proper nutrients for good growth. At the local garden nursery, she found a product known as "worm humus." Her nurseryman explained that this was a mixture of peatmoss, cow manure and some secret ingredient in which worms were allowed to work. The worms referred to are what I call "angle worms"—known as "fishin' worms" in the South and what my northern-born husband calls "night crawlers." Presumably the worms are sifted out of the mix before it is bagged for I saw no evidence of worms either in the bag of mix or in the potted plants. The lovely specimen plants growing in this mix were mute testimony to the efficacy of this product. However, because of drainage problems, Eunice mixes three parts of the "worm humus" to one part of sand, the sand being "silica sand" which is rich in trace elements and is used for "top soil" in many Florida areas. There were gorgeous specimens of *B. serratepetala*, *B. masoniana*, *B. 'Silver Sweet'*, *B. 'Silver Star'*, *B. 'Bow-Nigra'*, *B. 'Skeezar'* and *B. 'China Boy'* to name a few. In hanging baskets around the sides of the patio were lovely plants of *B. boweri*, *B. 'Medora'*, *B. 'Beatrice Had-drell'* and *B. 'Maphil'* (*Cleopatra*). These are all in full bloom in mid-March.

The original plants of many of Eunice's collection were obtained from Paul Lowe of Goulds, Florida, a former Vice-President of the A.B.S. My husband and I never fail to visit his

place each year on our annual trip to Florida. His tiny house is surrounded by a completely screened back yard, sides and roof as well. Entering the screened area directly on the right is a delightful little waterfall splashing over weathered coral rock. Here Mr. Lowe grows magnificent ferns and orchids. To the left are 40 feet of cane Begonias heavy with bloom, some of which are varieties eagerly sought after and some the result of Mr. Lowe's hybridizing activities. Beyond these toward the back are gorgeous hanging baskets of *B. imperialis*, *B. crispula*, *B. acida*, *B. 'Norah Bedson'*, *B. 'Enchantment'*, *B. boweri* and many others. Climbing the twelve foot poles used to support the screen were fabulous plants of *B. convolvulacea* full of bud and bloom. Then come the long tables of small plants being readied for Mr. Lowe's mail order business. Here also are his propagating beds and pans and pans of seedlings. Mr. Lowe has a vast knowledge of Begonias and collectors frequently bring him new species from South America and Mexico.

Mr. Lowe is very active in the Miami Branch of the A.B.S. My Florida friends should visit him to learn how to grow Begonias in their state. As for us, a trip to Florida would not be complete without a visit with this interesting "Begonian."



American Begonia Society
INSIGNIA PIN
 for Begonia Society Members

PRICE \$4.00 (includes postage)
 Calif. residents add 20c sales tax.

SEND YOUR ORDER TO:

CHARLES E. TAGG
2123 West West Avenue
Fullerton, Calif. 92633

THE GLAMOR OF BEGONIA 'RICHMONDENSIS'

By GEORGE TALOUMIS, *Salem, Massachusetts*



Beautiful *B. 'Richmondensis'* and ivy geraniums provide color along the house wall.

Photo by George Taloumis

Mr. Taloumis is author of the book Outdoor Gardening in Pots and Boxes.
Editor

Recently, there appeared on the scene, here in the greater Boston area, a pendulous Begonia that has in two years become a rage as a hanging basket plant.

I've not been able to find out if it has a common name. In my lectures, where it elicits enthusiasm and evokes many a question, to make it easier to remember, I refer to it as Richmond (after Richmond, Virginia) Begonia.

I was naturally interested in finding out the background of this glamorous plant, which grows with equal ease in sun or shade, though in sun its leaves become coarser and darker, as is the case with other Begonias.

It is described as a "floriferous, fibrous-rooted plant with red stems and medium oblique-ovate, waxy green leaves with bronzy overtone and dentate edge, reddish beneath; flowers dainty pink."

As for blood, it is a seedling of *B. 'Digswelliana'*, which in turn is a cross

between *B. fuchsoides* and *B. semperflorens* cv., a lavish winter bloomer with red flowers.

This Begonia has made such an impact that it has become a frequent hanging basket subject at restaurants, gift shops, markets, and other business places. Needless to say, home gardeners are equally aware of its merits.

First of all, this means an extremely free flowering habit, so that it is never out of bloom. Second, it has a pendent character, so it is often used with purple lantanas, ivy geraniums, fuchsias, browallia, tuberous Begonias, and other plants that are popular items in hanging baskets. Third, it grows with extreme ease, as already indicated, in sun or shade. Fourth, cuttings root easily so many indoor gardeners are able to winter plants for use in baskets, tubs, pots, window boxes, and even the open ground in summer.

Pinching plants, or cutting back long shoots, will induce bushy growth. Pink flowers, which become reddish in full sun, appear all season long. Even as an outdoor plant in winter, this adaptable Begonia refuses to rest, but continues with lavish displays and this is the glamor of *B. 'Richmondensis'*.

WANTED OLD BEGONIANS

1938 - 1949

Send to:

Mrs. Lucile Wright, Librarian
4508 West 133rd Street
Hawthorne, Calif. 90250

NOMENCLATURE NEWS

By RUDOLPH ZIESENHENNE, *Nomenclature Director*

The American Begonia Society was appointed as the International Registration Authority for the names of Cultivated Begonias by the Fourteenth International Horticultural Congress, Scheueningen, in 1955. The A.B.S. had begun this work in 1952 as its project to prevent the duplication of names and to discourage the naming of plants too similar or of little merit. We have always tried to discourage the naming of plants which cannot be easily distinguished from similar Begonias growing under a wide range of habitat conditions.

When a plant name is registered, an acknowledgment card is sent to the person submitting the registration, which sets forth the name of the plant, the names of both parents, the registration number, the date registered, and bears the signature of the director of nomenclature and registration of the A.B.S.

Up to December 23, 1967, 284 Begonia names had been registered of which 116 had been recorded before the A.B.S. was designated the Official International Registration Authority. In 1955, eight names were registered and since that year 160 plant names have been recorded, thirteen in 1967. Since Begonias are more easily grown in Southern California, it is not surprising that 218 Begonias, the greatest proportion being hybrids, were from that location. Connecticut growers registered six, Florida eight, Louisiana three, Massachusetts four, Minnesota one, New Jersey three, New York three, Texas eight, and Wisconsin seventeen.

On the international scene Australian growers registered seven, French two, and Swedish one, while two registrations were received from England and one from West Germany.

The names and descriptions of the plants registered are published periodically in *The Begonian*, official publication of the A.B.S.



Photo by Ralph Corwin

The A.B.S. is deeply interested in all Begonias and their names and because of this interest, the society published in 1957 the book *Buxton Check List of Begonias*, named in honor of the late Mrs. Bessie Raymond Buxton of Peabody, Massachusetts. Because of her interest in Begonias, Mrs. Buxton had compiled a list of Begonia names which was further developed, brought up to date, and published by the A.B.S.

The *List* has 253 pages and contains Begonia names, sources of information, type of Begonias, color of flowers, country of discovery, or hybridization, and the year published. Approximately 30 names, double spaced, appear on a page.

The *List* is kept up to date by supplements which are published in *The Begonian*. Supplement I, with 200 names, appeared in the December 1958, Vol. XXV, No. 12 on pp. 277 to 280 inclusive. Supplement II, of 170 names, appeared in May 1962, Vol. XXIX, No. 5 on pp. 89 to 92 inclusive. Supplement III, with 206 names, was printed in January 1967, Vol. 34, No. 1, pp. 9 to 12 inclusive.

At the present time the *Check List* is entirely sold out and the officers of the A.B.S. are presently making plans to publish a revised edition.

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Opportunities abound for new friendships and good discussion of every phase of *Begonia* growing in the robins. Companion plants are studied, too. Wouldn't you like to join one?

Inheritance:

Barbara Walker of Bloomington, Indiana has noticed that in crosses she knows of in which *B. boweri* crossed with a larger plant reduced the size of the offspring, *B. boweri* was the pollen parent. She wonders if *B. 'Bow-Chancee'* markings in char-treuse are not recessive, giving way to darker colorings. Another member wonders if dark leaves are not dominant in all *Begonias*, as they are in *B. semperflorens* hybrids.

Barbara had at least a dozen salmon-orange-flowered seedlings out of 36 she flatted up from *B. 'Orange-ade'*. Seedlings ranged from pink, salmony pink, through salmon-orange to one scarlet-orange. None were the orange of *B. dichroa*; the one she kept is the shade of *B. 'Orange Rubra'*. Its growth is rangy, but it blooms well under fluorescent lights and blossoms are large for *semperflorens*.

B. 'White Shasta' is a good example of "trace pink" in *Begonias*, Barbara thinks. Self-pollinated, first-generation seedlings included pure pinks and some washed-out pinks. She has one pure white. When grown cool, *B. 'White Shasta'* itself will often bloom pristine white, but in hot weather it is heavily cast with pink. *B. 'Jeanne Fleetham'* has always been pure white for her. *B. 'Gigi Fleetham'* is ivory, but gets a pink flush in hot weather.

Seed:

B. paulensis seed and ten Seed Fund sale packets all germinated well and in a short time for Helen Matsubu of Fruitland, Idaho. She sowed them as soon as received, March 26, and thinks that getting seed into growing medium as quickly as possible aids

germination. Germination wasn't spotty; it was all at one time.

Edna Stewart of Tarentum, Pennsylvania sowed seed of *B. versicolor*, Chinese species, March 24 and it was germinating well in May. Seed of *B. 'Crestabruchi'* did not germinate. Her seedlings of *B. 'Orange Rubra'* selfed bloomed coral pink.

Elizabeth Mercier of Curundu, Canal Zone has observed that stems show health of seedlings better than leaves do. Leaves may stay green after a plant is "dead," but delicate translucent stems indicate the plant's chances are slim. Colored, thickish, sturdy stems show a plant is doing well.

Mediums:

For rooting, Charlie Saunders of Mobile, Alabama uses one part perlite, two parts vermiculite, and one part peat moss. For seed, he uses all leaf material—partially rotted hardwood leaf (oak leaf mold). After sterilizing, he puts the leaf mold through a one-half-inch wire mesh, then a one-fourth-inch. What passes through is then put through a flour sifter. In half-gallon, plastic chlorox bottles—cut down to three inches and with holes punched in—he uses a one-half-inch layer of coarser leaves that passed through the first screening but not the second. On top of that, he spreads one-and-a-half inches from the second screening, packed down and watered, then drained. He sifts the fine leaf mold over thinly, firms lightly, and sprinkles on seeds. Pans are put into plastic bags in a warm place till germination begins.

Bob Dalgaard of Minneapolis was repotting many of his *Begonias* into rotted wood and leaves, rotted manure, and sand—equal parts of each.

Artificial Lights:

Bill Wright of Kimberly, Canada knows now that with a little care and study he can grow tuberous *Begonias* under lights. Sixteen hours of light and good growing practices "are all that is required."

B. 'Chantilly Lace', lacey stitched dwarf *B. boweri* hybrid, grows beautifully under lights for Murray Morrison of New York. It is full and retains its bright, light-mossy-green color.

For in-house growing, Edna uses one Gro-Lux and one warm white tube and keeps temperature around 70 degrees. Glass dishes of wet chicken grit under pots help with humidity.

Lily Fine of Brooklyn is convinced that fluorescent lights stimulate algae in seed pans. Other members also have reported trouble, but still others, even with the same medium, report no trouble. A combination of lights with other factors?

Carbon dioxide (CO₂):

Stefanie Swatsek of Hawthorne, California had good results from misting her African Violets with club soda; even the weakest plants produced buds and beautiful foliage. She planned to try club soda in her greenhouse humidifier also.

Callas and Semperflorens:

Barbara cuts all her semperflorens back sharply after blooming, feels a few of her Calla Lily Begonias that are several years old would have died long ago if they had not been cut back. She keeps stock plants of semperflorens cut back all winter, letting them sprout in early spring for cuttings for bedding plants. She waters only enough to keep them from shriveling and keeps them cool, on the bottom shelf of the bench. Semperflorens used for winter bloom on the benches are fresh cuttings taken in the fall.

B. manii:

Muriel Perz of Long Beach, California described an interesting species, *B. manii* from Africa. Its seed capsule is different from that of most Begonias, starting from the main stem of the plant and looking like a long (one-and-a-quarter inch), thin bulb. At the end of this "bulb" the tiny, single, daisy-like flower, white with red stripes, appears. Leaf is on one side of the stem and a cluster of three

to five of the "bulbs" grows from the opposite side. (See Seed Fund, page 160.)

B. 'Gilsonii':

Who has the true *B. 'Gilsonii'*? Does it have spotted leaves? Robin #29 is seeking evidence from other members; several of its members have a white-spotted, thin-leaved, smooth-stemmed Begonia under this name—while descriptions of the nearly double-flowered *B. 'Gilsonii'* does not mention spots; do mention hairy stems.

B. masoniana:

The main principal in propagating *B. masoniana* (Iron Cross) is to keep the rooting medium dry, Rosetta White of Newton, Kansas feels. She had a leaf-stem cutting and a leaf-wedge rooted, waiting for plantlets, and also had laid two large leaves flat on vermiculite, making cuts across the veins. She watered only about once a month, being careful not to wet the leaves. Five plantlets grew from one flat leaf and two from the other, more expected. When she lifted one leaf to transplant young ones, roots were so thick all the vermiculite came up with them. (See Seed Fund, page 160.)

B. diadema:

B. diadema was getting new leaves in May for Anita Sickmon of Cheney, Kansas. She read in *The Begonian* that it liked warmth and humidity, so moved it to the main greenhouse near a heat pipe. It doesn't get much light there, has more warmth and humidity. She was afraid that with less light it would get leggy, but so far it had not, and colors in the leaves were more beautiful.

B. 'San Miguel':

Virginia Munkens of Dumont, New Jersey cut the top off her *B. 'San Miguel'*, upright grower with white-furred leaves, and had spikes growing from this top, so many she couldn't count them—in a hanging basket under lights.

(Continued on Page 166)

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

No. 1—*B. mannii*—

Medium; stems erect; branches long and arching as though seeking a tree to cling to; leaves ovate-pointed and reminiscent of a large rose leaflet, glossy green, paler beneath and red-tinged, irregularly toothed. Inflorescences so short the flowers appear to emerge directly from the stem; flowers white streaked with red. Ovaries are cylindrical and wingless which is a rare character found in Begonias. A handsome species for the collector. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

Comment: The above seed is NOT to be confused with those offered a few months ago under the name of *B. eminii* as they are two entirely different Begonias. Seed of above were produced by Norman Owens, Oroville, California who has a magnificent plant and pollinated the blooms by hand for the Seed Fund. *B. mannii* can be grown as a handsome basket but Norman is growing his as an upright supported by bamboo stakes. Unusual and rare.

No. 2—*B. herbacea* Vell.—

Brazil. The peculiarity of this Begonia is the epiphytic habit. They live mainly in the Serra do Mar, Brazil where there are many climbing Begonias and even creeping ones that go up the trees; but the species of this section grow and live attached to trunks of trees, without any contact with the medium earth, and, the same way as the orchids, *Bromeliaceae* and an infinity of other epiphytic plants, these plants take nothing from the trees to which they cling. Therefore, they can go on living on dead trunks and develop admirably on tree fern trunks or fiber.

It is evident that we have an uncommon species of Begonia, however, a very interesting one of easy culture. If it has a support of tree fern trunk or a pot containing some of the same material, maintained constantly damp, the result of this minimum care will be the growth of many ramifications

of the rhizome. From these ramifications emerge almost all year round, healthy light green or sometimes silver spotted leaves, and the inflorescences particularly in the male which bloom in succession for several months, with their heart-shaped, pink or white bivalve buds, exposing when opened the small golden anthers. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 3—*B. 'Orange Rubra'* seedlings—

Miniature. This is an accidental seedling that came from a packet of regular type *B. 'Orange Rubra'* seedlings that were sent to Peter Rutherford a few years ago. It is exactly like the large type by this name but in miniature form. Seed is dust-fine and scarce. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 4—*B. 'Orange Rubra'* seedlings—

(*B. dichroa* x *B. 'Coral Rubra'*)

Clear green leaves sometimes faintly silver-spotted; sometimes not. Ornate clusters of large salmon-orange flowers outshine the foliage. Nice Begonia. Many fresh, hand pollinated seed. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 5—*B. semperflorens* cultorum—

Double from Peter Rutherford. Not all will be double but the singles make nice gay, little gifts or grow them in pots in patio, greenhouse or outside as bedding plants. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 6—*B. 'Gwen Lowell'* seedlings—

(*B. olsoniae* x *B. obscura*) *B. 'Gwen Lowell'* is a hybrid by Belva Kusler. (Ed. note: This is a hybrid and variations will occur. Plants resulting from this seed should be marked as listed above; NOT as *B. 'Gwen Lowell'*.) Price 50 cents per pkt.

SUMMER SALE

We have been checking our files and find a few seed of some of the choice Begonias that have been offered in recent months. All of the seed have recently come to the Seed Fund and you may get a few plants from a

packet of seed and we offer them to you at a real bargain. They are as follow:

**No. 1s—*B. masoniana*
(Iron Cross)**

One of the most beautiful Begonias in cultivation having puckered emerald-green leaves with rust colored markings in the form of the German iron cross.

No. 2s—*B. goegoensis*—

Sumatra. Beautiful foliage plant with creeping rhizomes. Treasure for collectors of beautiful foliage plants.

No. 3s—*B. convalliodora*—

Species from Venezuela. See cover picture *The Begonian*, July 1967.

No. 4s—*B. palmaris*—

Palmately lobed, slightly green leaves; large clusters of white flowers.

No. 5s—*B. rex hybrids*—

Many colors and variations.

No. 6s—*B. macdougalli*—

Mexico. Large leaf; rhizomatous; makes a beautiful specimen plant.

No. 7s—*B. venosa*—

White fuzzy leaves; fragrant flowers. Grows dry.

No. 8s—*B. valdensium*—

Brazil. Good foliage plant with velvety green leaves with lighter green veins.

No. 9s—*B. acida*—

Rhizomatous plant with light green, pebbly leaves and many white flowers.

No. 10s—*B. bradei*—

Brazil. Fairly new. Dainty, slim, soft-hairy green leaves lined with red.

No. 11s—*B. coccinea*—

Cane type with bright green leaves; large clusters of red or pink flowers.

The twelve varieties mentioned above may be purchased for \$2.00 or select six for \$1.00. Single packets less than six are 50 cents each.

BROMELIADS

***Aechmea luddemanniana*—**

Arching green leaves. The panicle is crowded with lavender flowers maturing into a dense head of blue and white berries that eventually turn purple and last for several months. A good house plant. Price 50 cents per pkt.

***Achmena bracteata*—**

Imposing plant with light green leaves. In bright light the plant becomes markedly bottle shaped when grown. Some forms show a definite red coloration. Tall flower spike has pendant, brilliant red bracts and black berries. Price 50 cents per pkt.

***Billbergia zebrina*—**

Tall, broad-leaf with broadly rounded tips. Gray-green leaves are lightly banded and flecked with dull silver. Its very large showy rose bracts on a cascading flower stem are very striking. Flower petals and stamens have the appearance of old gold and the inflorescence stem and seed capsules are covered with white wool. Price 50 cents per pkt.

OTHER SHADE PLANTS

***Epidendrum nocturnum*—**

Orchidaceae. Very fragrant, night blooming plant with cane type stems. Price 50 cents per pkt.

***Amaryllis*—**

Choice candy stripes and solid colors. New seed. Price 25 cents per pkt.

Send orders for seed to:

Mrs. Florence Gee
Seed Fund Administrator
234 Birch Street
Roseville, Calif. 95678

SPOONIT

FLOWER FOOD

Send Post Card for Information and Sample

PLANTSMITH

Box 818 Palo Alto, Calif. 94302

*Palos
Verdes*

**Begonia
Farm**

4111 - 242nd St., WALTERIA, Calif. 90505

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

COMPLETE SELECTION OF BEGONIAS

AND SHADE PLANTS

FUCHSIAS—CAMELLIAS—FERNS

OPEN DAILY

Complete Nursery & Garden Supply Shop
1½ Miles E. of Redondo Beach
Hi-Way 101

FROM THE CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE

The Classification Committee is working with the *Classification Guide* produced by the Westchester Branch and an additional 700 Begonias. Our work now is to classify Begonias for show purposes so that members entering or working on shows may group them for ease and accuracy in judging.

It is difficult for many of us to accept a New Show Schedule for this year, because we have entered shows for so long with the previous type schedules. Some of the groupings in this year's schedule will cause members to stop and think and this is always a good sign. The Begonias have been grouped so that the habit of growth is visible to all judges. For instance, for years there has been the thought of *B. mazae* being a rhizomatous Begonia by some while others have considered this a fibrous Begonia. All Begonias are fibrous. In this New Show Schedule, *B. mazae* has been placed in a trailing class along with *B. limmingheana* and it appears under the Division for Canes.

The Classification Committee has worked many long hours together and

individually. Members have attended eight meetings where they worked from early morning to late evening, many times as much as nine hours. The work done individually has been xeroxed and mailed to the members of the committee who then discussed together each item. If a member could not attend, he sent his thoughts to the Chairman to be brought up at the meeting. Several members traveled many hours, expending gas, food and time away from their businesses and personal obligations. This time, together with the time used in our homes to personally research the information needed, has been donated by these members to give the Society a workable Show Schedule, an A.B.S. Point-Scoring System and presently a Classification List of Begonias for shows. Keep in mind that all of this work has been discussed time and time again before decisions were reached; so this is not a schedule that has been lightly put together. Study it and see its merits. If you can offer constructive suggestions, we are looking for your comments.

We ask that you bear with us and have patience. This will be new to us also, and we will be working for your benefit and that of the A.B.S.

Notice that you will be able to enter many of your specimen plants. There will be no room for empty tables at the show this year. The Classification Committee has worked closely with Show Chairman Jim Somes and we will be at the show to assist you.

Ruth Pease, *Chairman*



Photo by Ralph Corwin

"THE BEGONIAN"

Advertising rates

	<i>Once</i>	<i>Monthly</i>
Full Page.....	\$30.00	\$25.00
Half Page.....	18.50	15.00
Quarter Page.....	10.00	8.50
Per Inch.....	3.00	2.50

A. B. S. POINT-SCORING SYSTEM

It is not necessary to destroy your Begonian by removing this point-scoring system. Reprints are available through the Judges Course Director, Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman (see officers list, page 150). Please enclose 25c with your request to cover the cost of the reprints and postage. —Editor

FIBROUS BEGONIAS (Div. A, B, and C)

Cultural Perfection	50
Foliage	15
Difficulty of Cultivation.....	15
Flower Quantity and Quality.....	15
Correct and Suitable Labeling.....	5

SEMPERFLORENS BEGONIAS (Div. D)

Flower Quantity and Quality.....	40
Cultural Perfection	40
Foliage	10
Freedom from Old Flower Stems.....	10

RHIZOMATOUS BEGONIAS (Div. E)

Cultural Perfection	50
Foliage	15
Difficulty of Cultivation.....	15
Flower Quantity and Quality.....	15
Correct and Suitable Labeling.....	5

REX BEGONIAS (Div. F)

Cultural Perfection	40
Foliage	20
Distinctiveness	10
(Difference, usually in foliage)	
Size of Plant.....	10
Difficulty of Cultivation.....	15
Correct and Suitable Labeling.....	5

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS (Div. G)

Number and size of blooms in proportion to size of plant.....	40
Cultural Perfection	25
Foliage	15
Erect Flowering Stems.....	10
Quality of Flowers.....	10

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS (Hanging)

As above but with Drooping Flower Stems	10
---	----

BEGONIA COLLECTIONS (Div. H)

Staging and Arrangement.....	15
Cultural Perfection	40
Variety	15
Color Effect	10
Flower Quantity and Quality.....	15
Correct and Suitable Labeling.....	5

BRANCH EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS (Div. I)

Educational Value	50
Design	15
Cultural Perfection	20
Labeling	15

NEW BEGONIA INTRODUCTIONS (Div. J)

Distinctiveness (Difference, usually in foliage).....	40
Cultural Perfection	25
Foliage	15
Flower Quantity and Quality.....	15
Correct and Suitable Labeling.....	5

BEGONIAS FROM SEED (Div. K)

As above (see Div. J)

PHOTOGRAPHS OF BEGONIAS (Div. L)

As needed from above.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF BRANCH GARDEN DISPLAYS AND EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS (Div. M)

Educational Value	50
Design	15
Cultural Perfection	20
Labeling	15

PLANTERS (Div. N)

Cultural Perfection	35
Arrangement of Plants.....	30
Variety of Plants.....	15
Color Effect	15
Correct and Suitable Labeling.....	5

MINIATURE GARDENS (Div. O)

Landscape Merit of Design.....	20
Originality of Design.....	20
Quality of Plant Material.....	15
Perfection of Detail.....	20
Suitability of Accessories.....	15
Color Harmony	10

FERNS (Div. P)

Ref: L.A. International Fern Society	
Cultural Perfection	50
Foliage	25
Difficulty of Cultivation.....	15
Correct and Suitable Labeling.....	10

OTHER SHADE PLANTS (Div. Q)

Ref: National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.

Flowering Plants

Cultural Perfection	35
Size of Plant (according to variety)....	20
Floriferousness	15
Rarity	10
Color	10
Foliage	10

Foliage Plants

Cultural Perfection	35
Size of Plant (according to variety)....	20
Distinction	15
Rarity	15
Form (according to variety).....	15

COLLECTIONS OF OTHER SHADE

PLANTS (Div. R)

Ref: National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.

Flowering Plants

Cultural Perfection	25
Distinction	15
Number or variety of kinds.....	15
Arrangement	20
Color Combination	10
Rarity	10
Correct Labeling	5

Foliage Plants

Cultural Perfection	25
Distinction	25
Number or variety of kinds.....	15

(Continued on Page 164)

A.B.S. POINT-SCORING SYSTEM

(Continued from Page 163)

Arrangement	20
Rarity	10
Labeling	5
ARTISTIC DIVISION (Div. S)	
1. Begonia Flower Arrangements	
Color Harmony	25
Proportion and Balance.....	25
Distinction and Originality.....	20
Relation to Receptacle.....	10
Condition of Material.....	10
Suitable Combination of Material.....	10
2. Tuberos Begonia Flowers	
Color of Flowers.....	25
Form of Flowers.....	25
Size of Flowers.....	20
Substance and Condition.....	30
3. As Class 1 above	
4. As Class 1 above	
5. As Class 1 above	
6. As Class 1 above	
7. and 8. Corsages	
Fresh, well-chosen, unmarred flowers	25
Pleasing association of flowers	
with foliage	25
Color Harmony and suitability	
for the occasion.....	25
Suitable ribbon, paler than	
prevailing color	25
TOTEM POLE	
Cultural Perfection	40
Suitable Pole	10
Symmetry of Growth.....	15
Foliage	10
Difficulty of Cultivation.....	10
Quantity of Flowers.....	10
Correct and Suitable Labeling.....	5
ENCLOSED CONTAINER	
As needed from above with consideration of suitable container.	
HANGING CONTAINER AND WALL POCKET	
Cultural Perfection	40
Foliage	15
Habit of Plants.....	10
Difficulty of Cultivation.....	15
Flower Quantity and Quality.....	15
Correct and Suitable Labeling.....	5
NOVEL METHOD OF TRAINING OR GROWING	
Novel method of training or growing....	25
Cultural Perfection	30
Suitable Accessories	10
Flower Quantity and Quality.....	10
Foliage	10
Difficulty of Cultivation.....	10
Correct and Suitable Labeling.....	5
UNIQUE CONTAINER	
Unusual or imaginative not normally used.	
Cultural Perfection	30
Container	25
Flower Quantity and Quality.....	20
Foliage	10
Difficulty of Cultivation.....	10
Correct and Suitable Labeling.....	5

FROM THE SHOW COMMITTEE

We regret the omission of the Bessie Raymond Buxton Branch Perpetual Award from the list of Perpetual Trophies. Entries in Division H—Begonia Collections, classes two and four will be eligible for this award.

Editor

The Show Committee will be needing your help as hosts and hostesses during the two days of the show. Please note the hours and give your name to your branch secretary to forward to me, and also the hours you will work. This is one way you can participate in the show. The show room will be open until 7 p.m. on Saturday, August 24 so that those who wish may attend the banquet.

Your help will be needed and appreciated by all of us. What hours can you help?

Saturday	Sunday
1 - 3 p.m.	12 - 2 p.m.
3 - 5 p.m.	2 - 4 p.m.
5 - 7 p.m.	4 - 6 p.m.

Please let me know.

Lola Somes

Host and Hostess Chairman

4849 West 130th Street

Hawthorne, Calif. 90250

(213) 676-8485

Well here I am again still talking about grooming your plants and having them in clean, attractive containers with legible labels that are correct. I know that it is too late to start your plant grooming; you should have it well done by now. I am hoping to see some lovely plants at the show this year.

Members will not be charged admission but as the standing rules allow, members will be charged a small registration fee to cover the cost of badges and registration books.

Remember that we will need help at the door and at other places during the two days of the show so please offer your help to the chairmen or to me so that we will know what and how much help to count on.

The Begonian

CLUB ACTIVITIES SEATTLE AREA

By PHYLLIS WRIGHT
Northwestern Editor

One of the newest Begonia clubs in this area is an enthusiastic one and seems to thoroughly enjoy what they are doing. The new South Seattle Begonia Society celebrated their first birthday in January, 1968. In July, 1967 when they were less than six months old, at the very last minute they got together and gathered up a few props, their special plants and drove into Seattle to put in a small display in the Seattle Begonia and Sheltered Garden Show. They put in a corner plot which was not only original but truly lovely. Several of the members received blue ribbons on their plants and from this encouragement their enthusiasm grew, so this year they have taken a larger space in the Seattle Show. At this time they are deep in plans for the display they expect to put in.

While their membership is small, they have peppy business meetings, fine programs, and publish a really informative newsletter. Above all, they enjoy a real honest-to-goodness fellowship.

To date this small club has one of the largest and most complete libraries on garden books of any of the clubs in this area. The members are encouraged to use this service which is under the guidance of Marjorie Hanson, wife of the Branch President; she is doing a splendid job.

We are now looking forward to our "baby" club in Portland, Oregon which is in the process of obtaining

Be sure to look over the New Show Schedule carefully so that you can see where you can enter those extra good plants that you have and don't want to leave home.

See you at the show! Thanks very much for the help that all of you have given.

Jim Somes, *Show Chairman*

its charter. We are sure we can expect great things from them also.

The Eastside Begonia club in Bellevue is likewise deep in plans for its Begonia Show which will be held in the Bellevue Square August 16 and 17.

The Seattle Begonia Society members have been busy on their show held in connection with Seafair week, July 27 and 28. So you can see we are a busy bunch in the Pacific Northwest.

Our A.B.S. family grows larger each year, with more and more Begonias being grown. Most of us already have more plants than we have room for, but when we are offered a leaf, a cutting or a small plant it seems that the right hand automatically reaches out to receive it; just can't say no.

We are all familiar with the old saying that the busiest people are the ones you can always depend on to get most of the jobs done. This certainly applies to our clubs around this area.

We are especially proud of our clubs in the Seattle area and wish each and every member loads of luck with the plants they are raising.

GREEN HILLS NURSERY

Exotic & Hardy Ferns

Open Saturdays and Sundays
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment

2131 Vallejo Street St. Helena, Calif. 94574
Mrs. E. Bolduc

Specializing in Begonias SAYBROOK LANDSCAPE & GARDEN CENTER

1363 Boston Post Road
Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475
Send for our free list

"PETE" FRATUS

PEGGY FRATUS

SUMMER BARGAIN SALE

12 different named Begonias \$8.00 postpaid
(includes Iron Cross, 3 different
pustulata-type, etc.)

12 different cane cuttings \$2.00 postpaid

MRS. ALICE MUSY
P. O. BOX 7, VALRICA, FLORIDA 33594

REX BEGONIAS FROM LEAVES

By BARBARA WALKER
Bloomington, Indiana

To obtain new plants of prized rex Begonia hybrids, I root leaf cuttings in a mix of equal parts good sphagnum peat and perlite, with a generous scattering of fresh charcoal. This mix is premoistened with a solution of seaweed emulsion called Sea-Born and a half-strength solution of Atlas fish emulsion. I store it in plastic bags fastened with a Twistem, using it all winter for rex and other rhizomatous Begonia leaves and all Gesneriads. With this mix, new plantlets are not fed until ready to be transplanted, just watered very rarely if they happen to dry out in the propagating box.

I prefer a whole leaf for a new plant although any wedge-shaped piece that has a good-sized vein running through it will root. Leave about an inch of stem on the leaf, and if it is a large leaf, cut it down to a circular shape. Push the stem into a two-inch pot of mix far enough to press the sinus (the point where leaf and stem join) firmly into the mix. A strong plant will come right from the sinus (the best plant you can get) and, if the sinus is not pressed firmly into the mix, the plant will have no roots and will need to be rerooted.

Keep cuttings humid by setting the little pot on moist perlite or gravel in a plastic box, aired every day, but covered at night. If the leaf dies back, keep the rotted portion cut off to avoid spreading fungus or mildew to the baby plant.

When roots grow out of the bottom of the two-inch into the gravel in the box, leave the cover off and feed with fish emulsion, full strength. A few days later, transplant the young plant

into a three-inch pot of good humusy soil, preferably equal parts of humus (leafmold, peatmoss), soil, and drainage material (perlite, sharp gravel, or charcoal). If the leaf sprouted offshoots besides the main plant on the sinus, remove them and pot them separately and, if still small, put them back into the prop box.

The three-inch pot is ready to go out into the world without the protection of a prop box. For a heated room in winter, however, a dish or pie plate of moist perlite or gravel under it will provide needed humidity. Without this humidity, leaf edges will brown on most of the prettier varieties. My benches are lined with Mylar plastic to waterproof them, and they have moist perlite on them all the time. The plants sit in their pots on the perlite benches, and humidity is always at the minimum requirement of fifty percent. Greenhouses usually use moist gravel, but they do not need as much moisture added as does a home. I have to wet gravel down in the house two or three times a day, for it dries out fast, but perlite absorbs ten times its volume in water and stays moist for two or three days without watering.

For the house, generally, varieties with heavy textured leaves are more tolerant and adaptable than the shear-leaved ones. Some of the most adaptable rexes are B. 'Helen Teupel', B. 'Peter Pan', B. 'Silver Sweet', B. 'Robin'—and, for a wonderful spiral, try B. 'Green Gold'.

ROUND ROBIN

(Continued from Page 159)

B. 'Kumwha':

The rhizomatous offspring of B. kenworthy X B. 'Reichenheimi'. B. 'Kumwha' goes dormant quite often for Anita. Leaves root easily, but after plantlets are potted and established, they must be kept quite dry or they will drop all their leaves.

To join a round robin, write:

Mrs. Carrie Karegeannes
Round Robin Director
3916 Lake Boulevard
Annandale, Virginia 22003

EXOTIC FERNS—BEGONIAS CHRISTMAS & EASTER CACTUS

We ship anywhere in the U.S.

1967-68 color catalog 25c

TALNADGE'S FERN GARDENS

354 "G" Street, Section B
Chula Vista, Calif. 92010

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue brings to a close my first year as Editor of *The Begonian*. It has been a good year. I have learned a great deal.

One of the most important things I have learned during this year is that we have one of the most eager and cooperative memberships I have ever worked with. The material which has come in for publication has on the most part been excellent—full of good information and well written. Most of our writers are not professional by any means. They are only members who are eager to share their experiences and knowledge.

Thank you for the encouragement and help you have given me. I look forward to another good year and am assured that with this kind of cooperation and enthusiasm, the A.B.S. can look forward to another successful and progressive year. Mae Tagg

SOIL—KEEP IT SIMPLE . . .

(Continued from Page 153)

make up a conglomerate mix that someone else has talked about? Why not keep it simple? So I make my own mix, one part coarse leaf mold, one part decomposed leaf mold, one part Canadian peat (or similar), and a goodly supply of bone meal, plus a generous sprinkling of Sponge Rok. Now you have a simple potting mix and if you want to add ground charcoal to it, all well and good, and if you're after specimen tuberous Begonias, then don't forget to add fishmeal when potting them into their final containers. This is an "all purpose" porous mix good for all Begonias and most shade plants. It is excellent for rex and tuberous, and cane types can be grown in it quite well. If, however, you desire a heavier soil for the canes or others, then add to the basic mix one part of good garden loam. If you do not want to bother with a second mix, then the basic one can be used for all your plants. You now have the ingredients of a simple mix, the ingredients of which may be purchased from any garden center. It is always best to use

moist potting mix for all your plants so place your mix in a large container with drainage (a galvanized garbage can with holes punched in the bottom will do), water it, and let it stand. Better yet, if you have a still larger container, make up as much mix as you expect to use during the entire season and let it compost in the rains over the winter. Doing it this way, you can add a good supply of manure, for it will be well composted if the mix is occasionally turned over during the rainy winter months. When you are ready to use it, you will have a nice porous, soft, humusy soil.

Maybe you do not have leaf mold or it is unobtainable. Then try that "good garden soil" the catalogs talk about. What on earth is that stuff? Well let's look at the back lot or that patch of ground that is so lushly covered with weeds. If they grow that well, why wouldn't your Begonias do as well? That then could be the "good garden soil" the catalog tells us to use. The first few inches of this soil should be about right. Dig it, sift it, try it. If you find it too heavy for your type of growing, peat will lighten it up. If you don't like that, try some Sponge Rok or add a little sand or a good supply of sawdust. Mixes just don't "happen." They are manufactured. Oh heck! Let's go buy some leaf mold, Sponge Rok, bone meal and peat and we're in business. Let's keep it simple.

I have just looked out at my "back 40." That place is simply a jungle of weeds. Winter grass is already seeding. Mustard is rampant. Dock and thistle aren't taking a back seat to anything. That just must be good soil. If they grow that well, it must be the choicest! Hold it! How about the nut grass? I don't want to spread that pest around. But, look at the money I could save, by just using all that good soil waiting for me just for the digging! Maybe I'll try it next time. Nothing like giving our pets the best. But on second thought I'm going to settle for that one basic mix that can be used for all the plants, is so good for them and so simple to make.

THIRD ANNUAL EASTERN BEGONIA CONVENTION

Sponsored by the Connecticut Branch of the
American Begonia Society, Inc.
SEPTEMBER 6, 7, 8, 1968

THE INN
Cornfield Point
Old Saybrook, Conn. 06475

Old Saybrook is located approximately mid-way between New York and Boston
and easily reached via the Connecticut Turnpike (I-95), Exit 66.

PROGRAM

Friday, September 6:

- 5:00 - 10:00 p.m. Flower show entries accepted.
- 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Convention Registration.
- 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. Get acquainted coffee hour sponsored by the Connecticut Branch, A.B.S.

Saturday, September 7:

- 8:30 - 11:00 a.m. Flower show entries accepted. Registration.
- 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Judging.
- 1:00 p.m. Luncheon.
- 2:00 - 10:00 p.m. Show open to public.
- 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. Seminar on Begonias.
- 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Happy hour.
- 7:30 p.m. Convention banquet and awards presentation.

Sunday, September 8:

- 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Show open to public.
- 11:30 a.m. Brunch.
- 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Question and answer panel.
- 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Coffee hour.

Convention Chairman
Mrs. Priscilla Beck
R.F.D. #1
Mystic, Conn. 06355

Registration Chairmen
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Bean
26 Washington Avenue
Niantic, Conn. 06357

Entries Chairman
Mrs. Arline Peck
Eagle Peak Road
Pascoag, R. I. 02859

For complete information, write to the above chairmen.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE A.B.S. BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. Walter Pease led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Aims and Purposes. Roll Call was answered by thirteen officers and twelve Branch Representatives. Mrs. Margie Sikkelee of Dallas County, Texas Branch was present for the meeting. She is Southern Public Relations Chairman.

President Tagg appointed the following committee to count the ballots: Walter Pease, Pearl Benell, and Earl Hough. Anne Rose moved, seconded by Jim Somes that they be accepted. Carried.

The William Penn Branch sent a donation of \$50.00 to the Society. The President is expressing thanks for all donations in *The Begonian* (see page 151).

There was a balance of \$994.72, receipts of \$622.04, disbursements of \$927.52, leaving a balance of \$689.24 in the Treasurer's report by Walter Barnett.

Margaret Lee reported requests were slow coming in for the applications for Awards, the deadline being July 1st.

Sylvia Leatherman reported a balance of \$312.43 in the Judges Course account.

Ruth Pease reported the work in progress on the Classification.

There were 59 new members this month and 2,684 *Begonians* mailed, according to Membership Secretary, Pearl Benell.

Show Chairman, Jim Somes, reported receiving a check from the Fern Society for the prize money. He also explained that the 25 cent member's registration fee at the show pays for the booklet and the member's name badge.

President Tagg reported that the slides made by Photographer Gene Daniels are being prepared for the Library.

Publicity Chairman Vera Naumann informed the Board that the Southern Alameda County Branch had voted to disband. Westchester Branch has amended their constitution to correspond with the National dues. Muriel Perz moved, seconded by Floyd Neff that the change be accepted. Carried. Mrs. Naumann also told of a new branch being organized in South Carolina. The Portland Begonia Branch of the American Begonia Society requested approval of their constitution. Motion by Walter Barnett, seconded by Pearl Benell, that it be approved. Carried. Margie Sikkelee, Southern Chairman, explained how she helped new members get started in Begonia culture.

Mae Tagg informed the Board that the July *Begonian* includes the show schedule and the ballot for this year's election.

Anne Rose received \$42.50 this month in paid ads.

Judges Lists are available for Shows. (It was again emphasized that the ONLY re-

quirement for judges who wish to be accredited by the A.B.S. is that they register with the Judges Course Director.)

A request from the Eastern Convention Chairman for a Trophy contribution was presented. Motion by Sylvia Leatherman, seconded by Vera Naumann that \$35.00 be given for Trophies. Carried.

After discussion, Mae Tagg made a motion, seconded by Margaret Lee that a \$10.00 ad be purchased in the Westchester Branch Show Program. Carried.

The Board was reminded that the Annual Reports were due at the July meeting.

President Tagg announced that the Social Hour of the Convention banquet would be held in the Show room. Tickets for the banquet are now available at \$3.25 each, and requested that early reservations be made.

After the Branch reports, President Tagg asked Elsie Joyce to read one of the reports she gives to her branch about the Board meetings.

A motion for adjournment was made by Anne Rose at 9:15 p.m., and refreshments were served.

Virginia Barnett
Secretary

Grow with MAGAMP

A revolutionary new
one-time fertilizer



Non-burning • Non-leaching

Controlled release

up to two years

Distributed by

Neil A. Maclean Co.

Offices

San Francisco
1536 Industrial Way
Belmont, Calif. 94002

Los Angeles
9846 E. Alpaca St.
El Monte, Calif. 91733

IN MEMORIAM

*They are not lost who find
the light of sun and stars and God.*

Dr. Edgar Irmscher:

Begonia lovers the world over will greatly miss Dr. Edgar Irmscher, the world's authority of the *Begoniaceae*, who passed away May 26. He had been studying the genus *Begonia* for over 55 years and named more *Begonia* species than anyone else. Being interrupted by the unsettled conditions in Germany, the war, and its tragic aftermath, he has been in the process of compiling a *Begonia* monograph since 1919. Thanks to Dr. Irmscher's foresight, all the precious *Begonia* species than anyone else. Being included practically all of the *Begonia* specimens of the University of California, came safely through the war. The passing of Dr. Irmscher is a tragic loss to all of us in the A.B.S. because of his sincere interest in our Society.

Mrs. U. U. Stanford:

"It is with deep regret that we must tell you that our retiring president, Mrs. U. U. Stanford, passed away on Tuesday, May 4 of a sudden illness. It was through her insistence and untiring efforts that the Texas State Branch was organized following several years of inactivity. She came to Port Arthur from Baton Rouge, Louisiana as Mrs. T. J. Atkinson and was married to U. U. Stanford in December 1966. For the past year she served as our President. We are shocked and deeply grieved at her sudden loss."

Mrs. Leslie D. Perry:

"Our Branch would like to report the passing of our Founder, Mrs. Leslie D. Perry. Mrs. Mae Drew's words in a letter sums it up beautifully, 'She was the Pennsylvania Apostle of Begonias, in that she travelled the state showing and talking about Begonias, for many years before forming a Branch of the A.B.S.' We shall surely miss her."

SHOW DATES

August 3, 4—Westchester Branch: 7th Annual Begonia and Shade Plant Show. "Begonias for Everyone." Westchester Women's Club, 8020 Alverstone Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. A.B.S. members welcome to enter Friday, August 2, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Show open on Saturday, August 3, 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday, August 4, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Donation 50¢.

August 7—San Francisco Branch: 12th Annual Begonia Show. (See The San Francisco Begonian for details.)

August 11, 12—Orange County Branch: 15th Annual Begonia and Shade Plant Show. Orange Coast Y.M.C.A., 2300 University Dr., Newport Beach. (Coming from the Newport Freeway, turn left on Del Mar from Newport Blvd. and go all the way to the end of the street. Coming from Harbor Blvd. turn left at Fair Dr. and go all the way to the end, regardless of street name changes.) Show open Saturday, August 10 from 12 to 10 p.m. and Sunday, August 11 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Donation 75¢. The purpose of our show is to provide a worthy Orange County student in the field of horticulture or related field a scholarship. Area merchants are donating door prizes. A plant sale and snack bar are also being featured. There is plenty of free parking for everyone.

August 16, 17—Eastside Branch: "Shade Gardens of Bellevue Square." (See Shady News for details.)

August 22-25—San Francisco Flower Show. "Round The World With Flowers." Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park. Show open Thursday, August 22, 7 to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

August 24, 25—A.B.S. NATIONAL CONVENTION AND SHOW, Hawthorne, Calif. (See page 134, July issue.)

Sept. 7, 8—THIRD ANNUAL EASTERN BEGONIA CONVENTION

AND SHOW, hosted by the Connecticut Branch (see page 167).

Sept. 7, 8—Rhode Island Begonia Society: Fall Flower Show. Public is invited. University of Rhode Island in Kingston, R. I. Hours 2 to 4 p.m.

Sept. 7, 8—Santa Barbara Branch: Begonia Show, an annual non-competitive exhibit of tuberous, fibrous, rhizomatous and rex Begonias. The Flower Hall of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 2559 Puesta del Sol, Santa Barbara, Calif. Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Sept. 21, 22—San Miguel Branch: Begonia Show. Floral Association Building in Balboa Park, San Diego, Calif.

CALENDAR

August 1—Westchester Branch: "Show Talk" directed by Ruth and Walter Pease. 7:30 p.m.

August 6—Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch, Ventura: Sunday, 1 p.m., Potluck picnic in the Garden of Hazel Snodgrass, 265 N. Walnut Dr., Ventura, Calif. Speaker will be Mr. Clarence Hall.

August 9—San Gabriel Valley Branch: Potluck dinner, 6:45 p.m. Steve Talnadge of Chula Vista, Calif. will show slides and talk on the growing of shade plants.

August 14—Inglewood Branch: The program will be an informal discussion by members. 7:30 p.m.

August 16—MIDNITE: BALLOT DEADLINE! DON'T WAIT! MAIL IT NOW.

August 24—Eastside Branch: Annual Club Picnic. For details see Shady News.

August 24—ANNUAL MEETING OF THE A.B.S. held in conjunction with the 1968 Convention, Hawthorne Memorial Center, 3901 West El Segundo Blvd., Hawthorne, Calif. 2:30 p.m. in the Polaris Room.

Sept. 1—DEADLINE for all material for the October *Begonian*.



A.B.S. LIBRARY BOOKSTORE

The following selection of books are FOR SALE

- *The Complete Book of Gardening.....\$4.95
Under Lights by Elvin McDonald
- *Gesneriads And How To Grow Them..\$7.95
by Peggy Shultz
- *Rex Begonias As House Plants.....\$1.00
by Virginia Withee
- *All About Begonias\$5.95
by Bernice Brillmayer
- *Begonias Slanted Toward The\$3.00
Beginner by Dorothy Behrends
- *So Say The Experts by Ruth Pease\$2.00
Classification Guide—Compiled by\$1.25
the Westchester Branch, A.B.S.
- *Ferns We Grow by Sylvia Leatherman \$3.85
and Dorothy Behrends
- The Begonian—Complete reprints\$6.00
of the four years 1934 to 1937
- The Begonian—1967-1960 25c each
1959-1950 40c each
1949-1939 50c each
- *Begonian Binders\$1.50
A.B.S. on the cover.
- *Calif. residents, add 5% tax on these items.

Send your orders to:

MRS. LUCILE WRIGHT, LIBRARIAN
4508 West 133rd Street,
Hawthorne, Calif. 90250

LATE BULLETIN

The Redondo Area Branch reports a new time and place for meetings. They will meet on the first Friday of the month, 7:30 p.m., at the American Savings and Loan, 1959 Kingsdale (across from South Bay Shopping Center), Redondo Beach, Calif. Visitors are always welcome.

REX HYBRID BEGONIA SEED

\$1.00 per packet

RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE

1130 North Milpas Street

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93103

Return Requested
10331 South Colima Road
Whittier, California 90604
Second Class Mail

BEGONIAS, GERANIUMS, EXOTICS
FERNS, OXALIS, CACTI, HERBS

New 75th anniversary catalog, with more color—50c

LOGEE'S GREENHOUSES

(Est. 1892)

55 North Street, Danielson, Connecticut 06239

BEGONIAS
HOUSE and GARDEN PLANTS

Send for List—10c

MRS. BERT ROUTH

Louisburg, Missouri 65685

ANTONELLI BROTHERS

2545 Capitola Road

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060

36-page color catalog 25 cents

Paul P. Lowe

BEGONIAS - ORCHIDS - BROMELIADS
- FERNS - MINIATURE CARISSA - NORFOLK
- ISLAND PINE - MINIATURE
ROSES.

Wholesale and Retail—Price List 10c

23045 S.W. 123 Rd., Goulds, Fla. 33170

SHADE PLANTS

(No list or shipping)

PATIO PLANTS

4036 Moore Street

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90066

Located half way between Centinela & Lincoln
Blvds. Half block south of Washington Blvd.

HEINLEIN NURSERY
BROMELIADS - BEGONIAS - FERNS
SPECIES ORCHIDS and RARE
UNUSUAL TROPICAL PLANTS

Bromeliad list 10c

Tropical plant list 10c

(includes Ferns, Begonias, Orchids and
other house and patio plants)

19395 S. W. 248th ST. (Dept. B)

HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA 33030

"Schultz-Instant"
LIQUID PLANT FOOD 10-15-10
7 DROPS to a quart of water
"starts and feeds" all plants
*Available at
your store*



or send \$1.25 for 2 bottles, prepaid to
SCHULTZ COMPANY
11730 NORTHLINE, ST. LOUIS, MO. 63042

CALIFORNIA GARDEN

**For expert, helpful, garden
information**

Bi-monthly subscription, \$2.50 a yr.

Balboa Park, San Diego, Cal. 92101

Gloxinias—African Violets—Begonias
Varieties which thrive under
fluorescent light
New Catalog—25c

KARTUZ GREENHOUSES
Dept. B—92 Chestnut Street
Wilmington, Massachusetts 01887