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The BEGONIAN



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The Board of Directors will meet March 28 at South Gate Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Deadline for the May issue March 31.

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

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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*.

B. LUBBERSII E. MORREN

By Mildred L. Thompson

Cover photograph by Ed and Millie Thompson
From the *Twiglette*, Hampton Branch newsletter

During the early history of the family *Begoniaceae* travelling had not yet become sophisticated and uncomplicated. Adventurous men of science, in search of the undiscovered riches of nature, brought many of the first-known species of begonia back from the wilds for cultivation only after long perilous journeys. It is easy to understand their great excitement when occasionally they accidentally found a new species in the soil of another newly discovered plant. *B. lubbersii* is one of these species found by chance.

In 1880 a collection of plants was sent to the Brussels Botanic Garden from Petropolis, Brazil by Pedro Binot, a well-known collector. Louis Lubbers, the curator of the Brussels Botanic Garden, discovered a stem hanging from the stem of *Alsophila elegans*, a tree fern. Believing that this stem was a new species of begonia, Monsieur Lubbers took great care to revive the vitality of this unknown species. It was not long before leaves developed and in October, 1881, flowers appeared. After Édouard Morren, professor at the University of Liège, studied the plant, he declared that it was, indeed, a new species of begonia and named it in honor of its discoverer, Louis Lubbers. In 1883 Professor Morren published the original description of this species, along with a beautiful illustration, on pages 155-156 of *La Belgique Horticole Annales de Botanique et d'Horticulture*. The fol-

lowing is a translation from the Latin description in that publication. This translation has been done by Dr. Daniel Coogan, Shelter Island, New York.

Begonia Lubbersii: Half-shrub, branchy. Nodose stem bent down at the top. Stipules membranaceous, undivided, abundant, persistent. Leaves distichous [two vertical ranks]. Petioles rather short (5-6 mm), ascendent, glabrous, rose-colored. Blade peltate, oblong-rhomboidal, elongated, narrow, subundulate, glabrous; the upper lobe short, the lower one elongated and lanceolate. Upper surface black-green, shiny, marked by infrequent or confluent silver spots; lower surface rather purple. Cyme axillary, nodding, few-flowered, with very small deciduous bracts. Flowers monoecious. Perianth of the male flowers four-leaved, pale green tinged with rose, stamens spatulate. Perianth of the female flowers tri- or quinqui-partite [3-5] in unequal tepals, heteromorph [of different shapes]; stigmas sinuous, ovary with three wings, of which one is very large.

Grows in Brazil and sent to Brussels Botanic Garden by P. Binot.

News of this spectacular species must have travelled to England very rapidly because mention of it is found in 1884 in the *Garden*, a London horticultural journal. The March 10th, 1888 issue of the *Gardener's Chronicle*, another London horticultural journal, reports that *B. lubbersii* was introduced commercially by Pynaert of Ghent. In 1888 Édouard André wrote an article about the discovery and merits of *B. lubbersii* in *Revue Horticole*, a horticultural journal published in Paris. News of this

species travelled to this country by 1888 when it appeared in the section called "Some Plants Little Grown" in the *American Garden*, a journal published in New York. However, the cultivation of this fragrant begonia did not really begin until August 1956, when seeds of *B. lubbersii* were offered by the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. Ever since that time the popularity of this species has grown in this country.

B. lubbersii displays such outstanding characteristics that it has inspired many hybridizers both in this country and in a few foreign countries to develop new hybrid cultivars. One of the earliest cultivars still being grown today is *B.* 'Helen Nicholson', which was developed by Margaret West. T. Mentelos developed *B.* 'Tom's Fantasy', an intermediate cane-like begonia. In 1970 Margaret and Paul Lee developed *B.* 'Phantom', a cane-like, superba-type cultivar, using another Brazilian species, *B. plataniifolia*, as the male parent. M. MacIntyre of England developed the lovely *B.* 'Florence Rita'. Michael Kartuz, well-known hybridizer and commercial grower, introduced *B.* 'Corinthian' in 1970. Irene Nuss, well-known for her expertise in growing cane-like begonias, introduced *B.* 'Pink Jade' in 1972 and *B.* 'Symphony' in 1973. In 1974 a well-known Japanese hybridizer, Mr. Orihata, registered the lovely *B.* 'Ayer Bergen'. Belva N. Kusler, who has long been known for her excellence in hybridizing, introduced two hybrid cultivars, *B.* 'Barbara Ann' and *B.* 'Martha Floro', in which *B. lubbersii* was used as one of the parents. Most recently Goldie and Douglas Frost

have introduced *B.* 'Emma Walker', a cane-like begonia of medium height which is very floriferous. These are by no means all the hybrid cultivars that have resulted from using *B. lubbersii*; these are some of the most successful results of hybridization using this species.

For botanical classification *B. lubbersii* is placed in the genus *Begonia* in the section Gaerdtia. In 1972 Dr. Fred A. Barkley in *Begoniaceae: The Genera, Sections, and Known Species of Each* lists six species that belong in this section. Three of these are in cultivation today: *B. maculata* Raddi [1820], *B. undulata* Schott in Sprengel [1827], and *B. lubbersii* E. Morren [1883]. All of the six species listed were discovered originally in Brazil. The characteristics of species placed in the section Gaerdtia can be found in the following translation. I am grateful to A. Baranov and F. A. Barkley for permission to reprint this translation from their work, *The Sections of the Genus Begonia*, which was published in 1972.

Section GAERDTIA [Klotzsch 1855] A. DC. 1859.

Staminate flower: tepals four; filaments free, affixed to a somewhat convex torus; anthers obovate or oblong-obovate, opening by longitudinal slits.

Pistillate flower: tepals five; styles three, later falling off, two-divided; stigmatic papillae form a continuous helical band with one or two turns; placentae two-parted and placental lobes in each cell cling to each other so that the ovules arise only on their outer sides; fruit three-celled, wings three subequal.

Glabrous semi-shrubs with pinnately or palmate-pinnately veined leaves; inflorescences axillary, not very many flowered.

Type species: *Begonia maculata* Raddi. 1820.

Although it has been reported that *B. lubbersii* grows up to six feet in its native habitat, in cultivation it rarely grows above two feet tall. For that reason *B. lubbersii* is classified horticulturally in *The Thompson Begonia Guide* (page C-11) as "cane-like, all others, low-growing [generally under 2 ft. at maturity]." There are four species and twenty-seven cultivars listed in this horticultural classification, which represents begonias in cultivation at this time. Horticultural classification is important to the grower because it indicates some of the distinguishing characteristics of each plant and the type of culture each requires. Although many growers believe *B. lubbersii* is difficult to grow, it will respond favorably to the usual procedures for most low-growing cane-like begonias. In a hanging container *B. lubbersii* grows attractively and gracefully in a semi-erect fashion without staking. A full plant will result if one pinches the stems to induce branching and to encourage the formation of new basal shoots. If the plant is grown in an erect fashion one needs to be certain that each main stem is supported with a separate stake with ties put around the individual stakes and stems as the stem grows. The stems of this species have a marked tendency to bend; once this happens it is almost impossible to straighten them without breaking the very brittle stems.

B. lubbersii thrives outdoors during the warmer months providing the proper light and humidity requirements are met. In the northeastern United States this species needs six hours of sunlight each day during the summer months outdoors. In areas



Fig. 52. — *Begonia Lubbersii*.

From the Library of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society; photograph by George Cushing. Photograph appears in *the Thompson Begonia Guide*, II, 2nd Ed.

where the sun's rays are more intense, sunlight will have to be filtered. During the winter months in areas where the temperatures are too low for begonias to remain outdoors, *B. lubbersii* can be grown successfully in the home or the greenhouse where as much sunlight as possible will encourage profuse blooming. In some areas the sunlight may also need to be filtered during the winter months. Regardless of the type of growing environment the humidity range of 40% to 60% is most satisfactory for this species as well as for most all other types of begonias.

Squatty clay pots are in general the most satisfactory for growing this species, since the mosslined wire containers, although far superior for growing, are not always practical because they drip. No matter which type of container the grower uses, he must never overpot *B. lubbersii*. It should be repotted only when the root system fills the container and then moved only to the next size container. Improper potting will quickly cause rotting, loss of leaves, and often even more catastrophic results.

Watering is also crucial; overwatering will result in a marked loss of lower leaves and a slow deterioration of the plant. A regular fertilizing program is essential for good sturdy growth and profuse blooming. Regular spraying is the best method for controlling disease and pests. Not much effort is required to provide the systematic and regular care which will produce a beautiful, healthy and interesting plant.

The careful grower will be rewarded, for *B. lubbersii* is an exceptionally outstanding species. Its striking dark green foliage will enhance any growing area, and its large pink-tinged white flowers will fill the area with an exquisite fragrance. *B. lubbersii* is not the result of human manipulation; this lovely species grows for us just as nature created it.

Composted Hardwood Bark Best for Container Plants

The most common root diseases of nursery plants are caused by three groups of pathogens: pythium and phytophthora; fusarium; and rhizoctonia. The group of experiments conducted at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center have shown that these pathogens can be controlled by substituting composted hardwood bark for peat moss in the container medium.

In a test situation where half the nursery stock was planted in a medium containing peat moss and the other half in a medium containing composted bark, the diseases were common where the peat moss was used, while those in composted bark were free of root-rotting organisms. The results of the experiment were published in *News and Views*, a newsletter of the American Horticultural Society, November, 1976.

Begonias are subject to some of these root problems (See: "The Gee in Fungi is Soft", *The Begonian*, Jan. 1976.) Individuals who have problems with root rot may wish to try this suggestion of altering the soil mix with their plants. It would be the basis for a good branch project, also. The Editors will be interested in reporting the results of your trials so that everyone can benefit from the results.

P.B.

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.



A LONG LIFE FOR YOUR BEGONIAS

By Elda Haring, Flat Rock, North Carolina



B. 'Carlsbad'

Photo by Walter Haring

When we visit begonia shows we usually see very large plants growing in pots varying in sizes from 8 or 10 inches to huge redwood tubs 18 inches or more in diameter. Most of us are unable to accommodate such large plants in our growing areas where space is limited. Like most enthusiasts I want to grow as many species and hybrids as I can possibly make room for, not only for the pleasure of observing habits of growth but to add to my knowledge of our favorite plant family. With few exceptions begonias in my collection are confined to 4, 5 or 6 inch pots.

Many of us who write about our begonias suggest shifting to larger size pots as the roots fill them until the plants have attained the size wanted, and there we leave it. No instructions are included as to how to keep the plant in healthy condition

long after it has reached the desired size nor how long it can be kept in the same pot. It is important to give these plants a potting mix containing sufficient nourishment to sustain the plant yet not induce lush growth. Whatever the consistency of your potting mix, add very little fertilizer, organic or otherwise, to keep the medium on the "lean" side. If you are using a soilless mix do not practice constant feeding but apply $\frac{1}{2}$ strength twice a month which should provide just enough to keep the plant in condition yet not encourage rapid growth.

It is essential to flush out all pots occasionally no matter what the potting medium contains, in order to wash away any accumulated fertilizer salts. These appear as white encrustations on the mix in the top of the pot and often on stems or leaves near the soil level. Leaves and growing tips

turn brown and drop off and tender roots are damaged by salts. Let clear water flow through the pots which will wash out the excess minerals in the mix. If you live in areas where the water is highly alkaline, it is especially important to attend to this detail on a regular basis.

In my collection are many begonias that have grown in the same pot for three to five years with no repotting at all. *B. 'Carlsbad'*, shown in the photo, is described as a medium leaved rhizomatous, has been in its 4 inch pot for three years and is being fed $\frac{1}{4}$ strength water soluble fertilizer twice monthly only during the growing season. The leaves have only attained a size of a little less than two inches, certainly not typical of the mature plant yet it is charming and blooms in season. Many begonias will remain comfortable in the same pot for several years by merely giving them a top dressing in spring when new growth begins. Gently dig out the upper inch of soil and give a new layer of fresh mix followed by supplementary feedings of dilute fertilizer once or twice a month during the growing season.

Usually if the leaves start to turn light in color losing their characteristic deep green, assuming that all conditions of light and general culture have prevailed, it is time to repot. Undoubtedly all the nutrients in the mix will have been used up and the soil compacted, losing its porosity. If you wish to keep the plant confined to the same pot it will be necessary to reduce the rootball, the best time being in spring when the plant has started into growth.

Remove the plant from the pot and gently rub off a quarter of the bottom of the rootball and a little from top and sides. Replace in the same size pot with a fresh layer of soil in the bottom, positioning the plant so that the top of the rootball will be at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from rim of pot and fill in around sides and top with fresh soil. Do not pack tightly but push gently against the rootball leaving the soil as loose and friable as possible. If the plant is compact and not overgrown, I do no major pruning at this time but merely shorten any dangling rhizomes or ungainly shoots. If this work is done carefully, there will be no shock to the plant. However, if when you remove the plant from the pot you find it severely root bound with heavy, rope-like roots wound around the rootball more drastic action will have to be taken to be assured of renewed growth and vigor. Cut out some of the intertwined roots and shake off much of the old mix, at the same time trimming the top proportionately. Cut back to pot edge any overlapping growth in the case of rhizomatous begonias. For shrub-like, cane or other bushy types, reduce the top by at least $\frac{1}{2}$ to compensate for the reduced root system. If this work is done in spring the plant will respond quickly by putting on new growth.

Naturally there will come the time when the plant will decline in vigor. It can then be removed from the pot, broken up into divisions and each division repotted to smaller size pots. However, it is usually preferable to take cuttings for fresh new young plants to grow to the size desired to suit your conditions.

PROPAGATION OF BEGONIA FOLIOSA

By Dorothy Cox, Houston, Texas

Begonia foliosa can be propagated from leaves! Yes, from those tiny leaves! I have had very good results by taking a stem cutting and placing it on a paper towel. This is put in a dry place for twenty-four hours. The leaves are easier to remove without breaking the petioles. Place individual leaves with attached petiole down in damp sand. The bare plant stem with tip attached can be stuck in the sand as well. Maintain damp condition.

In two weeks to thirty days, roots start stretching out. At this time, I flick the smallest amount of sand over the root to protect from any dry air. Soon plantlets will emerge, usually one to each tiny leaf. When large enough to transplant, scoop up with sand. Do not shake the roots bare — they seem to like the sand. I usually pot several plantlets to a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " pot. They love the companionship and humidity from each other.

HOW I GROW BEGONIAS

By Dorothy Cox, Houston, Texas

Note: We wrote to the author after receiving the note on the results of her experiments with propagation of B. foliosa to ask if she did this in a greenhouse. Her answer, describing her growing conditions will be of interest to all hobbyists. The Editors.

During warm months, *Begonia foliosa* was kept in the greenhouse, which is a 14 ft. by 16 ft. one with only the top covered and half drops of plastic film (not clear) on the sides for protection from heavy blowing rains, which we have lots of. On good days the sides are rolled up and tied. I don't use a fan and need any air I can coax through on calm days. I have disconnected the electricity since I keep the dirt floor hosed down and I am very wary when it comes to working with electricity and water. The inside roof is lined with canvas. The west side and top half is shaded by trees and tall ligustrum.

I have two permanent benches which are really 4 inch deep propagating beds, one on each side, run-

ning north and south. These are sectioned to contain different types of rooting media: sand, sand and peat moss, and peat moss and vermiculite. Perlite and vermiculite mix is used in flats under the benches. The temperature during the summer ranges from 75° to 80° at night and from 90° to 100° in the daytime, with humidity readings in the 90s.

Mother *B. foliosa* was happy only on the east side where it could get good yet subdued light. The pot was placed on the bed of sand and peat, with a hanging basket of peacock fern draping her. It just so happened that this was the only spot the "fern" liked. (It is not really a fern, but belongs to the pilea family.) They were misted daily, twice if I had time or

it was very dry outside. No misting was needed on rainy days. *B. foliosa* needs company but is choosy and did let me know her preference by leaf drops. The company was replaced by small potted plants and seemed to be happiest with ivies and small varieties of philodendron.

Leaf propagation was done in this bed in between pots, cuttings — any place there was bare medium. The babies were not particular as to company. The propagating beds are kept moist with one-quarter strength Hyponex.

When the temperature began to fall to 50° at night, I moved out of the greenhouse and into a 20 ft. by 24 ft. building, heavily insulated, where I use electricity for heating. The heating costs for the greenhouse, fully covered with plastic, were exorbitant, so it is used as a summer "plant playhouse". We don't get enough sunshine through the trees to depend on solar heat for the greenhouse.

The heater in the building is set to turn on when the temperature drops to 60° and off at 70°. Any additional warmth must come from mother nature. On occasion, it has been up to 75°. Did those plants smile! On pleasant days I open the doors to let fresh air in. When we are having blustery cold days or downpours, I turn on the fan. This must be done every day or the mealy bugs move in.

Here I have a seven foot bench with a styrofoam propagating bed partitioned for the different media as in the greenhouse. The bed was constructed from six styrofoam boxes, 16 inches square. These boxes used

for deliveries of fish, can be obtained at tropical fish stores, if they will part with them. (The lids can be adapted for many uses, too.) Two boxes with one side cut away formed the ends of the bed, the others with two sides cut away formed the sides. They were joined with carpet tape. The sides were cut to accommodate a four-inch depth of medium. The heating cable was taped in place. Pieces of the cutouts were used as partitions and held in place by large nails at each end inserted at a 45 degree angle to catch the side of the box. The heating cable is preset at 70°. Wire hangers were straightened and inserted into plastic tubing (aquarium airline) leaving three inches bare at each end to be inserted into the styrofoam sides, covered wagon style. A plastic cover was fashioned to fit. It can be lifted at day or during humid nights.

The shelves under the bench are lighted by fluorescent fixtures, controlled by timers to go on at 7 a.m. and off at 9 p.m. A drop cord with a 150 watt incandescent bulb is also on the timer and hangs approximately three feet over the propagating bed. Rex, rhizomatous begonias and african violet "babies" on trays of pebbles kept moist, occupy these shelves. The young plants of *B. foliosa* prefer the sand medium inside. The young plants don't seem to mind the environment until about three inches high when it is introduction time to their choice of friends.

The large plant of *B. foliosa* was brought inside and is now housed in a ten gallon aquarium turned on its

side. The pot is as close to the front as is possible and has the company of ivies. On top of the aquarium are pots of mature rexes. Above them is a four foot double fluorescent ceiling fixture. Again the *foliosa* is in light subdued by other plants.

The building is not an ideal set-up for the quantity of plants I have, but by shifting around, I'm getting by. I have one window that receives sun. Small flats and pots of germinated begonia seeds occupy the shelves here. There is just not enough light for color and bloom. I am constantly shifting pots to give each a chance for the good light. There are times when I wander about searching for a vacant hole with more light and end up by placing the plant back in the original spot. I feel so mean when I know it's not doing well, so another shelf is going up — where???

The building is also my laboratory where I experiment. I try all sorts of propagating experiments. I may not know what I am doing, but I do know that I've got to try these unusual things. At present time, I'm working with *Begonia* 'Charm' to propagate the leaf, that is sprouting of plantlets in the leaf stem at mid rib. I have so few leaves to work with that every time I take one, I apologize. At some other time, I shall tell you about my results, and perhaps send some pictures to share with you.

When warm weather arrives the shelves in the building are unloaded, the light left to be used in the building, and the bench, propagating bed and all is carried back to the greenhouse and placed in the center aisle. The cable is not used but remains in

the bed. African violet leaves and fern spores now occupy the bottom shelves. The remaining plantlets and cuttings in the bed are potted as soon as possible and pots of gloxinias and tuberous begonias started in the buildings are placed on the beds which are kept moist. Glasses of water are placed among them for extra moisture under the leaves, to keep them from burning. These are brought into bloom, then placed around the patio for show. There are many people here who do not know what tuberous begonias are and they are amazed by their beauty.

My more hardy plants are wintered over on a section of the patio which is temporarily enclosed with plastic. This is not a good location. It has a northern exposure. The plants are sitting, hanging and patiently waiting for spring. There is an electric heater to help out during the coldest periods. Through the patio doors I can look out at the Christmas cactus in full bloom, a large pot of blooming aphelandras, bright red poinsettias, a basket of marigolds, several pots of pink and white butterfly begonias, a 'Purple Petticoats' begonia in a hanging basket, red azalea, crotons, ferns, wandering jews, philodendrons and many other baskets and pots.

The most important factor in growing is duplicating the natural habitat of the plant. Sometimes the plants are more adaptable than we realize. This is a constant challenge.

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Begonia fuchsoides Hooker

By Fleurette Guilloz, Hampton Branch, Long Island, New York

B. fuchsoides means a fuchsia-like begonia, a most lovely plant discovered by Mr. William Purdie in 1844 on the Ocana Mts. of New Granada during his mission for the Royal Gardens of Kew. It is often eaten by the mule drivers of the country to allay their thirst. The globular buds contain a fluid together with the acid of the flowers which proves highly gratifying in the dry season. *B. fuchsoides* is much used in hybridizing.

The leaves of *B. fuchsoides* are larger, longer and not as smooth as *B. 'Floribunda'*, which is probably one of its hybrids. When young, the foliage is cupped and shows a red flush along the under edge. Its stem is erect, two to three feet high, slightly tinged with red. Leaves are copious, alternate, rather small, about an inch to an inch and a half long, serrated, often tinged with red.

The resemblance to a fuchsia is in the flowers that droop like branching darts from axils of the rather brownish stems, its most distinctive feature. Its blossoms are both red and pink. The four petaled male blooms look like heart shaped beads when in bud. The ovary of the female flower, with its five full petals below, looks more like its namesake.

I particularly enjoy growing *B. fuchsoides* as it poses a bit of a challenge comparable to training an unruly child. Some of its branches are pendant while others are erect. It makes a lovely hanging basket by encouraging the pendant branches. In this specimen I have encouraged both, making an artistic plant. It

does like a sunny exposure and a fair amount of water and is not fussy as to temperature, doing equally well in a cool environment.

The original description and illustration (t.4281) of *B. fuchsoides* appeared in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* February 1, 1847. This description was written by William J. Hooker:

"Descr. *Stem* erect, two to three feet high, terete, succulent, glabrous, slightly tinged with red. *Leaves* copious, distichous, alternate, rather small, about an inch and a half long, dark full green, obliquely oblong-ovate, slightly falcate, acute, serrated, glabrous, the margins obscurely ciliated, often tinged with red. *Stipules* oblong, obtuse, coloured. *Flowers* on dichotomously branched, pendent *panicles*, dioecious, rarely monoecious: all of a rich deep scarlet colour. *Pedicels* bracteate; *bracteas* lanceolate, acuminate, opposite. *Male flower: Sepals* four, almost closed over the stamens; two ovate, large and boat-shaped, thick and fleshy, opposite and external; the other two smaller, oblong or approaching to obovate, slightly concave, of a thinner, almost membranaceous texture: *column of stamens* forming an ovate mass. *Female flowers: Sepals* five, rarely spreading, oval, nearly equal, concave. *Stigmas* six, erecto-patent, subulate, waved. *Ovary* of young fruit white, broadly obovate, triangular, the angles winged; two wings very short and one long, divergent; all red, and decurrent, so as to form a triangular pedicel."



B. fuchsioides grown by the author, photo by E. Thompson, all from the *Twiglette*, Hampton Branch Newsletter.



B. fuchsioides Hooker

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BEGONIA 'GRANNY'

Winner of a Blue ribbon at the Eastern Begonia Show, Boston

Photographed by Jon Charles Jaros, Miami, Florida

Grown by Corliss Engle, Brookline, Mass.

Introduced by Logee's Greenhouse

Notes — Miniature rex with small leaves in profusion. It is unique in that it can be grown in terrarium or in hanging basket. It is well suited to growing under fluorescent lights. Pinching tends to make plant more compact for use in small space. The leaves are beautifully marked, medium green with silver and rose colorations.

BEGONIA 'RUDY'

Winner of the Trophy for Best Thick Stemmed Begonia at national show, 1976 (Shown on opposite page)

Photographed by William J. Krammerer, West Covina, California

Grown by Jean Pasko, Chula Vista, California

Hybridized by Rudolf Zieshenne, Santa Barbara

Introduced in 1947

ABS Registration #475

Parents: *B. ludwigii* x *B. 'Popenoei'* (semi-double flowers)



Notes — A challenging begonia to maintain. Characterized by a thick stem, not at all woody, which breaks easily. Leaves are large, light green-and-silver flecked and zoned, multilobed. Flowers are pinkish outside and white inside. Can be propagated from leaves or by layering the heavy stem from the mother plant to potting mix and severing after new plant develops. Making tip cuttings tends to kill the plant. Leaves at bottom of the stem drop as new ones form. May go dormant if underfed.

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

Pamphlets For Beginners

- "Begonias from Seeds — Sowing and Growing"\$.25
 "Begonias In General —
 Basic Descriptions of Classes and Culture"50

Mr 1 — *B. 'Agnes Tee'*. A cross of *B. venosa* and *B. vellozoana* made in the late 1950s by Louise Schwerdtfeger. This hybrid is prettier and less demanding than either of its parents. It has the coloring of *B. vellozoana* in its foliage though somewhat subdued. The new leaves unfold like *B. venosa*, heavily covered with silken hairs on the under sides. It has an upright, compact type of growth. Since this offer is for seeds of a hybrid, the resultant seedlings are new cultivars which may or may not resemble *B. 'Agnes Tee'*.

per pkt. \$1.00

Mr 2 — *B. crispula*: China. Unique rhizomatous species with silk-corded, gray-green leaves. Delicate and precious, requires careful watering so the tightly touching leaves do not rot. Small, white flowers.

per pkt. 1.00

Mr 3 — *B. edmundoi*: Brazil, 1945. Shrub-like, branched from the base, up to 3 ft. high. Stems stiff, upright. Small leaves in two rows, dark purplish-green, shiny, 3 x 1 inch; flowers white, only three in an inflorescence. per pkt. 1.00

Mr 4 — *B. evansiana*: China. Stems erect, to 1 ft. tall. Leaves are medium size, narrowing towards the pointed tips and are green with purple veins. Bulbils form in leaf axils, drop to ground to form new plants in the spring. Flowers are bright pink, in forked axillary and terminal clusters. Hardy type which may be grown outdoors as far north as southern New York in a protected location. A lovely plant.

per pkt. .50

Mr 5 — *B. gigantea*: species from India. Name means "giant". 2-3 ft. rhizomatous plant with a swollen base sending up many tall, slim stems, topped by tight balls of flowers, white to pale pink. Resembles a bird poised in flight. per pkt. .50

Mr. 6 — *B. hypolipara*: Honduras, 1931. Rhizomatous; leaves dull green, thick, soft, oval, entire, to 20 inches long. Fairly large white flowers in winter. per pkt. .50

Mr 7 — *B. suffruticosa* — syn *B. richardsiana*. (The original name is *suffruticosa* and therefore is the correct one.) Semi-tuberous species from Africa, with tubers resembling a small potato. Low growing; tiny, thin textured leaves, deeply cleft. White flowers in summer and fall. A beautiful addition to anyone's collection.

per pkt. .50

Mr 8 — *B. versicolor*: 1939, China. Rhizomatous; distinctive foliage, unusual surface and unusual coloring: 3 inch leaves are round, mahogany, emerald, silver, apple-green and maroon. Flowers are salmon pink. Allow ample time for seeds to germinate, sometimes 3 to 6 weeks under favorable conditions. Temperature should be 70 to 75 degrees and humidity should be very high. This plant will not survive in dry conditions. A terrarium is usually required.

per pkt. 1.00

Following offers are a group of beautiful, hardy semperflorens. Per packet, 50 cents or 3 for \$1.00.

Mr 9 — Bronze leaves, 1 ft tall, creamy white blossoms.

Mr 10 — 1 ft tall plants, leaf color unknown, blossoms dark rose.

Mr 11 — Blooms large, white with pink edge.

Mr 12 — Blooms large, white with red edge.

Mr 13 — Mixture containing seeds of offers Mr 9 through Mr 12.

Calif. residents, please add 6% sales tax. All customers, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope, and make all checks or money orders payable: Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. Mail to: Mrs. Linda Miller, P.O. Box 227, Gardena, CA 90247.

BEGONIAS AS HOUSE PLANTS IN BRITAIN

The extremely popular begonias are in high favour nowadays both as house plants and also for greenhouse decoration. Many have the attribute of handsome foliage to add to their fine display of flowers. During the winter months, *B. manicata* from Mexico is outstanding. It is an easily cultivated species with sprays of attractive pink blooms and fairly large "elephant's ear" leaves fringed with reddish hairs which also form cuff-like rings around the leaf stalks. Invaluable are the hybrids of *B. rex*, the leaf surfaces variously marked with red, green, bronze and silver. Some of the numerous variants have been given cultivar names but are often marketed just as 'rex begonias', most making excellent pot plants. Rexes do not appreciate low winter temperatures or strong sun as one might expect of a plant with

a parent originally thought to come from the forests of Assam. The closely related *B. masoniana* (at one time known as 'Iron Cross') is less fussy however and appears to thrive even as a house plant, being particularly valued for the light green, puckered leaves centered with contrasting brown cross-shaped markings.

The Mexican *B. fuchsioides* is of rather different habit reaching about 4 feet in height with slender arching stems and fuchsia-like sprays of pink blooms from autumn to early spring. Also very useful in winter is *B. haageana*, Brazilian in origin, and a vigorous plant with large ornamental dark green ovate leaves set off by red veining. From the *Garden*. Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, Dec. 1975.

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Compiled by Mabel Corwin

Hybridizing

Members of the hybridizing robins have been discussing the crosses they have made and comparing the results. Mickey Meyer, Australia, says when she transplants the small seedlings she puts them in nothing larger than a 2 inch pot. She always puts the roots and stem as far down in the soil as possible. This protects the weak stems. But she warns don't give too much moisture at this stage. Wally Wagner, Oregon, reported having a white hanging basket tuberous begonia that produced a flower so double that the petals formed a solid ball the size of a tennis ball.

Leaf propagation

Growing cane begonias from leaves has been discussed in some of the robins. Some say that they have done it, but it is very slow — usually 4 or 5 months to get a plant after the leaf has rooted. They seem to feel that the parentage of the plant is the key to success or failure: if there is a rhizomatous plant somewhere in the background it would be more likely to start from a leaf.

Mealy bugs

Several of the robins have been discussing the use of the Shell Pest Strips to control pests on their plants. These seem to be very effective, especially for mealy bug which is always a problem. However, some report that these are VERY toxic and should be used with great care. One member hung two strips in her greenhouse when she went away for a long weekend and the greenhouse was closed. She hasn't seen any mealy bug since.

Mildew

Mildew seems to be a problem for many people. Several people have reported success with the Lysol Spray. Barb Merwin, Wisconsin, uses the following method — 1/4 teaspoon Benlate to 1 pint of water. Lightly mist the plants with this solution. This has a ten day systemic action. Benlate is now available in 1 ounce packages, convenient for the hobbyist.

* * *

Would you like to join one or more of the Round Robins? It is a good way to make new friends and exchange ideas with other begonia hobbyists. Just write and tell us a little about your interests and how you grow your plants. Write to

Debi Miller

919 Hickory View Circle
Camarillo, CA 93010

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NYBG Fern Festival

The New York Botanical Garden and the New York Chapter of the American Fern Society are sponsoring a Fern Festival at the Garden March 25-27.

Highlights will include a three-day fern sale featuring thousands of plants, representing nearly 200 species; a series of demonstrations on how to grow ferns, and how to cook with them; and a world premiere exhibit of fern art and photography.

The Festival will feature a display of tropical ferns from the Garden's world renowned collection, many of which have never before been seen by the public. There will also be an open competition and judging of plants grown in homes, greenhouses hanging baskets, terraria and bottle gardens. Fern growers who would like to participate in the competition may contact Dr. B. McAlpin at the NY Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY 10458. Those interested in attending should consult local sources or the Garden for times.

Renewals of Membership

Please include your notice from the membership secretary when renewing your membership. It speeds service and avoids duplications. If you pay your dues to a branch secretary, give the renewal notice to the secretary so it may be included with the report.

Branch treasurers and secretaries: please send renewal notices with dues remittals. Be consistent in use of names. Indicate new addresses. Indicate if the dues are for a new member.

BEGONIA SHOW SCHEDULES

One of the early jobs a begonia show chairman must do is set a schedule of classes for the show. Whether the show is for a single branch, for several branches working together, or for a large regional or national show, the chairman must determine how to group the plants for consideration in the most fair way.

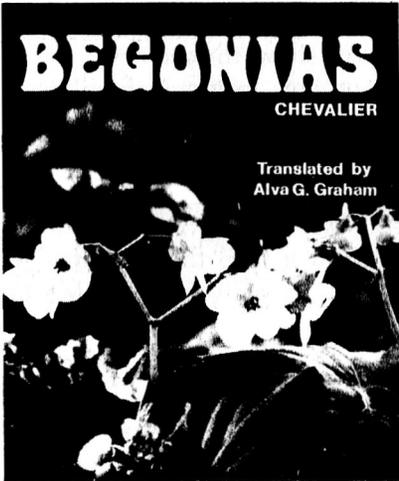
The ABS Suggested Guide for Show Classifications and the *Thompson Show Classification Guide* are tools which help the chairman with this task. At a recent Board Meeting, the Directors affirmed that either or both of these books could be used to produce a schedule for entering plants into competition.

All begonia shows where there is competition for ABS cultural awards and for which judging points are to be earned, must be conducted on a point scoring basis. The ABS Point Scoring System is one of the earliest of its type. Other plant specialty societies have developed similar schemes. The point scoring system allows the judges to take into consideration the difficulty of growing a given cultivar as well as the horticultural perfection. The Judging Chairman, Margaret Lee, will answer questions about judging and show classification.



COLD WEATHER REPORTS REQUESTED

The recent extreme weather has made growing of begonias a challenging task. Your observations and hints may be of great value to others. Please write to the Editors about how you coped with the severe conditions. Tell us how you handled the plants, which ones survived, which ones revived after suffering a set back, how you managed the humidity and things you tried that did not work.



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PALMETTO BEGONIA SOCIETY

By Elda and Walt Haring

After our friend E. L. "Mac" McWhorter of Columbia, South Carolina, a commercial grower of begonias, placed a large exhibit in the South Carolina State Fair in the autumn of 1974 so much interest was shown that he and my friend Lucille Peden of Greenville, S.C. organized a group to form a club they named the Palmetto Begonia Society. The first meeting was held at "Mac's" and he presented each member with ten plants to grow. In October of 1975 this enthusiastic club held its first show at the South Carolina State Fair and it was our very great privilege to judge there. We were amazed at the beautiful plants exhibited since many of the 18 members had never before grown begonias.

Meetings are held monthly on Sundays, alternating between Columbia and Greenville, separated by a hundred miles. One eager member

drives from Sumpter, a 3½ hour drive and has never missed a meeting. Spouses are honorary members and may attend all meetings. Two shows are held each year. One in autumn at the State Fair and another in late April in the Greenville-Spartanburg area. Judging these shows have been a great pleasure for the members exhibit beautifully grown and well-groomed specimens.

Lectures and demonstrations are part of each monthly meeting. Members share cuttings and present show and tell programs. Realizing that their knowledge of the classification and background of the family *Begoniaceae* is limited a Library Fund has been started, with members bringing rooted cuttings for sale each month, the proceeds being allocated to the Fund. We hope that this eager group may soon become a full-fledged branch of ABS.

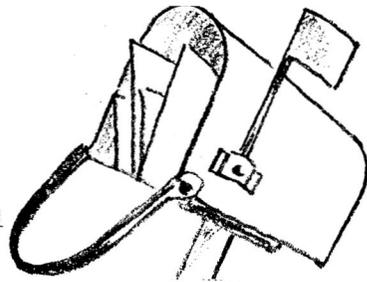


South Carolina Fair Exhibit

Photo by E.L. McWhorter

BEGONIA QUESTION BOX

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



Question: I know hybrids do not come true from seed but do the species come true when grown outside with other begonias? *Answer:* If the species begonia is growing out of doors with other begonias its female flowers may have been pollinated by insects carrying pollen from other plants nearby so it is highly unlikely that resultant seedlings would be exactly like the mature plant.

Question: I propagate rex begonias by cutting veins and placing leaves upside down on the mix but cuttings of *B. masoniana* always rot. Have you successfully propagated *B. masoniana*? If so, how? *Answer:* I prefer leaf stem and wedge cuttings for this species. Take leaf with 1½ inch of stem and trim to half-dollar size. Cut rest of leaves in wedge-shaped pieces and dip in Rootone F. Place in mix which should be only slightly moist, rather loose and fluffy. Cover with plastic bag. Keep in good light but no sun. Rootone F is a rooting hormone containing a fungicide which inhibits rotting. It can be obtained in small aluminum foil packages or in small jars.

Question: My cane begonia in a four inch pot is four feet tall. It keeps falling over. Will it hurt to cut it back? *Answer:* If your cane begonia is four feet tall in so small a pot it is likely rootbound. Yes, cut it back to within ten inches of pot and replant in fresh mix in a six inch pot. New stems will appear from soil level, giving you a bushy plant.

Question: Where can I obtain some of the begonias mentioned in articles in the *Begonian*? *Answer:* Patronize those growers whose advertisements appear in the *Begonian*. Make sure to read the ad carefully, for some firms charge for their catalogs which are liberally illustrated and expensive to print. In some cases a stamped envelope for a list is all that is necessary. Join a Round Robin whose members often swap leaves and cuttings. Search your garden magazines for advertisements of firms that may be in your own locality from whom you can order or purchase begonias.

Question: I think my maple leaf begonia has a disease because there is a knob-like growth on the bottom of the stem. What is it? *Answer:* This begonia is classified as tuberous or semi-tuberous. What you see is a thickened root stem and is not a disease.

NOTICE — NOTICE — NOTICE

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Route 1, Box 94, Bear Creek, NC 27207

REGISTRATION OF BEGONIA CULTIVARS

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

No. 551 — Begonia (B. 'Big Red Jr.' X B. 'Sir Edwin Hodgins') 'Dandy Lion'

This rex cultorum was originated in 1973 and first distributed in 1976 by The Plant Shop's Botanical Gardens, 1800 Topham St., Reseda, CA 91335. Leaves 6 x 9" are silver-green with irregular edge, lavender pink overlay, and green center; margin slightly serrated; texture pebbly; veins eight; petioles 6-8", slightly hairy. Has not bloomed. Registered September 3, 1976.

No. 552 — Begonia (B. 'Bow Nigra' X B. *conchifolia* 'Zip') 'Zip Code'

With a black-brown margin, green blotching, and green nerves disappearing in dark color, the peltate leaf of this rhizomatous plant has a red center-circle, with a green dot; margin of the 3½ x 4" leaf is undulate to ruffled; texture smooth; 7-nerved; petioles 6-8". Blooms in spring, 4-petaled, pinkish-white. Developed by Bob Cole of The Plant Shop's Botanical Gardens (address above) in 1973; first bloomed in 1975 and distributed in 1976. Tested by Paul Lee, San Diego. Registered September 3, 1976.

No. 553 — Begonia (B. *conchifolia* 'Zip' X B. 'Dainty Lady') 'Dainty Dan'

Originated in 1973 by Glen Lewis

for Plant Shop's Botanical Gardens (address above) this rhizomatous plant was first distributed in 1976. Leaves are dark green, black edged, with a red dot in center of the semi-oakleaf shaped leaf, 4 x 5" margin undulated, uneven; texture smooth-wavy; 8-nerved; petioles 6-8". Flowers in spring, pink. Registered September 3, 1976.

No. 554 — Begonia (B. *conchifolia* 'Zip' X B. 'Cleopatra') 'Lewis's Zip'

Originated in 1973 by Glen Lewis for Plant Shop's Botanical Gardens (address above) this rhizomatous plant was first distributed in 1976. The heart-shaped leaves are dark-brown with a prominent green vein, a pink dot, and are red-backed; 2½ x 3"; margin slightly serrated; texture smooth; 9-nerved; petioles 6-8" long. Registered September 3, 1976.

No. 555 — Begonia (B. *conchifolia* 'Zip' X B. 'Bow-Nigra') 'Bowzip'

Bob Cole, The Plant Shop's Botanical Gardens (address above), originated this rhizomatous plant in 1973, and it first bloomed and was first distributed in 1975. Leaves are blackish with green veins and a white center, with a brown and red back; heartshaped; 3 x 2"; margin serrated; texture smooth; nine-veined; petioles 6-8" pink flowers. Registered September 3, 1976.

No. 556 — Begonia (B. 'Sir Roy Yewell' X unnamed rex cultivar) 'Diablo'

Bob Cole, The Plant Shop's Botanical Gardens (address above), developed this rex cultivar in 1973 and it was first distributed in 1976.

Leaves are black in the center and the margins are serrated, bright green, silver spotted; texture is pebbly; 7-nerved; 7-8"; petioles slightly hairy, 6-8". Registered September 3, 1976.

No. 557 — Begonia (B. bowerae X B. conchifolia 'Zip') 'Evening Nymph'

Bob Cole, The Plant Shop's Botanical Gardens (address above) originated this rhizomatous begonia in 1973 and first distributed it in 1975. Leaves are shiny dark-green, black outlined; 8 green veins; white center spot; underside bright red; heartshaped; 2 x 3"; margin irregular texture smooth; petioles 6-8". Registered September 3, 1976.

No. 558 — Begonia (B. 'Cleopatra' X B. conchifolia 'Zip') 'Glen's Zip'

This rhizomatous plant was originated in 1973 by Glen Lewis for The Plant Shop's Botanical Gardens (address above) and it first bloomed and was distributed in 1975. Leaves are buff-brown with light green central area, red-spotted; semi-peltate, 3 x 2 1/2"; margin undulate; texture smooth, 8-veined; petioles 6-8", slightly hairy. Registered September 3, 1976.

NATIONAL CONVENTION PLANS UNDERWAY

Douglas Frost, of Garden Grove, has been appointed Chairman of the 1977 national convention and show. A committee headed by Margaret Taylor visited several sites and reserved the Inn-at-the-Park near Disneyland in Anaheim as the place for the meetings. The dates were set for September first through fourth and coincide with the Labor Day weekend. The possibility of vacation trips to include participation in the event was a factor in choosing these dates.

BATTLEFIELD SHOW

A huge spring landscape and flower show will be held March 7 through March 12 at Battlefield Mall, Springfield, Missouri. Bernadette Kelsch of Routh's Greenhouses in Louisburg will be on hand with a display of begonias to greet ABS members and friends.

A special attraction of the show is a floral display around the Dancing Waters which will play lights, waters and music in harmony. The event is sponsored by the University of Missouri Extension, and the Park Board.

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DATE SET FOR EASTERN MEETING

The Twelfth Eastern Regional Convention will be held April 13, 14, and 15, 1978. This time was chosen to take advantage of the pleasant weather conditions and the best part of the spring flowering season there. Miami offers a wonderful vacation opportunity to see tropical plants in addition to the Begonia Show. The convention committee will have suggestions for vacationers. The Miami Branch will be the host and has started work on plans for the sessions. The chairman for the event is Helene Jaros of Miami.

The early September dates usually reserved for the Eastern Regional Meeting will be devoted to a two day workshop on judging begonias and a regional begonia show in Rochester. More information about this event will be published soon.

Green Scene

Orange County and Garden Grove branches will promote begonias at the Green Scene to be held at the Arboretum of the California State University at Fullerton. The members will be on hand to demonstrate how to pot, grow and take cuttings of begonias. They will recommend suitable begonia cultivars for various growing conditions.

They will join members of numerous plant societies in a plant display, sale and education effort in a two day event, March 26 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and March 27 from noon to 6 p.m. There will be a public viewing of the Arboretum, a recent development on the campus.

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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Box 165-4 Ozark, MO 65721

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

Begonias, oldies, collectors items, new hybrids, 20¢ for list, Stamps ok. Rainbow Begonia Gardens, Box 991, Westminster, CA 92683.

Bolduc's Greenhill Nursery—Exotic and hardy ferns. Send self-addressed stamped envelope for list. 2131 Vallejo Street, St. Helena, CA 94574

The Thompson Begonia Guide, Second Edition, Volumes I and II being distributed. Also Revision Sheets for Vol. I and II, First Edition. Order by writing to E. Thompson, P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, NY 11968.

Begonias — Blue Ribbon Winners. Many varieties, Retail only. Price list 25¢ or stamps. John Sousa, Begonia Paradise Nursery, Rte 1, Box 94, Bear Creek, NC 27207.

Plant Workshop. Begonias, gesneriads, foliage plants. Send 13¢ stamp for descriptive catalog of over 100 varieties. Rt. 4, Box 10, Everett, PA 15537.

No Catalog Available

Rudolf Ziesenhenne does not have a catalog for his nursery. Inquiries for specific cultivars and species or seeds may be made directly to him. Many of the plants are available in only limited numbers and it is not profitable nor possible to include them in a catalog.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY JANUARY 24, 1977

The meeting was called to order by President Charles Richardson, in the South Gate Auditorium at 7:45 p.m. After the flag salute and the Aims and Purposes, Past President Margaret Ziesenhenné reported that she had been looking over the books of the Show Treasurer and found them in order. She also thanked the Board for her life membership card.

Third Vice President, Ralph Corwin, reported on his activities with the work on the roster.

Gilbert Estrada, Treasurer, reported receipts of \$2,403.00, disbursements of \$3,410.20, leaving a balance of \$2,294.45 in the treasury. He requested the Board's considering giving Pearl Benell \$20.00 a month expense allowance for the work she is doing for the seed fund. After discussion, Mr. Walton made a motion, seconded by Muriel Perz, that she be given \$20.00 a month out of the seed fund money for her expenses. Passed.

The Secretary read the minutes of the November meeting. After correcting Mr. Hoover's name from Don to Scott, the minutes were approved.

Mr. Bates, Editor, gave his report. He made a motion, seconded by Mr. Walton, that the type-setting contract for the catalog Rudy Ziesenhenné is putting together be given to James LaMaster of Del Mar, a member of the Society. The publication committee was questioning what plans were being made of the material being compiled by the director of the research dept., but as yet had no information on it.

Advertising Director, Mabel Corwin, reported receipts for December of \$237.25, and \$185.25 in outstanding bills for ads. Christmas ads were included.

Mr. Bates told the board that Ed Sherer had passed away. Mr. Sherer was known to many people as a good grower, hybridizer, and friend.

A motion was passed to pay the liability insurance for the year. It has increased to \$100.00 a year.

Marge Lee gave her report. She requested permission to give one point toward the judges card to people covering the course during the conference in Rochester, N.Y. this year. Permission granted. There is a balance after expenses for judges courses and other materials mailed of \$35.92. A motion was passed to permit Marge Lee to dispose of correspondence that is no longer of value.

We have 104 new members and 164 renewals according to the membership secretary.

All Round Robins are flying, and a few persons are waiting for flights.

Linda Miller reported receipts of \$1,193.92 for the C.M. Kelly Seed Fund, with a total of \$1,052.30 balance after expenses.

Mr. Ziesenhenné told the Board of Mrs. Dyckman's death January 19, 1977. She was the wife of the founder of our Society, and worked very hard for many years to help advance the growing of begonias.

Mr. Richardson's appointment of Doug Frost as Show Chairman was unanimously approved by the board.

Margaret Taylor announced the choice of the location for the show and convention. It will be at the "Inn at the Park", and the dates will be Sept. 1-4th. More details will be given from time to time.

The finance committee is reviewing the life memberships and will try to get a new up to date list in order.

After the branch reports, the meeting adjourned at 9:45.

Virginia J. Barnett, secretary

In Memoriam Susie Zug

Susie Zug left us June 12, 1976. For over forty years she grew, hybridized, collected and loved begonias. She gave us the A. D. Robinson Award winner, *Begonia* 'Verde Grande'.

More than a hundred cultivars, many registered, bore her fine touch. As a judge, Robin participant, Begonia Society promoter and faithful attendant of A. B. S. Branches, she loved her friends and we all loved her. Percy, her husband for well over sixty years, she honored by naming the begonia she considered superlative, 'Sir Percy'.

When one is able to find any of these begonia varieties, he will have a real treasure, 'Red Bluff', 'Emerald Jewel', 'Lyric', 'Aquamarine', 'Palm Shadow', 'Silver Jewel', 'Frazier Park', 'Hopi Star', or 'Crackerjack'. Susie Zug left us a heritage of beautiful begonias.

— Jean Kerlin

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If your branch representative is not listed, please contact editors with the correct information.

Registered Cultivar Catalog

Work has begun on the preparation of a catalog of the first 550 ABS registered cultivars. It will contain descriptions and information about the origin of the cultivars. The cost will be under ten dollars. Advance reservations for copies should be made to the ABS Librarian, but no funds sent until time of distribution.

Propagation Classes

The San Gabriel Branch will present classes in begonia propagation by seed and leaf at the lecture hall at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in Arcadia. The sessions will be held at 7 o'clock, Tuesday evenings, March 8 and April 11 under the leadership of Walter Barnett. Participants should bring clear plastic cups, scotch tape and predampened vermiculite with them.

The San Gabriel Branch invites all members and friends. This is a splendid opportunity to bring beginning growers and new members, potential members with you.

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