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

COVER PICTURE

B. 'Cathedral' was the winner of the Best in Show Trophy, 1975 at the National Convention and Show in Goleta. It also was awarded the John R. Williams Memorial Perpetual Trophy for the Best Rhizomatous *Begonia*. It was entered by Jean Pasko, of the San Miguel Branch, who also carried home a blue ribbon and a cultural award. This is the second year in a row that the judges have favored *B. 'Cathedral'* with a trophy.

It is a plant which arouses the interest of everyone. The leaves are its outstanding feature. They are small, approximately three inches in diameter at maturity, with margins so deeply crested that the leaves form a crinkled cup. The top surface is splotched with a variety of shades of green and the lower surface is an attractive deep red shade. The leaves have a moist shining look, like glistening glass. The plant assumes an attractive rounded shape overall with the pink blossoms held well above the leaves.

B. 'Cathedral' has proved to be relatively easy to grow. Mrs. Pasko reports that she gave the plant the normal care with regular watering and feeding along with the others in her lath house. She has propagated it readily from rhizomes.

The original plant was imported from Australia, from a description in a catalog of a dealer, by Steve Talnadge of Chula Vista, California, in 1966. He continued to sell it at his nursery but no longer has plants in his stock (which is devoted to stag-horns and bromeliads now).

Propagation of the plant has proved to be an unusual situation: the plant produces the normal expected *B. 'Cathedral'* clones from rhizome cuttings, but when the leaf cuttings are propagated, the resulting plants do not appear to be identical to the parent plants. These later forms had been called *B. 'Cathedral Windows'*. The persons who have reported this phenomenon have ventured no explanation, but they are insistent that the two plants are not the same.

About the same time, some leaves of a very similar-looking plant were brought to the United States from the Fiji Islands and propagated. There appears to be some variation, though *B. 'Fiji Islands'*, does resemble its 'big sister' very strongly except for size and perhaps a somewhat flatter overall plant shape. Mabel Corwin, of Vista, has ventured that the two are the same plant, but she has no proof. Thus *B. 'Cathedral'* remains as mysterious as it is beautiful.

AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

The purpose of this Society shall be:

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

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

TO standardize the nomenclature of *Begonia*;

TO gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation and culture of *Begonia* 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 *Begonia*.



DR. JAN DOORENBOS
Eva Kenworthy Gray Awardee



MRS. MAE BLANTON
Herbert P. Dyckman Awardee

1975 ABS AWARDS GIVEN

By Walter Pease, *ABS Awards Chairman*

Once again, the members of the American Begonia Society have taken time out from the hustle and bustle of their everyday living to show their appreciation for the untiring efforts of certain individuals who are continually giving of their time and knowledge toward the betterment of our society and the furthering of our education and interest in *Begonia*.

One of these individuals is Prof. Dr. J. Doorenbos who has been awarded the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award for 1975. Prof. Doorenbos heads the Agricultural University at Wageningen, The Netherlands, and has contributed much in the way of research, articles for the *Begonian*, countless contributions of seed for our seed fund and many pages of correspondence with members of our society throughout the world. He is continually sharing his research findings with all of us and is truly repre-

Jan Doorenbos

That the highest award of the ABS should be given to Jan Doorenbos is very fitting. He does indeed typify the spirit of Eva Kenworthy Gray, the enthusiastic and intense woman for whom this award was named.

He has written, alone or with others, 28 articles on *Begonia*, many of which were published in the *Begonian*. He has been for the last ten years the main contributor to the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund, to which he has sent seed of more than 180 species. He has acquired the 250 wild species which are part of the collection at Wageningen Agricultural University. His studies have

sentative of the intent of the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award — Congratulations, Prof. Dr. J. Doorenbos.

Another of these individuals is Mrs. Mae Blanton of Lake Dallas, Texas, who has been awarded the 1975 Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service. Mae has been ABS Round Robin Director for the past three years and has spent much of her time encouraging members-at-large to participate in the activities of the society. She is currently serving as Public Relations Director for members in the South Central United States. Congratulations, Mrs. Mae Blanton.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many members who took the time to send in the nominations for their choice of candidates. It is only your participation that makes these presentations possible. Thanks again and start thinking about the 1976 nominations NOW.

included problems of identification, cytology (together with Dr. R.A.H. Legro), seed germination, and regeneration (together with J.B.M. Custers).

Although he has never visited the tropics, through the efforts of friends and relatives, he has been able to distribute a number of the BEGONIACEAE which had been lost to cultivation (*B. froebelii*, *B. robusta*, *B. rosaeiflora*, *Hillebrandia sandwicensis*, *Symbegonia fulvovillosa*) or never been cultivated at all (*B. acaulis*, *B. bracteosa*, *B. naumoniensis*, *B. putzeysiana*, *B. staudtii* var. *dispersipilosa*).

Dr. Doorenbos was exposed to the

world of horticulture early in life since his father was superintendent of public parks in the Hague. He studied at Wageningen University, and was awarded the Master of Science degree in 1946, followed by the Ph.D. in 1950. He carried out post graduate studies at the University of California, Los Angeles in 1951-52. He became Associate Professor of Horticulture at Wageningen University in 1956 and a full Professor in 1963.

At the present time he is working with J. J. Karper on the breeding of *B. x hiemalis*. In addition to begonias, Dr. Doorenbos also does research on container grown shrubs.

Mae Blanton

"I highly recommend the Round Robins as an excellent way to learn to grow begonias. The sharing of ideas increases the joy of growing. . . . Most of all, I enjoy sharing my plants with others. The joy of sharing exceeds the joy of growing, but each enhances the other."

This quote from a letter expresses the spirit which caused the Awards Committee to name Mae Blanton the recipient of the Herbert P. Dyckman Award for 1975.

Mae Blanton is a modest lady with many hobbies. She has made the care of begonias and writing about them a very time consuming hobby for the past ten years. For the last three years she has guided the Round Robins on their flights and has chosen items from them to share with readers. In the Dallas area, she belongs to several garden clubs and gives lectures on growing and hybridizing. She belonged to the Dallas County Branch and along with

Yvonne Wells helped to organize the Mesquite, Texas Branch.

She is pleased with about ten named hybrid begonias which she has distributed and plans to register 'as soon as I can find time to complete the forms'. She also has some new ones, still unnamed, which look promising.

She wrote, "I have no formal training in horticulture. I have always loved to grow plants and have learned the hard way, through trial and error (mostly errors!) and extensive reading."

Mae has been married to Marvin L. Blanton for 44 years. They have four children and nine grandchildren.

Her other hobbies include reading, crewelwork, knitting and handcrafts. In the future, she has promised to write some articles about her plants and her experiences for the *Begonian*.

MAGAZINE FOCUS

Two articles by Elda Haring, who is a regular contributor to the *Begonian*, have appeared in the August and September issues of the magazine, *Plants Alive*.

Edward and Mildred Thompson, of the Hampton Branch, were the subjects of an article in the first issue of a new magazine called *Popular Garden Indoors*.

Westways, published by the Southern California Auto Club, carried an article in the October issue, "The Green Bloom Boom," which concerns the proliferation of the use of houseplants and shade plants indoors even in southern California where the plants can tolerate the outdoor conditions, year round. The Goleta home of Dianne and Fred Burgess,

(Continued on Page 279)

THE V. I. B.'s

By Thelma O'Reilly, La Mesa, Calif.

Another year, another beautiful Annual Show of the American Begonia Society and another group of V. I. B.'s, the Very Important Begonias, the Divisional Trophy Winners.

The showroom creates a feeling of Bicentennial nostalgia as we gaze upon priceless antiques arranged as accessories to lovely begonias and other shade plants.

Division A winner of the Edna Korts Perpetual Trophy for Best Cane Begonia is *B. 'Hazel's Front Porch'*, an Alfred D. Robinson seedling, entered by Joe Ronto of Santa Barbara. This uniquely grown tree begonia is handsome. The rich green foliage is set off with many spreading panicles of orange red blossoms hanging from six to ten inch pedicels.

Division B winner of the Helen Bailey Memorial Perpetual Trophy for Best Shrub-like Begonia is *B. foliosa* entered by Jean Pasko of Bonita. A shallow container is nearly hidden by low spreading masses of perfect foliage. The branches are tipped with pale pink buds and partially open blooms. This specimen nears cultural perfection.

Division C winner of the ABS Best Thick Stemmed Begonia Trophy is *B. 'Richard Robinson'* entered by Jean Pasko of Bonita. It is difficult to believe that this plant is reputed to be difficult when looking at such a well grown specimen. The green and silvery-white foliage is twenty inches high, extremely thick, well shaped and laden with pink tipped buds and white blossoms. Masses of new growth appear at the plant base.

The earthy beige colored shallow round clay pot compliments this handsome begonia.

Division E winner of the John R. Williams Trophy for Best Rhizomatous Begonia is *B. 'Cathedral'* entered by Jean Pasko of Bonita. As viewers gaze upon this *Best Begonia In Show* winner they are momentarily breathless and wordless. Then the words flow: Beautiful! Distinct! Perfection! Can you imagine an eight inch deep and twenty inch wide shallow container overflowing with a thirty-six inch spread of thickly grown foliage of this distinctly different begonia? Each leaf contains sections of grass, medium and dark green with wine red windows plus crests, spirals and ruffles. An added bonus of blooms, too! A true leader of the 1975 V. I. B.'s.

Division G winner of the ABS Best Semi-Tuberous or Tuberous Species Trophy is *B. sutherlandii* entered by Nettie and Gene Daniels of Camarillo. Measuring four feet across, this winner, is aglow with two tone orange blossoms like a brilliant burst of fireworks honoring our Bicentennial.

Division F winner of the Gonda Hartwell Challenge Trophy for Best Rex Begonia is *B. 'Purple Petticoats'*, a Paul Lee seedling entered by Mabel Corwin of Vista. An excellent specimen of this beauty is always a "show stopper." Mounded high are dozens of chatoyant lavender-pink-dusted gray-green leaves with deep green splashed veins.

Division G winner of the Palos Verdes Begonia Farm Challenge Trophy for Best Tuberous Begonia

is a trailing tuberous hybrid with *B. pearcei* parentage entered by Hazel Snodgrass of Ventura. Lush and lovely medium green velvety leaves are strikingly enhanced by masses of huge soft yellow-orange blossoms.

Division I winner of San Gabriel Valley Perpetual Trophy for Best Begonia Grown in a Contained Atmosphere is a German hybrid labeled *B. 'GH. #30 (German)'* entered by Esther Passet of Bakersfield. The delicate satiny green leaves measure two to three inches. Largest leaves show tones of lavender with splashes of dark green along pink veins. A charming addition for the collector.

Division K winner of the William L. Taylor Perpetual Trophy for Best Hanging Container Begonia is *B. 'Paulana'*, a Wally Watchorn hybrid, entered by Nettie and Gene Daniels of Camarillo. It is a spectacular specimen with a spread of five feet. Huge softly hairy green leaves with maroon red undersides measure up to twelve inches. An interesting characteristic is the small adventitious leaf on its slender stem at the sinus of mature leaves.

Division L winner of A.B.S. Best Novel Grown Begonia Trophy is *B. 'Tamo'* entered by Mrs. W. S. Ireton of Bakersfield. A twelve inch round brown bonsai container supports a moss covered totem pole. The dark reddish brown leaves entwine around the pole and nod their heads a foot above. A fine specimen measuring

over five feet.

Division P winner of Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch Perpetual Trophy for Best Begonia Grown By a Novice Grower is *B. 'Frances Fickeworth'* entered by Jean Pasko of Bonita. The brown color of the round clay container is reflected on the leaf markings of this attractive, cheerful plant. It resembles *B. 'Universe'* with leaves of more substance and greater size.

Division Q winner of Best Entry in Student Division Trophy is an Ivy plant entered by Renee Burgess of Santa Barbara. A marbled bowl in soft shades of yellow and tan supports an interesting piece of brown wood which is artfully covered with *Hedera* (ivy.).

Division S winner of ABS Best Begonia Photograph Trophy is *B. rajah* entered by Mildred Thompson of Southampton, New York. This distinct plant is growing in the contained atmosphere of a lovely bowl. Competition was keen in this Division which was a panorama of color photographs.

Division T winner of ABS Best Planter Trophy is an artistic arrangement of predominantly begonias entered by Oakley Murphy of Ventura. A tall five sided glass container is supported on a floor-style wrought iron stand. A beautiful tropical picture is created with a canopy of *Ficus pumila quercifolia* over *B. griffithii* and *B. exotica*. The begonias are sur-

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rounded with ferns and selaginella.

Division U winner of ABS Best Miniature Garden Trophy is a Bicentennial miniature garden entered by Fred and Dianne Burgess of Santa Barbara. A scene from the past with the log cabin, water well, ducks and ducklings surrounded by miniature begonias, ferns, and gesneriads. One *B. dregei* tree shades the cabin. Very original!

Division V winner of the Arthur Strandburg Perpetual Trophy for Best Fern is an *Adiantum* fern entered by Ernest and Metta Thomsen of Santa Barbara. A beautiful fine, lacy, cascading specimen.

Division W winner of ABS Best Shade Plant Trophy (other than *Begonia*) is a bonsai entered by Genie Thomsen of Santa Barbara. A handsome gray barked juniper with spreading surface roots is growing in a low oblong container.

Division X winner of ABS Arrangement or Corsage Trophy is an arrangement of begonias and other shade plant material entered by Hazel Snodgrass of Ventura. A low white bowl holds an attractive design using *B. 'Richmondensis'*, donkey tail, boxwood, white rocks and a hungry frog.

Division Y winner of the Margaret Ziesenhenné Trophy for Room Setting Display Using Live Plants entered by Fred and Dianne Burgess of Santa Barbara. Things of the past, a lovely living room is designed with

authentic antique furniture, accessories and plants. A lamp dons a beige hand crocheted shade. A priceless book of yesteryear and gayly colored yarn rest on the green hooked rug beside a soft green pan velvet chair. A tall palm adds the finishing touch to this corner. A handsome sideboard with beveled glass doors and shelves displays lovely china, glass and pewter. Begonias, ferns, dieffenbachia and gynura compliment this exquisite Bicentennial display.

Your tour cannot end without viewing a very special display. In the right hand corner as you enter the showroom is a garden bordered by weathered railroad ties. Barbara Phillip of Santa Barbara, a lady of charm and talent, designed with her two green thumbs this scene of quiet beauty. She used ferns, cane and rhizomatous begonias and gorgeous rex hybrids of her own creation. A bubbling cupid water fountain and magic circle of white *semperflorens* complete this special blue ribbon garden.

ABS TREASURER RETIRES

Walter Barnett, after generously serving the American Begonia Society as Treasurer for the past nine years, has announced his resignation from that position as of August 31, 1975. The Board of Directors accepted his resignation with regret and extends to him their best wishes. Walter has participated in the activities of the Society for many years. His long time efforts were highlighted in 1973 when he was awarded the Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service.

— W.P.



IN QUEST OF BEAUTY

By Burnell Yarick, Glendale Branch, ABS

Not everyone who starts to landscape a new garden researches his planting situation with the thoroughness that Burnell Yarick has done. At various times during the past several years he has related his findings to ABS branches, to attendees at seminars at National Conventions, to the neophyte gardeners who attend his college classes, and to his radio listeners.

With his wife, Lucy, he visited many gardens and nurseries. He questioned growers. He recorded weather conditions and made notes about what he saw and read. He undertook a whole series of growing experiments. All of this he put to use in his new garden.

This is the first of a series of articles describing the process. Although these observations were made in California, they can help everyone to grow better begonias. Although you do not have a greenhouse, you may have the environmental equivalent in a bay window in your home, for example. So this research can benefit you.

Our search to find the clues for growing "more beautiful begonias" was to take us many places. The quotes merely hint that perhaps "a few beginner begonias" might have been closer to the truth in *my* garden. The desire was there and, oh how remote those fine plants in others' gardens did seem to me!

The summer of '70 spawned hundreds of weighings to study the effect of weather on the rate of water use by plants, a start that was crude indeed, but it was enough to learn that any research involving water and weather would be a severe challenge. And a challenge it was to be. A report will appear later in the *Begonian*.

Since good research might require hundreds of identical plants, the summer of '71 was termed the "try-to-find-out" era. We visited ABS gardens in several communities to study and to photograph all phases of growing plants; we found many friends.

It was a miserable 92°F and 50-70% relative humidity in Long Beach on August 3rd when we visited four gardens and the evening meeting of the North Long Beach branch of ABS in the Fidelity Plaza Community Room.

Observation No. 1: On a still, hot day a greenhouse without misting provides no significant protection other than from direct sunburn. Explanation: The trapped air is liable to warm up and the relative humidity may drop. And the general practice of misting is in question in view of power requirements, disease control, reliance upon gadgetry that may fail, and but brief benefit. But protection from the direct sun is necessary during a hot spell because the stomates close at about 75°F thus depriving a plant of its cooling system of transpiration.

Following ten days of extremely hot, dry weather, August 8th was yet another still, hot day in Ventura when we visited five properties dur-

ing 86°F and 70% relative humidity. This was certainly uncommon in coastal Ventura. Again, trapped air in closed greenhouses was observed to warm up, especially under white fiberglass, a factor that must be considered in the more inland areas.

Observation No. 2: Except for rex begonias where the leaf coloring may become less intense, most shade plants enjoy bright light up to 4000 footcandles. (Full sunlight may reach 8000 fc.) But the bright light will mean excessive heat in the hotter areas.

As the hot spell continued on August 19, visits to four beautiful ABS gardens again showed no significant advantage from greenhouse construction other than reduction of light and hence reduction of radiant heat. It was a hot 86°F but with a protective 70% relative humidity and a slight breeze. I then started checking water quality during visits.

Observation No. 3: Begonias can tolerate salinity to 308 ppm and pH to 7.7 and still produce magnificent foliage. Explanation: A good potting mix allows rapid drainage and thus precludes salt accumulation.

A visit was made to a hot, inland demonstration greenhouse of a commercial organization near Rosemead where full automation produced excellent plants from the presumable perfect conditions of 1800 footcandles of light, 70% relative humidity, and 75°F. This was accomplished by using netting over glass, automated mist and fans. Fertilizer tablets in a watering wand raised the salinity from 170 ppm in the tap to 440 ppm at the nozzle.

On August 26th and 27th sixteen

exciting visits included commercial nurseries, homes of ABS members and a meeting of the new ABS branch in the cool Monterey peninsula. The beauty of the homes and gardens is beyond description; 37 acres of tuberous begonias grown on fine sand, in the open, and within sound of the surf; and Capitola, the begonia Capital of California. In this cool countryside, all greenhouses were, by design and choice, warmer and drier than the outside. The light was very bright, 2000 to 4000 fc.

The salinity of water at two commercial nurseries was 308 and 342 ppm. And although already too high right from the well, the salinity of water at one place was further increased to 1190 ppm by the automatic addition of nutrients. The manager did not seem surprised because he did not believe my meter.

Several gardens were also visited in the Whittier and Covina districts but the specific information was not summarized.

Observation No. 4: Other than for very broad generalities, little is known of the exact environmental requirements for growing begonias: temperature, humidity, air movement, nutrition, water quality, disease control. No grower or commercial outfit was observed to make environmental observations or to keep any data. Perhaps such precise information is not necessary, but if a grower wishes to make an extensive investment in housing and automatic equipment then perhaps a better knowledge of goals would help make decisions. The growing energy crisis is a threat.

Other than for the dominance of

oak leaf mold in the potting mix for tuberous begonias, there is little conformation in the ratios of materials or fertilizers being used. The ABS leaflet on "How to Grow Begonias" available through librarian Lydia Austin is okay.

Observation No. 5: The loss of begonia plants among the hobbyists is appalling and the discouragement must account for the greatest loss of membership, especially among the young. In view of the energy crisis, I would suggest that a special seminar at the 1976 convention be devoted to a task-force approach to outline a research project on the environmental factors of importance to the culture of begonias. Subsequent episodes in this series: sick plants,

nutrition, irrigation, potting mixtures, insects, weather, anatomy.

Summaries of data of these visits to four areas are available on request with a self-addressed and stamped envelope. This was a hot-weather study and a similar cold-weather study of structures is necessary.

Ed. Notes:

Stomates are tiny openings on leaf surfaces through which gaseous exchange takes place. (water vapor, oxygen, carbon dioxide, etc.)

ppm means parts per thousand.

'Yarick's Backyard' is broadcast in Southern California over KIEV, 870 Hz AM, Saturday mornings at 7:45. Burnell Yarick, 1457 Beaudry Blvd., Glendale, CA 91208.

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The American Begonia Society would like to thank the following individuals and companies for their contributions of prizes for the Opportunity Drawing conducted at the National Show and Convention held September 6th and 7th, 1975 in Goleta.

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BEGONIA BOOKSHELF

By Ruth Pease, Los Angeles, Calif.

Recommended books for holiday gifts — be good to yourself and others

Begonias by Alva G. Graham. This is a printed copy of Mrs. Graham's translation of *Les Begonias* by Charles Chevalier, 1938. It is available through the ABS Library. *Begonias* is a must for all who grow and study begonias. It is a means of learning background identifications of begonias we are growing today and supplements present-day information about these plants. Photographs of begonias incorporated into the text of *Begonias* were supplied by Professor Doorenbos, Alice Clark, Maria Wilkes, and Carrie and Peter Karegeannes. Perhaps translations of other sought-after begonia books will become available in time.

The Complete Book of Houseplants by Charles Marden Fitch is well-written and can be relied upon for authoritative information about many plants compatible with begonias. Mr. Fitch has included information about 1,000 houseplants, supported by 200 illustrations. His book has been published by Hawthorne Books, Incorporated, New York, New York 10011.

H. Peter Loewer has not only written *Bringing the Outdoors In*, but he has illustrated it so beautifully that it becomes a source of art as well as a book about growing many interesting plants indoors. Mr. Loewer is

a graphic artist and illustrator of biology and natural history books. His book has been published by Walker and Company, New York.

Exotic House Plants by A. B. Graf is a book pictorially covering most of the plants everyone is growing now. Twelve hundred plants are shown with pictograph symbols at the base of each photograph. These symbols relate to two pages of a code to the care of these plants. The book has been published by Roehrs Company, East Rutherford, New Jersey 07073.

For those who haven't room for an extensive library, the paperback editions of Elvin McDonald's *the World of House Plants*, *Little Plants for Small Spaces*, and the *Complete Book of Gardening Under Lights*, published by Popular Library, New York, give invaluable and authoritative information. Another paperback that is helpful is the *Apartment Gardener* by Florence and Stanley Dworkin, published by New American Library, Incorporated, Bergenfield, New Jersey 07621.

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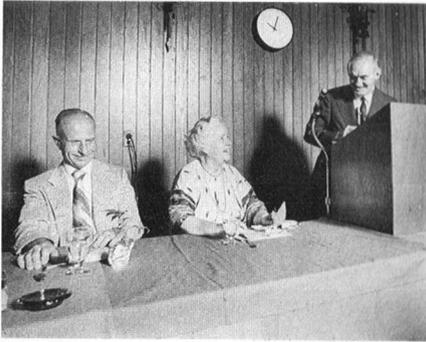
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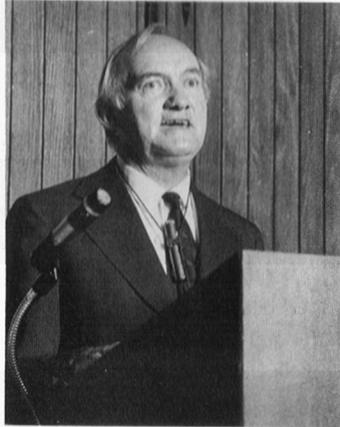
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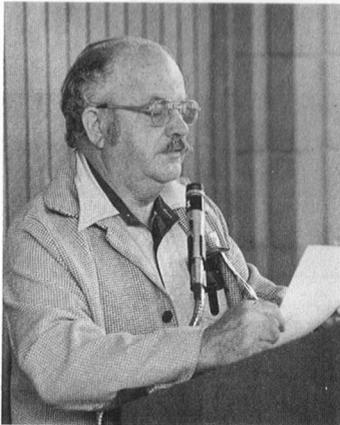


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BEST IN SHOW TROPHY WINNER



Photo by G. Daniels

Jean Pasko went right to the top as she entered plants for the first time in an ABS show. The judges voted her plant, *B. 'Cathedral'*, the trophy winner for "Best in Show, 1975". She also won 3 other trophies at the Santa Barbara conclave.

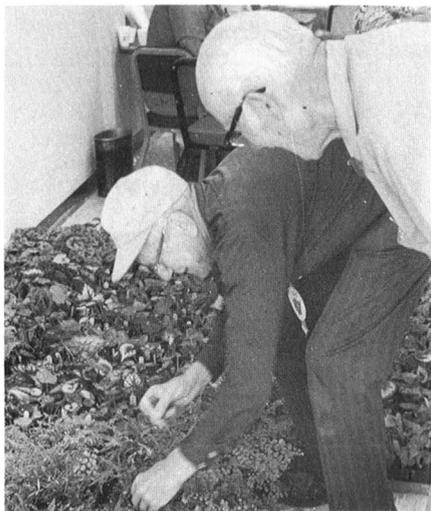
Three years ago, when Charles Pasko retired from his civil service post at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Jean and Charles moved to Bonita, California, just south of San Diego. Jean faced a huge task immediately, for she had brought cuttings and leaves of over 400 favorites, including African violets, many, many begonias, ferns, orchids, gesneriads and bromeliads. Her lush collection has been established in just three years!

She quickly adapted to the new climatic conditions, just 1 mile inland from the ocean. She found construction of a lathhouse a must to protect the plants from the frosty nights as well as the strong summer sun.

Jean won her first recognition — a State of Oklahoma Horticultural Award — as caretaker of the school greenhouse, when she was 12 years old. She has been growing plants all her life. At their home in Kansas, Jean operated a commercial nursery with 5 greenhouses. Charles has helped with the collections, though the time he could devote was limited by his job and other interests. Together they travelled throughout the United States and Canada to seek interesting varieties for the nursery. Jean had a collector's permit and made trips into Mexico. She regrets that she had to abandon her staghorn fern collection representing almost all of the known species.

Jean has affiliated with numerous plant societies in Southern California, including the San Miguel Branch of ABS. She is representative from the branch to the San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation Board.

MORE SCENES FROM CONVENTION 1975



TENTH EASTERN REGIONAL BEGONIA CONVENTION AND SHOW

Horticultural Hall, Boston, Mass.
September 25th, 26th, and 27th, 1975.

AWARDS

ABS PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR
SWEEPSTAKES: Corliss Engle — 22
Blue Ribbons

ABS PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR BEST
IN SHOW: Corliss Engle — B. 'Silver
Jewell'

ABS PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR BEST
OF NOVICE GROWERS: Betty Fen-
nell — B. 'His Majesty'

CULTURAL AWARDS

- A. Cane-like — Corliss Engle —
B. 'Mathild' — 95 points
- B. Shrub-like — Lois Schneyer —
B. *olsoniae* — 93 points
- C. Thick stemmed — Corliss Engle —
B. *olbia* — 93 points
- D. Semperflorens — Corliss Engle —
B. 'Charm' — 90 points
- E. Rhizomatous — Corliss Engle —
B. 'Silver Jewell' — 95 points
- F. Rex Cultorum — Corliss Engle —
B. Rex Cultorum — 97 points
- G. Tuberous — Betty Fennell —
B. 'Maxwelton' — 97 points

There were a total of 346 entries in the
Show.

TROPHY WINNERS

DIVISION A — CANE-LIKE:

Exhibitor: Corliss Engle
Brookline, Mass.
Exhibit: B. 'Mathild'

DIVISION B — SHRUB-LIKE:

Exhibitor: Lois Schneyer
Malverne, NY
Exhibit: B. *olsoniae*

DIVISION C — THICK-STEMMED:

Exhibitor: Corliss Engle
Exhibit: B. *olbia*

DIVISION D — SEMPERFLORENS:

Exhibitor: Corliss Engle
Exhibit: B. 'Charm'

DIVISION E — RHIZOMATOUS:

Exhibitor: Corliss Engle
Exhibit: B. 'Silver Jewell'

DIVISION F — REX CULTORUM:

Exhibitor: Corliss Engle
Exhibit: B. Rex cultorum

DIVISION G — TUBEROUS:

Exhibitor: Betty Fennell
Rochester, NY
Exhibit: B. 'Maxwelton'

DIVISION H — TRAILING- SCANDENT:

Exhibitor: Corliss Engle
Exhibit: B. *convolvulacea*

DIVISION I — CONTAINED ATMOS- PHERE (Horticulturally):

Exhibitor: Joan Turchan
Boston, Mass.

Exhibit: B. 'Buttercup'

DIVISION J — HANGING CON- TAINERS:

Exhibitor: Dale Stewart
Tarentum, PA

Exhibit: B. 'Robert Shatzer'

DIVISION K — SEEDLINGS:

Exhibitor: Nancy Wheatley
Andover, MA

Exhibit: B. *carolineifolia*

DIVISION M — NEW BEGONIA INTRODUCTIONS (Amateurs):

Exhibitor: Edna Stewart
Tarentum, PA

Exhibit: B. Rex Cultorum

DIVISION P — EXPERIENCED

AMATEUR GROWERS:

Exhibitor: Evelyn Cronin
Wellesley, Mass.

Exhibit: B. unknown rhizomatous

DIVISION Q — NOVICE GROWERS

Exhibitor: Betty Fennell
Exhibit: B. 'His Majesty'

DIVISION R — CONTAINED ATMOSPHERE (artistically):

Exhibitor: Elisabeth Schaefer
Kings Park, NY

DIVISION S — ARTISTIC ARRANGE- MENTS:

Exhibitor: Corliss Engle
Exhibit: rock planting

DIVISION T — NOVEL METHODS OF GROWING:

Exhibitor: Bea Hessel
Washington, Conn.

Exhibit: rock planting

DIVISION U — EDUCATIONAL BRANCH DISPLAYS — JOINT AWARD:

Exhibitor: Buxton Branch
May Buck, Pres.

Exhibit: "What is a Begonia?"

Exhibitor: Edna Stewart Pittsburgh Branch

Frank Kerin, Pres.

Exhibit: "Hybridizing B. 'Robert Shatzer'"

Exhibitor: Knickerbocker Branch
Edmund Grasheim, Pres.

Exhibit: "Kusler Hybrids"

Exhibitor: Carlton L'Hommedieu
Oakdale, NY

Exhibit: "Adventitious Growth"

DIVISION V — ARTS & CRAFTS:

Exhibitor: Elisabeth Schaefer

Exhibit: China Tea Set

DIVISION W — PHOTOGRAPHY:

Exhibitor: Gordon Lepisto
St. Paul, Minn.

Exhibit: B. 'Buttercup' slide

Other Trophy Winners

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH AWARD FOR BEST B. BOWERAE or HYBRID:

Exhibitor: Fred Ritzau
Cambridge, Mass.

Exhibit: B. 'Chantilly Lace'

MIDGE GRASHEIM MEMORIAL TROPHY FOR BEST MINIATURE:

Exhibitor: Eileen Franklin
Rochester, NY

Exhibit: B. *bowerae* var. *nigramarga*

MURRAY MORRISON MEMORIAL TROPHY FOR BEST KUSLER

HYBRID:

Exhibitor: Lois Schneyer
Marlverne, NY

Exhibit: B. 'Gwenn Lowell'

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR BEST SEMPERFLORENS:

Exhibitor: Corliss Engle

Exhibit: B. 'Charm'

"SHOWING IS SHARING" TROPHY FOR MOST BEGONIA ENTERED:

Exhibitor: Corliss Engle

Exhibit: 65 entries

Donations for the Tenth Eastern Begonia Convention trophy fund were received from the following:

Hampton Branch

Tampa Bay Area Branch

Connecticut Branch

Miami Branch

Buxton Branch

Edna Stewart Pittsburgh Branch

Geraldine Daly Begonia Branch

Long Island Branch

Ed & Millie Thompson

Dora Lee Dorsey

Edmund Grasheim

Gene Moglia

Massachusetts Horticultural Society

The Murray Morrison Memorial Trophy and The Midge Grasheim Memorial Trophy were donated by the Knickerbocker Branch.

The Western Pennsylvania Branch donated the trophy for Best *Begonia bowerae* or its hybrid.

Ed & Millie Thompson donated the "Showing is Sharing" trophy.

No awards were made in Divisions L, N, and O.

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MAGAZINE FOCUS

(Continued from Page 266)

the National ABS Show Chairman, and the green house operation of Rudy and Margaret Ziesenhenné, ABS National President, were featured in story and pictures.

HUNDRED YEAR OLD BEGONIAS

The following article appeared in the *Gardener*, a British publication. Alva Graham, translator of *Les Begonias*, sent it to share with the readers of the *Begonian*. It is interesting to consider these early cultivars which are ancestors of the varieties we grow today.

The Gardener, of 1876, says:

SOME OF THE NEW BEGONIAS

Under this head are classed those hybrid and chiefly tuberous varieties which have been sent out within the last five or six years. Considering the ease with which they can be grown, and the long time they continue to bloom, they are a very great acquisition wherever free-flowering, soft wooded plants are in request.

The following are some of the most effective varieties:

- B. *Sedenii*: rich magenta, large, continues long time in bloom.
- B. *Chelsonii*: flower bright red, excellent habit, free growth.
- B. *Veitchii*: bright scarlet, flowers large, excellent habit, and so hardy it stands out doors in some parts.
- B. *Intermedia*: resembles *Veitchii*, it being a cross between that variety and *Boliviensis*, colour darker than *Veitchii*, branches freely, can be wintered in cold frame.
- B. *Vesuvius*: orange-scarlet flowers, immense size and great brilliancy, strong upright grower, so hardy it does well out doors in the neighborhood of London.
- B. *Stella*: crimson scarlet, habit extra good forming plants furnished with flowering twigs to

the surface of the pot, one of the very best for dinner table decoration.

- B. *Acme*: flowers delicate orange pink tinged with deeper shade of salmon rose, robust habit, leaves serrated, very elegant plant.
- B. 'Kallista': rich vermilion scarlet, medium sized, prolific bloomer, considered to be an improvement on *Stella*.
- B. 'Model': delicate rose, lightly shaded orange, fine form, compact yet robust habit.

The capitalization and spelling from the original article have been retained. In the present style, *B. boliviensis* and *B. veitchii* are indicated as species. The collector, Pearce, brought *veitchii* from the Andean Mountains in 1865 and named it for Veitch who sent him on the collecting trip. *Boliviensis*, the red flowering tuberous species, was described by Weddell as being brought to England in 1857.

The Buxton Check List of Begonias lists the parentage, date and hybridizer of the hybrids as follows:

(Continued on Page 287)

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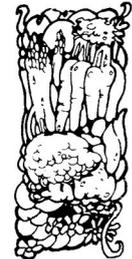
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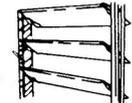
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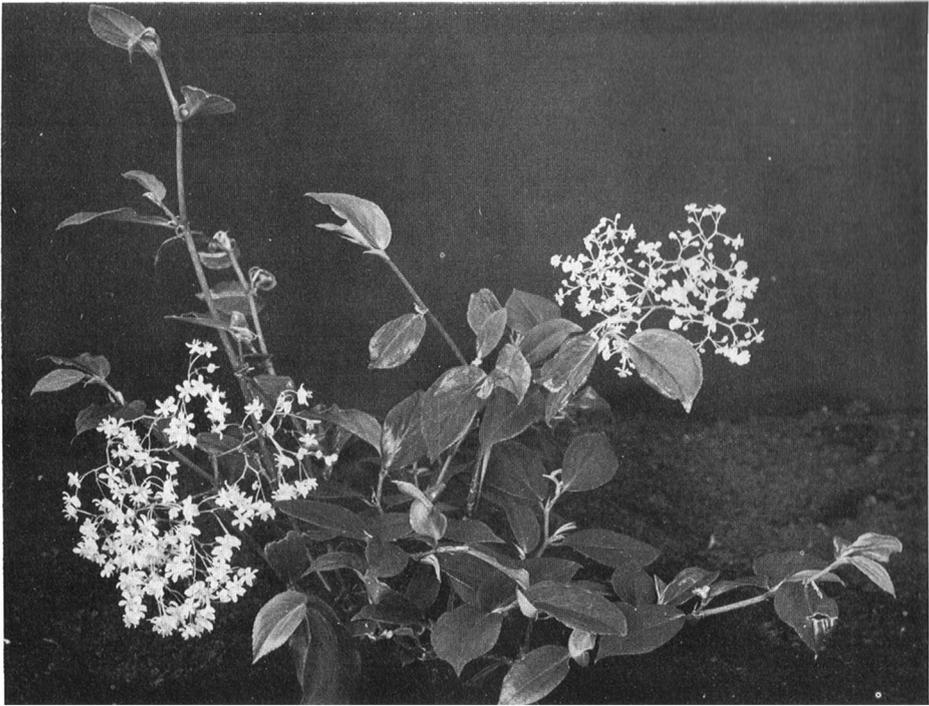


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Pamphlets on begonia basics:

- 'Growing from Seeds'\$.25
 'Begonias in General', Basic description of classes and culture .50
- Nv 1 — *B. boissiana*: 1919; Indochina. This is a thick-stemmed, shrublike small cane with distinctive foliage. Leaves have unusual surface and unusual coloring, narrow silvery with red veins below. Blooms pink per pkt. 1.00
- Nv 2 — *B. convallariodora*: 1895; Guatamala. Shrublike, loosely branched plant of approximately 3 ft. Medium leaved, up to 4-6 inches at maturity; leaves oval, pinnately nerved. Blooms in March with small white flowers with the smell of lily-of-the-valley. Not everyone can detect the smell per pkt. .50
- Nv 3 — *B. diadema* Linden: 1882; Borneo. Name means 'crown'. Rhizomatous with erect stem. Leaves too deeply cut to make a star but not deep enough to be palm-like; lustrous, silky, bright green leaves with tiny silvery smoke rings between veins. Rhizome is hidden beneath soil. Pink blooms in spring. Loves heat and moisture per pkt. 1.00
- Nv 4 — *B. egregia* syn *quadriocularis*: 1887; Brazil. Thick stemmed shrub, up to 3 ft. high. Large, hairy, lanceolate leaves. Small white flowers in large racemes, in February, very fragrant. per pkt. .50
- Nv 5 — *B. foliosa* var. *amplifolia*: 1946; Columbia. Shrublike; small leaved, under 4 inches at maturity. Very unlike the ordinary *foliosa* (see picture) per pkt. 1.00
- Nv 6 — *B. heracleifolia*: 1830; Mexico. Name means 'like the cowparsnip'. One of the so-called star leaved begonias. Large rhizomatous. Rhizome thick and creeping. Large leaves, 6-12 inches at maturity; deeply lobed, bristly-hairy; dark green; stout leaf stalk grows tall. Flowers in spring, pink on tall, erect panicles. per pkt. .50
- Nv 7 — *B. lobulata*: 1864; Mexico. Tall, erect, thick stemmed with branching habit. Branching comes from base. Large broad, ovate, gleaming green leaves, finely-toothed on edges, somewhat downy underneath. Flowers white to pink in late winter to early spring. per pkt. 1.00
- Nv 8 — *B. pearcei*: 1865; tuberous species from Bolivia. Low growing; fairly widely grown today. Contributes yellow flowers and brown shaded leaves to modern hybrids. Succulent stems. Leaves broad, ovate, pointed, irregularly toothed; velvet-like dark green with glistening light green veins. Summer blooming with yellow flowers per pkt. .50
- Nv 9 — *B. pringlei*: 1854; Costa Rica. Small rhizomatous plant. Leaves are lobed, small, angular, covered with white hairs. Flowers white per pkt. 1.00



B. foliosa var. *amplifolia*

Nv 10 — Mixed varieties from Australia. There have been many good plants appear from this collection which was offered last year. Unusually good canes and rhizomatous per pkt. 1.00

Other seeds:

Asparagus sprengeri: a beautiful climbing vine or good basket plant with shaping 25 seeds, .50

Asplenium nidus spore: this comes from a plant that is over 50 years old, has a breadth of 8 ft. and fronds 6 ft. long. per pkt. .50

Mallow: an annual hibiscus. Good for cold areas; will freeze back but come back again in spring. Can be sown now or in spring.

Use only 3 or 4 seeds per sowing as will form a big clump which grows to 6 ft. tall. Sun or shade per pkt. .50

Schefflera (Brassia actinophylla): handsome, fast growing tree; height reaches 6 ft. or more. The taller the tree the larger the leaves 20 seeds, .50

All orders, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. For orders originating outside the United States: please use money order payable in U.S. funds. Make checks or money orders payable *Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund*, and send to Mrs. Pearl Benell, 10331 Colima Rd., Whittier, Calif. 90604.

ABS Convention and Show San Diego in '76

TWO NEW A.B.S. BRANCHES

By Evelyn Cronin, *Branch Relations Director*

Welcome to the Greater Rochester Branch. Mrs. Leonard Franklin of Webster, N.Y., president, is a great begonia enthusiast. Under her direction the branch is growing and spreading the word.

The newly formed Twin Cities Branch in Minnesota has published its first branch newsletter. Called the *Minnesota Begonia Review*, it offers cultural tips on begonias and ferns. President Alta Mae Asplund and A.B.S. representative, Gordon Lepisto, have done much to help form this new branch. Pat Worley initiated what promises to be a fine newsletter.

The article describing the steps needed to form an A.B.S. Branch published in the September issue of the *Begonian*, brought a heartwarming response. Inquiries have come from: Minnesota, New Hampshire, Missouri, Ohio, Virginia, District of Columbia, Illinois, Rhode Island, and Florida.

If you live in the Greater Metropolitan Area of Washington, D.C., which includes the District of Co-

lumbia, Northern Virginia, Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties of Maryland and would like to help form a new begonia branch of A.B.S., please contact:

Allen T. Taylor
1814 N. Johnson St.
Arlington, Va. 22207

Keep those requests coming for "how-to" information. Remember, you need only seven members to form a branch.

Evelyn Cronin, BRD
88 Ledgeways
Wellesley Hills, Ma. 02181

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ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Director's Note: When she resigned as RR Director, Mae Blanton very efficiently sent in several sets of Round Robin notes to give me a chance to get organized as director. Although the RR Notes from the last few months have carried my name, they were written by Mae. She has my sincere thanks for her thoughtfulness in making the transition to RR Director so much easier on me.

The following information was also compiled by Mae, and I hope her explanation of how the Round Robin Program works will encourage many of you to write me so that you can join the fun, too!

"What is a robin?" A robin is a small group of people from all over the world. They belong to the American Begonia Society and like to talk about their begonias, learn about them, ask questions about them. Usually this group, called a "flight," consists of eight members, including the Chairman and/or the Director or Co-Director. Since they live too far apart to meet in person, they meet and become friends through correspondence.

Here's how a flight works:

When you receive the robin it will contain letters from each member of the flight plus a green flight sheet listing the names and addresses of each member in order of flight, as well as the name of the chairman of the flight. When you first join a flight, you will be sent a copy of the flight sheet to keep for your use. As new members are added or removed, you may make the revisions on your copy as the robin comes around to

you. (Sometimes you might want to contact one of the members individually.) Read the green flight sheet for additional instructions.

Within five days of receipt of the robin, add your letter to the packet of letters and send it on to the member following your name on the flight sheet. At the same time, send a card to the chairman of the flight stating flight number, date you are sending it on, and to whom it is being sent. (This card is extremely important so the flight chairman can keep track of the robin's progress and know when and where to look if it gets lost on its way.)

In your first letter, tell something about yourself, how and where you grow your begonias, etc.

When the robin returns to you, remove your old letter, insert your new letter and mail it on, with another card to the chairman.

Please be patient for the robin to reach you. A flight usually has a full membership and normally takes 6 to 8 weeks to make it around to all the members. **A PACKET OF ROBIN LETTERS IS WORTH WAITING FOR!** (Most members like to belong to several robins so they won't have such long waits for another to reach them.) Postage usually required for a packet is from 2 to 5 stamps.

* * *

JOIN US! Just write me a note telling me a little about how you grow begonias, and what you'd like to talk about in a robin. I'll do the rest.

Debi Miller, Director
919 Hickory View Circle
Camarillo, California 93010

CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

The Annual Meeting of the members of the American Begonia Society was convened by President Margaret Ziesenhenné at 1 p.m., September 6, 1975, at Francisco Torres Convention Center, Goleta, California. A quorum was present. The following branches were represented:

Buxton (1), East Bay (1), Edna Stewart Pittsburgh (1), Glendale (6), Knickerbocker (3), Long Beach Parent (1), Monterey Bay Area (4), Redondo Area (1), Alfred D. Robinson (4), Sacramento (24), San Francisco (1), San Gabriel Valley (3), San Miguel (12), Santa Barbara (9), Santa Clara Valley (1), Theodosia Burr Shepherd (15) — it was noted that 17 more members were working at plant tables, etc. —, Tampa Bay Area (1), Westchester (5), Whittier (1), Japan (1), member-at-large (1). Eighteen officers answered the roll call.

Treasurer James Porter read the annual Treasurer's Report, prepared by retiring treasurer, Walter J. Barnett. Total income for the year was \$29,163.05 which included \$3,228.79 balance on hand August 18, 1974. Total disbursements were \$28,960.81, leaving a balance of \$202.24. Total assets in savings accounts and checking accounts in addition to the general fund are \$11,556.70.

Reports of the following officers were received: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, **Begonian** Editors, Advertising Manager, Awards Chairman, Branch Relations Director, Business Manager, Historian, Judges Course Director, Librarian, Members-at-Large Director, Nomenclature Director, Research Director, Round Robin Director, Seed Fund Director, Show Chairman, Slide Librarian, Speakers' Bureau, Public Relations Director, and Photographer.

Resumes of the reports indicated an active, profitable year. The Advertising Manager urged support of advertisers and suggested members send for literature offered in the ads as much of it is excellent material and it shows advertisers we are supporting them. Mrs. Cronin stated that there are at least six real prospects for branches in the near future. The Historian requested copies of all branch newsletters and also asked for snapshots of branch events. The Nomenclature Director suggested branches, too, should have nomenclature officers in

order to encourage registration of begonias.

The auditing committee, consisting of William Walton and Gilbert Estrada, reported the books of the Society were found to be in good order. Margaret Lee moved the report be accepted; motion passed.

Ray Sodomka, president of San Miguel Branch in San Diego, also representing the Alfred D. Robinson Branch in that area, formally invited the Society to hold its next show and convention in San Diego at the Royal Inn at the Wharf the weekend before Labor Day weekend. Walter Pease moved we accept the invitation. Motion passed. Gene Daniels moved the Santa Barbara and Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch members be thanked for the 1975 show and convention; motion passed.

It was announced that all profits from the sale of the book **Les Begonias** would be donated to the ABS after printing costs had been met. Appreciation to Mrs. Alva Graham, translator, for her generosity was expressed.

Rochelle Rose, new ABS Secretary as of close of meeting, was introduced by the President.

The New Business of the Society was concerned with Constitution and Bylaws changes. Each article of the Constitution and Bylaws to be changed was read and acted upon individually with the following results:

Article V. Board of Directors. The proposal to change and add "All must be dues paying members of the American Begonia Society" was defeated by a majority in a hand vote.

Article VIII, Section 4, and Article X, Section 1 (and throughout) of the Constitution was approved for a ballot vote of the members as were Article I, Section 1, and Article III, Section 2, of the Bylaws. The foregoing were presented in written form by the Parliamentarian. A proposal submitted from the floor was also approved for a ballot vote on a proposal to change Article IV, Section 4 of the Constitution. Wording of the changes was submitted and published in the October **Begonian** in which the ballot was enclosed for member voting.

Submitted by
Margaret Ireton, Secretary

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HUNDRED YEAR OLD BEGONIAS

(Continued from Page 280)

- B. 'Sedenii' *boliviensis* X *veitchii*
1868 Seden
- B. 'Chelsonii' 'Sedenii' X *boliviensis*
1869 Veitch
- B. 'Intermedia' *veitchii* X *boliveinsii*
1870 Van Houtte
- B. 'Vesuvius' 'Clarkei' X 'Sedenii'
1872 Veitch
- B. 'Stella' 'Sedenii' X *veitchii*
1873 Veitch
- B. 'Model' *boliviensis* x *pearcei*
X *veitchii* x 'Sedenii'
1873 Veitch
- B. 'Acme' 'Intermedia' X 'Sedenii'
1876 Veitch
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