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DEADLINES

Deadline for advertising and copy is the first day of the month preceding the date of issue.

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;

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- 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.



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THE LEES' HYBRIDS

By Dorothy S. Behrends, Encinitas, Calif.

Cover photograph of Begonia 'Pantom' by William Behrends

The begonia growing team of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Paul Lee of San Diego, more familiarly known as Paul and Marge Lee, is one of the reasons the hobby of raising begonias has remained popular among the garden clubs in the area.

Paul is a man retired from the Navy. After his retirement he went to work in the County Recorder's Office. Marge worked for a trade oriented newspaper. They have functioned as a team in the ABS. They have grown and studied begonias for the love of the plants. They have not commercialized their efforts even though they have propagated many, many plants and have developed many hybrids. At times they were the only active growing source in the area.

Whenever the Lees have accepted any position in any organization they belong to, they have never shirked responsibilities. Paul has never accepted an ABS elective office except that of National Director, sometimes a hard position to fill. Marge has served their beloved San Miguel Branch in every position, even more than once for some. They are also associate members of the A.D. Robinson and the Palomar Branches and they attend meetings. They are dependable and regular in attendance at the National Board meetings. Marge Lee is currently Judging Course Director, has been Chairman of Awards. Parliamentarian and other appointed positions. Both Paul and Marge are accredited senior judges and spend much time judging at various flower shows.

With all this outside activity one may wonder how or when they manage to maintain a beautiful specialized garden on the edge of one of the numerous barrancas in San Diego, a delightful setting. Some may consider it postage stamp size, but this garden contains a vast number of begonia species and varieties and is in beautiful condition at all times. The Lees do all their own gardening — no volunteer or hired help here.

There is another joy in knowing the Lees. If you are ever stumped as to the identification of a begonia, these people are able to give you the proper name and its background without having to look it up. This quick recognition comes from much actual handling of the plants. They do not bluff. If they do not know an answer they will say so.

As the delightful climate in San Diego County is well known around the world, many people come to the area to spend vacations. (In turn, few residents are interested in traveling elsewhere.) Many vacationers stop to visit the knowledgeable Lees and love to "talk begonias" intelligently with them.

Many old time ABS members became acquainted with begonias and the Society through Sylvia Leatherman. Sylvia and her husband, Buck, maintained the best stocked nursery around Los Angeles, prior to their retirement. When they observed a novice showing keen interest in be-



Paul and Marge Lee

gonias, they would give them an issue of the *Begonian*. That did it. The ABS soon acquired a new member. This writer freely admits that this is how she became a member, and the Lees were also Sylvia's introductees. It was 1952 when they became members.

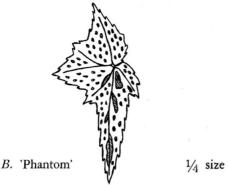
They did not become interested in hybridizing until 1957. Since that time, they have created some delightful hybrids. I shall describe only a few here, since Paul's rex hybrids are quite numerous and will require a separate article.

As the word "grex" is attached to the name of any begonia where many seedlings from one seed pod are distributed under the collective name, the Lees have tried to follow the predirected rules. This is the reason we find one or more begonias somewhat different but with the same name. I found an exciting Lee hybrid worthy of adding to any collection, named

Photo by Thelma O'Reilly

Begonia Phantom grex. This is a very distinctive medium cane stem begonia whether it is grown under natural light or artificial. When grown in a greenhouse under natural filtered sunlight, the new leaves emerge brownish-green with scattered а splotchy patterns of silver green on the surface; the underside of each new leaf is red, with the back of the splotches being light green. As the leaf matures, the brownish cast disappears from the surface and the red fades on the underside with the splotches remaining the same on the surface and the underside.

A sister seedling of the described grex may be one grown outdoors all year long (at least in southern California). It attains a height of about 30 inches with stalks producing enlarged nodes. The leaf growth is always clustered at the tips, each leaf being easily $4 \ge 8$ inches and dark green with no silver markings. Flow-



ers of heavy texture are borne in clusters and are light pink with rose borders.

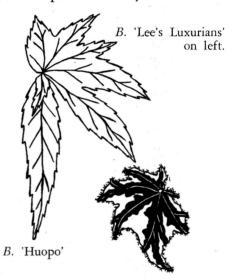
When one of the other sister seedlings is grown under artificial lights, one realizes why the begonia was named Phantom. It has a completely different appearance: the leaves remain deep green on the surface with a very wide band of silver from tip to tip with very few silver dots. A fascinating *Begonia*.



B. 'Paiute'

Begonia "Paiute" is a medium sized rhizomatous plant with closely set nodes. Six-inch petioles are light green, dotted with red and with a long white hair in each dot. As the young black green leaves mature they develop lighter green splotch patterns no two of which are alike. The leaves have eyelash hairs on the margins. It is an excellent window sill plant though direct sunlight is to be avoided. Flowers are light pink.

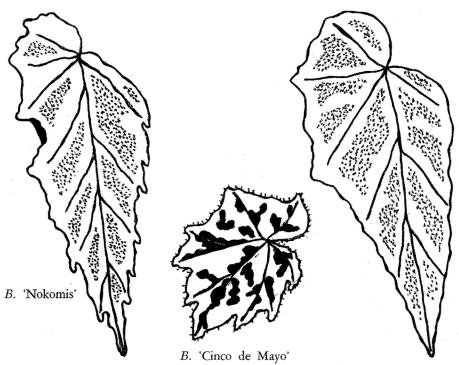
B. 'Lee's Luxurians' is a medium sized begonia with brown cane stems bearing alternate buds. Light green leaves are held aloft on red petioles. The entire plant is sparsely hairy. The flowers are white and hang in clusters. Paul Lee selected this particular begonia from seedlings he raised from Seed Fund seeds labeled *B. luxurians.* Most of the other seedlings came true to name. He shared it with numerous growers because the leaf shape is distinctly different.



A dwarf begonia which is an excellent windowsill plant is *B*. 'Huopo' (son). The rhizomes are small with close set nodes. Short petioles, to 4 inches, hold medium green and black patterned leaves aloft. There are eyelash hairs on the leaves. A long white hair emerges from each red dot on the reddish stems. Pink flowers are held in clusters above the foliage.

B. 'Cinco de Mayo' is a mini begonia everyone will want to add to

B. 'Osota'



their collections, especially if growing space is limited. The leaves appear to be smooth, but on close examination are found to be sparsely hairy with margins eyelashed. A brown splotch pattern develops on medium to yellow green leaves. Flowers bloom above the foliage and are light pink.

B. 'Osota' also has pink clusters of flowers and is a beautifully warm medium size cane-stemmed plant with patterned leaves. When the leaves are just unfolding they are reddish green and the silver pattern is visible immediately. Older leaves develop to dark green with silver zones. The underside of each leaf is entirely dark red.

B. 'Nokomis' certainly resembles

the above begonia in its written description, for it too is a cane stem begonia with silver splotches on the leaves. These appear to grow in size as the leaves mature. However, the underside of the leaves is light green and the flowers are coral pink.

Additional cane stem begonias by the Lees include: *B.* Encanto grex *B.* 'Lana', *B.* 'Kristy', *B.* 'Lausanne', *B.* 'Misty', and *B.* 'Yahoo'. Their rhizomatous begonias also include *B.* 'Tupneck', *B.* 'Smidgens', and *B.* 'Tumuch' (too much). I cannot end without mentioning a few of the rexes: the much admired *B.* 'Purple Petticoats', *B.* 'Red Tide', *B.* 'Patapsco' (with exceptional, long, partially spiralled flowers), *B.* 'Moorea', *B.* 'Sir Edward Hodgins', *B.* 'Dorothy 'Talnadge', and *B.* 'Big Red jr'.

ORTHENE: IT'S NOT FOR BEGONIAS ANYMORE

By Chuck Anderson, Santa Clara Valley Branch and Garden Editor, Oakland (California) Tribune

The Ortho division of Chevron Chemical Co. will remove begonias from the list of 123 ornamental plants on which its new insecticide Orthene can be used, a company official says.

This is one of several steps the firm has decided to take as a result of leaf distortion and color changes reported by Southern California begonia growers.

Dick Archer, Ortho product manager for pesticides, discussed Orthene in separate interviews before and after the completion of new research into the reports. He disclosed that the firm will:

1. Print new labels at once and re-label stock already on dealer shelves. The new labels will not include begonias or fuchsias (some problems also were reported by fuchsia growers).

2. Change the formulation of the product to substitute isopropyl alcohol as its "solvent" instead of the present methyl cellusolve. Ortho experiments pinpointed the solvent — which keeps the active ingredient in suspension for mixing with water — as the cause of the begonia damage.

3. Add a warning to the label cautioning consumers to test the product on sensitive plant varieties before using it on whole collections.

The relabeling to remove begonias will be started right away, Archer said in late October. However, the other two steps must be approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency before implementation, he The EPA may take as long as 1- $11/_2$ years to clear the new formulation, according to Archer, though approval for the label warning was expected in October to come in six to nine weeks.

Orthene was introduced to the market with a news conference in Richmond, Calif., on Dec. 7, 1976. Company officials hailed it as an important development because of its broad-spectrum effectiveness, biodegradbility and low toxicity to humans and animals.

Ortho said it spent \$20 million over a decade to develop Orthene. It is manufactured in a new plant in Richmond.

The EPA registered it for use on begonias based on the results of tests staged by Ortho. When the research was done, however, it apparently did not include a wide-enough range of begonia classes.

"We did testing on a number of different begonias," Archer said, "but there are a lot of kinds..."

Last summer, several begonia growers in Southern California reported to Ortho that Orthene seemed to have stunted some plants and caused loss of leaf color, wilting and other problems.

The firm assigned a researcher full-time in July to study the damage and pinpoint the cause. His work still was in progress in late October.

By applying Orthene and its various components individually to a number of begonias, Ortho found the

(Continued on page 338)

The Begonian

VERA DILLARD FOUND TROPICAL PARADISE

When a person expands one's collection of begonias and develops interest past the first stages of "just learning to grow," it is not long until the name of Dillard comes to one's attention. It may be associated with a miniature begonia such as B. 'Chantilly Lace' which appears on a plant table; or it may be associated with a plant at a show, covered with spectacular orange blossoms, such as B. 'Orangeade'; or it may be included with a drawing, such as B. 'Black Falcon' which appeared in the Begonian not long ago (Oct. 1975, p. 241).

It came as a surprise to learn the various ways Vera and Horace Dillard have participated in the field of horticulture. Mrs. Dillard's interest in plants began with a gift of two african violets which she learned to propagate from leaves. Begonias, and later gloxinias, were added. She soon filled up the sun room and two enclosed porches and looked for more space. Then she began to grow her plants in her basement under fluorescent lights --- long before that became the widespread activity it is today. The house was brimming with plants when she found a greenhouse to rent to contain her hobby.

Pursuit of the hobby included a lot of enthusiastic conversation about plants. She wrote articles about the gloxinias and begonias which appeared locally and in the *Gloxinian*, *Flower and Garden* and *Flower Grower*. She served as president of the Missouri branch of ABS for two years. The American Gloxinia Society was formed with her assistance and she became its first national president.

She and her husband introduced many people to exotic indoor foliage and bloom plants and their culture at a booth at the annual Flower and Garden shows at the Municipal Auditorium. She judged many flower shows. She made and sold terrariums when that activity was popular a few years ago.

The combination of enthusiasm, burgeoning hobby and demand led Vera Dillard to go into business; so the rented greenhouse turned into a full-time business with a glasshouse of their own, a propagating house with automatic controls, more greenhouse space and a bamboo covered shade house to use in summer. Although she is no longer issuing a catalog and filling orders to mail all over the country, Vera Dillard still grows and sells a lot of begonias at Tropical Paradise in Overland, Kansas. (The Dillards are now in their eighties.) She and her husband, who joined in the business after he retired from his own insurance career, tend to raise many plants that only collectors are interested in. But the hybrids that she developed in the 1960s have gained her lasting recognition with ABS and especially endear her to the begonia hobbyist of today. Ten of her cultivars appear in Exotica III. Bernice Brilmayer had obtained the plants from the Dillards and she submitted the photographs to Roehrs to be included in the Pictorial Cyclopedia of Exotic Plants now in widespread use.

B. 'Kathy Diane'

(B. 'Bow Joe' x B. 'Bow Chance')

Miniature Rhizomatous. Small ovate pointed brown leaves with chartreuse marking, hairy petioles and leaf edge. Tiny deep pink flowers in fall.

B. 'China Doll'

(B. 'Bow Arriola' x B. bowerae)

Miniature Rhizomatous. Tiny pointed chartreuse leaves with wide brown veins, hairy petioles and leaf edge. Clusters of pink flowers. Winter bloomer.

B. 'Oriental Music'

(B. hidalgensis x B. imperialis)

Miniature Rhizomatous. Heartshaped, pebbled grass green leaves, new leaves chartreuse. Hairy upper and lower leaves and petioles. White flowers with pink hairs on outside petals. Spring and summer flowering.

- B. 'Ricky Loving'
- (B. 'Billy' x B. heracleifolia var. sunderbruchii)

Rhizomatous. Large 7-pointed black velvety leaves with silver-gray lacing along each side of the green veins. Underleaf and petiole densely hairy. Rose flowers, fall and winter flowering.

- B. 'Raspberry Parfait'
- (B. 'Emerald Jewel' x

B. 'Pebble Lane')

Miniature Rhizomatous. Olive green pointed hairy leaves and stems, light green veins. New leaves a beautiful raspberry color. Flowers white — spring bloomer. B. 'Randy'

(B. 'Verde Grande' x B. 'Missouri')

Rhizomatous. Large fresh green seven-pointed star shaped leaves with brown stitched edge, often entire leaf marbled in brown. Hairy petioles and leaf edge. Pink flowers, winter flowering.

B. 'Enchantment'

(B. 'Missouri' x B. 'Maphil')

Rhizomatous. Seven-pointed star shaped tanbark (reddish-brown) leaves, chartreuse veins and sinus, underleaf red and chartreuse. Flowers pink. Winter bloomer.

B. 'Orangeade'

(B. 'Pink Parade' x

B. 'Orange Rubra')

Cane. Long narrow lobed fresh green leaves sprinkled with silver dots, large clusters of soft orange flowers. Blooms spring and summer.

B. 'Persian Brocade'

(B. bowerae x B. 'Maphil')

Miniature Rhizomatous. Fresh green star shaped leaves, edged in black, leaves laced and innerlaced in black, light green sinus and veins, upper leaf and leaf edge hairy, underleaf splashed with red. Petioles have red dots, hairy; flowers pink, winter or spring flowering.

B. 'Chantilly Lace'

(B. bowerae x B. 'Black Shadows')

Miniature Rhizomatous. Small lobed chartreuse cupped leaves with deep black stitching around edge, entire leaf often sprinkled with black dots, leaf edge and petiole hairy. Clusters of pink flowers in winter.

B. 'Black Falcon'

(B. kenworthyae x B. heracleifolia var. sunderbruchii)

Miniature Rhizomatous. Black star shaped leaves with wide silver-gray marking outlining the veins, underleaf red, hairy edge and petioles. Small pink flowers — fall and winter flowering.

B. 'Fascination'

(B. 'Speculata' x B. 'Pearlii')

Rhizomatous. Oblique olive green pebbled leaves, silver laced veins. New leaves silver-pink. Hairy underleaf and petioles, clusters of pink flowers.

B. 'Midget'

(B. 'Joe Hayden' x B. 'Virbob')

Miniature Rhizomatous. Black star-shaped leaves, light green sinus and veins. Clusters of pink flowers.



View of Cane Begonias in Tropical Paradise Greenhouse.



Vera and Horace Dillard with B. 'Carolyn' (B. 'Martha Floro' x B. 'Rubaiyat'). Cross made in 1970 by Hazel Harmon of Ottawa, Kansas, and grown from a cutting by the Dillards. It produces large clusters of pale pink flowers several times a year. The leaves are medium green, long and pointed, $3 \times 10''$, with veins showing red on underside of leaf. It makes an excellent basket plant.



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BEGONIA 'HORACE DILLARD'



Photos at Dillards by Jean Pasko

This plant was raised from seeds distributed in the Seed Fund under the name of *paulensis*. Mrs. Vera Dillard gave the seedling to Jean Pasko of Chula Vista who raised it and called it after Mr. Dillard because of its vigorous characteristic. Jean credits the Dillards with giving her much encouragement and assistance when she began growing begonias.

The picture shows the plant which Jean exhibited at the San Diego Show. The satiny green leaves with chartreuse outlined veins are 10 by 6 inches. The undersides are coated with red wooly hairs. The plant is an upright rhizomatous type. The blooms are spectacular with the male blooms being especially large, perhaps three times the size of average rhizomatous blooms.



BEGONIA FISCHERI SCHRANK

BEGONIA FISCHERI SCHRANK SYNONYM BEGONIA PAUCIFLORA LINDLEY

By Jack Golding

The name Begonia pauciflora was published by John Lindley in July 1820 in the Botanical Register, Vol. 6, and illustrated by Plate No. 471. Lindley listed as a synonym, with a question mark, Begonia patula Haworth published in Supplementum plantarum succulentarum in 1819 on page 100. In his text, Lindley stated that he was renaming the plant of Haworth because the habit was not spreading as stated in the original description.

Dr. Fred Barkley explained (*Begonian* 44: 193, 1977) that, under the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, a name cannot be changed merely because it might be considered inappropriate and that the earlier name must be retained.

However, this is changed by the following obscure note that I found several years ago in "Notes" at the back of the *Botanical Register*, Vol. 6, 1820, preceding the Appendix:

NOTES.

Begonia pauciflora. Suprà fol. 471.

Mr. Haworth tells us that this is not the species he intended by BE-GONIA patula; therefore that synonym, which has been added with a quare, should be finally rejected.

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This clearly establishes that *Begonia pauciflora* Lindley and *Begonia patula* Haworth are not the same species. It would then seem that *Begonia pauciflora* Lindley would be the valid name for this species, but this species was named earlier by Franz Schrank as *Begonia fischeri* in *Plantae rariores horti academici monacensis*, Vol. 2, part 6, tab. 59, in May 1820. Therefore, in accordance with the rules of priority of the ICBN, the valid name for this species is *Begonia fischeri* Schrank and *Begonia pauciflora* Lindley is a synonym.

E. Irmscher in *Botanische Jahrbücher*, Vol. 76, 1953, advised that according to Dr. Suessenguth of Munich the illustration of Schrank was published in 1817 (before *Begonia patula* in 1819) and for that reason, he stated that the valid name for this species is *Begonia fisheri* Schrank. I have not been able to verify the 1817 date cited by Irmscher, but it is irrelevant now because the note at the back of Lindley's volume shows that *Begonia patula* was a different species.

Begonia patula Haworth remains a valid name, but since there does not seem to be a herbarium specimen, or illustration, it is difficult to identify it today from Haworth's brief description.

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BEGONIA BOOKSHELF

By Ruth Pease

At last *Begonia Portraits* by Alice M. Clark is a reality. After the American Begonia Society's Convention and Show last year, I wrote about the pending publication of Mrs. Clark's book of reproductions of her begonia paintings. We had hoped her book would be available for Christmas giving.

Mrs. Clark held off until she felt she had obtained the best reproductions of her paintings. This year her book is available in time for Christmas giving. The paintings have been reproduced so that you are able to detect the subtle shadings of various greens on hairy textured begonia leaves and the red to almost maroon coloring on the back of the leaves of begonias such as 'Montalvo' and 'Braemar.' The deep ruby tones of B. 'Autumn' are amazing to see. It is difficult to select a "favorite" among the begonias pictured in Mrs. Clark's book. B. rubro-venia and B. luxurians seem to be alive!

Many members of the American Begonia Society are mentioned in the book. This brief history of the Society brings back memories of many who are gone but not forgotten. It is typical of Mrs. Clark to have remembered them.

Credit is given to Thelma O'Reilly for encouraging and assisting Mrs. Clark in preparing her book for publication. Over the years many have wished these famed paintings would be published. Here is a book that all begonia people should have in their own libraries.

There are 41 water color paintings and 25 line drawings of begonias reproduced. With each reproduction, there is a descriptive article about the begonia itself. This information is simply stated so that we can envision the begonia as Mrs. Clark must have while painting its portrait.

Begonia Portraits is a "must" for anyone who loves begonias.

Mail orders to

Alice M. Clark 3634 Jennings Street San Diego, CA 92106

(The price is \$25 plus \$1.25 for packaging and postage. Sales tax for California residents, \$1.50).



B. 'Perfectifolia' Alice M. Clark

PRESENTATION PARTY

The Alfred D. Robinson Branch gathered at midday, October 11th for the regular meeting. Hostess Thelma O'Reilly led the group on a "tropical expedition" with stops to tell about the various begonias — the brilliant tuberous in baskets that highlighted the lath area, the thriving *B. listida* in the greenhouse that threatened to hide many of the new acquisitions that she was testing, and the unidentified species with bright orange blossoms that she hopes to bring to seed.

As they returned to the patio, Alice Clark came forth to introduce her book by presenting the barely dry copies to them. No fond grandparent could be any more eager to hold a new grandchild than these members were to clasp the long-awaited copies of *Begonia Portraits*. Not only does the book contain reproductions of the lovely paintings of the begonias they all admire but it also contains interesting comments about San Diego's own people and gardens. Alice Clark had autographed each of the copies.

The first copy was presented to Thelma O'Reilly who had assisted with the editing and notes on nomenclature. Alice had written in it:

To Thelma, whose inspiration and assistance made this book possible. With the copy was a slim, artfully decorated package containing the original watercolor of the last begonia portrait she had made, that of Thelma's hybrid, *Begonia* 'Universe', itself a winner of the Alfred D. Robinson Award in 1974.

As she arranged a spot to display the painting, Thelma said, "Oh, you know, I have to say that knowing Alice is one of the most wonderful things that has happened to me. She's put up with a lot from me. When I was down in the dumps, I'd go over there and I'd come home and think, 'What am I worrying about?' I feel so marvelous when I am with her." Alice's way of thinking is one of the joys of *Begonia Portraits*.

Alice Clark's book was ready for savoring. This was a milestone day for her, the Branch, and all who love and grow begonias — a day to celebrate with a party.



Thelma O'Reilly received copy of Begonia Portraits from Alice Clark at right. Ada Perry, San Diego Union writer, was among guests.

SAN FRANCISCO FLOWER SHOWS A KICKOFF TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

By Carl F. Laipple, Show Manager San Francisco Branch

Many ABS members from all over the country stopped by the San Francisco County Fair Flower Show on their way to the National Convention. The San Francisco Branch members surpassed their usual fine efforts this year with their beautiful flowers and plants in the show. Major trophies were awarded to:

Adv. Sweepstakes — Claire & Ben Gotelli

- Int. Sweepstakes Linda & John Molinu
- Nov. Sweepstakes Sue & Hal Miller
- Best Red Tuberous Carol & Red Spediacci
- Best in Show
 - Tuberous Hyacinth & Hal Smith Culture award — 98 points
 - Semperflorens Claire & Ben Gotelli Culture award — 91 points
 - Fibrous Alice & Isadore Gold
 - Rhizomatous Claire & Ben Gotelli

Rex — Ann & Carl Meyer Culture award — 90 points

Saturday evening, the San Francisco Branch hosted the annual exhibitor's dinner. Our guests were National President Charles Richardson and wife, Naomi; First Vice President Nathan Randall and wife, Hester; National Treasurer Gilbert Estrada, and Secretary Virginia Barnett and husband, Walter. Also in attendance were Director Katherine Alberti, and presidents from the San Gabriel, Sacramento, East Bay and Miami Branches. Other representatives from various branches also attended. Everyone had a good time, even our own President, Dr. Ernest Weitz who had to sit silently through the entire evening because of laryngitis.

A month earlier we held our annual branch show where 24 trophies were awarded. Culture awards, were issued to Alice and Isadore Gold, Claire and Ben Gotelli, and Carol and Red Spediacci.

After all the plants, and tools, ribbons and trophies were safely stowed at their homes, a dozen Branch members went south to participate in the National Convention at Anaheim, where they agreed to help with the next Convention to be held in Sacramento in the fall of 1978.

Seasons Greetings Good Wishes from Bob Cole and Bill Cook The Plant Shop Botanical Gardens Happy New Year Happy Hanukkah

REGISTRATION OF BEGONIA CULTIVARS

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

No. 611 — Begonia (B. 'Cachuma' X B. manicata crispa) 'Denton L. Cole'

This rhizomatous, distinctive foliage, exotic type hybrid was originated by Bob Cole, The Plant Shop Botanical Garden, 18007 Topham St., Reseda, CA 93135, in 1974. Leaves are bright green, shape complex parted, dimensions $6 \times 8''$, margin ciliate, texture smooth, 9-veined, petioles $1/2 \times 1/2''$, stipules soft-hairy. No record of flowers. Registered July 28, 1977.

No. 612 — Begonia (B. 'Cachuma' X B. manicata crispa) 'Puberty'

Bob Cole, The Plant Shop Botanical Garden, address above, developed this rhizomatous begonia in 1974. Leaves are yellow-green; shape ovate, lobed, overlapped; dimensions 8 x 6"; margin lobed and ciliate; texture puckered with scattered, upright hairs; 7-nerved with red dots, very hairy underside; petioles $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{1}{2}$ "; stipules 8-10", very hairy. Has not bloomed. Registered July 28, 1977.

No. 613 — Begonia (B. 'Cachuma' X B. manicata crispa) 'Young Boy'

Leaves lime green, ovate, lobed and overlapped, 8 x 6", margin lobed and ciliate, lightly puckered texture, 7-nerved, petioles $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{1}{2}$ ", stipules 8-10" hairy, this rhizomatous plant was originated in 1974 by Bob Cole, address above. No record of flowers. Registered July 28, 1977.

No. 614 — Begonia (B. 'Cachuma' X B. manicata crispa) 'All American Boy'

This rhizomatous begonia was developed by Bob Cole, address above, in 1974; it has not bloomed nor been distributed. The leaves are dark green, acuminate, lobed, spiral, 8 x 6"; margin lightly crested, ciliate; texture smooth; 9-nerved; petioles $\frac{3}{4} \ge \frac{1}{2}$ "; stipules 8-10" with scattered hair. Registered July 28, 1977.

No. 615 — Begonia (B. 'Cachuma' X B. manicata crispa) 'Decoder Ring'

Developed by Bob Cole, address above in 1974 but not yet bloomed or distributed, this rhizomatous begonia has leaves of rich green with maroon edge; shape ovate, overlap; dimensions $5 \times 8''$; margin ciliate; texture smooth; 7-veined; petioles $3/_4 \times 1/2''$; stipules 8-10'', hairy, $1/_4''$ or longer, white, red at base. Registered July 28, 1977.

No. 616 — Begonia (B. 'Cachuma' X B. manicata crispa) 'Jack Armstrong' Bright green, lobed, $8 \ge 10''$ leaves distinguish this rhizomatous begonia developed in 1974 by Bob Cole, address above. Leaf margin is semiserrate, ciliate, with smooth texture; 7-nerved; petioles $\frac{3}{4}'' \ge \frac{1}{2}''$; stipules 8-12'', hairy in spirally formed patches. Has not bloomed nor been distributed. Registered July 28, 1977.

No. 617 — Begonia (B. 'MacIntyre's ''daedalea'' ' X B. aridicaulis) 'Agulis'

Rudolf Ziesenhenne, address above, developed this rhizomatous begonia in 1975 and will distribute

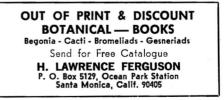


Elizabeth Stuart, President of the San Gabriel Branch, presented American Begonia Society Life Memberships to Lee and Lillian Steinhaus and to Wilma and Clarence Blough in recognition of their service to the Society and the Branch — a combined total of over 100 years of active participation!

REGISTRATIONS — Continued from page 333

it in 1978. Leaves are black, nerves green, speckled with red, uneven heart shaped, long pointed, $7 \ge 4.5$ cm $(3 \ge 13/4'')$; finely double-toothed margin; texture thin; nerves palmate 7; petioles 12 cm (41/4''); stipules long triangular. Flowers not observed. Registered August 2, 1977.

No. 618 — Begonia (B. 'MacIntyre's "daedalea" 'X B. aridicaulis) 'Helo' Developed in 1975 by Rudolf Ziesenhenne, address above, this rhizomatous begonia will be distributed in 1978. Leaves are medium green with margin irregularly marked black to 1 cm wide $(\frac{3}{8}'')$, uneven heart-shaped, 8 x 5 cm (3 x 2''); margin slightly toothed at each nerve ending; texture medium; nerves palmate 9; petioles 12 cm (41/4''); stipules long triangular. Flowers not observed. Registered August 2, 1977.



The Indoor Light Gardening Society of America, Inc., Dept. B, 128 West 58th St., New York, New York 10019. Dues \$5.00. Bi-monthly magazine; light garden; up-to-date, informative; seed fund; round robins; chapters.

The Begonian

BLOUGHS AND STEINHAUSES HONORED BY SAN GABRIEL BRANCH

By Evelyn M. Anderson, Secretary, San Gabriel Branch

Everyone should know the pleasure of having a hobby. Joining the Begonia Society leads to one of the best of hobbies as plants become your "pets" and after a while they become "one of the family."

Wilma Blough subscribed to the American Begonia Magazine in the year 1948 through an ad placed in the paper by Capt. Deere of El Monte, a pioneer in growing rex begonias in perlite.

She attended her first meeting at the Pasadena Library where she met Mr. and Mrs. Howard Small who invited her to the San Gabriel Valley branch meeting held at the Masonic Hall in Arcadia. From then on the Bloughs accepted interest in begonias as a way of life.

After 10 years of serving as Chairman of Publicity, Kitchen, Program and as Treasurer she was contacted by Mr. Small to become President. This was in 1959.

The San Gabriel Valley Branch during Mrs. Blough's term of office with the support of Mrs. Joe Fox acquired space at the Pomona Fair. This project was supported by enthusiastic members and helped with the finances as well as recognition for the American Begonia Society.

In 1967 after Mr. Blough had retired, his casual interest in begonias changed, and he took a more active part by becoming Branch President. His interest, as Awards chairman and in the Begonia Flower Show which was now held at the Arcadia State and County Arboretum every year, led to more membership participation and a changing schedule.

Mr. and Mrs. Blough attended as many National Flower Shows as possible as Mrs. Blough had taken the National Council of State Garden Clubs course in judging as well as the A.B.S. judging course under Sylvia Leatherman.

Lee and Lillian Steinhaus have been Begonia People since 1936. Herbert P. Dyckman was a dear friend, and they were asked to be charter members of the first begonia society in Long Beach. They refused because they did not think they would be interested in growing plants at that time, but Mr. Dyckman prevailed and they conceded to join. Soon Lillian was attending classes about growing begonias from seed.

They moved to Alhambra in 1939 and kept as many begonias as possible from their collection, but both were working and finally they gave most of them to the newly formed San Gabriel Begonia Branch. They did not join the San Gabriel Branch until 1950, however since that time they have worked for the Society in every way. Lillian is a judge and has worked on many Begonia Shows. She served as president of the Branch. They are retired and still working with their plants.

The San Gabriel Branch members were delighted to honor these two couples with Life Memberships.



Walter Barnett, who contacted most of the donors, talks with D. A. "Sully" Sullinger, who handled the door prizes. Recipients were pleased with the fine array of plants and gardening supplies awarded at the National Show.

IN APPRECIATION

We are, indeed, fortunate in the many friends of the American Begonia Society whose donations of gifts and door prizes contributed much to our success. These were: AAA Plastic Molders American Savings & Loan Assn. Bandini Fertilizer Co. California Liquid Fertilizer Co. Consan Pacific, Inc. Cooke Laboratory Products Sarah Coventry Corona Clipper Co. Farrand Enterprises Gro-Power Gubler Orchids Hines Wholesale Nursery Kandid Litho Co. Kellogg Supply, Inc. Liquinox Paramount Perlite Co. Perry's Plants, Inc.

Plantsmith

Southern California Greenhouse Manufacturers

Union Carbide, Agricultural Systems Wood'n Wax Products, Inc.

And a special "Thank You" to Pat Antonelli of Antonelli Bros. of Santa Cruz, CA whose gift of hundreds of tuberous begonia flowers were profusely arranged on all of the tables at the Convention Banquet.

Donors to Trophy Fund:

Buxton Branch

Garden Grove Branch

Hampton Branch

Long Island Branch

San Miguel Branch

Mr. & Mrs. Peter P. Lee

Mr. & Mrs. Edward J. Thompson

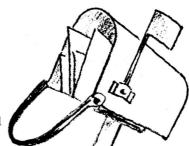
Mr. & Mrs. Rudolf Ziesenhenne

BEGONIA QUESTION BOX

Write to: Elda Haring Box 236, Flat Rock, NC 28731

Question: I live in New York State. I have been told that begonias should not be placed in east or south windows because they do not want much sun. Is that right? Answer: East and south windows should be perfect for your begonias during the winter months for at that time they need all possible light and sun. The winter sun there is very weak. If you have some very delicate varieties with definite patterns they could fade if the sun is too bright for them. Place them in the south window and if leaves begin to look faded move them to east or north windows. West windows are also good until late March when the sun is again gaining strength.

Question: In July, I ordered seeds of B. dipetala, B. nelumbiifolia and B. masoniana from the Seed Fund. I put them in the refrigerator and planted them a month later. They were sprinkled on moist Pro-Mix in a plastic flat and a pane of glass on top. Flats were placed in an aluminum cake pan and heating cable under that. If the soil looked dry, water was added to the pan. They were put on a shelf in the greenhouse where they received morning sun only but bright light the rest of the day. Five weeks later they have not germinated. I have successfully used this method in the past. Answer:



The weather where you live is always very warm in August and the sun still very strong. I would say that the combination of heating cable and sun shining through the glass would heat up the interior to an alarming degree. Top of the mix should never be permitted to become dry but always kept moist, for seeds could perish as they try to sprout if the medium dries even slightly on top. In summer I would not use the heating cable and I would substitute saran wrap for the glass, punching a few holes in it to permit over-heated air to escape. Some begonia seed is very slow to germinate. I have had fresh seed of B. masoniana take ten to twelve weeks to germinate.

Question: I have upright rexes that have grown tall and spindly. Should they be pinched and can other types of rexes be pinched? I am pinching rhizomatous and cane types but hesitate to touch the rexes as I do not want to spoil them. Answer: Upright rexes and others may be pinched or topped just as you would any other rhizomatous begonia. Most will branch after topping but a few, like B. 'Curly Silver Sweet' will continue to send upright growth. Many upright growing rexes will not need staking but those that have a tendency to bend over can be beautifully grown in hanging baskets.

Question: I would like to locate a source of a beautiful begonia I used to have. It is called Youth and Old Age or the Calla Lily Begonia. It is difficult to grow. Answer: This is one of my favorites too. There are a number of named varieties available. I have five of these in my collection. Since you say money is no object, I would suggest that you order catalogs from two of our advertisers who offer Calla Lily Begonia. They require a minimum order of \$10.00. Logee's Greenhouses, 55 North St., Danielson, Conn. 06239, catalog \$2.00. Kartuz Greenhouses, 92 Chestnut St, Wilmington, Mass. 01887, catalog \$1.00. Grow the Calla Lily begonia a little on the dry side and if possible in temperatures of from 60 to 75°. It blooms from spring to early winter. When blossom stalks start to elongate and fall over, cut them off. This plant usually rests in winter and puts on no new growth. In spring when growth begins it is easily divided to increase your supply. It may also be divided in early winter and although it will form new roots, in your location it likely will not start to grow rapidly until March and April.

Garden Grove Begonia Society wishes all of you Peace and Happiness for the coming year.

May Peace and Joy be yours at Christmastime and throughout the New Year Western Pennsylvania Branch

ORTHENE: IT'S NOT FOR BEGONIAS ANYMORE

(Continued from Page 324) damage was caused "by the solvent in the product, not by the active ingredient," Archer reported.

This led to the decision to substitute isopropyl alcohol for the cheaper and more common methyl cellusolve, he said.

The latest experiments involved 21 begonia varieties "covering all types — rexes, rhizomatous, wax, fibrous, cane types, all of them. . ."

Orthene, a systemic organophosphate absorbed through leaves, is effective on whiteflies, aphids and a number of other difficult-to-control pests.

Archer said the change in formulation would not affect the product's biodegradability or toxicity.

Editor's Note: Inquiries may be addressed to the Public Relations Department, Chevron Chemical Co., P. O. Box 3744, San Francisco, CA 94119.

> We wish you a cheery holiday season and a happy year ahead.

The A. D. Robinson Branch

THE BUXTON BRANCH

wishes all of you peace and happiness for the coming year.

THE LONG BEACH PARENT BRANCH

wishes all of you peace and happiness for the coming year.

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

By Mabel Corwin, Round Robin Director

Interest is high in the robins now. We have 96 flights going around. It has been suggested that we have regional robins. We now have All Texas, All Florida, All California, All Canada, and Eastern flights. One member has offered to be chairman of a Wisconsin flight. If you live in Wisconsin and are interested, write to me and we will get one started right away. We can do the same for any state or region if you send your requests to me.

I will soon be starting flights on Begonias as Houseplants, Canes, General Culture, Propagation, and Hybridizing. If you are interested in any of these let me know.

Seeds

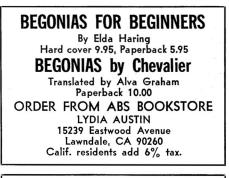
Growing from seeds is frequently discussed in the robins. John Yochum, Indiana, writes: I am a firm believer in the use of heating cables placed under the plastic boxes in which I place the small pots containing the planting medium and seed. Over the years I guess I have used about every planting medium that has appeared in print with some success and lots of failures. At this writing I am using the "Vita-loam" mixture recently advertised in the Begonian and it appears that it is giving very good results. I dampen any prepared mix that I use until I can squeeze water out of it, and then place it in individual 21/4" pots and sow the seed on top and gently press it in with my finger. These pots then -go into a plastic sweater box with a clear plastic lid and the sweater box goes on a heating cable under fluo-

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rescent lights about a foot away from the tubes. I find that I seldom have to add any more water before germination. I also use the fluourescent light set-up for rooting leaf and stem cuttings. The fluorescent lights are over the benches in the utility room with south and east windows. I start leaf and stem cuttings in "Terralite" in 4" clay pots under the lights, but with no heating cables.

Propagation

Ruth Ihara, Washington, D.C., writes: In our Potomac Branch, the newest way to grow plants is the way we call "Texas Style". We use styrofoam pots with holes punched along the bottom and about half way up the sides. The bottom, up to the second row of holes, is filled with chicken grits and the tops up to the rim with dampened sphagnum squeezed almost dry and put in so that it is nearly fluffy. Cuttings are started in it and grown on to matur-



CLASSIFICATION FOR SHOW PURPOSES An optional supplement of *The Thompson Begonia Guide* for both subscribers and non-subscribers, approximately 100 pages. Price \$4.75, optional binder \$3.50, including packaging and shipping. N.Y. residents add state tax. For reservations write to:

E. & M. Thompson P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, N.Y. 11968 ity, or you can put water rooted cuttings into the moss. The whole thing is kept in water with very dilute fertilizer that reaches just up to the second row of holes around the side of the pot where the sphagnum moss begins. Most begonias do wonderfully well in it. It appears that begonias can take the heat better when grown this way, also some terrarium plants can be grown in the open if planted 'Texas Style'.

Fungus control

Carolyn Collman, California, suggests mixing sulphur with talcum powder when using as a fungicide two parts sulphur to one part talcum powder. This will cling to the plants better. Blow this around or put near a fan and it will circulate in the air.

Merry Christmas and Happy Growing in the Coming Year.

The Rubidoux Branch

PALOMAR BRANCH

wishes you Joy that starts with the Holidays and Continues throughout the New Year.

The Orange County Branch

says Merry Christmas and Happy Growing in the Coming Year.

Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year.

The Whittier Branch

Fern spore

Peggy Maskin, New Jersey, is a novice grower and has been experimenting with different methods of propagation. She writes: After several unsuccessful attempts to raise ferns in closed containers, I accidentally spilled spores on the surface of one of my begonia pots. The prothallium appeared quickly and I think the flooding caused by my regular watering helped fertilize and produce plants.

Don't forget to send me your new address when you move. We don't want to lose you!

> Mabel Corwin 1119 Loma Vista Way Vista, CA 92083

CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN BRANCH

wishes all of you peace and warm good wishes for the coming year.

GLENDALE BRANCH

salutes you at the Holiday Season and sends good wishes for the coming year.

THE POTOMAC BRANCH

bids you peace and happiness for the coming year.

Greetings from the

Westchester Branch where expert growers are made.

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, Lorraine Frinchaboy.

- Begonias, Gesneriads, miniature terrarium plants, tropicals, Catalog \$1. Kartuz Greenhouses, 92 Chestnut St., Wilmington, MA 01887. Phone (617) 658-9017
- Violets Begonias Episcias Cuttings only. Send stamp for list. Wilson's Greenhouse, Route 1 Box 165-4 Ozark, MO 65721
- THE THOMPSON BEGONIA GUIDE, second edition. Three volumes; 975 pages; over 750 black and white photos; and many line drawings. Volumes may be purchased separately but subscription to entire three volumes is required. To order and for further information write E. & M. Thompson, P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, N.Y. 11968.

EARTHWORM CASTINGS. Recognized by many authorities to be the finest potting soil created by natural methods. You will be amazed at how well your plants grow, 4 lb. bag (approx. 1 gal.) \$3.00, postpaid. Jump Off Worm Farm, St. Andrews, Tenn. 37372.

The Long Island Branch

sends out Greetings and

Best Wishes for 1978.

The Greater Chicago Branch

sends greetings and good wishes for 1978.

Season's Greetings and Best Wishes from the SOUTH SEATTLE BRANCH

- BEGONIAS. Featuring Wally Wagner hybrids, gesneriads, miniatures for light gardens. List 35¢ Pat Morrison/Jim Heffner, 5305 S.W. Hamilton St., Portland, OR 97221.
- The Good, The Rare and The Beautiful in begonias. Rex, rhizomatous, cane and shrubs. 25¢ for list. Visitors welcome. Lera's Greenhouse, P.O. Bx 948, Porter, TX 77365 (713) 354-3567.
- BEGONIAS, Popular varieties, new hybrids, 300 kinds. 20¢ cash or stamp for list. Rainbow Begonia Gardens, Box 991, Westminster, CA 92683
- Begonias Blue Ribbon Winners. Many varieties. Retail only. Price list 35¢ or stamps. John Sousa, Begonia Paradise Nursery, Rte 1, Box 94, Bear Creek, NC 27207.
- Begonias and ferns in northern California for the collector or novice. Wendel's Greenhouse, Rt 1, Box 481 BB (Muir Ave.) Chico, CA 95926 Ph. 916-342-6319
- Shade Screen: Don't let your Plants Burn up! Use professional Shade Screen. Free wholesale price list. JEF-DON Enterprises, Dept. BEG-1, 1341 N.E. 158th St., North Miami Beach, Fla. 33162.

Season's Greetings from all the Begonian Staff & Contributors

The Gateway City of Florida sends holiday greetings. The Jacksonville Branch

Season's Greetings and Happy Growing from The Rochester Branch

It's that wonderful time of year again! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from The San Miguel Branch

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Sept. 26, 1977

The meeting was called to order by President Richardson at 7:45 P.M. in the Southgate Auditorium. Wanda Elin led the flag salute and Walter Barnett read the Aims and Purposes. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved as corrected.

The Treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$2,542.72, receipts of \$2,788.38, disbursements of \$2,493.24, leaving a balance of \$2,837.86. The Board approved paying a bill for printing of Award certificates amounting to \$90.42.

Correspondence was read from the Sacramento Branch concerning the show and convention for 1978.

The membership secretary reported 138 new members; 4,156 members in good standing this month; receipts of \$1,824.25; expenses of \$139.39, leaving a balance of \$34.74 in her funds.

Ralph Corwin reported that Betty Tillotson is working on a new roster, and he has given her most of the material he has accumulated with the balance to be on its way soon.

There were \$82.07 reported in sales of courses, books and sheets during the month by Margaret Lee. After her expenses, the balance was \$61.37.

New Round Robin Director, Mabel Corwin, reported 12 new flights on their way, and another starting soon.

Linda Miller reported \$650.81 in sales. expenses of \$13.00, leaving a balance of \$637.81 in the Seed Fund.

Notes from the Editors' desk:

The post office box which we had used for the past two years is no longer ours. We have been listing our street address in the past several issues. We especially ask that those who mail branch newsletters to us check to see if they are using the right address! We find the newsletters helpful and interesting and thank all the branches for sending them.

There are many changes in officers at the end of the year. Please inform the ABS Secretary of names and addresses immediately so changes can be made on her lists and in the Begonian.

The Editors said the questionnaire would be summarized in the October is-sue of the Begonian. The printing of the Catalogue has been delayed. Ed Bates explained to the Board how they prepare material for publication. He also said the Committee had requested Mr. L'Hommedieu to send the material for the book on cultivars the Research Department has finished. A motion was passed to have President Richardson speak to the Ziesenhennes about publishing the Catalogue.

The proposed budget for the 1977-78 year was presented by Mr. Estrada. After some discussion, it was approved by the Board. Since the amount of income estimated for the year was less than the expected expenses, Mr. Walton made a motion, seconded by Ed Bates, that the dues for the Society be raised to \$6.00 a year and to be effective January 1, 1978. Passed. Each Branch Representative is to be notified, and is expected to express a vote in writing to the Secretary, Virginia Barnett, by November 15th.

Corwin explained again the Ralph changes in the Constitution that were approved at the Convention.

A motion was passed to continue Bob Hale's Life Membership in his wife's (Dora) name.

After a question about host Branches being responsible for expenses involved in a National Show and Convention, it was pointed out that the show fund is used to cover such expenses, under the guidance of the Show Chairman and committee.

After the Branch reports, the meeting adjourned at 10:00.

Virginia J. Barnett, Secretary

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Judges Course	1.50 1.25 1.00 1.00
Total for Begonia Material 1 Total for Other 3	
Postage and handling for entire set Postage and handling for Classification Guide and Point Scoring only	.75 .25
California residents, add 6% tax	
Make checks payable to Margaret Lee, Judging Director 1852 31st Street San Diego, CA 92102	

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

October 24, 1977

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 P.M. in the South Gate Auditorium by President Richardson. Mr. Terrell of the Rubidoux Branch led the salute, and Margaret Taylor read the Aims and Purposes.

The minutes were approved as presented by the Secretary, and the correspondence was read.

Gilbert Estrada, Treasurer, gave his report. The balance on hand was \$2,837.86, receipts of \$2,890.37, Disbursements of \$1,329.05, leaving a balance of \$4,399.18. Since the **Begonian** printing bill had not yet been paid, the balance is higher than usual.

Membership reported 99 new members, \$1,448.00 received, and 4,105 members in good standing at the present time. The Editors reported Alice Clark's book

The Editors reported Alice Clark's book is available now. Also they requested permission for extra pages for the show articles in the Begonian.

Phyllis Bates gave the Advertising Manager's report. She had \$404.75 in receipts for advertising. Also she had received 14 or 15 Christmas ads.

Mr. Walton was given permission to buy a new supply of Begonia pins spending up to \$200.00.

The seed fund had \$416.52 in sales for seeds for the month.

Doug Frost reported that some of the bills for the Show had not been received so the books could be closed.

Pearl Benell read the Research report. A motion was passed to advance \$175.00 to the Research Fund to finish the present project if Mr. L'Hommedieu still needs it after talking with Mr. Bates. The appointment of Ronnie Nevin and

The appointment of Ronnie Nevin and Phillip Seitner to the Awards Committee was approved.

A motion was passed to accept the appointment of the Show Chairman in Sacramento for the 1978 Show. East Bay, San Francisco, and Santa Clara are working with Sacramento making plans for the show there.

After Branch reports, the meeting adiourned.

Virginia Barnett, Secretary



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DUES INCREASE

Annual dues for the American Begonia Society will be \$6.00, starting January 1, 1978. After reviewing the budget for the year and the annual treasurer's report, the Board of Directors acted to increase the dues. The ballots were sent to the Branch National Directors and the tally was made on November 14th. The necessary two-thirds of the votes favored the increase. Dues paid *before* the deadline, December 31, will be at the present rate of \$5.00. Each of the other postal classes will increase by \$1.00.

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

Secretary Virginia Barnett announced that all the proposed changes in the ABS Constitution had been approved by the membership. Ballots for the Constitutional changes were included in the Octoer *Begonian*. The peculiarity in wording which resulted from improper rule line will be corrected at a later date.

The Constitutional Revision committee will reconvene at a date as yet undetermined to revise the Bylaws.



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