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The BEGONIAN



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New National Officers

The Ballot Committee reported that the following officers were elected to serve the American Begonia Society from their installation on August 28, 1976 until the new officers are elected in 1978:

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Nathan Randall

Second Vice President —

Evelyn Cronin

Third Vice President —

Ralph Corwin

Secretary — Rochelle Rose

Treasurer — Gilbert Estrada

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The Board of Directors will meet at South Gate Auditorium, October 25th at 7:30 p.m.

Deadline for the December issue is October 28.

THE BEGONIAN

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

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 NURII

Cover photograph by Gordon Lepisto

Begonia nurii is the subject of the second special photograph submitted by Gordon Lepisto (see September cover story). The pink-tinged buds are featured in this close-up along with one of the white flowers. Beneath the inflorescence, one can see a hint of the light olive-green leaves with silver spotting. The leaves are medium sized with a roundish, cupped shape and the leaf margins are somewhat undulate. Note the eyelashes similar to *B. bowerae nigra-marga* along the reddish-brown margins.

B. nurii is a rhizomatous begonia from tropical Malaya, which was described by Edgar Imscher in 1929. It was rather slow to appear in the collection of begonia hobbyists. Until the use of terrariums and bowls for maintaining humidity became popular, it definitely remained in very

limited cultivation. By the late 60's Chuck Tagg reported that he was using brown sphagnum moss as a growing medium. His observations included the fact that it requires about as much light as an African violet to bring to bloom. Others have indicated that they do not feel that it is as difficult to maintain as is *B. prismatocarpa*. The growers in naturally humid areas, including Alice Nierenberg of Florida, have cautiously reported that *B. nurii* can be grown on an open bench or sill away from direct sunlight. And experiments under fluorescent lights show that it will thrive when placed with the top of the leaves 6" from the tubes. Helpful suggestions from ABS members about their experiences have greatly increased the number of persons who can enjoy *B. nurii* as part of their plant collections. P.B.

FALL CARE FOR TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

The arrival of fall means that those beautiful tuberous begonias will begin to look faded and dry. The time has come to move the plants to a less conspicuous spot and allow them to go dormant naturally. Most of the leaves will drop, and at this point, you should no longer water them. Allow the stems to separate from the tuber without breaking or cutting them off. When this has occurred, the tubers should be lifted out of the soil, washed thoroughly and dried in the sun for a few days. They should be stored in a cool, dry, ventilated spot. Keep



them separated and uncovered, protected from frost and moisture. They will remain dormant until spring. If you have fed and watered your plants carefully all this year, the tubers will show buds next spring and you'll be ready to enjoy them as much as you did this year.

Adapted from: "Is Growing Tuberous Begonias Your Hang-Up?" by Walter Pease, *The Begonian*, May, '74, page 111.

1976 BEGONIA HERITAGE SHOW AWARDS

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY AWARD
Alva Graham

HERBERT P. DYCKMAN SERVICE
AWARD
Gordon Lepisto

ALFRED D. ROBINSON MEDAL
No Award

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
PERPETUAL AWARD FOR BEST BE-
GONIA IN SHOW

Exhibitor: A. N. "Pinky" Harrison
Exhibit: *B. 'Medora'*

ABS SWEEPSTAKES TROPHY
(Grower with most blue ribbons in the
begonia divisions)

Exhibitor: Mabel Corwin

CULTURAL AWARDS:

Mabel Corwin: *B. 'Vista'* — 98 points
A.N. "Pinky" Harrison; *B. 'Medora'*
— 96.4 points

Mabel Corwin: *B. bowerae nigramarga*
— 94 points

Mona Kosmatka: *B. 'Delia Marleau'* —
94 points

Jean Pasko: *B. 'Rudy'* — 90.3 points

DIVISION A — EDNA KORTS PER-
PETUAL TROPHY FOR BEST CANE-
LIKE BEGONIA

Exhibitor: A. N. "Pinky" Harrison
Exhibit: *B. 'Sophie Cecile'*

DIVISION B — HELEN BAILEY ME-
MORIAL PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR
BEST SHRUB-LIKE BEGONIA

Exhibitor: Mabel Corwin
Exhibit: *B. 'Mabel Corwin'*

DIVISION C — ABS BEST THICK-
STEMMED BEGONIA TROPHY

Exhibitor: Jean Pasko
Exhibit: *B. 'Rudy'*

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

Exhibitor: Mabel Corwin
Exhibit: *B. bowerae nigramarga*

DIVISION F — GONDA HARTWELL
CHALLENGE TROPHY FOR BEST
REX CULTORUM BEGONIA

Exhibitor: Mabel Corwin
Exhibit: *B. 'Vista'*

DIVISION G — PALOS VERDES BE-
GONIA FARM CHALLENGE TRO-
PHY FOR BEST TUBEROUS OR SEMI-
TUBEROUS BEGONIA

Exhibitor: Margaret and Paul Lee
Exhibit: *B. richardsiana*

DIVISION H — INGLEWOOD
BRANCH MEMORIAL PERPETUAL
TROPHY FOR BEST SPECIES BE-
GONIA

Exhibitor: Dennis Torzeski
Exhibit: *B. olsoniae*

DIVISION I — SAN GABRIEL VAL-
LEY PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR
BEST BEGONIA GROWN IN A CON-
TAINED ATMOSPHERE

Exhibitor: Ethel Talley
Exhibit: *Symbegonia fulvo-villosa*

DIVISION J — SAN MIGUEL
BRANCH PERPETUAL AWARD FOR
BEST HYBRID BEGONIA IN CULTI-
VATION FOR 25 YEARS OR MORE

Exhibitor: A.N. "Pinky" Harrison
Exhibit: *B. 'Medora'*

DIVISION K — BEST SAN DIEGO
HYBRID TROPHY

Exhibitor: Mabel Corwin
Exhibit: *B. 'Purple Petticoats'*
Hybridizer: Margaret and Paul Lee

DIVISION L — BEST NOVEL GROWN
BEGONIA

Exhibitor: Florence Richetta
Exhibit: *B. 'Ann Meyers'*

DIVISION M — AMERICAN BE-
GONIA SOCIETY PERPETUAL TRO-
PHY FOR BEST NEW BEGONIA
INTRODUCTION AND JOHN THIE-
BEN PERPETUAL AWARD FOR BEST
NEW RHIZOMATOUS BEGONIA

Exhibitor: Mona Kosmatka
Exhibit: *B. 'Delia Marleau'*
Hybridizer: Goldie Frost

DIVISION N — WILLIAM BOWER
MEMORIAL PERPETUAL TROPHY
FOR NEW INTRODUCTION BY A
COMMERCIAL NURSERYMAN

Exhibit: *B. conchifolia* x *B. 'Bokit'*
Nursery: Woodruff's Fairyland
Gardens
Grown by: Thelma O'Reilly

DIVISION O—BESSIE RAYMOND
BUXTON BRANCH AWARD FOR
BEST BEGONIA COLLECTION OF 5
BEGONIAS

Exhibitor: A. N. "Pinky" Harrison

DIVISION P—THEODOSIA BURR
SHEPHERD BRANCH PERPETUAL
TROPHY FOR BEST BEGONIA
GROWN BY A NOVICE

Exhibitor: Dennis Torzeski

Exhibit: *B. 'Al Clark'*

DIVISION R—ABS AWARD FOR
BEST EDUCATIONAL AWARD

Exhibitor: Theodosia Burr Shepherd
Branch

Exhibit: Geographic Origins of Species
Begonias

Demonstrator: Louise Bower

DIVISION S—GORDON LEPISTO
MEMORIAL AWARD FOR BEST
PHOTOGRAPHIC ENTRY

Exhibitor: Mildred Thompson

Exhibit: Black and white print of *B.
masoniana*

DIVISION T—ABS AWARD FOR
BEST PLANTER

Exhibitor: Al Clark

DIVISION U—ARTHUR STRAND-
BERG PERPETUAL AWARD FOR
BEST FERN

Exhibitor: The Plant Shop

Exhibit: *Lemmaphyllum microphyllum*

DIVISION V—SAN DIEGO BROME-
LIAD SOCIETY AWARD FOR BEST
BROMELIAD

Exhibitor: Mary Birchell

Exhibit: *Aechmea 'Ensign'*

DIVISION V—BEST OTHER SHADE
PLANT TROPHY

Exhibitor: The Plant Shop

Exhibit: *Nepenthes raffelsiana*

DIVISION X—MARGARET ZIESEN-
HENNE TROPHY FOR BEST BE-
GONIAS IN AN INDOOR SETTING

Exhibitor: Dennis Torzeski

DIVISION Z—WILLIAM L. TAY-
LOR AWARD FOR BEST HANGING
BASKET BEGONIA

Exhibitor: Dennis Torzeski

Exhibit: *B. olsoniae*

PRIZE WINNERS

Grand prize winners at the Be-
gonia Heritage Show were:

Raymond B. Crawford of Oakham,
Massachusetts, \$200

Mrs. James Bailie of Lakewood,
California, \$100

Sylvia Beck of Los Angeles,
California \$50

Lola Knauer of Ann Arbor,
Michigan, \$50

Katherine Weaver of San Diego,
California, \$50

Nancy Rentfro of Tucson, Arizona,
The Thompson Begonia Guide,
3 volumes

Many, many prizes and gifts of
merchandise were awarded. These
were donated by the following firms
and persons:

Union Carbide, Agricultural Systems
Shultz Company

Corona Clipper Company

Swift Agricultural Chemicals
Corporation

Bandini Fertilizer Company
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Association

Southern California Greenhouse
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Edward and Millie Thompson

Thelma and Tim O'Reilly

The Show Committee wishes to
thank all donors for their generosity.
The Show Committee also wishes to
thank Walter J. Barnett who was in-
strumental in obtaining most of these
prizes, and Dennis Torzeski for his
assistance.

BEGONIA MYSTERIES

II. What is Begonia "alnifolia"

By J. Doorenbos

Dept. of Horticulture, P.O. Box 30, Wageningen, the Netherlands

One of the many new species of *Begonia* which Alphonse de Candolle described in his monograph of 1859 was *Begonia alnifolia*, the begonia with the leaves of an alder tree. The type specimen is from Columbia, but it has not been found there since. It is common in Costa Rica, however, and it also has been reported from Venezuela.

The species was not mentioned in horticultural literature until Mrs. Helen K. Krauss gave a cursory, but on the whole correct description of it, adding: "seed was recently introduced from Costa Rica" (*Begonias for American Homes and Gardens*, p. 147). This was in 1947. In 1959, there was a picture of *B. alnifolia* in Alfred B. Graf's *Exotica* 2. However, this is not the species of De Candolle. At some time, between 1947 and 1959, the true *B. alnifolia* must have disappeared, leaving only a label, which subsequently became attached to another plant. Who is this mysterious stranger, which for want of a name we shall have to call *Begonia* "alnifolia"?

This new plant under optimum conditions may reach 6 ft. The leaves are elliptic-oblong, rather small (up to 3 by 1 1/2 in.) The flowers are white, with 4 petals in the male and 5 petals in the female ones. (The true *B. alnifolia* A.D.C. has leaves about twice as large, and flowers with only two petals.) In addition to the picture in *Exotica* there is another on page R-16 of *The Thomp-*



B. ottonis Walp.?

son Begonia Guide. Twice I received material of it from American begonia friends, so it seems that the intruder is now firmly established.

In Europe this plant is not completely unknown. It is occasionally found in botanic gardens, where it is invariably called *Begonia ottonis*. This name was given by Walpers in 1843 to living material brought by Eduard Otto from Caracas in Venezuela. Walpers' short description agrees rather closely with our plant, except that it states that the leaves are serrate, the teeth topped by hairs, while our plant has crenate leaves with hairs, if present at all, between rather than on top of the teeth. Another difference concerns the leaf stalks. Walpers writes that the leaves have short petioles, but in our plant they can be up to 1 (occasionally even 2) in. long. However, this depends on the growth conditions. When the plants are grown in the shade and in a good rooting medium the petioles are long, but when grown in the sun, in too small a pot, or in a medium that is too saline, the leaves are almost sessile.

All considering, I would not hesitate to regard *B. ottonis* Walp. as the legitimate name for our plant, if Smith and Schubert had not stated (in *The Begoniaceae of Colombia*, 1946) that this name is a synonym of *B. guaduensis*. Now there can be no doubt that *B. "alnifolia"* is not *B. guaduensis*, so either *B. ottonis* is not *B. guaduensis*, or *B. "alnifolia"* is not *B. ottonis*, it is impossible that both statements are true. This means that we have to take a closer look at *B. ottonis*.

We already saw that Walpers' description is very short. He does not even describe the flowers. For this we have to turn to Klotzsch's classical book of 1855. He does not describe the flowers either, but as he puts the species in his genus *Donaldia*, one may assume that the flowers of his material (living plants from the botanic garden at Berlin) were characteristic of *Donaldia*, i.e. that the male flowers had two petals, the female ones five, and that there were three bifid styles. Another significant detail is that he says that the inflorescences are 4-5 in. across and borne in the leaf axils. As *B. guaduensis* has much larger inflorescences, borne terminally, styles with more than two branches, and 4 male petals, Klotzsch's living plant cannot have belonged to this species. Unfortunately, he also cites a herbarium specimen collected by Moritz in Caracas. This still exists and there can be little doubt that it is *B. guaduensis*. But the specimen is far from complete and Klotzsch cannot have based his description on it.

We now have to ask ourselves, is Klotzsch's *Donaldia ottonis* our *Begonia*

"alnifolia"? It seems to me that there is generally a good agreement between the two, except for the difference in the edge of the leaves, already noted (Klotzsch copies Walpers here) and the fact, implicit by the placing in *Donaldia*, that the male flowers have 2 petals. Our plant has 4; it is true that the inner two are very small, but it is difficult to see how they could have escaped the sharp eye of such an observant botanist as Klotzsch.

There is an additional bit of evidence. Unfortunately, it cuts both ways. In the 1858 edition of the *Catalogue* of the Botanic Garden at Bogor, J. Hasskarl describes as *Titelbachia complicata* a plant he had received from the Amsterdam Botanic Garden as *Begonia ottonis*. It is, however, not Klotzsch's plant; from the detailed description it is clear that it is *B. guaduensis*.

Therefore, those who hold that *B. ottonis* is synonymous with *B. guaduensis* have two arguments: that fact that Klotzsch cites under his *Donaldia ottonis* a herbarium specimen of Moritz that is *B. guaduensis* and the fact that in his time the Amsterdam Botanic Garden grew a *Begonia ottonis* which also was none other than *B. guaduensis*. On the other hand, the *Donaldia ottonis* described by Klotzsch and, one must assume, grown as *Begonia ottonis* at Berlin (where Otto had been superintendent!), is certainly not *B. guaduensis*, and conversely, when Hasskarl unwittingly received *B. guaduensis* from Amsterdam, he did not think that this could be the true *B. ottonis*.

It seems to me we have to assume that around 1855 two different

plants were grown under the name *Begonia ottonis*, one of which was *B. guaduensis* (*Tittelbachia compli-cata* Hassk.) and the other probably the true *B. ottonis* Walp. (*Donaldia ottonis* Kl.) If this is true, one wonders from where and by whom these species were imported. A simple answer would be: both from Venezuela, *B. ottonis* by Otto and *B. graduensis* possibly by Moritz.

But if *B. ottonis* (our *B. "alnifolia"*) really came from Venezuela, why has it never been found again? Considering the conditions prevailing in botanic gardens, a possible hypothesis could be that Otto imported *B. guaduensis* after all, but that crowding with other species led to hybridization, resulting in a hybrid which replaced the original plant. Although quite a few cases could be

cited where this occurred, the hypothesis that it happened here can be ruled out. *B. guaduensis* has 104 chromosomes and would therefore have passed on 52 chromosomes to its hybrid, which in addition would have received half of the chromosomes of the parent. *B. "alnifolia"* has only 30 chromosomes and could only be a hybrid of two species with a low chromosome number. It is hard to see which these could be. So far, the only other American species found to have 30 chromosomes is *Begonia ulmifolia* Willd. This is rather striking in view of the fact that Klotzsch united *B. ulmifolia* and *B. ottonis* in his genus *Donaldia*.

What shall we conclude about *Begonia "alnifolia"*? I am inclined (1) to identify it with *B. ottonis* Walp., (2) to place it in the section *Donaldia*, and (3) to consider Venezuela its home country. The reader may object that the proof for (1) is not conclusive, that (2) is incorrect because our plant has 4 male petals, not 2 as the other species of *Donaldia*, and that (3) is also doubtful because it depends solely on the correctness of (1). I agree that I have not solved my case; part of the mystery remains.



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CULTURE OF BEGONIAS

By Al Clark, San Diego, California

Volume Three of *The Thompson Begonia Guide* by Mildred and Edward Thompson complements and completes the work already published in their first two volumes by concentrating on cultural considerations of the begonias introduced in those first volumes.

A definitive discussion of how to grow begonias is a monumental endeavor because of the great diversity of begonias and of the many differences of cultural requirements for each. The Thompsons reduce this task to manageable proportions by organizing begonia culture with the horticultural classification system developed by Rudolf Ziesenhenné and revised by the Thompsons for use throughout the *Guide*. Horticultural classification groups begonia varieties with similar characteristics and similar cultural requirements.

A section on general culture provides such pointers for growing all begonias as soils, potting, nutrition, pests, etc. Ample photographs throughout illustrate and augment all discussions.

In addition to basic culture, the Thompsons also offer suggestions and techniques for unique or special methods of growing and displaying such as terrariums, hanging containers and naturalistic plantings. For

many of these special techniques the Thompsons solicited the knowledge of these experts who have contributed to this volume:

- Gordon Lepisto —
"Walk-in-terrariums"
- Marie Donnelly —
"Window Gardening"
- Jack Golding —
"Fluorescent Light"
- Belva Kusler — "Hybridizing"

For this reviewer, the greatest attraction of this volume is the pictorial review section which displays more than 330 black and white photographs of specimen begonias grown by the Thompsons. Many of the beautiful plants depicted are difficult and unusual varieties demanding to grow. Therefore, this section is not only educational but also is the best possible promotion for Volume Three: if the Thompsons can grow begonias so well, their cultural advice must be sound!

Also interesting are the many reproductions of old-time pen and ink illustrations and frontispieces from old horticultural and botanical publications. Lastly, a very pleasant surprise is the very complete bibliography of begonia references which is extremely helpful to those enthusiasts who wish to further their knowledge of BEGONIACEAE.

Editor's note:

Another book by the Thompsons, *Begonia Culture*, published by David McKay Company, will be released soon. It covers some of the same material as Volume 3 of the *Guide* but is not identical in content.

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and terrarium begonias. Catalogue 25¢

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Errors and Changes

Here are some changes to be marked in the past issues of the *Begonian* to help smooth any confusion they may have caused the reader.

In the August issue on page 222, the article written by Herbert Warrick which was referred to, originally appeared in the May 1959 issue on page 102. Mr. Warrick has been a member of ABS for 22 years and has contributed much to the Society. We hope we can live up to the goals he has set for all of us.

We apologize to author Philip Seitner for several errors in his very interesting article, "The Role of Insects in Begonia Pollination," in the June issue. The second line of the heading of page 148 should read *Aspects and Opinions*. On page 152, right column, line 20 the words *corolla color* should be replaced with *perianth color*. There was an omission in the text on page 150, paragraph 1, line 16. The missing words are printed here in italics: "opinion that insect pollination *may be significant in a large number of Begonia species in the wild and that wind pollination* probably occurs as well, but . . ."

In the Seed Fund in June, the seeds offered as Jn 4 are for *Begonia metallica*. The name *incarnata* is incorrectly applied according to M. L. MacIntyre, supplier of the seeds.

The cover subject of the May issue was a lovely rex begonia. Joe Bond wrote: "I can only assume that this 'Abenrote' is the same as 'Abendrot'. Why or where its spelling was changed I don't know . . . This plant is indeed a very outstanding plant and a fine addition to any collection."

Bill Cook of the Plant Shop's Botanical Gardens responded to the request for other grower's experience. His comments appear below.

B. 'Abendrot'

By Bill Cook, Reseda, California

I was delighted to see Begonia 'Abendrot' ('Abenrote') on the May cover, but a little surprised at the name. We are offering 'Abenrote' (sic) in our catalog so I immediately ran out to see why our plants look different from your cover photo.

We have a collection of many of Teupel's plants all of which Sylvia Leatherman obtained, we believe, directly from Teupel and we in turn from her. Our plants are almost entirely covered with very uniform silver pebbling on a dark maroonish-red leaf with prominent veining . . . veining and leaf shape same as your cover photo. For us the plant is very stable and generally shows little variation. On examining all of the leaves we found one or two that showed large patches of silver or white as if the pebbling ran together. We suspect that due to heavy heat of Panama Mr. Bond may be experiencing a rapid growth causing the silver to occur over most of the leaf surface. The two plants may well be the same, though startlingly different on initial examination. I have a hunch that if we traded climatic conditions our plants would react accordingly . . .

It is possible that *B.* 'Abendrot' could have come from *B.* 'Inka' selfed. Also *B.* 'Abendrot' is quite mildew resistant which would make it a good one for the tropics.

3" PER HOUR

By Tony Borrero, Sacramento, California

Reprinted from the *Begonia Leaf*

Man has always been fascinated and has marveled at the uncanny ability of his companion creatures that surround him in this world. He has always been amazed at their ability to fly, their adaptability to environment, their range in size, their astounding feats of reproduction and their capability to survive.

Have you ever stopped to watch with intense interest the busy hustle and bustle of an ant colony? Have you ever wondered how they can lift and carry 50 times their own weight, and pull 300 times their own weight? This is equivalent to man pulling three 10-ton trucks at the same time!

Have you ever watched a grasshopper jump and wished you could jump as high and as far in one leap? This would be equivalent to you jumping one-third the length of a football field in one giant leap for mankind.

After a rainfall, have you ever marveled at the silver ribbons of track engraved upon the dewy surface by the common garden snail? Have you ever wondered why this creature carries his own mobile home with him as he speeds along at the marvelous speed of 3 inches per hour?

These complex, misunderstood and unwanted creatures that you have been plucking at all year long have been around for many centuries. They have been found from the depths of the ocean to the desert of North Africa. They come in all sizes, shapes and forms. They have been seen to completely cover telephone

poles 30 feet high. They have been seen to encrust a highway so heavily as to make driving hazardous and impossible.

Land snails are hermaphroditic and able to fertilize themselves and reproduce; however, they are also capable of engaging in a nuptial dance which is elaborately conducted in a studied slow motion style which can preoccupy them for hours. They lay eggs on schedule, year after year, by some complex internal timing mechanism which we are still unable to understand. Although the mating takes place in May or June, strings of clear, gem-like eggs are not laid until July or August.

Snails owe much of their ability to survive to their protective shells which they can completely retract into if danger threatens. They have four antenna-like devices which protrude from their heads. The forward pair house very primitive eyes in their tips. The shorter antennae are extremely sensitive organs of touch. All four can be retracted rapidly if danger is present.

Snails and slugs can be very destructive creatures in a garden or greenhouse. They love wet, cool, shady areas and feed at night or cloudy, damp days. They chew tender plants with a rasp-like tongue which contains up to 25,000 short teeth which are replaced as they wear out. They are attracted to many types of tender plants *except* Bird of Paradise.

(Continued on page 281)



Portion of Winning Garden

Photo by R. L. Kennedy

Green Rosette Won by San Miguel Branch

The San Miguel Branch proudly displayed a large Green Rosette at its last branch meeting. The Rosette signified a special award made for an outstanding display at the Southern California Exposition at Del Mar June 21st through July 5th. The certificate of commendation cited the "quality of plants, color and design in a naturalistic setting."

In addition, the Branch received a Blue Ribbon, a Red Ribbon, a marble and walnut Trophy for their shade garden using begonias, and two substantial cash prizes for their efforts.

Dennis Torzeski, Show Chairman, assisted by Ray Sodomka and Frank Stewart, used over 150 begonia plants from branch members plus other plants for background to create the garden.

BRINGING HOME THE BEGONIAS

In all parts of the country there are Betty Buyers and Gil Newgrowers who were delighted with the displays of begonias and rushed to the plant sale tables to buy a bunch of small plants to start on *the* begonia collection that will win all the prizes at the shows next year. If Betty and Gil were lucky, they also listened to the advice of the local branch salesman who told them what to do with the new plants.

By now the enthusiasm that assured Betty and Gil that they could grow begonias is beginning to wane, the plants may be drooping, and unless they get help, Betty and Gil may decide that they do possess "brown thumbs" and hustle off to the tennis courts via the city dump. And they may never know the pleasures of growing that prize begonia.

If you are a Betty Buyer or Gil Newgrower, you should follow these steps. Take a good look at the little plants you have just brought home. See if they are healthy and clean-looking, if the leaves are perky and firm. Have the plants been in a hot car on the way home? Would a place in the shade be welcome? If the soil is dry, how about some water. Save the ice cubes for yourself — begonias like tepid water. If you have it, Vitamin B-1 in the water will help overcome the shock of being moved to a new location. Now for a good rest.

Check the plants daily to see their condition. Note the soil. Most new

growers give the little begonias too much water and flood them to death. When the leaves start to lose luster or look limp, it is time to water and to begin to use a weak plant food solution. Pretty soon the plants will respond to your watchful care and will show signs of growth. If you suspect that your new plants are troubled by insects or disease, get help fast from the *folks who sold you the plants* or your local nurseryman.

While your plants are becoming used to you, you should start to learn a little more about begonias. Find a friend who can help you with problems. Send for the ABS booklet, *Begonias in General*. Learn which type of begonia you have. How you continue to handle your plants will depend upon their types. Locate a branch where you can learn the next steps to follow. Join a Round Robin about Begonia Basics. Be prepared to replot the thriving plants as they outgrow their small containers.

Most readers of the *Begonian* are not Betty Buyers or Gil Newgrowers. We hope readers will share this advice and their own knowledge with the Bettys and Gils whom they know.

plant talk!

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BEGONIA BOOKSHELF

By Ruth Pease

Several of the original watercolor paintings of Mrs. Alice M. Clark were on display at the recent ABS Show and Convention in San Diego. After seeing these originals and the galley proof of Mrs. Clark's book, *Begonia Portraits*, many persons ordered advance copies of the soon-to-be-released book from Mrs. Clark herself.

This publication is to be a limited edition with only 1,000 copies printed. Each copy will be numbered. Without doubt, *Begonia Portraits* will become a collector's item.

Begonia Portraits is illustrated and written by Mrs. Clark. The publication reproduces the sketches and articles that were printed in the *Begonian* from 1943-1949 and includes 40 color and 25 black and white reproductions of the original watercolor paintings and sketches of begonias done by Mrs. Clark in the '40's. Her latest illustration of Thelma O'Reilly's hybrid, *B. 'Universe'*, is included in the book. This true-to-life illustration of *B. 'Universe'* is a clear indication that Mrs. Clark still has that magic touch of being able to paint begonias in such fine detail that one imagines he or she can feel, touch or pick up the plant depicted.

Mrs. Clark's education was in oil painting. The watercolor paintings done so beautifully with all the true shadings of begonia foliage and bloom, depicting the fine hairs and shadings on the leaves of plants such as *B. scharffiana* and the lovely cresting of *B. 'Crestabruchi'* together with so many other details, were ac-

complished by Mrs. Clark without having had the benefit of actually studying the fine art of painting with watercolors.

There is no way one could sketch these begonias or paint them with watercolors without having studied the plants themselves. Her descriptions are accurate.

In the Foreword, Mrs. Clark writes: "Before turning to the gallery of begonia portraits, walk with me through what might be called the foyer. The first step introduces a brief glimpse of my life, so you may understand . . . the reasons for reproducing them now."

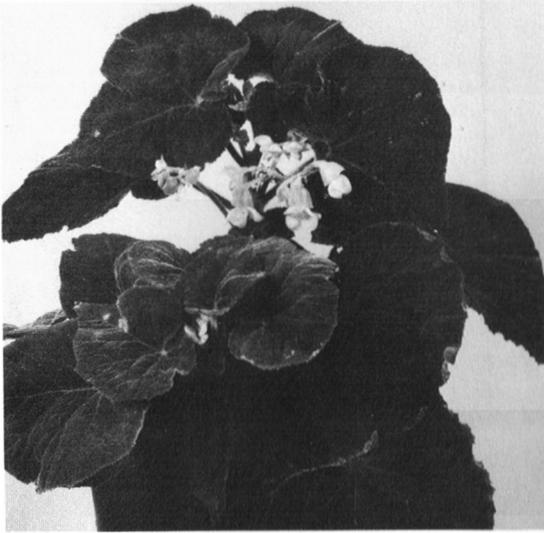
For any artist, this book with its outstanding illustrations is a lesson in itself; for the student of the begonia, it gives the opportunity of learning what is meant by *seeing*, perhaps for the first time, textures of foliage of different begonias, the habit of growth and the blooms.

The true beauty of Mrs. Clark's artistry is that we are able to *feel* the begonias sketched and painted in watercolors. These begonia portraits are not like fine photographs. These "portraits" have *life*.

The theme of this year's ABS Annual Show and Convention was Begonia Heritage. Mrs. Clark's work is a part of that heritage.

The holiday season will soon be upon us. *Begonia Portraits* may be obtained from Mrs. Alice M. Clark by writing to her at 3634 Jennings Street, San Diego, California 92106. Send \$15.00 plus 64¢ postage. California residents add 6% sales tax.

BEGONIA 'VELVET QUEEN'



In 1914 the famous French grower and breeder Emile Lemoine introduced *Begonia* 'Venusta' which he had obtained from a cross between *B. decora* and *B. cathayana*. According to Chevalier, this hybrid had disappeared by 1938. However, he was wrong; the plant was, and is, still grown, although it has become very rare. In 1940 T. H. Everett of the New York Botanic Garden renamed it *Begonia* 'Velvet Queen'. The original name could not be retained because (in 1914) there was already a *B. venusta*. The latter, a species from Malaya described by King in 1902, is still in cultivation.

Begonia 'Velvet Queen', which I obtained from the collection of the City of Paris where it is still grown as *B.* 'Venusta', is a rather compact plant with velvety leaves, much like those of *B. cathayana* but darker green, and a duller crimson at the back. The flowers are pinkish, the male ones being shed in the bud as is often in the case of hybrids.

In the *Begonian* of August 1961 Dr. G. Morel reported on his efforts to repeat Lemoine's cross. Pollinations of *B. cathayana* with *B. decora* were unsuccessful, but the reverse crossing gave some seed. The hybrid was not identical with *B.* 'Velvet Queen', so Morel called it *B.* 'Versailles'.

This year I made the same crosses and had a similar experience as Dr. Morel: *B. decora* could be used as a seed parent, but not as a pollen parent. I obtained a fair amount of seed which I sent directly to the ABS Seed Fund, so I don't know what kind of plant will grow from it: *B.* 'Velvet Queen', *B.* 'Versailles', or both, or again something different. I hope interested members will be successful with the seed and I am looking forward to their results.

Comments should be sent to: J. Doorenbos, Dept. of Horticulture, P.O. Box 30, Wageningen, the Netherlands.

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
- Ot 1 — *B. acida*. Shrub-like, hairy-leafed, compact plant. Large seer-sucker, puckered leaves of fresh apple-green. Flowers in spring, dainty white on stems standing well above the foliageper pkt. .50
- Ot 2 — *B. decora* x *B. cathayana*. See article, *Begonia* 'Velvet Queen', on page 271per pkt. 1.00
- Ot 3 — *B. guaduensis*: from 4 sources. A shrubby begonia, up to 7 ft. high, much branched (more or less fan-shaped); flowers in winter in large bunches, white. The four lots are slightly different: the Panamanian plant is somewhat smaller; the Kew plant has very narrow petals; the Columbian plant has purple stems and pinkish flowers; I am unaware of the source, etc. of the fourthper pkt. 1.00
- Ot 4 — *B. involucrata*: 1853, Costa Rica. Fibrous upright, 1 to 2 ft. high, with thick trunk. Leaves hairy with short-pointed lobes. Flowers white, the young inflorescence enclosed by two large bracts, hence the nameper pkt. .50
- Ot 5 — *B. ludwigii*. Fibrous, upright, stem short and thick. Leaves hairy, star-shaped, the points are silver-tipped. Flowers are white.per pkt. 1.00
- Ot 6 — *B. luxurians*: Brazil species. Leaf like a small-scale palm, fuzzy and limp. Inflorescences are large and colorful, though individual cream-colored blossoms are tiny. The beauty of the foliage more than compensates for the modesty of the bloomsper pkt. .50
- Ot 7 — Brazil species: unidentified, probably new to science. Leaves are dark green and velvety, about 1½ inches long, in two rows on prostrate stems. Should not be grown in a pot but left to creep freely over the ground. A most interesting plantper pkt. .50
- Ot 8 — *B. semperflorens*. Just arrived from Oklahoma. Sturdy, upright plants, growing vigorously both indoors in winter and in the garden in summer. Flowers white and leaves with copper tinge indoors; flowers tinged with pink and leaves green outdoors. Makes a beautiful plantper pkt. .50, 3 for 1.00

Other seeds:

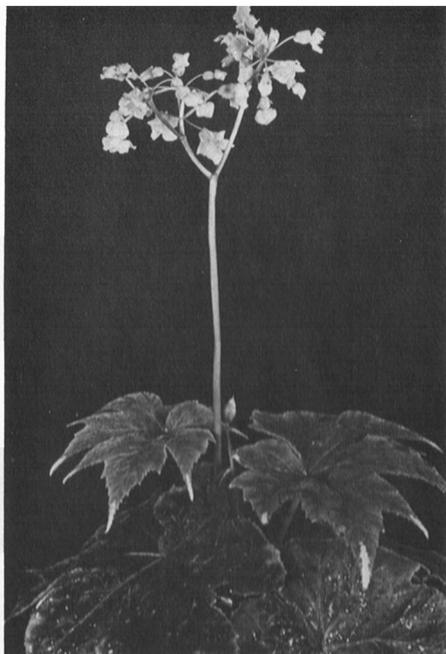
Poinciana gilliesii: Bird-of-Paradise Tree. Small, lacy tree from South America and Florida. Grows to 10 ft. in California. Blooms in large clusters of huge yellow blooms with long red sepals. A very showy plant and a very popular item10 seeds for .50

* * *

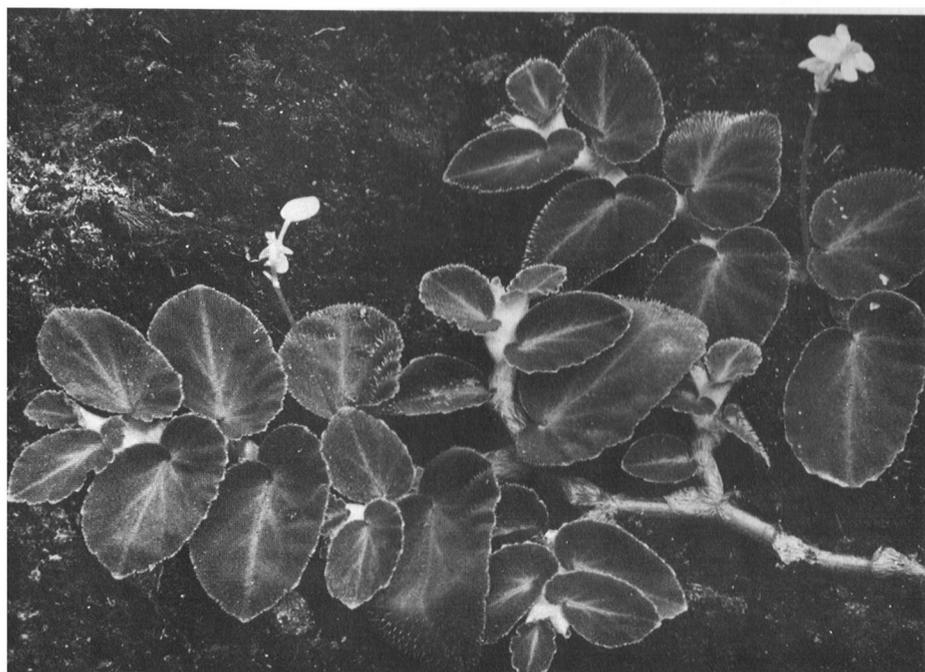
Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. California residents add 6% sales tax. Make checks or money orders payable in U.S. funds to Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. Mail to: Mrs. Pearl E. Benell, 10331 Colima Road, Whittier, CA 90604



B. guaduensis, Ot 3



B. ludwigii Irms., Ot 5



B. Unidentified species from Brazil, Ot 7

Seed Fund Photos by R. Jansen

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

And now we move on to fall. Many robins are breathing a sigh of relief because their begonias are getting a reprieve from the summer heat. Others are frantically trying to squeeze into their homes begonias that have had a summer outdoors. All the robins have had an enjoyable summer of sharing experiences with each other.

Joy Porter, Massachusetts, told us that, "In the greenhouse where I work every year another woman and I transplant 45,000 *semperflorens* begonias from the seedling flats to 4-inch pots. We have noticed that the plants are always in clumps, and if there is a single plant off by itself, it seldom is very vigorous. Always beneath the clumps we find a twig or big clumps of peat moss . . . so when I would take out a twig and find fifteen or twenty little seedlings perched on it like birds on the limb of a tree, I decided that begonias like something for their roots to cling to. From what I've read about begonias in the wild, this theory is upheld."

Joy also gave everyone this tip about making cuttings from begonia leaves. "On leaf cuttings try this. Turn the leaf over and make cuts with a sterilized razor, crosswise on the main stem about 1/2" apart, and on some of the veins that branch out from the main one. Wet a sponge (new) with boiling water, let cool, and fasten the leaf (top side up) to the sponge with small hairpins or bent paperclips . . . place under fluorescent lights in a plastic shoebox, sweater box, baggie, etc." Joy did this with a rex leaf and had plantlets

along the veins in four weeks. She warns, however, not to get the sponge too wet.

Ruby Ross, Alabama, also shared a hint for making leaf cuttings. "Someone told me to root begonias in water, but to add some other plant, (like wandering jew) that is already rooted and this does something that helps the begonia to root. Sounds crazy, but I tried it for five or six days (in the water) and then potted it in a rooting mix (half sand and half sphagnum moss) and it worked for me."

Also about cuttings, Mae Blanton, Texas, told us, "I learned a long time ago to put a slit in a peltate leaf right by the stem so the leaf couldn't hold water. Sometimes I just prick it with my fingernail or a knife and sometimes I just split it from stem to edge along the smaller side (bottom) of the leaf. This has really worked for me for any of the peltate leaves, which rot so often before rooting and growing a plant."

The robins also shared some interesting fertilizer formulas this summer, including these two from Carolyn Collman, Kansas, and Mabel Allen, California.

Carolyn's formula, which she found in a magazine and has had very good results with, is:

- 1 c. hot water
- 2 t. epsom salts
- 2 t. saltpetre
- 2 t. baking powder
- 2 t. Rapid Gro 23-19-17
- 2 t. Miracle Gro 15-30-15
- 2 t. of any *one* of the following:
 - Garden Life 10-52-10 OR

Henry Fields 10-52-10 OR
 Peters Variegated
 Special 5-50-17

Add another cup hot water and mix well. Refrigerate after mixing, and use 1/4 t. per gallon water, shaking well, for each use.

Mabel Allen's "formula" is really a foliar feeding program. Mabel sprays her plants alternately with clear ammonia, epsom salts, or borax once each month. She uses one teaspoon per gallon water, and uses one different one each month. She says she had noticed some improvement.

Robins are so willing to share their knowledge and begonia experiences with their robin friends. Why not write me and let me help you get involved in the Round Robin Program?

Debi Miller
 919 Hickory View Circle
 Camarillo, California 93010

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 Manager, Mabel Corwin.

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SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Two major plant shows within one month occupied the schedule of the San Francisco Branch. The Branch held its own Flower Show and Plant Sale on July 25th and then participated in the renowned San Francisco County Fair Flower Show at the end of August.

At the Branch Show 25 trophies were awarded and five cultural awards were presented, one in each of the major horticultural groups. The growers and the point scores of the prize plants were:

Tuberous — Alice and Isadore

Gold — 98

Rhizomatous — Audella and

Herbert Bloom — 96

Semperflorens — Hilda and Carl

Laipple — 93

Fibrous — Ilo and Glenn

Maynard — 91

Rex — Dena and Ernest Gotelli

— 91

At the County Fair Flower Show, winners of the Sweepstakes Trophies

were: Advanced — Carol and Red Spediacci, Intermediate — May and Richard Cheng, and Novice — Linda and John Molinu. Best in Show and Culture Awards were given to:

Gold Trophy for Best Tuberous

Alice and Isadore Gold

96 points

Lee Trophy for Best Rex

Bartley Schwarz

94 points

Boissier Trophy for Best

Semperflorens

Ona Shatraw

92 points

Kuthe Trophy for Best Red

Tuberous

Isadore and Alice Gold

94 points

Stettler Trophy for Best

Rhizomatous

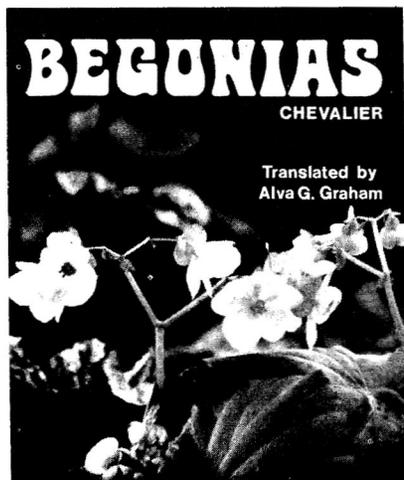
Claire and Ben Gotelli

93 points

E. Gotelli Trophy for Best Fibrous

May and Richard Cheng

90 points



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RESEARCH REPORT

By M. Carleton L'Hommedieu, *Research Director*

Our research for the year has concentrated on the compilation of materials for both the species and cultivar catalogs. This is a very time-consuming procedure and we have been most fortunate to have Ann Councill doing this job. Until recently she had been researching the materials at the National Agricultural Library in Washington, where one of the largest collections of plant catalogs has been assembled. Most of the cultivar material has been found in these horticultural catalogs.

Ann Councill has received her graduate degree now and Suzanne Bonner has begun where Ann left off to complete the search of the National Agricultural Library catalogs. There is still more researching to be

done for cultivars and hybrids. This will include locating additional important nursery catalogs that were missing in the Washington Library and the perusal of recent magazines and journals. She will continue to cull the *Bibliography of Agriculture* to locate promising citations where articles may contain unregistered names. These are all tasks which must be done before we have a finished project. During this year we hope to get started on the assembly of material for publication.

During the past year our receipts to the Fund were less than our disbursements. If we are to continue with the project, we shall need more cooperation from more branches.

Financial Report for the year Sept. 1, 1975 - Aug. 31, 1976

Balance on hand, Sept. 1, 1975	\$ 485.08
Receipts:	
Long Island Branch, 12 donations	120.00
Santa Clara Valley Branch	25.00
Monterey Bay Area Branch	50.00
Redondo Area Branch	35.00
Connecticut Branch	40.00
Newport Branch, Mr. Barnhill	25.00
The Shade Garden, Texas	10.00
Seed Fund	315.02
Mr. & Mrs. R. Ziesenhenne, In Memory of	
Dr. Grant McGregor	10.00
Ruth Merry	10.00
Burnell Yarick, Jr.	10.00
Gordon Lepisto	10.00
Mrs. Emil Hager	10.00
Mrs. Francis Cooley, Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Cooley,	
Mr. Paul Cooley	15.00
Interest	27.73
Total	\$1197.83
Disbursements — New York Botanical Garden Library	800.00
Balance on hand — August 31, 1976	\$ 397.83

IN MEMORIAM



Peggy McGrath

There is something for all of us in the following lines written by Peggy:

Dear God, go with me through
today

To guide my footsteps all the
way.

I want to help as I go along
To scatter good, by deed and
song.

May I see the good, ignore the
evil,

And always be friends with my
fellow people.

Peggy's life was one of caring and service. Caring for her church, her friends, her societies. Service to the extent that she was willing to give all she could of her time for her church, her friends, and the societies of which she was a member.

For many years Peggy had studied parliamentary law. When asked about any particular, she would research it, and support her opinion with page references. She was never too busy to help.

Many were indebted to Peggy because of her willingness to help in any way she could. At the time of her passing on August 17th, she was serving the American Begonia Society as a Vice-President and also as Parliamentarian, and had been nominated for the office of Treasurer. She was a member and Past President of the San Gabriel Branch.

— Walter Barnett

May Taft Drew

The death of May Taft Drew of the William Penn Branch was reported recently. She served as Vice President of the American Begonia Society from 1962 through 1964. In 1966 she was honored by the Society with the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award in recognition of material which aided members in their study and enjoyment of begonias. She was a contributor to the *Begonian* and had prepared the indices to the magazine for the years 1954 and 1964 through 1970. She also held offices in the William Penn Branch and served as its president in 1954.

Mrs. Drew was a librarian and a graduate of Wellesley College. Throughout her life, she contributed her professional skills on a voluntary basis in whatever community she lived. Until the last two or three years she had contributed a day a week to the Library of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and was recognized with a special award.

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**CONDENSED MINUTES
ABS BOARD MEETING
August 27, 1976**

Board of Directors of American Begonia Society met at 4:15 p.m. in West Coast Room, Royal Inn at the Wharf, 1355 Harbor Dr., San Diego, President Margaret Ziesenhenné presiding. Quorum of 28 officers was present, plus eight visiting members.

Mrs. Evelyn Cronin read ABS Aims and Purposes. President asked members to join in silent prayer in memory of Peggy McGrath, third vice president and parliamentarian, who passed away August 17.

Acting Secretary Rudolf Ziesenhenné read the minutes of the July 26th board meeting. Gilbert Estrada corrected a statement in the next to the last paragraph of page 2 to read: "Gil Estrada moved to accept the contract for mailing services of Jacqueline Garinger for another year at \$275 per month and five cents per copy over 3500 copies and for assuming the added duties of circulation manager with the Society beginning 9/1/76 and ending 8/31/77, no other bids having been received." The minutes were approved as corrected.

Bill Walton, chairman of the cost accounting and tax committee, gave a preliminary report.

Acting secretary read treasurer's report for 7/18/76 to 7/31/76. Balance 7/18/76 \$1427.19; receipts — membership and advertising, \$993.96; convention funds transfer \$500.00; miscellaneous \$139.16; total \$3062.31; disbursements \$1203.64; balance 7/31/76, \$1858.67.

President announced with regret the death of May Taft Drew in Massachusetts several months ago, information having been received from William Penn Branch of which Mrs. Drew was charter member; she had indexed the Begonian for many years.

Correspondence read by acting secretary: Garden Clubs of America requesting judging information.

House Plants and Porch Gardens Magazine requesting begonia article and photos.

Letter from Eastside President Verna

Schembrie enclosing \$8.00 donation from branch, proceeds of plants sold at branch show grown from Seed Fund seeds.

Letter and clipping from Jim Watson, garden columnist of **Mercer Island Reporter**, publicizing Eastside Branch and Seattle Branch shows weekend of August 15.

Branch reports: Tampa Bay Area Branch; Jacksonville Branch; Rubidoux Branch.

Paragraph deleted
by action of Board
of Directors

Letter 8/9/76 from V. R. Lantz, tax auditor, Internal Revenue Service, stating monies received by Edgar Bates, editor of Society's magazine, **The Begonian**, appears to constitute reimbursement for expenses incurred in editing and publishing magazine; no employment determination is made when taxable wage is not present in a working relationship.

Letter 8/12/76 from W. H. Connnett, district director, Los Angeles Internal Revenue Service, stating the ABS does not have sufficient control over the services of Pearl Benell to establish an employer-employee relationship. Mrs. Benell is self-employed and the ABS is required to issue a Form 1099, statement for recipients of miscellaneous income on an annual basis.

Membership secretary's report: Memberships processed 357; members in good standing 4224; received and deposited \$1844.46.

Muriel Perz moved that Velma Montgomery be approved for the auditing committee; seconded and passed.

Betty Tillotson moved that Louise Bower and Hattie Keller be approved for the ballot counting committee; seconded and approved.

Mrs. Perz moved the judging school director be authorized to send one set of judging course to Garden Clubs of America; seconded and passed.

Mrs. Benell moved that Twin Cities Branch of the ABS be authorized to

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change its name to Gordon Lepisto Branch of the ABS; seconded and carried.

The following branch reports were given by representatives: Buxton Branch, Evelyn Cronin; Knickerbocker Branch, Jack Golding; Long Beach Parent Branch, Mrs. Perz; Long Island Branch, James Wyrzten; Monterey Branch, Leslie Hatfield; Orange County Branch, Wanda Elin; Palomar Branch, Ralph Corwin; Potomac Branch, Mrs. Cronin; Redondo Area Branch, Mrs. Perz; Alfred D. Robinson Branch, Paul Lee; Sacramento Branch, Shirley Wilson; San Francisco Branch, Mrs. Benell; San Miguel Branch, Mr. Lee; Santa Barbara Branch, Barbara Philip; Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch, Nettie Daniels; Westchester Branch, Ruth Pease; and Whittier Branch, Mrs. Benell.

Lydia Austin, librarian, announced she had received the personal set of **Begonians** of the late Mrs. Drew and had sent them to Joseph Bond in Panama.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Rudolf Ziesenhenné,
Acting Secretary

CONDENSED MINUTES ABS MEMBERSHIP MEETING August 28, 1976

The Annual Membership Meeting of the American Begonia Society was called to order by President Margaret Ziesenhenné at 1:40 p.m., 8/28/76, in the banquet room of the Royal Inn at the Wharf, San Diego. Seventy members were present, quorum being 50. Rudolf Ziesenhenné was named Acting Secretary.

James Wyrzten of Long Island Branch read the Aims and Purposes of the ABS; a silent prayer in memory of Mrs. Peggy McGrath who died on August 17 followed.

Ralph Corwin moved that the minutes of the board meeting 8/27/76 be dispensed with; motion seconded and carried.

President Ziesenhenné thanked all the officers, branch directors, and members who have tirelessly served the ABS, with special thanks to those who helped to systematize the Society's actions throughout the country.

Memberships had increased by 1500 since 1974 when her term began.

She said she had not liked the idea of a two-year term, but during the two years plus five months, things have been squared with state and federal governments and the way is now open to improve non-profit status. She thanked the San Diego branches for their fine handling of the 1976 convention and show.

Charles Richardson, vice president, asked Out-of-Staters to get in touch with him at the Convention; he would tell his plans at the evening banquet.

The Treasurer's Report showed general fund balance as of 8/31/75 of \$202.24, with income of \$30,473.79, and disbursements of \$28,817.36 and a new balance as of 7/31/76 (11 months) of \$1,858.67. The Secretary read the Auditing Committee's report which showed a careful audit of the general fund and attached a list of checks still outstanding; the accounts were found in order according to the report signed by Avril Butler and Velma B. Montgomery, Audit Committee; Ethel M. Arnold, other member of the Committee, had audited the checking account of the Catalogue Fund and found \$97.36 balance correct. A letter expressed Mr. Porter's pleasure in having the opportunity to serve ABS and work with the officers.

Reports were given by the following committee heads: Finance, Walter Pease; Business Manager, Gilbert Estrada; Research and the Seed Fund, Pearl Benell; Nomenclature, R. Ziesenhenné; Librarian, Lydia Austin; Speakers' Bureau, Nathan Randall; Show, Betty Cooper; Historian, Betty Tillotson; Awards, Walter Pease; Judging School, Margaret Lee; Advertising Manager, Mabel Corwin; Editor, Edgar Bates; Accounting Committee, Bill Walton; and Branch Relations, Evelyn Cronin.

The report of the Balloting Committee, consisting of Douglas Lace, Santa Barbara Branch, and Louise Bower and Hattie Keller, Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch, Ventura, was read by the acting secretary: elected were: Charles A. Richardson, President; Nathan Randall, First Vice President; Evelyn Cronin, Second Vice President; Ralph Corwin, Third Vice President; Gilbert A. Estrada, Treasurer; and Rochelle Rose, Secretary.

Bill Walton moved that the work of the Accounting and Tax Committee be continued so that the branches may be informed of their responsibilities to maintain their non-profit status, and a separate corporation be formed under IRS Code 501 (c)(3) to accept and disburse funds for research which would be tax-deductible to the donors. Motion was seconded and carried.

There were no invitations for the 1977 convention. The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Rudolf Ziesenhenné,
Acting Secretary

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Ruth Taylor

Ruth Taylor of Clear Oaks, California, died August 14, 1976. She was the wife of Joseph Taylor who served as national President of the ABS in 1956 and Ways and Means Chairman in 1955. The Taylors were active members of the Redondo Branch before they moved to Clear Oaks.

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(Continued from page 267)

In this jet age of ours, the control of snails remains practically the same as it has been for many years. A gentle squeeze method, stomping, or handpicking continues to be the irresistible sport of serious gardeners. Snail baiting with metaldehyde is commonly used and several years ago controlling snails with popular brands of beer was all the vogue — until it was realized that there were better ways to use the beer.

In Europe, land snails do not present the problem that they do here in the United States because they are looked upon in an entirely different light. They are considered as an important source of food for human consumption. In France and Switzerland, millions of snails are consumed and exported annually to grace the tables of gourmets.

The next time you see a snail in your garden, stop a moment and wonder about God's little creature.

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BRANCH DIRECTORY

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

BUXTON BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members
Mrs. May Buck, Pres.
123 Robin Hill Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824

CONNECTICUT BRANCH

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

EAST BAY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.
Northbrea Community Church, Berkeley, Ca.
Julia M. Huwe, Secy
743 Albemarle St., El Cerrito, CA 94530

EASTSIDE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
590 116th Avenue N.E., Bellevue, Washington
Douglas Hart, Secy
6005 121st S.E., Bellevue, WA 98006

EDNA STEWART PITTSBURGH BRANCH

3rd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Phipps Conservatory
Laverta F. O'Leary, Secy
176 Plymouth St., Pittsburgh, PA 15211

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

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

FORT, ELSA BRANCH

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

GARDEN GROVE BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
New Community Meeting Center
11300 Stanford, Garden Grove, Ca.
Kathy Brown, Secy
10692 Bolsa, Apt. 14, Garden Grove, CA 92640

GERALDINE DALY BEGONIA BRANCH

1st Saturday, Homes of Members
Mrs. Arline G. Peck, Secy.
Eagle Peak Road, Pascoag, R.I. 02859

GLENDALE BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Glendale Federal Savings, 401 N. Brand
Mrs. Irene Grannell, Secy.
1431 Coronado Ter., Los Angeles, CA 90026

GREATER CHICAGO AREA BRANCH

Mrs. Barbara Berg, Secy
17 Oak Ridge Lane, Barrington, IL 60010

GREATER ROCHESTER BRANCH

Third Sunday, Members' homes
Thea S. Tweet, Secy.
280 Weymouth Dr., Rochester, N. Y. 14625

HAMPTON BRANCH

2nd Monday, 7:45 p.m.
Parrish Memorial Hall Southampton, NY
Katherine Sickles, Secy.
Locust Ave., Southampton, NY 11968

HOUSTON TEXAS BRANCH

4th Monday, 1 p.m.
Houston Garden Center, 1500 Herman Drive
Mrs. George LeBlanc, Secy
9310 Fairdale, Houston, TX 77042

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH

2nd Saturday, 1:00 p.m.
Members' homes
Ann M. Helton, Pres.
334 Brunswick Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32216

KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Horticultural Society of New York
128 West 58th St., New York
Samantha G. Langer, Secy.
361 East 50th Street
New York, NY 10022

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

2nd Sunday, 1:30 p.m. Community Room,
Coast Federal S & L,
6241 Spring St., Long Beach, California
Mrs. Jan Iwanylo, Secy.
3459 Karen, Long Beach, CA 90808

LONG ISLAND BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Planting Fields Arboretum
Oyster Bay, Long Island, N.Y.
Mrs. Michael Hecht, Secy.
2 Bonnie Court, Merrick, N.Y. 11566

MESQUITE BRANCH

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

MIAMI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
55 South West 17th Road, Miami, Florida
Mrs. Alma Crawford, Secy.
14250 Madison St., Miami, Florida 33158

MISSOURI BRANCH

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

MONTEREY BAY AREA BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Lighthouse and Dickman Sts., New Monterey, Calif.
Mrs. Mary Peterson, Sec'y.
24522 Pescadero Rd., Carmel, CA. 93921

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Mercury Savings and Loan Assn.
4140 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach
Miss Carol Ruane, Secy.
2133 Pacific Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
First Christian Church,
1130 E. Walnut Street, Orange, California
Mrs. Dorothy Porter, Secy.
19151 Lomita Ave., Orange, CA 92669

PALOMAR BRANCH

2nd Monday, 7:30 p.m.
Oceanside Savings, 249 S. Indiana St., Vista, CA
Mrs. Ann Shore, Secy.
P.O. Box 828, Fallbrook, CA 92028

PORTLAND BRANCH

Mrs. Otelia Klobas, Secy.
35330 S.E. Dunn Rd., Boring, Ore. 97002

POTOMAC BRANCH

4th Sunday, 2:00 p.m., Falls Church
Recreation Cntr., Great Falls & Little Falls Sts.
Falls Church, VA.
Alberta L. Cooke, Secy.
1930 Kennedy Dr., Apt. T-1
McLean, VA 22101

REDONDO AREA BRANCH

4th Friday, 7:30 p.m.
R. H. Dana School Cafeterium
135th St. and Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, Calif.
Mrs. Evelyn M. Isaac, Secy
2022 Bataan Rd., Redondo Beach, CA 90278

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 10:30 A.M. Homes of Members
Juana Curtis, Secy.
4107 Taos Dr., San Diego, Ca. 92117

RUBIDOUX BRANCH

4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m., West Riverside Memorial Hall
4393 Riverside Drive, Rubidoux, Ca.
Mrs. Cindy Gray, Secy.
22601 Whittier Street, Colton, CA 92324

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center
3300 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif.
Sandra Graves, Secy
9 Rosemead Circle, Sacramento, CA 95831

SALINE COUNTY BRANCH OF KANSAS

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

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center
Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way
Mrs. Kathy Donlin, Secy.
c/o 230 Jones St., #302, San Francisco, CA 94102

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.
Los Angeles State and County Arboretum
501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
Mrs. Evelyn M. Anderson, Secy.
450 Scholl Dr., Glendale, CA 91206

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 7:30 P.M.
Casa del Prado (Rm. 104)
Balboa Park, San Diego
Ruth Gilbert, Secy
4122 Mt. Bigelow Way, San Diego, CA 92117

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
2559 Puesta Del Sol
Mrs. Patricia Hill, Secy.
6549 Huntington Dr., Santa Barbara, CA 93111

SANTA CLARA VALLEY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
Security S & L Bldg.
Fremont and Mary Aves.
Sunnyvale, CA
Mrs. Elizabeth K. Sayers, Secy.
369 Ridge Vista Ave., San Jose, Ca. 95127

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:00 P.M.
Bethany Lutheran Church, 7400 Woodlawn Ave. N.E.
Judy Boling, Secy
10025 39th Southwest, Seattle, WA 98146

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Senior Citizens Bldg., 420 Santa Clara St.,
Ventura, CA
Dale Gaberson, Secy.
234 Corsicana Dr., Oxnard, CA 93030

SOUTH SEATTLE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Wm. Moshier Field House
430 South 156th Burien
Helen Harbord, Secy
17859 S.E. 196th Drive, Renton, WA 98055

TAMPA BAY AREA BRANCH

3rd Saturday, 1:00 p.m.
University of So. Florida, Student Chapel Bldg.
Mrs. Grace McDougall, Secy.
Plum St., Inverness Highlands
Inverness, Florida 32650

TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m., Bank of Fort Worth
Mrs. Richard Ellis, Secy.
2117 Hillcrest, Ft. Worth, Texas 76107

TEXASTAR BRANCH

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

TWIN CITIES BRANCH

Pat Burdick, Secy
1910 Skyline Dr., Burnsville, MN 55337

WESTCHESTER BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Citizens B&L Assoc.
5347 Sopolvoda Blvd., Culver City, Ca.
Barbara Mack, Secy.
424 Oregon St., El Segundo, CA 90246

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday 11:00 a.m. every month
Northway Mall Community Room
North Hills, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Marlo Treat, Secy
604 Nobletown Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15220

WHITTIER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Palm Park Community Center
8703 South Palm Avenue, Whittier
Miss Anne Ross, Secy.
14030 Ramona Drive, Whittier, Calif. 90606

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Noon Homes of Members
Mrs. Murdoch Davis, Sec'y.
256 Broughton Ln., Villanova, PA 19086

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Washington Picnic

Many branches held picnics in place of their usual meetings during the summer months. Often the groups visited a garden of one of the members to view begonias. The Eastside Begonia Society of Bellevue engaged in a working picnic. Their major activity was not eating or viewing, but gathering moss. Large quantities of the green moss were later used by the Branch at their August Show as an attractive carpet to surround and protect the plants. The moss can be used later for lining baskets and other uses.

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