



July 1976

The BEGONIAN



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Dues, address changes, or magazines:

5950 Canterbury Dr., Apt. C-201, Culver City, Ca. 90230

Subscription: \$5.00 per year. Foreign (Mexico and Canada) \$5.50. U.S. (Mexico and Canada) 1st Class \$8.00. Overseas Air Mail \$17.00. Pay in U.S. currency only. Single back issues 75¢.

Second Class Postage Paid at Culver City, California

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

IN MEMORIAM

Gordon Lepisto, of St. Paul, Minnesota, died on May 29, 1976. Gordon was an avid Begonia enthusiast who enjoyed the study and growing of Begonias; and was always willing to share his knowledge and time with others.

In many ways Gordon has contributed much to Begonia enthusiasts around the country. Photography was one of Gordon's hobbies and begonias were one of his main subjects. Most of us will remember him for the many lovely color photos which have appeared on the *Begonian* covers. Many of us have also seen and enjoyed his photos at conventions. Gordon was also an excellent hybridizer who introduced many new Rex Cultorum begonias. He made careful selections and tested those that he introduced. The list includes 39 named varieties.

Gordon is known for a method of growing which he devised which resulted in development of a "walk-in terrarium." Gordon shared his knowledge and findings in articles for the *Begonian*, *Indoor Light*, and the *Minnesota Begonia Review*. Gordon also wrote an article on his walk-in terrarium for *The Thompson Begonia Guide*, Volume III.

It is difficult to convey all the ways in which Gordon helped people with many kindnesses. He was a friend to us in spite of any difficulty. He will always have a very special place in our hearts as he will for many others who knew him.

By: Mildred and Edward Thompson

Editor's Note: Many of Gordon's friends have expressed feelings similar to the Thompsons'. They have recounted the ways in which Gordon had been of special assistance and encouragement to them individually. He sent several contributions to the *Begonian* recently and these will appear in future issues. We were grateful to have worked with him.

CALENDAR

July 26 — ABS Board of Directors Meeting, South Gate Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Show at Northgate Mall, Seattle, Wash.

July 30 — Last day to mail contributions for September *Begonian*.

August 13-15 — Seattle Begonia

Front Cover:

Begonia 'Millie Thompson' photographed and hybridized by Gordon Lepisto. Registration in June issue.

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*.

BEGONIA FOLIOSA HBK

By Edward J. and Mildred L. Thompson

From Volume III of *The Thompson Begonia Guide*

Now being distributed. Copyright by Mildred L. Thompson, 1976.

Also to be included in *Begonia Culture*, by the Thompsons,
published by David McKay Company.

B. foliosa has long been our favorite begonia. This begonia was not always our favorite, and, in fact for about three years after we acquired it, it was somewhat "hidden" because it refused to grow into any pleasing shape, and because it always had yellowing and dropping leaves. Then we began to push it further from sight because we were (and are) unable to discard any begonia even if it is unsightly. Finally one summer we placed *B. foliosa* under a large maple tree behind some other begonias to hide it from view once again. Surprisingly enough, several weeks later we noticed that *B. foliosa* had transformed itself almost miraculously into a most magnificent plant because it had accidentally been placed in the growing environment which was exactly what it preferred. From then on it became our favorite begonia; now it is no longer hidden from sight. Each summer it is placed in the type of location where it thrives, but now we place no begonias in front of it to block it from view.

B. foliosa is the most graceful of all begonias with its long, many-branched, drooping stems filled with numerous dark green ovate leaves about one-half inch long. The name of the species was derived from *foliosus* which means "abundance of leaves." The plant is full and has a fern-like appearance; the center stems usually remain fairly erect;

some of the outer branches hang slightly, and still others droop down very markedly and gracefully. The tiny white fragrant flowers bloom intermittently all year. However, it is not a profuse bloomer most of the time.

B. foliosa was first discovered in New Granada (Colombia) by Aimé Bonpland, a French naturalist who, in 1805, was in charge of Empress Josephine's garden at Malmaison, and by Friederich Alexander von Humboldt, a German scientist. The original description of *B. foliosa* was written by A. Bonpland, F. von Humboldt, and K. S. Kunth. It appeared in 1825 in *Nova Genera et Species Plantarum*, Vol. 7 pages 183-184. We include the illustration which appeared with the original description. The following is the translation of the description:

8. *Begonia foliosa* — Tab 642

"Climbing [but in the expanded description below a question mark follows "climbing" — and Smith & Schubert drop this trait] *Begonia*, somewhat woody, very much branched, with little leafy branches [branchlets]; the leaves almost sessile [that is, with almost no petioles], unequal-sidedly oblong, acute at the tip, semicordate [semi-heart-shaped at the base], sharply serrate (with the teeth awned [with small pointed bristles]), remotely veined, papillose underneath [in description below he places a question



BEGONIA foliosa.

Herbar. Bot. ex. Herbar.

De l'Imprimerie de Lanchester.

NOVA GENERA et SPECIES PLANTARUM Vol. 7

Amat. Bonpland et Alex. De Humboldt
Carol. Sigismund. Kunth.

1825

iv

mark here]; peduncles axillary, 1- to 2-fruited; capsule wings very unequal, the outer ones almost triangular, acute.

It grows . . . [locality unknown]. Shrubby.

Stem branched, climbing (?); branches alternate, somewhat bent, spreading at a wide angle, with the branchlets densely leaved, glabrous. *Leaves* alternate, very close together on the branchlets, with very short petioles, oblong, unequal-sided, acute, semicordate at the base, sharply serrate with the teeth mucronate and bearing hairs [with abrupt, little, ciliate points], remotely veined, the veins prominent underneath, the leaves somewhat fleshy, glabrous, underneath papillose (?) and densely covered with minute white dots, $\frac{2}{3}$ inch to slightly over long, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide. *Petioles* jointed at the base. *Stipules* borne on petioles (definitely!), paired, obliquely ovate, acute, somewhat awned, absolutely entire [not toothed], very thinly membranous, rose (?), glabrous, erect, $\frac{1}{6}$ to $\frac{1}{5}$ inch long, equal, persistent.

Flowers monoecious? *Male flowers* (only a single one existing and that one fallen off, fig. 2): *Calyx* 4-tepaled, the tepals thinly membranous, net-veined, glabrous; the 2 outer tepals (fig. 4) ovate-elliptic, slightly acute, flat, about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long; the 2 inner ones (fig. 3) one-third shorter, oblong, keeled-concave, obtuse. *Stamens* (fig. 5,6) 30, three times shorter than the outer tepals. *Filaments* hairlike, glabrous, the lowest part connate [united] at the base. *Anthers* linear, 2-celled, continuous with the filaments, glab-

rous, longitudinally dehiscent in both directions on the same side, with the connective extending beyond the pollen cells and compressed and obtuse at the tip.

Female flowers (fig. 1): *Calyx* superior [above the ovary], 5-tepaled, deciduous; the tepals elliptic-oblong, acute, thinly membranous, concave, net-veined, glabrous, a little unequal, as long as the ovary. *Ovary* inferior [below the tepals], elliptic, three-angled, three-winged, glabrous, with 2 bracts at the base [that is, bracteoles]; *bracteoles* elliptic, concave, acute, thinly membranous, glabrous, rose, as long as the ovary, deciduous. *Stigma* (fig. 7) 2-horned, calling to mind a lyre, papillose, half as short as the calyx. *Peduncles* (fruit-bearing) axillary, solitary, threadlike, glabrous, $\frac{7}{12}$ - $\frac{10}{12}$ [about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{5}{6}$] inch long, with 2 bracts at the tip and 1 to 2 fruits [capsules], with the fruits long-pedicelled; the pedicels $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long, thread-like, glabrous. *Bracts* similar to the stipules, hooded, concave, about $\frac{1}{6}$ inch long, outspread.

Capsules (fig. 8,9) elliptic, 3-angled, 3-winged, thinly membranous, glabrous, 3-celled (fig. 10), about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch ($\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{7}{12}$ inch) long with 2 bracteoles at the base, dehiscent below on the angles at the origin of the wings. The *bracteoles* soon deciduous. The *wings* alternating with the partitions of the capsule, membranous, netted, truncate rounded at the tip, very unequal; the outer wing widest, almost triangular. *Placentas* axillary, 3.

Seed (fig. 12,13) very numerous,

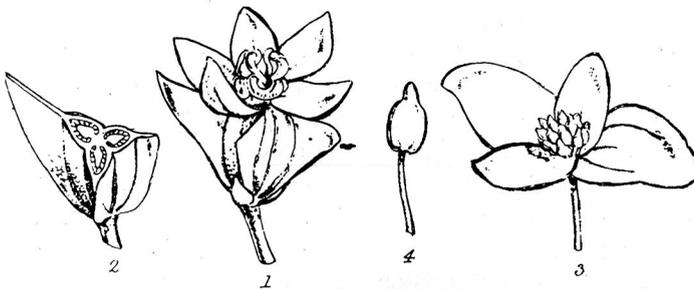
very minute (*fig. 11*), cylindrically oblong, obtuse at both ends, marked at the base with a tubercle where it was affixed, netted, brown, glabrous. *Integument* [hard outer covering of the seed] double, the outer part thin, crustlike, becoming brown, cellulously netted; the inner part (endo-sperm?) almost succulently membranous, whitish; at the lower (basal) tip rounded, and brownish-spotted and navel-like; at the upper tip acute, ending in a very short appendage (*fig. 14,15*). *Embryo* (*fig. 16*) oblongly slightly terete, obtuse at both ends, whitish, 2-lobed at the tip with a tubercle at the back."

We are grateful to Carrie Karegannes for this translation from the Latin of Karl S. Kunth, Aimé Bonpland, and Friederich A. von Humboldt, *Nova Genera et Species Plantarum*, Vol. 7 (1825), pp. 183-184.

B. foliosa was cultivated in France and then lost, but it appeared later in 1868 in England when almost immediately it was recognized for its magnificence especially when grown in suspension. In several of the horticultural journals of that time there can be found evidence of interest in *B. foliosa*. In the December 12, 1868 issue of *The Gardeners' Chronicle and Agricultural Gazette*, a weekly horticultural journal published in London, *B. foliosa* is mentioned as "one of the neatest and prettiest of BASKET PLANTS for the stove [word used in England for warm greenhouse] which we have seen in many a day." In another London journal, *Refugium Botanicum*, September 1870, W. Wilson Saunders,

editor, wrote the following about the culture and beauty of *B. foliosa*, "I have no *Begonia* among my very large number of species which I cultivate, with the same gracefully pendulant habit as the species now figured. [See page 180 for a reproduction of the illustration.] The flowers are insignificant, but the plant, when grown in shallow pots and suspended in a moist atmosphere, gives out numerous drooping leafy branches, and is striking for its elegant shape. The plant should be potted in rough turfy peat, with a small portion of loam, and must be carefully protected from the mid-day sun." In 1874 in a London pictorial monthly magazine, *The Florist and Pomologist*, there is mention of *B. foliosa* as a plant which looks better in baskets than in any other way. In still another English weekly horticultural journal, *The Garden*, on November 6, 1880, *B. foliosa* is once again mentioned as an elegant species grown in suspended baskets as it was in the *Begonia* house at Kew Gardens.

Towards the end of the century in 1896, S. Mottet wrote an article describing the characteristics and the culture of *B. foliosa* in *Revue Horticole*, a horticultural journal published in Paris. *B. foliosa* is described as richly foliated with fern-like branches which form a vertiable cascade of foliage delicate in appearance. The need for a cool shady location is mentioned in this article. In all of these older horticultural journals the magnificence of *B. foliosa* grown in suspension and the comparative ease of culture is emphasized.



W.H. Fitch del. et hth.

Begonia foliosa, H. B. K.

B. foliosa HBK

Tab. 222

REFUGIUM BOTANICUM Vol. 4

1870

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In 1874, in the *Horticulturist*, a horticultural journal published in New York, *B. foliosa* is also mentioned as a fine basket plant. In *Horticulture*, in 1930, Bessie Buxton wrote of the lacy foliage of *B. foliosa* which reminds one of *Rosa Hugonis*.

Through the years the popularity of *B. foliosa* has increased in this country. For many years this species has been available through specialized commercial growers of *Begonia*. Now this species is being offered in a general seed catalog with the expectation that it will be suitable to a more general distribution.

Through the years there does not appear to have been any extensive hybridizing using *B. foliosa*, in fact, almost none. In *Les Begonias* (1938) by Charles Chevalier, *B. 'Fuchsifolia'* is mentioned with one of the parents being *B. foliosa*. This hybrid is still in cultivation. Recently in 1971 Francis Michelson developed a fine hybrid, *B. 'Cubinfo'*, of which one of the parents was *B. foliosa*.

Botanical classification places *B. foliosa* in the section *Lepsia* of the genus *Begonia* of the family *Begoniaceae*. In 1972 Dr. Fred Barkley in *Begoniaceae-The Genera, Sections and Known Species of Each* lists four species in the section *Lepsia* A.DC. as follows: *B. foliosa* HBK (1825; Colombia); *B. microphylla* A.DC. (1864; Colombia); *B. poeppigiana* A.DC. (1864; Brazil); and *B. stenocardia* Smith & Schubert (1946; Colombia). Species that have been placed in this section have been found in the Andean Mountains of South America (Venezuela to Peru).

In "Begoniaceae of Colombia,"

Caldasia Vol. 4, No. 18 (October 25, 1946), Dr. Lyman B. Smith and Dr. Bernice G. Schubert write of their findings which were a result of a study of *B. foliosa*. They maintain that there are five varieties of *B. foliosa* besides the typical.

The instability in the morphological characters seemed to be correlated with geographical ranges. They, therefore, logically separated them into varieties to show the distinctions as well as the relationships. The varieties are as follows: *B. foliosa* var. *rotunda*, *B. foliosa* var. *putzeysiana*, *B. foliosa* var. *australis*, *B. foliosa* var. *miniata*, *B. foliosa* var. *amplifolia*. See page 183 for drawings of these varieties as they appeared in *Caldasia*.

B. foliosa is classified horticulturally in *The Thompson Begonia Guide*, page C-25, as shrub-like, bare leaved, small leaved [generally under 4" at maturity]. There are about thirty-one species and thirty-four hybrids in this horticultural classification representing begonias which are in cultivation at this time. The leaves of *B. foliosa* are so small that undoubtedly it is the smallest leaved shrub-like begonia in cultivation.

The culture of *B. foliosa* differs somewhat from most bare leaved shrub-like begonias. This begonia prefers a semishady location in most geographical locations. In most cases, the sun in the early morning and in the late afternoon is the ideal situation for this species. We prefer to grow it outdoors during the summer months under a large maple tree, suspended in the outer circumference where it will receive the correct

amount of light and sunlight during the various times of the day.

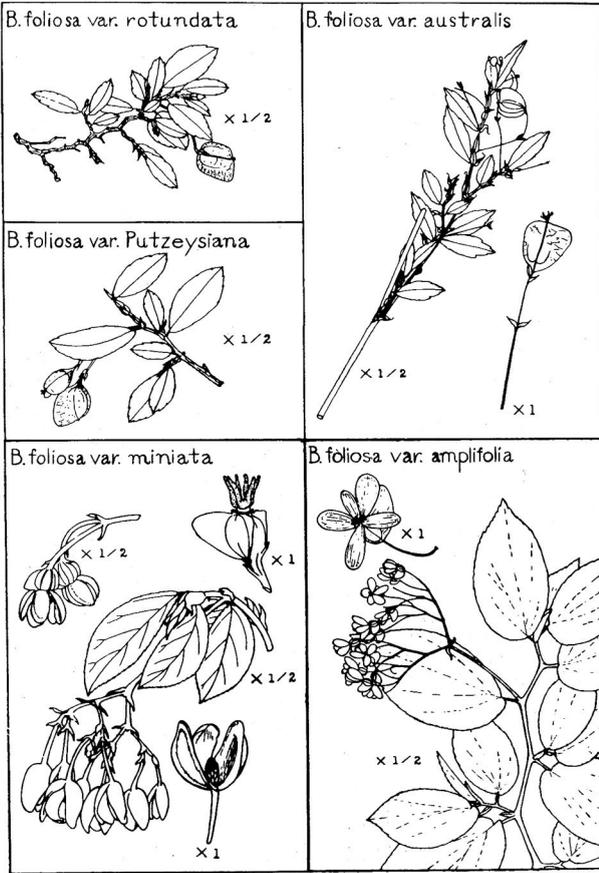
B. foliosa prefers to be grown in a humid (50% or more) and cool atmosphere. Watering may need to be done frequently because this species prefers being somewhat moist at all times. However, this species will not tolerate being kept soggy wet. When temperatures rise over 72° for any length of time, there will be adverse effects. There will be yellowing of some leaves, and some leaves will drop. If the area can be kept humid, particularly when the temperatures are high, there will be fewer problems. In most cases, it is not possible to grow *B. foliosa* outdoors in areas where the temperatures are consistently high and/or the humidity is low.

When the temperatures go below 55° outdoors, the plant must be brought indoors and be grown in the greenhouse where it will benefit from a more humid atmosphere. If provisions are made for the ideal humidity, *B. foliosa* can be grown in the home with some success.

B. foliosa lends itself naturally to being grown in suspension where the magnificence of its long, branching, arching stems can be fully appreciated. We prefer to grow *B. foliosa* in a moss lined wire hanging container because it thrives and becomes more symmetrical in this type of container. Clay containers will also give excellent results in situations where the moss lined container cannot be used. The use of clay containers is also good for the younger plants of *B. foliosa* before they are large enough for the moss lined wire containers.

This begonia is particularly demanding of the correct potting accommodations; it should never be underpotted or overpotted. Most begonias will tolerate being underpotted for short periods, but *B. foliosa* will not tolerate this for any length of time. Underpotting will result in a stunted plant in which the leaves will fall very readily, and the overall shape will be inferior. On the other hand, overpotting by placing the plant in a larger container than it requires at a given time will produce a plant which is leggy and inferior in shape no matter how much it is pinched. *B. foliosa* requires the right amount of root room at all times to develop into a large beautiful plant. It should be grown in a container only until the root system fills the pot, and then it should be moved to the next size container. This should be repeated throughout the life of the plant. It should not be placed in a moss lined wire container until it is large enough for the size of this type container. Nevertheless a basket of *B. foliosa* can be created by placing three or four small plants of *B. foliosa* in 3" pots in one basket. Then there will be no adverse effects which result from the overwatering or overfertilizing so often prevalent in plants which are overpotted.

Even though under perfect conditions *B. foliosa* will develop into a beautifully symmetrical plant without too much assistance from human hands, it is advantageous to pinch the tips of the branches regularly. For best results this should be started when the plant is a mere rooted cutting and continued



TAB. 17

Varieties of *B. foliosa*

CALDASIA Vol. 4
 "The Begoniaceae of Colombia"

Lyman B. Smith and Bernice G. Schubert

1946

throughout the entire life of the plant. This will result in a full and compact plant. To insure this, *B. foliosa* should be fertilized regularly with a complete fertilizer as other begonias are. Because it has such long, lovely pendant stems which look more graceful in a drooping fashion, it is seldom, if ever, necessary to stake any of the main

stems. The culture of *B. foliosa* is fairly simple, and, once these requirements are met, this species will grow "like a weed" just as it does in its own native habitat.

In our estimation, there is no other begonia and, in fact, no other plant that can compare with the beauty and magnificence of our favorite begonia, *B. foliosa*.

MEET YOUR CANDIDATES

A ballot for the election of officers is enclosed with this issue. Place a cross in the square opposite your choice for each office. Mail the ballot

so that it reaches the destination by August 14, 1976. All members are urged to VOTE promptly.



President

Charles Richardson is currently serving as First Vice President, after having been both Second and Third Vice President. He was Treasurer of the Board of Directors from 1952 to 1954 and Plant Show Chairman at Fullerton Show in 1973. He is a member and Past President of the Glendale Branch. He is employed as an architect with a firm in Pasadena.



First Vice President

Nathan Randall serves the national Society as Chairman of the Speakers' Bureau. He is Vice President of the Glendale Branch.

He is presently employed by the City of Los Angeles as an Engineering Designer in the Bureau of Engineering. His career with the City began in 1946 when he entered the Survey Division of that Bureau.

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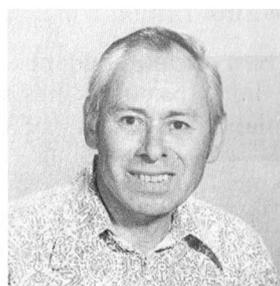
Rochelle Rose



Betty Tillotson



Edie Krupnick



Gil Estrada

No photographs were received from other candidates.

Second Vice President

Evelyn Cronin has helped to form new branches for the ABS as its Branch Relations Director. Formerly she served as Public Relations Director. In that capacity she organized a group of ABS members from the East to attend the 1973 Convention and Show.

Evelyn is a senior judge for ABS, a master judge for the Garden Club Federation and is learning to judge other genera. She is editor of *Light Garden*, the national publication of the Indoor Light Gardening Society.

Second Vice President

Betty Tillotson has been a member of the American Begonia Society for about 8 years. She has served the Sacramento Branch as President and Secretary and in several other capacities. Currently she is Nomenclature and Study Group Chairman for the Branch.

Betty is also past President of the Sacramento Bromeliad Society and current President of the Fuchsia Society.

Historical Interest — Modern Value

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Third Vice President

Ralph Corwin is now serving as National Representative for the newly formed Palomar Branch and is a Director of the ABS. He was employed by the City of Los Angeles School District as a Business Administration Specialist until his retirement in 1970. He and his wife Mabel have been active in the American Begonia Society since 1945. He grows tropical plants and exotic fruits on his Vista rancho.

Third Vice President

Edith Krupnick has served as Circulation Manager for the *Begonian* for 4 years. She is currently Vice President of the Westchester Branch and is serving on the Boards of Directors of three other horticultural society branches.

For ten years Edie was employed by Hughes Aircraft in an administrative position in the Cost Accounting and Engineering Recruiting Departments.

Secretary

Rochelle Rose was elected Secretary of the National Board in 1975. She is a member of the Santa Barbara Branch.

Rochelle is a graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara with a degree in Sociology. She worked at the University for three years and was employed as a social worker for the State of California for 2 years.

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Secretary

Virginia Barnett served as Business Manager of the American Begonia Society from September, 1969 to September 1972 and as Secretary from 1967 to 1969. She has been active with the San Gabriel Branch.

Treasurer

Gilbert Estrada is the current Business Manager on the national Board. He is now serving as the President of the Redondo Area Branch and Secretary of the Garden Grove Branch. Gil is the Charter President of the Garden Grove Gesneriad Society. He was employed in Budget and Cost Control for Northrup Aviation.

Treasurer

Peggy McGrath is currently Parliamentarian and Third Vice President of the ABS. She has served as secretary and as Public Relations Director to the national Board, each for 2 years. Peggy is affiliated with the San Gabriel Branch and has served as its president.

She has served as President of the Miracle Mile Business and Professional Women's Club. She has been treasurer of the National Fuchsia Society. She was an employee of the State of California and has worked part time as an accountant.



RESEARCH REPORT

M. Carleton L'Hommedieu, *Research Director*

The following donations were received for the research fund during the third quarter:

Santa Clara Valley Branch —	
In memory of Ellis Lynn	\$ 25.00
Mr. and Mrs. R. Ziesenhenne, —	
In memory of	
Grant McGregor	10.00
Mr. and Mrs. R. Ziesenhenne, —	
In memory of Ruth Merry	10.00
The Seed Fund	58.40
Long Island Branch, —	
March, April, May	30.00
Interest	5.87
Total receipts for the	
third quarter	139.27
Balance on hand,	
Feb. 23, 1976	772.40
Total.....	
\$911.67	
Disbursements, —N. Y. Botanical	
Garden Library	500.00
Balance on hand,	
May 24, 1976	\$411.67
* * *	

The Library Project:

In researching for cultivar and hybrid *Begonia* names, our researcher, Ann Councill, recently went to the National Agricultural Library at Beltsville, Maryland. This library

has one of the largest collections of horticultural catalogs in the country. Ann was able to find many cultivar and hybrid names that were not listed in other periodicals.

Mr. Long, the Library Administrator, at the New York Botanical Garden Library, has been working very closely with us on the library project. Since Ann Councill will be leaving this project soon, Mr. Long has assured us that he will have another student to take over the project. We have been very fortunate to have such an outstanding research student as Ann Councill, and the new student, Suzana Bonnie, also comes to us with a high recommendation from Mr. Long.

The assembling of the researched material will be started soon, for the publication of the cultivar and hybrid catalog. In this catalog or book, the contents will have all the material about each plant. It will not be just a list of names nor just a reference work since most members cannot find the works listed. It will be a very complete encyclopedia of *Begonia* and will be one of the most important books for all *Begonia* growers.

THE BEGONIAN

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LES BEGONIAS, BY CHARLES CHEVALIER, TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH BY ALVA GRAHAM, CONTAINS REPRODUCTIONS OF OLD PRINTS, MODERN PHOTOGRAPHS, AND A WEALTH OF INFORMATION ABOUT BEGONIAS. AVAILABLE FROM THE ABS LIBRARY. \$10. CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS ADD 6% SALES TAX.

FAIRCHILD GARDEN: A DIFFERENT VIEW

With permission of the Coral Gables Publicity Department

By Helene Jaros, Miami Begonia Society

Tucked away off scenic Old Cutler Road in Coral Gables is an oasis of quiet beauty called Fairchild Tropical Garden.

The attraction draws average visitors seeking a different view of Florida, as well as expert horticulturalists who want to study the largest collection of tropical plants in the world. It is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Some 200,000 visitors a year come to the 80-acre facility, which is only minutes from downtown Miami. In sharp contrast to a city, however, the garden's air is fragrant with the clean, fresh smell of foliage. Quiet abounds and the average visitor can imagine himself in the Florida of centuries ago.

What at first might appear to be a haphazard arrangement of trees and plants soon reveals itself as a planned, carefully executed design that has been studied by landscape architects from throughout the world.

Executed by famed landscape architect William Lyman Phillips, the garden's grounds are designed so that plots are allotted to plant families, such as the laurel, spurge, mulberry and pea.

The garden's largest collection, the palm family with more than 4,000 species, was planned so that one or more genera occupies a single plot. The total palm collection covers roughly one-fourth of the garden.

Among points of interest are an artificial tropical rain forest, palm glade, overlook, lakes, a rare plant house, and gift shop.

The rain forest has plants and trees several stories high receiving their daily deluge of water from a concealed sprinkler system high in the foliage and at ground level. Visitors walking through when sprinklers are off get the true sensation of an equatorial forest.

The palm glade, offering one of the finest vistas in the garden, has a pool backed by lush foliage.

Described as the highlight and literally, the high point, of a garden tour is the overlook. From that point the visitor sees the finest vistas in the garden, including an excellent view of the Garden's lowlands and lakes spread out in the distance.

The interesting lakes were created when fill was dug to build up the low mangrove swamp about them. Originally, almost two-thirds of the garden was a marsh, which has been filled.

The rare plant house contains the Garden's permanent collections of rare and tender palms, cycads, huge exotic begonias in their iridescent lush splendor growing among other plants, as well as the extensive orchid collection maintained by the Garden.

As a botanical garden, Fairchild's main purpose is to serve as a collection of living plants. There is a never-ending effort to bring in new plants from all over the tropical world.

Named in honor of the late Dr. David Fairchild, a famous plant explorer, the garden was founded by the late Col. Robert H. Montgomery

(Continued on page 202)



Two scenes from Fairchild Gardens, the upper showing *Begonia popenoei* and the lower showing *Begonia mazaе forma nigricans*. Selected from a series of color photographs taken by the Jaroses.



1976 AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY CONVENTION AND SHOW

ROYAL INN AT THE WHARF
1355 Harbor Drive (at Ash Street)

BEGONIA HERITAGE

Thursday, August 26

9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Flower Show Entries. Embarcadero Convention Center
9:00-8:00 p.m. Registration.

Friday, August 27

8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Registration.
8:00 a.m. Judges Breakfast. Hospitality Room.
10:00 a.m. Judging Begins. Pacific Room.
10:00 a.m. Seminar, *Plant Talk* — Mae Tagg. West Coast Room.
11:00 a.m. Seminar, *Behind the Scenes* — Ed and Phyllis Bates.
West Coast Room.
12:00 noon-1:30 p.m. Open.
1:00 p.m. Judges Luncheon.
1:30 p.m. Seminar, *New Introductions* — Rudolf Ziesenhenne.
West Coast Room.
3:00 p.m. Seminar, *Eastern Heritage* — Evelyn Cronin. West Coast Room.
4:00 p.m. ABS Board Meeting. West Coast Room.
5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Open.
7:00 p.m. Show Prevue, Plant Sales. Pacific Room. (No Host Cocktails)

Saturday, August 28

8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Registration.
10:00 a.m. Seminar, *Tuberous Tips* — Walter Pease. West Coast Room.
10:00 a.m. Flower Show Open to Public.
11:00 a.m. Seminar, *Grow and Show* — Jean Kerlin. West Coast Room.
12:00 noon-3:00 p.m. ABS Luncheon and Annual Meeting. Pacific Ballroom.
3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Open.
5:00 p.m. Flower Show Closes.
6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Social Hour. Pacific Ballroom. (No Host Cocktails)
7:30 p.m. ABS Banquet. Pacific Ballroom.
Master of Ceremonies — Tim O'Reilly
Awards Chairman — Walter Pease
Banquet Speaker — Evelyn Weidner, *Living Begonia Heritage*
Installing Officer — Walter Pease

Sunday, August 29

8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Nursery and Garden Tour.
10:00 a.m. Flower Show Open to Public.
5:00 p.m. Flower Show Closes.

HOW TO SHIP BEGONIA PLANTS

Selling living plants at the annual National American Begonia Society Convention and Show is an important source of income for the Society. It is essential that the living plants shipped to the show arrive at their destination in as good condition as they were when they were packed. This is easily accomplished if a little time and care is exercised using the following suggestions:

The plant or plants to be shipped should be full of water and turgid. To accomplish this be sure the plants are watered well the day before they are packed. If the soil seems too wet when you start to pack, stand the soil ball on several pieces of paper towel until the excess water is absorbed.

The next important consideration is to make sure the soil ball will not be disturbed during shipment due to banging around and vibration. If the plant is in a small, light, plastic pot, leave it in the pot. If the plant is in a 3-inch pot or larger, it should be taken out of it and some of the soil shaken off. The best and easiest way to hold the soil ball around the roots is to carefully wrap plastic wrapping material firmly around the small pot or soil ball and make sure to encircle the plant stem so no soil can escape around it, thus keeping the soil intact and preventing the roots from drying out. This plastic will be tightly held in place when you individually wrap each plant in one page of newspaper, being careful to have it snug around the pot or root ball and that the leaves are in a natural position so they will not be damaged. By rolling the plant up in newspaper you actually make a sort

of mailing tube which protects the plant in the package and holds it firmly in place. A rubber band is used to hold the individual package securely.

A good, stout carton which will not be crushed in the mail is necessary. The box is lined with a thickness of AIR CAP which consists of two sheets of plastic stuck together in such a way that small bubbles are created between them; this is good insulation. Before AIR CAP became available, newspaper was used to line the box, about four sheets in summer and ten sheets in winter. The AIR CAP is much lighter, important since plants should be sent by air shipment. In winter two thicknesses of AIR CAP are necessary. In placing the plants in a carton be sure to have all the root ends of the plants at the same end of the carton for they have the ability to support themselves safely and the stems and leaves are not injured by being under heavier cargo.

If possible the plants should be sent the same day they are packed. Ship the plants in plenty of time to have them arrive by August 25.

It is the law that all plants must be inspected by your local Department of Agriculture before they are shipped. On arrival in California the local Agricultural Agent will again inspect the plants and soil to see that they are free of pests and diseases. Out-of-Southern California members-at-large should send plants to:

Paul Lee
1852 - 31st Street
San Diego, CA 91102

1976 ABS SHOW AND CONVENTION BEGONIA HERITAGE

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

		Number	Total
Registration	\$.50	x
Seminars (all)	3.00	x
Luncheon (Saturday)	5.00	x
Banquet (Saturday)	10.00	x
Tour Bus (Sunday)	7.00	x
Total all events	\$25.00	

Names of Attendees

Mailing address

Make checks payable to: Convention Fund 1976. Send check and registration form (or copy), by August 18, to: Mrs. Chester E. Lee
12702 Abra Drive San Diego, CA 92128

PLANTS! PLANTS! PLANTS!

The Alfred D. Robinson and San Miguel Branches welcome as many Begonia and other shade loving plants as you can transport to the exciting A.B.S. National Show and Convention in San Diego. For several years my begonia friends have promised assistance and loads of plant entries if this event was hosted here.

The time is NOW. We have a picturesque location, lovely accommodations and a large, luxurious show room as the setting for you and your plants.

Please read Rule #4 of the Show Rules carefully. Most questions concerning exhibiting and classification are answered in a series of excellent articles by Ruth Pease in 1972-74 *Begonians*. If you cannot find answers there, contact me.

Pre-registration of plant entries is important. I'll be grateful to each exhibitor who cooperates by requesting an entries sheet and returning it

to me as early as possible or sending me a list of his entries.

To our far-away members who cannot attend: let us show your plants through photographs and slides. Make certain plant and exhibitor name and address are written on masking tape placed on back of picture.

When you and your plants arrive at the Royal Inn, I and my assistants, Mary Birchell, Nettie Daniels and Jean Pasko will be waiting to welcome you and assist you with plant classification and registration.

We need YOU and your PLANTS to make "Begonia Heritage" a memorable event of beauty, knowledge and friendship.

Thelma O'Reilly
Classification and
Registration Chairman
10942 Sunray Place
La Mesa, CA 92041
Phone: (714) 463-6788

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
August 26-29, 1976
San Diego, Calif.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Arrival Date _____ Time _____
Departure Date _____
No. in Party _____

PLEASE RESERVE:

_____ Singles @ \$24
_____ Doubles @ \$28
_____ Twins @ \$28
_____ Triples @ \$32
_____ Quads @ \$36
_____ Suite
1 Bedroom @ \$60 & up
_____ Suites
2 Bedroom @ \$75 & up

Rates are plus 6% tax. One day deposit must accompany all arrivals later than 6:00 p.m. — Check-out by Noon.

All reservation cards should be returned to us by August 13, 1976 to guarantee accommodations

Room may not be ready until after 2:30 p.m.

THANK YOU! WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO SERVING YOU!

Convention registration does not include price of rooms. All members are asked to write for room reservations directly to the Hotel. Please make your reservations early. The hotel has requested that you use the attached form in order for you to get the convention rates.

ROOM RESERVATIONS FOR ELEVENTH
EASTERN REGIONAL BEGONIA CONVENTION

Webster Hall Hotel — 4415 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

September 16, 17, 18 — 1976

Arrival _____ Departure _____

Rates: Single at \$20.00 plus 6% tax

Rates: Double at \$25.00 plus 6% tax

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

\$4.00 additional for third party

Reservations held until 6:00 p.m. unless accompanied by a deposit
Reservations should be received by September 1, 1976 to guarantee accommodations.

OPERATION GRAND DONATION

As you can see by the accompanying box score, all but four Southern Calif. branches have responded to our request for plant donations and we are approaching the goal of 2225 plants. I suspect that three of them, North Long Beach, Long Beach parent, and Rubidoux have probably just put off answering the request and I plead with them to join the big effort to make the National Show and Convention a financial success. Why don't a few of you loyal ABS members of San Gabriel Valley Branch get together and make your own pledge in the name of the branch? This should be a unanimous project, let's make it one!

We have a transportation problem for the gigantic 500 plant donation of the enthusiastic Garden Grove branch. And also a similar problem from the new but distant Monterey Bay Area Branch which wants to make a donation but is unable to transport a few flats of plants to the show. If anybody can help, please contact me immediately.

And please remember, that pledging plants is only the first phase. We must have them delivered, in clean pots and properly labeled Thursday, Aug. 26 or Friday morning, Aug. 27 at the convention site, the Royal Inn at the Wharf, downtown San Diego.

BOX SCORE OF PLEDGES — MAY 30

Garden Grove	500	Westchester	100
Theodosia Burr Shepherd	214	Whittier	100
Glendale	100	<i>Individual contributions</i>	
Orange County	100	George and Jackie Basye	100
Redondo Area	100	Marge and Paul Lee	100
Alfred D. Robinson	100	Jean Kerlin	100
Palomar	100	Elda Regunbal	100
San Miguel	100	Anonymous member-at-large from	
Santa Barbara	100	No. Calif.	20 or more.

Total 2034 plants promised. Goal 2225 plants.

PLUS Japan Begonia Society — cuttings of their new introductions!

How about a few pledges from you Easterners?

Only four branches in Southern California show no interest in taking part in this fund raising project for the A.B.S. They are:

Long Beach Parent Chapter	no response to letter, retained the \$10 check.
North Long Beach Branch	no response to letter, retained the \$10 check.
Rubidoux Branch	no response to letter, retained the \$10 check.
San Gabriel Valley Branch	returned \$10 check and refused cooperation.

ELEVENTH EASTERN REGIONAL BEGONIA CONVENTION AND SHOW

WEBSTER HALL HOTEL, 4415 FIFTH AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

September 16th, 17th, 18th, 1976

The main objective of any *Begonia* show should be to display as many different species and hybrids as possible. It is impossible for any *Begonia* enthusiast to grow the vast number of varieties there are in cultivation. Exhibitors should be proud to bring all their well-grown *Begonia* of different varieties to show or display to share with other growers. Shows and displays are an excellent opportunity to share the beauty and variety of *Begonia*. "SHOWING IS SHARING."*

SHOW RULES

1. Competition is open to all *Begonia* growers.

Definition of exhibitors:

- a) *Professional and/or Commercial Grower* — one who grows or sells begonias or related plants as his principal source of income.
- b) *Experienced Amateur Grower* — an amateur who has won over 35 blue ribbons in specialized *Begonia* shows and/or two sweepstakes.
- c) *Amateur Grower* — one who does not sell or grow begonias or related plants as his principal source of income.
- d) *Novice Grower* — an amateur who has not yet won a ribbon at any specialized *Begonia* show.

Only A.B.S. members are eligible to compete for Perpetual and A.B.S. Cultural Awards.

2. *Professional and/or Commercial Growers* — eligible to enter Divisions K, L, N and O; and R through W.

3. *Experienced Amateur Growers* — eligible to enter Divisions J through M; P; and R through W.

4. *Amateur Growers* — eligible to enter all divisions except N through Q.

5. *Novice Growers* — may enter Division Q instead of Divisions A through I. They are eligible to enter Divisions R through W.

6. There will be no required registration fees.

7. All entries must be made Thursday, September 16 from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Late entries accepted Friday, Sep-

tember 17 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Please notify the Show Chairman prior to the show if you intend to enter on Friday.

8. All entries must be classified by the Classification Chairman. The Classification Chairman will make all decisions according to the "Classifications for Show Purposes Section" of *The Thompson Begonia Guide*, Vol. II which is primarily based on the American Begonia Society's booklet, *A Suggested Guide to the Classification of Begonias for Show Purposes*.

9. Each entry will have an entry tag properly filled out, assisted by the Classification Committee. This tag will show the exhibitor's name, entry number, name of variety, the division and class. All husband and wife entries must be entered as one entry and not separately.

10. An exhibitor may enter more than one plant in any class, provided each plant is a different variety. However, each entry may compete in only one class.

11. All entries exhibited in competitive classes must have been grown by the exhibitor and been in his possession for three months. Divisions R and S are excepted.

12. All plants must be clearly labeled. Errors will not disqualify but the judges will recognize correctness in close competition. Synonymous names are acceptable.

13. Diagrams must accompany all entries in Divisions R and S. These should

*"Classification for Show Purposes Section" of *The Thompson Begonia Guide*, Vol. II, page S-14.

show the placement and correct names of the plant material.

14. No artificial plant materials may be used.

15. The Photography Division will be open to all. If you are unable to enter this division on September 16th, personally, you may mail your entries to the Show Chairman. Entries that are mailed must be received by September 11th. Black and white and color prints may be any size but no larger than 8" x 10", and must be mounted with a suitable mat. Prints and slides of leaves or portions of plants will be accepted.

16. Plants must be entered in clay pots, plastic pots, moss lined containers or wood containers except in Divisions R through T.

17. Containers and plants must be clean and neat. The Show Chairman has the right to exclude any diseased or infected plants.

18. All plants shall be placed by the Placement Committee. No one will be permitted in the show area during the placement of plants or judging except personnel authorized by the Show Chairman.

19. The judges will use the American Begonia Society's booklet, *The Point*

Scoring System for Judging Begonias.

20. The judges shall make awards according to merit only. If the entry is without merit, the judges shall make no award, regardless of the number of entries in the class.

21. The decisions of the judges are final.

22. The E. Stewart Pittsburgh Branch will safeguard the exhibits as much as possible, but cannot assume responsibility for injury or loss.

23. Exhibits must be removed on Sunday, September 19th between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.

24. For any questions concerning entries or classification, please contact the following:

Show Chairman

Mrs. Suzanne Colazzi
5329 Stanton Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15206

Convention Chairman

Mr. Frank Kerin
922 Savannah Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15221

Classification Chairman

Mr. Gene Moglia
999 Little East Neck Rd.
Babylon, N.Y. 11704

SHOW SCHEDULE

DIVISION A—CANE-LIKE

Class:

1. Superba type
2. Mallet type

ALL OTHER CANES:

3. low (generally under 2 ft. at maturity)
4. intermediate (generally 2 ft. to 4 ft. at maturity)
5. tall (generally over 4 ft. at maturity)

DIVISION B—SHRUB-LIKE

BARE-LEAVED:

6. large leaved (generally over 6" at maturity)
7. medium leaved (generally 4" to 6" at maturity)
8. small leaved (generally under 4" at maturity)
9. small leaved, everblooming type

HAIRY LEAVED:

10. wide leaved (generally over 3" at maturity)
11. narrow leaved (generally under 3" at maturity)
12. felted

DISTINCTIVE FOLIAGE:

13. unusual surface and/or unusual coloring
14. *listida*-like type
15. compact type

DIVISION C—THICK STEMMED

BARE-LEAVED:

16. large leaved (generally over 6" at maturity)
17. medium leaved (generally 4" to 6" at maturity)
18. small leaved (generally under 4" at maturity)

HAIRY-LEAVED:

19. large leaved (generally over 6" at maturity)
20. medium leaved (generally 4" to 6" at maturity)
21. small leaved (generally under 4" at maturity)

TRUNK-LIKE, NON-RAMIFIED:

22. species
23. hybrids

THICKSET:

24. thickset

DIVISION D — SEMPERFLORENS

SPECIES:

25. *semperflorens* type
26. *schmidtiana* type

HYBRIDS:

27. single flowered with green foliage
28. single flowered with bronze foliage
29. semidouble/flowered with green foliage
30. semidouble/double flowered with bronze foliage
31. variegated foliage

DIVISION E — RHIZOMATOUS

SMALL LEAVED (generally under 3" at maturity):

32. entire/subentire
33. lobed
34. cleft
35. parted
36. compound leaved
37. crested margin
38. spiral leaved

MEDIUM LEAVED (generally 3" to 6" at maturity):

39. entire/subentire
40. lobed
41. cleft
42. parted
43. compound leaved
44. crested margin
45. spiral leaved

LARGE LEAVED (generally 6" to 12" at maturity):

46. entire/subentire
47. lobed
48. cleft
49. parted
50. compound leaved
51. crested margin
52. spiral leaved

GIANT LEAVED (generally over 12" at maturity):

53. entire/subentire
54. lobed
55. cleft
56. parted
57. compound leaved
58. crested margin
59. spiral leaved

RHIZOME WITH ERECT STEM:

60. entire/subentire
61. lobed
62. cleft
63. parted
64. compound leaved
65. crested margin
66. spiral leaved

RHIZOME JOINTED AT OR BELOW THE SOIL WITH ERECT STEM:

67. rhizome jointed at or below the soil with erect stem

DISTINCTIVE FOLIAGE:

68. pustular type (*imperialis*-type)
69. unusual surface and/or unusual coloring, small leaved (under 3")*
70. unusual surface and/or unusual coloring, medium leaved (3" to 6")*
71. unusual surface and/or unusual coloring, large leaved (over 6")*
72. unusual shape and/or unusual habit of growth

*These are general leaf sizes at maturity.

DIVISION F — REX CULTORUM

SMALL LEAVED (generally under 3" at maturity):

73. spiral
74. non-spiral

MEDIUM LEAVED (generally 3" to 6" at maturity):

75. spiral
76. non-spiral

LARGE LEAVED (generally over 6" at maturity):

77. spiral
78. non-spiral

UPRIGHT STEMMED:

79. spiral
80. non-spiral

DIVISION G — TUBEROUS

SEMITUBEROUS:

81. semituberous

TUBEROUS:

82. species and first generation hybrids,
low growing
83. species and first generation hybrids,
tall growing

TUBERHYBRIDA:

84. tuberhybrida

HIEMALIS:

85. rieger elatior types
86. all others

CHEIMANTHA:

87. cheimantha

BULBOUS:

88. bulbous

*DIVISION H — TRAILING —
SCANDENT*

89. species
90. hybrids

*DIVISION I — CONTAINED
ATMOSPHERE WITH SINGLE
VARIETY OF BEGONIA* (to be judged
horticulturally)

RHIZOMATOUS:

91. small leaved
92. medium leaved and large leaved

DISTINCTIVE FOLIAGE:

93. rhizomatous, pustular types
94. rhizomatous, unusual surface
and/or unusual coloring
95. rhizomatous, unusual shape and/or
habit of growth
96. shrub-like

REX:

97. small leaved
98. medium leaved and large leaved

SHRUB-LIKE and CANE-LIKE:

99. all types except those with
distinctive foliage

TUBEROUS:

100. semituberous and tuberous

*DIVISION J — HANGING
CONTAINERS and/or
WALL POCKETS*

101. any cane-like
102. any shrub-like
103. any thick stemmed
104. any semperflorens
105. any rhizomatous

106. any rex
107. any tuberous or semituberous
108. any trailing — scandent (wall
pockets only)

DIVISION K — SEEDLINGS

109. under 6 months
110. 6 months to 9 months
111. 9 months to 1 year old

DIVISION L — SPECIES

(judged horticulturally)

112. any cane-like
113. any shrub-like
114. any thick stemmed
115. any semperflorens
116. any rhizomatous
117. B. rex species
118. any tuberous or semituberous
119. any trailing — scandent

*DIVISION M — NEW BEGONIA
INTRODUCTIONS* (by Amateurs)

120. hybrid introductions
121. species
122. mutations

*DIVISION N — NEW BEGONIA
INTRODUCTIONS* (by Professional
and/or Commercial Growers)

123. hybrids
124. species
125. mutations

*DIVISION O — PROFESSIONAL
and/or COMMERCIAL GROWERS*

126. any cane-like
127. any shrub-like
128. any thick stemmed
129. any semperflorens
130. any rhizomatous
131. any rex cultorum
132. any tuberous
133. any variety in a hanging basket
134. any variety in a contained
atmosphere

*DIVISION P — EXPERIENCED
AMATEUR GROWERS*

135. any cane-like
136. any shrub-like
137. any thick stemmed
138. any semperflorens
139. any rhizomatous
140. any rex cultorum

- 141. any tuberous
- 142. any variety in a hanging basket
- 143. any variety in a contained atmosphere

DIVISION Q — NOVICE GROWERS

- 144. any cane-like
- 145. any shrub-like
- 146. any thick stemmed
- 147. any semperflorens
- 148. any rhizomatous
- 149. any rex cultorum
- 150. any tuberous
- 151. any variety in a hanging basket
- 152. any variety in a contained atmosphere

DIVISION R — CONTAINED ATMOSPHERES WITH MORE THAN ONE VARIETY (judged artistically and horticulturally)

ALL BEGONIA PLANTING:

- 153. bubbles and bowls
- 154. terrariums (square or oblong)
- 155. bottles

MIXED PLANTING WITH BEGONIA PREDOMINATING:

- 156. bubbles and bowls
- 157. terrariums (square or oblong)
- 158. bottles

DIVISION S — ARTISTIC ARRANGEMENTS OF BEGONIA ROOTED AND GROWING (no artificial plant material)

- 159. dish or tray gardens (*Begonia* predominating)
- 160. centerpieces — holiday or season (*Begonia* predominating and accessories permitted to complete theme)

DIVISION T — NOVEL METHODS OF GROWING

- 161. bonsai
- 162. driftwood plantings
- 163. rock plantings
- 164. standards
- 165. totem poles
- 166. trellises

DIVISION U — EDUCATIONAL BEGONIA DISPLAYS

- 167. branch display
- 168. professional and/or commercial grower display

DIVISION V — ARTS and CRAFTS

- 169. needlework
- 170. painting — water color
- 171. painting — oil
- 172. painting — black & white
- 173. china painting and ceramics

DIVISION W — PHOTOGRAPHY (judged for photographic value)

- 174. print — black & white
- 175. print — color
- 176. slide — color
- 177. print of flower or flower cluster
- 178. slide of flower or flower cluster

Mini-Ads

The rate for advertising in this column is \$1 per line (about 36 characters) with a minimum charge of \$4. Payment for the ad must accompany order. Direct questions, copy, and checks to the Advertising Managers, Mabel Corwin or Edward Thompson.

Odd, rare and unusual begonias

Over 200 varieties, Retail only. Price list 25¢, Paul Lowe, Mt. Vernon Springs, NC 27345

Begonias, Gesneriads, miniature terrarium plants, tropicals, Catalog \$1. Kartuz Greenhouses, 92 Chestnut St., Wilmington, MA 01887. Phone (617) 658-9017

New Plant/Garden Books.

All publishers. Send 25¢ for List #6 and \$1-off coupon. HHH Brooktree, Hightstown, NJ 08520

Violets - Begonias - Episcias

Cuttings only. Send stamp for list. Wilson's Greenhouse, Route 1 Box 165-4 Ozark, MO 65721

Photos of ABS registered cultivars.

Contribute B/W prints for use in identification book. R. Ziesenhenné, Nomenclature Dir. 1130 Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103.

Wyrzten Exotic Plants—begonias

and gesneriads. Plants sold at house only. 260-01 87th Avenue (same as 165 Brant Ave.), Floral Park, N.Y. Ph. 212-347-3821

Balduc's Greenhill Nursery—Exotic

and hardy ferns. Please send self-addressed stamped envelope. 2131 Vallejo Street, St. Helena, CA 94574

The Thompson Begonia Guide, 2nd Edition, Vol. 1 will be distributed starting July 15 (Limited printing). Reservations are being accepted now. For further information write E. Thompson, 310-A Hill St., Southampton, NY 11968.

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

I've had some great suggestions for new robin flights, and would like to share them with you.

First of all, I'll soon be starting a new flight called THE EDITORS ROBIN. This flight is designed for the editors of the branch newsletters. Editors who wish to be in this flight should be prepared to send a copy of their branch newsletter around in the robin each time it comes around. Then the members of the flight will discuss the various newsletters, giving ideas for articles, regular features, and discussing the various problems involved in putting out a branch newsletter.

More ideas for flights have sprung from this one.

How about a flight for branch presidents? Members can discuss the various problems of running a branch and conducting a meeting. How to raise money for the branch, which functions are fun and worthwhile

putting on, how to handle possible problems with individuals within a branch — these are all questions that could possibly be answered in the BRANCH PRESIDENT'S ROBIN.

And how about a robin for Program Chairpersons? To me, as an ex-Program Chairperson, this is a very exciting idea. Some of the problems that face a person in charge of programs are: How do you contact a speaker? What are some possible topics for programs? What programs have been most successful in the past. How do you introduce a speaker?

These are just a few of the topics that could be of interest to the working branch member. If you are interested in being in any of these, or have an idea for another, please drop me a line and let me know.

Debi Miller

919 Hickory View Circle
Camarillo, California 93010

The Red Face Department

In a recent issue (April 1976) your editor took it upon himself to correct the names of two of the species offered to agree with the latest published information. As a result the Seed Fund Director received a letter from Dr. Doorenbos (who supplied the seed) from which I quote:

"Please don't change names! In the April *Begonia* you called *B. odorata* *B. capensis*. This is a grave error in the Barkley List. *B. capensis* (not in cultivation) is an African species (as the name implies) and has nothing in common with *B. odorata* which is from Guadeloupe in the West Indies.

"The *B. cubensis*-*B. lindeni-ana*-*B. wrightiana* triangle is more complicated. There are two monographs of the *Begonia* of the region. O. E. Schulz (1911) believed that *B. lindeni-ana* was a synonym of *B. cubensis*, but maintained *B. wrightiana*. A. D. Houghton (1924) kept all three separate. I have no opinion on the matter, but what I sent you as *B. lindeni-ana* is different from the plant grown as *B. cubensis* (the latter never sets seed)."

Our humble apologies to Dr. Doorenbos, one of the foremost authorities on *Begonia* today.

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

Pamphlets for Beginners:

- 'Begonias from Seeds — Sowing and Growing'\$.25
- 'Begonias in General — Basic descriptions of classes and culture'... .50
- Jy 1 — *B. boliviensis*: from S. America. 2 to 3 ft. high shrub with long pointed leaves sharply serrate, 3 to 5 inches long. Flowers in drooping panicles are scarlet or orange-red. This tuberous species is widely used in hybridizing and is a parent of the first tuberous hybrid. per pkt. \$.50
- Jy 2 — *B. compta*: 1886, Brazil. The name means "ornamented." A tall, cane-like plant, growing to over 4 ft. with the right conditions, it is a handsome, graceful plant. The leaves, which grow to 6 inches long by 2 inches wide at the base, are silvery-green with a silky sheen, have a pearly-silver stripe along the veins making this species one of the few with striped leaves. The leaves are ruffled and the undersides are decidedly red. per pkt. \$1.00
- Jy 3 — *B. lynchiana* Hook: said to come from Mexico. 2 to 3 foot shrub-like plant. Bare green leaves with a red spot on top where the petiole joins the leaf and of uneven heart shape. Flowers pinkish appearing in late winter. Seed from plant distributed by the U.S.D.A. per pkt. \$1.00
- Jy 4 — *B. micranthera*: name means "small flowering." A tuberous type. The plant has short, stout, succulent stems. The leaves are dark, soft, hairy and broadly ovate. The flowers are primrose yellow. Selfed. per pkt. \$.50
- Jy 5 — *B. 'Ecuador Species'*: unidentified and probably undescribed. Grows to 2 to 3 feet. Leaves 6 inches and star shaped. Large, frilled, white flowers in winter. per pkt. \$1.00
- Jy 6 — *B. 'Taiwan Species'*: received from the Japanese Begonia Society as *B. laciniata* var. *formosana*, but the description does not fit. Grows to 1 to 1½ feet with stems ascending and much branched. Leaves up to 10 inches long, pointed lobes, glabrous. Flowers white, all male (female flowers were obtained after a spray with naphthalene acetic acid.) per pkt. \$.50

Please include a self addressed, stamped envelope. Make checks and money orders payable in U.S. funds to Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. California residents add 6% sales tax. Mail orders to Mrs. Pearl E. Benell, 10331 Colima Road, Whittier, CA 90604.

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POTOMAC BRANCH

By Evelyn Cronin,
Branch Relations Director

What promises to be a dynamic addition to A.B.S. is a new Branch in the environs of Maryland, District of Columbia and Virginia. The prime motivator of the new *Potomac Branch* of A.B.S. is Allen Taylor.

Allen put a great deal of time and effort into the formation. He published two newsletters, the first a blue print of what a member could expect of the new branch, the input to be made by the members and the A.B.S. requirements in order to qualify as a Branch. With such a firm base the group is off to a flying start.

Officers are: Robert Ricketts, President; Gladys Scheer, Vice President; Alberta L. Cooke, Secretary; Amy Vidrick, Treasurer; Allen T. Taylor, A.B.S. Representative; Tim F. Johnson, Member-at-large chairman.

And it took Allen to capture Carrie Karegeannes and Barbara Jackson! With other familiar names as part of the branch roster, the group will certainly enrich the American Begonia Society.

Many members at large have requested "how-to" information, lists of members in their area, etc. All of this has been speedily and cheerfully mailed. Follow-up letters and cards have served as reminders that we are still standing by, eager and ready to help. We'd love to hear from the organizers in Illinois, Kentucky, New Hampshire, New York, Missouri, Texas, Rhode Island, Ohio, Florida and California. We've done our part; how are you faring with yours?

CONDENSED MINUTES OF A.B.S. BOARD MEETING MAY 24, 1976

The meeting was called to order by First Vice President Charles Richardson, in the absence of Margaret Ziesenhenné. The Aims and Purposes were read by Pearl Benell.

A motion from the previous Board meeting limiting the expenses of ABS officers was sent to committee.

Mabel Corwin read the report of the Editors. \$375 for color covers for **The Begonian** was approved. Also, \$125 for an extra four pages to publish the ABS Show schedule was approved. The Board carried a motion not to allow publicity for ABS candidates in **The Begonian**. The Board voted not to join the American Horticultural Society.

The charter of the Potomac Branch was approved and the \$30.00 fee will be sent to the new branch.

Business Manager Gil Estrada reported that the safety deposit box at Downey had been closed and that the contents of the box at American Savings and Loan, La Puente, had been changed to another box and the key to the former safety deposit box surrendered. It was recommended by the La Puente manager that the three savings and loan accounts be transferred to another branch.

Margaret Lee gave the Show report. The ABS Convention will be held at the Royal Inn at the Wharf, 1355 No. Harbor, San Diego, California 92101 on August 26-29. Activities will include garden tours, seminars, and door prize. Hotel rates will be: \$24 single, \$28 double.

Reports for Research Director, Seed Fund, Judging Course, Membership, Branch Relations were read. Several branches gave reports on activities.

Rochelle Rose, Secretary

FAIRCHILD GARDEN

(Continued from page 188)
to provide a collection of plants Dr. Fairchild had introduced to Florida, as well as many others. The site was recommended as the warmest spot on the Florida mainland.

Now operated jointly by a non-profit corporation and the Dade County Parks Department, the garden is unique in that there is never a day in which it is without bloom.

Results and pictures of the Miami Show at Fairchild Gardens will appear in a future issue of the **Begonian**.

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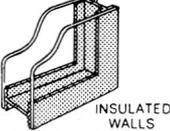
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