



September 1978

# *The* BEGONIAN



ISSN 1260-0383

## GENERAL OFFICES:

Dues, address changes, or magazines: Jacqueline Garinger, Membership Secretary  
8302 Kittyhawk Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Subscription: \$6.00 per year. Foreign (Mexico and Canada) \$6.50. U.S. (Mexico and Canada) 1st Class \$9.00. Overseas Air Mail \$18.00. Pay in U.S. currency only.  
Single back issues 75¢.

Third Class Postage Paid at Culver City, California

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	One Time
Full Page .....	\$80.00
Half Page .....	40.00
Quarter Page .....	25.00
Per Inch .....	10.00

5% Discount for 4 or more consecutive runs.

## DEADLINES

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

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

Printing by Kandid Litho Co., San Gabriel, CA

Advertising Manager ..... Lorraine Frinchaboy  
3981 Garfield, Carlsbad, CA 92008  
Phone (714) 729-5241

Editors ..... Edgar and Phyllis Bates  
554 Arden Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024  
Phone (714) 436-1419

## 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*.



## Cover Photo

### BEGONIA 'AQUAMARINE'

Several times this plant has been selected by the judges as a ribbon winner. This one took a blue ribbon at the recent Eastern Regional Show in Miami. It also won an award in the 1972 National Show. Lois Covey, in an article entitled "Begonias I Can Live Without," explained about the growth pattern which causes so many hobbyists to throw up their hands in dismay. She complained of the "veritable Medusa-snake-like tangle of curly rhizomatous locks, sprawling in all directions over the edges and down the sides of the pot. At the end of each rhizome is a small cluster of greenish silver leaves." (*Begonian*, July 1974, page 174)

*B. 'Aquamarine'* was hybridized by Suzie Zug by crossing *B. ludwigii* with *B. 'Silvador'*, a seedling of *ludwigii*. The one parent of *B. 'Silvador'* is apparently unknown. (ABS

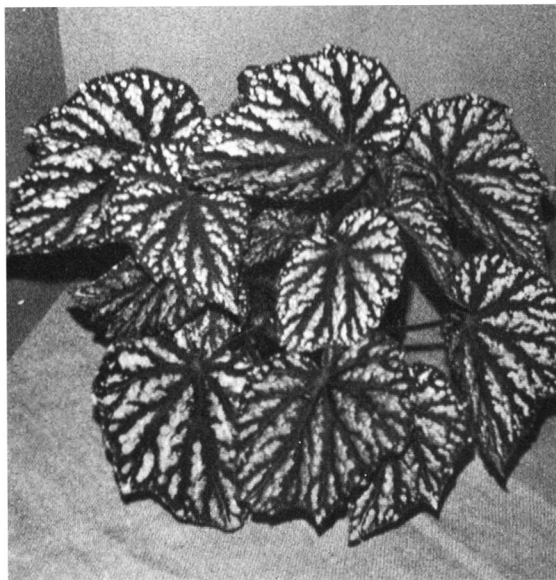
registration 98, 1954.) The species is a thick-stemmed plant, trunk-like and with a cluster of leaves at the tip. No wonder Mrs. Covey and others despaired at both its lack of symmetry and leaves along the rhizomes. The unknown parent must have been a rhizomatous variety whose tendency to sprawl was pronounced.

At plant tables this is often chosen among the first plants. The small leaves of sea green with the silver markings along the veins are an attraction. The plant grows easily and rather quickly for a time. Perhaps at this point, it is time to reroot a rhizome to produce a small plant to have for display when the older plant does become a hopeless tangle of rhizomes and tufts of leaves.

Note: If other growers have suggestions about ways to keep the plant under control, the editors will pass them along to the readers.

*Begonia* (Rex) 'President', a prize winning plant, grown and photographed by Charles Jaros of Miami. The origin of this plant is obscure. Other rexes are featured in the article which begins on page 234.

The editors would like to know if there is a grower who has *B. (Cane) 'President Carnot'* in his collection at the present time.



## CHARLES PLUMIER

By Maurer Maurer, Montgomery, Al.



Charles Plumier at Mid-Career

Photograph of a painting in the Linnean Society of London, courtesy of the  
Linnean Society of London, print at Hunt Institute, Pittsburgh.

Sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Bates



Charles Plumier, the botanist who named genus *Begonia*, told in an autobiographical note how he had been collecting plants in southern France when an opportunity arose for him to go on a voyage to the New World. Michel Begon, a navel official at Marseille, had orders to find someone to send to the French West Indies to search for new plants and other rare and curious products of nature. Begon had chosen Joseph Donat Surian, a physician and apothecary of Marseille, and had asked him to obtain an assistant. Surian invited Plumier to join the expedition to be made under orders of King Louis XIV.

Plumier had been born at Marseille on April 20, 1646. At age 16 he had joined the order of Minims, a mendicant society founded by St. Francis of Paula in the 15th century. For a time the young Plumier studied science and mathematics under Father Emanuel Maignan at Toulouse. He then was sent to the French monastery of Trinite du Monte in Rome to continue his studies. Europe was in the midst of the great scientific revolution of the 17th century. At a time when scientists and mathematicians were giving great attention to devising and improving instruments which would aid them in their investigations, Plumier became an able draughtsman, an expert mechanic, and a skilled maker of lenses, mirrors, microscopes, and other instruments.

Industrious as well as talented, Plumier worked so hard his health suffered. For relaxation he took up the study of botany, to which he was introduced by Father Philip Sergeant. Soon he was devoting full time

to botany, studying under the Italian physician Frances Onuphuriis and the Sicilian botanist Paul (Sylvius) Boccone. Plumier's previous training and experience were not wasted. His knowledge of microscopes was to be of great value in his new work, and his ability to draw proved a real asset in a day when the botanist had no camera to record his findings.

Recalled to France, Plumier obtained permission from his superiors to search for plants in Provence and the Alps. It was here he became acquainted with Joseph Pitton de Tournefort, the greatest of the French botanists of the day. It was also at this time, while Plumier was collecting plants and making drawings for a new pinax, that he was offered the chance to botanize in America.

London physician, Hans Sloane, had recently discovered and taken specimens of hundreds of new plants in Jamaica. Otherwise, Europeans had done little botanical work in the West Indies before Surian and Plumier arrived in 1689. While Surian investigated the medical properties of plants and collected specimens for a herbarium, Plumier described the specimens and made drawings of plants, birds, fish, and insects of the West Indies.

Later Plumier said (perhaps too kindly) that Surian was very capable not only in his knowledge of plants but also in the secrets of chemistry. During the expedition, however, the two men did not get along together very well. Jean Labat, a Dominican missionary, placed the blame on Surian and his avariciousness. At any rate the two men did not collaborate in preparing the results of their work

for publication.

Surian's list of medical plants of the West Indies was published at Paris in 1698. The doctor had died earlier, in 1691, soon after returning from the voyage. The cause of death, again according to Labat (who passed on whatever gossip he picked up), was a concoction of herbs Surian had prepared for his family. What had been intended as a mild purgative killed not only the doctor but his wife, two children, and a servant.

Plumier's work on the expedition with Surian led to his being appointed Royal Botanist. In this capacity he made two more trips to the West Indies, in 1693 and 1696. Martin Lister, an English zoologist, found him in a Minim convent in Paris in 1698. The Englishman said Father Plumier showed him several folios of drawings and paintings, "all done by himself very accurately." Many of the pictures were of plants, but Lister was especially interested in the birds ("very well painted in their proper colours") and other zoological subjects. The Englishman was impressed. "Plumier," he said, "is a very understanding man in several parts of natural history, especially in Botanique."

Father Plumier wanted to visit England and talk with Hans Sloane, John Ray, and other botanists but could not. The rules of the Minims required him to wear the coarse black wool habit of his order, but he heard that wearing such religious dress in public was forbidden in England.

In 1704 Plumier set out on another expedition, this time to South America in search of the course of "Peruvian bark." Although the bark was

used in the treatment of fevers, the tree from which it came was still unknown in Europe. Guy Fagon, physician to Louis XIV (who had taken the bark and found relief), wanted Plumier to delineate the tree from which it was obtained. Plumier started out and was awaiting his ship at Cadiz, Spain, when he died from pleurisy on November 20, 1704, at age 58.

During his three trips to the West Indies, Father Plumier did most of his botanizing in Martinique and Haiti, but he also visited Bequia, Guadeloupe, St. Vincent, St. Kitts, St. Croix, and St. Thomas. His first book on the flora of the islands, *Description of Plants of America*, was published at the Louvre in 1693. To illustrate this work the author used his own drawings, signed "Fr. Carolus Plumier Minimus Botanicus Regius."

In 1700 Tournefort published more than 700 new species, including six species of *Begonia*, discovered by Plumier in the West Indies. These were listed by Plumier in a *Catalog of Plants of America* in 1703, when he published more than 200 other new species in *New Genera of Plants of America*. He also wrote a *Treatise on Ferns of America*, which appeared posthumously in 1705.

A book on an entirely different subject, however, brought him greater recognition. Today Plumier may be better known to historians of the mechanical arts and crafts than he is to botanists. In mechanics his forte was turning, which he learned first from his father. His book, *The Art of Turning, or the Perfect Con-*

*struction of All Sorts of Things with the Lathe*, written in Latin and French, was published at Lyon in 1701. It was reissued at Paris in 1706 and translated into Russian by Czar Peter the Great. A new edition was published at Paris in 1749, and a French and German edition at Leipzig in 1776.

At his death Plumier left a large collection of drawings, paintings, and manuscripts but no herbarium of his own. He had given some dried specimens to Tournefort and other friends, and had lost some others by shipwreck, but it seems Plumier was more interested in drawing and painting pictures of plants than in collecting them.

People who knew Plumier spoke well of him. Tournefort thought him "an admirable man." David Kreig, a German physician and naturalist who was in Paris in 1702, said Plumier was the "most friendly and sincere man" he met while in France. Naturalists of his own day held him in high regard as a "curious" and "accurate" botanist. Those of the 18th century looked upon him as one of the foremost botanical explorers of his time. Linnaeus incorporated much of Plumier's work in his own. While in Holland in the 1730s the Swedish botanist studied copies of Plumier's drawings which had been procured by Herman Boerhaave, the celebrated Dutch physician and professor of botany at Leiden. It was mainly through these copies, published by the Dutch botanist John Burman at Amsterdam between 1755 and 1760, that Plumier would be known to botanists for many years thereafter.

Plumier and Tournefort led the

way in naming plants for people. Genera so named by Plumier included *Fuchsia*, *Columnea*, *Bauhinia*, *Parkinsonia*, *Malpighia*, *Brunfelsia*, and *Commelina*. Plumier honored his teacher, Sylvius Boccone (*Bocconia*); his friend, Joseph Pitton de Tournefort (*Pittonia*, which Linnaeus changed to *Tournefortia*); his associate on his first trip to America, J. D. Surian (*Suriana*); and, among the many others, the man who had arranged that expedition for King Louis XIV, Michel Begon.

In the same manner Plumier was honored by Tournefort with the genus *Plumiera* (or *Plumeria*), which includes the fragrant red jasmine, *P. rubra*, of tropical America.

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## BEGONIA PROFILES

By Thelma O'Reilly, La Mesa, Calif.

### BEGONIA 'SERLIS'

When garden guests gaze upon *Begonia* 'Serlis', which hangs at the far end of my lathouse, they immediately head in its direction for a close-up view. And no wonder, for it is breathtakingly bold and beautiful.

It has been a joy to observe the growth of *Begonia* 'Serlis' which was a gift from Mike Kartuz in the fall of 1976. At that time it was 3 inches high with small leaves resembling the female parent, *B. sementacea*, in shape, and the male parent, *B. listida*, in color and texture. *B. 'Serlis'* grew slowly under lights the first winter. The following spring, it was repotted and moved outdoors where it has remained and flourished.

The off-center, heart shaped, mature leaves measure 9 inches long by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide. According to Mike, who originated *Begonia* 'Serlis', the leaves can easily reach 10 inches long by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches across and larger. The upper side is forest green but appears lighter because all of the veins, including the tiniest, are lime green. The main veins radiate from a yellow green star at the leaf blade-petiole base. The surface is puberulent and the margin is subentire with scattered ripples. *B. 'Serlis'* was further endowed with an iridescent radiance that shimmers over the entire upper leaf surface. The underside is lovely, too, with lime green veining on a red surface.

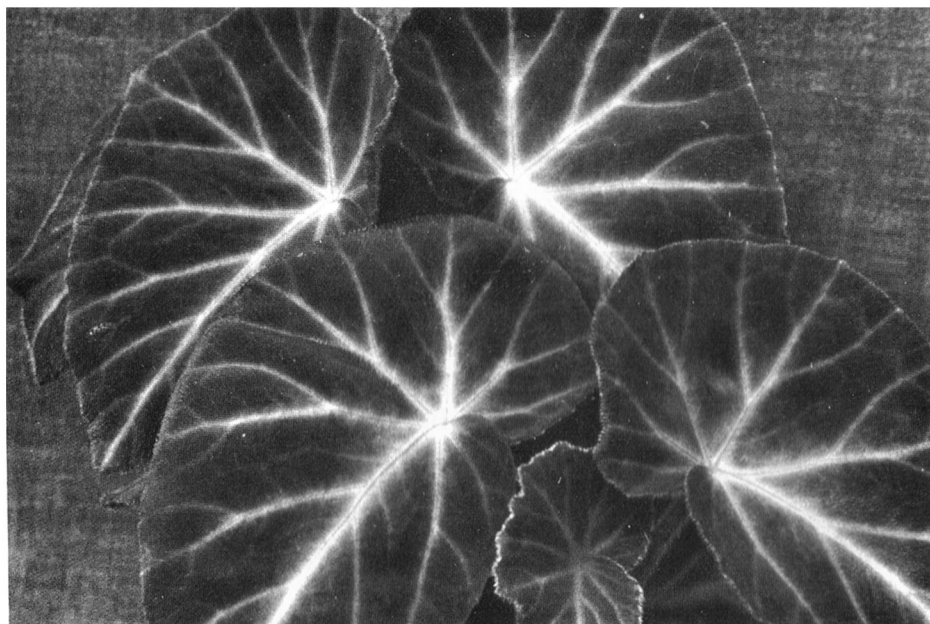
New leaves present a striking contrast as they slowly appear between the larger leaves. They look like wee

pelts of gray caracul. They slowly develop a mauve tinge (from the red underside) before turning green as they unfold and enlarge. The petioles are strong, green and covered with white hairs. Pale green leaf bracts are very large (hairy and quite persistent).

This stunning plant is low growing, semi-upright, and thrives in a hanging basket. It starts slowly from leaf cuttings and rapidly from stem cuttings. White flowers with scattered red hairs on the back are produced freely throughout the year. Classification is shrub-like, distinctive foliage.

*Begonia listida*, with its mysterious origin, has fascinated me since I first saw it in 1962. Its hybrids are special favorites and *B. 'Serlis'* promises to head the list as it continues to grow larger and more beautiful.

*Begonia sementacea*, too has its mysterious history. When I first acquired it in the early sixties it was labeled *B. sarmentacea*, later appearing as *B. sermentacea*. The same plant appeared still later as *B. sementacea* and is listed under the last name in *The Thompson Begonia Guide* and *The Species of the Begoniaceae* by Barkley and Golding. *The Buxton Check List of Begonias* lists it as a hybrid originating in Brazil and introduced by Marie Minter in 1949. It is a species because I selfed it years ago and the seedlings came true. Because of the obvious mix-up in the first few letters, I have often considered the possibility of *B. sementacea* actually being the Brazilian



*Begonia 'Serlis'* (*B. sementacea* x *B. listida*)

Photo by Thelma O'Reilly

species, *Begonia ramentacea*. Carrie Karegeannes and I spent many hours discussing this "bag of worms" (our pet name for begonia puzzles) when we worked together on *Begonia* research. It is not often seen in collections today.

Serlis is a contraction of the names of the parents of *Begonia 'Serlis'*. This is not an acceptable practice according to the *International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants* but Mike, like many hybridizers, had been unaware of this rule when he first named it.

\* \* \*

caracul — the loosely curled fur made from hides of newborn lambs of sheep from central Asia.

puberulent — with very short hairs

*Begonia 'Serrlis'* is available from Kartuz Greenhouses, 92 Chestnut Street, Wilmington, Massachusetts 01887.



*Begonia listida*

Photo by Charles Jaros

## 'KING' BEGONIAS NEED SPECIAL CARE

By Elvin McDonald, New York

Having entertained until the wee hours last evening, I arrived at my studio bright and early this morning, noon being "early" in this case. It was my intention to write first and then do some desk work.

It is now prime time on television. I am just getting started with the writing. What upset my plan was the fact I couldn't see my desk for the piles of new mail.

As it turns out, I'm glad I did the desk work first. For one thing, I feel as if I have just met some 500 readers and shared your interests and dreams. For another, I found two copies of "The Begonian," a monthly magazine published by the American Begonia Society.

I first joined the ABS in the late 1940s and began a heavy correspondence with other begonia growers. I sent out only typewritten letters and rarely revealed my age, which was around 11 or 12 years.

Those letters brought the world to our RFD mailbox in western Oklahoma. There were begonias from India, Mexico, Brazil and Africa, sometimes directly, in the form of seeds, sometimes indirectly, in the form of plants from growers all over the USA.

And there were friends, among them a Chicago schoolboy my age named Tom who loved flowers too and is now Dr. Thomas Soderstrom, the curator of bamboos and other grasses at the Smithsonian; and Vera Dillard, an adventuresome begonia grower in Kansas City who has since

opened a commercial greenhouse in Overland Park, Kan., called Tropical Paradise, and has proceeded to inspire countless thousands of neophytes the same as she did me.

Today the American Begonia Society still offers the services that attracted me — a magazine, a seed fund from which rare species can be obtained, and round-robin correspondence groups.

Carolyn Busch and I met some years ago when she had a plant shop in New York. There was a story about her in "Women's Wear Daily," not exactly the sort of place one expects to find plant people, but there she was, giving out wonderful advice. So I called her and discovered she'd been reading me for a long while but had been too shy to pick up the telephone. We were friends from that moment, but what really got me was when I saw her begonias.

A few weeks later I knew Carolyn had understood the focus of my enthusiasm; she left a huge rex begonia at my door, the sort of specimen that leaves no doubt as to why this plant has been called the king of begonias since around 1850 when it was introduced into English conservatories from Assam, India.

The plant Carolyn gave me is still going strong and we recently mapped out this recipe for success with rex begonias:

*Light:* Directly in a bright window or near one with direct sun, but less in hot weather; or grow in fluorescent-light garden.



*Temperature:* 70-75F. in the daytime with a drop of 10 degrees at night.

*Humidity:* 40 percent or more, with fresh air circulation; no hot or cold drafts. Shower gently in tepid water once a week. Too much misting, especially without proper air circulation, may lead to powdery mildew spots on the leaves.

*Moisture:* Keep the soil in a range between evenly moist and slightly on the dry side. If you wait until the leaves wilt, you've waited too long; if you leave the pot standing in a saucer of water for more than a few hours, root rot may set in.

*Soil:* Repot once a year, or when

the creeping rhizomes or rootstocks reach the pot rim, using a mixture of equal parts all-purpose potting soil, sphagnum peat moss, clean, sharp sand, vermiculite and well-rotted oak leafmold.

*Fertilizer:* Apply a foliage houseplant fertilizer exactly according to label directions from late winter until about Labor Day.

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Mr. McDonald writes "The Indoor Gardener," a column which appears in various nationwide newspapers through King Features Syndicate, Inc. This article is reprinted here with permission.



Among the rexes in this collection belonging to Helen Lewis of Vista are *B.* 'Helen Lewis' (dark leaf with silver band) and *B.* 'Dewdrop' (silver-pink with maroon along center veins), both hybrids produced by Mrs. Lewis.



Barbara Phillip of Santa Barbara collects and hybridizes rexes. Among those on her bench are several old favorites and some of her newest varieties.



Among the rexes grown by Bob Cole are *B.* 'Ann Meyer', the large spiral-leaved variety, *B.* 'American Beauty', upper right, and *B.* 'Aurora von Konigmark', lower right.

# PROPOSED BYLAWS REVISION

BYLAWS  
of the American Begonia Society  
September, 1978

## ARTICLE I

### DUTIES OF ELECTED OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Board of Directors. He/she shall appoint the heads of the various departments with the exception of the Editor, and these appointments shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. He/she shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Society and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

Section 2. The President Elect shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the latter, or whenever the President is unable to perform the duties of the office. A vacancy in the office of the President shall be filled by the President Elect. The President Elect shall be included in planning and policy making during his/her years of service as a method of training.

Section 3. The First and Second Vice Presidents shall perform such duties as are assigned to them by the President and shall in sequence fill the office of President and/or President Elect as required.

Section 4. The Directors elected by each branch shall attend the meetings of the Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society when possible, shall make such reports and recommendations as will further the interests of the Society, and shall file an annual written report of the branch activities with the Recording Secretary of the American Begonia Society at the Annual Meeting.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall receive and account for all monies of the Society and shall pay out the monies under the direction of the Board of Directors. The books shall be closed as of the last day of each month and a written report prepared and presented to the Board of Directors at the following Board Meeting. The ABS shall obtain a bond with a surety company and in such sum as the Board of Directors may determine. He/she shall make to the Board of Directors monthly, and to the Society annually, a report of all receipts and disbursements. The annual report made by the Treasurer shall be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society and shall be accompanied by a report of audits made by an Audit Committee of two members appointed by the President.

Section 6. The Secretary shall keep concise records of the proceedings of the Society and of the Board of Directors, and shall have charge of the records of the Society except such basic records as are necessary for the proper functioning of the various departments and offices. The Secretary shall transmit the minutes of the regular Board meetings to the Editor for publication in the *Begonian* not later than

the first day of the month following the regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE II

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall be the administrative and executive body of this Society, shall transact all business of the Society between Annual Meetings, arrange for Annual Meetings and any special meetings, establish and approve such special committees as may be necessary to promote the objectives of the Society, approve the establishment of Branch Societies and issue charters to them, and make such regulations as may be necessary for the good of this Society.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall meet at least four times a year and/or monthly on call of the President, or in his/her absence by the President Elect, the time and place to be published in the official publication.

Section 3. When it is not feasible to hold a regular Board meeting the Executive Board may transact necessary business which must be approved by the Board of Directors by mail. Of the mail returned a majority opinion shall determine approval or disapproval. The result of the voting must be recorded in the minutes of the next Board meeting.

## ARTICLE III

### APPOINTED OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

Section 1. a. The officers to be appointed by the President as Committee Chairmen and to serve as Directors on the Board for the duration of his/her term, or until replaced, shall be as follows: the Business Manager, the Membership Secretary, the Research Director, the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Director, the Nomenclature Director, the Branch Relations Director, the Public Relations Director, the Chairman of the Speakers Bureau, the Slide Librarian, the Historian, the Chairman of the School for Judges, the Parliamentarian, the Circulation Manager, the Advertising Manager, the Lending Librarian, the Book Sales Librarian, the Begonian Librarian, the Corresponding Secretary, the Round Robin Director, the Chairman of the Awards Committee, the Flower Show and Convention Advisory Chairman, the Chairman of the Ballot Counting Committee, and the Show Classification and Entry Chairman.

b. The Editor shall be selected by an editorial board consisting of the President who shall act as chairman, the President Elect, the Past President, and two others chosen by the President. The Editor shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The duties of the appointed officers shall be as follows:

a. The Business Manager shall act as business agent for the Board of Directors and for the Publications Department, and shall perform



other duties as the Board of Directors may require.

b. The Membership Secretary shall receive all dues which shall be deposited immediately with the Treasurer; keep an accurate roster of the membership of the Society; and have charge of the mailing and selling of back numbers of the *Begonian* less than one year old.

c. The Research Director shall have charge of the Research Department; of arranging for the testing of begonias in test gardens in different locations throughout the country; and of collecting information relative to the culture, propagation and housing of begonias and companion plants. A financial report shall be made monthly to the Treasurer.

d. The Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Director shall have charge of the importation of seeds of begonias and companion plants and the distribution of these to the membership. A financial report shall be made monthly to the Treasurer.

e. The Nomenclature Director shall have charge of determining and establishing correct names of species and established varieties of begonias, of approving and registering all newly developed horticultural varieties of begonias, and shall work with the Editor in the publication of the results of his work.

f. The Branch Relations Director shall have charge of the interbranch relations. He/she shall promote and assist in the formation of new branch societies and review branch constitutions, bylaws and their revisions.

g. The Public Relations Director shall promote the Society with the general public. He/she shall appoint assistant directors as needed, to be approved by the Board. He/she shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding advertising of the ABS in other publications.

h. The Chairman of the Speakers Bureau shall provide lists of speakers and program suggestions.

i. The Slide Librarian shall maintain a slide library for the use of branches and members.

j. The Historian shall maintain a complete history of the Society.

k. The Chairman of the School for Judges shall have charge of the instruction and examination of potential begonia judges, and shall accredit those qualifying. He/she shall file a regular monthly report to the Board of Directors which includes the names of the newly qualifying judges and a financial statement.

l. The Parliamentarian shall see that all proceedings of the meetings of the Society and the Board of Directors are conducted according to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society. Where the Constitution and Bylaws do not specifically cover a situation, *Robert's Rules of Order*, Newly Revised shall govern.

m. The Circulation Manager shall supervise preparation of, and/or prepare, the *Begonian* for mailing and delivery to the Post Office.

n. The Advertising Manager shall solicit and handle advertising to be published in the *Begonian*, including billing and collecting, and

shall make a monthly financial report.

o. The Lending Librarian shall establish and maintain a circulation library for the use of the officers and members of the Society. He/she shall have three copies of each new *Begonian* preserved and bound into volumes annually.

p. The Book Sales Librarian shall handle the sale of new books, pamphlets, and reprinted material.

q. The Begonian Librarian shall have charge of sales of all available issues of the official publication, the *Begonian*, over one year old.

r. The Corresponding Secretary shall assist the President with typing, mailing, and related secretarial duties.

s. The Round Robin Director shall coordinate all Round Robin activities and prepare a monthly article for publication in the *Begonian*.

t. The Chairman of the Awards Committee shall coordinate awards activities for the Annual Convention and Show.

u. The Flower Show and Convention Advisory Chairman shall furnish available information and suggestions to any Branch or regional unit planning to host a local flower show, a regional flower show, or the Annual National Convention and Flower Show.

v. The Chairman of the Ballot Counting Committee shall conduct the counting of ballots in accord with Article VII, Section 3.

Section 3. Appointed officers shall serve as voting members of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Materials, records, and information developed or accumulated in the performance of duties by the appointed officers and their committees shall be the property of the ABS. A retiring officer shall transmit Society property to the officer succeeding him/her.

Section 5. Appointed officers shall make a monthly written activity and financial report to the Board.

Section 6. Appointed officers working with a decentralized committee shall conduct business by correspondence. Recommendations based on action of the committee shall be submitted through the chairman of the Board of Directors in writing.

#### ARTICLE IV

##### OPERATING COMMITTEES

Section 1. The activities of the Society shall be carried out under the direction of various committee chairmen elected and appointed for such purpose.

Section 2. The Committee Chairmen may recommend the appointment of special officers, assistants or specialists as may be necessary to properly conduct the affairs of the committee.

Section 3. Each Committee Chairman shall make a report at the Annual Meeting and such other reports as may be required by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. A guideline manual to explain the duties of the Operating Committees shall be available from the Secretary.

Section 5. The Operating Committees shall be the following: the Finance Committee, the

Audit Committee, the Hosting Annual Convention and Flower Show Committee, the Committee of Awards, the Publications Committee, the Show Classification and Entry Committee. Section 6. The organization and responsibilities of the Operating Committees shall be as follows:

- a. Members of the Finance Committee shall be the immediate Past President as chairman, Treasurer, Business Manager, President Elect, and one additional member familiar with current accounting practices and reports to governmental agencies dealing with ABS nonprofit status.
- b. The Audit Committee shall be two members appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors to audit the financial records of the Society for the previous year.
- c. The hosting Annual Convention and Flower Show Branch or Group shall appoint its own Chairman for approval by the Board of Directors. The Chairman shall form his/her own on-site organization and appoint assistant chairmen in charge of hotel accommodations, banquet and food arrangements, plant sales, publicity, programs, seminars, etc. Advice will be available from the Flower Show and Convention Advisory Chairman. Names of accredited ABS judges eligible to serve at the Annual National Flower Show are on file with the Chairman of the School for Judges.
- d. The Committee of Awards shall include six members and the Nomenclature Director, two members to be appointed yearly for a three year term by the President, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. In the event of a vacancy it shall be filled by appointment by the President subject to the approval of the Board of Directors for the balance of the unexpired term.

The Committee of Awards shall periodically review the system of awards and make its recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Committee of Awards shall grant the awards of the American Begonia Society, including the Alfred D. Robinson Medal, the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award, the Herbert P. Dyckman Award, and such other special awards as may be established and approved by the Board of Directors, and subject to such regulations as the Board of Directors may adopt.

e. The Publications Committee shall consist of the Editor as Chairman, the Business Manager, the Nomenclature Director, Advertising Manager, President Elect and two others chosen by the President. It shall meet to consider matters relating to the publications of the Society.

The Editor shall, under the direction of the Board of Directors, prepare and issue such publications as the Board of Directors shall authorize, and shall perform such other duties as the Board of Directors shall require of him/her.

If the development of a special publication shall require it, the Editor may, with the approval of the Publications Committee, appoint an ad hoc assistant. This appointee shall serve on the Publication Committee during the period the publication is in progress.

f. The Show Classification and Entry Committee shall establish rules for the classification and entry of plants at the National Annual Show.

## ARTICLE V

### OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS MANUALS

Section 1. A written statement or outline of basic duties in looseleaf form shall be available for the following:

- a. Finance Committee
- b. Audit Committee
- c. Flower Show and Convention Advisor
- d. Committee of Awards
- e. Publications Committee
- f. Corresponding Secretary
- g. Business Manager
- h. Membership Secretary
- i. Research Director
- j. Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Director
- k. Nomenclature Director
- l. Chairman of Speakers Bureau
- m. Branch Relations Director
- n. Slide Librarian
- o. Round Robin Director
- p. Chairman of the Ballot Counting Committee
- q. Historian
- r. Chairman for the Committee of Awards
- s. Chairman for the School of Judges
- t. Parliamentarian
- u. Circulation Manager
- v. Advertising Manager
- w. Lending Librarian
- x. Book Sales Librarian
- y. Begonian Librarian
- z. Editor
- a1. Editorial Board
- b1. Nominating Committee
- c1. Branch Directors
- e1. Show Classification and Entry Chairman
- f1. Past President
- g1. All officers elected to the Board of Directors

Section 2. A complete set of operating instructions manuals shall be maintained in the files of the Secretary.

## ARTICLE VI

### ANNUAL DUES

Section 1. The dues of annual members shall be determined by the Board of Directors of this organization at necessary intervals of not less than one year through a majority vote of the Board of Directors including mail votes of Branch Directors not present at the initiating meeting. Members in arrears thirty days shall be dropped from the rolls of the Society and their names removed from the mailing list of the official publication until the arrearage has been paid.

Section 2. A Life Membership fee shall be \$50.00.

## ARTICLE VII

### ELECTIONS

Section 1. The President shall appoint not later than 150 days before the Annual Meeting a Nominating Committee of three members who shall be the presidents or past presidents of

branch societies. This Committee shall diligently attempt to obtain at least two nominations for each elective office. All nominees must be members in good standing. This Committee, not later than 90 days before the Annual Meeting, shall report to the Board of Directors the nominees for each elective office.

Section 2. Additional nominations may be made by a petition signed by at least 14 members of the Society, if made and delivered to the Secretary at least 80 days before the Annual Meeting.

Section 3. Before the ballots are printed the President shall appoint a Ballot Counting Committee including a chairman and two members approved by the Board of Directors, who shall receive the mailed ballots from eligible voters. Instructions to the voter shall be printed on the ballot to mail it to the Ballot Counting Chairman. The ballots shall be opened only in the presence of the Committee.

Section 4. An official ballot containing the names of all nominees shall be mailed to each eligible voter at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Eligible voters shall mail the ballots to the Ballot Counting Chairman not later than 14 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Only ballots received seven days prior to the Annual Meeting shall be counted.

Section 5. Six days before the Annual Convention the Ballot Counting Committee shall open and count the ballots. They shall make an immediate report in writing to the President and the Secretary. All candidates shall be notified of the results of the election immediately by the Secretary.

Section 6. Vacancies in office, either elective or appointive, shall be filled by appointment by the President, subject to approval by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

#### ARTICLE VIII QUORUM

Section 1. Fifty members including the President or President Elect, Secretary and Treasurer shall constitute a quorum for the Annual Meeting. Substitutes approved in advance by the Board of Directors may serve in the absence of the Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2. Fifteen members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for any Board Meeting or special meeting.

#### ARTICLE IX BRANCH SOCIETIES

Section 1. Any member of this Society may affiliate with any Branch Society provided he/she meets the requirements for membership in that Branch.

Section 2. Each Branch Society shall have a Constitution and Bylaws, both of which shall be approved by the Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society; it shall require that one member of each family maintain membership in the American Begonia Society; it must include among its officers a president, a treasurer, a secretary, and a national director, each being a different person; it may determine its

own officers other than those specified above; it may make additional qualifications for membership; it may determine the manner in which its local activities shall be financed; and it may determine its own activities and meetings provided that those activities and/or requirements in no way conflict with the National Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 4. Each Branch Society shall file with the Membership Secretary of the American Begonia Society the names and addresses of all new members together with their dues, as received.

Section 5. Each Branch Society shall furnish the Secretary of the American Begonia Society with the names and addresses of all officers of the Branch immediately following elections.

Section 6. Branches shall operate as nonprofit units of the American Begonia Society. They shall not carry on any other activities not permitted by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Upon dissolution of a Branch, after paying, or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the Branch, the remaining assets shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation or corporation, which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational or religious and/or scientific purposes and which has established its tax-exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

#### ARTICLE X EXPENSES AND COMPENSATION

Section 1. The Board of Directors may budget and authorize the reimbursement to any officer, committee chairman, editor, or any other member, for expenses incurred in response to activities approved by the Board. The Board of Directors may also establish suitable compensation for certain persons or agencies directed to perform services for the Society.

#### ARTICLE XI PROPERTIES

Section 1. All properties and physical assets of the Society are under the control of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Approval must be obtained from the Board of Directors before the disposal of any property of the Society. This applies to material to be given to individuals and institutions and to material to be destroyed.

Section 3. Each officer, whether elected or appointed, shall be responsible for a complete accounting of the Society's properties in his care through equipment lists, book lists, or inventory. He shall file this record with the First Vice President at the time accounting for the year is closed prior to the Annual Meeting.

#### ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to the Bylaws may be initiated by a majority vote of the members present at any Annual Meeting or by a two-



thirds vote of the Board of Directors. Such amendment, written as a part of the entire Article to be proposed to be changed, shall then be submitted by mail to the membership in accordance with Section 2 of this Article. Section 2. The Membership Secretary shall mail a ballot for approval or disapproval of the proposed amendment to each eligible voter of the Society within 30 days after the amendment is initiated, with the request that the member vote upon said amendment and mail his ballot to reach the Secretary within 60 days after the meeting at which the amendment was initiated. If two-thirds of the votes cast are in favor of its adoption, the amendment shall be declared adopted at the next meeting of the Board of Directors. A notice of said adoption shall be published in the next issue of the *Begonian*.

### ARTICLE XIII

#### ANNUAL CONVENTIONS AND FLOWER SHOW STANDARDS AND CONDITIONS

Section 1. The Annual Convention and Flower Show may be held anywhere in the United States approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall require compliance with the following standards and conditions:

a. Plants of quality and quantity worthy of a National Show and National Awards must be available.

b. Qualified ABS judges will be used.

c. There must be assurance that a proper quorum will be in attendance to conduct the Annual Meeting. (See Article VIII).

d. Sale plants will be grown and available for sale to members and public during the Show as a moneymaking activity for the ABS.

e. Transportation will be paid for the President or President Elect and the Banquet Program speaker.

f. All funds remaining after the Show expenses have been paid will be forwarded to the ABS treasury.

### ARTICLE XIV

#### ANNUAL CONVENTION HOST

Section 1. Any Branch, group of Branches, or Regional Organization, may request that the Board of Directors consider their invitation to host the Annual Convention and Flower Show.

A written invitation shall include information regarding the Host's area facilities, flower show hall, seminar meeting rooms, hotel rooms, banquet and food facilities, plant sale area to defray costs, available transportation, home gardens, and places of horticultural interest, etc.

Section 2. Invitations to host the Annual Convention and Flower Show shall be offered one (1) year or more in advance, if possible, and presented in writing at the Annual Meeting.

Section 3. The final decision of the site selection for the Annual Convention shall be made by the Board of Directors. After a site and a proposed hosting group has been selected, the Board of Directors may advance a loan to cover preliminary convention costs.

## BALLOT FOR Proposed Revision of the ABS Bylaws

Shall the Article listed below be adopted as part of the Bylaws of the American Begonia Society?

	YES	NO
Article I	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article II	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article III	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article IV	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article V	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article VI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article VII	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article VIII	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article IX	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article XI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article XII	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article XIII	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article XIV	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article XV	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article XVI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please indicate your opinion by marking the squares and send this ballot to the ABS Secretary by October 1, 1978.

Bylaws Revision Ballot  
Virginia Barnett, Secretary  
1213 S. Mullender Ave.  
West Covina, CA

Note: This ballot may be cut along the center line. It will leave the page attached at the binding. The Bylaws are concluded on the reverse.

## BALLOTING FOR BYLAWS REVISION

by Ralph G. Corwin,

ABS Bylaws Revision Committee

At the July meeting of the Board of Directors, the Bylaws Revision Committee submitted a proposed new version of the Bylaws. After discussion it was approved and is now submitted for the members' approval. Because it is extensive in scope and includes four new articles, it is printed in its entirety rather than showing the old version with the proposed revisions along side. Members who wish to refer to the old text will find it in the *Begonian*, January 1976.

Voters are asked to approve or disapprove of *each* article in the proposed text by using the ballot provided. If the voter approves of the article, he/she should check the appropriate square. If the voter disagrees substantially with the content of any article he/she should deny its passage. If he/she has minor disagreements, it is suggested that it be approved and that a letter be sent to the Chairman of the Bylaws Committee explaining the voter's position and proposed change for future study of the Committee.

The address for letters concerning this Bylaws Revision is:

Ralph Corwin, Bylaws Chairman  
1119 Loma Vista Way  
Vista, CA 92084

## ARTICLE XV REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1. The ABS shall encourage the formation of Regional Organizations to promote and coordinate voluntary activities, shows, etc. for both Members-at-Large and organized Branches. A Regional Organization shall combine several geographically adjacent states whose ABS members voluntarily request to be included.

Section 2. A Regional Organization shall be launched voluntarily by ABS members who shall establish their own organization and elect their own officers including a national Regional Director.

Section 3. A national Regional Director, duly elected, shall serve as a voting member of the ABS Board of Directors. He/she shall represent the Members-at-Large within his/her region.

Section 4. A Regional Organization shall operate in accord with the Aims and Purposes of the ABS and the Constitution and Bylaws, and enjoy the benefits therefrom.

## ARTICLE XVI BRANCH DIRECTORS

Section 1. Each Branch Society shall elect from its membership one representative who shall serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors. He/she shall present the Branch's position on matters before the Board.

Section 2. When a Branch Director is unable to attend Board meetings, he/she shall communicate to the President or Secretary the positions on items of importance to his/her Branch.

Bylaws Committee  
Ralph Corwin, Chm.  
Margaret Taylor  
Gilbert Estrada  
W. E. Walton  
Nathan Randall  
Charles Richardson  
(ex. off.)

# CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

Linda Miller, Director

## SPECIES

- Sp 1 — *B. bracteosa*: 1859, Peru. An easy to grow shrub, 3 to 6 ft. high, with glossy green leaves. Has light pink flowers. Germination time: 17 days. .... per pkt 1.00
- Sp 2 — *B. bradei*: Brazil. Stems and leaf surface hairy, covered like a dense velvet carpet. Underside of leaves crimson, green above. Large pink flowers. Germination time: 17 days. .... per pkt 1.00
- Sp 3 — *B. echinosepala*: 1871, Brazil. Small, shrub-like plant with narrow, serrate leaves; drooping, arched branches. A very profuse bloomer with white flowers. Germination time: 9 days. .... per pkt 1.00
- Sp 4 — *B. heracleifolia* var. *nigricans*: Mexico. Star leaved with creeping rhizome. Palmately lobed leaves blackish-green with contrasting pale green area along main veins. Flowers pink. Germination time: 11 days. .... per pkt 1.00
- Sp 5 — *B. hydrocotylifolia*: Mexico. One of the small-leaved Begonias, stays compact. Great for small places or light gardens. Has round, waxy, green leaves. Small pink flowers. Germination time: 8 days. .... per pkt 1.00
- Sp 6 — *B. nelumbiifolia*: 1830, Mexico to Columbia. Rhizomatous; leaves large, green with puckered texture. Flowers white. Germination time: 10 days. .... per pkt 1.00
- Sp 7 — *B. "subvillosa"* variety. Entire plant covered with hairs. Ever-blooming with white flowers having hairs on the back of the sepals which become reddish in filtered sun. Plant branches and grows to one ft. One of the easy and fun plants I recommend to everyone. Germination time: 8 days. .... per pkt 1.00
- Sp 8 — *B. xanthina*: Bhutan. Unusual rhizomatous species with large quilted leaves lobed like a maple leaf, coppery green with a deep sheen, and red veins, underside purplish-red. One of the yellow flowered Begonias. Germination time: 10 days. .... per pkt 1.00

## HYBRIDS

- Sp 9 — *B. Rex* mixture. This group contains many colors and forms of the lovely Rex varieties. Grown by one of our well-known San Diego, Ca., hybridizers. Very special! Germination time: 11 days. .... per pkt 1.00

## GESNERIADS

- Sp 10 — *Sinningia*. A variety of colors and sizes, all minis. Most suitable for light gardens or window areas. .... per pkt .75
- Sp 11 — *Streptocarpus holstii*: An unusual and beautiful plant that branches readily. Makes a very nice basket plant. .... per pkt .75

## OTHER PLANTS

- Sp 12 — *Amaryllis*: These were very popular last year, and I am glad to be

able to re-offer them this year. Contains mostly white, red-striped type; but some reds and pinks in this mixture also. Fresh supply.  
per pkt .25

Pamphlets available

"Begonias from Seeds — Sowing and Growing" .....\$ .25

"Begonias In General —  
Basic Descriptions of Classes and Culture" ..... .50

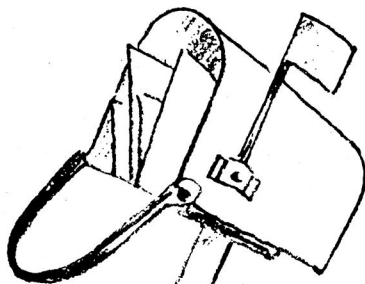
Calif. residents please add 6% sales tax on all orders. All customers please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with all seed orders. Make all checks or money orders payable to: Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. (Foreign orders please make out in U.S. funds only.) Mail to: Mrs. Linda Miller, 4613 Cochran St., Simi Valley, CA. 93063.

## BEGONIA QUESTION BOX

Write to: Elda Haring

Box 236, Flat Rock, NC 28731

You will receive a prompt personal reply.



*Question:* I have had *B. lubbersii* for a couple of years and cannot get it to bloom. It loses all its leaves except a couple on top. I do know it likes heat. How can I get it to bloom?

*Answer:* *B. lubbersii* is a low growing cane-like begonia. It will tolerate a wide range of temperatures from 50 to 90. It blooms in late winter in my greenhouse. I suggest you cut off the top and root it. Cut the plant back to within 5 inches of the pot. It will soon put out new growth. Overwatering, especially in winter will result in leaf drop. Through the summer keep lightly moist and feed with a water soluble fertilizer having a high ratio of phosphorus.

*Question:* Which name comes first in listing a hybrid parent, male or female? *Answer:* The female or seed bearing parent is always listed first.

*Editor's Note:* The American Begonia Society has followed this convention of listing the seed parent first when known. Other plant societies may adopt a different rule.

According to the International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants, the order of the names may be either alphabetical or with the seed parent first. If the names are in alphabetical order you can't be sure which is the female unless the author specifies.

All derivatives from the same parental combination of two or more species have the same formula or the same botanical name, except for a few special cases.

*Question:* My *B. manicata* turns brown on leaf edges in summer. It has no insects. What causes the brown



edges? *Answer:* The brown edges could be caused by low humidity or sun shining full on the leaves. Be sure the plant has adequate water in the heat of summer. Misting might help if humidity is low. Do not keep too wet when resting in winter. Let top of potting mix dry out a bit between waterings.

*Question:* I have been successful in rooting leaves of Rieger begonias. The plants are now covered with foliage. I was told by a plant breeder that it is impossible to make them bloom. They are growing under lights. What do you think? *Answer:* I have grown both 'Improved Krefeld Orange' and *B. 'Aphrodite Rose'* from leaf stem cuttings. It took them 12 to 18 months to bloom under lights burning 15 hours a day. Be patient and don't give up. Your plants will bloom in time. Fertilizing twice a month would help as long as the plant is producing new growth. They may be propagated for hobby purposes, but may not be propagated for sale without a permit from Mikelson.

*Question:* I have a beautiful *B. 'Buttercup'* in a closed terrarium. When I attempt to propagate leaf stem cuttings they wilt and die. Any suggestions? *Answer:* Plants grown in completely enclosed containers are very sensitive to outside air. I submerge leaves in water for overnight to crisp them and line them up in a clear plastic box in a mixture of equal parts vermiculite, perlite and milled sphagnum. When new plantlets appear I gradually push aside the cover to condition them. If humidity is 50

percent or over in your plant room *B. 'Buttercup'* will not need terrarium conditions.

*Question:* Do you recommend using rooting hormones for begonia cuttings? *Answer:* As begonias root readily they do not need the help of rooting hormones. I have been experimenting with Rootone which contains a fungicide. Some begonias such as *B. masoniana* and *B. versicolor* that sometimes rot in the medium will root 100 percent when dipped in Rootone before inserting into rooting medium.

*Question:* What does the word "shrubby" mean in relation to houseplant begonias? I know what shrubs are and their habit of growth outdoors but cannot visualize what is meant by a shrubby begonia. *Answer:* A shrubby begonia is one that is well branched, compact and covered with leaves, resembling a small shrub.

*Question:* What is a symbegonia? *Answer:* The family *Begoniaceae* is made up of three genera: *Begonia*, *Hillebrandia* and *Symbegonia*. Simply put, a *Symbegonia* is a member of a main subdivision of the family *Begoniaceae*.

Note: Iris Shepherd of 2010 Wignall Ave., Port Arthur, Texas 77640 has *B. 'Zemenia'* and will share cuttings with members of ABS as long as they last.

#### ROBERT B. HAMM

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## REGISTRATION OF BEGONIA CULTIVARS

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

**No. 649 — Begonia (B. 'Big Boy' X B. 'Lee's No. 9') 'Aluminum'**

This rhizomatous, with rhizome jointed at/below soil, was originated in 1976 by Bob Cole, 18007 Topham St., Reseda, CA 91335. Leaves have lavender edge, silver grey, with black-green center; shape lanceolate, subentire; 6 x 3"; margin lobed; texture smooth; 6-nerved; petioled 4-6"; stipules  $1\frac{1}{2}$  x  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". Registered Mar. 10, 1978.

**No. 650 — Begonia (B. 'Bronze Queen' X B. 'This n That') 'Sheba'**

Rhizomatous, rex cultorum, this begonia developed by Bob Cole, address above, has not bloomed nor been distributed. Leaves are bright green with silver spots, silver in mid-area, with black-green center; subentire;  $2\frac{1}{2}$  x  $1\frac{1}{4}$ "; margin lightly cleft and ciliate; texture smooth; 7-nerved petioles 4 x 6"; stipules  $1\frac{1}{2}$  x  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". Registered Mar. 10, 1978.

**No. 651 — Begonia (B. 'This n That' X 'Big Red') 'Oh Razzberries'**

Bob Cole, address above, originated this begonia in 1976 but it has not bloomed nor been distributed. Rhizomatous rex cultorum, leaves are green with silver red dots, silver with red overlay, dark green center; subentire; 6 x 8"; margin lightly cleft; texture bumpy; 8-nerved; petioles 5 - 8";  $\frac{3}{4}$  x  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". Registered Mar. 10,

**No. 652 — Begonia (B. 'Ho Hum' X Unnamed Rex cv.) 'Song Bird' Bird'**

A rhizomatous rex cultorum, this plant was developed in 1976 but has not bloomed nor been distributed. The leaves are bordered with forest green with silver dots; middle area is silver, while the center is forest green; spiral, subentire; 8 x 6"; margin lightly cleft; texture smooth; 8-nerved; 8" petioles; stipules  $\frac{3}{4}$  x  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". Originated by Bob Cole, The Plant Shop Botanical Garden, 18007 Topham St., Reseda, CA 91335. Registered March 10, 1978.

**No. 653 — Begonia (B. 'Big Boy' X B. 'Cora Miller') 'Bantu'**

Bob Cole (address above) originated this rhizomatous rex cultorum in 1976 but it has not yet bloomed nor been distributed. The spiraled, subentire leaves are bronze brown with white spots; 5 x 6"; margin crenate; texture lightly puckered; 14-nerved; petioles 6-8"; stipules  $\frac{3}{4}$  x  $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Registered March 10, 1978.

**No. 654 — Begonia (B. 'Sir Edward Hodgins' X B. 'This n That') 'Cherry Fizz'**

Originated by Bob Cole (address above) in 1976, this rex cultorum rhizomatous begonia has subentire leaves,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  x 5", the lightly crenulate margin maroon, green with silver spots, and silver with dark red overlay, with red-black center; texture is smooth; 7-nerved; petioles 6-8"; stipules  $\frac{3}{4}$  x  $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Registered March 10, 1978.

**No. 655 — Begonia (B. 'Ho Hum' X Unnamed Rex cv.) 'Ho Down'**

Described as having excellent pink leaves edged irregularly with black-

green, this rhizomatous rex cultorum was originated in 1976 by Bob Cole, (address above); leaves are subentire, 4 x 6"; margin lobed, ciliate; texture rough, hairy; 7-nerved; petioles 6-8"; stipules  $1\frac{1}{2}$  x  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". Not bloomed yet nor distributed. Registered March 10, 1978.

**No. 656 — Begonia (B. rex Putz X B. 'Old Witch') 'Ultra Rex'**

Using the species *rex* as seed parent, Bob Cole (address above) originated in 1976 this rhizomatous plant with short (2-4") hairy petioles; eaves are dark green with silver flecking on the green areas; subentire; 6-9"; margin lobed; texture puckery; 6-nerved; stipules  $1\frac{1}{2}$  x  $3\frac{1}{4}$ ". Has not bloomed nor been distributed. Registered March 27, 1978.

**No. 657 — Begonia (B. 'Big Boy' X B. 'Lee's No. 9') 'Charity'**

Of compact shape and form, this rhizomatous rex cultorum was originated in 1976 by Bob Cole (address above); it has not yet bloomed nor been distributed. Leaves are green with silver spotting and blotching; subentire, overlap shaped; 6 x 7"; margin ciliate; texture puckery; 9-nerved; petioles 6", covered with fine hair; stipules  $3\frac{1}{4}$  x  $3\frac{1}{4}$ ". Registered March 27, 1978.

**No. 658 — Begonia (B. 'Art Anthony' X B. 'Lee's No. 9') 'Red Raven'**

A rhizomatous rex cultorum, this plant was originated in 1976 by Bob Cole (address above); it has not bloomed nor been distributed. Leaves are black-brown at edge, metallic pink-red; brown-black in center; subentire;  $5\frac{1}{2}$  x 3"; margin lobed; texture scattered hairy; 7-nerved; 5 x

7" petioles; stipules  $1\frac{1}{2}$  x  $3\frac{1}{4}$ ". Registered March 27, 1978.

**No. 659 — Begonia (B. 'Big Red Jr.' X B. 'Sir Edward Hodgins') 'Silent Alarm'**

Subspiral in shape the leaves of this rhizomatous rex cultorum are a velvet blackish green with silver flecks and spots. Originated by Bob Cole (address above) in 1975, the begonia first bloomed in 1977 but has not yet been distributed. Leaves are 8 x 7"; margin lobed; texture has scattered hairs; 9-nerved; 6" petioles; stipules  $3\frac{1}{4}$  x  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". Flowers are dark pink. Registered March 27, 1978.

**No. 660 — Begonia (B. 'Erythrophylla' mutation) 'Agnes Kennison'**

This rhizomatous begonia with distinctive foliage was originated by Shirley Lund, Box 201, Williamsburg, Iowa, in 1977 and first bloomed in 1978. Leaves are variegated pink, cream, and green, the largest being  $6\frac{1}{4}$ ". Flowers are pinker than the regular 'Beefsteak'; flower stem 14-16"; blooms in the spring. Registered April 7, 1978.

## Library Addition

The American Begonia Society has received a copy of *Green Leaves*, a history of the Davey Tree Expert Company. John Davey, founder of the company, developed the science of tree surgery and taught his methods to his employees. This book is about the company and the people involved in the expansion of the company as they developed methods for tree preservation. It is not a handbook on tree care.

## LONGWOOD GARDENS ANNOUNCES GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, has announced its first photography contest with exhibition dates during February 1979. Theme of the competition is horticulture and gardens.

Entries must be received no later than January 5, 1979. For rules and entry blanks, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Photography Contest, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA 19348.

The photo contest reflects Longwood's continuing interest in horticulture as an art form. Entries are not restricted to views of Longwood, and any photograph showing plants

or gardens is eligible for consideration. The contest is open to amateurs and professionals alike.

Categories are black and white prints, color prints, and 35mm slides. Prints must be mounted or matted, but without glass or frames. Up to four entries may be submitted by one photographer. An entry fee of \$3 covers one to four entries.

First prize in each category is \$150; second prize, \$75; and third, \$50.

Entries will be exhibited at Longwood as space permits during February 1979. Longwood retains one-time publishing rights to winning photographs.

### Corrections

The placement of the pictures on several pages of the August *Begonian* was incorrect. For future reference, mark your copy. On page 208 the begonias pictured are *B. cubensis*, *B. paleata*, and *B. 'Sachsen'*, from top to bottom. On page 209 the begonias pictured are *B. 'Gwen Lowell'*, *B. foliosa* and *B. 'Arcola'*, top to bottom. On page 213, the photo on the left is the view of Capital Park and the one on the right is Hall's Greenhouse.

On page 211, there should be no comma in the name of the Edna Stewart Pittsburgh Branch.

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### Information Requested

I would be interested to have any new information on either of the species, *B. listida* or *B. sementacea*, which would help to clarify their backgrounds. Thelma O'Reilly, 10942 Sunray Pl., La Mesa, CA 92041.

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## ROUND ROBIN NOTES

By Mabel Corwin, Round Robin Director

The robins are full of interesting ideas and tips about begonia growing.

### Species

Bob Hamm, Texas, writing in a Growing from Seed robin gave this simple explanation for the new members: A species is a plant found growing in nature. When you plant seed of it, or cross it with itself, you will get the same plant. A hybrid is a plant that results from crossing two species, or a species and a hybrid, or two hybrids. This plant when crossed with itself will NOT come true. The offspring will generally not look like the parent and these should never be labeled with the parent's name.

### Propagation tip

Kit Jeans, Tennessee, likes to use "Watch-Us-Grow" for propagating. She soaks cuttings in solution before planting, then waters with it. She loses very few this way. She also mists seedlings with it. "Watch-Us-Grow" is 8-8-8 fertilizer with root stimulant added.

### Terrarium

Sandra Crowley, Florida, had a number of good suggestions in her letter. She has found that a 3 pound Peter Pan Peanut Butter jar makes an excellent terrarium. She discards the lid and covers with plastic, held on by a rubber band.

### B. bartonea

Sandra finds that *B. bartonea* does not like water on its leaves, nor any bug spray of any kind, not wet feet. This is one of the plants she removes from the greenhouse when she sprays. It also prefers cooler temperature, so

she moves it closer to the ground and in circulating air in the summer.

### Rieger begonias

Sandra shared this information on growing Rieger begonias: They prefer warm temperatures (above 60 deg.) and will go dormant if chilled or suddenly given temperatures below 50-55 deg. They want good air circulation, but no drafts. They should have no water on the leaves without moving air. Give them good light (south) in winter and east or west the rest of the year. If one goes dormant dry it out in the pot. Give it about 1 teaspoon of water twice a week (or spray soil) until it starts to sprout again. Although the Riegers like it warm, they don't like it hot. The hotter they get, the more air circulation they need. They bloom best on short days (long nights), but will bloom some all year. They are most spectacular November through April here. They prefer small pots, not over 5" for a mature plant. Start new plants in small pots and repot into one size larger as they grow. They do form small tuber-like growths at the stem base. You must keep this from rotting by potting and watering in proportion to top growth. Cuttings root easily, so you can keep back up plants. They are worth the extra effort it takes to grow them.

Some of the robins have room for one or two members. If you would like to be part of this interesting group, write to me.

Mabel Corwin  
1119 Loma Vista Way  
Vista, California 92083

## 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. Send order to Advertising Manager.

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## Plant Sale Tips

When the Theodosia Burr Shephard Branch prepared for their show and plant sale, the chairman listed in the newsletter the types of plants that were not good sellers in the past and those that were especially desirable. Perhaps such a scheme would boost your plant sales next year.

The Eastside Begonia Branch from Bellevue, Wash., prepared a list of the plants available with a two-three line description of each to be used by customers at their show. The list included 79 identified shade plants, 24 identified begonias plus numerous other plants whose variety or cultivar name was not known.

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY  
July 24, 1978**

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 7:45 P.M. in the South Gate Auditorium by President Richardson. Mabel Corwin led the Pledge of Allegiance and Gilbert Estrada read the Aims and Purposes. The minutes were approved as printed. The Secretary read the correspondence. Harold Hart, a former ABS President, sent a \$100.00 donation that will be used for the color plates of the Curtis prints. The Knickerbocker Branch requested approval of Sept. 13-16, 1979 for the Eastern Convention. The Board approved the dates.

The report of the Editors was read. The donations for the color plates fund has surpassed the amount needed at this time. An author inquired about using the Society's color separations. The motion to allow the use of the separations was passed, providing a deposit of \$5.00 each plus postage and insurance were paid by the author, the deposit refunded when the things are returned.

Gilbert Estrada reported a balance of \$1,707.84, receipts of \$3,109.97, disbursements of \$4,067.98, leaving a balance as of July 18th of \$749.98. This included money for the Curtis reprints.

The Bookstore report showed receipts of \$900.98 from Lydia Austin, \$165.91 in sales, disbursements of \$290.77, leaving a balance of \$776.12. Since the postal rates were raised in July and there is difference in money exchange rates, a motion was passed that the Japanese book would have to be raised to \$30.00, plus tax where applicable.

The membership report showed 67 new members, 291 memberships processed and \$1,744.65 in receipts. Members in good standing this month were 3,521; last year, there were 4,202. Since the postal increase, a motion was passed that members who renewed late would have to pay at separate copy rate of \$.75 per copy for issues missed since back issues cannot be mailed in the regular mailing as before.

Lorraine Frinchaboy sent a report for advertising. \$278.25 was received in June, new advertising amounting to \$250.12, leaving a balance of \$363.22 in accounts receivable.

Margaret Ziesenhenné sent a letter regarding tax exemption. The Business Manager is following thru on more information.

Nathan Randall reported two slide programs were sent out.

There were 32 Round Robin flights in this month, 95 flights are active. Seven

old flights are being cancelled and 3 new ones started.

Katherine Alberti, Librarian for old Begonians, reported there are many issues available. Sets by years will be sold at the Convention.

Historian Frances Estrada is accepting all items for the history book.

Linda Miller reported \$258.67 in sales, \$20.60 in expenses, leaving a balance of \$238.07. Linda has a new address.

According to the Show Committee report, the show is progressing very well.

Marge Lee sold judges courses, leaflets, and point scoring books totaling \$26.00, less expenses of \$3.00, leaving a balance of \$23.00.

Ralph Corwin presented the revision of the Bylaws. After discussion, the changes were approved for printing as corrected.

President Richardson appointed Margaret Taylor and Doug Frost to audit the books for the Society. Virginia Barnett, Katherine Alberti and Pearl Benell were appointed to count ballots. Appointments approved.

After special announcements from the Branch Representatives and approval of the standing rules for the show as they were last year, the meeting adjourned at 10:30.

Virginia J. Barnett, Secretary

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