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The BEGONIAN

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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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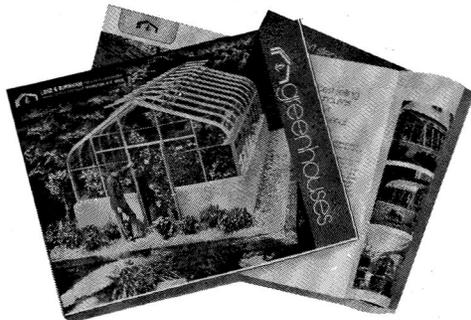
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Cover photograph: *Begonia herbacea* — Best in Show
 Mabel Corwin — Grower Extraordinaire
 Sweepstakes Trophy Winner



Mabel Corwin with her plants at indoor light shelves. R. Corwin, photo

Fourteen blue ribbons and four reds were presented to plants entered by Mabel Corwin to qualify her as the awardee of the 1977 Sweepstakes Trophy. In addition, Mabel won seven division trophies and two cultural certificates at the Anaheim Show. This is the fourth Sweepstakes Trophy she has won in national competition.

B. herbacea, shown on the cover, is one of her entries. As the winner of the Inglewood Branch Memorial Trophy for Best Species Begonia, it became eligible for consideration and was designated as Best in Show. The species was grown in a 14-inch red-

wood container in the Corwin greenhouse. It raised its citron green, lance shaped leaves in abundance and showed an excellent display of frosty white blooms. It is considered a difficult plant to grow to large size.

Mrs. Corwin grows begonias of all types — unusual species, canes, rhizomatous, shrubby and even semperflorans. She has plants in the greenhouse, lathhouse, patio, and in the landscaping scheme at her home in Vista, Ca., as well as indoors in terrariums and under lights. She favors keeping the plants relatively young by propagating when they reach their prime and replacing the "weary" ones with the fresh new ones.

There are always begonias in bloom at her home and she professes to have no favorite; but there is a certain enthusiastic tone to her voice when she inspects and displays *B. "Purple Petticoats."*

In addition to the care of her hundreds of begonias, Mabel has recently assumed the duties of Round Robin Director.

As she unloaded the last of the plants from the show this year, she was busy assessing the conditions of the plants after their sojourn and planning how to transport them to the convention site next year.

EDWARD AND MILDRED THOMPSON: EVA KENWORTHY GRAY AWARD WINNERS

By Chuck Anderson
Santa Clara Valley Branch
and Garden Editor, *Oakland, Calif. Tribune*

Edward J. and Mildred L. Thompson, creators of the monumental three-volume work, *The Thompson Begonia Guide*, are winners of the 1977 Eva Kenworthy Gray Award presented by ABS to recognize superior writing that advances the study of *Begonia*.

The Thompsons of Southampton, N.Y., are also authors of frequent magazine articles, begonia newsletters and contributions to the *Begonian*.

Thelma O'Reilly, chairwoman of the ABS awards committee, said an unprecedented 35 letters nominating the Thompsons were received. Additional Thompson nominations came in after the deadline and could not be counted, Mrs. O'Reilly said.

"We on the committee felt they were very, very deserving," she noted.

"My feeling is that the *Guide* is without a doubt the finest publication on a plant family that I have read. It is so thorough that for individuals to have compiled it makes it monumental."

The Thompsons were unable to attend the Anaheim convention, so ABS President Charles Richardson accepted the award on their behalf.

The *Guide* consists of three loose-leaf books. One is an exhaustive listing of *Begonia* species and cultivars according to a classification system based upon the plants' cultural requirements. The last two are filled with detailed, regionalized informa-

tion on growing, propagating, hybridizing and displaying begonias, plus numerous photographs and reproductions of historical material about *Begonia*.

Some 736 sets of the *Guide* had been sold by the end of August. Thirty-seven have been purchased by colleges and universities, 33 by botanical-horticultural libraries, 43 by individuals in 12 foreign countries and at least 14 by professional botanists and horticulturists.

The entire work, including some recent revisions, has been researched, written, printed and sold by the Thompsons with their own funds. All this took place over the past five years.

Mrs. Thompson said she began to recognize the need for the classification listing in the early 1970s when her Long Island ABS branch asked her to be in charge of classifying entries in a branch show.

"I did research for six months and still felt I didn't know enough," she said. "That's when I felt there was a need for a publication which could permit somebody to classify plants for a show even if they only knew some of the plants."

Once the first volume took shape, she said, she and Mr. Thompson—both advanced hobbyist growers—realized the need for a massive new up-to-date book about *Begonia*. Thus was born the full *Guide*, which comes to 975 pages.

It has received favorable reviews and acclaim from countless begonia growers. Only 174 sets of the current second edition remain for distribution.

Mrs. Thompson, described as "a bundle of energy" by one friend, and Mr. Thompson also run a family business and are founders and active members of the Long Island and Southampton branches of ABS.

They started the new branches after being in the Knickerbocker branch and making long trips to attend meetings.

Their mammoth and much-admired begonia collection is in several separ-

ate locations: an indoor plant room, a glass-to-ground greenhouse near their apartment and an 18- by 35-foot greenhouse belonging to a friend.

Their favorite begonia? It usually is a touchy question, but readers of Thompson begonia literature already know the Thompsons hold a special place in their hearts for *B. foliosa*.

It is the species that won for them a best-in-show trophy the first time they entered a show eight years ago. They grow exquisite specimens of the species and write fondly of it, too.

(For ordering information, write to the Thompsons at Post Office Drawer PP, Southampton, NY 11968.)

* * *

The following series of articles are the results of a long term project carried out by the Hampton Branch with Ed and Millie Thompson as leaders. The various authors — investigators gathered as much information about the African species as they could and the information was published in the Branch newsletter, the TWIGLETTE, and presented as a program at one of the meetings.

B. EMINII WARBURG

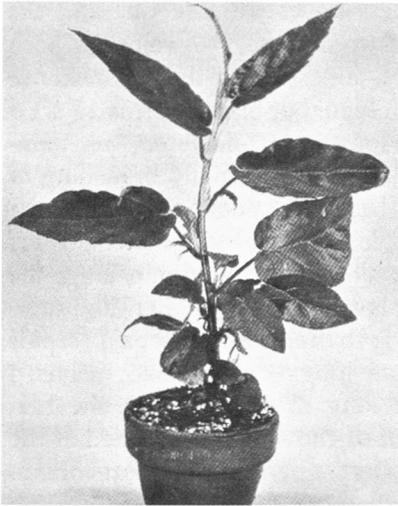
By Mildred L. Thompson

B. eminii Warburg was discovered in Victoria Nyanza, Africa. The name was first listed by Otto Warburg in "Begoniaceae," *Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien* III, 6A (pg. 141), which was published in Leipzig in 1894. The first description was published by Otto Warburg in *Die Pflanzenwelt Ost-Afrikas und der Nachbargebiete* (pg. 282), which was published in Berlin in 1895.

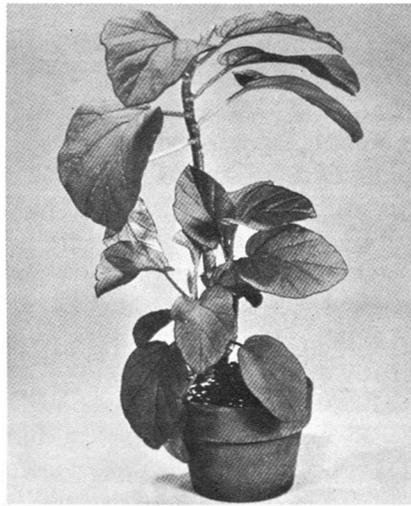
For botanical classification *B. eminii* is placed in the genus *Begonia* in the section *Tetraphila* (*Fusibegonia* Warburg). About thirty-nine African species have been placed in this section. Characteristically they are epi-

phytic and climbing with roots often produced at the nodes. Leaves have a pinnate venation. The inflorescences are few-flowered. The male flowers have four tepals and the female flowers have four tepals with the two inner ones more narrow. The wingless ovaries are cylindrical-fusiform. Some of the species placed in this section, that are in cultivation today, are as follows: *B. cavallyensis*, *B. jussiaeicarpa*, *B. mannii*, *B. molleri*, *B. polygonoides*, and *B. squamulosa*.

Presently the horticultural classification of *B. eminii* Warburg is: thick-stemmed, bare-leaved, medium-leaved (generally 4" - 6" at maturity), ac-



B. eminii Warburg



B. cavallyensis Chevalier

Photographs from *The Thompson Begonia Guide*

According to *The Thompson Begonia Guide*.

Ten years ago a species collected in Cameroon was identified erroneously as *B. eminii* Warburg. Seeds of this species were distributed with this name. Many growers are still growing this African species labeled as *B. eminii*. For a time this species was also identified as *B. rubro-marginata* Gilg. Recently Dr. J. J. F. E. de Wilde, who works with the Plant Taxonomy Department of Wageningen University, identified this species as *B. cavallyensis* Chevalier.

In July 1976 our branch launched a species survey project. Ed and I received seeds of the true *B. eminii* from Dr. Doorenbos, of Wageningen University, in July 1975. Six of the resulting young plants were given to members to study and grow in their particular growing environments. A biographic sketch was done on Otto Warburg, the author of the original citation of *B. eminii*. The original citation was translated from the

Latin. A later description by R. Wilczek, of the Belgium National Botanic Gardens, was translated from the French.

We are most grateful to Dr. Doorenbos for the seeds of *B. eminii* and the background information that he has sent to us. We are grateful to Dr. Fred A. Barkley for editing our translations.

* * *

OTTO WARBURG (1859-1938)

Otto Warburg was born in Hamburg, Germany in 1859. After many years of travelling in scientific study he was appointed lecturer in botany at the University of Berlin. He later became a professor at the Oriental Seminary in Berlin.

He was the author of numerous botanical papers. His work on the genus *Ficus* is well known. Of course we are interested in his work with begonias. In 1894 he wrote a botani-

cal exposition on the family *Begoniaceae*. It can be found in *Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien III, 6A* published in 1894 in Leipzig.

Warburg published the botanical descriptions of several species of *Begoniaceae*. Some of these that he described and the dates they were published are:

- 1894 *B. eminii*
- 1894 *B. molleri*
- 1895 *B. jussiaeicarpa*
- 1895 *B. macrocarpa*
- 1895 *B. quadrialata*
- 1901 *Symbegonia sanguinea*

In his later life Warburg was active in the Zionist movement. After World War I he was appointed head of the Agricultural Experiment Station in Palestine. He was also the director of Natural History at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He died in 1938.

By Susan Blair

* * *

ORIGINAL CITATION:

Warburg, Otto. "BEGONIACEAE," in Engler, *Die Pflanzenwelt Ost-Afrikas und der Nachbargebiete* C: 282. Berlin, 1895.

The following is a translation from the Latin by John Bradley and edited by Dr. Fred A. Barkley:

B. (Fusibegonia) eminii Warb. n. sp.; climbing shrub, the branches ferruginous-tomentose when young, afterwards glabrous; the stipules deciduous, 2 cm lg. lanceolate, pubescent on the outside, the petioles (3-5 cm) long, at length glabrous, the foliage (9-12 cm long, 3-5 broad), the apex ovate-lanceolate, acutely cordate at the base, often oblique, the margin subsinuate, glabrous above, lighter below, more

or less pubescent, the ribs and the veins tomentose, 5-7 veins on both sides, almost rigid; the inflorescence is unisexual or bisexual, small (1-1.5 cm long), few-flowered, ferruginous-tomentose, usually branching at the base, the peduncles short, the petioles of the staminate flowers very slender, about 6 mm long; the petals are much smaller and narrower than the oblong sepals (sepals 8 mm long, 3 mm broad; petals 4 mm long, 2 mm broad); the filament of the stamens is united at the base into a narrow and short column 1 mm long, the anthers (1.25 mm long) subclavate at apex; the female flowers having a short (3-5 mm) pedicel, the ovary fusiform and tomentose, 2 ovate-round sepals, 2 very small petals; the styles (2-3) subconnate at the base, shortly divided at the apex (1.25 mm long), the papilla forming one continuous series of subspirals, having a bipartite placenta (3 mm long, 4-5 mm broad), dehiscent fruit, fusiform-cylindrical, nearly glabrous, dehiscent irregularly.

* * *

Wilczek, R. "BEGONIACEAE," *Flore du Congo du Rwanda et du Burundi*: 27-29. December 15, 1969.

The following is a translation from the French by Frances Carey and Graydon Topping; edited by Dr. Fred A. Barkley:

Begonia eminii Warb. in Engler, *Pflanzenw. Ost-Afr. C*; 282 (1895) — Plate 3.

Epiphyte; monoecious, indumentum formed of modified scaly dentate-lancinate hairs; stem creeping or sprawling, .5-4 (sic) meters long, branched, radiant at the nodes, red,

plump to sublingeous, tomentose to glabrous.

Leaves: lance-shaped stipules from 1.2-3.5 centimeters long, puberulent on the outside, more or less persistent, petiole from 2.5-13 centimeters long, slender, bright red, hairy to hairless; limb is of an oblique heart-shaped oval, asymmetrical, cordate at the base tapering to a sharp point at the apex, from 8-21 cm long and from 5-11 cm wide, denticulate to sinuate, like thin paper, two colors: bright and green above, red-brown underneath when in bloom; smooth above, hairy below, especially on the veins, lateral veins in pairs of 5 to 7, projecting and red on the lower surface.

Inflorescence: axillary and unisexual; male has 5-9 flowers with main stalk from 4-9 mm long, slender, puberulent, provided with lance-ovate bracts at the top reaching a length of 2 mm; caducous; the pistillate has three flowers with peduncle from 2-8 mm long.

Flowers: white, pink to red; 4 unequal tepals, the external tepals are puberulent on the outside.

Staminate flower: has pedicels

from 5-10 mm long, slender, puberulent; external tepals are ovate-elliptical, reaching 8-11 mm in length, 3-6 mm wide, puberulent; the inner are elliptical, reaching 5 mm long and 2 mm wide, glabrous; androecium is loose, unilateral, from 8-13 filaments found in a column at the base and partly free. They are about 0.3 mm long; anthers are oblong, rounded at the top, reaching 1.25 mm in length with longitudinal dehiscence.

Pistillate flower; pedicel reaching 8 mm in length; tepals appear to be those of the male flowers but much smaller; ovary cylindrical spindle-shaped from 1.5-2 cm long and 0.2 cm in diameter; lively red when in bloom tomentose to puberulent, and has 3 locules; styles 2 or sometimes 3, lightly fused at the base and forked; the stigma has spiraled surfaces on the upper part of the pistils; placentas complete central.

Fruits: the pedicels attaining 12 mm in length; fusiform-cylindrical, 2-4.5 cm long and about 0.5 cm wide; dry and indehiscent, red in blossom and sparsely puberulent.

Usage: fruits and leaves are edible.

* * *

GLOSSARY

androecium — reproductive portion of male flower composed of one or more stamens

author — the person who first described and validly published the scientific name of a taxon (e.g. *B. eminii* Warburg; Otto Warburg is the author)

caducous — falling off early

clavate — club-shaped

dihescence — splitting into parts

dichotomous — regularly forked into pairs

ferruginous — rust-colored

fruit — ovary which is fertilized and developed

indumentum — hairy covering

pistillate flower — female flower

placenta — area in the ovary which contains the ovules

puberulent — covered with minute, dense hairs
radicant — rooting
sinuate — uneven indented margin
species — basic unit of classification for plants with constant and distinct characteristics
staminate flower — male flower
subconnate — slightly fused
subligneous — slightly woody
taxon — term for any taxonomic element regardless of classification level
tomentose — thickly covered with wool-like hairs

M.L.T.

* * *

Cultural Observations

Reported by Susan Blair

I placed *B. eminii* in my light garden in the center of the bench with the lights approximately a foot above it. I treated it exactly the way I do my other begonias. It was watered when it needed it. I use Schultz fertilizer, seven drops per quart of water, with every watering. The only added humidity is water in the benches. Since my light garden is in the living area of my home the temperature is approximately 65° during the day and 60° at night.

It seemed to do very well for the rest of the summer. My problems began with cooler weather. As soon as the heat was turned on I began to have problems with mildew. I treated the plant by drenching it with benomyl solution and also spraying the same solution on the leaves. Gradually the leaves on the plant yellowed and fell off until I was left with only one original leaf on an otherwise empty stem. By accident the growing tip of the plant was broken off and after several weeks of almost giving up, shoots began to appear where the original leaves had fallen. The last original leaf also fell off.

The new leaves are quite small. I continued to fight off mildew and I did lose several of the new leaves. The plant is finally starting to rally through. It has several blossoms on it now. The leaves at the top of the plant, those closest to the lights, are growing quite well. The ones near the bottom and along the stem are struggling. This leads me to believe that *B. eminii* needs strong light to grow well.

My plant will certainly never win any awards for the best looking plant but I am very happy that its appearance is improving. I found it a very interesting plant to grow, even with all its problems. It will be very interesting to see how it does this spring when the heat is turned off and the house is open again.

Reported by John L. Bradley Jr.

I have found that *B. eminii* grows very nicely under lights. My *B. eminii* was placed on a tray with pebbles filled with water. There are two 48" tubes about a foot away from the plants that are on for 13 hours per day. The temperature fluctuates from 60°-80°. *B. eminii* grew very

quickly and needed repotting in a few weeks time. It was fertilized regularly, and the axillary flowers were profuse. At this time it was kept quite moist; almost to the point of wetness. This, however, didn't affect the plant adversely; in fact it seemed to enjoy it.

It grew to a height of 18", when it had to be removed from the lights. It was placed on a table in semi-shade. The growth slowed down quickly. I was gone for a few weeks and it was neglected. When I returned, I found it with only three leaves. I started an active watering and feeding program. At this time a case was being completed having four 48" tubes and a fan for air circulation. It was tall enough to be put in the case, and that is where it is residing now. Once again it looks like a begonia.

I think that when small, *B. eminii* is very easy to grow under lights and is very rewarding with its forest-green foliage and profuse flowers, when large, it is definitely a challenge to grow to "exhibition shape," but well worth it.

Reported by Gertrude Berglund

I have grown *B. eminii* in my sun-room which has a south-west exposure. *B. eminii* is placed right by the window, so it receives a lot of sun and light. I have found that it is an easy plant to grow, and requires very little water. The temperature in the room is 65° during the day and 60° at night.

Reported by Mary Burnaford

B. eminii has been moved from one spot to another in my greenhouse. Sun or shade has made no real difference. My temperature is a steady 60° with 50% humidity. It graduated to the next small pot size and got Schultz fertilizer once during the test period. Blossoms are present most of the time, but it continues to remain one stiff stalk. Foliage is skimpy even when nipped back. I have no idea how it can be made to develop a figure. One conclusion: many begonias resemble the plant groups—this one wants to look like an undernourished beanstalk.



Female flowers of *B. eminii*

Photo by Ed Thompson

1977 V.I.P AND V.I.B AWARD WINNERS

by Thelma O'Reilly, Awards Chairman

The setting for the 1977 Awards Presentation was Begonia Beauty in all its glory. Hundreds of magnificent tuberhybrida blooms, donated by Antonelli Brothers of Santa Cruz, adorned the tables in a rainbow of colors.

I was thrilled to have the honor of presenting the top awards of the ABS to the V.I.P.'s, very important persons, and the V.I.B.'s, very important begonias.

The highest award of the ABS, the Eva Kenworthy Gray, fittingly went to Mildred L and Edward J. Thompson for their literary and personal contributions to all who grow and love begonias. Unfortunately, Millie and Ed were unable to be with us. If they could have heard and seen the standing ovation that greeted the announcement of their names they would have realized personally the overwhelming amount of deep appreciation felt for them by ABS members. At their request, President Chuck Richardson accepted the award in their behalf.

The Herbert P. Dyckman Award for long time service was presented to Gene Daniels, a hard working member who puts his heart and energies into every job he undertakes. It was heart-warming to have him receive recognition for his years of devotion and service.

This year the Awards Committee received an additional request. It was suggested that the ABS reaffirm its appreciation to Alice M. Clark, who received the Eva Kenworthy Gray

Award in 1958, by presenting her one dozen red roses. The Awards Committee acted upon this request with unanimous approval. We were fortunate to have Alice attending the convention. As I read the following message from the ABS, Phyllis Bates presented the roses to Alice: "These beautiful red roses are a symbol of the deep respect, love and appreciation the members of the ABS hold for this ever-young lady who, at the age of 86, has published a wonderful book, *Begonia Portraits*, to be shared with her begonia friends."

The cherished Alfred D. Robinson Medal of Honor was awarded for the first time since 1974. The recipient was *B. 'Wanda'*. We are fortunate to have this beautiful begonia available as its beginning was uncertain. In late 1967, Leo Porter successfully pollinated *B. masoniana* to *B. versicolor*. From this mating grew lovely plants resembling *B. versicolor* but showing lighter coloring. They required highly humid greenhouse conditions or a terrarium. Realizing the potential of the young seedlings, a few were shared with Beth Bath, a well-known begonia hybridizer. Dorothy Porter says: "It was a mighty good thing we shared because we lost all of our plants in their second year, not realizing they must not be kept too wet. We talked Beth out of hers and became more careful with our growing conditions". The plant was registered in 1971, #285, and named *B. 'Wanda'* after Wanda Elin, a long-time friend and co-worker. At the ABS National Show and Convention

in Whittier, *B.* 'Wanda' received the Best New Introduction Award. This plant is available at Porter's Tropicals, Orange, Ca.

There are two more V.I.B.'s to share with you. The Best New Introduction by a grower was awarded to *B.* 'Doug Frost', a rhizomatous begonia hybridized and entered by Goldie Frost. It also received the John Thieben Memorial Award. The parentage of this low, compact, handsome plant is *B.* 'Madame Queen' x *B. hidalgensis*. The upper sides of the 8" x 10" leaves are a stunning burgundy red with velvety sheen and radiating, red-dotted green veins. The undersides are burgundy red with green veins that have red dots and trichomes. There is a large collar of hair at the top of each light green, red-spotted, softly hairy petiole. Large clusters of tiny, dark pink blooms are held high on 12" peduncles. Doug and Goldie Frost of Garden Grove, California, will have plants available in the spring of 1978.

Winner of the Best New Begonia Introduction by a commercial nursery was *B.* 'Madame Butterfly', a rhizomatous begonia hybridized and entered by Leslie Woodruff of Fairyland Begonia Gardens, McKinleyville, Ca. It was produced by crossing *B. conchifolia* var. *rubrimacula* x 'Bokit' X *B. carolineifolia*. *B.* 'Madame Butterfly' is an appropriate name for this begonia whose beautiful, unique leaves appear ready for flight. The 6" x 7" partially cleft, rich green leaves fold, pleat and ripple. Green leaf veins are trimmed with narrow, pale green margins, leaf margins are edged with fine, brown, fuzzy hairs. Long, light brown petioles have soft, brown hairs and red spots. The sinus is wide, edged with a thick vein having the same color and hairs as the petiole. *B.* 'Madame Butterfly' will be available from Fairyland Begonia Gardens in early 1978.

Both of these new begonia hybrids were awarded a Begonia Hybrid of Distinction certificate.



Alice Clark among friends at the ABS banquet.





Above: Belva Kusler, speaker at annual banquet, shared her hybridizing results and expertise in a series of slides which enthralled the audience.

Right Above: President Charles Richardson congratulates Winkey Woodriff who accepted the William Bower Memorial Trophy for the Best New Introduction by a Commercial Nurseryman for her father, Leslie Woodriff.

* * *

Top left: Thelma O'Reilly presented Certificate of Distinction to Rudy Zieshenne for *B. 'Al Clark'*. Seated at head table were (left to right): Margaret Taylor, Ralph Corwin, Evelyn Cronin, Virginia Barnett, Charles Richardson, Nathan Randall, Margaret Zieshenne, and Gilbert Estrada.

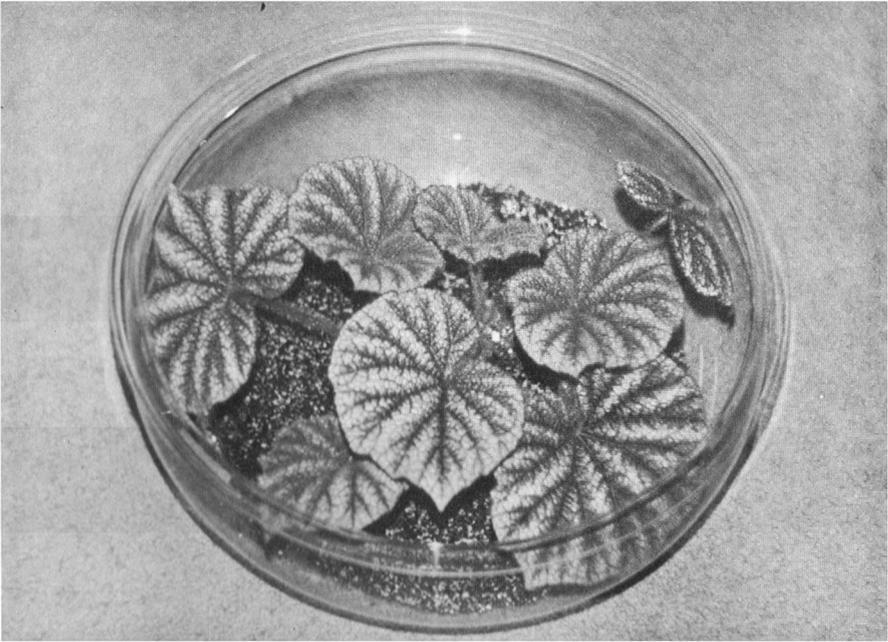
Center left: Dorothy and Leo Porter surrounded by family and friends. The Alfred D. Robinson Medal was presented to *Begonia 'Wanda'*, Leo Porter's cross, a registered cultivar of special merit.

Lower left: Herbert P. Dyckman Awardee, Gene Daniels, talks with wife, Nettie, Hikoichi Arakawa, and luncheon companions. This award is given for long time and outstanding service to the Society.



Above: Goldie and Douglas Frost with their Best New Introduction by a Hobbyist, *Begonia 'Doug Frost'*.

Photos by T. O'Reilly, D. Maley, R. Corwin, E. Bates
Additional photos and related articles will appear in later issues.



Begonia 'Wanda'
Alfred D. Robinson Medal



Begonia 'Madame Butterfly'
Best New Commercial Introduction

1977 A.B.S. Show & Convention

by Doug Frost, Show Chairman

Now that the A.B.S. Show for 1977 is successfully concluded, I would like to gratefully thank all the wonderful people who made it possible. First of all, my greatest appreciation to Margaret Taylor and Marge Lee whose experience and kindly counsel were of the greatest help to me and the entire show committee. Secondly, to Lou Thompson and his marvelous group from the Sacramento Branch for their dedication and hard work in managing the plant sales. Special thanks go: to Kathy Brown for her hours of labor at the registration table; to Dennis Torzeski who came up from San Diego to conduct plant placement, thanks Dennis for a job well done; and to Wally Wagner who came all the way from Oregon to handle plant registration and classification.

Of course the plant sale could not have been successful, without the thousands of plants donated by the many branches and individual members. This year we had plant donations from many of the branches in California and also from the Greater Chicago Area branch who shipped 150 nice plants to us. We also received cash contributions from distant branches and individuals. Mrs. Joy Logee Martin donated fifty plants, shipping them all the way from Connecticut.

I could write a book on the contributions of members and branches who unselfishly gave of their time, labor, and plants. Space doesn't permit listing them all. However, I hope that all of you will feel included. We can truthfully say that the 1977 A.B.S. show was a national show in every way. So many members from all over the U.S. and Mr. Arakawa from Japan attended the show and all made an important contribution to the show's success.

We must remember that a begonia show must have many beautiful plants in competition to be a great show. All A.B.S. shows are superb and the 1977 show was no exception. We thank all the exhibitors many of whom brought entries from as far as one hundred fifty miles away. This wasn't easy because of the very hot weather in California at the time of the show.

Who can forget the efforts of D. A. Sullinger and the masterful way he raffled off the fine prizes that were donated by manufacturers of garden supplies. Sully built a large ticket cage for use in the raffle and donated it to the A.B.S. for use in future shows.

Summing up, to all who contributed so much to the 1977 show and especially all the dedicated members of the show committee — Thanks for a job well done.

Show Committee

Chairman	Doug Frost	Hospitality &	
Advisor	Margaret Taylor	Preview ...	Mr. & Mrs. Maughn Atkin
Coordinator	Nathan Randall	Registration &	
Secretary	Kathleen Brown	Classification	Wally Wagner
Treasurer	Gil Estrada	Commissary	Margaret Taylor
Garden Tour	Norma Taylor	Amenities	Ronnie Nevins
Plant Sales	Sacramento & San Francisco Branches	Master of Ceremonies	
Staging	Walter Pease	Annual Banquet	Walter Barnett
Plant Placement	Dennis Torzeski	Book Sales	Lydia Austin
Publicity	Nathan Randall	Photographer	Ralph Corwin
Judging	Margaret Lee	Guest Registration	Kathy Brown
Trophies & Ribbons	Paul Lee	Seminars	Chuck Richardson
Door Prize Procurement ..	Walter Barnett	Clean Up after show ...	Garden Grove & Orange County Branches

REGISTRATION OF BEGONIA CULTIVARS

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

No. 602 — Begonia (B. 'Tracery' X B. 'Zip') 'Harry Zip'

This rhizomatous begonia originated by Rudolf Ziesenhenné, 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103 in 1970, first bloomed in 1971, and will be distributed in 1978. Leaves are peltate, with short hairs; medium green, lighter nerves, red spot in center; egg-shaped; 12.5 x 12 cm (5 x 4"); margin toothed and ciliate; texture thick, surface dull; nerves palmate, 8; petioles covered with brownish hair; stipules long triangular, hairy outside, keeled. Flowers pale rose, circular, 2 male, 2 female petals; arranged in a cyme on 22.5 cm (8½") stem; blooms February-April. Hairy surface of leaves distinguish this one from similar hybrids. Registered July 22, 1977.

No. 603 — Begonia (B. 'MacIntyre's "daedalea"' X B. aridicaulis) 'Tomol'

B. "Tomol" (which means canoe in Chumash language) was developed in 1975 by Rudolf Ziesenhenné (address above), first bloomed in 1977, and will be distributed in 1978. The rhizomatous plant has dark, green-black leaves, 8 nerves light green, uneven heart shaped with angular outline; 8 x 5 cm (3 x 2"); margin angular, nerve tips large toothed; texture thin; petioles green, 6"; stipules long

triangular, recurved, green. Flowers white, 2 male, 2 female petals, arranged on 6" stem in cyme; blooms May-July. Registered July 22, 1977.

No. 604 — Begonia (B. 'MacIntyre's "daedalea"' X B. aridicaulis) 'Enech'

Originated in 1975 by Rudolf Ziesenhenné (address above) this rhizomatous begonia has black leaves, 8 green nerves, and is ox-blood red below; unequal heart shaped, long-pointed, 8 x 4.5 cm (3 x 2"); margin ciliated; texture thin; petioles green, red streaked, 8"; stipules narrow triangular, dull reddish. Flowers white, 2 male, 2 female petals; arranged in cyme. Available in 1978. Registered July 22, 1977.

No. 605 — Begonia (B. 'MacIntyre's "daedalea"' X B. aridicaulis) 'Tuptup'

This rhizomatous begonia was developed in 1975, first bloomed in 1976, and was first distributed in 1977 by the originator, Rudolf Ziesenhenné, address above. The leaves are green with red on the 7 nerves; uneven heart shaped; 9.5 x 6 cm (3½ x 2½"); margin green, toothed at tip of each nerve; texture medium; petioles red streaked, 3 cm (2.35"); stipules long triangular, fringed, reddish. Flowers white, obovate, 2 male, 2 female petals; arranged in cyme on 20.30 cm (8") stem; blooms May-July. Registered July 22, 1977.

No. 606 — Begonia (B. 'MacIntyre's "daedalea"' X B. aridicaulis) 'Cami'

Distinguished by dark-green leaves with a black pattern on nerves and edge, red on nerves and center, with

light green below and blood-red pattern on nerves and edge, this rhizomatous begonia was originated by Rudolf Ziesenhenné, address above, in 1975; it first bloomed in 1976 and will be distributed in 1978. Leaf shape is unequal heart, tapering to a long point, 9 x 5 cm ($3\frac{1}{2}$ x 2"); margin black toothed at end of each nerve; texture medium; nerves 8 palmate; petioles 15.24 cm (6") red markings slightly hairy; stipules long triangular. Flowers are white, inverted egg shaped; 3 x 2 cm (1.18 x .79"); 2 male, 2 female petals arranged on cyme on 15.24 cm (6") flower stem; blooms May-July. Registered July 22, 1977.

No. 607 — Begonia (B. 'Lana' X unknown) 'Kristy'

Developed in 1973 by Margaret M. Lee, 1852 31st St., San Diego, CA 92102, this cane-like superba plant reaches to 3' at maturity. Leaves are dull, dark green with white irregular spots, red underneath, with a red sinus; shape angular, obovate, cleft, pointed shoulder; 8 x 4"; margin crenate; texture medium heavy; nerves 7; petioles red, smooth; stipules green with slightly pink flush. Flowers pink, 1 x $1\frac{1}{2}$ "; 4 male, five female petals arranged in clusters on a 2-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " stem; blooms summer and fall; flowers making a pleasing contrast. Registered July 27, 1977.

No. 608 — Begonia (B. conchifolia var. rubrimacula cv. Zip X B. 'Bokit') 'Fairyland'

This distinctive, compact, spiral-leaved and fluted rhizomatous begonia was originated by Leslie Woodriff, McKinleyville, CA in 1974, first bloomed in 1976, and first distributed in 1975. The leaves are deep, rich,

forest green with margin edged chocolate brown; cordate, tapering to point at apex; $4\frac{1}{2}$ x $4\frac{1}{2}$ "; margin finely serrulate, barely noticeable on mature leaves, short hairs like fuzz; texture crisp, leathery, slightly wooly; 8 nerved but varies; petioles $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick, round, green, scattered red dots; stipules $\frac{1}{2}$ " with long point, red tinted, with sparse long wooly hairs. Flowers white with pink flush, typical shape, 3-winged ovary; $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{3}{4}$ "; 2 male, 3 female, one very small, petals arranged in panicle on 8-12" flower stem; blooms in spring. Unusual because each leaf varies in size in amount of dancing swirls and spirals and exactly opposite double curls at sinus, like mirror image. Registered July 27, 1977.

No. 609 — Begonia (B. strigilosa X B. 'Bokit') 'Whirlwind'

B. 'Whirlwind' is a rhizomatous plant with distinctive foliage, having colorful, bright medium-green leaves with a maze of reddish and brown marks, somewhat heart shaped with asymmetric pointed leaf-tip and wedge shaped sinus; 4 x 5"; margin serrulate, fine-haired; texture medium, sheen; nerves 6-8; petioles 8-12"; stipules pale green, $\frac{1}{2}$ ", one long hair at tip. Flowers white, flushed pink; typical shape; $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{3}{4}$ ", 2 male, 2 female petals; arranged on panicle on 8-12" stem; late spring bloom. Registered July 27, 1977.

No. 610 — Begonia (B. dregei X B. olbia) 'Bangles'

Thick-stemmed, not jointed, brittle, the mature stem of this begonia reaches 24 to 30"; originated by Thelma O'Reilly, 10942 Sunray (Continued on Page 309)

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

By Mabel Corwin, Round Robin Director

I have been very busy since I took the position of Round Robin Director on September 1st. As I write this (Sept. 26th) I have 12 new flights started. The following flights have room for one or two more people — Rhizomatous, Odd/Rare, Seeds, All Florida, and Gesneriads. If you are interested in one of these let me know and I will include you when the flight comes around again. I have almost enough requests to start flights on Hybridizing, Growing under Lights, Windowsill, Learning and Species. If you would like to be included in one of these let me know.

One member wrote that her flight had not been around for a year and she missed it. Another wrote to ask why she had not been placed in the flights she requested. In both cases I found the address in my files was not the same as that in the letter. Too often robins are lost because of a wrong address. So, PLEASE, if you move keep me informed of your current address.

I have been asked if we could have a flight on growing begonias in arid climates. Is anyone interested? We can have as many flights as you want.

Potting Mix

Dorcas Resleff, Washington, writes: I had a young plant of *B. cathyana* growing under lights, just existing, which worried me. I recently came across a note I had made of a suitable growing medium for it. I repotted and it looks better already. The medium was 2 parts vermiculite and 1 part each of Perlite and milled sphagnum. In her letter Elda Har-

ing, North Carolina, adds: The medium is the one that I use for all seedlings (of everything) and for cuttings, and I also grow quite a number of plants in it, feeding them now and then.

B. masoniana

Many people have difficulty growing *B. masoniana* (Iron Cross). Debi Miller, California writes: For me, the culture of Iron Cross is — clay pot, good drainage, high humidity around leaves, lower light than canes and other rhizomatous types in the greenhouse. My plants are watered a lot with a timed system, and I found that a plastic pot kept the soil too moist. The plant finally started being beautiful after I repotted into clay and cut down on the amount of light.

Humidity

Shirley Shapiro, New Jersey, received an unexpected bonus when she placed orchid plants setting over wet pebbles under her hanging basket begonias. They have flourished like never before, and she no longer has to mist the air around them. The humidity from the wet pebbles is high enough.

Terrarium

Terrariums is always a popular subject for discussion. Linda Kirik, Ontario, Canada writes: I have tried a lot of different growing media in my terrariums (and aquariums) and the plants seem to do best in sphagnum (which I coarsely cut up with the scissors) mixed with perlite. Every month or so I give a tiny dose of 1/4 strength fish emulsion plus Sturdy to encourage bloom.

This is what Debi Miller has to say about terrariums: I believe one of the biggest reasons for lack of success with terrariums is overwatering. When I plant a terrarium I first soak the mix in distilled water, then wring out all I can, then plant the terrarium with various plants. They don't usually need watering for at least a month, and in some cases two or three months. I use a very light mix — usually one part commercial indoor planting mix to two parts Canadian peat moss.

Promoting bloom

Sandra Crowley, Florida, wrote as follows: To make some of those reluctant bloomers put forth blossoms try this. Make sure the plant is large enough to bloom and that it is the season for it to bloom. Feed the plant well. Gradually expose the plant to as much light as it can take without bleaching the leaves. Keep the plant in a slightly smaller pot because you want it potbound. Overfeed with a balanced fertilizer (I use Poracel 14-14-14 osmocoted pellets) and double the amount for the size pot. Always remember that a pot bound plant requires more frequent watering, so check the plant daily.

Fertilizing

Letitia Isner, Ohio, reminds us that manure tea is good for our plants. Put some manure in a burlap bag and tie securely. Put this in a barrel of water and let soak several days. Dilute until the color of weak tea and water plants with it.

Mabel Corwin
1119 Loma Vista Way
Vista, CA 92083

Registration of Cultivars

(Continued from page 307)

Place, La Mesa, CA 92041, in 1969, the plant first bloomed in 1970, and was first distributed in 1972. The leaves are olive-green with copper highlights on upperside; wine-red underside; asymmetrical, long pointed leaf tip; 3 x 6"; margin slightly cut, incised; texture velvet with satiny sheen, slightly hairy; 7 nerved; petioles slender, green, with a channel on upperside; stipules elongated, pointed, thin, light green. Flowers are white, delicately tinted green, shaped like bangles (earrings), long hanging; 1 1/2", large ovary; petals male 2, female 5, one small; arranged in hanging clusters on 1 1/2-2" stem; everblooming. Resembles plant grown for many years as *B. olbia*, often referred to as the "maple-leafed begonia". Originator made cross to prove her allegation that the so-called maple-leaf begonia was a hybrid. Registered July 27, 1977.

"*Begonia Portraits*"

by ALICE M. CLARK

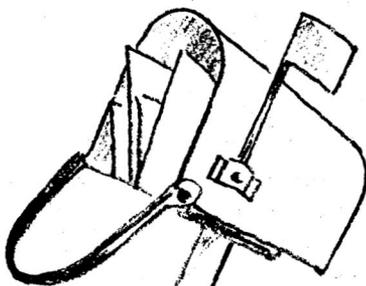
Notice has been received that *Begonia Portraits* was released to the public, October 11. This long awaited collection of watercolors, drawings and text by Alice Clark was originally scheduled to be completed early this year. Technical delays caused Mrs. Clark to cancel all orders.

Both reorders and new orders can be accepted now. The price is \$25, plus handling and insurance. California sales tax is \$1.50. Mail orders to:

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

BEGONIA QUESTION BOX

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



Question: Can we grow bulb type begonias in pots? How can we care for these? Must all begonias be trimmed back and put through a dry period after blooming. *Answer:* Tuberous-rooted begonias (*Tuberhybrida*) can be grown in pots, but they are best grown out-of-doors in summer. Feed and water regularly through the growing season. In late autumn, just before frost, withhold water. When leaves have turned yellow cut off tops. In Ohio they can be left in the pots, kept dry until February when they can be repotted and started into growth again. As to your second question, no, not many begonias must have a dry or dormant period except those tuberous kinds that naturally go dormant in winter like *B. sutherlandii* and *B. evansiana*. For most begonias active growth comes from late winter to early autumn. Keep them lightly moist in winter and trim back only those lanky shoots or dangling rhizomes or tips of branching kinds if they are unsightly.

Question: What is a cane-like Mallet type begonia? How can I recognize these? Do they need different care than ordinary canes? *Answer:* The Mallet types have dark red or rosy-red leaves with red hairs, sometimes silver spotted or overlaid with

silver. They need more humidity than other canes, at least 50%; must be shielded from strong sun and if conditions are not to their liking they sometimes have a tendency to mildew, especially in winter.

Question: A fungus seems to be attacking my rexes. The leaves develop a translucent spot on which mold forms. I have grown them in a bright window, in the south window and under lights in the basement. I have tried a spray of Benlate, Captan and sulphur dust. I have kept them very dry and reduced humidity but the fungus prevails. *Answer:* This problem sounds like mildew to which rexes are susceptible in cold weather. The spray should be used as a preventive at 10 day intervals *before* the problem arises. Rex begonias need at least 50 percent humidity and grow best at even temperatures of 70 degrees. They do not need sunlight. Keep them well away from windows where cold air may drop on them at night and do not permit hot air from radiators to rise on them. Avoid sudden drafts. Many rexes go dormant or semi-dormant in the winter months particularly if temperatures and humidity are not suitable for them. Many growers find them the most difficult of all begonias to grow.

Question: I have an Iron Cross begonia, *B. masoniana*, bought in July 1976, but it has shown no new growth. I have it in a north window and keep soil moist all the time. What am I doing wrong? *Answer:* If roots have filled the pot with soil it should be repotted in the next larger size pot with fresh soil. If it is growing in a soilless mix it needs constant feeding. That is, use a dilute solution *each* time you water. Schultz Instant Liquid fertilizer is excellent for this. It comes with an eye dropper for measuring just the proper amount for constant feeding. In winter, *B. masoniana* likes to rest. Keep it a little on the dry side and do not feed during the darker days of winter.

Question: I live in a frost free area where tuberous rooted begonias will not grow in the heat of summer. Can you suggest a way to change their blooming cycle? *Answer:* Purchased tubers are usually only available in late winter. Order your bulbs and refrigerate them until fall. Then start them into growth. They should bloom nicely during the cooler winter months where you live.

Question: How can you tell a rex begonia from other varieties. *Answer:* A difficult question to answer. While most rexes have brightly colored leaves with unusual patterns so do many other begonias. Logee's catalog which you can order from their advertisement in the *Begonian* shows photos of individual rex leaves. As you live but an hour's drive of Danielson, Conn. you might want to visit their new Begonia House. There you will find many rexes, and you can compare them to

others they have on display. They are never too busy to answer questions. If you can find a copy of *Exotica* in your Library you can study the pictures of rex begonias so that you can learn to recognize them.



Barbara Philip of Santa Barbara specializes in growing rexes.

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CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

By Linda Miller, Seed Fund Director

This month I am offering mostly tuberous and semi-tuberous types for planting December thru February, for bloom in the summer. Buy now for the best selection!

- Nv 1 — *B. boliviensis*: species from So. America. It grows 2 to 3 ft. high, is a shrub with long pointed leaves, sharply serrate, 3 to 5 inches long. Flowers in drooping panicles are scarlet or orange red. This is a parent of the first tuberous hybrid. per pkt. .50
- Nv 2 — *B. dregei*: Africa. This semi-tuberous species is a beautiful plant. Young leaves are spotted, but as it grows older spots disappear. Makes a lovely basket plant; does not go completely dormant. An abundance of white flowers. per pkt. .50
- Nv 3 — *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 spring. Flowers are bright pink. Hardy type which may be grown outdoors as far north as southern New York in a protected location. per pkt. .50
- Nv 4 — *B. falciloba*: one of the Mexican 'Hollyhock' begonias. Leaves are star-shaped. Flowers are frilled and white. per pkt. .50
- Nv 5 — *B. grandis* ssp *evansiana*: Same as *evansiana*, above, but much larger plant. Makes a very special specimen plant. ... per pkt. 1.00
- Nv 6 — *B. micranthera* var. *venturii*: tuberous, tall growing; apricot colored blooms. Makes a showy display. per pkt. .50
- Nv 7 — *B. pearcei*: 1865, Bolivia. Tuberous species. Low growing; yellow flowers with leaves broad, ovate pointed, irregularly toothed, velvet-like dark green with glistening light green veins. per pkt. .50
- Nv 8 — *B. pruinata*: 1864, Costa Rica. Tuberous, with leaves broad, oval, glabrous, glisten as if thinly iced with silver. White flowers.
per pkt. \$1.00
- Nv 9 — *B. rosaeiflora*: tuberous, with large pink flowers. Used very much in hybridizing. A must have..... per pkt. 1.00
- Nv 10 — *B. suffruticosa*: Africa. Semi-tuberous, with tubers resembling a small potato. Low growing; tiny, thin textured leaves, deeply cleft. White flowers in summer and fall. Beautiful. per pkt. .50
- Nv 11 — *B. Tuberhybrida*: This is a mixture of all colors of the beautiful tuberous begonias, that are almost first to catch your eye when in bloom in the summer time. per pkt. .50
- Nv 12 — *B. Tuberhybrida* — basket types: Tuberous hybrids with lovely pendulous flowers. per pkt. .50
- Nv 13 — *B. wollnyi*: semi-tuberous with some tubers up to 5 inches across. Winter blooming with pinkish white flowers on medium clusters. Sparsely branched stems. Leaves with purple veins and silver splotches, toothed margins. per pkt. .50

"Easy Growers" for beginners and for winter and spring bloom:

- Nv 14—*B. leptotricha*: Semperflorens type—has felt-like stems and leaves. White flowers. This one is nick-named 'Wooly Bear'.
Per pkt. .50
- Nv 15—Semperflorens "Butterfly" types: Mixed colors. Flowers large. Great for pots or bedding. per pkt. .50
- Nv 16—*B. schmidtiana*: fibrous species from Brazil. It grows to 12 inches with a bushy habit. Handsome olive green foliage. Prolific bloomer with flowers of white or pinkish cast. Makes a great basket plant.
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- Nv 17—"Easy Growers" Special: One each of the three listed above. 1.25

Remember: Your Seed Fund needs different varieties of seed, so that we can continue offering you interesting and new types of begonias and other plants. Can't you help out?

Want something different for Christmas, birthdays, and special occasions? The Seed Fund is now offering a Gift Certificate! Special Value—\$9.00 for \$10.00 worth of seed plus free cultural bulletins. Send name and address of recipient and I will send certificate package directly to them with a greeting card for whatever occasion you specify. Please let me know if they are *not* a member, and I will send them a special membership pack along with their certificate. **ORDER NOW FOR CHRISTMAS:**

Calif. residents, please add 6% sales tax on all orders. All customers, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with all seed orders. Make all checks or money orders payable to: Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. (Foreign orders, please make out in U.S. Funds.) Mail to: Mrs. Linda Miller, P.O. Box 227, Gardena, Ca. 90247 **THANK YOU!**



Begonia Tuberhybrida varieties at Antonelli Brothers.

In Memoriam Maria Wilkes

Maria Wilkes of Los Angeles passed away in September. She served as editor of the *Begonian* from 1942 through 1948. She was very active with many horticultural activities including the Southern California Horticulture Institute and the Federation of Garden Clubs.

Percy Zug

Percy Zug, husband of hybridizer Susie Zug, was a friend to many ABS members. The hybrid, *B. 'Sir Percy'* was named for him. He passed away in San Dimas at the end of August.

Opal Ahern

Opal Ahern, a member of the Redondo Branch, served as national treasurer in 1957. She had lived for last several years in Nebraska. She attended the recent Convention in Anaheim, and died shortly after returning home.

Mini-Ads

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

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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, Popular varieties, new hybrids, 300 kinds. 20¢ cash or stamp for list. Rainbow Begonia Gardens, Box 991, Westminster, CA 92683

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Begonias and ferns in northern California for the collector or novice. Wendel's Greenhouse, Rt 1, Box 481 BB (Muir Ave.) Chico, CA 95926 Ph. 916-342-6319

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When you change your address, notify Membership Secretary Jacqueline Garinger so you will not lose copies of the *Begonian*. The Membership office is at 8302 Kittyhawk Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY September 3, 1977

The annual meeting of the membership of the American Begonia Society was called to order by the President, Charles Richardson, at the Inn at the Park in Anaheim, California.

Thelma O'Reilly, Awards Chairman, presented the awards for new introductions:

B. 'Al Clark' by Rudy Ziesenhenn in 1974, exhibited by Rudy.

No award given in 1975.

Leslie Woodriff for B. 'Fairyland', exhibited by Thelma in 1976

Cultural Awards for 1977: Doug Frost, Mabel Corwin (2), Jim Elin. Award of Distinction, 1975: Goldie Frost.

The Treasurer reported \$40,080.65 in receipts for the year, with \$36,601.91 in disbursements, leaving a balance of \$3,478.74.

Evelyn Cronin, Branch Relations, reported the formation of 14 new Branches with six more in process.

The chairman of the auditing committee, Debbie Miller, reported the books of the Treasurer to be in order.

Ralph Corwin presented the changes in the Constitution. The changes were approved by a majority vote. (Changes to be submitted to the membership for approval.

After a few remarks concerning the plans for the coming year by President Richardson, the meeting adjourned.

Virginia J. Barnett, Secretary

The Board of Directors will meet November 28 at South Gate Auditorium.

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