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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.

COVER PICTURE — Begonia 'Miyo Berger'

Grown by Gordon Lepisto, St. Paul, Minnesota

Begonia 'Miyo Berger', a beautiful Belva Kusler hybrid, has held a special spot in my heart and in my plant room for several years. I enjoy it not only for its leaf beauty but its lush compact growth.

B. 'Miyo Berger' (*B.* 'Tingley Mallet' X *B.* 'Lenore Olivier') registered in 1973, is best described as a compact, shrub-like, hairy leaved begonia. It is a healthy, vigorous plant, growing to a dense two feet under proper conditions. The small, young plant pictured on the cover is already compact, showing its fine strong growth. I love the indescribable beauty of its leaves, the red and black, the silver sheen, the delightful pink flowers. Very few begonias in my collection can surpass its beauty.

I received my first tip cutting of this rare beauty from my friend, the late Lois Lenski Covey. It propagated easily in damp sphagnum moss. Since then, I have had many of the plants growing in various mediums at different stages of development. The plant on the cover is growing successfully in coarse bark chips as are almost all my begonias at present. (See March issue 'The Begonian')

Since I grow under lights and very high humidity (90%), I can't be

sure how much humidity it does need for proper growth. It does well under my conditions and I am happy for that. I keep the bark medium moist at all times with frequent mild fertilization. I have also grown *B.* 'Miyo Berger' in coarse sphagnum moss with excellent results. I know it loves warmth, as it does best for me in temperatures of 75-78 degrees.

I have had several of the plants go dormant during the fall for 2 months or so, to revive later with new vigorous growth. Others have never gone dormant. This happens with some of my rexes (under fluor. lights), same age plants side by side, one goes, one doesn't. Strange, about begonias sometimes. Normally under my conditions, very little dormancy is evident.

I have had the honor of becoming acquainted with the real Mrs. Miyo Berger, who resides here in Minneapolis. She is a delightful person who quite naturally is proud of 'Her' Begonia, named for her by her good friend Belva Kusler. They both have a right to be proud, for this hybrid is a gem to behold. It's an eye-catcher for anyone entering my plant room and worth any effort to grow.

AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

The purpose of this Society shall be:

TO stimulate and promote interest in *Begonias* and other shade-loving plants;

TO encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants;

TO standardize the nomenclature of *Begonias*;

TO gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation and culture of *Begonias* and companion plants;

TO issue a bulletin which will be mailed to all members of the Society; and

TO bring into friendly contact all who love and grow *Begonias*.

FROM THE EDITORS

This month we have several items to bring to your attention. After several months of instability, the advertising department is reorganized. The list of officers shows Mabel Corwin, a past president, as advertising manager and Esther Passet as advertising accounts manager. The latter is a new office. All billing will come from Ms. Passet and all payments should be sent to Ms. Passet at the address shown on the officers page. Ms. Corwin will work with the editors to establish advertising practices, recommend rate changes when required and create new categories if required. Ms. Corwin will also solicit new advertising. It is essential that the advertising revenue be increased just to keep up with the rising costs of publishing the magazine. All inquiries and/or suggestions should be mailed to Ms. Corwin at the address shown on the officers page.

The circulation managers wish to inform the branch librarians that branch libraries are entitled to a free copy of *The Begonian*. If your branch is not receiving a copy the circulation managers (address on inside front cover) should be notified of the branch librarian's name and address.

In the January issue of *The Begonian* there was an ad for *The Thompson Begonia Guide* by Mildred L. Thompson. These books have been selling rapidly but we have heard from Ms. Thompson that there are still a few available.

To expedite handling of correspondence, the editors have rented a post office box. Use this new ad-

dress: P.O. Box 82109, San Diego, CA. 92138. Mail reaches us sooner through the box than it would using our home address.

The publication of the minutes of the National Board meetings has been erratic. We have published the minutes for two or three months in each of the recent issues. We do not expect to continue this practice.

Soon we will publish articles extracted from *The Begonia Leaf* published for the Santa Clara Valley Branch by Chuck Anderson and Karen Bartholomew. In future issues we will have articles from several other newsletters published by active branches. If your branch newsletter contains newsworthy items of interest to the larger community of begonia growers we urge you to add the editors of *The Begonian* to your mailing list.

We are always on the lookout for suitable material to use. We would like to receive contributions from various geographical areas explaining the type of begonias that can be grown and the specialized techniques that are employed to overcome the climatic extremes of the area.

The editors of *The Begonian* recently received a somewhat troubling letter from a Southern California branch to the effect that we were publishing too many very technical articles. We would like to defend our policy in this respect. The readers of *The Begonian* encompass a wide spectrum of experience and knowledge of the botany and horticulture of *Begonia*. It is essential to the ABS that new plant descriptions,

(Continued on Page 99)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This morning we're working on the last four inches of our annual 17.75 inches average rainfall. When you come to Santa Barbara next September for the 1975 Convention and Show, our hills will be brown, with grey fringes of native shrubs. Today the hills are emerald green, the trees are clean and lush, the little barrancas are bubbling with runoff, and the thirsty lawns, borders, and outdoor potted plants are drinking in the pure drops to sustain them until we again realize their need for water.

Glasshouse and indoor plants need water all the time but in winter and early spring we sometimes forget that lathhouse and uncovered porch and patio plants, especially begonias, shed water, their leaves being layered like a shingled roof, as Kem Weber, an eminent building designer who used to be a Santa Barbara Branch member, called to our attention. We must take hose or watering can to the well-foliaged *Begonia*.

We're making progress, I feel, in bringing begonia enthusiasts together. We've visited seven branches since last September and found enthusiasm high in those whose branch representatives to the ABS board bring news of the National to the members; the active members are members of the National and are therefore entitled to hear about and feel close to the National.

In Sacramento where the local officers, some new to *Begonia*, treated Rudy and me with grace and respect, we did not see our beloved Ruthanne Williams, Sacramento Branch's first president, who was ill and had to

miss their birthday dinner the first time in 27 years. National representatives who attended were Betty Tillotson, ABS historian; Hyacinth Smith, public relations representative for Northern California; and Ruthanne's beautiful red-haired granddaughter-in-law, Shirley Wilson, Sacramento's representative on the board of the ABS. The great joy of the evening was seeing Clarence Hall, twice ABS national president, encouraging me and enthusiastic as ever about *Begonia* after a serious illness which kept him from attending the 1974 Convention.

We've good news along the ABS appointment line. Gilbert Estrada, president of Redondo Area Branch and retired from the space industry, has been approved as ABS Business Manager, a job which our able first vice president Chuck Richardson has filled since October. Gil has already taken on assignments which are important to the harmonious progress of the ABS. ABS Past President Mabel Corwin has assumed two important positions, Advertising Manager and Public Relations Director for Southern California. Mabel lives in Vista, not far from *The Begonian* editors, Ed and Phyl Bates. Esther Passet of Bakersfield will continue as Advertising Accounts Manager, billing and receiving payments for advertising.

Debi Miller, vice president of Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch, is the new director of the Speakers Bureau, while Katharine Alberti will continue as Slide Librarian. Debi has been an assistant director of the

(Continued on Page 98)



TONCAXOXO COYOLLIN
 quam nonnulli *Atchuapatli* vocant,
 seu medicinam iuxta riuos prouenientem,
 alij *Tetxoxo coyollin*, herba est vnicum cau-
 lem proferens, coccineum, cauum, rarisq;
 folijs rubrescentibus, ac viriginis refertum,
 nec palmitibus quibusdam rubrescentibus
 dissimilem. flores rubeos, & orbiculares, è
 pediculis longis dependentes. semen verò
 exile, & quod è luteo colore in coccineum
 vergat, inclusum vasculis trigonis, papilio-
 num ferè forma, in eamq; figuram compo-
 sitis, vt si rubrescenti ac orbiculari mem-
 branæ, circulum alterum concolorem eius-
 dem materici, ita vt angulos rectos efficiant,
 inserueris. radicem verò rotundam, candi-
 dam, ac totam ferè capillis inuolutam. Pro-
 uenit montanis, saxosisq; locis, regionum
 temperatarum, qualis est Mexicana, & *Tet-
 zatquensis*. Amarum saporem radix præse-
 fert, & nonnullum acorem, tertij ferè ordi-

nis calorem naeta. eadem tusa, & infusa è liquore aliquo eidem rei utili, ex-
 purgat intestina, semen retentum pellit, inflammatis oculis confert, & vrinam
 elicit. deuorata verò sesquidrachmæ mensura, humores omnes per inferna
 detrahit.

*Inter Lopathi species hanc reponendam esse, cuius manifestum est. unde vires
 etiam respondent, quæ similes sunt ipsi Rhabarbaro. quod etiam & amarum, & aci-
 dum est.*



EXPLANATION OF FRONTISPIECE

The first known description and illustration of a *Begonia* was this (reproduced here slightly reduced) from page 195 of Francisco Hernández' *NOVA PLANTARUM, ANIMALIUM ET MEXICANORUM HISTORIA* of 1651. The writer is grateful for this xerox from the original work in the Gray-Arnold Arboretum Herbaria Library.

F. A. Barkley

BEGONIA¹ STUDIES²

By Dr. Fred A. Barkley

And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them; and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

GENESIS 2:19.

Taxonomy, the classification of organisms, is the basic biological science, both historically and actually. Associated with taxonomy is nomenclature, the naming of living organisms. These together are all important in communication between persons interested in discussing plants, so that there can be no misunderstanding about the plant discussed.

From long before history various peoples had been calling animals and plants by name in order to talk about them. In classical Greek times Theophrastus knew many plants, and divided them into the groups: herbs, shrubs and trees (a classification still in use fifteen hundred years later). In the first century A.D. Pliny (who was later killed because his inquisitiveness led him too close to the erupting Vesuvius) collected together most of the known information concerning plants. Then there was a long gap after Pliny in the history of learning (known as the Dark Ages) when biological knowledge was kept alive by the Arabs.

In the sixteenth century, with the exploration of many parts of the world, observations and recording of new information was continued at an ever increasing tempo in the Western World. This required the descrip-

tions of newly found organisms, and these were often illustrated with crude but usually identifiable, woodcuts. Descriptions of plants gradually improved and were often accompanied by very lifelike and often colored illustrations³.

The world of living organisms was divided in ancient Greek times into animals and plants, although some organisms as corals and sponges were incorrectly assigned. This was still the classification used by Linnaeus, and in fact until early in the present century. However, as modern research increased the knowledge concerning living things, the separation into plants and animal kingdoms has been shown to be inadequate.

In addition to the kingdoms PLANTAE and ANIMALIA, the simpler plant-like and animal-like organisms, the protoza, algae, slime molds and fungi, are now classified into the kingdom PROTISTA. PLANTAE, ANIMALIA and PROTISTA have a fundamental cellular organization alike in having a nucleus in their cells, and they reproduce sexually sometime during their life cycles.

Another kingdom is the MONERA, including blue-green algae, Rickettsias and bacteria, where a typical nucleus is never present in their cells, and where reproduction is by fission or by a complicated conjugation process. Also there are the ultramicroscopic viruses, affecting vertebrates, insects, bacteria and plants, usually now classified as the kingdom VIRA.

Each one of these kingdoms is divided and subdivided into a series of lower and less inclusive groups (technically a hierarchy of categories). Each category is given a name, and by international rules of the biologists, each may have only one correct name. Each grouping or category, regardless of its inclusiveness, is called a *taxon*⁴ and is given a name.

Begonia popenoei Standley is an example of a species name. It consists of a genus name, a species epithet and the name of the person first describing the species. This botanist's name is the so-called "authority" of the species. As an example of classification in a hierarchy of categories, *Begonia popenoei* Standley is classified in the kingdom PLANTAE, as:

- Division⁵ ANTHOPHYTA
(Flowering Plants)
- Class DICOTYLEDONES
(Dicotyledons)
- Order BEGONIALES⁶
- Family BEGONIACEAE⁷
- Tribe⁸ Begonieae
- Genus⁹ *Begonia*
- Section¹⁰ Gireoudia
- Species¹¹ *Begonia popenoei*
Standley

The names of the categories in the classification, above that of the genus, are considered to be in the language of the person writing. The names of genera⁹, species¹¹, varieties and forms are in Latin, and are therefore printed in *italics* or are underlined in written material. Latin was originally the language of scholars, so that most early botanical publications were written in Latin. With the exception of brief periods de-

scriptions of new plant taxa have been published in Latin and at the present time any descriptions of new taxa not described in Latin are not recognized as published by botanists. (This eases the reading of descriptions very much, as otherwise botanists would be required to read dozens of languages to understand the descriptions of new plants.)

The consistent use of binominal names for plants started in 1753 in the publication of Linnaeus 'SPECIES PLANATARUM', although such binomials had been sometimes used (C. Bauhin and others).

The complete name of the species begins with the generic name with an initial capital (always), the species epithet without an initial capital is always allowed (although a few situations allow the use of an initial capital if desired). These are always accompanied by the name of the authority.

There are many compilations concerning the various major groupings of plants in publications. They vary in many ways, as to inclusiveness, descriptions, area covered, and plant groups included. A. de Candolle in his MONOGRAPHIAE PHANEROGAMARUM started to describe together in one work all of the plants of the world. Engler with Prantl published a compendium (now in the second edition) DIE NATURLICHEN PFLANZENFAMILIEN, discussing in detail the families of all known plants and plant-like organisms. Each edition is of many volumes. This is epitomized in an ever revised series of editions, the last being H. Melchior's ENGLER'S SYLLABUS DER PFLANZENFAMILIEN. The writer also refers

frequently to J. Hutchinson's FAMILIES OF FLOWERING PLANTS, as well as several less inclusive works of more local nature.

Keys and descriptions of plants in particular regions are usually much more comprehensive, and more easily followed. Unfortunately, many areas with abundant *Begonia* flora do not have such manuals. And in the regions where such manuals are so widespread to have them available means a considerable library.

The Begoniaceae are variously included at the present time in the Parietales, Violales, Datiscales and Cucurbitales, and are treated as a separate order by various botanists.

The first item in the study of any group of plants is to obtain specimens. This is not a one-man or a one-year project. Notwithstanding the great number of species described, more new species appear each year. Plant specimens are dried under pressure while still fresh, and when dried are affixed to a standardized cardboards, where they are stored in (preferably) steel cases for future study. (They must of course be treated to avoid insect damage.) All of the specimens of the same species collected by the same collector(s) at the same time are given a (so-called) collection number, never to be duplicated by the same collector(s). (Individual specimens are referred to by botanists in publications by that collector's name and number.) The more duplicates collected the more valuable the collection; for obvious reasons all of the duplicate specimens of that number should be distributed among different herbaria¹². Determination of specimens in the field is not necessary nor necessarily

desirable. After enough specimens have been collected there should be specimens available to show the plant throughout the year and having adequate flowers and fruit for study, and hopefully adequate information on the specimen labels to give habitat and distribution. (Specimens are regularly loaned by herbaria¹² to taxonomists in other recognized herbaria for their monographic studies. The cost of such shipments is expensive.) With *Begonia* growing as they do in all parts of the tropical world, the needed field researches (field collections) are almost limitless.

When adequate specimens accumulate, then study to determine what species they are must be undertaken. In some areas adequate keys to species are now available, but in only a few areas. One has always to keep in mind that undescribed species may appear (and until the present such very frequently happens). We can be sure that many more species of *Begonia* will be found eventually.

In a genus the size of *Begonia* it requires much care not to duplicate a name already used (which unfortunately has happened in this group much too frequently in the past). In determining a plant one often finds two or more species that conform to the published description of an earlier published species! Here, in order to find which species goes with the name, one must resort to comparison with the type (specimen¹³) of the species, as one never dares compare it definitively only with growing material, which too frequently carries the wrong name for a number of possibilities. Some

strains apparently become modified during a long period of time in cultivation. The preparation of keys and monographic studies of a genus for the world, a continent or even a country, is considered to be of prime importance botanically, and notwithstanding the careful work of the past (Dryander, Klotzch, DeCandolle, to mention a few) and of the present (Brade, Irmscher, L. B. Smith, Merrill, Schubert, Perry and others), this phase of *Begonia* is in need of several lifetimes of study before we will have an adequate knowledge of the species and their distribution.

There is considerable knowledge concerning the ecology of *Begonia* yet to be found before all of the species can be grown in culture. Some of the most beautiful species have not been successfully grown in culture. It is commonly accepted knowledge concerning the habitat of *Begonia* that they belong exclusively to humid, warm climate with long days, slightly acid soil, and somewhat reduced illumination¹⁴. Hand in hand with ecology are the horticultural studies needed on many potentially important cultivars to learn how to propagate them.

Chromosome studies are now being done¹⁵, but much more of this work must be done. More successful hybridizing can be expected with more complete understanding of the chromosome composition of species.

Having found a species, having been able to determine what it is, and having been able to grow it, the next steps in its study are to study its structure, the 'architectural' growth it undergoes. This is a much more time-consuming study than that required for many phases of botanical studies.

Notwithstanding the tediousness of morphological and anatomical study, it is basic knowledge, and the anatomy of the various species is showing much variation.

Besides the finding and description of *Begonia* species and the preparation of keys to determine the species, their relationship to each other and to other plants is a major objective in botany and is certainly in the case of *Begonia* a major research, which will ultimately depend largely on adequate knowledge of the anatomy and morphology of the respective species.

Physiological studies of *Begonia* may, along with their anatomical uniqueness, explain some of the special difficulties of their cultivation.

Such is the picture of botany as applied to *Begonia*. Notwithstanding the mass of knowledge concerning this genus that has accumulated bit by bit in the past, there is an enormous future for investigation in several phases of the botany of the Begoniaceae. The American Begonia Society¹⁶ can make many advances in our knowledge of *Begonia* by supporting the botany of *Begonia* through their research committee.

New knowledge is always interesting and surprisingly it shortly leads to important use. Like yeast in a good culture a little knowledge stimulates the development of more and often previously unthought of knowledge.

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NOTES

¹*Begonia*, the name of the genus, is a Latin name and one that lends itself to being used in both the singular and plural. The present author feels that it is better usage to use it unchanged in the plural than to try to add an "s".

²The first of several articles on 'what is a *Begonia*, the idea for which grew out of correspondence from the editor.

³The writer for a long time hoped that he could bring together photographs of the (comparatively few) colored illustrations of *Begonia* that are to be found in the botanical literature. Because of its expense he has had to abandon it.

⁴*Taxon*, plural *taxa*.

⁵In the other kingdoms than plants (controlled by other groups of biologists) the *division* is termed the *phylum* (plural *phyla*).

⁶With a couple of possible exceptions, all orders are required by the international rules of nomenclature to end in -ales.

⁷The international rules of nomenclature for plants require (with about ten alternate exceptions allowable,) that all family names must terminate with -aceae.

⁸The category of 'tribe' is optional and may be omitted if not necessary.

⁹*Genus*, plural *genera*.

¹⁰The 'section' is optional in botanical classification. Since *Begonia* has over a thousand species, the use of sections is quite necessary in classifying them.

¹¹*Species*, singular *species*. (SPECIE refers **only** to hard money.)

¹²The largest collections of *Begonia* specimens in this country are to be found in the National Herbarium (of Smithsonian Institution), the Gray and Arnold-Arboretum Herbarium of Harvard, the New York Botanical Garden, the University of Michigan, and the University of California. Very large collections are to be found in the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, the British Museum, the Botanic Garden in Paris, the Copenhagen Botanic Garden, the Berlin-Dahlem Botanic Garden, and several others in Europe. Of course there are dozens of other herbaria, and loans are often needed from smaller herbaria as well as larger in doing monographic studies.

¹³When a specimen is described as a new species, that specimen (or one of the specimens) studied is designated as the type, and can always be consulted if confusion arises over the species.

¹⁴Even so, individual species vary far from this schedule, and species of *Begonia* can be found at high cold altitudes (many species of the Colombian Andes), in a swamp or running water (*B. fischeri*), growing on gypsum soil (*B. monophylla*), growing in a desert (*B. socotrana*) or in subtropical locales (*B. uniflora*).

¹⁵Prof. J. Doorenbos and his colleagues at Wageningen, Holland.

¹⁶While the research field mentioned above requires considerable botanical preparation and 'knowhow' comparable to university preparation, there are many things that dedicated 'amateurs' can assist with or can do if they are so inclined and fortunate as to live where there is a large library and a large herbarium, or if they live in a region where *Begonia* grows. (There have been a number of 'amateurs' concerned with various groups of plants that have ended as the acknowledged world's authority on the group!)

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RESEARCH REPORT

By M. Carleton L'Hommedieu
Research Director

The Research Committee has ap-
proved giving a grant to Rutgers
University for a student to continue
with the leaf stem project. The
objectives will be to determine the
effectiveness of cytokinin pretreat-
ment as a means of stimulating bud
formation on leaf cuttings of *begonia*
species. The species used will
include:

- B. olsoniae*
- B. acutifolia*
- B. foliosa* var. *amplifolia*
- B. epipsila*
- B. metallica*
- B. teuscheri*

The growth regulators applied will
be;

1. Kinetin
2. Benzyl Adenine
3. The Shell Product: SD-8339

The method of application will be:

1. Petiole solution dip
2. Petiole talc dip

The project will be carried on
from January to September 1975.

A final report will be submitted in
September 1975. An article suitable
for publication in *The Begonian*
will also be submitted at this time.

The plants for this project were
supplied by Jack Golding of the
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CALLA BEGONIAS

By Virginia Withee, Coventry Center, R.I.

Reprinted from *The Begonian* — June 1957

Of all the begonias the calla leaf is the "prima donna headache of all begonia lovers." But such need not be the case if we but follow a few simple rules. This type of flower is temperamental and demands certain requirements.

Oddly enough, here in southern New England the demands of this begonia are more than in Maine, because we have longer hot, humid spells of weather here. Begonias abhor too much humidity, although require some.

The history of this plant is interesting as it is believed to be New England's own. Because of our cool summers it is found in these states more than any other part of the country.

West and south of New Haven, Conn., it is said to be almost too difficult to raise.

The calla begonia is a sport of the very common headling begonia.

These begonias at no time want the direct sunshine, because such would burn the leaves. They require an east, northeast, northwest or north window, and when once set in place they should not be disturbed. They resent too much adjustment to temperatures, etc.

Here in my home my kitchen is northeast and east, and during the winter months I keep all of my calla leaf begonias in this room, even though my living room has about the same corresponding exposure.

In the kitchen there must be moderate humidity they like, and bright-

ness without sun. There is plenty of window space. They demand another requisite, moisture. They do not require the ample amounts needed by other begonias, nor must they be dry. Spot watering is most disastrous. Just moistening the top now and then is absolutely out for me, so I water the plants thoroughly, letting all of the excess water drain completely out.

I don't water them again until soil is dry and crumbly. Then I repeat the watering process. As with other house plants, only tepid water should be used. I never set any of the plants into water so they will soak it up. I tried it once and the tender roots got too wet and decayed. I take care the heart of the plant is not so as to have a water pocket. I never spray the plants.

The calla leaf begonias will not take to any kind of soil. Most plants have a preference. Thought must be given the mixture of soil for the begonias. Never use soil that packs. Porous soil is best for quick drainage, but the soil must be nourishing to the tender roots. I use one-third leaf mold, one-third sand and one-third good garden soil.

When I repot or separate a calla leaf begonia, I press the soil easily around the roots. Hard pressure will break or damage them. I find a plastic spoon is good for this process. All begonias want plenty of root room. Small pots retard their growth. The roots have a tendency to go sideways, so a low and wide pot proves

best. If different sized red clay pots are used it will be found some of the plants need water sooner than others.

After about a week, I wrap all flower pots in aluminum foil. Watering won't be as often now. The aluminum prevents the pot from drying out.

Last, but not least, fresh air is demanded. I open the west window every day, never miss, about one-third down four or five times a day, and let them stay open about ten to fifteen minutes each time. Opening windows at the top carries out hot air. No fresh air comes directly upon the plants. The plants appreciate this air. Fresh air, porous soil, moderate humidity, temperature not hot, no direct sunshine and watering thoroughly when needed, and proper drainage are all essential for success with the calla leaf begonias.

TO ALL PAST PRESIDENTS:

As you read *The Begonian* and the minutes of the Board Meetings, will you please consider how you can help your Society. Send me your comments and suggestions. These will be reported at the Monthly Board Meetings and acted upon. Thank you.

Margaret B. Taylor
Chairman, Past Presidents

FROM THE LIBRARY

To the customers who are waiting for "Tuberous Begonias" by Brian Langdon and "Begonia" by Isamu Misono I have them ordered. All we need now is patience.

And there are several books out that are overdue. Please return them to the library so someone else will have a chance to borrow them.

Lydia Austin

FROM THE SEED FUND DIRECTOR

For those of you who have been, and will be, very generous in donating seeds, may I ask you to send a little more information on the *general* description of the parent plant. Your plant may not fit the description I have available for the name you give me. I do want the customers to get the plant we describe for the seed. Much information has to be printed, and it ought to be exact. Thank you. In hybrids we do know that the seedling doesn't always resemble the parent plants. Hybrids may exhibit various characteristics from any previous parent, regardless of how far back in its parentage.

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- Pamphlets: 'Begonias in General' Basic culture50
- Ap 1 — *B. acuminata*: fibrous species from Jamaica. Name means 'narrow-pointed'. Dainty plant with many prim white flowers on arching stems. Glossy soft green leaves, crinkled on the edges ... per pkt. 1.00
- Ap 2 — *B. incarnata*: Mexico. Fibrous type. Frilly, fluffy plant with light green leaves, fluted and scalloped on the edges; flesh pink flowers in winter per pkt. .50
- Ap 3 — *B. leptotricha*: a fibrous type, related to *B. schmidtiana*. The underside of the leaves is covered with appressed brown hairs. Blooms profusely all year, beginning when the plant is small. Doesn't want to be kept too wet per pkt. .50
- Ap 4 — Giant leptotricha: I have no further information on this one, but it should be quite interesting, this came from England. per pkt. 1.00
- Ap 5 — *B. micranthera*: a tuberous type. Short stems, stout and succulent. The leaves are dark and broadly ovate, soft hairy. Primrose yellow — selfed. per pkt. .50
- Ap 6 — Large pink semperflorens, just arrived from England. It is not stated if these are upright or basket-types, but should be beautiful and very easy to grow for those of you not quite certain of your ability to grow begonias from seeds. This type is hardy and can stand more neglect than most begoniasper pkt. .50
- Ap 7 — *B. socotrana* crosses. This is a collection of five different tuberous begonias pollinated with *B. socotrana*. This will produce many outstanding beauties of the 'Reiger' typeper pkt. 1.00
or 3 for 2.00
- Ap 8 — *B. staudtii*: rhizomatous with peltate leaves. Blooms golden yellow. These are a little difficult to grow, and require lots of humidity. per pkt. 1.00
- Ap 9 — *B. veitchii*: tuberous species, summer flowering and not often seen. Large vermilion flowers per pkt. 1.00

OTHER SEEDS:

- Streptocarpus*: cape primrose. These are mixed seeds, mixed colors.
per pkt. \$.50
- Strelitzia regina*: Tropical evergreen, grows to 3 to 5 ft. with 11/2 foot banana-like leaves. Blooms like tropical birds — orange, blue and white on long stiff stems.3 seeds \$.50
- Strelitzia nicolai*: Giant Bird-of-Paradise. Can grow to 30 ft. White flowers with a blue tongue.3 seeds \$.50

Please list alternatives, make your check or money order payable: Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund, and mail to: Mrs. Pearl E. Benell, 10331 Colima Rd., Whittier, Ca. 90604.

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

With spring in the air, many robin members are busy planting seeds and making cuttings. Some are even producing seeds to share with the Seed Fund — a great way to help others have more kinds of begonias to enjoy!

Betty Stuart, California, passed on a hint given her by another local member. When she has seed pods from one of her begonias, she puts them in a clean, white envelope and pins it up high on her curtains, sealing loose corners of envelope with tape. In the warmth, the pods open and the seed is released, with no chaff mixed in and no crushing.

For planting seeds, Ray Sodomka of California uses a plastic pot that has a removable saucer. He fills the pot with half sphagnum and the rest with screened leaf mold, peat moss and sand, pouring boiling water over it to sterilize. After it cools, he plants the seeds, covering with glass. He keeps the saucer full of water — does not water from top.

Meta Little, Delaware, uses small rectangular plastic boxes she has scrubbed and sterilized. She fills them about half full with milled sphagnum or Jiffy Mix and wets it with boiling water. She adds a tiny pinch of Phaltan and mixes well into seed mix. She marks off rows and labels side of box with wax pencil, making shallow rows in the seed mix. After sowing seeds, box is covered with lid and placed on a heating pad set on low and placed under lights set at 14 hours. This method has proved best for her and the most reliable for the last seven years.

Elda Haring of North Carolina tried using aquamatic pots in a sunny window on her sunporch. In her usual 1-1-1 mix of perlite/vermiculite/peat, seeds germinated readily and were growing nicely before she added two drops of Schultz Instant Fertilizer to the water in the reservoir to feed them. Last year she started *semperflorens* for the garden under lights as well as in the greenhouse. Under lights the temperature stays at 70° while in the greenhouse it gets as low as 58° and as high as from 75°-80°. She got better germination in the greenhouse and sturdier plants. She finds that most seedlings are much more tender under lights and have to be carefully hardened off, gradually giving them lower temperature — otherwise the leaves turn white and some drop off although the resultant plants are okay. Elda's grown seeds in all sorts of boxes, including shoe and sweater boxes. She has so many market packs, she uses them by putting in dividers, sowing four kinds in a pack and putting the pack in a plastic bag, with the end left open unless she is going to be away for a long period of time. However, the aquamatic and wicked pots are great for seedlings because you don't have to worry about them drying out and you don't have to cover them.

Nancy Cummins of Kentucky found other good places for seeds are warm places on her furnace pipes. She watches closely and when seeds germinate, they go under lights at once, to prevent spindly plants.

Marvin Kahr, Iowa, finds styro-foam cups are warmer than clay pots for seedlings. The only trouble he finds is that they tend to topple over as the plants grow or when bumped during watering. To remedy this, tape two wooden ice-cream bar sticks on the bottom for added support.

Eileen Franklin, New York, told of a meeting of the Federated Garden Club District. Part of the program was a fashion show, "Flowers and Fashion." She was in charge of securing plants to compliment or inspire the fashions modeled by local garden club members. From her own collection, they used a lovely B. r. c. 'Vesuvius', B. r. c. 'Shirtsleeves' and the hirsute B. 'Neely Gaddis'. She was proud of them as they paraded behind their respective fashions.

Erich Steiniger of Ohio saw a lovely begonia and then read an article in the magazine of his electric co-op on begonias, with a mention of the American Begonia Society, which inspired him to join us!

Ruth Stanley, Ohio, said that when her begonias have disease or bugs, she keeps them and has overcome most pests, including root knot nematodes. When transplanting last summer, she found the knots on the last plant she put into a small terrarium. It was B. *rajah* and had two small leaves and no center growth. She planted marigold seeds around

the plant and there was soon new growth in the center. A few months before that she found root knots in the large 15 gallon terrarium, planted marigold seeds in it. The marigolds bloomed last winter and B. 'Silver Jewel' just about filled the tank and it bloomed for over 9 months. Ruth recently visited the Ohio State University in Columbus and found two students very interested in begonias and ferns. They will take her plants and that will leave her room to plant more seeds!

Casey Carsten of Texas helped decorate a home for a Christmas Tour. She had the kitchen and breakfast room area to do. The walls were orange so she had to use something different from the usual seasonal goodies. She made a tree that was decorated with real brown eggs, bread dough chickens and calico ribbons. Naturally she used a lot of plants, too, including small begonias planted in small enamel-ware cups which sold like hotcakes — a huge success!!

If you don't have a local "Begonia Buddy" with whom to compare notes and share ideas (or even if you DO), why not join the robins? Write me:

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REGISTRATION OF BEGONIA CULTIVARS

Note: The American Begonia Society is the International Registration Authority for cultivars of the genus *Begonia*. Information regarding registration may be obtained from Rudolf Ziesenhenné, 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103.

No. 435—*Begonia* (*B. subnummularifolia* X *B. masoniana*) 'Fuzzy Buzz'

Developed in 1971, first bloomed in 1973, and distributed in 1972, this rhizomatous begonia originated by Yvonne Wells, 1739 Potter Lane, Mesquite, Texas, has reddish-green leaves, round, 3 x 3", with entire margin, bubbly texture, red, hairy petioles, and red stipules. Flowers are small, white, males two-petaled, female three; blooms on 6" stem, spring and summer; rhizome is slender and creeping. Registered Nov. 25, 1974.

No. 436—*Begonia* (unknown parentage) 'Annette'

Half-spiraled, this large-leaved Rex cultivar was originated in 1971 by Barbara Philip, 600 Camino Campana, Santa Barbara, CA 93111, first bloomed in 1973, and was named and distributed in 1974 through Long Island Branch's "Begonia Gems" by Wyrzten Exotic Plants, 165 Bryant Ave., Floral Park, N. Y. 11001. The leaves, 11 x 8", are moderately cut, deep-purple surrounded by a silver area, becoming lavender in strong light; texture coriaceous; veins red to green; petioles 5 - 7"; stipules brown; flowers pink, one-inch, on four-inch stem, in spring, summer, and fall. Registered Feb. 28, 1975.

No. 437—*Begonia* (unknown parentage) 'Curly California'

This large (11 x 8½") leaved, spiralled rex cultivar was developed in 1971 by Barbara Philip (address above), first bloomed in 1972, and was described in "Begonia Gems" (see above) and distributed by Wyrzten Exotic Plants (address above) in 1974. Leaf margin is serrated, texture is bullate, veins dark-red, petioles 9 - 10", stipules caducous, leaf color brown. Blooms pink, off and on all year, 3" blooms on 5" stems. Registered Feb. 28, 1975.

No. 438—*Begonia* (unknown parentage) 'Regina Barbara'

Originated in 1971 by Barbara Philip, address above, this dwarf Rex hybrid first bloomed in 1973 and was distributed and named in 1974 in "Begonia Gems," monthly bulletin of the Long Island Branch, by Wyrzten Exotic Plants, (address above.) The 4½ x 3" leaves are brown, red, and green, a red-edged margin slightly serrated, smooth-textured with red veins, 3-inch petioles, and stipules caducous. Two-inch pink blooms on 3-inch stems appear in summer. Registered Feb. 28, 1975.

No. 439—*Begonia* [*B. carrieae* (C287) X unknown] 'Cachuma'

Unequal, heartshaped, with eight unequal lobes, medium-green leaves, 15 x 12", and late-winter blooming pink flowers, 1½ inches in diameter, arranged as a raceme on three-foot stems distinguishes this rhizomatous plant from others; leaf margin is double-dentate, texture rough, ten-veined, petioles covered with long,

BEGONIAS GOING ON DISPLAY

By Helene Jaros, Miami Branch

If you wish to see some outstanding begonias, and perhaps learn a thing or two about how to grow these beautiful plants, then be sure to attend the Annual Begonia Show at Fairchild Tropical Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Miami, Florida on April 19 and 20.

The show and educational exhibit will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Helene Jaros, who has charge of publicity for the group, has this to say: I am a member of the Miami Begonia Society which was affiliated with the parent organization, The American Begonia Society Inc., on August 31, 1946.

Our sole purpose is to further the study of and to encourage the growing of Begonias. These activities are fostered not only for our own individual benefit and pleasure, but also for the potential therapeutic value it affords to those unable to engage in more arduous or vigorous pursuits. The begonia family is blessed with

vast array of beautiful, easy to grow plants, the kind most gardeners favor.

"It is a hobby from which a great source of personal satisfaction is derived. I'd be inclined to believe it would be mentally and physically impossible to entertain unkind thoughts about your fellow man while engaged in this peaceful work.

The public is invited to enter begonias. Entries are on Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Friday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Plants will be judged for good appearance, color, grooming, and cultural perfection. There will be awards of silver, rosettes and ribbons.

For further information call show chairman Raymond Weakley (305) 856-4147.

Helene Jaros

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scalelike $\frac{3}{8}$ " hairs; stipules are wide, triangular, outside-keeled and hairy. Developed in 1973 by Rudolf C. Zieshenne, 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103, the plant first bloomed and was distributed in 1974 and won third place as Best New Begonia Introduction by a Commercial Nurseryman in ABS Annual Show, Sept. 1974. Registered Mar. 7, 1975.

CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY 6/24/74

Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society met 6/24/74 in South Gate Auditorium with 20 board members and four guests, Mrs. Margaret Ziesenhenné in the chair. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Branch reports were given.

Chairman of Finance Committee reminded board that closing date for submitting bills to be included in Treasurer's report is the 18th of each month except a month having five Mondays when the closing date will be 15th.

Report of 1974 Show Committee indicated there will be 12 seminars at the Sept. 6-8 convention, one by H. Arakawa of Japan. Banquet speaker is Research Director Carleton L'Hommedieu. Program and registration data will be mailed soon. The president reported a letter had been sent to the Franchise Tax Board in Sacramento requesting a new determination of tax-exempt status of the ABS. Information about scientific projects conducted by the ABS, members, and branches, should be sent the president.

The proper listing for former president resigned on the masthead of **The Begonian** had been interpreted by Rigmor Clarke, parliamentarian, who suggested that if he were to be listed at all, dates of his presidency should be given. Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously that the name be omitted from the masthead as he is no longer a member of the Board.

Public Relations Chairman reported Baton Rouge Branch had returned its charter; that there will be a new branch charter for a group next January including members from South Hampton, and Webster, N. Y., and Duxbury, Mass. Some of these are members of Long Island Branch which has 217 members.

Treasurer reported receipts of \$2,352.96 and disbursements of \$2,360.89, leaving a balance of \$3,667.39 in the general fund. Disbursement included printing of the June and July issue of **The Begonian** and color covers July through October.

Seed Fund chairman reported seed profit of \$201.97 and sale of pamphlets \$10.50.

John Provine, Finance Committee Chairman, explained that the tabled motion of last meeting that "the president, secretary and treasurer each be paid a corporate allowance of \$25.00 per month" was exclusive of employment taxes. The motion was acted on at this meeting and passed unanimously. A motion was made to make the retroactive date of the motion May 1974; motion seconded and passed.

Librarian was empowered by approved motion to purchase the Barkley and Golding Publication, "The Species of the Begoniaceae" and send a check to the Long Island Branch for \$58.73 for this purpose.

The Business Manager is to be instructed to prepare an ad for **The Begonian** to include the sale of pins, signs, etc., as well as pamphlets and seeds, and to call attention to membership application.

As the majority present showed a preference to continue meeting at the South Gate Auditorium, the July 22 meeting was scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at that place.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Ireton, Secretary

CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIAN SOCIETY 2/24/75

Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society met 2/24/75 in South Gate Auditorium with a quorum of 12 officers and seven branch representatives present; Peg McGrath was appointed acting secretary. Action on minutes postponed to next meeting.

Treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$950.11 in general fund as of 2/18/75. Receipts were: Membership \$1,406.32; Seed Fund \$159.07; Advertising \$91.00. Disbursements included printing **The Begonian** February \$670; paper advance, Feb. through July \$1800; membership and circulation \$448.56; California sales tax \$640.34; liability insurance \$61, etc.

It was moved, seconded and carried unanimously that \$1000 should be transferred from the special fund to the general fund.

It was moved, seconded and carried that interest charges on the \$1000 loan to the Edward Thompsons approved last month should be waived because the project came within the purposes of the ABS, to gather and publish information regarding **Begonia**. A letter of appreciation from Millie Thompson for the loan and another on behalf of the Hampton Branch for the \$30.00 gift for institution of the branch were read.

The charter and a check for \$11.17, the balance in its treasury, were received from Foothill Branch which disbanded as of 12/31/74.

The Treasurer asked that the December 1974 minutes be amended to state not only he but the Finance Committee Chairman had been out of town in September 1974 and could not attend a budget meeting.

Gilbert Estrada, president of Redondo Area Branch, was nominated by the President as Business Manager; the appointment was approved.

The president, chairman of the Edi-

torial Board, reported on a meeting at the Edgar Bates' home in Encinitas. It was decided that the present 12-point type would be continued; Past President Mabel Corwin was nominated by the president as Advertising Manager, with Esther Passet to be Advertising Accounts Manager; Mrs. Corwin accepted the position of Public Relations Representative for Southern California.

The Board approved the appointments of Mrs. Corwin and Mrs. Passet to positions of Advertising Manager and Public Relations Representative for Southern California and Advertising Accounts Manager, respectively.

Editor Bates said that he would limit **The Begonian** to 24 pages unless authorized for more in order to conserve postage costs.

Mrs. Katharine Alberti had asked to be relieved of the duties of Speakers Bureau Chairman but would continue as Slide Librarian; the president asked for approval of appointment of Mrs. Debi Miller of Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch as chairman of the Speakers Bureau. The appointment was approved.

Treasurer reported verbal ruling from California State Department of Benefit Payments that officers' allowances were not subject to employment taxes nor were the payments to the editors and the seed fund chairman who were, he said, classified as home workers. He would get the ruling in writing.

Appointments of Jacqueline Garinger as Membership Secretary, Edie Krupnick as assistant membership secretary, and Walter and Lorraine Hansen as Show co-Chairmen were approved by the Board.

President stated she will fill two vacancies on Awards Committee and present nominations at next meeting; remaining members are Margaret Lee, Elda Haring, Walter Pease (chairman), and R. Ziesenhenné.

A letter from Wilbur Olsen, editor of LAIFS and the Fern Annual of the Los Angeles International Fern Society, soliciting a full-page ad for the annual from the ABS and quarter-page ads from four branches, was read. It was agreed that the page ad will be prepared by the new advertising manager and mailed to the Fern Society by March 15. Four branches volunteered to take the quarter-page ads at \$10, Santa Barbara, Whittier, Glendale, and Orange County; the branch representatives were asked to have the copy to Mr. Olsen by deadline.

Chairman Chuck Richardson of Members-at-Large Committee said he is hoping to form a closer relationship between these members and to form branches; he plans an article for **The Begonian** in this regard.

Editor Bates asked members to submit

articles for **The Begonian** and announced his new address, P.O. Box 82109, San Diego, CA 92138.

Circulation manager reported 3892 **Begonians** mailed for February.

Mrs. Gilbert Estrada was introduced; she identified the garden which appeared on the April 1974 **The Begonian** cover as having belonged to her aunt, an old-time member of Glendale Branch; she will write an article.

Judging Course Chairman Margaret Lee stated a workshop for potential judges has been started in San Diego. Mrs. Ziesenhenné reported encouraging Sacramento Branch to organize a workshop for their members who would like to become accredited judges.

Permission to re-run early mimeographed **Begonians** by photostat by Santa Clara Branch member Karen Bartholomew was asked by the treasurer. He was authorized to have 100 sets run, the cost to be reimbursed.

Mrs. Krupnick moved and the motion carried that the garage storage space be paid on an annual basis after paying up the balance for this year.

PP Group Chairman Margaret Taylor said she is contacting past presidents for suggestions regarding the ABS.

Report of M. C. L'Hommedieu, research director, read by secretary, states a \$600 grant was given an intern library student at N. Y. Botanical Garden Library to research species and cultivar material for the **ABS Begonia** catalogues.

Treasurer read monthly report of Mae Blanton, Round Robin director.

Seed Fund Chairman P. Benell's report showed disbursements of \$219.70. Board authorized suggestion that seed to new members be sent with new member cards by membership secretary.

Slide Librarian Alberti needs help in supplying two speakers to organizations.

Letter from Corliss Engle, president of Buxton Branch, and public relations area director for New England states, announced that the eastern convention will be held Sept. 25-27 at Horticultural Hall, Boston; housing and meals are being arranged across Huntington Blvd. She encouraged members to celebrate the bicentennial by attending where it all began in April 1775.

A sample membership form prepared by the parliamentarian and acting secretary was displayed for possible adoption; it was moved and passed that the business manager get quotations on prices in quantity and report at next meeting.

Editor's expense bill for three months was submitted; payment of \$70.14 was moved and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Peg McGrath, Acting Secretary
Condensed by M. Ziesenhenné

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 81)

Round Robin helping Mae Blanton in her big job and will continue in that work. She will be distributing questionnaires in the near future. We are getting requests for speakers as interest in *Begonia* increases. We still have a vacancy in the Show Chairman position as Walt Hansen's work in the petroleum industry precludes his giving the requisite time to the job. We are also working on two vacancies on the Awards Committee. Members and branches should be thinking of nominations for the three important top awards which will be given at the 1975 Convention, the Eva Kenworthy Gray, Alfred D. Robinson, and Herbert P. Dyckman Awards.

One of our members-at-large in Missouri has suggested that we emphasize the fact that few of our officials receive any compensation for the work they do but volunteer countless hours in answering letters; preparing judges course lessons and correcting them; mailing slide programs, books, pamphlets, seed, and information regarding identification of *Begonia*; preparing copy and advertising for publication in *The Begonian*; editing copy; getting out information about conventions and meetings; keeping the public informed of our activities; receiving money and paying bills; contacting state and federal agencies on fiscal matters; helping to organize branches; preparing minutes and notices; preserving our history; interviewing institutions and individuals on research projects; getting *The Begonian* in the mail, etc. Some

receive token compensation, but even our professional mailer is receiving only about half the amount she would receive if we were not an interesting, non-profit organization, with worthy purposes. If we reimburse necessary out-of-pocket expenses, we do well; but sometimes that is not even done because generous workers fail to present their bills. Let us all be patient and say a grateful "Thank you!" to all our hard workers.

CALENDAR

April 14, 1975—Hampton Branch — Parrish Memorial Hall, Southampton 7:45 p.m. Program: Photography of *Begonias* by Douglas Morris. Begonia of the Month: *B. solan-anthera* by Edward Thompson.

The San Gabriel Valley Branch of the American Begonia Society will hold its next regular meeting Tuesday, May 13, in the Lecture Hall of the Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, California. Program: Mabel Corwin, past president of the ABS, will speak on the care and grooming of plants for exhibits and shows. There will be a swap table. Also library and plant sales. Visitors welcome.

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FROM THE EDITORS

(Continued from Page 80)

hybrid registrations, and research reports be published for the scientific sector of the membership. It is equally important that articles of interest to the casual hobbyist members be included in most issues. A third function of *The Begonian* is to report the activities of the Board of Directors and official notices to the membership. The editors attempt to strike a balance of items from the various categories *within the limits of available material*. Recently there have been articles by Elda Haring, a professional garden writer, directed towards amateurs who have not had extensive experience with *Begonia*. In earlier issues there have been articles by Dr. Doorenbos in Holland explaining the results of some genetic research directed towards improved hybrids. These latter articles qualify as highly technical. In this issue Dr. Fred Barkley writes about the place of *Begonia* in the general classification scheme of plants. We look forward to more contributions from Dr. Barkley in the near future with the aim of explaining 'What is a *Begonia*?' We hope that the serious dedicated hobbyist will find this series informative.

If you are not pleased by the issue you are reading, be patient—like the weather, the next month will be different!

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