

The BEGONIAN



JULY, 1973

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

VOL. 40, NO. 7



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

BRANCH NOTES & CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 5, 1973 — 7:30 p.m. — Westchester Branch program will be devoted to getting everyone acquainted with, and prepared to participate in, our upcoming Westchester Branch and our ABS Annual Begonia and Shade Plant Shows. Culture and preparation will be thoroughly discussed. Everyone is welcome. We urge you to attend and participate.

July 5 — Whittier Branch — 7:30 p.m. — Mr. Shirl Giles, President of the Southeast Horticulture Society will be guest speaker. His topic is "Look Closely in Your Own Back Yard". This talk will be illustrated with colored slides.

July 14 and 15 — The Westchester Branch will again present one of its beautiful Begonia and Shade Plant Shows. This show will be non-competitive and open to all ABS members, with its purpose to educate and interest the public in the beautiful world of Begonias. Registration will be Friday evening, July 13 from 7:00 p.m., and the show will be open to the public Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. and Sunday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. There will be plants for sale and refreshments will be available. No admission charge. Show will be held at the Westchester Women's Club, 8020 Alverstone Ave., Los Angeles, Ca.

July 14-15 — The Ventura Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch Annual Flower Show will be held July 14 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. and the 15th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Anacapa Junior High at 100 Mills Rd., Ventura, Calif. No admission charge and free parking.

Saturday, July 21, 2 to 8 p.m. and Sunday, July 22, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. — The Sacramento Branch of The American Begonia Society is having its 7th Annual Begonia and Companion Plant Show at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Cal. A Spectacular of Begonias and Exotics. Evelyn

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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*.

COVER PICTURE — BEGONIA 'UNIVERSE'

An observation by Gordon Lepisto
St. Paul, Minnesota

This rhizomatous Begonia, ('Norah Bedson' x 'Leslie Lynn') has won the hearts of many around the world since its introduction in 1968. It is an outstanding medium size hybrid with most attractive foliage, is easily grown and has few faults if any.

I have found it adapts well to varied environments and its ability to withstand adverse growing conditions makes it desirable indeed.

My plants are grown under cool white fluorescent lights most of the year in a temperature and humidity controlled plant room. The humidity is very high, about 80% year around, accommodates the Rexes and other humidity loving plants. The airy climate has an average temperature range of 64 degrees at night to 72 degrees during light hours.

If you note on the cover, the plant was photographed in natural light, somewhat backlighted showing more of the hidden beauty of the leaves which is always there but not always seen. The bright green and brownish-red pattern will diminish if exposure to fluorescent light is intensive. The leaf can darken considerably over a period of time.

During the summer months, I move the plants out to our shaded enclosed porch in hanging baskets where the humidity is quite low with no ill effects. B. 'Universe' adapts well, grows strong and compact and its long stems droop in a most striking manner.

I grow this Begonia in a mixture of one-third each of chopped sphag-

moss, vermiculite and perlite. I fertilize one-twentieth the recommended amount each time I water.

I have left 'Universe' dry out for extended periods and again have kept the roots soaked for long periods, all with no visible adverse effect. I also find, although sometimes slow, it propagates easily from leaf cutting in almost any porous medium.

Dependable, and stately is the way I would describe this Begonia which richly deserves the American Begonia Society Award for the most outstanding new rhizomatous hybrid of 1969.

ADDRESS CHANGE FOR SUBMISSION OF PHOTOS FOR DIVISION T

To all members who live outside the one hundred mile area of the National Begonia Show: Please share pictures of your plants with us. We want to see their beauty, too. Send either slides, colored or black and white prints to display and be judged at the show to: Mrs. Katherine Alberti, Slide Librarian, 3322 Troy Dr., Hollywood, Ca. 90069.

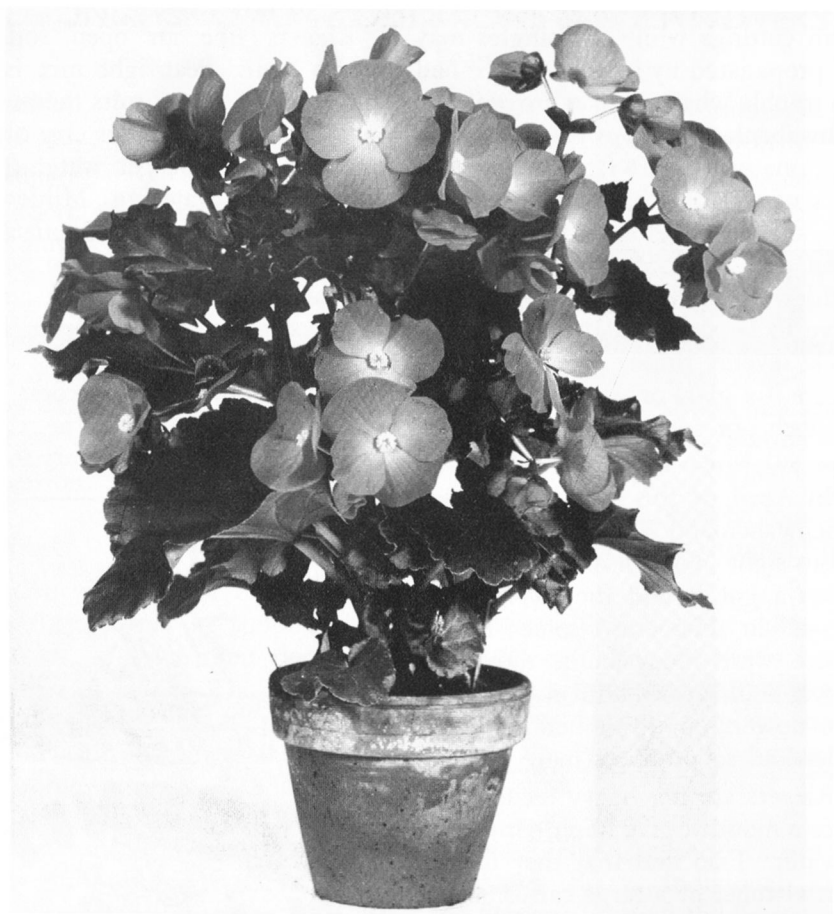


AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY BOOKLETS

Point Scoring System for Judging
Begonias\$1.25

A Suggested Guide to Classification
of Begonias for Show Purposes\$1.50

ORDER FROM: Ruth Pease
8101 Vicksburg Ave.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90045



RIEGER BEGONIAS

By Edna M. Stewart
Western Pennsylvania Branch

Rieger Begonias were hybridized and developed by the firm of Otto Rieger of Nürtingen, Germany, and have been on the market in this country for some time but so scarce that most people only hear about them. Mikkelsen, Inc., of Ashtabula, Ohio, have been awarded the exclusive propagating rights in the United States and Canada. They are sold in 2" pots, minimum 200, 50 of a variety.

By definition the Rieger elatior Be-

gonias are the result of crossing various tuberous begonias and *B. socotrana* in which the species was used as the male parent since the reciprocal combination was incompatible. Although some cases of further breeding with elatior Begonias have been reported, which could indicate some degree of fertility, for all practical purposes the varieties are sterile and hence propagated asexually by leaf or stem cuttings.

Double varieties are propagated by stem cuttings while the singles may be propagated by leaves. I have had no trouble whatsoever in growing the Schwabenland Pink or Red ones. My first one was a gift from a friend in May of 1972. It has always been on my kitchen window sill, has never been out of bloom, nor has it had mildew or any other disease. It does have to be staked and has been cut back several times. Every morning I give it a glass of warm water in its six inch pot and turn it on the window sill which faces southeast.

In April of this year I purchased a Schwabenland Red which is a gorgeous sight. Forty flowers were open when I got it and they were three inches in diameter, some larger. There were many buds, too. The flower stalk grows until it may have five flowers on it. Sometimes it divides and so produces more.

Riegers are not heavy feeders and once a month I give Rapid-Gro when I water. I do find that they have a partial tuber or a large callus. Some are round, oblong, or flat, some underground and some on top of the medium.

Returning from Europe this past summer, Prof. Donald Kiplinger of Ohio University, in *Ball Grower Talks*, says of the Riegers: "They are as big in Europe as the pot mum is in the U.S." He commented about one grower who produces one million finished plants per year, in five-inch pots. "You see them everywhere. Rieger Begonias are big in window boxes in Europe."

Aphrodite varieties make beautiful hanging baskets and I believe the Schwabenland would also as they

have to be staked.

Riegers like an open soil that drains well. Peat-light mix is fine. A pH of 5.5 to 6.5 suits them. They may be grown in either clay or plastic pots. Do not get water on the foliage when watering. Mildew may result if foliage is wet. Benlate used at one to one-half teaspoon per gallon can be used on foliage and the root system as it is a systemic fungicide.

Rieger Begonias could become a valuable Christmas plant as the red ones especially hold their flowers so well.

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BEGONIA SHOWS — QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

By Ruth Pease

Question: Will there be changes in this year's Annual Show Schedule and Rules?

Answer: No. The Show Schedule and Rules of last year's Annual Show met with unanimous approval so we will continue to use them. While not appearing in the Show Schedule itself, the division for hanging containers (baskets and wall pockets) will have definite classes.

Question: Are there any restrictions on containers themselves at the show?

Answer: We urge exhibitors to bring their plants in simple, clean containers, to leave their decorative containers at home. This is a horticultural show, not a decorator's show. Plastic containers are popular with some growers in some areas since they hold the moisture better than clay pots. Exhibitors should be certain the plastic containers do not detract from their plants. This can be done if a little thought is given to the color of the container as well as its size. There is a division for begonias grown in a novel manner, i.e. on totem poles, in rocks, driftwood and so on.

Question: Will begonias in enclosed containers be acceptable in the division for a begonia in an enclosed atmosphere?

Answer: This division is for a specimen begonia (one in a container); more than one in an enclosed atmosphere will be classified as a planter and placed in the division for Planters.

Question: I have a *Sinningia pu-silla* in an enclosed glass container. Where should I enter this in the show?

Answer: In the division for Other Shade Plants, Class 2 for All Gesneriads. If several of these are entered, a sub-class may be opened to accommodate them. Sub-classes may be opened as needed and at the discretion of the Classification and Show Chairmen.

Question: Will there be room for garden displays at the Annual Show this year?

Answer: Yes. Branches interested in putting in garden displays and individuals interested in putting in educational begonia displays should contact the Placement Chairman before August 1, 1973. Contact Walter Pease, 8101 Vicksburg Avenue, Los Angeles. There are also classes for a Branch Entry, Individual Entry and Student Entry in the Educational Begonia Displays Division.

It is suggested that all who plan to enter the Annual Show read the Show Schedule and Rules carefully.

QUESTIONS from members of the Long Island Branch studying the ABS Judges Course under the direction of their President, Mrs. Mildred Thompson:

On the Application for Accredited ABS Judges Cards:

1. If you are an accredited ABS Judge and have not judged a show for an entire year, do you still get 2

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NATIONAL CANDIDATES



President Elect:

MARGARET ZIESENHENNE

Margaret Ziesenhenné, a native of Santa Barbara, is the wife of Rudy Ziesenhenné and assists him in secretarial work and editing his research writing on Begonias, and has been his only assistant in his growing, advertising and sales activities. She has been president of the Santa Barbara Branch and is now Parliamentarian of the ABS.

Vice-President three years:

WALTER HANSEN

Walter Hansen of Ventura, California, is a past president of the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch of ABS. He is a supervisor with Eastman Whipstock, Inc. He grows prize-winning Begonias and is now es-

pecially interested in terrariums, many of which he constructs. He is a photographer, and also a rock hound.

Secretary:

MARGARET IRETON

Margaret Ireton grows all types of Begonias in glasshouses in Bakersfield, Calif. A journalist by profession, she became interested in horticulture as a hobby through community college courses, joining the ABS as "member at large" in 1968. Last year, the Iretons became members of Westchester Branch and have been driving over 200 miles monthly to attend meetings. She is also a member of the International Fern Society.

Treasurer:

WALTER J. BARNETT

Walter J. Barnett has been treasurer since 1966. He is a public accountant and has his own accounting service. Begonias are his hobby and they keep him busy.



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FIRST SHOW FOR PORTLAND BRANCH, A.B.S.

By Phyllis Wright
Seattle Begonia Society

The Portland, Oregon, branch of the A.B.S. held its first show on May 5th and 6th on the patio of the beautifully landscaped yard of the president, Patricia Morrison. To add to the beauty of the begonias, the yard was a mass of color with Rhododendrons and Azaleas at the peak of their bloom.

The many varieties of begonias were all beautifully grown plants. All had good color, well shaped, as well as being well groomed. The lovely color of these plants would be difficult to describe because most of them were grown under fluorescent lights.

The many terrariums, Ferns, Violets and Orchids were all displayed in the greenhouse.

The highlight of the show, to me at any rate, was the Junior division, ages 15 to 18. These young people displayed some very nice plants and to their great joy won many blue ribbons. They also worked on the plant sale table and took care of the greenhouse sales while Patricia was busy with show guests.

It was a great thrill for me to be a special guest at their show. Each and every one of us in A.B.S. wish them continued success not only in their future shows but in their membership drive and meetings. So, keep up the good work, Portland branch, we are all behind you.

This group has had a real struggle for a long time, but it looks as if they are finally getting places. Any

encouragement from any of us will be greatly appreciated.

If this show was any indication of future ones, I would say they were really going to be a challenge. It was a very well coordinated show and one of the easiest I have ever judged.

PUBLICATION NOTICE

All material for publication — articles, notices, photographs — should be sent to the Editor, preferably five weeks before date of publication. Deadline is the first of the month preceding month of publication.

Advertising copy and inquiries should be sent to the Advertising Manager.

The SOCOTRANAS Are Coming!

B. socotrana—a rare species from Socotra with beautiful deep pink flowers carried in strings ending with a seed flower. It has one of the finest keeping qualities, the flowers staying colorfast for 2 months. Excellent for hybridizing, it is one of the parents of the Rieger begonias.

Also, startling, new Woodriff hybrids as well as old Fairyland favorites, many not available elsewhere. Patty Sweet, scented double tuberous, tuberous-fibrous crosses, etc.

SEE YOU AT THE NATIONAL SHOW!

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DO BEGONIAS NEED LIME?

By Elda Haring

Begonias as we know come from many parts of the world and have been found growing under varying conditions and in a variety of soils; some of them even in limestone rock. Few of us who grow begonias because we enjoy them are able to provide the same conditions that prevailed in their native habitats. The many beautiful begonias being grown all over the country attest to the fact that these are most adaptable plants, accepting the conditions we can give them.

Do begonias need lime? Lime is used to counter acidity and for the calcium it releases. Surely if your begonias are growing vigorously with crisp leaves and profuse flowers you need not concern yourself with the need for lime for obviously your potting mix suits your plants.

To determine definitely if your mix needs lime it would be necessary to have it tested for the pH factor. On the pH scale 7 is considered neutral or in other words soil is neither acid nor alkaline but the two conditions are in exact balance. Too high a pH (over 8) or too low (under 4.5) can be detrimental. In either case certain needed nutrients in the soil will lock up and are not available to the roots of the plant. At 6 to 6.9 on the scale plant foods needed are

available in soluble form. A home testing kit is not scientifically accurate but will give you a good indication of the pH range of your potting mixes. At various times I have tested packaged potting mixes and have found most of them test at 6.5 which has proved just right for begonias and other indoor plants that I grow. Most of the soilless mixtures, whether you mix your own or buy them, contain a small amount of lime, about 1 tablespoon to ten quarts of mix. Garden soils in many places in the country tend to be on the acid side and when using these plus peat moss and sand or perlite, the addition of lime is beneficial. However, if you live where soils are highly alkaline the addition of lime could raise the pH to a dangerous level. In looking through the begonia books on my shelf; i.e. 'All About Begonias' by Bernice Brilmayer, Helen Krauss' 'Begonias for American Homes and Gardens', Bessie Buxton 'Begonias and How They Grow', Ruth Pease 'So Say the Experts' and 'Begonias Slanted Toward the Beginner' by Dorothy Behrends, I find that no mention is made of the use of lime but bonemeal is mentioned often. Bonemeal not only adds phosphorus but calcium as well, and is alkaline in reaction and helps to raise the pH and could be all that you would need to add to your potting mix.

If it is not possible to test your soil, rather than add lime without knowing if it is needed I would suggest that you use test plants. That

(Continued on Page 155)

**BEGONIAS
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT B. 'PARVA'

By Dr. J. Doorenbos
Laboratory of Horticulture
Wageningen, The Netherlands

The article on *Begonia parva* by Mrs. Elda Haring in *The Begonian* of June, 1973 gives me cause for the following comments.

In 1912, the name *Begonia parva* was published twice: in January by Merrill for a Philippine species of the section *Diploclinium*, and in September by Sprague for a West-African species of the section *Tetraphila*. There is not the slightest doubt that Mrs. Haring's species is the latter, and not the former, which as far as I know has never been in cultivation.

Unfortunately, as Merrill's name has priority, the name *B. parva* Sprague is not legitimate. This was already pointed out by C. M. Weber in 1969, who suggested the name *B. spraguei* for this plant. Now, as Sprague already noted, his species is very close to *B. mannii*, described by J. D. Hooker as early as 1864. In his book, the differences between *B. spraguei* and *B. mannii* are negli-

gible. Therefore, the name for Mrs. Haring's plant is *B. mannii* Hook. f.

B. mannii is a variable species that occurs over a wide area in West Africa. I have four different forms in my collection, differing in leaf size, leaf shape and flower colour (pink, red, orange red). An intriguing fact is that only one of these forms has both male and female flowers. The others, including the form known as *B. parva*, never form male flowers under our conditions. I would be interested to know if Mrs. Haring or other growers of this plant ever saw male flowers on it.

MAY 1940 IS REMEMBERED

The 33rd anniversary of the founding of the Santa Barbara Branch of the A.B.S. was celebrated at the May 10 meeting this year.

The first president, Rudolph Ziesenhenne, was introduced as the speaker of the evening. He discussed the Begonias that are especially suited for terrarium growing, and demonstrated the proper methods of growing them in a contained atmosphere. One of his specimens was the very new *B. bogneri* which he described botanically in the April issue of *The Begonian*.

DO BEGONIAS NEED LIME?

(Continued from Page 154)

is, pot up identical rooted cuttings one in your usual potting mix and the other in a mixture to which you have added lime. Water, feed and care for these plants alike keeping them in the same situation. Two or three weeks would not be sufficient to make a proper evaluation. Keep the plants growing at least six months before attempting to make a definite decision as to whether the addition of lime is efficacious.

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CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

No. 1—*B. crispula*, Brade.

Produces a short rhizome, and the short-stalked, round leaves, five to six inches in diameter, spread out more or less flat on the surface of the soil. New leaves spread out over the older ones, almost touching them or even resting on them. In consequence, moisture easily stays between them, and the rough surface of the leaves increases still further the danger of leaf rot to which this species is subject. *B. crispula*, therefore, must never be sprayed and water must be applied strictly to the soil, never splashed on the plant. However, this is the only difficulty with this Begonia, which is easy to grow if planted in loose humus and soil kept moderately moist.

The inflorescence is six inches high, the male flowers, white inside and pinkish outside, are slightly over a half-inch in diameter, the female flowers still smaller. The floral display, therefore, is insignificant, but the deeply crisped, shiny green foliage is very attractive, and this species certainly represents an interesting addition to the great multitude of different shapes the genus Begonia is able to produce. Provide about sixty-five degrees warmth to germinate seed. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 2—*B. solananchera* A. DC.

Trailing stems, smooth, oval leaves, very floriferous plant in winter with white flowers, crimson center. Good Begonia. See cover picture August 1971. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 3—*B. macedougalli*, Mexico, sometimes called *B. purpurea*.

Large leaf, rhizomatous plant that

can be grown outdoors where climate permits. Also popular as a specimen plant grown in redwood tub. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 4—*B. epipsila*, Brazil.

Thick, polished, leathery, green leaves, coated with red-brown wool underneath. Good basket; droops attractively. Showy with flowers. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 5—*B. incarnata*, Mexico.

Firily, fluffy plant with light green leaves fluted and scalloped on the edge; flesh pink flowers in winter. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 6—*B. echinosepala*, Brazil.

Small, metallica-like Begonia with narrow serrated leaves drooping from arched branches. Male flowers are white-bearded. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 7—*B. acida*.

Large, seersucker - puckered leaves of fresh apple-green are angled by a suggestion of points where veins run out to edge. Spring flowers dainty white on stems standing well above foliage. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 8—*B. roezlii*, Peru.

Waxy green leaves, ruffled on edge; pink flowers. Likes sun. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 9—*B. schmidtiana*, Brazil.

Constantly branching plant, with small, hairy, green leaves red lined at the indented veins, red below. Always in bloom with pale pink flowers. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 10—*B. scabrida*—A. DC, Venezuela.

Leaves roundish ovate, asymmetrical, bright green and rough-hairy, ir-

regularly toothed, pale green beneath; large cymes of small, white, pearl-like flowers. Easily grown decorative foliage Begonia. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 11—*B. micranthera*.

Stems short, stout and succulent; leaves are broad-ovate, soft-hairy, irregularly lobed, green; margins toothed and ciliate; flowers usually in pairs, bright orange-red with masses of yellow stamens. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 12—*B. egregia* or *quadrelocularis*, Brazil.

Long, tapering, pointed, pebbly green leaves drooping neatly from both sides of the stem; flowers like

tiny pink-tipped hearts, with four winged ovaries. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 13—*B. manicata*.

Upright type with sturdy rhizome; nearly round, glossy green leaf; collar of stiff red bristles at the top of stem, under leaf. Plantlets pop up on rhizome near soil, can be carefully removed and planted. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Please send requests for seed to:

Mrs. Florence Gee

Seed Fund Administrator

234 Birch Street

Roseville, California 95678

Please include complete return address with orders.

CALENDAR

(Continued from Page 147)

Word, Chairman. Free Admission.

July 27 — Redondo Area Branch — 6:30 p.m. Potluck Dinner. Speaker: Joe Littlefield on "Begonias and General Gardening." Plant Table and Coffee.

July 28 and 29 — Alfred D. Robinson Branch presents "Begonia Beauty", a show of begonias and shade plants in Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego. Saturday 1 to 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Admission free but choice plants may be selected for a suitable donation.

July 28-29 — Seattle Begonia Society Annual Seafair Begonia Show, "Magic Moments" on Saturday, July 28th (2:00 to 8:00 P.M.) and Sunday, July 29th (10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.) at the Loyal Heights Recrea-

tion Center, 21st N.W. and N.W. 77th Streets. Admission 35¢.

July 29 — Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch Garden Tour, beginning at 265 Walnut Drive, Ventura. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

August 10-12 — The Eastside Begonia Club will hold its 9th annual Flower Show in Bellevue, Wash. The theme is "Nature's Jewels". Show chairman is Phil Aaron and it will be held in the Bellevue Square Pavilion. Show hours will be: August 10, 1 to 9 p.m.; August 11, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; August 12, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Rare plant material will be available at the sales booth.

September 22 and 23 — The Santa Clara Valley Branch will present a Begonia Show at the Mayfield Mall Shopping Center, San Antonio Rd. at Alma, Palo Alto, on September 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and September 23 from 12 noon to 5 p.m. No admission charge.

DEGREES ON 'BEGONIA'

By Fred A. Barkley

Northeastern University, Boston

Three graduate students at Northeastern University (Boston) doing research under my advice have successfully completed their studies.

On May 1 Yoo Sung Lee defended his thesis, "Stem Anatomy of *Begonia*," before a committee consisting of Professors Ernest Ruber, Dale Levering and myself, all of Northeastern University.

On May 15 Kamil El Tigani defended his dissertation, "Comparative Developmental Morphology of the Inflorescences and Flowers of Three Species of *Begonia*," and Kalil Saleem Boghdan defended his dissertation, "Comparative Developmental Morphology of the Foliage Leaves of Three Species of *Begonia*," before a committee composed of Professors Ruber, Levering and Barkley of Northeastern University and Professor Harriet Creighton of Smithsonian Institution, Washington.

Dr. Bernice Schubert of Harvard University attended the defenses of both dissertations. Dr. Lyman B. Smith was prevented from attendance by illness.

In the evening following the defense of the dissertations the Barkleys toasted the successful candidates

with a dinner at the newly opened faculty center of Northeastern University, which Dr. Schubert, the candidates and their wives, the defense committee members and their wives, and Miss Ann Sears and Mr. André Baranov attended.

Miss Sears will shortly be defending a thesis on "Cystoliths in *Begonia*" and Mr. Baranov a thesis on "Morphology of Some *Begonia* Flowers."

Mr. El Tigani and Mr. Boghdan have been elected to Phi Kappa Phi, national honorary fraternity, and Mr. Lee, Mr. El Tigani and Mr. Boghdan have been made full members of Sigma Xi, national scientific fraternity and to Phi Sigma, national biological honorary fraternity. All five of the students have been or are members of the Buxton Branch of the American Begonia Society.

RESEARCH REPORT

For the last year and a half, W. Scott Hoover, a junior Botany student at Colorado College, has been investigating and describing certain structural characteristics of various species of *Begonia* and has written seven papers on this subject. Performing such research, Mr. Hoover met Professor Barkley of the Northeastern University. This proved to be most successful for Mr. Hoover, as he was asked to accompany Dr. Bark-

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ley to South America this coming summer as a research assistant.

The purpose of the field trip is to study the habitat of the Begonia in its natural surroundings. His duties will include collecting specimens, keeping accurate records of all work, and pressing any valuable material. One primary purpose will be to help Prof. Barkley with his own research in any possible way.

Much work with the Begoniaceae has been from the taxonomic viewpoint. In botanical study the evolutionary development of any plant incorporates besides taxonomy, cytology, embryology, phytogeography and morphology. So there is considerable work in these remaining fields.

Mr. Hoover will be taking slide pictures from which he will be glad to give a presentation to any interested group of people upon his return from the trip. He will also publish in The Begonian any ideas which may be of value to our members.

To go on such a research trip requires a considerable sum of money. Mr. Hoover has received a grant from the Ford Venture Fund of \$600. But he still needed more. When the request for \$400 was received, there was only \$275 in our account. However, the A.B.S. Board donated enough so that we could give Mr. Hoover the \$400 grant. This will now leave our Research account with very little funds to work with. I have stressed the point many times for the need of a continuous fund, available whenever there is a worthy appeal. We must not wait to see what is going to happen to the funds that are donated, before making another yearly donation. Is it not possible for

the Branches to make a yearly donation, even though at times, it may be a small one? For the Research Fund to survive, it will be necessary to have the full support of the members of the A.B.S.

In my four years as Research Director, I have been hard pressed to find much research being conducted with the Begonia in this country. So when we find someone who is working with the aims and purposes of the A.B.S. in mind, let us give the project our full support. It may make a unique contribution to the knowledge of the Begonia with which our name could be associated in years to come. It may also encourage a young botanist to work in the field of Begoniaceae.

M. Carleton L'Hommedieu
Research Director

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TERRARIUMS — GLASS GARDENS

By Casey Marchlewicz

Terrariums can be of all shapes and sizes. They can be landscaped many different ways to show your artistic flair. They are helpful in preserving our ecology.

When you begin planting your terrarium you will need gravel, charcoal, soil and plants: the gravel to be used as drainage, the layer of charcoal to keep the soil sweet, and very light soil for good drainage.

The kind of plants you can grow in your terrarium depend on its size, whether it will be closed or open and where you will display it.

Closed terrariums can house ferns, Pusillas, Begonias, such as *ficicola* or *rajah*, or partridge berries.

Plants that will do well in your open terrarium include any small rhizomatous Begonias such as *bowerae nigramarga*, 'China Doll', and the 'Strawberry Begonia', *peperomia*,

tiny palms, hoya or even the coffee tree.

Select several varieties of plants depending upon the size of your terrarium: some tall, some low and in variegated shades. When you set your plants in, you should have as much soil on the roots as you can, but be sure you have adequate root spacing.

If your terrarium is covered you



will have to water very little after planting. The initial watering should last for months. Be sure you never water too heavily at one time; water lightly but thoroughly, and after your watering just cover and watch it grow. Prune often to keep neat and proportioned.

The remarkable feature of a covered terrarium is that the dry air of your home is of no danger to your plants, because it traps its own moisture. If little water beads form on the sides of your "glass garden" you know that your plants' rainmaking cycle is functioning. If too much moisture condenses, remove the cover for a day or so. If your terrarium is

uncovered, you will have to water it regularly, but sparingly.

Add a personal touch to your terrarium with figurines, sea shells, rocks, pebbles or artificially colored gravel.

I have jungle scenes, underwater scenes, mountain scenes, and garden scenes. My last one was inspired by "The Wizard of Oz" and is the "Emerald City".

Your terrarium can be a source of education for you and your family. If you'll watch it closely, you will have a look at nature's cycle on a miniature scale. You will have a deeper understanding of the lives of plants.

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ROUND ROBIN NOTES

There is no "generation gap" between the Robin members. Regardless of the age and experience of the members, each has something to contribute that is appreciated by the others. It is a joy to swap "growing secrets" and help each other grow better plants. Now I have a request for a Robin on one of the newer types of Begonias, the Rieger elatior Begonia. If you would like to share ideas in such a Robin, let me know.

Connie Holcombe of Virginia recommends the Riegers to all, especially if you want winter (spring, summer and fall, too!) bloom without any special care. The only problem (problem?) seems to be to keep them from taking everything over. She's never seen or had a plant that is so enthusiastic about flowering — especially in a north window that at most gets sun from dawn to 8:00 a.m. in high summer and none at any other time. She feeds a variety of plant foods and waters about every other day, as she finds they are very thirsty in their tight little pots.

Beth Sackman, California, gave much implicit advice on how to grow tuberous begonias in a recently launched tuberous Robin. She puts her sprouted tubers in shallow containers in a mixture of leaf mold and sand, covering completely, leaving only tips of sprouts showing as roots develop from top and sides of tubers. After watering she does not water again until they show dryness. She places these in the dark part of her heating cable but if she has too many, the rest are placed in the lighter section but covered with wet news-

papers to keep out light as they like darkness (like they were in the ground) and it helps develop nice roots. There are two diseases that affect the tubers: one rot makes mush of the tuber; the other disease makes them hard like a rock. Both can be prevented by using sterile soil or mix.

Vivian Stewart, Washington, has found her Calla begonia did very well for her during the past winter on the windowsill in her kitchen. She watered it from the bottom with water from her tropical fish tank; when she cleans the aquarium she uses the water on her plants — it is warm, with no chlorine and her fertilizer already in it. There is no fish smell.

Ruth Stanley of Ohio finds *B. serratifolia* hard to grow but a striking plant when well grown and in full bloom. She had a plant given her that was in very poor soil. When it outgrew the pot, she put it into her rich mix and it died. The lady who gave it to her said it dropped its leaves until she changed the soil.

John Scott of Australia said he had grown *B. luxurians* for a number of years and has had mixed results with it. It is doing better now than ever on the floor of his glasshouse close under his bromeliads where it gets many sprays of water.

John had good germination from *B. platanifolia* and *B. affra* seeds from the seed fund.

Jim Bleakley, Australia, had seeds of *B. decora*, *B. acida* and *B. kenworthyi* from the seed fund last August. The first two gave not a glimmer of green, the latter disappointed

him to the stage where he decided to throw the lot on the compost heap but this was delayed and a week later there appeared some little green specks. He now has six very tiny plants. He later had various degrees of germination of *B. rajah*, *B. pringlei*, *B. 'Sunderbruchii'*, *B. cinnabarina*, *B.* unidentified species, and almost 100% germination of *B. princae*. On his own crosses he has noticed that with some pods which have dried and burst open, most of the contents are dustlike and only contain a few mature seed while others have many. With rare seed he is very happy if he can raise one plant from the planting.

Debi Miller, California, bought a plant of *B. 'Wanda'* which taught her something about potting. It had two leaves that measured 4" x 5" and three more in various degrees of development. The pot was only a 1 1/2" pot. For a baby shower gift, where the gifts for the baby would be in abundance, Debi planted a 10" bowl with "baby" plants, landscaped with a tiny ceramic worm and tied a big yellow ribbon around it!

Elizabeth Stuart of California had a *B. versicolor* under lights at first but leaves grew a dark, muddy, bluish-green until she moved it to a north window. A month later new growth had taken on the beautiful shadings again and flower buds were poking up.

Topsy Todd, New York, is running an experiment on *B. subnummularifolia*, leaving bowl only half covered at all times under the lights and was having (at the moment) no leaf bending or curling. She wants to see

if it isn't the heat build-up that causes the curling.

Anita Sickmon, Kansas, put a number of leaves of *B. versicolor* to root in January and every leaf rooted. She used different mixes and all rooted just the same.

Anita had a *B. haultevilleana* that had done nothing for some time so she took it from its pot and put it in a small curled shell and it is growing. She had read that it was a trailing begonia and likes to be kept moist. She almost lost some of the begonias she had planted in shells because they dry out much faster and need to be watched more carefully, as do those grown on rocks.

Anita found that *B. aridicaulis* was one that did no good in the enclosed area in her greenhouse but grows and propagates very readily for her in a closed container.

Art Sackenruther, California, finds some varieties of hoyas do well inside terrariums, as do fittonias, some of the miniature ivies, small peperomias, ferns, small cuts of Ti plants.

Margie Sikkelee, Texas, shared much information on growing in terrariums. Five distress signals of terrariums are: decaying foliage (indicates excessive moisture—ventilate); stunted growth (improper soil with regard to pH); yellow leaves (wrong soil, inadequate drainage, insufficient air or too much light); musty-smelling, moldy soil (poor drainage—add gravel or charcoal); brittle foliage and browned crisp moss (water regulation problem, usually too little—too late).

Martha Larson of Iowa shared a recipe for an organic spray: grind together 2-3 onions, 2-3 hot peppers

and 1 garlic bud (blender may be used) and let stand overnight. Strain through a cheese-cloth, add equal amount of water and use as spray for insects on plants in house or garden.

If you are a newcomer to the American Begonia Society or a long-time member who has never sampled the Robins, you'll find them an added delight to your Begonia hobby. All are welcome. To join one or more, write and let me know how you grow your plants.

Mrs. Mae Blanton
Round Robin Director
Rt. 4, Box 159A
Lewisville, Texas 75067

BEGONIA SHOWS

(Continued from Page 151)

points because you are gaining experience by just growing begonias for another year?

Answer: No. It is true you are learning about your plants by growing them, but you are not learning more through the actual experience of judging which is, in itself, a continuing learning process as requirements of different shows change. You are given points for actual judging, not growing.

2. If you judge the Begonia Division in a general show, do you get 1 point?

Answer: You get 1 point for each show judged. If it happens to include a Begonia Division and you have judged it, it is still 1 point for the show judged.

3. Is a freshman judge just an ob-

server or does he voice his opinion?

Answer: A freshman judge is one who is a *prospective* judge. If you make provision for those who are taking your class to observe at your shows, that is up to you. Sometimes we make it known to show chairmen that we have a number of *prospective* judges, and they are invited to observe during judging, say one such individual to a team of three judges, but as an *observer* only.

They are not to offer any opinion at the time of judging, but, of course, may learn through discussions after all judging has been completed.

A freshman judge presumably knows nothing about judging and is learning. Judges have studied, participated a number of years as sophomore judges and moved up to being junior and senior judges and earn their status through conscientious effort.

The recently updated list of ABS-accredited judges has been forwarded to the Show Chairman and Judging Chairman of Begonia branches as well as other plant societies. Lists have also been sent to arboretums and county fairs who have expressed an interest in qualified judges. Additional current lists are available to others who require them.

We have been informed that two of the names printed on the list should be deleted. Mrs. George Hopkins is very ill and Mrs. George Wilkins passed away several years ago. Both ladies from Dallas, Texas, were listed in our files.

We have no way of knowing these things unless this information is forwarded to us.

Ruth Pease



YOU ALL COME

By Jack O. Langrell

For those of you planning a travel vacation this year, be nice to yourself, give yourself a real treat, visit Seattle and the beautiful Puget Sound area.

From July 28th and 29th to August 18th and 19th Seattle will produce five shade loving shows, three begonia shows and two fuchsia shows.

Beginning with the beautiful Seattle Seafair Begonia Show on July 28th and 29th, the main theme of "Magic Moments" will really be brought about by the beautiful garden and woodland displays. The floor covering for most of the displays will be wild woodland moss gathered by the club members from the rain forest near the ocean. There will be a special display of 100 different species begonias, a special display of terrariums, which is a club project, and displays of fuchsias and ferns. The Seafair Queen will open our show by presenting the Seafair Trophy.

The Greater Seattle Fuchsia Show, August 3rd, 4th and 5th, at the Flag Plaza Pavilion in the Seattle Center, will have patio displays of fuchsias and begonias.

The Eastside Begonia Show, August 10th, 11th and 12th, in Bellevue Square, Bellevue, Wash., or East Seattle, will present its show of garden and woodland displays.

The Puget Sound Fuchsia Show will present their annual flower show on August 11th and 12th at the Seattle Science Center. This has always been a beautiful show in the past.

And last but surely not least the South Seattle Branch of the Begonia Society will present its first Begonia Show on August 18th and 19th, at the William Moshier Fieldhouse, 430 So. 156th St., in Burien, or South Seattle. The members of that branch are excited and guarantee that the show will be characterized by enthusiasm, flowers and plants.

BEGONIA FLEURAGE

By Dennis Stires

1. An ancient art form using dried plant materials for decoration.

2. For use in antique frames, I have used silica gel, drying the relatively tissue-thick tuberous begonia flowers and leaves.

3. Do not attempt to preserve the "live" beauty of growing begonias, for you will be disappointed. Dry various materials and then creatively work with the materials for an artistic presentation that stands on its own beauty.

4. Procedure for making large oval frame display:

a. Purchase old frames from used furniture shops. (Approximately \$4-6 each.)

b. Purchase piece of window glass large enough to form flat back to curved glass in the frame. Have window glass cut oval shape for you or try it with a *new* glass cutter. Be ready with extra pieces — easy to goof.

c. Purchase velvet cloth and paste to flat piece of glass. Leave room at edge so that glass touches glass.

d. Use two pieces of velvet stitched around the edges to make round bean-bag, fill with silica jel and glue to the velvet.

e. Dry begonias, arrange on velvet and over velvet "bean-bag." Don't try to organize it too much or it will look like a funeral piece. If you don't like the arrangement, change it!

f. Once the flowers and leaves are in place, put glass over and glue to-

gether with plastic glass glue, purchased in hardware store. Make it air tight.

g. Place frame over curved glass and hold glass part in place with finishing nails into the wooden frame. Put cardboard on back between glass and nail. Cover back with brown paper. Insert hook screws and wire for hanging. BE CAREFUL in this process, for any pieces broken off will collect in bottom of frame and make a mess.

h. When hanging frame, be certain direct sunlight is not on it. Sunlight hastens bleaching of colors. Frame will mellow in color with age.

5. *Small frames*: these are available and make a natural beginning. Watch for finger marks on the inside of glass.

6. Bibliography: several books are available at library on drying flowers. Article in February 1970 issue of "Horticulture" is interesting: "Fleurage" with photos by Phillis C. Maloney. In same issue article about Harvard Glass Flowers.

— From The Buxtonian,
Buxton Branch ABS

Save the Date ...

41st ANNUAL SHOW of the
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
at

Calitornia State University, Fullerton

August 16, 17, 18, 19, 1973

CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

The Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society met in a regional meeting in the Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park in San Diego on May 27, 1973. The meeting opened at 2:30 P.M. with the usual opening ceremonies. The President, John Provine, expressed the appreciation of the Board to the host branches, The A. D. Robinson and the San Miguel. Mrs. Kay Weaver of the A. D. Robinson and Mrs. Jackie Basye of the San Miguel Branch welcomed the Board and visitors. Thirteen officers and seven branch representatives answered roll call.

The minutes of the April meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer reported receipts \$928.03; disbursements \$1,048.26; balance on hand as of May 18, 1973, \$4,047.26. The secretary read correspondence which included letters from Mrs. Dorothy Behrends, Mrs. D. C. Gale and Mr. Ralph Holtzler commenting on The Begonian. There was also a letter from Mr. Philip Seltner reporting on the Flower Show in Chicago at which he represented the ABS.

The Circulation Manager made the comment that at least 12 new members resulted from Mr. Seltner's efforts. The Membership Secretary's report was read. There were 81 new members; 95 renewals; total members 2771; last month 2766; last year 2083. Circulation Manager reported total Begonians dispersed 3112; mailing cost \$64.28. The Advertising Manager reported receipts \$62.50; unpaid accounts \$32.00.

The Awards Chairman reported only two letters of nominations for awards have been received and urged that branch representatives remind their branches that July 1st is the deadline for nominations. The Judging Course Director reported 17 Classification Guides and 23 Point Scoring books sold during the period March 22 to May 22; total receipts \$142.75; expenses \$19.20; leaving a balance of \$123.55. She also reported that she had requested the Budget Committee for a recommendation concerning the printing of Classification Guides. The cost for 150 would be \$173.32 and \$213.75 for 300. A motion was made and carried to authorize re-printing 300 Classification Guides.

The Placement Chairman for the show requested that all branches who wish to put in a garden display should notify him before August 1st.

The report of the Research Director was read. He had visited Rutgers University and talked with Dr. Moser and Miss

Greener, the student who is doing the research work on begonias. They now have a greenhouse practically filled with plants and will be able to give a report about the middle of June. Progress has been made with plans for Scott Hoover to accompany Prof. Barkley as research assistant on a trip to Central and South America.

The Round Robin Director's report was read. Nineteen flights came through on regular flight; two "lost" flights were re-started; one new flight launched; nine requests received; all were assigned or put on the waiting lists.

The Slide Librarian reported two programs had been sent out during the month. Public Relations Director reported she had sent information about starting a new branch to a member in Albany, New York.

Under new business, the Treasurer requested the Board's permission to make application to the Internal Revenue Service to change the category of the ABS so that contributions of money or time could be deducted for income tax purposes. This change would make it possible for officers to deduct mileage and telephone costs, etc., which are spent for ABS business. A motion was made and carried to authorize Walter Barnett to make this application to the Internal Revenue Service.

The decision was made to make midnight August 3rd the deadline for return of the ballots and a notation printed on the ballot to the effect that putting a stamp on the ballot would save money for the ABS. A motion was made and carried that the proceeds from the donation plant table should be contributed to the Research Fund. (The sum of \$50.00 was collected.) Following branch reports, the meeting adjourned for refreshments supplied by the members of the A. D. Robinson and San Miguel Branches.

Respectfully submitted,
Irene Grannell, Secretary

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