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*The* BEGONIAN



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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Initiating the first two-year term as President of the American Begonia Society gives one the feeling of an astronaut who if he had time to think about it probably wondered why he was where he was when he could by his own choice have been safely in his own home. In the five months I have held the controls of our ship, I've been confronted by many of the odd situations of a shakedown cruise, but with the crew always there, each doing his own part, things have gone along smoothly.

This 24-month cruise is going to be the real one and if we are going to have a more perfect result, we must improve our methods. The officers and committee chairmen must work together as a unit; they must develop for each of their jobs the talents and energies of the hundreds of new members as well as the older ones who have much to share. We must perfect our fiscal procedures to bring the national and branch organizations into compliance with all laws concerning income and disbursement of funds.

In the hope of establishing rules of courtesy to the offices of the national president and the other officers who work countless hours and spend personal funds without expectation of reward other than the furthering

of our aims and purposes, in fiscal years 1975 and 1976 it is my intention to solicit invitations for myself or another national board representative to visit each of the more than 45 branches in the country and to meet as many non-affiliated members as possible. This is not intended as self-aggrandizement but to establish a precedent in an effort to knit our wonderful organization into a working body so that all the tasks may be accomplished by members throughout the nation. This cannot be done, of course, without the financial support of the branches. It is suggested that an amount be set aside in each branch's budget to help defray the cost of the national officer's visit — a legitimate expense of an affiliated organization.

We know we have every member's good wishes; we welcome your suggestions, too.

M. B. Ziesenhenné

## COVER PICTURE

*B. serratifetala*; grown by Claire and Ben Gotelli of the San Francisco branch. This plant was a prize winner at the San Francisco Flower Show, August, 1973.

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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*.



# BEGONIA SERRATIPETALA IRMSCHER

By Rudolf Ziesenhenné

*Begonia serratifolia* Irmscher, the cover plant, was introduced into horticulture by L. Maurice Mason of Kings Lynn, England, who took it home after having found it in the central highlands of New Guinea in 1954. An article in *The Begonian*, "Some Begonias at Chelsea Flower Show 1958" by Mr. Mason described the species as "a charming plant making a solid bush two feet high and as much through, it has, with its claret-colored flowers and vivid deep-pink spots on the wine-colored leaves, become quite popular in collections of the genus."

Dr. Edgar Irmscher had first described and named *B. serratifolia* in 1913 in his paper "Neue Begoniaceen Papasien mit Einschluss von Celebes."<sup>2</sup> His type material was collected while the begonia was in bloom in March 1909 by Dr. Rudolf Schlechter who found it in humus in the forest near Danip at an elevation of 75M (250') in northeastern New Guinea.

The specific name "*serratifolia*" refers to the red-toothed flower petals of the female flowers.

Dr. Irmscher, whose description in German and Latin I have translated, describes the New Guinea begonia as follows:

"*B. serratifolia* is a slender, erect, herb with stems hardly branched, zig-zagged below, thickly leaved above and very sparse-leaved below. The new growth at the tips is densely covered with curled, reddish hairs." (The author's plants have very few fleshy, clear, straight hairs on the new growth.) "The stems are 6-7

inches long, the internodes are  $\frac{1}{8}$  -  $\frac{3}{16}$  inches long, and the stems are about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch in diameter. The stipules are bare, oblong-lance-like, the tip having a long stiff hair, and the margin is entire. The leaf petioles are short, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, covered with erect-adpressed rust-reddish hairs. The leaves are, egg-shaped, 4 -  $\frac{4\frac{3}{4}}$  inches long, and run out to a point  $1\frac{1}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long. The leaf base is very unsymmetrical. The outside lobe is heart-shaped about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch long; the inside lobe is rounded. The leaf edge is feathery, divided, double-toothed and undulate. The outside edge of the leaf has 7 - 9 cuts and the inside edge 5 - 6 cuts.

"The leaf surface is bare but on the underside of the nerves are scattered, brown hairs. On the outside of the leaves are 4 - 5 nerves basally and 3 - 4 laterally."

No mention is made of leaf color. Spots are not mentioned nor are mentioned the little hairs which spring from each red spot.

The male flowers are missing, but Dr. Irmscher assigns this plant to Section *Petermannia* which have two tepals. The female flowers are borne on a very short raceme.

Continuing Dr. Irmscher's description: "The female tepals are five, almost equal, eggshaped-elliptical, on

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the tip bristled. The edge is irregularly wavy-toothed. The tepals are  $\frac{1}{4}$  -  $\frac{5}{16}$  inch long and  $\frac{1}{8}$  -  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch wide. The three decorative stigmas are about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch long and are two-divided for half their length. The somewhat long stigmatic papillae cover each division with a spiral band. The ovary is oval, the tip gradually beaked, twice as long as wide, three-winged nearly equal, capsule base transgradient, margin above oblong-bitten off on the free corner and on the base rounded, in the middle to  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch long, bare in all cases."

*B. serratifetala* has proven to be an easy plant to grow if the air humidity is sufficiently high. It can be grown in peat mixes, soil mixes or sphagnum moss collected in the northeastern United States. It makes an excellent basket plant, an advantage to growers who have struggled to stake up the many stems. Because the plant produces numerous stems, it is very important to supply sufficient fertilizer to support them.

<sup>1</sup>*The Begonian* XXVI, No. 3, May 1959, p. 108 reprinted by permission from *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*.

<sup>2</sup>*Botanische Jahrbucher* Vol. 15, 1914, pp. 339-346.

## COURSE IN GARDENING UNDER LIGHTS

A three-week course in gardening under lights will be offered in October at Longwood Gardens, near Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. Experts will discuss the growing of three plant specialties under lights in evening sessions at the Longwood Auditorium, lasting from 8 to 9:30 p.m., Oct. 16, 23, and 30. Mrs. Richard Edgren will present "Alpines Under Lights," Mr. Jack Golding "Begonias Under Lights," and Mr. Richard Saylor "Gesneriads in the Home." To enroll in the course a registration fee of \$10 should be sent to the Division of Education, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pa. 19348, by no later than Oct. 9. This fee covers admission to the Gardens on course days. For further information call 215-388-6741, ext. 242.

Longwood Gardens is one of the outstanding horticultural display gardens in America. Its great conservatories and unusual fountains rival those of the finest gardens in Europe. Open every day of the year, the Gardens' admission fee is 50¢ per person, \$1 on weekends and holidays.

## THE SPECIES OF THE BEGONIACEAE

Fred A. Barkley & Jack Golding

A compendium of the published names of the species, varieties, synonymy of the *Begoniaceae*, including place and date of publication, original habitat, and section of the genus.

Purchase from your American Begonia Society Branch for \$5.00, or send \$5.50 (postage prepaid) to Jack Golding, 47 Clinton Ave., Kearny, N.J. 07032.

## TROPHY AND AWARD WINNERS ABS CONVENTION '74

The following trophies and awards were won by exhibitors at the 1974 American Begonia Society Show in Goleta, September 6-9, 1974: The Tallying Committee consisted of: Ruth Pease, Mrs. Wyrzten, Gene Daniels.

**EVA KENWORTHY GRAY AWARD:**  
Carrie Karregeannes

**HERBERT P. DYCKMAN SERVICE AWARD:**  
Hazel Snodgrass, Ventura

**ALFRED D. ROBINSON MEDAL:**  
*Begonia* 'Universe', Thelma O'Reilly, hybridizer

**CULTURAL AWARDS — 90 points or better:**

Gene and Nettie Daniels: *B.* 'Pink Jade' — 92 points.

Barbara Philip: *B. listida* — 92 points.

Ernest and Metta Thomsen: *B.* 'Cathedral' — 91 $\frac{1}{3}$  points.

Mr. and Mrs. John Ekstrand: Rex Cherokee — 91 $\frac{1}{3}$  points.

Walter and Lory Hansen: *B. dregei* — 95 $\frac{1}{3}$  points.

**AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY PERPETUAL AWARD FOR BEST BEGONIA IN SHOW:**

Exhibitor: Walter and Lory Hansen

Exhibit: *B. dregei*

**ABS SWEEPSTAKES TROPHY (Grower with most blue ribbons in the Begonia Divisions.):**

Exhibitor: Walter and Lory Hansen

Blue Ribbons: 9

**DIVISION A — EDNA KORTS PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR BEST CANE BEGONIA:**

Exhibitor: Gene and Nettie Daniels

Exhibit: *B.* 'Pink Jade'

**DIVISION B — HELEN BAILEY MEMORIAL PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR BEST SHRUB-LIKE BEGONIA:**

Exhibitor: Barbara Philip

Exhibit: *B. listida*

**DIVISION C — ABS BEST THICK-STEMMED BEGONIA TROPHY:**

Exhibitor: Ernest and Metta Thomsen

Exhibit: *B.* 'Rudy'

**DIVISION D — REDONDO AREA PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR BEST SEMPERFLORENS BEGONIA:**

No Award

**DIVISION E — JOHN R. WILLIAMS MEMORIAL PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR BEST RHIZOMATOUS BEGONIA:**

Exhibitor: Ernest and Metta Thomsen

Exhibit: *B.* 'Cathedral'

**DIVISION F — GONDA HARTWELL CHALLENGE TROPHY FOR BEST REX BEGONIA:**

Exhibitor: Mr. and Mrs. John Ekstrand

Exhibit: *B.* 'Cherokee'

**DIVISION G — ABS BEST SEMI-TUBEROUS OR TUBEROUS SPECIES TROPHY:**

Exhibitor: Walter and Lory Hansen

Exhibit: *B. dregei*

**DIVISION H — PALOS VERDES BEGONIA FARM CHALLENGE TROPHY FOR BEST TUBEROUS BEGONIA:**

Exhibitor: Gene and Nettie Daniels

Exhibit: *B.* Tuberous Multiflora

**DIVISION I — INGLEWOOD BRANCH MEMORIAL PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR BEST SPECIES BEGONIA:**

Exhibitor: Mr. and Mrs. John Ekstrand

Exhibit: *B.* Brazil Species

**DIVISION J — SAN GABRIEL VALLEY PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR BEST BEGONIA GROWN IN A CONTAINED ATMOSPHERE:**

Exhibitor: Evelyn Stewart

Exhibit: *B. rajah*

DIVISION K—SAN MIGUEL  
BRANCH PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR  
BEST BEGONIA IN CULTIVATION  
25 YEARS OR LONGER (HYBRIDS):  
No Award

DIVISION L—WILLIAM L. TAY-  
LOR PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR  
BEST HANGING CONTAINER BE-  
GONIA (BASKET):

Exhibitor: Mr. and Mrs. John Ekstrand  
Exhibit: *B. 'Lulandi'*....

FERD NEELS MEMORIAL PERPET-  
UAL TROPHY FOR BEST WALL  
POCKET BEGONIA:

Exhibitor: J. O. Gilden  
Exhibit: *B. 'Floribunda Rosea'*

DIVISION M—ABS BEST NOVEL  
GROWN BEGONIA TROPHY:  
No Award

DIVISION N—  
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY PER-  
PETUAL TROPHY FOR BEST NEW  
BEGONIA INTRODUCTION:  
No Award

HERBERT P. DYCKMAN PERPET-  
UAL AWARD FOR THE MOST DIS-  
TINCTIVE NEW FIBROUS BEGON-  
IA:  
No Award

JOHN THIEBEN PERPETUAL  
AWARD FOR THE BEST NEW RHIZ-  
OMATOUS BEGONIA INTRODUC-  
TION (other than Rex):  
No Award

DIVISION NN—AMERICAN BEGON-  
IA SOCIETY PERPETUAL TROPHY  
FOR BEST NEW BEGONIA INTRO-  
DUCTION ENTERED BY A COM-  
MERCIAL NURSEYMAN IN MEM-  
ORY OF WILLIAM BOWER:  
Exhibitor: Rudolf Ziesenhenné  
Exhibit: *B. 'Al Clarke'*

DIVISION O—BESSIE RAYMOND  
BUXTON BRANCH PERPETUAL  
AWARD FOR BEST COLLECTION OF  
FIVE BEGONIAS, EACH FROM A  
DIFFERENT CLASS:  
Exhibitor: Mrs. Avril Butler  
Exhibit: Collection

DIVISION P—THEODOSIA BURR  
SHEPHERD BRANCH PERPETUAL  
TROPHY FOR BEST BEGONIA  
GROWN BY A NOVICE GROWER:  
Exhibitor: Hattie Lee Keller  
Exhibit: *B. 'Emerald Jewel'*

DIVISION Q—ABS BEST ENTRY  
IN STUDENT DIVISION TROPHY:  
No Entry

DIVISION R—ABS BEST EDUCA-  
TIONAL BEGONIA DISPLAY TRO-  
PHY:  
Exhibitor: Ruth Pease  
Exhibit: Judges' Course Information  
Display

DIVISION S—ABS BEST BEGONIA  
PHOTOGRAPH TROPHY:  
Exhibitor: Gordon Lipisto  
Exhibit: *B. 'Mayo Berger'*

DIVISION T—ABS BEST PLANTER  
TROPHY:  
Exhibitor: Ernest and Metta Thomsen  
Exhibit: Planter

DIVISION U—ABS BEST MINIA-  
TURE GARDEN TROPHY:  
No Award

DIVISION V—FERNS—ARTHUR  
STRANDBURG PERPETUAL TROPHY  
FOR BEST FERN:  
Exhibitor: Gene and Nettie Daniels  
Exhibit: Unknown Aglamorpha

DIVISION W—ABS BEST SHADE  
PLANT TROPHY (other than Begonia):  
Exhibitor: Mr. and Mrs. John Ekstrand  
Exhibit: *Amorphallas Riviera*

DIVISION X—ABS BEST ARRANGE-  
MENT OR CORSAGE TROPHY:  
Exhibitor: Dagmar Lindberg  
Exhibit: Arrangement

JACK BAILEY MEMORIAL CUP  
AWARD FOR BEST ABS BRANCH  
EXHIBIT:  
Santa Barbara



## CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

The following changes to the Constitution and ByLaws of the ABS were approved by the membership attending the annual meeting of the ABS at Goleta on September 7, 1974. You are requested to cast your vote to approve or disapprove on the inserted card. The cards must be received before November 6, 1974. You will save your society the cost of postage if you affix an eight cent stamp over the permit stamp. The changes are primarily rewording to correct the statement of the articles in question. The words crossed out are to be deleted and the words in *Italics* are to be added:

### IT IS PROPOSED THAT:

ARTICLE IV, Section 3 of the CONSTITUTION of the American Begonia Society be changed as follows:

~~"All officers listed in Section 1~~ *The following officers shall be elected biennially in August by ballot: president, first vice president, second vice president, third vice president, treasurer, and secretary.* Each member of the Society ~~being~~ is entitled to one vote. ~~They~~ All officers shall ~~all~~ serve for two years and *shall* be installed at the appropriate annual meeting. ~~The incumbent President Elect shall be deemed elected for the two year term as President commencing August, 1974."~~

ARTICLE IV, Section 4 of the CONSTITUTION of the American Begonia Society be changed as follows:

"A Director shall be elected biennially by each Branch Society, *to assume office and be installed with the remaining National Officers referred to in Section 3 hereof*, and shall serve two years."

ARTICLE I, Section 2 of the By Laws of the American Begonia Society be changed as follows:

~~"The President Elect or First Vice~~ President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the latter, or whenever the President is unable to perform the duties of his office, and such other duties as are assigned to him by the President."

ARTICLE II, Section 1 of the By Laws of the American Begonia Society be changed as follows: (Last paragraph only)

"The Editor shall be selected by an editorial board consisting of the President who shall act as chairman, ~~the President Elect or First Vice~~ President, the Past President, and two others chosen by the President. *The editor shall serve as a member of the Board."*

#### BEGONIAS HOUSE and GARDEN PLANTS

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## ADVENTURES WITH *B. VERSICOLOR* AND *B. RAJAH*

By Elda Haring  
Box 236, Flat Rock  
North Carolina 28731

As many members of ABS have learned both *B. versicolor* and *B. rajah* have been found to be difficult to grow unless grown in closed containers. My plants were originally grown from seed obtained from the SEED FUND with *B. versicolor* germinating in 17 days and *B. rajah* in 31 days. The seedlings were transplanted to a plastic bread box containing equal parts of vermiculite, perlite and milled sphagnum. When they had increased to two inches in diameter they were potted in 3-inch plastic pots in a potting mix of 2 parts weed-free top soil, 1 part Ger-

man peat, 1 part sand. A 2½ inch flower pot of lime and one of Mag-Amp was added to each two bushels of soil. Pots were placed in a sweater box with a clear plastic lid and kept under Gro-Lux fluorescent lights where the begonias developed slowly into sturdy little plants.

Anxious to experiment with these lovely but demanding plants I ordered a supply of the Astral-dome terrariums from George Park Seed Co. of Greenwood, South Carolina. These domes are manufactured in clear acrylic. The top is removable  
(Continued on Next Page)



*Begonia versicolor*

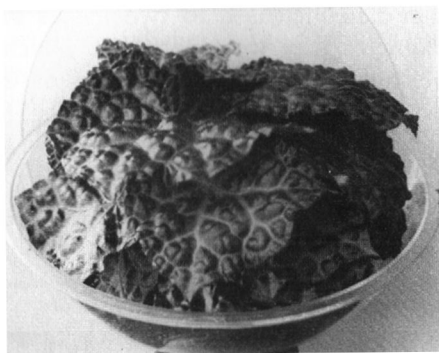
Photos by Walter Haring

but fits on an interlocking rim. There is a two inch opening in the top of the dome. While some growers cover this opening I prefer to leave it open, particularly under lights when the dome is subjected to a small amount of heat from the ballast. When they are completely enclosed the condensate builds up in the terrarium and droplets of water fall on the delicately beautiful leaves and spots and damages them.

Starting with the 7-inch size dome, into the bottom of which went an inch of parakeet gravel and charcoal for drainage, and choosing plants as near alike in size as possible, one each of *B. versicolor* and *B. rajah* were planted in long-grained sphagnum. The sphagnum had been soaked in water containing 7 drops of Shultz Instant to each quart of water and drained before planting. Two other specimens were planted in the same size domes prepared with drainage material and about two inches of potting mix. Those plants in the long-grained sphagnum grew rapidly needing replanting to a 9-inch and subsequently to 15-inch domes within a six month period. Those plants in the soil mix grew very slowly and it was 9 months before they needed the 9 inch dome. In comparing the plants there was a noticeable difference in the texture and depth of color of the leaves in the potting mix. In sphagnum both species showed lighter green leaves with the markings lightly pronounced. Flowers of both plants were normal in size and color.

Should the moss or the soil mix become slightly dry, *B. versicolor* has a tendency to wilt. In examining a

plant that had wilted I discovered that while the mix was moist at the edge of the bowl, the crown of the plant was quite dry. Aerial roots were showing on the stems indicating to my unscientific mind that the roots were reaching for the moisture in the air in the bowl. After watering the crown the leaves became again crisp and turgid. *B. rajah* on the other hand does not wilt so quickly but curls its leaves slightly if not moist enough. Care must be taken, however, not to have any water standing in the bottom of the dome.



*Begonia rajah*

Photo by Walter Haring

Leaves of both species root easily. I like to trim the leaf to half-dollar size leaving  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches of stem for insertion into the rooting medium, using the trimmed section for wedges all of which, if conditions are right, will send up little plantlets. For all my cuttings I use the seedling mix mentioned earlier in this article. The dry mix is placed in a plastic garbage pail with one quart of water added to each 6 quarts of mix. The material is allowed to mellow for a week before using. When removed the

(Continued on Page 264)



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A species introduced into France from Brazil about 1875. A tall growing cane with arching stems weighted with pink flowers. per pkt. \$ .50

#### Ot 2—*B. diadema*

Species from Borneo, name means 'two-crowned'. Leaves cut too deeply to make a star, not deep enough to be palm-like; lustrous silky dark-green with tiny silver smoke rings between the veins. Rhizome hidden underground. Flowers pink. Heat and moisture lover. per pkt. \$1.00

#### Ot 3—*B. gigantea*

From India, and name means 'giant'. Two to three foot species with a swollen base sending up many tall slim stems topped by tight balls of flowers, white to pale pink. Resembles a bird poised in flight. per pkt. \$1.00

#### Ot 4—*B. johnstonii*

From Africa in 1844. Tall, loosely branched, with pale green leaves and red-spotted stems. Few but large pink flowers. per pkt. \$1.00

#### Ot 5—*B. lubbersii*

Brazil 1883. Exotic begonia with silver splashed dark green leaves and is unlike any other begonia. Has a peltate leaf, pointed at the top and bottom (boat-like) surfaces patterned in silver blotches. Flowers very large, white. per pkt. \$ .50

#### Ot 6—*B. platanifolia*

Brazil 1827. One of the best cane type begonias, with deeply cut leaves, rather large, with silver markings. Flowers are numerous and pink. per pkt. \$1.00

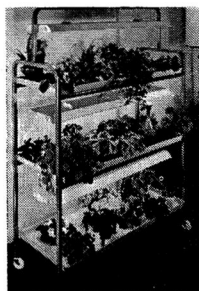
#### Ot 7—Species from Hydrystyles section.

Unidentified, and probably undescribed species. About 2 ft. high, leaves oval, glabrous. Flowers in broad panicles, small, white inside and brick red on the outside. per pkt. \$1.00

#### Ot 8—*B. vitifolia* var. *grandis*.

Can grow to 12 ft. Branches at the base. Large gleaming green leaves, finely toothed on edge, somewhat downy beneath. An abundance of white flowers in huge bunches, lasting several months in spring and summer months. per pkt. \$ .50

Make all monies payable: Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund, and mail with order, being certain to include your complete return address, to Mrs. Pearl E. Benell, 10331 Colima Rd., Whittier, Calif. 90604.



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## Dreams Do Come True:

### BEGONIA COLLECTING IN MEXICO

By Thelma O'Reilly

Each day I enter the garden my eyes tell me collecting plant treasures in the Mexican rain forests was "reality," no longer the continuous dream of many years.

In November of 1973 Mary Birchell and I flew from San Diego to Mexico City, beginning a nine day adventure filled with excitement and beauty.

Our destination, Fortin de las Flores, Vera Cruz, was reached by traveling from Mexico City, in an air conditioned bus, through dramatic mountainous scenery. The snow-capped peaks, hillside displays of brilliant flowering trees and shrubs, green forests and colorful village gardens were breathtaking panoramas. The Posada de Loma Motel, operated by gracious Senora Alvarez and her delightful family, was situated amidst a fantastic tropical botanical garden. Although I had been prepared for this "plant paradise" from many collecting friends, its beauty goes beyond oral description. As my amazed eyes traveled from one spectacular display to another I spied my first begonia, a lush compact three feet high potted specimen of *B. manicata aureo maculata*.

Arrangements had been made before leaving California to have a guide and transportation for two days of collecting plants, mainly begonias and bromeliads, in the cloud and rain forests. It would take more pages than are available in an entire issue of *The Begonian* to fully relate the adventures of our complete col-

lecting trip so I'll concentrate on begonias.

Senora Alvarez, an English speaking lady of great charm, enhanced our trip by extending friendship and warm hospitality. On a Sunday afternoon of tropical showers Senora Alvarez drove us to several local gardens. From the grand formal gardens of Dr. Alfred Lau to the small intimate ones of local hobbyists, we were impressed with the vast assortment of rare, well-grown tropical plants. The small gardens reminded me of my own collection, plants

(Continued on Next Page)



*B. manicata* and bromeliads collected in Mexico.



crowded into every available space. Begonias predominated and were thriving in rusty tin cans. The rexes were handsome and usually growing directly in the ground. Mary and I recognized some of Sylvia Leatherman's hybrids. Plants do travel!

Two begonias growing in most gardens aroused our interest. One was a gorgeous *B. imperialis*-like type. Its three to four inch finely pustulated leaves had the appearance of thickly piled velvet in shades of avocado green and brown with brilliant green veins. Was it *B. imperialis*? Senora Alvarez told us it grew in nearby wooded areas. She had plants waiting for us the next evening when we returned from the rain forest. Can you believe we were so busy cleaning and packing the final day that we forgot this treasure? The other plant was much like *B. mazae* with larger leaves and more beautiful coloring. Mary has insisted for many years that *B. mazae* seen in most collections today is not the same plant given to her many years ago by Mrs. Fewkes. As soon as Mary saw this plant she recognized it as the true *B. mazae*. We were given a plant that failed to survive.

Our two full collecting days in the rain forest were at altitudes between seven and nine thousand feet. Although it was my intent to search for begonias, bromeliads and a few ferns, these intentions vanished when I found myself in another "plant paradise." Trees, hanging over dashing water and rocks, were dripping with bromeliads, orchids, anthuriums and vines. Rocks and boulders were the home of mosses, orchids, peperomias and ferns. Underfoot were mosses,

aroids, tradescantias, selaginellas and all kinds of unknown plants.

I was disappointed to have found only four begonia species in the rain forests. I hope to return someday to search for begonias at lower altitudes during a different season. My consolation was that three were species I have been researching for several years and one was a new species to me. How exciting to have living plants to study that were growing in their native habitat seven months ago.

*B. heracleifolia* was the first collected begonia. It was growing along the bank of a slowly moving stream. Overhead were rankly growing twiggy shrubs. The rhizome was buried under a bed of lovely ten inch high selaginella. The leaves were giant, measuring from twelve to sixteen inches. Most interesting was the leaf color variation on a single plant. The large short-stemmed leaves were reminiscent of *B. heracleifolia* var. *sunderbruchii*, the taller leaves were solid green. This held true on all plants I observed in various locations.

We were hiking in a beautiful barranca when we spotted *B. manicata*. It was growing in sun dappled shade under a large tree laden with orchids, bromeliads and anthuriums. The tree was hanging over a torrent of rushing water that tumbled wildly over huge rocks. A nearby creviced rock was a "collector's delight" it was covered with miniature blooming orchids, small ferns, mosses and four different kinds of peperomias.

Leaving the bank of Rio de Jamapa, we hiked through dense foliage to a wonderland of plant riches. What a sight to behold! The

vertical face of a sheer cliff wall, completely covered with plants, resembled a landscape painted in subtle and brilliant splashes. Entwined through striking plants of *Smithiantha cinnabarina*, was a lovely epiphytic-type begonia that is still unidentified. The long, pale-green asymmetrical leaves had a narrow red border and were flushed on the underside with the same color. Each node was rooted into the extremely shallow moss-covered forest humus covering the face of the cliff wall. About ten feet from this begonia was a cascading waterfall. The force of its spray lightly sprinkled the begonia and surrounding plants, creating extremely wet growing conditions. Careful searching of this wall failed to reveal any other plant of this type. A few scattered plants of *B. manicata* were found. I managed to grow two small plants from collected material.

On our second collecting day our guide, Domingo, selected an enchanted spot for lunch. Tall trees laden with bromeliads and ferns formed an overhead canopy. The forest floor was covered with green mosses and miniature plants. Tree fern trunks, holding huge lacy fronds aloft, reached into hidden depths of a ravine. The peace and quiet, except for an occasional bird call, created a fairy land atmosphere that I'll never forget. Our driver and protector, Ducho, who spoke no English and had no previous experience with plant collecting, was getting into the spirit of the begonia hunt. While Mary and I ate lunch marveling at our delightful accommodations, Ducho wandered off to the edge of

the deep dark ravine. His excited call of "Begonia! Begonia!" brought us running. Ducho had spied a blooming plant in a rock crevice several yards down the nearly vertical wall of the ravine. We discouraged any attempt to collect the plant because we were not certain it was a begonia and the terrain was dangerous. We could not deter him. So, I turned my back, closed my eyes and prayed for his safety and a begonia. I can still remember the feeling of joy when he handed me a handsome three-foot tall plant, aglow with deep pink-red buds and flowers of *B. incarnata*. The roots were shallow, supporting tall erect stems. The leaves were six to eight inches long and the bloom color much deeper than any I had seen in cultivation.

The fifth and last begonia, *B. nelumbifolia*, was found in Fortin de las Flores. The rhizome was over two inches thick and the leaves were immense.

Fortunately, I was able to sustain enough live plant material to have at least two plants of each collected begonia species. Those plants were very difficult to acclimate.

Reflecting upon my collecting experiences I have arrived at the following conclusions about begonias. Their roots love to roam in shallow forest humus. They like a top dressing of moss. They grow near water or where moisture is available. They must have excellent drainage. They are always surrounded with companion plants.

Ideally, I wish I could grow most of my begonias in wide, shallow (four- to six-inch deep) containers  
(Continued on Page 264)

## ROUND ROBIN NOTES

With fall approaching and winter close behind, now is the time to join some of the Round Robins. They can help with your problems and give some valuable hints to bring you more enjoyment with your begonias. Write and tell me what type of begonias you grow and how you grow them. I'll put you in one of these "letter clubs."

Eileen Franklin of New York enclosed a copy of the most interesting article she wrote on the various types of begonias for the Rochester (N.Y.) Garden Center Bulletin. She ended it with an appeal for those interested in forming a branch. She has had much gratifying response.

Bill Parlin, New York, reported in mid-summer that his mister/propagator was nearly filled with cuttings of tuberous begonias. He has a short-day chamber under lights in the cellar containing a number of begonias getting a ten-hour day so as to force the production of tubers for the fall. The short-day chamber is simply a curtained off area with lights. It is also used to induce budding in Christmas cactus, kalanchoe and other plants which require a short day period in order to flower.

Bill likes to use lights with tiny seeds that lie on the surface. He reports very good luck with his standard 16 hour cycle. He said you might remember that young plants are somewhat like babies in that their fastest rate of growth comes very early in life. If this fast rate of growth is established—and maintained—the usual result is stocky, healthy plants. A pioneer among light gardeners suggested intense light (about three inches from the tubes) and an 18-hour day. Bill has found this particularly successful when working with plants such as annuals raised in spring. The seedlings seem very sturdy and less inclined to legginess.

Zelma Clark, New York, uses clean plastic margarine bowls for containers for germinating seeds. Drainage holes are made with an electric drill. She used to use a soldering iron until cautioned about the toxic fumes of the plastic. Zelma clips plastic clothespins to the top edge of the container to keep the plastic bags up off the medium, then closes the bag with a clothespin. All begonia seedlings except the tuberous ones (which are grown in a greenhouse), are grown under lights until final potting. Zelma transplants seedlings when they are very tiny and waters them by misting (with Peters 20-20-20 added) and by setting container in a pan of water until moist.

Jim Bleakley of Australia has in his greenhouse a few pieces of tree fern with the center hollowed out. He puts a mix of peat moss and oak leaf mold in these. All the husks from the begonia seed pods and the

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remaining seeds were scattered on top of this mix plus seed pods that had fallen off before ripening. Much to his surprise, there is a nice carpet of green specks against the background of the tree fern. *B. paulensis* is grown under these conditions and is thriving.

Arline Peck, Rhode Island, uses tobacco juice as an insecticide for mealybugs. She puts a cup of smoking tobacco in a quart jug, fills it with hot water, puts cap on and lets steep. When she needs some to use, she dilutes it to the color of tea and pours the solution around the base of the plant. When the soil mealybug hit her African Violets she cut the plant off at the neck, scraped the stem and set it over a cup with the stem in a quite strong solution of tobacco juice for a while. Then she restarted the plant. She stopped her mildew last winter by spraying with Lysol. She sprays now and then, going out of the greenhouse for a while to avoid the smell.

Gordon Lepisto of Minnesota has been experimenting with enzymes on certain begonias — seedlings included. He mixed up a batch of papaya enzyme from the health food store and let it set exposed to the air to ferment until ripe. He will report later. His water is alkaline, pH around 8. He tested the sphagnum moss in some of his pots and found the pH to be down to 5.6, a little too acid for begonias and most plants. His alkaline water didn't seem to keep the acid reaction down. He is now adding fine limestone to his daily watering. This keeps the pH somewhere near normal. Plants can't absorb food when the soil is too acid

or too alkaline, he said, and the plants will tell you something is wrong.

Gordon read of someone in England who wanted to propagate leaf cuttings in the open. In order to maintain humidity, he sprayed cuttings with an antidessicant latex similar to the product "Wilt-Pruf" which is sold in this country and it does not interfere with rooting in any way. He put a tray of cuts, wedges, etc., of all types of plants, uncovered on a windowsill. All cuttings rooted with no additional humidity necessary, the article reported.

Letitia Isner, West Virginia, washes a foam meat tray, lays wet paper towels on it and places any cuts she makes on it. They stay nice and moist until she gets them in rooting mix.

Mabel Corwin, California, has had fun with her "conversation piece" in her kitchen. She put a double layer of paper towels in the bottom of a plastic sweater box, wetting them down thoroughly. Next she laid begonia cuttings on the wet paper, then put the lid on the box. In just a few

(Continued on Page 263)



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## CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY 8/26/74

The Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society met at South Gate Auditorium at 7:50 p.m., August 26, 1974, President Margaret Ziesenhenné presiding. Twenty-two including two guests were present. Peggy McGrath was appointed acting secretary.

Vice President Chas. Richardson reported on efforts to find another meeting place. A report will be made at the next meeting of the board.

Vice President Walter Hansen reported for the Show Committee and Mrs. Ziesenhenné read a letter from the convention center regarding reservations.

Treasurer Walter Barnett reported a balance of \$3,228.79 as of August 18 in the general fund; his purchase of paper for *The Begonian* for Sept. Jan. was approved. He was asked to complete forms for the Franchise Tax Board in connection with reinstatement of Articles of Incorporation by the California State Dept., at Mrs. Ziesenhenné's request; they must be filed by Sept. 15 to avoid penalty.

Awards Committee member Margaret Lee said ballots had been counted and recipients of ABS awards will be announced at the Annual Banquet.

Librarian Lydia Austin reported \$500 had been paid over to the Treasurer for sales of books, about \$450 of which was from sales of the new Cultural Bulletin. By applause the Board acknowledged Mrs. Austin's effort, and requested appreciation be expressed to the Cultural Bulletin authors, especially the chairman, Peggy McGrath, and Ruth Pease who did most of the work.

Membership Chairman Norma Rike reported 140 new memberships, 190 renewals, and total membership of 3606 on August 15.

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Al Perz, Redondo Branch, registered a complaint about renewals from his branch which had apparently been lost. He was assured the matter would be taken care of.

Nomenclature Chairman R. Ziesenhenné read an offer by Lee C. R. Baker of Charlottesville, Va., to do a cumulative index of *The Begonian* and the 1974 Vol. 41 without cost to the ABS except for materials. He will be contacted for further details.

Jerry Rike, business manager, announced he is billing advertisers who have small advertisements on a quarterly basis now. \$1,264.70 worth of advertising has been sold this year but collections are not complete. Mr. Rike objected to the fact that he had not been contacted in connection with a purchase of paper for *The Begonian*. The president apologized for herself and the treasurer.

Motion was made, seconded and carried that a token gift, not to exceed \$20.00, was to be purchased and given to Wallace Wagner at the annual meeting in recognition of his services as president.

Seed Fund Chairman Pearl Benell reported sales for month ended 8/13/74 as \$198.65. Total for year \$3,025.88.

Mr. Hansen distributed posters advertising the 1974 ABS Show.

Hampton Branch was approved for membership in the ABS on motion of Public Relations Director Peggy McGrath. Originated by Ed and Millie Thompson, the branch will meet in Southampton, N.Y. At their request, charter will be dated 1/15/75.

It was moved, seconded and passed that the ABS check for \$30.00 for Hampton Branch will not be sent until the charter is presented 1/15/75.

Reports were made by Rubidoux, Glendale, Westchester, San Miguel, Ventura, Redondo Area, and Long Beach Parent branches. Lory Hansen of Ventura reported the establishment of a trophy, donated by Mrs. Louise Bower of Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch, Ventura, in memory of her husband, William, which will be given for the best begonia introduction each fiscal year entered by a commercial grower in the annual ABS show.

Motions were made, seconded and carried that the bank accounts of the Research Dept. at Oystermans Bank and Trust Co., now in Carl L'Hommiedieu's name alone, and at the Crocker National Bank, now in Librarian Lydia Austin's name alone, each have the added signature of Walter J. Barnett, Treasurer.

A motion that membership cards be numbered was defeated. Adjourned at 10:15 p.m. Signed by Peggy McGrath, Acting Secretary. Condensed by M. B. Ziesenhenné, President.



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Ca. 91780; Edward Thompson, 310  
Hill Street, Southampton, New York  
11968; Annette Boree, 8 Brown  
Road, Great Neck, New York 11024;  
Marie Donnelly, 661 Long Beach  
Road, Rockville Centre, New York  
11570; Frances Hoffman, 5 Clam  
Shell Lane, Northport, New York  
11768.

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## ROUND ROBIN

(Continued from Page 261)

days some had roots and/or plantlets. She was amazed at how fast they started, especially the rexes. Small leaves she left whole, larger leaves she broke up and used both the stem part and the wedges. A small piece seems to grow just as well as a larger piece or whole leaf. A few things rotted but almost everything rooted very quickly. She put in a few tip cuttings of canes, just to see. They rooted fine but take up more room, since you have to lay them down. After they are rooted, she pots them up and puts them in another closed plastic box, gradually hardening them off.

Write me soon to join us.

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All material for publication — articles, notices, photographs — should be sent to the Editor, preferably six 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 Editor.

### B. VERSICOLOR and B. RAJAH

(Continued from Page 254)

mix is slightly moist neither wet nor dry. Leaves and wedges root as quickly in a flower pot or market-pak enclosed in a large baggie as they do in containers with clear plastic tops.

It has been my experience that neither of these begonias will survive uncovered in my greenhouse. At the present time I have a number growing uncovered in plastic pots as well as in wicked containers under warm white fluorescent tubes. The temperature in my basement plant room is 70 degrees and the humidity is 50 percent during the summer months. While all the plants are growing well at this writing I feel it important to wait at least ten to twelve months before a proper evaluation of this method can be made. They may survive and grow beautifully for a few months and then deteriorate when the heat must be turned on which results in lower humidity in the basement.

### BEGONIA COLLECTING IN MEXICO

(Continued from Page 259)

with an inch or two of inert drainage material in the bottom; have available a fine grade of forest humus (large particles of decayed material were not in evidence in begonia habitat); use a shallow top dressing of live green moss or compatible miniature plants; provide a constant supply of rain water; and last, but not least, surround them with bromeliads, ferns, orchids, peperomias, aroids, selaginellas and mosses for friendly neighbors.

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# BRANCH DIRECTORY

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

## BUXTON BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members  
Mrs. Raymond C. Cronin, Secy  
88 Ledgeways, Wellesley, Mass. 02181

## CONNECTICUT BRANCH

4th Sunday of each month  
Mrs. Priscella Beck, Secy.  
R D No. 1, Box 121,  
Mystic, Conn. 06355

## EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m., Willard School  
Telegraph at Stuart, Berkeley, Calif.  
Miss Carol E. Orpin, Secy.  
428 Norvell Street  
El Cerrito, Calif. 94530

## EASTSIDE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
590 116th Avenue N.E., Bellevue, Washington  
Diane McElroy  
9010 209th Ave., N.E., Redmond, Wash. 98052

## EDNA STEWART PITTSBURGH BRANCH

3rd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Phipps Conservatory  
Beverly Coyle, Corr. Secretary  
144 McCurdy Drive, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15235

## EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Friday, Members' Homes  
Mrs. Gladys Mattuket, Secy.  
1801 Azalea Drive, Alhambra, Calif. 91801

## FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
First Methodist Church, Marshall Hall  
3205 D Street, La Verne, Calif.  
Mrs. Marie Schmidt, Secy.  
1296 Prospect  
Pomona, Calif. 91766

## FORT, ELSA BRANCH

1st Saturday, 1:00 p.m.  
Miss Lola Price, Secy.  
628 Beach Ave., Laurel Springs, N.J. 08044

## GARDEN GROVE BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Sunnyside School  
9972 Russell Ave. at Brookhurst, Garden Grove, Ca.  
Mrs. Millie Hinds, Sec'y.  
8752 Dewey Dr., Garden Grove, Ca. 92641

## GLENDAL BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Glendale Federal Savings, 401 N. Brand  
Mrs. Katharine Alberti, Secy.  
3322 Troy Drive, Hollywood, Calif. 90068

## GREATER BATON ROUGE BRANCH

Mrs. John H. McKay, Secy.  
5116 Baton Rouge Ave., Baton Rouge, La. 70805

## HOUSTON TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m.  
Garden Center, 1500 Herman Drive  
Mrs. B. A. Russell, Secy.  
5926 Jackwood, Houston, Texas 77036

## KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Horticultural Society of N.Y.  
128 West 58th St., New York  
Miss Margaret Huger, Secy.  
505 East 82nd St.  
New York, N.Y. 10028

## LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

2nd Sunday, 1:30 p.m.  
Glendale Savings & Loan Bldg.  
5535 E. Stearnes Street  
Los Altos Shopping Center, Long Beach, Calif.  
Miss P. E. Powell, Secy.  
3031 Shakespeare Dr., Los Alamitos, Ca. 90720

## LONG ISLAND BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Planting Fields Arboretum  
Oyster Bay, Long Island, N.Y.  
Annette W. Boree, Sec'y  
8 Brown Road, Great Neck, N.Y. 11024

## MESQUITE BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 10:30 a.m., Members homes  
Mrs. Mae Blanton, Secy.  
118 Wildoak Drive, Lake Dallas, Texas 75065

## MIAMI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Simpson Memorial Garden Center  
55 South West 17th Road, Miami, Florida  
Rosamond Meriwether, Secretary  
1552 Placentia Ave., Coral Gables, Florida 33134

## MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Friday, 11 a.m., Member's Homes  
Kansas City, Mo.  
Mrs. Glenn Lucas, Secy.  
Kansas City, Mo. 64109

## MONTEREY BAY AREA BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Lighthouse and Dickman Sts., New Monterey, Calif.  
Virginia Carey, Secy.  
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## NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

2nd Friday, 7:30 P.M., 5535 Stearns, Long Beach,  
Glendale Federal Savings and Loan Bldg.  
Miss Carol Ruane, Secy.  
2133 Pacific Ave.  
Long Beach, Calif. 90806

## ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
First Christian Church,  
1130 E. Walnut Street, Orange, California  
Mrs. Norma Taylor, Secy.  
2414 N. Bristol, Santa Ana, Ca. 92667

## PORTLAND BRANCH

Mrs. R. D. Morrison, President  
5305 S.W. Hamilton St., Portland, Oregon 97221

## REDONDO AREA BRANCH

4th Friday, 7:30 p.m.  
R. H. Dana School Cafetorium  
135th St. and Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, Calif.  
Mrs. Susian Shaner, Secy.  
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Mrs. Harold Ingersoll, Secy.  
6665 Via Estrada, La Jolla, Ca. 92037

## RUBIDOUX BRANCH

4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m., West Riverside Memorial Hall  
4393 Riverview Drive Rubidoux, Ca.  
Dorothy Ansevic, Sec./Treas.  
4063 Opal St. Riverside, Ca. 92509

## SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center  
3300 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif.  
Mrs. Beverly Bartlett, Secy.  
725 - 36th Street  
Sacramento, Ca. 95816

## SALINE COUNTY BRANCH OF KANSAS

4th Monday, 1:30 p.m., Homes of Members  
Mrs. Jesse B. Harper, Secy.  
Route 3, Salina, Kansas 67401

### SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center  
Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way  
Mrs. H. C. Banks, Secy.  
1279 35th Ave., San Francisco, Ca. 94122

### SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Friday, 8:00 p.m.  
Los Angeles State and County Arboretum  
501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.  
Mrs. Elizabeth Stuart, Secy.  
169 Mauna Loa Dr., Monrovia, Ca. 91016

### SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 7:30 P.M.  
Casa del Prado (Rm. 104)  
Balboa Park, San Diego  
Mrs. Nova Gillis, Secy.  
11885 Walnut Rd., Lakeside, Ca. 92040

### SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History  
2559 Puesta Del Sol  
Mrs. Patricia Hill, Secy.  
1334 Mission Ridge Road, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93103

### SANTA CLARA VALLEY BRANCH

4th Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
Covington School  
Covington Rd. near Foothill Expressway and  
El Monte Road in Los Altos  
Mrs. Elizabeth K. Sayers, Secy.  
369 Ridge Vista Ave., San Jose, Ca. 95127

### SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:00 P.M.  
Bethany Lutheran Church, 7400 Woodlawn Ave. N.E.  
Mary Dunnell, Secy.  
2208 N.E. 177th St., Seattle, Wa. 98155

### SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Senior Citizens Bldg., 420 Santa Clara St.,  
Ventura, Ca.  
Mrs. Evelyn Stewart, Secy.  
880 Summit Dr., Apt. 301C, Ventura, Ca. 93001

### SOUTH SEATTLE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Wm. Moshier Field House  
430 South 156th Burien  
Mrs. Viva Musgrave, Secy.  
11447 12th Ave., Seattle, Wash. 98146

### TAMPA BAY AREA BRANCH

Mrs. Grace McDougall, Secy.  
Plum St., Inverness Highlands

### TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m., Members' Homes  
Mrs. R. M. Annison, Secy.  
Rt. 2, Box 155 Dickinson, Texas 77539

### TEXASTAR BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 10 a.m., Garden Center  
1500 Herman Dr., Houston, Texas  
Mrs. V. O. Harman, Secy.  
306 Cody, Houston, Texas 77009

### WESTCHESTER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Westchester Women's Club  
8020 Alverstone Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.  
Ramona Greb, Secy.  
441 Hillside Lane, Santa Monica, Ca. 90402

### WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday 11:00 a.m. every month  
Pittsburgh Garden Center, 1059 Shady Ave.,  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Mrs. Alfred Slee, Secy.  
211 Arlington Ave., Butler, Pa. 16001

### WHITTIER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Palm Park Community Center  
5703 South Palm Avenue, Whittier  
Miss Anne Rose, Secy.  
14036 Ramona Drive, Whittier, Calif. 90605

### WILLIAM PENN BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Noon Homes of Members  
Mrs. John W. Watson, Secy.  
209 Pembroke Ave.  
Wayne, Pa. 19087

## CALENDAR

Oct. 8 — Glendale Branch 7:30 P.M. — Glendale Federal Savings, 401 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale. Speaker is Thelma O'Reilly. Her topic is "Begonias Go 'MOD', a new look for begonias and their companion plants." Refreshments. Visitors welcome.

October 9 — Long Island Branch — 7:30 P.M. at Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay, New York. Plant & Literature sales precede the program which begins at 8:00 P.M. The Begonia of the Month will be B. "Double Firefly" by Gene Foster, the branch "semp nut," Millie Thompson will give a Report on the Ninth Eastern Convention. The main program will be "Windowsill Gardening" by Jim Wyrzten and Marie Donnelly. Refreshments will be served.

October 14 — Hampton Twig of the L. I. Branch — 7:30 P.M. at the home of Luise Schoen, Watermill, NY. Winter Care of Begonias by Ed & Millie Thompson will be the topic for discussion. Literature and Plant Sales follow the meeting.

October 25 — Redondo Beach Area Branch 6:30 p.m. at Dana School, 135th Street and Aviation Blvd. Silver Anniversary Birthday and Past Presidents dinner. — Potluck (bring your own table service). Speaker: Doug Frost — "Educating The Beginning Grower."

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