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Send changes for Officers' List and Branch Directory to the ABS Secretary.

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

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### 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*.

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September Issue ..... July 27  
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Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the editors, the society, or its officers.

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# DAUGHTER OF A RAJAH BEGONIA 'RAJKUMARI'

Philip G. Seitner, Chicago, Illinois

Ed. Note: Begonia 'Rajkumari' was registered with ABS No. 524 last September. The detailed description of the new cultivar was presented to the Nomenclature Director at the time of registration. It is quite complete and admirably serves to illustrate the many characteristics that may be considered in distinguishing one variety from another. Not all descriptions will be so detailed, but this certainly assists in positive identification.

The plant collector will find of special interest the section entitled Horticultural Merit.

The editors have included a short glossary of terms for the convenience of readers whose botanical knowledge is limited.

## B. 'Rajkumari' F1 B. sudjanae x B. rajah

### DESCRIPTION

#### Leaf

- I. PETIOLE: *Length*: average on mature stems, 21 cm. *Diameter*: slender, base 6 mm; top, at insertion on blade, 4 mm in diameter (slightly more on larger leaves). *Surface*: moderately heavily covered with epidermal hairs, 2.5 mm on the lower part to 5.0 mm on the upper part. Hairs and epidermis pigmented light red, tending to fade with age and when grown in low light intensities. An emerging petiole is more intensely colored due to density of the hairs and pigment.
- II. BLADE: *Dimensions*: average on mature stems, 18 cm x 16 cm. *Shape*: orbicular; peltate, the two fused lobes being variably unequal. The area of union of the two lobes (the area of the shortest primary veins) is often marked by a slight folding or dimpling. The peltate character is strongly inherited from the seed parent, consistent in all mature leaves. The tip is sharply acuminate, interrupting the circular outline. The edge is so shallowly lobed and minutely toothed as to appear entire. (See also the surface character.) *Venation*: characteristically, 9 primary veins radiate from the blade-petiole junction (fewer in juvenile leaves and rarely 8 or 10 in mature leaves); primary veins bifurcate at  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  the distance from the blade-petiole junction to the margin. *Surface*: slightly bullate, less markedly than in *B. rajah* leaves. Upper surface generally glabrous but with a few scattered hairs. Lower surface with numerous hairs following veins. Edge with hairs up to 2.0 mm in a fresh leaf, tending to become less conspicuous with age. Minutely denticulate, the tooth at a vein terminus somewhat thickened. *Texture*: the substance

of the leaf blade is intermediate between the two parents, lacking the crisp, heavy texture of *B. rajah*. *Pigmentation*: new leaves are almost fully red-brown, although that color intensity is never retained and it is never of the rich intensity of *B. rajah* leaves. Green areas following veins are less pronounced than in leaves of *B. rajah*. Color fades with age, although even older leaves carry a tint.

III. STIPULES: 2 cm long x 9 mm wide, bearing many red hairs. Persistent, turning brown.

### Stem

The stem is strictly rhizomatous, as in the case of both parent species. It is approximately 1.0 cm in diameter, although it might conceivably be larger under optimal conditions. The tip has a characteristic slender pointed appearance, due to the attenuated shape of the stipules, and scarlet, due to the density of hairs and pigment of the emerging leaf.

### Inflorescence

I. PEDUNCLE (primary stalk): the main stalk of the inflorescence (peduncle) varies in length, usually 18 to 20 cm, not carrying the flowers above the leaves (as is generally true, also, of both parent species). It is covered with hairs.

II. CYME: *Pattern*: typically three bifurcations (8 branches), each with a terminal pair (or what appears to be a pair) of flowers, one pistillate and one staminate, the pistillate maturing only after all staminate flowers have fallen. Although the pattern, after the primary fork, is symmetrical, the segments of one side are usually slightly shorter than segments of the other side. Also, the four tertiary branches of each side differ slightly from each other, as follows: (1) The innermost branch bears only the terminal staminate and pistillate flowers; (2) its companion branch bears a second staminate flower below the terminal segment; of the outermost two branches, (3) the first bears a second and third staminate flower from segments below the terminal segment, and (4) the second branch bears a second staminate flower below the terminal segment. Additional staminate flowers arise in the fork of each of the second and third bifurcations. The staminate flower pattern might be expressed by a formula, with those at the bifurcations written in parentheses and with branches indicated by underscorings:

$$\underline{\underline{2:(1):3:(1):2:(1):1}} : \underline{\underline{1:(1):2:(1):3:(1):2}}$$

With the eight pistillate flowers, the total number of flowers in the pattern is 30 (eleven staminate and four pistillate on each side). In any one inflorescence, this pattern is seldom fully realized: one or more flower primordia or branches may be omitted. For example, an inflorescence most frequently forms or matures only four or five pistillate flowers, often fewer. Under optimum conditions, the entire potential might be represented. It might conceivably be elaborated on, but that

has not been observed. *Dimensions*: by the time the pistillate flowers are opening, the branches of the first fork are 4.5 and 5.0 cm in length, those of the second are 1.2 and 1.5 cm, and those of the third are 0.5 and 0.8 cm. The entire mature or fruiting inflorescence may therefore be 15 cm in width. *Adventitious budding*: an ill-defined structure often appears in the angle of the primary fork, suggestive of a tuft of bracts or a bud; it has proved on occasion to produce a true stem bud, proceeding to develop foliage by the time of pistillate flower opening. It is therefore presumably always a vegetative primordium rather than an additional reproductive primordium. *Surface*: unlike the peduncle, the epidermis of all branches of the cyme and the pedicels is free of any but an occasional hair.

- III. STAMINATE FLOWER: *Structure*: two sepals, two smaller petals. *Dimensions*: up to 2.3 cm, when fully spread (measured from tips of sepals) by 1.8 cm (measured from tips of petals). Individual sepals are 11 mm long x 10 mm wide; petals are 9 mm long x 4 mm wide. The pedicel is 1.3 cm long. Individual staminate flowers may be smaller, in which case sepal and petal measurements are proportionately reduced. The spherical stamen cluster, 2.5 mm in diameter, is attached by a slender stalk (perhaps an attenuated receptacle). *Surface*: the outer surface of the sepals is usually free of hairs, but on some 2-4 hairs may occur, rarely more. *Perianth color*: white, sometimes with a faint suggestion of pink.
- IV. PISTILLATE FLOWER: *Structure*: two sepals, one smaller petal (as in *B. rajah*). *Dimensions*: up to 2.0 cm when fully spread (measured from tips of sepals). Ovary 8 mm long. Wings nearly equal, about 7 mm wide and 8.5 mm long. Sepals are 10 mm long x 9 mm wide. The petal is 5 mm long x 2.5 mm wide. The petal may spread as in the staminate flower, but frequently is cupped forward. The pedicel is usually proportionately shorter than pedicels of staminate flowers, 8.0 mm or less. Individual pistillate flowers may be smaller. *Surface and perianth color*: (as in staminate.)

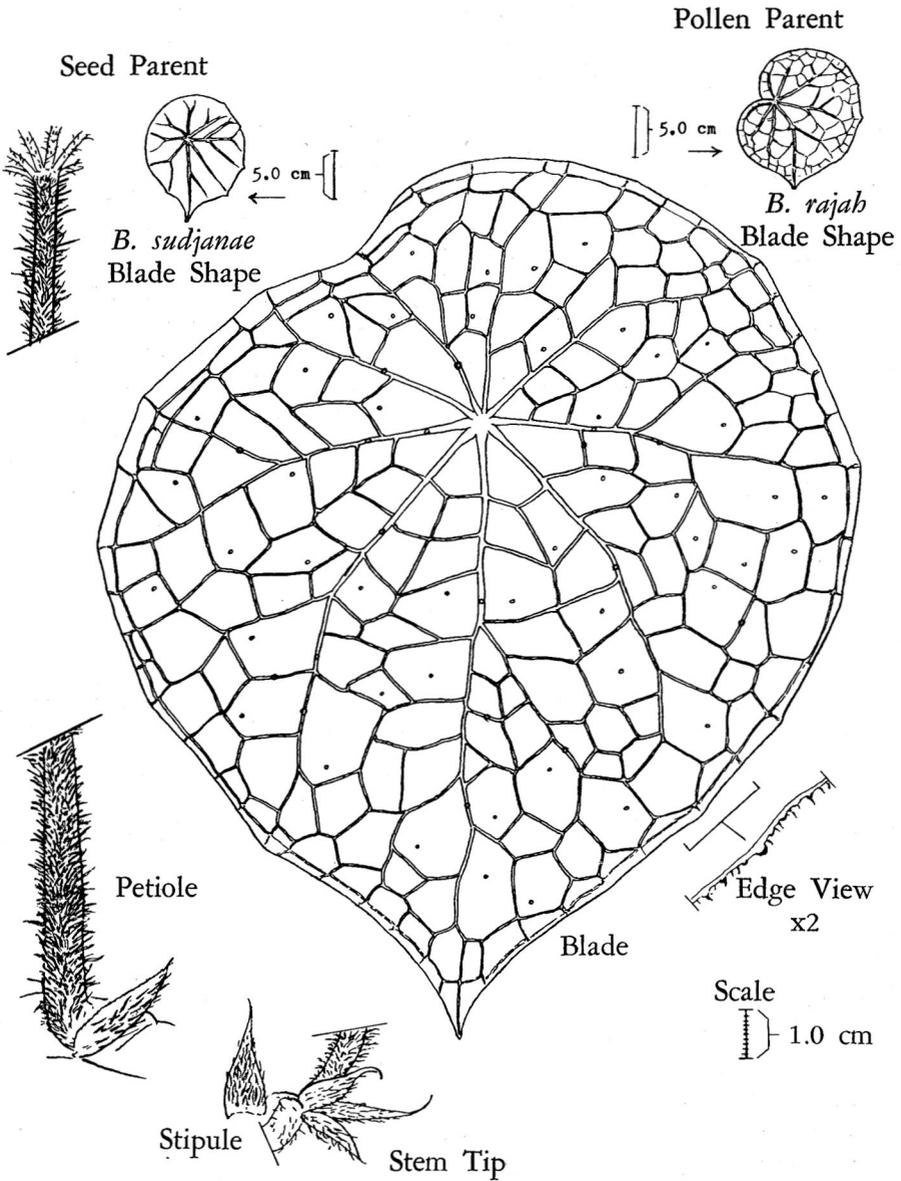
### Fruit and Seed

- I. FRUIT: the structure and dimensions of the fruit alters little from the mature ovary. In most instances, the angles between the wings, which are nearly equal in the ovary, change: one increases at the expense of the others, sometimes almost to 180 degrees. The dehiscence extends almost the full length of the ovary. (Placental structure not examined yet.)
- II. SEED: tends to be irregular and like *B. rajah* in general outline, a trifle larger. The largest are 0.4 mm in length x 0.24 mm in diameter at about 0.13 mm from the posterior end. The shoulder is acute, 0.16 mm in diameter, and 0.33 mm from the end. The operculum shows three rows of plates. Rim plates average 0.2 mm in length; post-rim plates about 0.1 mm or less, about 14 visible.

# PLATE I

F<sub>1</sub> *B. sudjanae* X *B. rajab* (*B.* 'Rajkumari')

## I. LEAF BLADE AND PETIOLE



## Seedling Variation and Character Inheritance

These  $F_1$  seedlings have, so far, shown no detectable variations between individuals. The hybrid characteristics are, with few exceptions (such as the flowering habit and peltate leaf), almost intermediate between the two parents.

### Habit

- I. GROWTH: growth is continuous but slower during winter.
- II. FLOWERING: flowering follows the habit of *B. rajah* in being continuous, although somewhat depressed during winter. *B. sudjanae*, under identical conditions, usually flowers only briefly in spring or early summer.

### Horticultural Merit

This hybrid has no virtues not possessed by either parent species, beyond blending their characters into a plant easily distinguished from both. It requires cultural conditions identical to those demanded by the parents. Its decorative value depends on the view of the individual; its pigmentation — delicate in mature leaves and intense in young ones — makes a fully-foliaged plant attractive. Its flowers, like those of its parents, are unimpressive, although they add a note of interest in their presence and near-constancy. Like its parent species, it is suitable only for a conservatory (or climate comparable to the parents' natural habitats). Neither it nor its parents can be recommended as house or garden plants except in suitable climates or in very large enclosed glass containers.

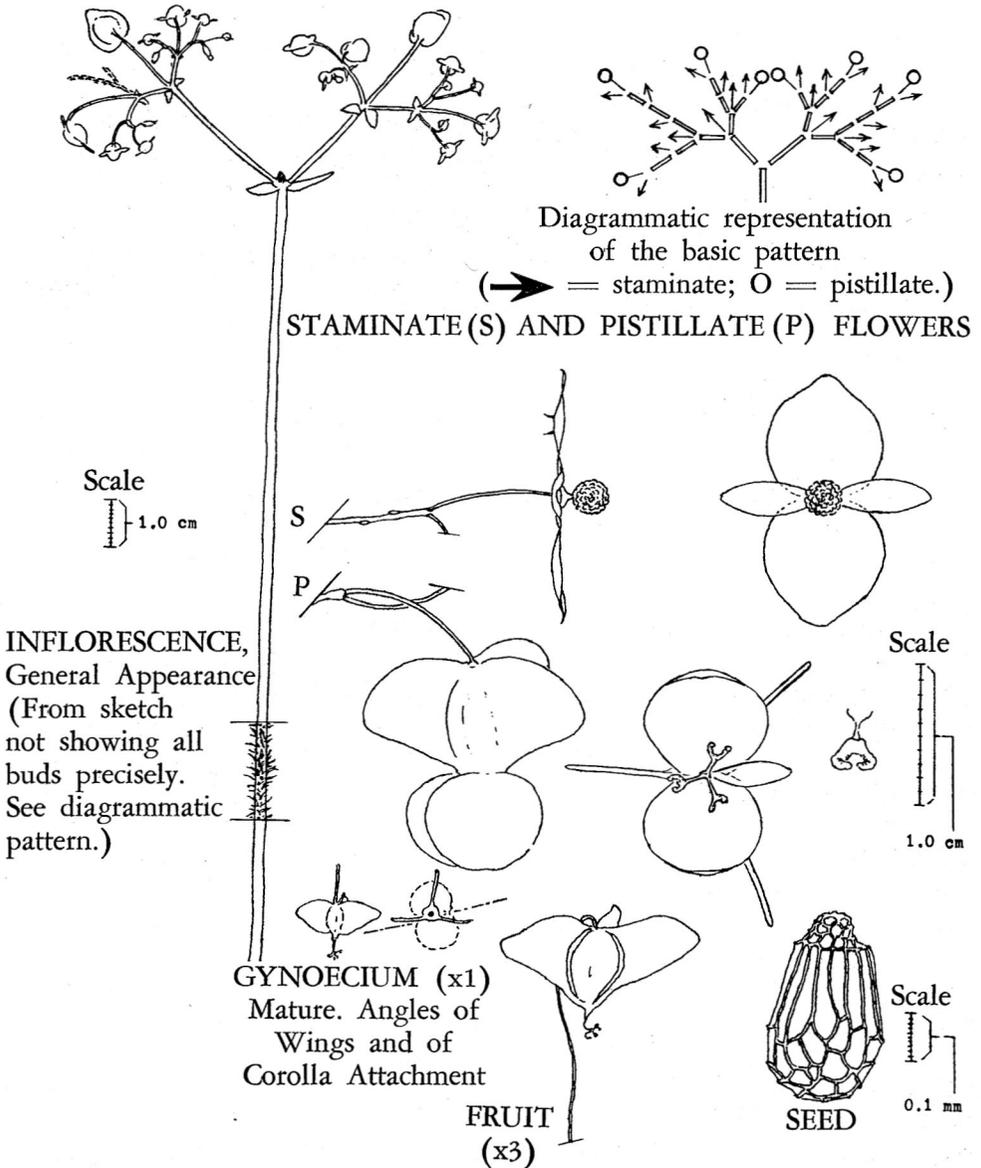
### Glossary

- acuminate — tapering to a point  
bifurcation — division into two branches  
bullate — having the surface covered with irregular and slight elevations, giving a blistered appearance.  
cyme — complex inflorescence with branching from primary axis. (Sime — rhymes with dime)  
dehiscence — the natural bursting open of the seed pod for discharge of contents  
denticulate — finely toothed  
 $F_1$  — the first generation which results as a cross between two parent plants  
inflorescence — flowering part of a plant  
operculum (pl. opercula) — cover or cap on a seed vessel  
orbicular — circular in outline  
peltate — having stem attached to blade at point not on margin of leaf blade  
pistillate — seed bearing  
primordium (pl. primordia) — the first recognizable stage in development of a bud  
staminate — pollen bearing

# PLATE II

F<sub>1</sub> *B. subjanae* X *B. rajah* (*B.* 'Rajkumari')

## II. INFLORESCENCE, FRUIT AND SEED



## BEGONIA FAIRYLAND

Thelma O'Reilly, San Diego, Calif.

*Editor's Note: The first part of this story appeared in the June issue, page 144.*

As I slowly toured Leslie's Begonia House, my eyes were constantly captured by an unusual and large display at the front end of one aisle. It consisted of dozens of small, black, flat shaped medicine bottles, some having wooden handles protruding from the narrow neck openings, lying on their sides on a flat counter. Small artist brushes, hundreds of small foil squares, sheets of white paper, tags and pencils added to the mystery of the black bottles. When I finally questioned Leslie about this array of articles, he shared his amazing hybridizing technique.

He purchases small medicine bottles and paints them black. When he spots a desirable male begonia bloom, he removes it and carries it to the counter. Here, he gently but firmly taps the male bloom until the pollen, if it is ready to be released, sifts onto the clean, flat side of the black bottle. Until you have seen it with your own eyes, you cannot imagine how clear and obviously the brightly colored pollen grains, no matter how few, glow against the black background. Now, Leslie takes a clean brush from a holder and, like a serious artist, with his palette, paint and canvas, he performs hybridizing miracles by coating his brush with pollen from the black bottle. Then he paints the stigma of a chosen begonia bloom. So simple and so effective!



Thelma O'Reilly

Leslie immediately fills out a hybridizing tag and attaches it to the pollinated bloom. If there is pollen remaining on the black bottle, the brush is inserted into the neck opening and, with pertinent information, the bottle is placed on the worktable to await its next subject.

When a seedpod is ready for harvesting, it is carried to the counter with its tag and emptied onto a sheet of white paper. Now, it is rolled from one sheet to another until Leslie is satisfied that all of the chaff has been removed and the seed is ready for a square of foil. The foil is creased in half, the sides folded in for sealing, the seed poured in and the top folded over to enclose the seed. A name tag is laid across the top and the foil is folded over to enclose it, ending with a small foil square  $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$ . Why didn't I think of the simplicity and speed of a foil seed container!



*B. versicolor* x *B. cathayana*

To fully comprehend the hybridizing program Leslie maintains daily, one would have to view it personally. The plants are heavily laden with tags and seed pods. There are hundreds of foil seed packets waiting for planting and row after row of flats containing seedlings — a lifetime of work if he never made another cross.

I was deeply impressed with his begonia knowledge, enthusiasm for improvement in form and flowers and his desire to share all of this with everyone. I, in turn, want to share with begonia lovers more highlights of Leslie's magic hybridizing. This will be a difficult task because there are so many. Fortunately, I was able to carry plants and cuttings of many of these beauties on my return trip to San Diego, where I have been able to watch their progress.

Let's start in Leslie's greenhouse with *B. versicolor* x *B. cathayana*, a beauty growing in a large wooden tub

and measuring over three feet across. The leaves, strongly resembling *B. cathayana*, measure  $7\frac{1}{2}$ " x 11" with strong stems. Giant, hairy, orange-red seed pods seem unbelievable on this vigorous, hardy plant. A sister seedling of nearly equal size thrives in Winky's unheated house where temperatures dipped to freezing the previous winter. Leslie reports that the first cross made few plants that reached maturity but those that did were far more vigorous than *B. cathayana*. They are fairly fertile with *rexes*, crossed back on *B. versicolor* and selfed, which produces a wide range of colors and texture from silver to green velvet. The resulting plants are better growers than *B. versicolor*.

*B. 'Red Planet'* x *B. carolineifolia* produced a wide range of interesting plants. I chose three and each is different and distinct, especially the solid, grass green leaved one with a

red eye whose leaves tend to overlap into folds instead of dividing like the father plant.

One of the "magic" crosses is beautiful *B. hispida villosa* var. *nigricans* x *P. R. tuberosa* (Leslie uses initial codes on many of the tuberous crosses). The soft hairs of the female parent outline the tuberous-type leaf edge and underside, the main stem is thick and strong and the flowers, resembling the female parent, hang in clusters from each node.

Leslie's favorite sexy plants include *B. socotrana*, *B. 'Wild Rose'*, *B. sutherlandii*, *B. 'Patty Sweet'*, *B. herbacea*, *B. solananthera*, *B. dregei*, *B. incarnata*, *B. 'Tiger Kitten'* and *B. 'Bokit'*. He has crossed them with many kinds of begonias and with each other.

*B. dregei* x *B. 'Wild Rose'* is a lovely, fragile plant with large, pretty, fragrant flowers. Leslie reports best

growers and bloomers of this cross are not fragrant. The 1½" salmon pink flowers open year round. It is slightly fertile with *B. socotrana*.

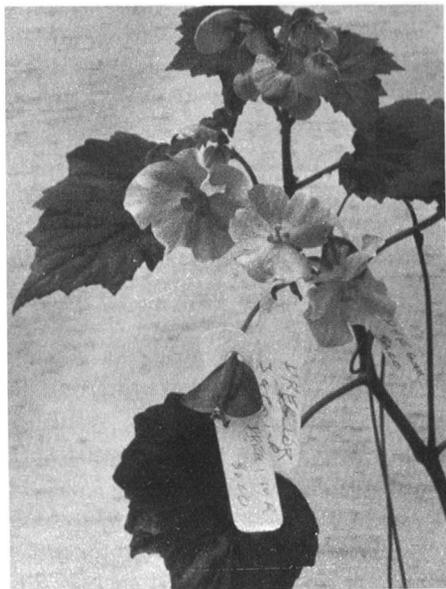
A special favorite is *B. 'Cleo'* x *B. socotrana* x *B. herbacea*. The unusual wedge shaped leaves have brownish markings at the leaf edges and it develops into a small, compact beauty with pink flowers. It starts readily from leaf cuttings.

In my opinion, the cross that deserves my most enthusiastic comments began a few years ago with Leslie's *B. 'Tiger Kitten'*, which is a cuddly, eyelash edged, tiger marked, small leaved, compact rhizomatous begonia. Although there are many other begonias of similar characteristics, I find it decidedly distinct, recognizable from all others at all growth stages. Aptly, it has been patented and is now available to the wholesale trade from Mikkelsens, Inc.

Leslie crossed *B. 'Tiger Kitten'* and Chester Nave's delightful *B. 'Boutique'* to create *B. 'Bokit'* which is another winner with apple green, tiger striped, eyelashed, thick leaves with the sinus curl of *B. 'Bowtique'*. Occasionally, there is a double curl.

Moving on, Leslie took *B. 'Bokit'* and with his magic wand, and surely a fairy hovering overhead, touched the stigmas of many different begonias. The results are a group of superb, distinct and utterly fascinating plants, all favoring the wedge sinus with leaf curls. I showed the following three begonias from this group at Begonia Heritage Show in 1976.

*B. 'Fairylend'*, which I purchased on my first visit to Fairylend, won the Best New Introduction for a Com-



*B. dregei* x *B. 'Wild Rose'*  
Hybridizer's tag attached



*B.* 'Fairyland'

Photos by Thelma O'Reilly

mercial Grower. It is *B. conchifolia* 'Zip' x *B.* 'Bokit'. The  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x 5" leaf is rich, deep green with a swirling, dancing, darkly marked, hairy edge. The leaf stem forms a slightly widening, thickening, pale green, red dotted sinus that bursts into radiating veins of the same color. The distinctive beauty is in the perfectly formed, mirror image curls at the open sinus. It is a thick, compact grower, requiring some leaf removal to allow leaves to mature to their full beauty. It withstood some freezing temperatures in an unheated, protected fiberglass house.

*B.* 'Whirlwind' is just beautiful with a distinct personality. It is a cross of *B. strigillosa* x *B.* 'Bokit'. Leslie's plant named *B. strigillosa* was field collected by a friend while visiting Guatemala. It strongly resembles *B.* 'Norah Bedson'. The shape and growth habit of *B.* 'Whirlwind' are much like *B.* 'Fairyland'

with slightly larger leaves which are so thickly curled before opening that sometimes I have to help them to unfurl. Reddish-brown maze-like markings are vividly stressed on the bright green background. Most of the leaves stand erect with the leaf tip pointing high, causing soft folds in the leaf surface, sometimes making the leaf appear to be two leaves back to back, truly befitting its name of *B.* 'Whirlwind'.

*B. dregei* x *B.* 'Bokit' is a small, upright gem with small leaves that are heavily decorated with tiger stripes. The sinus is normal with one half curl overlapping. The small pink flowers barely open and fall quickly. It did not go dormant and I am anxious to watch its growth pattern this season.

I have several more of this group that will bear close watching this year, one in particular, *B.* 'Madame' (Continued on page 195)

# BEGONIA PATULA, AN EARLY PLANT

Reproduced from the *Botanical Register*, 1820

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## BEGONIA pauciflora.

*Few-flowered Begonia.*

MONŒCIA POLYANDRIA.

Nat. ord. Plantæ incertæ sedis. Polypetala germine infero. *Jussieu gen.* 436.

BEGONIACEÆ. *Bonpland nav. et malm.* 151. An HYDRANGEÆ et indè *Rubiaceis* affines? *Lindley MSS.*

*BEGONIA.* *Suprà vol. 4. fol.* 284.

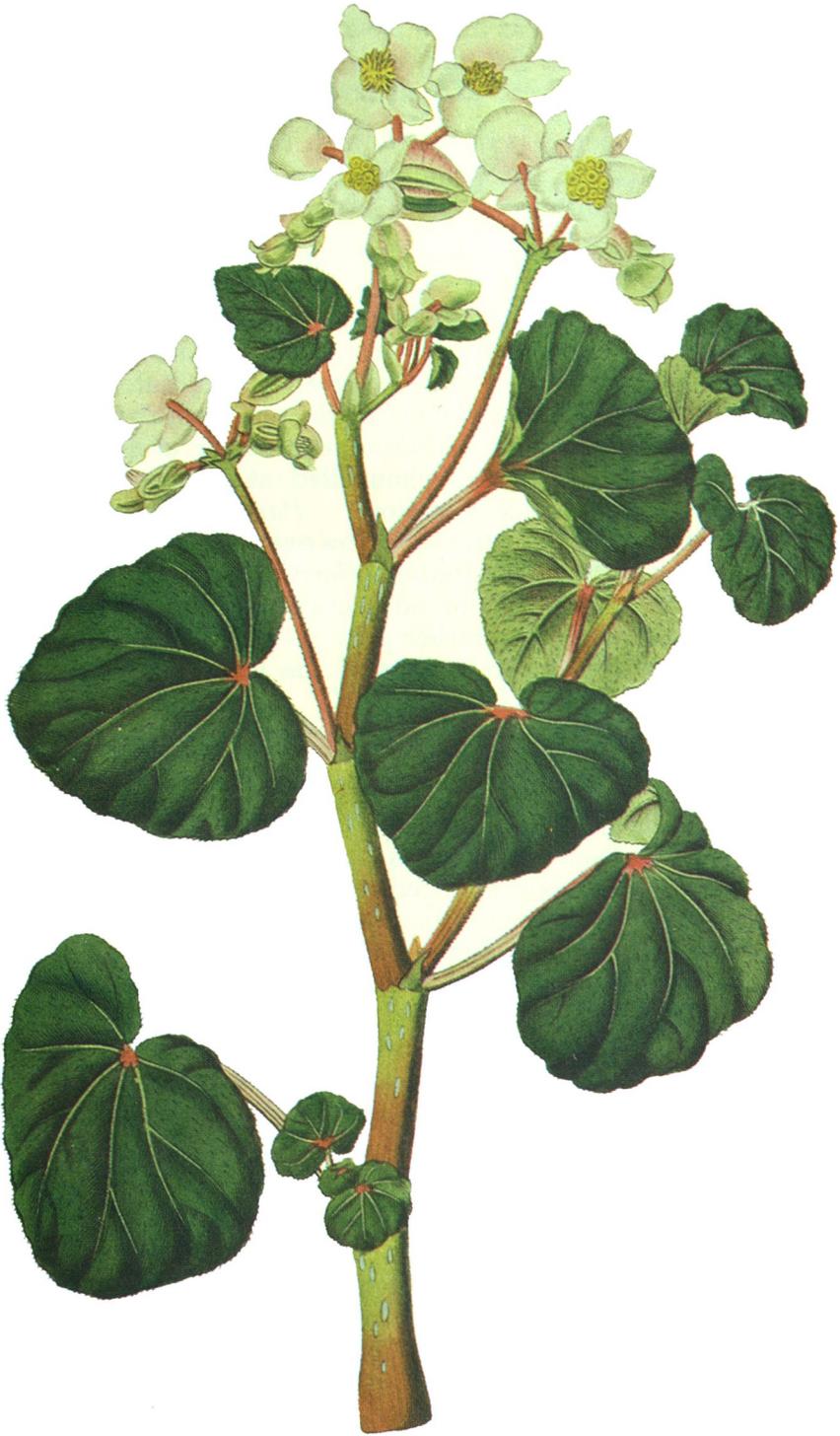
*B. pauciflora*, caulescens; foliis cordatis rotundatis nitidis plicatis subbi-crenatis: inferioribus æquilateralibus, capsulæ alis inæqualibus obtusangulis. *Lindley MSS.*

*Begonia patula.* *Haworth suppl. succ. pl.* 100?

Herba carnosa 2-3-pedalis. Caules teretes rubidi erecti ramosi impubes, internodiis petiolorum longitudine. Folia ferè verticalia minutim puberula, stipulis ovatis acutis scariosis, petiolo suprà canaliculato, caulis colore, longitudine laminæ, quæ nitida, cordata plicata subbi-crenata suprà lætè viridis infrà pallidior, superiorum obliqua, inferiorum subæquilateralis. Paniculæ paucifloræ pilosæ, bracteis ♂ ovatis appressis, ♀ subrotundis. Flores ♂ pallidi rubro tincti laciniis exterioribus lætè ovatis obtusis, interioribus 4-plo angustioribus concavis acutiusculis—♀ pallidi virides paulò minores, alis ovarii obtusis, alterâ majore. *Lindley MSS.*

“ *BEGONIA patula* of Mr. Haworth’s above cited tract is reported to be this, but the specific character does not altogether apply to it, and if it should turn out to be the same, the name *patula* can never be retained, for the plant is any thing but spreading.”

“ I think I have detected a remarkable affinity between this genus and HYDRANGEA, which I shall take a future opportunity of explaining, contenting myself for the present with indicating my view. I believe it is the opinion of some of the Botanists in France that the genus is allied to *Polygonæ*; an idea originating, I presume, in the taste of the leaves, which have certainly a very striking resemblance to that of different species of RUMEX.”



“The drawing was taken from a sample which flowered in the hothouse at the nursery of Messrs. Colville, in the King’s Road, Chelsea, in June last.”

“If this species is the same with the doubtful *BEGONIA* I have quoted, it has been introduced in 1816 from the Berlin Garden into the Physic Garden at Chelsea.”

“Caulescent, fleshy, 2-3 feet high; *stems* round, reddish, upright, branched, furless, intervals between the leaves the length of the petioles. *Leaves* nearly vertical, minutely furred, cordate, rounded, shining, plaited, somewhat doubly crenate, of a lively green above, paler underneath, *upper ones* with a slanted blade, *lower* with an almost entirely evensided one; *petiole* of the colour of the stem, the length of the blade, channelled at the upper side: *stipules* ovate, pointed, scariose. *Panicles* few-flowered hairy; *bractes* of the *barren flowers* ovate close-pressed, of the *fertile flowers* nearly round. *Barren flowers* pale tinged with red, *outer segments* broad-ovate blunt, *inner ones* four times narrower concave rather pointed—*fertile flowers* pale green, but little smaller, wings of the *germen* obtuse one larger than the rest.” *Lindley MSS.*

The whole of this article was kindly communicated by Mr. Lindley while the plant was in flower last spring.

The following short notice of the natural tribe of our plant is taken from Mr. Brown’s Observations on the Botany of Congo. “The extensive genus *BEGONIA*, which it is perhaps expedient to divide, may be considered as forming a natural order, whose place, however, among the Dicotyledonous families, is not satisfactorily determined. Of *Begoniaceæ*, no species has yet been observed on the continent of Africa, though several have been found in Madagascar and the Isles of France and Bourbon, and one in the Island of Johanna.” *Brown obs. bot. Congo. 45.*

## Branch Library Welcomes Contributions

The Redondo Area Branch has started a library and would appreciate any back issues of the *Begonian* from anyone who has extra ones on hand. Please send them to Evelyn Isaac, 2022 Bataan Road, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.

## MOVING?

If you are planning to move, be sure to send a change of address notice to the Membership Secretary. Copies of the *Begonian* which are sent by Second Class Mail are returned to the office and are not forwarded by the Post Office.

## BEGONIA PATULA HAWORTH

Fred A. Barkley, Tecumseh, Oklahoma

At a flower show at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, a number of colored illustrations from old books were on sale. To me the multitude of colored illustrations to be found in many old books are most fascinating, and constitute a pleasing facet of the history of botany and horticulture. Since only a few are fortunate enough to have a library of early books available, I take this liberty of sharing this illustration and the accompanying text from the *Botanical Register*.

It is *Begonia patula* Haworth (Pl. Succ. Suppl. p. 100. 1819.) which had been published the preceding year. This was before there were established rules for the naming of species

of plants. It is interesting to note that Lindley indicates that the name "*patula*" can never be retained, for the plant is anything but spreading." According to the present rules of nomenclature a name is not replaced, no matter how inappropriate it may turn out to be. Believing his plant to be different from *B. patula* he published the name *B. pauciflora* for it.

Since the manner of presenting a (presumably) new species in the early part of the nineteenth century is interestingly different from modern publications, the entire description is quoted as it originally appeared. It is interesting to note that the *Botanical Register* did not number pages, but used only the plate numbers.



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*Sinningia cardinalis* — rosette of hairy green leaves, flowers tubular, bright red \$1.00

*Sinningia leucotricha* — foliage silvery, flowers a bright salmon red, growth similar to cardinalis but sometimes sends up a central stalk with leaves and flowers on top \$1.00

*Sinningia 'Dollbaby'* — rosette to 4" across, flowers lavender with flared face to 1/2" across. \$2.00

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Compiled by Linda Miller

- Jy 1A *B. coccinea*: 1774, Brazil. Lovely medium cane with medium green leaves and red pendulous flowers. Makes a very special basket or wall pocket plant. ....\$ .50
- Jy 1B Same plant as above, but a triple packet. .... 1.00
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- Jy 3 *B. echinosepala*: 1871, Brazil. Small, shrub-like begonia with narrow, serrate leaves, drooping arched branches. A very profuse bloomer with white flowers. .... .50
- Jy 4 *B. 'Fleecealba'*; *sunderbruchii* x *leptotricha*. This unusual plant is shrub-like with felted leaves. .... .50
- Jy 5 *B. heracleifolia*: 1830, Mexico. Name means "Like the cow parsnip". One of the star-leaved begonias. Leaves 6-12 inches at maturity. Rhizomatous; flowers in spring, pink on tall, erect panicles. Quantity limited. .... 1.00
- Jy 6 *B. masoniana* Irmscher: 1959, Singapore. Known as the 'Iron Cross' begonia. Leaves are very pebbled with a distinctive mahogany marking on green leaves. Flowers greenish white in late spring and summer. Seed takes from 4 to 8 weeks to germinate, so do not throw away if they do not come up quickly. .... 1.00
- Jy 7 *B. mazae* forma *viridis*: 1947, Mexico. This lovely trailing species has a fibrous stalk; leaves are ovate-pointed; surface black-green with a shiny appearance. Blooms pink. .... .50
- Jy 8A *B. nelumbiiifolia*: 1830, Mexico to Columbia. Rhizomatous; leaves large, green with puckered texture. Flowers white. .... .50
- Jy 8B Same plant as above, but triple packet. .... 1.00
- Jy 9 *B. philodendroides*: 1954, Mexico. Novelty plant. A must for every collection. Leaves like *Philodendron dubium*, smooth, leathery, deeply lobed. His large white flowers; underground tuber-like rhizome. New leaf and flower stems come up through the soil. .... 1.00
- Jy 10A Mixed rex. A mixture of beautiful colors, many with curls, some double curls. This was so popular in May we are reoffering it. .... 1.00
- Jy 10B Same plants as above, but triple packet. .... 2.00
- Jy 11 Mixed rhizomatous. This contains seed from *B. 'Maphil'*, *B. 'Beryl'*, star leaved types and more. .... 1.00
- Jy 12A Mixed semperflorens. A mixture of many types. Just in time to plant for fall and winter bloom. Great indoor pot plant. .... .50
- Jy 12B Same plants as above, but a triple packet. .... 1.00
- Jy 13 *B. versicolor*: 1939, China. Rhizomatous with distinctive foliage. Leaves are round, colored emerald, mahogany, silver, apple green. Flowers are salmon pink. Terrarium culture recommended. Allow 3-6 weeks for germination. .... 1.00

*Other seeds:*

- Mixed holly fern spore. Some will have fancy leaves and others may even be crested. (Sowing instructions free on request.) ..... .50
- Triple packet of above. .... 1.00
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Calif. residents, add 6% sales tax. All customers, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope. Make all checks or money orders payable in U. S. funds to Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund, and mail to:

Mrs. Linda Miller  
 P. O. Box 227  
 Gardena, CA 90247

---

## YOUR SEED FUND NEEDS YOUR SEEDS!

The Society is dependent upon seeds sent by the members to keep a good selection of seeds available. Even if you have only two or three seed pods, I can add these to others of the same variety to make enough to offer. *Species are especially in demand.*

Cleaned seeds would be appreciated. You can recycle your envelopes from the Seed Fund to send them in. Enclose the name of plant, if known, and a description of the plant and flowers. Seeds not positively identified will be put into mixed blends. (Refer to July 1975 issue for "How to Produce Begonia Seeds" by J. Doorenbos; April 1972 for "Winnowing Begonia Seeds" by P. Seitner.)

Most of you grow other plants besides begonias, such as ferns and or gesneriads. These are also welcome.

I'll be watching the mail for your letters. Remember that you can receive seeds listed in return for your contributions. Linda Miller, Seed Fund Director, P. O. Box 227, Gardena, CA 90247.

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### BEGONIA FAIRYLAND

(Continued from page 189)

Queen' x B. 'Bokit'. Leslie would not part with any of the best of this mating and I did not blame him — they are fascinating and should be groomed for New Introductions. My one plant was quite plain compared to the others but is starting to develop interesting leaves and might not be such a Plain Jane after all.

If you plan a motor trip to Begonia Fairyland at McKinleyville, take School Road Exit off Route 101, go east for one block to Salmon Road,

south one block to Griffith Road and you cannot miss the blue house in the middle of the block, on the right. The greenhouses are easily spotted from the highway.

The Woodriff's, Leslie, Ruth and Winky greet visitors with warmth and friendliness. I dream of another trip in the near future. As I enjoy my Fairyland Begonias, I know that fairies are sprinkling their special fairy dust in Leslie's greenhouse to assist him with his "hybridizers' dreams".

# BEGONIA BOOKSHELF

By Ruth Pease

*Begonias for Beginners* by Elda Haring was sent to me by the publisher to review. I found the text to be easy reading and most informative. Elda has taken time to illustrate the text with many photos of her actual pruning of begonias, propagating begonias, transplanting begonias, and all other aspects of caring and growing begonias. Her husband, Walter, was the photographer.

The second half of the book discusses begonias to know and grow. The photos do not always correspond to the text. I have corresponded with Elda and found that she was unable to get a complete proof of her book. I learned it is not always easy to get a book published as planned.

Elda is eager to have her readers benefit from her experiences in grow-

ing begonias. We have all enjoyed her articles in the *Begonian* for years. She has made a list of corrections for you to note in your copy of her book. They are as follows:

### Misspellings

- Page 72 *B. 'Argenteo Gutatta'*  
 83 *B. domingensis*  
 89 *B. goegoensis*  
 109 *B. sutherlandii*

### Transposed photos

- Page 74 Top photo is *B. bowerae*  
 Middle photo is *B. 'Blinkum'*  
 Bottom photo is  
*B. 'Bow-Chancee'*  
 Page 75 Top photo is *B. 'Bow-Nigra'*  
 Middle is  
*B. bowerae nigramarga*  
 Page 79 Top photo is *B. dregei* var.  
*mabethii obtusa*  
 Middle photo is *B. 'Dieppa'*  
 Bottom photo is  
*B. domingensis*  
 Page 109 Middle photo is *B. 'Jocko'*

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## ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Debi Miller, Round Robin Director

Mabel Corwin, Round Robin Reporter

The main topic of conversations in the robins has been the weather. It seems everyone has had too much of something. The heavy snows and extreme cold in much of the country caused plant damage for many people. The snow and freezing temperatures in southern states found growers unprepared. They normally grow tropical plants in the ground outside. Many were frozen. Some experienced power failures and lost many plants to the cold. Those who turned thermostats down to 50 degrees to save fuel found that the plants survived and they feel that many will grow normally with the warmer weather. Some growers on the west coast are having to cut back on their plants because of the water shortage. Everyone is optimistic and determined to continue growing the begonias that they love.

### Mailing leaves

Clara Tuoto, California, gave this suggestion for sending leaves in the mail. Wrap the stems in moist tissue, put in a baggie, give a couple of shots with a spray mister into the baggie. Then put name of plant on outside of locked baggie. Nest them in a box with paper so they are snug.

### Growing under lights

Barbara Neptune, California, took a nice long (Old) "breakfront" and had a friend install two long fluorescent fixtures under the top of it. It has a shelf about 2 inches from the floor. She put white trays on the shelf

and a white metal reflector in the back. Rexes love this and grow like mad. This is in her plant room where the humidity stays around 60%. She mists the plants at intervals.

### Pest control

Mae Blanton, Texas, has a friend who uses para moth balls (not the camphor ones) in her bowls to control thrip and other pests. She makes a little cup of aluminum foil in which to set the ball.

Margaret Waguespack, Louisiana, read this tip in the American Rose Magazine and the Epiphyllum Society Bulletin. If you are not getting good results with Benomyl try using 1 Tablespoon vinegar in 1 gallon spray. It seems Benomyl works better in an acid medium and many of us have alkaline water.

### Handcrafted pots

Dorcas Resleff, Washington, made hanging pots in a variety of sizes, using liquid plaster with mixing bowls serving as forms. The results were pleasing and she plans to make macrame hangers for them. She found the instruction book in her supermarket. It is *Knotty Pots* by Harold Manglesen & Sons, Omaha, Nebraska.

If you would like to be included in the Round Robins, read the article on page 47 in the February issue of the *Begonian*. Then write to

Debi Miller

919 Hickory View Circle  
Camarillo, CA 93010

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Historian Betty Tillotson requests that you send to her articles about your branch, its activities, and its members that have appeared in your local newspapers. She compiles these into a book. She needs your cooperation so that your branch is included. Obviously she cannot scan newspapers for each and every locality. Her address is 3912 Wildrose Way, Sacramento, CA 95826.

## 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.

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

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**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.

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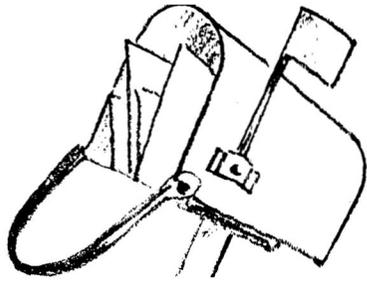
**The Good, The Rare and The Beautiful in begonias.** Rex, rhizomatous, cane and shrubs. 25¢ for list. Visitors welcome. Lera's Greenhouse, P.O. Bx 948, Porter, TX 77365 (713) 354-3567.

### "Begonias, An Introduction"

Bob Hamm will be speaker at Midwestern University, Science Bldg. Room 215, Wichita Falls, Texas. July 20, 7:30 p.m.

# BEGONIA QUESTION BOX

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



*Question:* I have a beautiful cane begonia growing in front of a six foot picture window that faces south. I water when it is dry. Why do the flower buds drop without opening?

*Answer:* I feel sure that the sun in San Antonio, Texas is as strong as ours in North Carolina. I find my canes do not like full sun shining through the glass for it is too warm and causes buds to blast. Misting daily would alleviate the situation. Keep the soil lightly moist and do not let it dry to concrete hardness. If possible, remove the plant to a bright, eastern exposure where only the morning sun would reach it, or move it farther away from the south window so that it is not subject to the full rays of strong sunshine.

*Question:* I have a 120 gallon fish tank in which I would like to grow begonias using fluorescent tubes for light. What kinds of begonias can I grow in this and could I grow bromeliads in the same tank with them?

*Answer:* Most any begonias will grow in a terrarium. Canes, rhizomatous, and shrub-like are good choices. Such exotics as *B. masoniana* (Iron Cross), *B. 'Silver Jewel'*, *B. pustulata*, *B. ficicola*, *B. versicolor*, *B. rajah*, *B. 'Buttercup'*, *B. prismatocarpa* and any others suggested for bubbles would do extremely well in the humid atmosphere. Bromeliads do not like to have their roots as moist as begonias.

I would suggest that you grow them on driftwood within the tank. Wrap the roots with long grained sphagnum moss and wire to the driftwood. This will give the roots the air that they like and the humidity within the terrarium would be just right for the plants to thrive.

*Question:* An expert told me some of my begonias have mites. How can I tell the difference between spider mites and cyclamen mite? *Answer:* Spider mites work on underside of leaves. In a bad infestation tiny webs appear. Leaves yellow, then turn brown and drop from plant. They may be eradicated by forceful sprays of clear water at 5 day intervals for two or three weeks, or may be washed off using suds of Ivory Liquid or some other mild detergent followed by clear water. Spraying with a rotenone-pyrethrin preparation or Black Leaf 40 is also effective. Cyclamen mite damage is evidenced by a blistered and shiny aspect to leaf surface. Leaves become brittle. Badly infested plants should be destroyed before they infect your whole collection. Isolate the plant and spray with Kelthane, repeating once a week for several weeks. Be careful when using this material and use according to directions, for it is toxic. Use rubber gloves while working with it. If preferred, mix solution and swish top of plant through solution, allowing a little to flow into top of pot.

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## REGISTRATION FORM

Please send to:

Mrs. C. Herman Childress  
190 Timberbrook Drive,  
Penfield, New York 14526

Name(s).....

Street.....

City..... State..... Zip.....

Branch Affiliation (if any).....

Registration Fee — \$3.00 (includes all Seminars)  
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---

## HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Please send directly to:

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dinner on Sept. 16 and 17, cocktail party and all gratuities.
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Includes 3 nights lodging, Sept. 15, 16 and 17, lunch and  
dinner on Sept. 16 and 17, cocktail party and all gratuities.

Those not wishing a package for 3 nights will be charged regular room rates accordingly.

- ( ) Single Room — \$28.00 per night for ..... nights.
- ( ) Double Room — \$34.00 per night for ..... nights.

Reservations must be made by Sept. 1, 1977. A block of rooms is reserved for us until that date. When making hotel reservations, be sure to state that you will be attending our Conference.

Individual meal tickets may be purchased separately from the Rochester Branch for those not on package plan.

Approximate arrival time..... Departure Time.....

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN  
BEGONIA SOCIETY  
May 23, 1977**

The meeting was held in the regular meeting room of the South Gate Auditorium. Called to order at 7:45 P.M. by 1st Vice President Nathan Randall in the absence of President Richardson. Flag salute was led by Ralph Corwin, and Aims and Purposes were read by Linda Miller.

Minutes were read by Mabel Corwin in the absence of the secretary. They were approved as corrected.

Treasurer, Gill Estrada, reported receipts of \$2,944.28, disbursements \$2,184.67, leaving a balance May 18 of \$3,086.71.

Mr. Randall announced that President Richardson had appointed Ralph Corwin chairman of a committee to revise and bring up to date the Constitution and Bylaws. Mr. Randall is to be on the committee, with one more member to be appointed. Motion by Pearl Bennell that the appointments be ratified. Motion carried. Ralph asked that those members having suggestions regarding changes in the Constitution and Bylaws let him know as soon as possible.

Past President, Margaret Ziesenhenné, reported that she had mailed the application for non-profit status to the Internal Revenue Service on April 29th. She also told of a recent trip they had taken and of their visits with some ABS members.

Editors reported that the June issue of the **Begonian** will include the 1976 Index, also the Show Schedule.

Mabel Corwin reported advertising receipts for the month of April \$346.25. She asked members to help secure new advertising for the **Begonian**.

Pearl Bennell reported that Librarian, Lydia Austin, had asked her to announce that Branches could take Elda Haring's book on consignment to sell to their members.

Linda Miller announced that she had filled 186 orders for seeds. The Seed Fund receipts were \$713.56, expenditures \$47.60, leaving a balance of \$665.96.

Membership Secretary, Mrs. Garinger, reported new members 157, renewals 163, and members in good standing May 10th, 4270. Total receipts were \$1,833.99, expenses \$138.44.

Research Director, Carleton L'Homme-dieu, is recuperating from surgery and had no report.

Doug Frost reported that plans for the convention are progressing satisfactorily. The branches have pledged 1450 plants for the plant sale and the committee has ordered 2,000 to be purchased.

A note from Virginia Barnett was read, thanking the board for the floral spray.

A letter from Pearl Bennell was read asking that her resignation as Director of the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund be accepted, effective immediately. Motion by Margaret Taylor that we accept Pearl's resignation with regret. Motion carried. Linda Miller will take on these responsibilities along with her duties as Seed Fund Administrator.

Norma Taylor, Orange County Branch, requested that they be allowed to change their constitution to elect officers at the same time as the National elections instead of December. The officers would be elected for one year, except the National Representative who would be elected for two years. Mr. Sullinger moved that their wishes be granted and the change be allowed. Motion carried.

Margaret Ziesenhenné reported that Clarence Hall has two Life Membership cards, but receives only one copy of the **Begonian**. She made a motion that Mrs. Hall receive a copy of the **Begonian** each month in appreciation of her many years of service to the ABS. Motion carried.

After some very interesting branch reports, the meeting was adjourned at 9 P.M.

Mabel Corwin, Secretary pro tem.

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6% tax added to above rates. One day deposit must accompany all arrivals later than 6:00 P.M. Check-out by Noon. All **HOTEL RESERVATIONS** should be returned to 1855 South Harbor Blvd., Anaheim, CA 92802 by **August 1, 1977** to guarantee accommodations. Room may not be ready until after 2:30 P.M.

----- Upper portion to hotel — Lower portion to ABS Convention -----

### CONVENTION REGISTRATION

		Required	Amount
		Number	Amount
Registration and Preview Fee .....	\$ .50	.....	.....
Seminars (six semesters) — No charge .....			
Annual Meeting Luncheon .....	5.00	.....	.....
Banquet .....	11.00	.....	.....
Garden Tour .....	7.50	.....	.....
Total registration for all activities .....	24.00	.....	.....

Please make CONVENTION REGISTRATION checks payable to  
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 to be received by August 18, 1977 (if at all possible)

Mail to:

Doug Frost  
 10622 Teal Drive  
 Garden Grove, CA 92643

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Address .....

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Zip

## VACATION PLANNING

We anticipate a beautiful ABS Convention and Show at the Inn At the Park in Anaheim. For those who are vacationing, the Anaheim area is loaded with interesting things to do and see after the Convention. This year there is the added bonus of being able to attend the San Francisco Fair and Flower Show, 25% of which is devoted to begonias. This event is scheduled for the weekend preceding the National Convention and Show.

The new air fares mean that you can stay from 7 to 30 days with a maximum of personal freedom in scheduling. It is possible to arrange side trips to various places in the Bay area, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, or San Diego. The Sacramento Branch is arranging a special tour for August 28, details to be in the next issue.

Individuals can contact At Your Service Travel Advisors for brochures and helpful suggestions.

Very soon all branches will receive in the mail a packet of materials from

At Your Service Travel Advisors in Anaheim with information regarding travel arrangements and hotel and motel reservations both in Anaheim and San Francisco. They have been kind to offer assistance to our members in making all their travel and hotel reservations. This way all "begonia people" may be together. You may call collect to Mr. Wayne Panoke, At Your Service Travel Advisors, (714) 535-1174, or you may write to 2223 W. Ball Road, Anaheim, CA 92804. Either way, plan to join us. The dates again are: San Francisco, August 26, 27, & 28, and Anaheim: September 1, 2, 3 & 4.

Make your reservations as early as you possibly can. Reservations of your choice near Disneyland can be difficult to arrange at the last minute, especially over a holiday weekend.

Those driving RV and campers will want to make arrangements early, too. At Your Service, or your auto club, can be of help in recommending nearby campgrounds.

### Begonia Conference and Judging Seminar

A complete schedule of the planned activities will be printed in the next issue. Whether you intend to become a judge for begonia shows or not, this is a wonderful way to learn about begonias and their characteristics. Ed and Millie Thompson will conduct the sessions.

You should make reservations as soon as possible. Use the form on page 200 or supply all the information requested on a separate sheet of paper. If you need more information, contact the Conference Chairman, Mrs. Eileen Franklin, 406 Bittersweet Lane, Webster, New York 14580.

**Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch  
Begonia and Shade Plant Show**  
July 23 and 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
in conjunction with Ventura College Music  
Festival, College cafeteria, Ventura

**Begonias for Beginners** by Elda Haring, now available from the ABS Librarian, Lydia Austin, 15329 Eastwood Ave., Lawndale, CA 90260. Hard cover—9.95. Soft cover—5.95 (Calif. res. add 6% sales tax.) Plus 50¢ postage.

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