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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*.

## BEGONIAS AND THE PEOPLE

By Alice M. Clark

*The two excerpts following were reprinted from the BEGONIAN of October 1958 — twenty years ago. They were part of the banquet address given by Alice Clark. Joy Porter of the Buxton Branch called our attention to the appropriateness of her remarks even today when she wrote, "After reading Alice Clark's convention talk . . . the ABS became for me not just an organization from which I derive help, but an organization of people and history . . . It made the ABS 'come alive' for me."*

Now think of Begonias and the People who discovered them. In addition to a comprehensive knowledge of botany, and the thousands of existent species, explorers must have the adventurous spirit and hardiness of pioneers, plus the patience, ingenuity and persistence of a scientist, in order to "bring them back alive." In the early days, these intrepid people were priests, botanists, navy men and doctors, often looking for medicinal plants; later they were scientific men like Ernest Wilson, who introduced so many flowering shrubs from China and lost his life in the doing. The hunt still goes on, often with the more practical purpose of finding species that will increase the yield of our farm products.

To me it is amazing that we are still growing and hybridizing begonia species that were introduced in the eighteenth century. When we think of the effort that has been expended to introduce the beauties we take for granted today, such as those in this splendid Begonia Show, we should

be humble and grateful before them. I can never understand my begonia friends who are not interested in the backgrounds of their plants. We admire Abraham Lincoln for what he did, but is it not the story of his early struggles that doubles our appreciation of his achievements?

Take *B. paulensis*, for instance. It was raised from seed given to Mrs. Schwerdtfeger by Mrs. Kem Weber of Santa Barbara. She received it from a botanical garden she visited in Germany, but the original plant came from Brazil. Do you wonder, as I do, about the Paul it was named for? Was he the one who found this unusual begonia and was honored by having it bear his name? That would be like the fine large species Mr. Ziesenhenné christened *B. macdougalii* for the explorer who had sent him so many other good ones. When you study the how, when, where, and by whom a begonia is introduced, it becomes a symbol of progress.

After these begonia species are brought in, there are people who put them together and make new ones. Without the dedicated souls who hybridize begonias, simply because they love them, our gardens would stand still. There is little financial gain from this work, but sometimes these patient ones are lucky enough to have their names perpetuated in a rare species such as *B. bowerae* or *B. kenworthyae*. We hope there are some begonias still waiting to be discovered, that will answer to the names of robin-

(Continued on page 296)



## Cover Photo

*An unidentified Begonia in its native site. This photo and others with this article were taken by Scott Hoover on*

## A BOTANIST'S ADVENTURE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The banquet presentation at the National ABS Convention in Sacramento was made by Scott Hoover, who showed slides taken on his trip to Papua New Guinea. A few of his photographs are included with this report.

Scott Hoover, a graduate of Col-orada College, has his own landscaping business in Williamstown, Mass. and carries on private botanical research. He was supported in this collecting and research trip by a grant from the American Begonia Society. In addition to his own funds, he also received financial support from the Lilly Research Laboratories, Jack Golding and Rudolf Ziesenhenné. Previously he has gone on a collecting expedition to Columbia (1973 with Dr. Fred Barkley) with some ABS support and a grant from the Ford Foundation. On that trip he made 34 *Begonia* collections in three months. His reports have appeared in the *Begonian*. The four-month stay in New Guinea yielded 88 collections of *Begonia*.

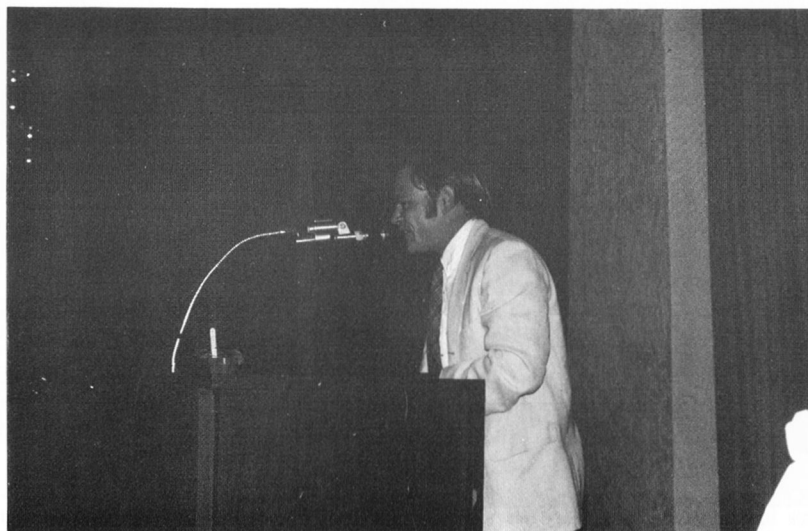
Hoover chose New Guinea not only because it was an exotic place to go but also because it afforded an opportunity to study *Begonia* in a remote area and to compare these with species he had already observed. He was keenly aware of the existence in South America of *Begonias* grouped in the Section Caspara, with wings modified to horn-like append-

ages. Some *Begonia* with the same structure had been reported in New Guinea. He proposed to observe the variation in such plants which grow only in two geographic areas, separated by the expanse of the Pacific Ocean. Eleven years ago he first learned that the physical structure of *Begonia* is unique among plants in the arrangement of the vascular bundles in the petioles which conduct nutrients from soil through roots to the plant tissues. The opportunity to study *Begonia* in a new habitat was thus an additional reason for choosing New Guinea.

New Guinea has been isolated geographically since the recession of the last great ice sheets and the rising of the level of the ocean to surround many land masses in the South Pacific. These islands have developed floristics not observed elsewhere in the world. This isolation may be a contributing factor which imparts to the New Guinea species a genetic system that makes cultivation elsewhere of New Guinea plants extremely difficult. Rudolf Ziesenhenné and Jack Golding have reported that growing the *Begonia* seeds and cuttings which Scott obtained was indeed a problem.

The expedition started at the Wau Ecology Institute in the east-central part of Papua New Guinea. Many researchers receive their orientation and introduction to New Guinea





Scott Hoover, Speaker at ABS banquet

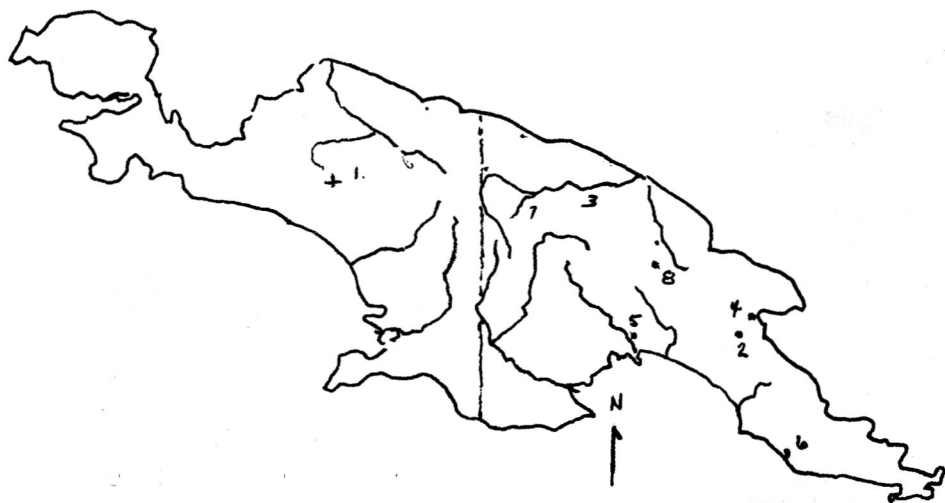
M. Mundell, Photo

at this base. The nearby area has been rather well explored. In the area in 1944, a road for troop transport was bulldozed through the jungle growth. This cut was very soon obliterated by rains and rapidly replanted by natural forces. It has been a favorite haunt of scientists since. Here he observed several stands of the species complex *Begonia media* showing incredible variation. Distinct morphological differences were evidenced in plants growing within one-half mile of each other. There was a gradation of characteristics observed among individuals.

Most of the species Hoover observed were unidentified. Martin Sands at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew is working on taxonomy of the New Guinea species, but there are many unnamed *Begonia*. Among these were a *Begonia* found

in abundance along the roadsides in shady growth, the staminate flower of which has thickened anthers, and a species with flowers that were two and a half inches in diameter, very large for a wild species. On Mt. Michael he collected the largest *Begonia*, a vine that climbed at least 35 feet into a tree. In addition to photographic and herbarium specimens other observations were made. Among the data which were recorded were the spatial distribution of *Begonia* relative to the height of the plants. Observations of the associated flora were also recorded.

Scott collected at several widely separated points on the island, and he traveled by bus, car and helicopter from one major stopping place to the other. On his forays away from the coast, Hoover was accompanied by various guides who were familiar



The independent nation of Papua New Guinea is eastern part of island. The entire island is very mountainous, highest point being at (1) in West Irian, over 16,500 ft. Other places identified: (2) Wau, (3) Sepik River, (4) Lae, the capital city, (5) Kikori, (6) Port Moresby, (7) Frieda River, (8) Mt. Wilhelm.

with the area. A stream was a favored path since it might be the site of a *Begonia*. After hiking and climbing, they stopped overnight in native villages. Here the typical structures were conical in shape with thatched roofs. These forays took him into the highlands.

Along the center of the island is the cordillera starting with the ridge of the Owens Stanley range in the easternmost tip and continuing westward to the tip of West Irian. The highest point is over 16,500 feet in altitude. Despite its geographic location just south of the equator, there is permanent glacier in the highest regions. One must remember that not all of the *Begonia* observed were collected under typical "steaming tropical jungle conditions." In one of the highland areas, Hoover photographed a *Rhododendron* of enormous size with red flowers.

Besides plants, Scott commented on his observations of tribal life in the remote areas he visited. In the innermost areas, the first entry by white man was made in the 1930s. He photographed a man from a western highlands province who was wearing a necklace made of bones as an indication of his power and a hat that signified his social position. Hoover made a collection of native art works. Philosophy being another of his interests, he managed to observe as many rituals and living habits as he could, and he interspersed his comments on the life-style into the narrative of his trip.

Scott was able to make some observations and comparisons of *Begonia* growing in primary and secondary forests. The primary forest consists of uncut and relatively undestroyed vegetation. Such areas have a high canopy of trees and vines



*B. "Exotica"* at Frieda site

with a comparatively sparse undergrowth which is much easier for the botanist to work in. A secondary forest arises when the primary growth has been disturbed by a major catastrophe or actual cutting, such as a forest fire or actual widespread cutting. Here the undergrowth has been re-established and is very dense. Some *Begonia* are observed only in primary, others only in secondary forest, some in either. The systematic botanist is interested in determining which characteristics of the plants are most ancestral and which are derived from the earliest forms.

One of the exotic plant groups in New Guinea consists of the members of the species *Symbegonia*. In the family Begoniaceae, are classed three closely related genera, *Begonia* which may consist of 1800 species, *Symbegonia* of which twelve species are known, all in New Guinea, and *Hillebrandia* which has only one species (native to Hawaii). In the *Symbegonia* the sepals of the blos-

som are fused into a corolla, which is cupshaped in the male and tubular in the female blossom. In the eastern highlands, Scott made three collections of *Symbegonia geraniifolia*, and he found other members of the genus in other collecting sites, all in the cooler moist highlands.

In a rather atypical mountainous site, Hoover found a shrub of *B. "Exotica"* which was growing under pandanus and conifer trees in a rather dry situation. This was the largest plant of this species he saw. It was about six feet tall with 30 canes, each at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches in diameter.

Many of the *Begonia* were unidentified. Scott showed slides and spoke of the various collecting areas: in the southern highlands he mentioned an alpine meadow at about 10,000 feet which was interspersed by rain forest. Here David Frodin collected the horned-fruit species of *Begonia*. A typical collecting site showed a waterfall with abundant growth at the borders. Scott reiterat-





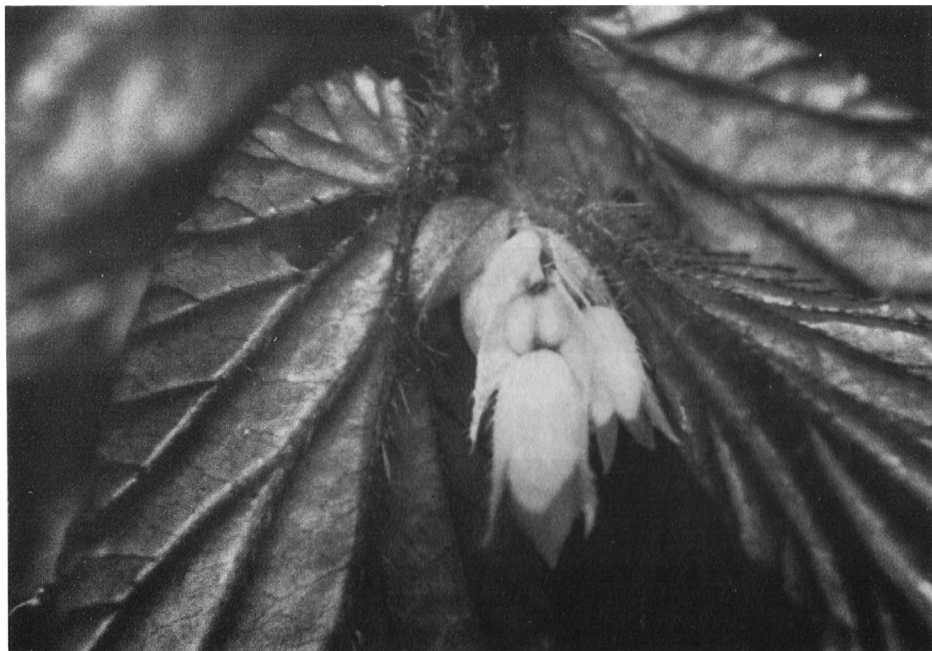
Unidentified *Begonia*  
Frieda site



One of *B. media* complex  
Mt. Otto site



Specimen collected at Frieda site. Note leaf axis is held at right angle to petiole.



*Symbegonia* sp. Underside of leaf and blossom cluster. Tari site.



*Symbegonia mooreiana*. Mt. Wilhelm site. Characteristic tubular corolla on female blossom above.



Leaf and flower of 35-foot vining begonia found at Mt. Michael site.



Unidentified species with strongly marked leaves.

ed that a great deal of time was spent in hiking, climbing and wading, all with provisions, photographic equipment, and collecting materials in back packs. Although rugged and difficult at times, Scott said, "For me, that's part of the joy of it."

One particularly profitable spot for a collector was a site of about 15 square miles along the Frieda River in the north central portion of the island. Here the vegetation was heavy, with Begoniaceae being the most abundant family (next Melastomataceae). He collected 23 distinctly different *Begonias* while working six days a week during approximately 3 weeks he was in that area. He estimated in the larger general area there could possibly be 250 to 300 undiscovered *Begonia*. Some of these species are extremely

rare. An entire population of some may consist of ten individuals. He noted that in this site, the soil was highly mineralized and the pH varied considerably. Because of the high humidity, it was difficult to prepare herbarium specimens of the succulent *Begonia*. The pressed materials would frequently rot before they were dried.

In addition to the research goals he had set for himself, Scott worked on several commissions to gather information and specimens. For the Lilly Research grant, he collected plants which had been used as traditional medicinals by the native population. He was accompanied by a guide whose services were procured through the Department of Botany at Lae. The guide took him to his own tribal village where his fath-



er and an associate pointed out the plants used for various ailments. These included a fern, a member of the Compositae used as an antiseptic and a Urticaceae which was used to prepare a cough remedy. *Symbegonia mooreiana* is a medicinal plant used in the Chimbu province. Some of the materials which he collected have subsequently shown active medicinal chemical properties.

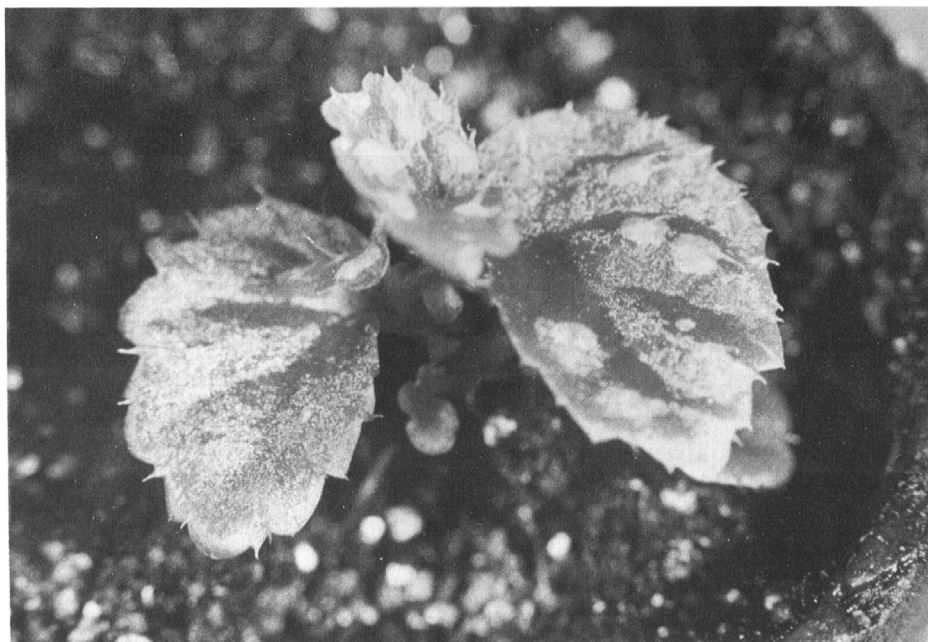
Another task was the collection of insects. He watched for insects which might be specialized pollinators for *Begonia* and other plants. In all he gathered 200 kinds of insects for this project.

A third task was an exploration of an area for a copper mining firm. He

went by helicopter into a remote area to make a floristic survey of the mineral fields to determine if certain plants were copper or gold indicators.

After his return the task of labeling, identifying, classifying, reporting, and interpreting the collected materials began. This included, for example, several days spent with Peter Stevens at Harvard who identified miscellaneous plants as to Family and Genus. The amount of residual work can potentially go on for several years. As identifications and results are ready, Scott plans to submit articles to various journals and to the *Begonian*.

P. P. B.



Seedling of species shown at right on page 290 was grown from seeds collected by Scott Hoover. Jack Golding who grew and photographed it reported it was difficult to raise, as did others who tried collected seeds.

# 1978 BEGONIA BONANZA

## Annual Show of the American Begonia Society

### Eva Kenworthy Gray Award

Jack Golding

### Herbert P. Dyckman Service Award

Margaret and Paul Lee

### Alfred D. Robinson Medal

*Begonia* 'Bowtique'

Chester Nave, Hybridizer

### American Begonia Society Perpetual Award for Best in Show

Exhibitor: Mabel Corwin

Exhibit: *B.* 'Purple Petticoats'

### ABS Sweepstakes Trophy (grower with most blue ribbons)

Exhibitor: Shirley Wilson

### Cultural Awards

Joan Coulat: *B. polygonoides* —  
95 points

Shirley Wilson: *B. wollnyi* —  
93 points

Joan Coulat: *B. hemsleyana* —  
95 points

Mabel Corwin: *B.* 'Purple Petticoats' — 97 points

Joan Coulat: *B.* 'Maxwelton' —  
93 points

Leroy Cramer: *B.* 'Wedding Day'  
— 94 points

Hyacinth Smith: *B. Multiflora* —  
95 points

Joan Coulat: *B.* 'Dewdrop' —  
90 points

Jean Pasko: *B.* 'Fairylend' —  
96 points

Shirley Wilson: *B.* 'Silver Jewel'  
— 93 points

### Begonia Hybrid of Distinction

*B.* 'Tiny Gem' hybridized by  
Leslie Woodriff

### Division A: Edna Korts Perpetual Trophy for Best Cane-like Begonia

Exhibitor: Mabel Corwin

Exhibit: *B.* 'Wayne Newton'

### Division B. Helen Bailey Memorial Perpetual Trophy for Best Shrub-like Begonia

Exhibitor: Joan Coulat

Exhibit: *B. polygonoides*

### Division C: ABS Best Thick-stemmed Begonia Trophy

Exhibitor: Shirley Wilson

Exhibit: *B. wollnyi*

### Division D: Redondo Area Perpetual Trophy for Best Semperflorens Begonia

Exhibitor: Keith Mautino

Exhibit: *B.* 'Charm'

### Division E: John R. Williams Memorial Trophy for Best Rhizomatous Begonia

Exhibitor: Joan Coulat

Exhibit: *B. hemsleyana*

### Division F: Rex Cultorum, Sacramento Branch Perpetual Trophy

Exhibitor: Mabel Corwin

Exhibit: *B.* 'Purple Petticoats'

### Division G: Tuberous and Semi-tuberous

Exhibitor: Joan Coulat

Exhibit: *B.* 'Maxwelton'

### Division H: Tuberhybrida

Exhibitor: Hyacinth Smith

Exhibit: *B. Multiflora*

### Division I: Species, Inglewood Branch Memorial Perpetual Trophy

Exhibitor: Jean Pasko

Exhibit: unidentified *Begonia*

**Division J: Begonias Grown  
in a Contained Atmosphere, San  
Gabriel Valley Perpetual Trophy**

Exhibitor: Joan Coulat

Exhibit: *B. 'Exotic Peridot'*

**Division K: Begonia Hybrids in  
Cultivation for 25 Years or Longer,  
San Miguel Branch  
Perpetual Trophy**

No award

**Division L: Novel Grown Begonias**

Exhibitor: Joan Coulat

Exhibit: Shoe

**Division M: New Begonia  
Introductions**

No award

**Division N: Begonia Introductions  
by a Commercial Nursery,  
American Begonia Society  
William Bower Memorial  
Perpetual Trophy**

Exhibitor: Leslie Woodriff

Exhibit: *B. 'Tiny Gem'*

**Division O: Begonia Collections,  
Bessie Raymond Buxton Branch  
Perpetual Award**

Exhibitor: Dora Hale

**Division P: Novice Grower,  
Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch  
Perpetual Trophy**

Exhibitor: Beverly Clementson

Exhibit: Rex cultivar

**Division Q: Junior Division**

No award

**Division R: ABS Award for Best  
Educational Begonia Displays**

Exhibitor: Theodosia Burr

Shepherd Branch

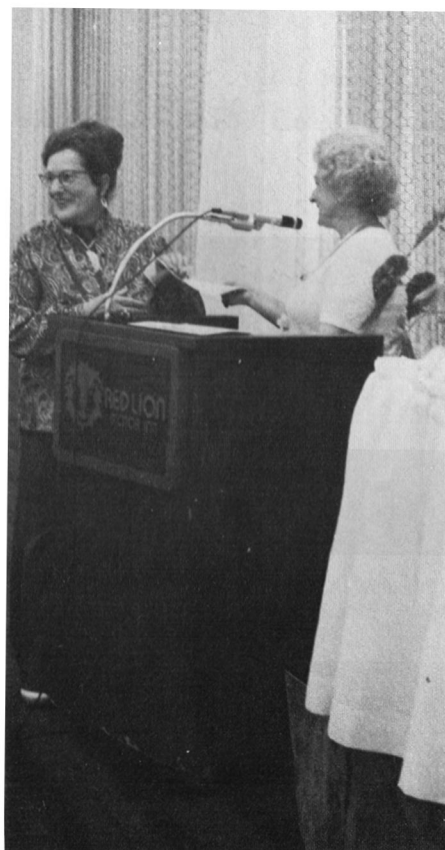
Exhibit: Begonia Species

Demonstrator: Louise Bower

**Division S: Photographs of  
Begonias, Gordon Lepisto  
Memorial Award**

Exhibitor: Charles Jaros

Exhibit: unnamed semperflorens



Hyacinth Smith of San Francisco receives cultural award for her multiflora begonia at the Sacramento luncheon. Ten awards were given for excellence in plants exhibited.

**Division T: ABS Award for  
Best Planter**

Exhibitor: Mabel Corwin

**Division U: Arthur Strandberg  
Perpetual Award for Best Fern**

Exhibitor: Bernice Bloom

Exhibit: *Davallia fejeensis*

**Division V: Other Shade Plants**

Exhibitor: Bernice Bloom

Exhibit: *Tacca chantrieri*

**Division W: Arrangements**

Exhibitor: Dora Hale



## 1978 ABS AWARD WINNERS

by Thelma O'Reilly, Awards Chairman



Jack Golding, Eva Kenworthy Gray awardee



Margaret and Paul Lee, Herbert P. Dyckman awardees



Chester Nave receives Alfred D. Robinson medal from Thelma O'Reilly, Awards Chairman, while President Charles Richardson stands by to congratulate him. *Begonia* 'Bowtique' is on podium.

Once again I was thrilled to have the honor of presenting the American Begonia Society's most prestigious awards.

The highest award, Eva Kenworthy Gray, was presented to Jack Golding for his literary and scientific contributions to all who grow and study begonias. Jack was the main banquet speaker at the Whittier convention in 1971. Since then he has devoted unlimited time to the study and research of begonias, sharing his knowledge willingly. His many articles and scientific works have appeared with regularity in the *Begonian*, leading gardening magazines, newspapers and *Phytologia*, a botanical publication.

The Herbert P. Dyckman Award for long time service was presented to one of the ABS's most deserving "teams", Paul and Marge Lee. They joined the ABS in 1951 and, with un-

ending faith and support have served in many capacities. For twenty-one years they have driven two-hundred and fifty miles to attend monthly National ABS Board meetings. Marge has chaired many committees and is now serving as Chairman of Judges. Paul has made begonia plant contributions through the years whenever they were needed for fund raising purposes. This team, Paul and Marge Lee, personify the purpose of the Herbert P. Dyckman Award — long time service.

The cherished Alfred D. Robinson Medal of Honor was awarded to *Begonia* 'Bowtique', the sport of a hybrid originated by Chester Nave. This winner's fascinating background demonstrates the joy and reward of SHARING. Nearly ten years ago Chet gave cuttings from two seedlings of his cross between *B. kenworthyae* and *B. bowerae* to Chuck

and Mae Tagg. Both cuttings developed into attractive plants. One plant was named *B. 'Dark Forest'* by the hybridizer. The other remained unnamed and eventually developed a sport which the Taggs removed and grew into a lovely plant before returning it to Chet. He entered it in the New Begonia Introduction Division at the 1972 National Show in Glendale, Ca. as *B. 'Bowtique'*. Its dainty size, crisp texture, closely set leaves and unusual sinus curl created a sensation. As an added bonus, its progeny have developed into some of our most beautiful and distinct begonias. *B. 'Bowtique'* was registered in 1972, #333. It is available at Logee's Greenhouses, 55 North St., Danielson, Conn. 06239 and The Plant Shop's Botanical Gardens, 18007 Topham St., Reseda, Ca. 91335.

### Begonias and the People

(Continued from page 283)

*sonii*, *ziesenhennae*, *turnerae*, *zugiae*, *schwerdtfegerae*, *hortonii*, and many others who should be commemorated for their work.

\* \* \*

Speaking of Begonias and the People who meet under their banner, we come to a topic that has given me serious thought for several years, and is the real reason I was happy to come here to speak to you tonight. I have tried to affirm that Begonias, and the People behind them, are something to be very proud of, whether you are thinking in terms of citizens, explorers, hybridists, writers, editors, founders, officers, or just good club members —

### Plant Sale

A great big THANK YOU to all who helped with the plant sales tables at the national convention and show in Sacramento. We would not have had a successful plant table without the cooperation of branches and members throughout the United States. Many of the branches responded to my appeal for plant donations — some with plants, some with checks\*. We commend those branches —

Buxton\*  
 Central San Joaquin  
 East Bay  
 Eastern New York\*  
 Garden Grove  
 Glendale  
 Greater Chicago Area\*  
 Greater Rochester\*  
 Miami\*  
 Monterey Bay Area  
 North Long Beach  
 Orange County  
 Palomar  
 Redondo Area  
 Sacramento  
 San Gabriel Valley\*  
 San Miguel  
 Santa Barbara  
 Santa Clara Valley\*  
 Theodosia Burr Shepherd  
 Westchester\*

Many individuals and nurseries donated plants. Too many to name are those who assisted with pricing, nomenclature, and selling. It was great to see everyone working together. Your efforts were deeply appreciated.

LOU THOMPSON  
 Plant Sales Chairman  
 1978 ABS Convention & Show



## AID FOR UNDERSTANDING JAPANESE BOOK NOW AVAILABLE

Four years ago Hikoichi Arakawa first introduced the ABS to the then newly published *Begonias* by his friend and colleague, Isamu Misono. (*Begonian* 1975, pp. 3 and 212). Since that time, several hundred books have been sold through the ABS Bookstore to persons who can enjoy only the photographs, but not the text since they cannot read Japanese. Messrs. Arakawa and Misono sought to alleviate the problem by arranging for a translated version.

Mr. Misono had sold the rights to his book to the publisher, Bunka Shuppan-sha. The agreement was reached to permit a translated text to accompany the original volume. Misono wanted Arakawa to do the translation into English, which he did out of friendship's sake. Arakawa then prevailed upon his friend and long time correspondent, Dr. Marguerite De Cola to polish his version for the reader of English. Together they spent much time via air mail refining the meaning and putting together a final manuscript. Ultimately the ABS was brought into the project to sponsor the actual printing of the English version.

This version is now completed and made its first appearance at the Convention in Sacramento. The 80-page paperbound handbook supplies the vital information in the original including plant descriptions to accompany the more than 300 color photographs in the Japanese book. The spirit of cooperation between the Japan Begonia Society and the American Begonia Society has been evident, and we thank them for this



Dr. Marguerite De Cola of San Jose, Calif. and Hikoichi Arakawa of Nishinomiya, Japan were presented with first copies of their translation at Sacramento.

added pleasure that we can now derive from the original.

The English version, which contains only the text, costs \$6.00 plus 75¢ for mailing and may be ordered from the ABS Bookstore. The Japanese book is hardbound and boxed, and contains about 240 pages, with 90 pages in full color. It costs \$30.00 postpaid. Some copies of the Japanese book are available immediately, but the supply is limited, so it may be necessary to wait for a supplementary shipment to arrive. The books may be ordered either together or separately by contacting Gilbert Estrada, 7914 Springer St., Downey, CA 90242. California residents must add sales tax.

# REGISTRATION OF BEGONIA CULTIVARS

Rudolf Ziesenhenné, Registrar

NOTE: The American Begonia Society is the International Registration Authority for cultivars of the Genus *Begonia*.

## **No. 661 — *Begonia* (B. 'Kentwood' X *B. lubbersii*) 'Bonanza'**

Originated in 1968 by Irene Nuss, 8329 Regis Way, Los Angeles, CA 90045, this cane-like tall begonia first bloomed and was distributed in 1972. Described as a good background cane which will easily reach 7' in a growing season, its leaves are angel-wing type, 11-12" x 4-5"; margin is slightly notched, reddish brown edge; texture is smooth; veins green; 2" petioles; stipules green; new foliage reddish with many silver markings, turning to various shades of green with a satiny sheen. Flowers are coral, large, the seed vessels having large wings, as many as 60 female blossoms in one cluster near the top of the cane; flower stem about 3"; blooms May through Dec. Registered April 28, 1978.

## **No. 662 — *Begonia* (B. 'Kentwood' X *B. lubbersii*) 'Kenilu'**

This superba type cane-like grows to a mature stem height of 2-3'; developed in 1968 by Irene Nuss, 8329 Regis Way, Los Angeles, CA 90045, the plant first bloomed in 1971 and was first distributed in 1974. Leaves are deep green with silver spots with characteristic superba shape; 9 x 4"; margin serrated, deeply notched; texture smooth; nerves 5; petioles 1-2"; stipules light green large, pointed. Flowers are a pale clear pink, about 1 1/4" across; four male and five female petals on a five inch flow-

er stem; blooms in summer. Registered April 28, 1978.

## **No. 663 — *Begonia* (B. 'Kentwood' X *B. lubbersii*) 'Pink Jade'**

Growing to three or four feet, this cane-like superba was developed in 1968, bloomed in 1971, and was first distributed in 1972 by the originator, Irene Nuss (address above.) The name was published in the October 1974 issue of the *Begonian*. Leaves are light green, veined, back deep red, superba shaped with silver spots; 9 x 4"; margin notched; texture smooth; 5-veined; petioles 1-2"; stipules green. Flowers clear delicate pink, with round seed wings; about 1 1/2" across; four male, five female petals; arranged in pendulous cluster on about 5" stem; blooms early spring through summer. Registered April 28, 1978.

## **No. 664 — *Begonia* (B. 'Kentwood' X *B. dregei*) 'Rhapsody'**

Originated by Irene Nuss (address above) in 1971 and first distributed in 1977, the two-foot cane has not yet bloomed. Leaves are light green with new foliage mottled, shaped like a large maple leaf; 5 x 3 1/2"; margin slightly cut, edge serrated; texture smooth with satiny sheen; veins 5, red on underside; petioles 1-1 1/2"; stipules small, thin, light green. Registered April 28, 1978.

## **No. 665 — *Begonia* (B. 'Kentwood' X *B. 'Orange Supreme'* seedling) 'Jumbo Jet'**

A cane-like superba growing to mature height of 2-3', this cultivar was originated in 1971 by Irene Nuss (address above); it first bloomed in

1974 and was first distributed in 1976. Leaves are deep green, reddish back, silver markings; typical superba shape, 12 x 6"; smooth texture; 5-nerved; 2" petioles; stipules light green. Flowers are a soft pink, showy; male is 2½" with four petals; female has five petals and a very large seed vessel; arranged in pendulous cluster on 5-6" stem; blooms summer through fall. Registered April 28, 1978.

**No. 666 — Begonia (B. rubro-venia X B. 'Decora') 'Frances Hunter'**

Described by the originator, Paul P. Lowe, 3321-C Meridian, South Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410, as rhizomatous, stem erect, growing to 31 cm (12½"), but with upright, shrub-like growth, the begonia was developed in 1976, and first bloomed and was distributed in 1978. The bare leaves are antique bronze on top, burgundy red under; deeply toothed, palmate; 18 x 13 cm (7 x 5"); margin dentate; texture silky; 6-nerved; petioles rusty red, spotted green; stipules red, 2.5 cm (1"). Flowers are pale pink, red on reverse, ovules red; petals 1 cm (⅜"); width of flower 2 cm (¾"); male petals 4, female 5; arranged on 7 cm (2¾") stem; blooms in early summer; rhizome underground, bulbous; male flowers are like small red beads, seldom open; ovules on female are red, waxy. Registered May 22, 1978.

**No. 667 — Begonia (mutation of B. 'Agnes Kennison', whose seed parent was B. 'Erythrophylla') 'Herbert Kennison'**

Shirley Lund, 906 Van Dr., Williamsburg, Iowa 52561, was the discoverer of this mutation in 1978.

Leaves are pink, shaped the same as the so-called "Beefsteak" begonia. Lund states: "In the beginning this was a regular green beefsteak begonia, then the pink, cream and green 'Agnes Kennison' begonias started producing clusters of all pink leaves." Registered June 2, 1978.

**No. 668 — Begonia (B. 'Big Boy' X B. 'Big Rex') 'Bullfrog'**

This rex cultorum was developed in 1976 by Bob Cole, 18007 Topham St., Reseda, CA 91335; it has not bloomed nor been distributed. Leaves are dark green with white spots, turning black-red with red spots; spiral shaped; 8½ x 10"; margin lobed; texture smooth; 10-nerved; 6" petiole; stipules ¾ x ¾". Registered June 12, 1978.

**No. 669 — Begonia (unknown X unknown) 'Bull'**

Developed in 1976 by Bob Cole (address above) his rex cultorum has not bloomed nor been distributed. Leaves are a rich tannish brown, with silver and brown; lobes overlap, subentire; 8 x 6"; margin lobed, texture puckery-smooth; 9-nerved; petioles 6", red, some hair; stipules ¾ x ½". Disinctive color. Registered June 12, 1978.

**No. 670 — Begonia (B. 'Big Rex' X B. 'Lee's No. 9') 'Condor'**

Lavender over silver, on a subentier, 6 x 5" leaf, characterizes this rex cultorum developed by Bob Cole (address above) in 1976. Not yet bloomed nor distributed, the plant has leaves with a serrate margin, a puckery texture and some hair; 7-nerved; petioles 6"; stipules ½ x ⅔". Registered June 12, 1978.

## No. 671 — Begonia (unknown X unknown) 'Cougar'

Blotched with tannish brown, with brown, green and silver in the background, this rex cultivar was originated in 1976 but has not yet bloomed nor been distributed. The lobes of the leaves overlap; subentire, 6 x 5", margin serrate, texture puckery, 7-nerved, with 6" petioles and  $\frac{3}{4}$  x  $\frac{3}{4}$ " stipules. Originator is Bob Cole (address above). Registered June 12, 1978.

## New Book

A book on begonias by Mildred and Ed Thompson will be ready for distribution early next year. The book, as yet untitled, will be a handbook for the hobbyist begonia collector and will contain many photographs. It will be published by Plants Alive Books.

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## Second Get-Together

It was such fun! We're going to do it again. The Southwest Begonia Growers Get-Together will be March 9-11, 1979. The main speakers will be Ed and Millie Thompson, authors of *The Thompson Begonia Guide*. Further information will appear in the *Begonian* as available.

## Begonia 'Reiga'

Among the rex begonias pictured on the cover of the July issue was a plant identified as *B. 'Leatherman's Reiga'*. This is a hybrid of the Teupel Brothers of East Germany and is named for a Russian town. The seedlings introduced into the U.S. were of two color intensities, one very brilliant named 'Leatherman's Reiga', the other less intense called 'Ruhtal' or 'Merry Christmas'. The latter name came from the commercial market for sales purposes. The name *Begonia 'Reiga'* is correct for all these rexes since they were distributed by the hybridizer under the name.

Bob Cole.

## CURTIS BOTANICAL REPRINTS

Reproductions in color from Curtis Botanical Magazine, London, by The American Begonia Society, 1978 are now available for sale through the ABS Bookstore.

SET A includes:

- Begonia geranioides — 1866
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## CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

Linda Miller, Director

This month the Seed Fund is offering only tuberous and semi-tuberous varieties for your growing pleasure. Seeds sown December through February should give summer bloom, except for a few listed as winter blooming. Varieties noted will go completely dormant after blooming period. Care should be taken during early months not to over or under water. Some varieties may appear to "die." Check pots before throwing them out. If any tubers have formed, these can be restarted after their rest period.

To store dormant tubers: After the blooming season, foliage will start to die back. Gradually withhold water and dig tubers after foliage has completely died back. Wash or brush all soil from tubers and allow to dry in the sun for several days. When dry, store in a cool, frost-free place for the winter.

### SPECIES

- NV 1 — *B. boliviensis*: South America. It grows 2 to 3 ft. high, is a shrub with long pointed, sharply serrate leaves, 3 to 5 inches long. Flowers in drooping panicles are scarlet or orange-red. This is a parent of the first tuberous hybrid. Complete dormancy. Germination time: 6 days.
- NV 2 — *B. caffra*: Africa. Somewhat like *B. dregei*, with leaves like the maple tree in shape. It has small white flowers and forms a tuber, the top of which grows above the ground (semi-tuberous). Incomplete dormancy. Germination time: 18 days.
- NV 3 — *B. cinnabarina*: Bolivia. Large, bright orange-red flowers. Upright habit. Very lovely. Fragrant to some. Complete dormancy. Germination time: 6 days.
- NV 4 — *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. An abundance of white flowers. Incomplete dormancy. Germination time: 12 days.
- NV 5 — *B. gracilis* var *martiana*: Mexico. Tall-growing species. Leaves glossy green, round, with brown veins. Flowers rose pink. Forms bulbils in leaf axils. Complete dormancy. Germination time: 10-12 days.
- NV 6 — *B. grandis* ssp *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 the 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 protected area. (See article and cover photo March 1978). Germination time: 8 days.
- NV 7 — *B. micranthera* var *venturii*: Argentina. Tall-growing tuberous species. Has colorful apricot tinted blooms, makes a showy display. Complete dormancy. Germination time: 12 days.



- NV 8 — *B. picta*: India. Low-growing tuberous species. Beautiful ornamental leaves. Flowers are rather large and special, pale rose in color. Watch this one at seedling stage, can be tricky but worth all the effort. Fresh seeds just arrived from India. Complete dormancy.
- NV 9 — *B. suffruticosa*: Africa. Semi-tuberous with tubers resembling a small potato. Low growing. Tiny, thin-textured leaves, deeply cleft. Flowers white. Delicate. Incomplete dormancy. Germination time: 12 days.
- NV 10 — *B. wollnyi*: Bolivia. Semi-tuberous with some tubers up to 5 inches across. Winter blooming with pinkish white flowers in medium clusters. Sparsely branched stems. Leaves with purple veins and silver splotches, toothed margins. Incomplete dormancy. Germination time: 15-18 days.
- NV 11 — Mixed tuberous and semi-tuberous species. Not enough of separate varieties to offer, but some really special ones in the group.

## HYBRIDS

Offerings NV 12-19 are seeds of the tuberhybrida types. All should go completely dormant in cold weather. Supplies of these are limited.

- NV 12 — Basket types. Variety of colors. Lovely pendulous flowers.
- NV 13 — Cristata type. Lovely upright tuberous with crested flowers of coppery scarlet color.
- NV 14 — Cristata type: orange flowers.
- NV 15 — Cristata type: pink flowers.
- NV 16 — Cristata type: rose flowers.
- NV 17 — Cristata type: white flowers.
- NV 18 — Cristata type: golden yellow flowers.
- NV 19 — Mixed colors and forms of upright varieties. Lovely mixture for bedding or pot plant.

## OTHER PLANTS

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## ROUND ROBIN NOTES

By Mabel Corwin, Round Robin Director

### New Flights

I enjoyed meeting those of you who attended the Convention in Sacramento. As a result of the requests that I received there I have started several new flights. There is still room in the following: Research and Scientific Study, All California, Odd/Rare/Unusual Begonias, and Organic Begonia Growing. Other robins with space available are General Culture, Learning, All Florida, Growing Under Lights, and Growing Begonias in Arid Climates. If you are interested in any of these flights, write to me.

### Rieger Begonias

Bob Hamm, Texas, sent this information regarding Rieger begonias: They were developed from the winter blooming *hiemalis* type tuberous begonias by Mr. Rieger in Germany. However, most of the ones now sold are sports patented in the United States and go by the trade name Mikkel, though people tend to call them Riegers.

The older varieties were spectacular and were popular for awhile. However, they had a number of problems. They were highly susceptible to mildew and other diseases, and were slow growing. They had a very narrow tolerance to temperature and such, so that a lot of growers quickly got discouraged and gave them up.

The newer varieties are much better. They have much stronger growth, are mildew resistant, and are grown by tissue culture so most of the disease problems have been eliminated.

The flower form and color range is also much better.

My Riegers did fine at 50 degrees and sometimes as low as 45 degrees. They were kept on the dry side. When growing cold it is better to let them get too dry rather than stay too wet. Always try to pot them "high" with the old ball about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch above the new soil level. This keeps water from the stem.

With warmer weather they like a bit more water, but not wet. Let dry between watering. They appreciate a bit of humidity as long as the air is circulating. Always water with warm water, never cold. Feed the same as other begonias. The soil should be light, but peaty. A peat-perlite mix works well. Always water in the morning so they will be dry before evening. This will prevent mildew.

Riegers do not have to have short days to bloom, but will bloom heavier then. If growing under lights, a day length of 12 to 14 hours is good.

### Thrips

Betty Davenport, Washington, was having trouble with her plants losing leaves and rhizomes getting limp and falling off. Using an 8 power lens she discovered an infestation of thrips. After using a systemic in the pots she placed them all in the bathtub and gave them a spray of soap solution and allowed the soap to stay on the plants a couple of hours. She then rinsed with clear water in the shower. All plants are now showing vigorous growth.

## Propagation

Some people report having trouble rooting begonias with hairy stems. Daniel Haseltine, Illinois, puts the cutting in a glass of water for a few days. Then he plants in long fiber sphagnum moss with about 10% perlite and 5% fine charcoal. He uses a rooting compound on the stem and plants in a clear plastic glass. He likes to use the clear plastic so he can see the roots as they develop.

Rhizome cuttings with one or two leaves are also started in the sphagnum mix. He uses a rooting compound and buries about 1/2 inch below the surface. Roots will form all around the rhizome this way. The sphagnum should be damp, *not wet*. You can make a cut about 1/3 of the way through the rhizome, apply rooting compound at and into the cut. This will cause roots to form there.

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## Fungus

Scott Mandeville, California, made this suggestion regarding *B. rajah*. After the female flower has been pollinated, try dusting the pod with sulphur. This shouldn't hurt the pod but could prevent rot-causing fungus spores from germinating on the pod and destroying it.

## Culture hints

Keith Mautino, California, gave this tip for growing *B. dayi* (*bidalensis*). If it is allowed to become too wet it will drop all of its leaves. The plant must have good drainage. Also, to prevent it from becoming too long and spindly give it good filtered light from all sides and keep the rhizomes from crawling out of the pot.

## Color variation

Joan Campbell, Montana, has several plants of *B. 'Charm'*. One plant, which she purchased at her supermarket, has red blossoms. It first bloomed under lights. She moved it to the windowsill. It still has red buds, but the blossoms fade to shocking pink, and it is still different than the other plants with pale pink blossoms.

\* \* \*

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Mabel Corwin

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# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY September 15, 1978

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order in the Sacramento Room of the Red Lion Inn in Sacramento at 4:30 P.M., Margaret Ziesenhenné led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Mr. Randall gave the Aims and Purposes. President Richardson announced that Grace L'Hommedieu had passed away and the Board extended their sympathy.

Past President Margaret Ziesenhenné expressed her thanks for the cooperation of the Society regarding the work for tax exemption.

The minutes of the August meeting were read, and approved as corrected with the Secretary asking for the word "committee" be changed to "chairman" in regard to the action about the show schedule.

The Secretary read the report of Evelyn Cronin, Second Vice President and Branch Relations Director. During her term of office, fourteen branches have been formed, and she is processing eight requests at present.

Ralph Corwin thanked the committee that helped with the revision of the Bylaws.

Treasurer Gil Estrada reported a monthly balance of \$1,804.41, receipts of \$2,625.46, disbursements of \$2,413.64, leaving a balance of \$1,802.23. (\$836.00 of this balance is money for Curtis Reports).

Bill Walton, Business Manager, reported for the year: He worked with the budget committee, supplied stationery, worked on the Bylaws Committee, and on the project of changing the mailing of the *Begonian*.

The Bates reported working during the year on the *Begonian*, investigating postal changes, assisted in producing the translation of the Japanese Begonia Book, worked on the Curtis print project, and the book of registered cultivars.

The Library listed the books and pamphlets available. Also, the division of the Library into several parts was explained by Gil Estrada.

Linda Miller, Seed Fund Director, reported \$5,089.74 in receipts for the year, expenses of \$353.96, leaving a balance of \$4,735.78.

Judges Director Margaret Lee reported a net income of \$250.02. Nine judges were added to her list, and two became senior judges.

The Secretary read the monthly report of the Advertising Manager. \$159.75 was received in July, and to date, the accounts receivable are \$417.59.

Membership reported 312 memberships

processed, 3,310 members in good standing as of Sept. 10th. Receipts of \$1,882.25.

Pearl Benell gave the report of the ballot counting. 141 ballots were cast. The results are: Treasurer — Eleanor Calkins, Secretary — Virginia Barnett, 1st Vice President — Ralph Corwin, 2nd Vice President — Douglas Frost, President Elect — Gilbert Estrada, and President — Nathan Randall. These officers are for the 1978-1979 year.

The Board passed a motion to accept Dorothy Moen as a life member.

The meeting was dismissed at 5:45, to be continued on Saturday, the 16th, as the regular Annual Meeting.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY September 16, 1978 Redwood Ballroom, Red Lion Inn Sacramento, California

The Annual Meeting of the American Begonia Society was called to order at 1:00 P.M. by President Richardson, with 135 members and officers present.

The Awards Chairman, Thelma O'Reilly, gave her annual report. The various winners of Cultural Awards and Awards of Distinction were given. Thelma worked on several committees reviewing show rules, Bylaws, and made suggestions for improving Awards Committee procedures.

Mabel Corwin, the Round Robin Director, gave her annual report. There are a total of 95 active robins. Sixteen new chairmen have been appointed, making a total of 26 chairmen. There has been a column in the *Begonian* every month.

Nathan Randall, incoming President, moved that Kathy Brown be accepted as Membership Secretary. She will receive \$75.00 a month for expenses. Passed unanimously.

Bill Walton made a motion that we use a computer mailing system for the *Begonian*, which will cost about \$162.00 a month. We will have a better record of membership and rosters, etc. can be obtained.

Kathryn Alberti reported sorting thru old *Begonians*, getting them ready for sale to the membership.

Chairman of the Audit Committee, Margaret Taylor reported that the books of the Society were in order. The Committee recommended that Treasurers be careful to follow the Bylaws regarding expenditures over \$50.00 limit.

Rudolf Ziesenhenné, Nomenclature Director, registered 87 begonia cultivars during the year. Also considerable time was spent preparing material for the book of Registered Begonias.

Finance Chairman Margaret Ziesenhenné listed the branches that have filed for group exemptions, and those that did not conform. Her discussion of points con-

cerning the Constitution and Bylaws was referred to the Bylaws Committee.

Gilbert Estrada gave the annual Treasurer's report. Starting with a Balance on hand, July 31, 1977 of \$3,478.74, receipts were \$36,581.78, disbursements, \$34,677.37, leaving a balance of \$1,804.41 on July 31, 1978. Mr. Estrada also included the following amounts in special funds: Life Membership, \$5,807.29; Catalog Fund, \$4,400.97; Special Account, \$2,404.57; Convention Fund, \$1,339.67.

The ballot for the Bylaws revision is in the September **Begonian**, and attention was called to its location, and members urged to vote.

Jack Golding of the Knickerbocker Branch extended an invitation to the membership to hold the National Convention Sept. 13-16, 1979 in New York with Knickerbocker Branch as host. Mr. Randall made a motion that we accept the invitation. Passed.

Since there was no further business, President Richardson called for Branch reports.

Notice was given that the Mesquite Branch has disbanded.

After hearing all the Branch reports, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Virginia J. Barnett, secretary

## Mini-Ads

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