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

TRY *BEGONIA ARIDICAULIS*

By PHYLLIS WRIGHT, *Northwestern Editor*

Some *Begonia* enthusiasts get so interested in the lovely *rex Begonias* with their large brightly colored leaves and long spikes of delicate bloom or in the ever popular *semperflorens* with their almost everblooming dainty flowers in shades of pink, red, and white as well as the doubles—not to mention the lovely *Callas* and so many more. The *Begonia* genus is almost too large to choose a favorite. With this in mind, we often overlook an easy-care, attractive plant. I am referring to *Begonia aridicaulis*.

If you have never grown this plant and like small ones, you are in for a surprise. This is especially true if you are short of window space as most growers are. *B. aridicaulis* is sure to please you with its small dark green pointed leaves. It is a compact grower and if the plant is contained in a small pot where it is a bit crowded, it will continue to stay small. When my plant gets a little too tall, I simply pinch it off above a node and before long new growth appears adding to the compactness of the plant. These little cuttings will root quite readily when put down in either damp sand or vermiculite. A leaf with a half-inch stem placed in the same medium will take root and become a nice small plant in no time.

If you choose to grow the plant in the living room, plunge the container it is growing in into a larger one filled with either damp moss or sand. A weekly spraying of warm water is quite beneficial to the plant. Also it likes a little fertilizer every two weeks.

I have grown *B. aridicaulis* successfully under fluorescent lights, in the greenhouse and in a north kitchen window but the nicest one I ever had was grown in a fish bowl. This needed practically no care and was a blue ribbon plant. Grown under these conditions, the plant needs very little water, only about once a month and then I give it a little fertilizer (a quarter teaspoon to a gallon of water).

If you are fond of terrariums, this is a plant you should try. This one must have good drainage. Use a layer of gravel in the bottom of the bowl, add a layer of small pieces of charcoal then top with a good layer of shredded sphagnum moss or your own favorite mix. I water this with a solution of hyponex (a quarter teaspoon to a gallon of water) before the plant is set in. If the cuttings are small, two or three may be placed in the bowl. They will soon grow together as one plant and in this way, fill the bowl much faster. Keep the plant just moist at all times and away from direct sunlight.

B. aridicaulis is a jewel in the *Begoniaceae* and a must in my collection. Try one and see for yourself.

COVER PICTURE

The variety and versatility of *Begonias* provide us with endless pleasure. Our contributing editor, Elda Haring, who provides our articles, "*Begonias Galore*" has been ill. We hope she will be back with us soon.

Photo by Edmund B. Gilchrist, Jr.

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*.

PRONUNCIATION OF *BEGONIA* NAMES

By JACK GOLDING, *Kearny, New Jersey, President, Knickerbocker Branch*

Symbols representing the sounds of the various letters of a written word are necessary to indicate the pronunciation desired. Most dictionaries use various diacritical marks and other symbols borrowed from the International Phonetic Alphabet, but these are complex and it is necessary to be constantly referring to a key to understand them. The International Phonetic Alphabet is a very accurate system of indicating articulation, but unfortunately it is even more complicated for the novice than using diacritical marks.

The following simple list of phonetic symbols, while not complete for every sound, should be adequate for our needs. The pronunciations used will primarily be in accordance with the *traditional English system*, for reference the major variations per the *reformed academic system* are indicated by *R.A.*

<i>Letter</i>	<i>Symbols</i>	<i>Typical Sound: as in</i>
a (long)	ay	buy
	R.A. ah	father
a (short) usually when 1st or last letter	uh	ago, Persia
a (short)	u	sun
ae (diphthong)	ee	bee
	R.A. eye	bite
au (diphthong) as ending and	aw	lawl
	R.A. ow	how
c (hard, before a, o, u)	k	cut
c (soft, before e, i, y, ae, oe)	s	center
ch	k	cut
	or ch	chair
e (long)	ee	bee
	R.A. ay	buy
e (short)	e	pet
ei (diphthong)	eye	bite
	R.A. ay	buy
g (hard before a, o, u)	g	gap
g (soft before e, i, y, ae, oe)	j	gem
i (long)	eye	bite
	R.A. ee	bee
i (short)	i	bit
ia (as ending)	i uh	Persia
ii	i eye	
o (long)	oh	note
o (short)	o	not
oe (diphthong)	ee	bee
	R.A. oy	boy
oi (in Greek compounds)	o eye	...oides
ph	f	fill
s	s	sit
s	z	has
u (long)	yew	brute
u (short)	u	tub
y		same as for letter i

The pronunciation of two vowels together is sometimes confusing. Most of the time they form a diphthong (*ae ee, au aw, ei eye, oe ee*) and the first letter is silent. But when they are not a diphthong the first vowel is short, (*ia i-uh, ii i-eye, oi o-eye*).

While it is not possible to review all of the grammar of Botanical Latin, the awareness of certain fundamentals is necessary to understand the formation of the names and their meanings. For further study I recommend the excellent and thorough book on this subject, *Botanical Latin*, by William T. Stearn.

Latin is an inflected language and the ending of most of its words change according to the meanings intended.

The endings of the nouns and the adjectives associated with them are controlled by their *gender* (masculine, feminine or neuter), *number* (singular or plural) and *case* (nominative, the subject; vocative, not used in Botanical Latin; accusative, the object; genitive, possessive; dative, the indirect object; ablative, the agent)

The *stem* is the basic part of the word which normally remains unchanged, but it may be slightly modified for the nominative singular case, e.g. the *stem* of the word for flower: *flos* (nom. sing.) *flor* (all others).

The grammatical gender of nouns corresponds not only to the natural sex of the subject, but also may be assigned arbitrarily depending upon its ending in the nominative singular case, or its meaning. A guide to gender is as follows for the:

masculine (m): words ending in *..us*, *..er*, e.g. *hortus*, *HOR-tus* (garden); *ager*, A-ger, (field); and the names of most rivers and mountains.

feminine (f): words ending in *..a*, *..es*, e.g. *corolla* kor-ROL-luh, *species*—SPEE-si-eez; the classical names of trees ending in *..us*, e.g. *pinus*, PEYE-nus, pine; *prunus*, PREYEW-nus, plum or cherry; names of rivers and mountains ending in *..a* or *..e*; and of most countries, islands and cities.

neuter (n): ending in *..um*, *..u*, e.g. *petalum* PET-al-um, petal, *cornu*, KOR-nyew, horn; words of Greek origin ending in *..ma*, e.g. *rhizoma*, reye-ZOH-muh, rhizome; *stigma*, STIG-muh.

The classifications of the word stems and the declension of the nouns in accordance with the different cases is rather involved. Since we are primarily concerned with the nominative and genitive singular cases and only the names of *Begonias*, it is not necessary for us to delve into all these complexities.

The binomial system of nomenclature gives the complex identification of a plant by the use of two (or more) names. First is the genus name and it is followed by either the species name, or the "Fancy Name" given to a cultivar, e.g. *Begonia prunifolia*, pryew-ni-FOH-li-uh, (with leaves like a plum tree); *Begonia* 'Helen W. King'.

The genus name *Begonia*, be-GOH-ni-uh, honors Michael Begon and was formed per the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* for generic names by adding the ending *..ia*. This nominative singular ending makes the name feminine.

For classification purposes, the family name *Begoniaceae*, be-goh-ni-AY-se-eye, is formed by adding the nominative plural feminine adjectival ending *aceae* (belongs to the family of) to the stem of the genus name.

In the continuation of this work the genus name will be omitted, but it should be remembered as preceding all of the names to be listed for the complete title of a particular plant.

The primary concern here will be understanding the meaning and the pronunciation of the species names. Many of the meanings are descriptive, while some indicate the place of origin or growth—other are commemorative. These names may be single words to which a prefix and/or suffix of a particular significance has been added or a compound of two or more words plus various appendages.

Many descriptive names are Latin compounds of two nouns or noun and adjective, joined together by adding to nominative singular stem of a word and connecting vowel *..i..* e.g. *serratipetala* ser-rat-i-PET-al-uh, from *serratus* (sawed) and *petalum* (petal), hence "with saw-toothed petals."

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BEGONIA COUSINS

By GRANT MCGREGOR, Ottawa, Canada

So much progress has been made by floriculturists with the relatives of the African violet since that species became popular, we might ask why we are not growing relatives of the *Begonia*. Bailey referring to the *Begoniaceae* in his *Manual of Cultivated Plants* states that *Begonia* is the only genus interesting to cultivation in this family. Many authors have attempted the classification of the family but that of Warburg (1894) is usually accepted. He uses four genera: *Hillebrandia*, *Symbegonia*, *Begoniella*, and *Begonia*.

Hillebrandia is the best known genus other than *Begonia* as the one species, *H. sandwicensis*, occurs on most Hawaiian Islands. It is a beautiful showy plant and according to Spaulding (1951), it is called by the natives "Puamakanui" meaning big-eyed or showy flower. Hooker (1887) in describing the species pointed out that it differs from *Begonia* in the presence of petals and in the ovary being free for its upper third. In habit and all other respects, it is a true *Begonia*. Spaulding states that it is generally found in deep, sunless, mountainous ravines or near the mist-like spray of waterfalls, where the conditions are humid with a rainfall of 500 to 600 inches annually, and temperatures seldom over 100°F. The soil is a volcanic rock base with leaf mold. Attempts to grow it in Hawaii at sea-level have failed and Kraus (1947) states that the natural setting cannot be duplicated.

The species has been described by Kraus as spreading from a shallow tuberous rhizome, with numerous fleshy stems three to four feet tall with shallowly-lobed, light green, hairy leaves three to seven inches long. Each stem bears several clusters of translucent pink and white

shaded flowers. This species is under government protection as are all native species of plants in Hawaii.

Begoniella is a South American genus found in Columbia and Ecuador. The separation of this genus from *Begonia* was made by Oliver (1873) on the basis of few stamens and the petals of the male flowers free but the female flowers are entirely joined. Imscher (1914) created the subgenus *Semibegoniella* for two species grown in Ecuador, on the basis of a tubular male flower, but Smith and Schubert (1946), in their study of the family, dismiss this classification as probably nothing more than aberrant plants and of doubtful value. They describe four endemic species but claim that more collections are greatly desired and would do much to increase the understanding of the relationship between *Begonia* and *Begoniella*. Of the four species described and illustrated, *Begoniella whitei*, *Begoniella libra* and *Begoniella kalbreyeri* are similar in being erect herbaceous plants having pubescent asymmetric leaves. Flowers in *B. libra* are very small but are larger in *B. kalbreyeri*. *Begoniella angustifolia* differs in having a long narrow glabrous leaf with scarlet flowers.

The genus *Symbegonia* was created by Warburg (1894) for one species in New Guinea. Imscher reports ten species in New Guinea and refers to two species, *Symbegonia fulvo-villosa* and *Symbegonia morrena*. Technically according to Imscher's classification, the division was made on the basis of an entire placenta in *Begoniella* which is not so in *Symbegonia*. The placenta in plants is that part of the ovary wall which is concerned with the attachment of the ovules which, when fer-

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CAN THERE BE NATURAL HYBRIDS?

By JANE NEAL, *Worthing, England*

This puzzled query came in a robin some months ago. In part, the trouble is that many of us left school many years ago and our botany was composed of species and families all in neat and convenient compartments—none ever straying from the straight and narrow path of the then accepted Linnean conventions. The bare idea of a hybrid NOT MAN MADE was entirely unacceptable.

When it is appreciated that Linneus did not understand the part played by pollination and did not even guess at the presence of the chromosomes, this attitude is understandable.

But in the last thirty years, the Chromosome Botanists have blown these neat arrangements sky high. Even as this is being written, the Geneticists with the new Double Helix may be making nonsense of all we now believe.

The first step, then, is to shed ALL OUR PRECONCEIVED TEACHING AND IDEAS ON THE BEHAVIOUR PATTERN OF PLANTS. Only by doing this can we begin to take in a part, at least, of the New Thought.

The plant families are among the oldest inhabitants of our globe and for millions on millions of years, they have flowed gently, silently and relentlessly over its surface.

While the territory of a plant population remains undisturbed, the inhabitants will go quietly on their way from season to season, century to century, with little change. They may continue so for millenia. Any great natural catastrophe will effect a break—storms, floods, volcanic eruptions. In the last 5000 years, Man has added his disturbing influence with his cultivation of the land.

Many Botanists believe that hybridization is taking place ALL THE TIME. BUT ONLY WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF NEW TERRITORY DOES THE HYBRID CONTRIVE TO ESTABLISH ITSELF.

Normally the small newcomer is too weak to compete for ground space against its already established parents.

But with the availability of NEW TERRITORY, the small hybrid gets, and often takes, its chance for survival. It finds a niche into which it can fit.

So the Natural Hybrid takes on a different aspect—it becomes the agency whereby a plant population migrates and so colonizes new land.

It is a notable fact that the greatest changes in the Plant Kingdom took place towards the end of the Cretaceous Era. During the Era, so the Geologists tell us, the volcanic activity on this earth was cataclysmic. It was in this Era that the great mountain chains, such as the Himalayas and the Rockies, were "pushed up." Thus the new areas of land available must have been enormous—and of this, the plants made full and effective use. It is from the termination of the Era that the majority of our present plant families originate.

Animals do their own preferential selection for mating but plants must rely on insects and the wind to effect pollination. While some insects work to a definite pattern, attracted to possible food by scent, the wind knows no pattern. Among the wind pollinated species, i.e. the grasses, there are many known hybrids.

It is now widely accepted that the hybrid occurs in ALL FAMILIES with considerable frequency, but owing to the high sterility in the F₁ generation and lack of available NEW LAND, few or none succeed in establishing themselves. Many hybrids live out their little lives, then go their way, leaving no trace behind.

Only when a Successful Hybrid succeeds in establishing itself, does Man note the event. The Mississippi

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PLATYCERIUMS

By RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE, Santa Barbara, California

The *Platynerium* or 'Stag Horn' fern is a plant fairly familiar to people of Southern California and Florida. The synonym 'Stag Horn' fits most closely *Platynerium Vassei Poisson* from the Island of Mozambique in the Indian Ocean, a plant seldom seen as it requires tropical conditions, as do most of the nineteen species of this genus.

The species *P. bifurcatum* Cav. and its multitude of variations are grown most commonly in Southern California and Florida. Its usual way of reproduction is by off-sets and most of the plants have been grown from one original plant. In the Santa Barbara area for many years all the *Platyneriums* grown were from the same stock, introduced in the early part of this century by the Sexton Nursery in Goleta. The lobes or fingers at the ends of the fertile fronds of this Sexton 'Stag Horn' vary in appearance under different growing conditions, a lesson a new collector soon learns from experience. Food, water, sun, light, heat, and orientation affect the lobes as well as the green coloring of the plant.

Until recently *Platyneriums* were rare and usually found only on estates or in orchid greenhouses. Southern California growers are aware of another *Platynerium* which is called by various names but is viewed in awe when first seen in a garden. This plant, *P. grande* Fee, IS grand, its outstanding characteristic being the enormous nest that is formed by the shield leaf. All *Platyneriums* produce leaves which more or less press flat against the trees or rocks on which they grow. Some *Platyneriums* produce shield leaves which are not as prominent as their fertile fronds. The group of which *P. grande* is a member produces enormous outspreading nest-like leaves which are useful in covering a large area. As nests funnel rain

water to the heart of the plant, these are not found out-of-doors in Florida because the abundance of rain would soon kill the plants.

In the coastal area of Southern California from Santa Barbara to San Diego, the nest *Platyneriums* may be grown outdoors the year around if they are given protection from the infrequent light frosts.

To my knowledge the largest-growing of all the species is *P. Wilhelminae-Reginae* v.A. v.R., a native of New Guinea. This plant, which is illustrated, belongs to the nest-forming group. Pictures of a 'Stag Horn' fern seldom depict accurately the size of a plant; they must be seen to be appreciated. The one illustrated has a spread of over eight feet at the top of the nest. Although this plant is large, it is grown in a box two feet square with a depth of four inches, the nest leaves being held out flat by extra sideboards, hung vertically with the nest opening up.

Platyneriums may be mounted in a wide variety of ways but I prefer to mount them on the boards as described above. The box is made of two by four inch boards, two feet long, the back being made of one-half by six inch boards. After being nailed together, the box is filled with *Begonia* or other woodsy loose soil, mixed with cow manure. Green florists moss is laid over the soil mix to prevent it from falling out when the box is tilted upright on its edge. To hold this and the soil in the box, lathing wire with a two-inch mesh is cut to fit the opening, (leaving six inches open at the top,) and is stapled to the box along the edge. If the smooth selvedge is at the top where the six-inch opening is left, more moss and mix may be put in later if needed without scratching ones hands. It is usually best to fasten the plant to the



Mrs. Margaret Ziesenhenn admires *Platycterium Wilhelminae-Reginae*, a fern native to New Guinea.

Photo Courtesy of Santa Barbara News-Press

wire before it is stapled to the box for one can work from behind the wire at this stage. The plant is fastened to the lathing wire with bailing wire which is run close to each side of the rhizome in the middle of the plant and vertically up and down. I usually fasten the plant rhizome in the center of the box, about two-thirds down from the top of the box because *Platycteriums* with the flat shield leaves have a rhizome which likes to grow upward and should have a distance to travel before remounting is necessary. On the other hand the nest-forming plants should be centered in the mounting wire as they grow out, away from the boards horizontally. When the plant is suitably fastened to the wire (and that means flat against the wire with a hole cut into the mesh if necessary to get the root ball behind the wire), the wire mesh is stapled to the wooden frame.

The box may be hung by a wire or it may be hung on a large nail. I usually drill a hole in the top center back, about one-half inch below the top frame so the nail head can catch on the back board rather than the frame and thus will not slide off.

In watering the plant when first mounted, water should be directed

into and between the shield leaves where the roots are. As the plant becomes established, new roots will be produced into the medium behind the shield and gradually water may be applied to the moss above and behind the plant.

The easiest way to kill a *Platycterium* is to keep it soggy wet. A thorough watering should be given until some water runs out the bottom of the mounting; do not water again until the lower area of the moss appears to be dry. If the lower board gets mossy green, withhold water for the plant is too wet.

In Santa Barbara, I fertilize my plants only twice a year, in February and September, using a *Begonia* mix if the material has sunk and left a large area behind the moss; if there is not much space, I fill the area with cow or steer manure. The rest of the year the care of *Platycteriums* is simple as I water them only every four or five days, having found that in Santa Barbara gardens even a weekly watering is enough to produce healthy plants. Each locality has different requirements so the grower should be alert to the needs of the plant he is growing.

A RECIPE FOR CLUB IMPROVEMENT

Submitted by LOLA SOMES,
Hawthorne, California

- ½ cup of Ideas
- 1 cup of Awareness
- 2 cups of Improvement
- 1 tsp. of Criticism
- 1½ cups of Patience
- 1 tsp. of Hope.

Mix the ½ cup of Ideas with the cup of Awareness until well blended. Add 2 cups of Improvement sifted with 1 tsp. of Criticism alternately with Patience. Flavor with Hope. Mix until blended. Bake in the Club oven, previously heated by Club Pride, until done. Spread on a thick icing of Club Good Will and decorate with the "Five Stars" of Achievement. Serve to the Membership.

INFORMATION PLEASE

This month came through with a few interesting letters and I will do what I can with them. I hope what information I can give will help all of you; even those of you who may have similar troubles but have not written.

Mrs. Elizabeth Herndon of Dallas, Texas has me a little confused so I will answer her question both ways. "I removed a leaflet plant from my large plant of *B. templinii* on April 4, 1968. In August it was variegated, then in the fall it became all green." Then she asked what she could do to get it variegated again. Now, I am not sure if she means the variegation on the plantlet or the mother plant.

If she means the mother plant, then all I can think of is that it reverted back to its original state of being *B. phyllomaniaca*, which is not variegated, since *B. templinii* is a sport of that plant. On the other hand, if she means the plantlet lost its variegation, then I find that all the experts who have propagated the plantlets of *B. templinii* find the babies lose their variegation.

Mrs. Colon Smith of Schenevus, New York sent me a *semp* leaf with a browning edge and a network of brown on the leaf that looks like muskmelon netting. I told her in a personal letter that I thought it might be from over feeding or rot, but after much research, I find that the crinkle pattern is a mosaic disease and is often confused with a nutrient disease. These plants should not be used for propagation and should be burned.

From Mr. Marvin Garner of Leawood, Kansas, who sent me a cutting of an *Aeschynthus* (lipstick plant) whose leaves were a cherry red. He claimed they started at the tips, turned yellow, and gradually fell off. But the leaves he sent had large patches of deep red. I sent him a personal also and, at that time, ad-

mitted I wasn't sure of what it was but would find out. After thorough research, I find that the deep red patches is rust disease. Most rusts must have at least two different kinds of plants or alternate hosts to complete their life cycle.

In a General Culture Robin, the question was asked if their *rexes* could grow in sun or if they preferred shade. The consensus of opinion was that *rexes* could take sun, provided it was very early or late sun.

In the same robin it was asked if direct sun bleaches angel wing leaves. Most thought that it does but one member gives her angel wings direct sun all winter long. She says nothing about the summer sun when it is at its strongest.

Strangely, asking the question if anyone had tried rooting a *semp* leaf, it seems everyone tries and this from a *semp* robin. One woman had success but she used a node; others don't seem to give up trying. It seems that almost all of the members are trying to find a yellow *semp*. Does anyone reading *The Begonian* know if there is any such *Begonia*?

Mike Michelson of Miami, Florida would like to know if anyone in the United States has the very rare species from Cuba called *B. cowellii*. If anyone does have and would sell or trade, let me know and I will contact Mike.

Remember, send your questions to me and I will do my best to look up any information that you are seeking in reference to your problems. If there is an answer, I will find it some way even if I have to sadly tell you to destroy a plant. But, of course, if the plant could be saved, I will tell you all the more gladly.

Ben Marcus
1547 West Eighth St.
Brooklyn, New York 11204

The Begonian

FALL CLEANUP

By DAVIDA ARNOLD

Spring sprang, Fall fell . . . and it's time for our annual Fall Cleanup. The house is left until after school starts because there is an awful lot of cleaning up to do in the plant houses before frost sets in. There is still some harvesting and food freezing to do by Labor Day but some part of the garden has usually been cleared by this time and we start a compost pile right there.

The storage shed is the first place to be cleaned. This is the shed where all the dormant plants are stored. It is swept out and then hosed out; shelves are checked for sturdiness and repaired; and the heating system with thermostat is cleaned and checked. The heating system isn't much. Just enough to keep the temperature between 35° and 40°.

The greenhouse is cleaned next and any plants which are already headed for dormancy are moved to the storage shed. Any plants which are too large to hold over the winter are moved to the far corner of the lath-house. They are all kept together there until we can take cuttings from them and dispose of them on the compost pile. We force all of our *rexes* into dormancy and most of our bush-like and cane-like *Begonias* though not completely dormant will rest well in the storage shed. Most of our *semps* get dug into the compost pile. We raise them from seed every spring and do not feel that we can afford space for them during the winter. Space is at a premium so it is necessary to cut down on the size of our plants during the winter months. Most of the *Begonias* kept in the greenhouse during the winter are rhizomatous which keep our greenhouse full of color and bloom. All of the benches are cleared as we go and the floors are scraped clean last.

We have a plant room in the house also. This is where seed propagation

is carried on. The large wardian case, terrariums and bubbles of all sizes are kept there. Emergency fall rooting is done here also. I think the realtor called it a family room but Jeff had the layout completed before we decided to buy the house. All of his aquariums are here and one corner serves as a small library and office.

During our Fall Cleanup, a regular spraying routine is followed in hopes of killing off any "creepy crawlies" that might contemplate using our plants as maternity wards. There is the usual mass "pot-changing" which piles the dirty pots higher than a month's stacking of dirty dishes for the five of us. These, of course, all have to be cleaned and stored in the potting shed which also has to be cleaned up.

The potting shed is easy to clean. It has a concrete floor which is hard to stand on very long but we use one of those spongy kitchen mats. They're wonderful. Jeff built the potting shed special for hosing out. All you have to do is don bikini or rain coat, check the garbage can lids where Jeff stores the potting mixes and hose away to your heart's content. It's kind of fun and you can't hurt anything. Unless, of course, you forget to check the garbage can lids in which case, you can blow the top off and fill the top nine-tenths of the can with water. Jeff loves me when I do that. I usually fill only one before I remember what I forgot. But today . . . !

Well, just in case you're wondering why I'm back here beatin' heck out of this poor defenseless typewriter instead of watching my favorite Tuesday night TV programs, I filled all three cans today and Jeff was planning to repot tonight.

Fortunately, I baked a big juicy apple pie today. Jeff loves apple pie. Wonder if he'd like a piece? "The way to a man's heart . . ." you know.

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

Instructions—

"*Begonias* From Seed—Sowing and Growing" gives step by step easy-to-follow instructions and encouragement for beginning seed growers. Price 25 cents.

No. 1—*B. rajah*—

Malaya. Charming, dwarf, rhizomatous species with roundish, rich reddish-green, bullate, silky leaves and contrasting veins of yellow-green; under surface dull. Flowers pink.

Comment: As usual seed are very few in number but we are trying to distribute them so that plants in the United States will be more plentiful and we can have enough seed for everyone to have at least one plant of this rare and lovely *Begonia*. Therefore, if you are willing to pay \$1.00 for a half-dozen seed, that is what it will amount to. Seed have been tested and germination was 100 per cent. Price \$1.00 per small pkt. while they last. See cover picture *The Begonian* for January 1968.

No. 2—*B. decora* Stapf.—

Introduced by Fr. Saunders from Perak. Short, succulent, thickly hairy brown bracts and hairy rhizomes. Grows bushy, about four to six inches tall. Petioles one - and - a - half to six inches long, reddish-green, thickly covered with white hairs. Leaves egg-shaped, long, pointed, deeply lobed at base about two by three inches in size, serrate dentate. Top leaves beautiful red-brown, on and near the veins yellowish-green, covered with thick-set papillae (like *B. imperialis*) and short hairs, beneath red, green on the veins, hairy in spots. Flowers large pink. Flowers in spring. A real beauty. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 3—*B. convalliodora* C. DC—

Seed formerly listed as *B. 'Venezuela'*. Identified as given here and unlike other *Begonias*, *B. convalliodora* has been found growing in various countries and is said to be one of the most beautiful *Begonias* in culti-

vation. See cover picture *The Begonian* for July 1967. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 4—*B. lubbersii*—

Brazil. Unlike any other *Begonia* yet introduced. Silver-splashed, dark, boat-shaped leaves with the rare look of *Caladium humboldtii*. Exotic. Flowers white or pinkish white, depending on the light; very large blooms producing equally large seed capsules. Good *Begonia*. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 5—*B. olsoniae*—

Syn. *B. vellozoana*. Brazil. Herbaceous, eight to twelve inches tall. Stems short, oblique, up to five-and-a-half inches long, rooting at the stipules. Leaves oblique, broadly ovate subauricular, cordate, with a closed basal sinus. Palmately eight-nerved, four to five inches long, five to eight inches broad, hispid-pilose on both surfaces, with small fimbriate scales on the nerves beneath, green above, with a whitish zone on the veins, paler below and occasionally reddish. Flowers are whitish, sometimes the outer rosy. *B. olsoniae* is considered one of the most beautiful *Begonias* in recent years and is said to rival *B. masoniana* in beauty. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 6—*B. friburgensis*—

Brazil. Beautiful new species. Rhizomatous, red, thick, leathery leaves, shiny and dark green on top, red underneath. New leaves show only red and are folded like a cookscomb. Tall flower stems bear heads of white and pink flowers. Choice *Begonia*. Greenhouse culture or protected place. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 7—*B. schulziana*—

Syn. *B. kraussiana*. Haiti. Intriguing plant that tends to its own propagation. After flowering time in late fall, the miniature white-fuzzed leaves fall off; plant goes dormant. By spring the rhizome has broken up into little pieces, each for its own new pot and new growth. Likes warmth and a shallow pot. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Still Available—

Large amount of *B. sudjanae* described at length in *The Begonian* June 1969 and *B. goegoensis* in *The Begonian* July 1969. Don't miss the chance to grow these two exotic *Begonias*. Price \$1.00 per pkt. for EACH variety.

Semperflorens Begonias—

We offer seed of some of the best *semperflorens* to our friends who like to grow these fascinating little *Begonias*.

B. s. c. 'Bella'—

F₁ hybrid. "First Class" certificate in 1955 from Royal Horticulture Society, England. In Holland, *B. s. c.* 'Bella' has been tested in comparison with the best of this type in existence. It is very rich flowering and resistant to adverse weather conditions. The growth is vigorous. The plants remain magnificently compact through the whole season and are densely covered with flowers of "paulneyronrose" color. The plant gives the same impression as a well cultivated "Eges Favorite." A greater compliment cannot possibly be given to this plant. Price 50 cents per pkt.

B. s. c. 'Orania'—

Orange-scarlet. Novelty. About six inches tall. The very large, bright orange-scarlet flowers create a beautiful effect in groups. Price 50 cents per pkt.

B. s. c. 'Rosalia'—

Presents a pure rose that's quite new in this group—in short, an enchanting color. Price 50 cents per pkt.

B. s. c. 'Rosanova'—

Novelty. Pure salmon rose. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Report from Europe—

"Germination on Indian seed was not perfect but we do have seedlings from all varieties."

Send requests for seed to:

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

BEGONIA COUSINS

(Continued from Page 202)

tilized, go on to form the seed. The ground cover in New Guinea is very rich in *Begonias* and according to Merrill, about 70 species of *Begonia* have been found. Merrill and Perry refer to the new species *Symbegonia papuana* found at an elevation above 5100 feet in rain forest gullies. The plant was twelve to fifteen inches high with leaf nerves red beneath and flowers white. The plant was reported as most like *Symbegonia strigosa*.

The species *Hillebrandia sandwicensis* would appear to be the most interesting to cultivation. However, the first specimens of this plant were brought to Kew Gardens in 1885. Since it has such a beautiful flower yet has not been brought into cultivation, it must present major difficulties. Rhizomes were grown at the New York Botanical Gardens as recent as 1951 and presented to Mr. Ziesenhenné and other members of the American Begonia Society. Kraus did not believe that the natural setting could be duplicated. However, in the last twenty years, great advances have been made in growing plants under artificial conditions.

Since these plants are all members of one family, we should remember that they differ from true *Begonias* in possibly very few characteristics. Biologists are rapidly increasing their capability to hybridize distant relatives of the plant kingdom. While the species might have little to offer to the floriculturist, they could have superior characteristics of disease or insect resistance. The dates I have shown indicate that scarcely any recent work has been carried out with these *Begonia* relatives. Hybridization could easily add hybrid vigor to our present varieties and possibly the time is here when someone might give them serious consideration.

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Robins are full of plans for the fall, discussion of plants, potting mixes, new seedlings developing, crosses to be registered, are just a few of the things being discussed in the flights.

Hybridizing:

Jane Neal of Worthing, England always removes all male flowers from her breeding plants and segregates the plants to make sure that only the pollen she wishes to use reaches those seed flowers. Jane has experimented with F₂ (second generation) crosses.

Light:

Jane feels certain that light as much as warmth is important for *Begonias*. In England, her *Begonias* show real activity when days and nights are almost equal in length, despite extra cold weather and no extra heat. A friend writing her from Malaya reported the area where he found *Begonias* growing wild was subject to severe frost but does have equal days and nights.

Pests:

White grubs were eating an underground rhizome and a thick fleshy-stemmed *Begonia* in Jane's greenhouse. They were identified as the vine weevil, phyloxera, which also had been reported attacking tuberous *Begonias* in England some years ago. Two ounces of naphthalene to a bushel of compost acts as a deterrent to these weevils.

B. violaeifolia:

The *Begonian* photo of *B. ficiola* looks something like *B. violaeifolia*, Mike Michelson of Miami commented. He was growing both species. They both had puckered leaf surface but leaves of *B. ficiola* (from West Africa) were five inches and on *B. violaeifolia* (from Mexico) were two inches. *B. ficiola* had yellow flowers while *B. violaeifolia* had flowers white inside, covered with pink hairs on the outside of the petals.

B. roxburghii:

One of the sweetest scented of all

Begonias is *B. roxburghii*, Thelma O'Reilly of La Mesa, California reported. One lone bloom was detectable in her fiberglass house, something like a bunch of lily of the valley. It is a very sparse bloomer for her—and never any females in four years, although she has been assured by other growers that they do occur.

B. hispida cucullifera:

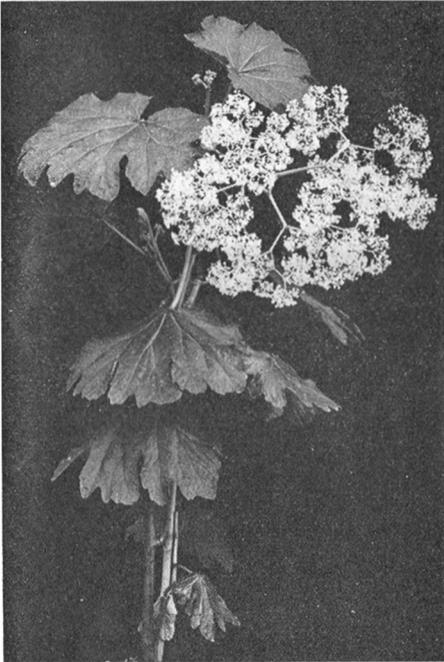
Thelma noted that this *Begonia* with unusual growths on its leaves does produce female flowers under certain conditions, and she has raised plants from seed. A friend had used it both ways in several crosses.

B. serratipetala:

The dainty, fuchsia-metallic spotted *B. serratipetala* is difficult to grow in Southern California, Thelma said. There is an extreme temperature range between days and nights. When visiting in Florida, however, she saw baskets and pots of this *Begonia* laden with both male and female blooms, hanging high in the gardens of Ann Know—and young plants coming up everywhere under foot. The only way Thelma can keep it in California is under lights, though she thinks it is one of the most beautiful of all foliage plants.

B. versicolor:

Chuck Tagg of Fullerton, California killed several plants of *B. versicolor* (fussy but exotic terrarium species from China) over a couple of years—and they are scarce. He finally tried growing them in straight sphagnum (not milled) and they were thriving, with new ones coming from leaf cuttings. Extra air at the roots seemed the answer. Chuck was next trying sphagnum for his other bubble plants, *B. nurii*, *B. griffithii*, and *B. rajah*. Fellow robin members noted that many wild species grow in shallow crevices of rock, in shallow leafmold, where moisture is good but water does not stand at the roots and where air circulates well. They cited observations of collectors in Malaya, Philippines, and Cuba.



Begonia paranaensis.

Photo by J. Doorenbos

B. paranaensis:

At a friend's, Thelma spotted *B. paranaensis* planted in the ground. It reached eight feet high, with great sprays of white blooms forming a cloud two feet higher above the foliage. She thought it must be a sight similar to the field of wild, blooming canes in Panama that Elizabeth Mercier had reported. Leaf texture is very like that of *B. vitifolia*, coarse and green, with tiny white hairs on the upper surface and somewhat felt-like underneath. She traced a leaf of the plant in the ground: it took two sheets of paper, while she was able to trace a leaf of her own, pot-grown plant on one sheet. Thelma's plant was in a six-inch pot with a stem about three-quarters of an inch thick. Her friend's stem was two-and-a-half inches thick. Amazing difference in size. She planned to move one of hers to the ground to see what it would do.

Kusler Hybrids:

Hazel Harmon of Ottawa, Kansas reports that *B. 'Miyu Berger'* has

sported for her. She feels the sport is prettier. If it stays the way it is after it has been propagated time and again, then she will do something with it. On this sport, the entire leaf is an iridescent rose—no green at the veins.

Hazel roots all the Kusler hybrids in water and has marvelous luck with them. She also reports that to grow a well branched *B. 'Nora Hanson'*, she pinches the top before it gets tall and just keeps pinching when it tries to shoot up. She reports that she cut everything from *B. 'Lenore Olivier'* just leaving a stub and it readily grew a new shoot. *B. 'Jeanne Fleetham'* did the same thing.

Pat Burdick, Burnsville, Minnesota reported in March, had bloom on *B. 'Sophie Cecile'*, *B. 'Anne Christine'*, *B. 'Nancy Gail'*, *B. 'Laura Engelbert'*, *B. 'Lenore Olivier'*, *B. 'Jeanne Fleetham'*, and *B. 'Victoria Kartack'*.

Rosetta White, Newton, Kansas reports that she has killed a *B. 'Jill Adair'* by taking cuttings from every branch of the plant. It doesn't seem to want to grow on the same stem she has taken a cutting from. It will put up a number of side shoots. She feels you should take cuttings from them and leave the main stem to grow.

Mary Walton of West Memphis, Arkansas took cuttings of *B. 'Jill Adair'* and one soon grew to be much bigger than the original plant.

Yvonne Wells of Mesquite, Texas reported that *B. 'Victoria Kartack'* cuttings rooted for her in two weeks. Mae Blanton, also of Mesquite, finds a plant started from a leaf of *B. 'Victoria Kartack'* grows much better for her.

Hazel Snodgrass, Ventura, California had *B. 'Sophie Cecile'* bloom in August and was still blooming in January. It was three feet tall.

Shading:

Geraldine Daly of Coventry, Rhode Island uses two pounds of whiting

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THE BEGONIA CLUB

By IRVING H. GRAY, *Burlington, Vermont*

This article was written in the early 1930's for publication in the Free Press. A copy of this article with permission to reprint it in The Begonian was sent to me by Rev. Gray's daughter, Mrs. Elsie Bean of Niantic, Connecticut.

The Begonia Club has again made its trip to the Pacific Coast and back. In other words, the packet of letters has again made its round. We note a continuation of the discussion as to the reason for spotted leaves, as in the case of *B. templinii* and other maculated varieties. The lecturer thinks the blotches are due to a weakened or diseased condition, hence enriching the soil is likely to lessen the spots. She says, "The chlorophyll, which gives the green color, corresponds to the red corpuscles in our blood. When white corpuscles predominate, we have anemia." A plant with white spots, though lovely, is weak and difficult to grow. But the hybridizer's theory is that the maculation is simply a matter of different colored tissues, not necessarily indicating a diseased condition of the plant. Like freckles, it is due to a pigment under the epidermis brought out by the environment. The professor quotes Bailey as to *Aspidistra*, implying that the same statement might apply to *Begonias*: "The variegated variety is often seen, but a poor soil must be used or the variegation will speedily disappear."

From the descriptive references to many varieties, we cull the following: The doctor admires *B. scharffiana* for its beautiful light, airy grace. He also speaks of having seen *B. 'Erythrophylla'* (Feastii) with seventeen sprays of flowers. The lecturer has a nice *B. dregei*, three feet high, well branched; pure white flowers; bulb

larger than an egg. She also has one similar to *B. 'Speculata'*, but leaf stems are longer, leaves lighter color and smoother, whole plant covered with fine, soft, white hairs. Can anyone name this? The hybridizer has a *B. palmifolia*, six feet tall, heavy with immense flower clusters; small individual flower white with yellow stamens, but stems are bright pink. The professor describes *B. 'Otto Hacker'* as having much smaller leaves than *B. 'Carnot'*, the plant also being smaller and a persistent bloomer. The retired florist commends tuberous *Begonias* for beauty, ease of growth from seeds or from tubers and for their interesting variations. Just before cold weather, pack the tubers in boxes of dry sand and store in a cool place for a period of rest.

One member wrote that he had come to the conclusion that he should use larger pots to get better results with *B. compta*, but another replies that he is not likely to get blooms until the pots are filled with roots.

While the club is designed primarily to promote an interest in *Begonias* the letters contain frequent references to other matters of interest. Our California member writes of Cascade Chrysanthemums, some of which grow at the top of an eight-foot pole. The plants hang down several feet and are "like a green curtain with pink flowers." But she has to fight the snails which crawl up the plant stalks, even surmounting these eight-foot poles, and feed on the flowers. She says it is not unusual to kill from 200 to 500 snails each morning.

There were many references to the exceedingly cold winter and the work involved in moving plants back from the windows at night and into the sun again the next day. One spoke of plants as "necessary to counteract the bleak world without."

**THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL
BEGONIA SHOW**

in conjunction with

1969 AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY CONVENTION

September 6, 7, 1969

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM

301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.

PROGRAM

Friday, September 5:

6:00-9:00 p.m. Begonia Show entries accepted.

Saturday, September 6:

7:00-9:00 a.m. Begonia Show entries accepted.
(No entries will be accepted after 9:00 a.m.)

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Judging.

1:00-6:00 p.m. Show open to public.

2:30 p.m. Annual Meeting—Seminar Room.

6:30-7:30 p.m. Social Hour — Banquet Room — Flamingo-Ramada Hotel, 130 West Huntington Drive, Arcadia, Calif.

7:30 p.m. Convention Banquet — Flamingo - Ramada Hotel. Speaker, Clarence Hall, a Past-President of the A.B.S. from Sacramento, Calif. Dinner, Cornish Game Hen and Wild Rice. Tickets, \$5.00 per plate —order from Mrs. Pearl Parker, 1114 W. 158th St., Gardena, Calif., or from Walter Pease, 8101 Vicksburg Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

Sunday, September 7:

10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Show open to public.

2:00-4:00 p.m. Seminar directed by Rudolf Ziesenhenné—Seminar Room.

5:00-6:00 p.m. Major Prize Drawing.

6:00-9:00 p.m. All entries to be removed during this time.

NO ADMISSION CHARGE

EVERYONE WELCOME

FREE PARKING

PRONUNCIATION

(Continued from Page 201)

Also, owing to the influence of the Greek, ..o.. is used as a connecting vowel for words beginning *atro* and *albo*.

When the stem of a generic name ends in ..i it is retained and the connecting vowel ..i.. is also used, e.g. *nelumbiifolia* ne-lum-bi-eye-FOH-li-uh *nelumbium* (lotus), *folia* (leaves), therefore "with lotus like leaves."

The form of the stem with the case ending removed, and with the connecting ..i.. added is the same for many of the masculine and neuter names as the genitive singular ending. This coincidence misled many authors to form names using the genitive singular ending ..ae for a female word with the nominative singular ending ..a, e.g. *carolineaeifolia*, kar-oh-lin-e-eye-foh-li-uh, from *Carolina* (obsolete name for the tree, now genus *Pachira*). This name should have been formed as: *carolinifolia*, kar-oh-lin-i-FOH-li-uh. This is treated by the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* as an orthographic error and should be corrected. Both spellings are listed in the *Buxton Check List of Begonias* and the Nomenclature Committee will have to decide which we shall use in the future.

Many of the most common *Begonia* names are compounds formed by two nouns or an adjective and noun. Typical of this group are those ending in ..folia, FOH-li-uh, meaning "with leaves like" or "leaved" from the Latin word for leaf, *folium*.

Name	Pronounce	Meaning
<i>alnifolia</i>	al-ni-FOH-li-uh	with leaves like alder <i>alnus</i>
<i>asperifolia</i>	as per-i-FOH-li-uh	rough leaved, <i>asper</i>
<i>carpinifolia</i>	kar-pin-i-FOH-li-uh	with leaves like Hornbeam <i>carpinus</i>
<i>conchaeifolia</i> (<i>conchifolia</i>)?	konch-ee-FOH-li-uh (konch-i-FOH-li-uh)	with leaves like sea shells, <i>concha</i>
<i>diversifolia</i>	deye-ver-si-FOH-li-uh	with leaves of different shapes, <i>diverse</i>
<i>fagifolia</i>	fa-ji-FOH-li-uh	with leaves like Beech <i>fagus</i>
<i>heracleifolia</i>	her-ak-le-i-FOH-li-a	with leaves like <i>Heracleum</i> or cow-parsnip
<i>hydrocotylifolia</i>	heye-dro-kot-ill-i-FOH-li-uh	with leaves like <i>Hydrocotyle</i> , water pennywort, from Greek: <i>hudor</i> -water, <i>kotyle</i> -a small cup, for the shape of its leaves
<i>morifolia</i>	mor-i-FOH-li-uh	with leaves like the mulberry <i>morus</i>
<i>multifolia</i>	mul-ti-FOH-li-uh	many leaved <i>multi</i>
<i>ovatifolia</i>	oh-vay-ti-FOH-li-uh	with egg-shaped leaves <i>ovatus</i>
<i>parvifolia</i>	par-vi-FOH-li-uh	with small leaves <i>parvus</i>
<i>perfectifolia</i>	per-fek-ti-FOH-li-uh	fully leaved <i>perfecte</i>
<i>platanifolia</i>	plat-an-i-FOH-li-uh	with leaves like the plane tree, Gr. <i>Platanus</i>
' <i>Ricinifolia</i> '	ri-sin-i-FOH-li-uh	with leaves like castor bean <i>ricinus</i>
<i>rotundifolia</i>	ro-tun-di-FOH-li-uh	with roundish leaves <i>rotundus</i>
<i>serratifolia</i>	ser-rat-i-FOH-li-uh	with saw-toothed leaves <i>serratus</i>
<i>tenuifolia</i>	ten-yew-i-FOH-li-uh	with thin leaves <i>tenuis</i>
<i>ulmifolia</i>	ulm-i-FOH-li-uh	elm-leaved <i>Ulmus</i>

By combining the Greek word ending ..*phylla*, also meaning leaved, from *Phyllum*, with other Greek words we have another series of *Begonia* names.

' <i>Erythrophylla</i> '	er-ith-roh-FILL-uh	red-leaved, <i>erythros</i>
<i>macrophylla</i>	mak-roh-FILL-uh	large leaved, <i>macros</i>
<i>oxyphylla</i>	ox-i-FILL-uh	with sharp pointed leaves, <i>oxys</i>

FOURTH ANNUAL EASTERN BEGONIA CONVENTION

**Sponsored by the William Penn Branch of the
American Begonia Society, Inc.**

September 19 - 20, 1969

THE TREADWAY INN

Route 30

St. Davids, Pennsylvania

PROGRAM

Friday, September 19:

- 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Begonia Show entries accepted.
4:00 p.m. Welcoming Tea and Coffee Hour.
5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Social Hour
6:30 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Speaker, Dr. Harriet Creighton.
8:00 - 10:00 p.m. Begonia Show entries accepted.

Saturday, September 20:

- 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. Begonia Show entries accepted.
9:30 a.m. Buses leave for Longwood Garden Tour.
thru noon
1:30 p.m. Lunch—Speaker, Mrs. Carrie Karegeannes,
Annandale, Virginia, Round Robin
Co-Director, A.B.S.
2:30 - 10:00 p.m. Begonia Show opened to public.
6:00 p.m. Social Hour
7:00 p.m. Awards Dinner—Speaker, Rudolf Ziesenhenné,
Santa Barbara, Calif., Nomenclature
Director, A.B.S.

Entries Chairman:
Mrs. George deCoursey
Mill Road
Paoli, Pa. 19301

Correspondence:
Mrs. Ernest C. Drew
635 Moreno Road
Narberth, Pa. 19072

NATURAL HYBRIDS

(Continued from Page 203)

Iris is such a Success Story and a particularly well documented one.

When the area of the Delta was first settled, two species of *Iris* were found and named, *I. gigantea cerulea* and *I. fulva*. Some twenty years ago, it was noted that the two species had grown, it seemed, to about 200. Botanists confirmed that the brick red *I. fulva* and the blue *I. gigantea cerulea* were now a veritable Persian Carpet of colours with every possible combination from white through pinks, yellows, blues and greys.

How had this come about? Stanley Cain, in his "Introgressive Hybridisation" gives the most plausible explanation. The early settlers in this region were French Peasants and in true peasant tradition, they only partly cleared their holdings. Cropping a part, leaving a part rough with its virgin covering of vegetation intact.

But one man had over stocked and his wretched beasts, in their search for food, had eaten the place bare and completely destroyed the primary covering of vegetation. Add to this that they broke down the levees and caused the bayous to flood back and cut new channels. Under these conditions the two *Iris* had made full use of the new ground made available to them.

Not only was there a mass of hybrids that segregated afresh with each new generation, there was also an entirely new and hitherto unknown SPECIES. This bred true and its chromosome count proved to be double that of the two known species; it was a tetraploid. It accordingly received species status and was named *I. nelsonii*.

In the February issue of *The Begonian* Vol. 36 No. 2, Elizabeth Mercier gives an account of a stand of *Begonias* found in the Canal Zone, that fill all the requirements for a

plant colony on NEW LAND. Growing among the rocks forming a dam—a man-made construction—are what would appear to be a NEW COLONY. Mrs. Mercier remarks on the tendency to some variation in the plants at this station pointing to a possibility of segregates.

That many *Begonias* ARE OF HYBRID ORIGIN is demonstrated by their behaviour when grown from seed. In many cases the original parents are no longer with us, but it seems a possibility that the Merciers may be in a position to recover the parents of their "Dam Busters" if their find is a "hybrid swarm." Should this prove to be the case, then it will be yet another point in favour of the writer's belief that the *Begonias* are one of the plant families "on the march," and with full ability to take over and colonize new territory with new varieties, if not new species.

It is with the sincere hope that this has now changed that initial question from "HOW?" to "Why are there not more hybrids?" that this is written.

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MINUTES OF THE A.B.S. BOARD

The minutes here have not been condensed or altered except for minor editing to conform to The Begonian style.

Editor

The regular meeting of the Board of the American Begonia Society was called to order at 2 p.m. in Glendale at the Glendale Federal Savings and Loan Building. Mrs. Elsie Joyce welcomed the Board for the Glendale Ranch. Jim Somes led the Pledge of Allegiance and Vera Naumann read the Aims and Purposes. Twelve officers and ten branches answered the roll call.

Vera Naumann reported visiting the Ventura Show. It was a lovely show, and was not competitive.

The Treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$862.95, receipts of \$778.23, disbursements of \$921.09. There was an overdraft of \$4.22 in the Seed Culture Bulletin Fund, so the balance is \$715.87.

Margaret Lee requested permission to award two Dykeman Awards if necessary. Jim Somes moved that the request be granted, seconded by Ruth Pease. Discussion followed. Motion carried.

Anne Rose reported \$81.20 received on account in paid ads for the month.

Ruth Pease made a motion, seconded by Walter Barnett, that the Board approve the publishing of the classification outline for show purposes, so she can go ahead with printing and publication. Carried.

Ruth also gave information about the Judging Course. Forty were registered this year.

Everett Wright gave a report for the Library. He shows a balance of \$215.54 in the bank.

Membership secretary, Pearl Benell, gave her report. There were 26 new members and 2,549 *Begonians* disbursed during the month.

The Secretary read the Research Director's and Round Robin reports.

Jim Somes said work was progressing on the Annual Show.

Margaret Lee moved, seconded by Vera Naumann that we continue the Christmas ads in *The Begonian*. Carried.

Walter Pease appointed Jim and Lola Somes and Virginia Barnett to count the ballots, and Anne Rose and Gertrude Winsor to audit the Treasurer's books. Walter Barnett moved, seconded by Vera Naumann that they be accepted.

A work party for printing the roster was discussed.

The President reminded the Board there would be no meeting in August and that the Annual meeting was September 6.

After the Branch reports, the meeting adjourned at 3:55. Glendale served refreshments and a donation plant table drawing was held.

Virginia Barnett,
Secretary



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The following selection of books are FOR SALE

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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
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ROUND ROBIN

(Continued from Page 211)

powder to a gallon of water, add one pint of linseed oil and let stand overnight before spraying it on outside of the greenhouse for shade. The oil makes it stick longer.

Assam:

Carrie Karegeannes of Annandale, Virginia wondered if *Begonias* growing in the wild in Assam, India, mentioned by the late British plant hunter Frank Kingdon-Ward, in his books, had ever been identified. In *Pilgrimage For Plants*, he briefly described "deliciously scented white *Begonias*" on a bank in Kamlang Valley. In *Plant Hunter in Manipur*, he said there were probably 40 or 50 species of *Begonias* in Assam with widely varying leaves but similar flowers, mostly white. He mentioned finding an "abundance of a large cut-leafed epiphytic *Begonia* in fruit" in a forest.

Propagation:

Carl L'Hommedieu of Oakdale, Long Island had been trying propagation of leaf discs, in the method described in *The Begonian*. He was amazed at how long discs would keep without rotting before making roots or leaves. One leaf disc from *B. masoniana* (Iron Cross) had been placed in the container June 24, 1968 and was still firm May 21, 1969. Others rooted in from two months until May.

More requests are needed to start a magnetic tape robin. There are open spots on general robins, and some of the specialty robins. Come fly with the robins. It's fun! Write:

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CALENDAR

Sept. 4 — Westchester Branch: Tenth Anniversary potluck dinner. Speaker Rudy Ziesenhenne. 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 6—ANNUAL MEETING: Board of Directors and all members. 2:30 p.m. Seminar Room, Los Angeles County Arboretum. This is an important part of our National Convention. Plan to attend.

Sept. 12 — Philobegonia Branch: Annual Begonia Show at the home of Margaret Brown, 3352 W. Hollywood Circle, Pennsauken, New Jersey. 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Sept. 16 — Seattle Branch: Panel discussion of Cultural Problems. 7:00 p.m.

Sept. 19, 20 — FOURTH ANNUAL EASTERN BEGONIA CONVENTION AND SHOW, sponsored by the William Penn Branch (see page 215).

Sept. 21—North Long Beach Branch: Annual Chicken Dinner at Alberta Logue's home, 6053 Lime Ave., Long Beach, Calif. Emcee will be Joe Littlefield. 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Sept. 22—A.B.S. BOARD: South Gate City Auditorium, 4900 Southern Ave., South Gate, Calif. Meetings are always open to members. 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 24—Eastside Branch: Herb Warwick will discuss "Culture of all *Begonias* other than *Tuberhybrida*." 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 26 — Redondo Area Branch: Ralph Sparks will show slides. 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 1—DEADLINE for all material for the November *Begonian*.

Oct. 2—Whittier Branch: Chuck Tagg, speaker. 7:30 p.m.

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