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The BEGONIAN

The BEGONIAN

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AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

Aims and purposes

TO stimulate and promote interest in begonias and other shade-loving plants.

TO encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants.

TO standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

TO gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation and culture of begonias and companion plants.

TO issue a bulletin which will be mailed to all members of the society.

TO bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

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See inside back cover

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THE COVER: Double-flowered *Semperflorens* Cultorum hybrid labeled as *B.* 'Lady Francis' in the nursery probably is *B.* 'Lady Frances', but is almost identical to plants grown as *B.* 'Joan Strong' and *B.* 'Pink Camellia'. Nomenclature is confused on many of these F₁ hybrids. See page 299 for a semp roundup. Photo by Karen Bartholomew.

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NOTES/From the editors

It's time for another begonia contest.

Last year we asked you to send us a list of your top five favorite rexes. The results were reported in our special Regal Rexes issue last March—*B.* 'Purple Petticoats' was far and away the top-rated *B. rex* cultivar.

Our next theme issue will feature canes. So once again we want you to take part in an unscientific popularity contest.

DON'T put this magazine aside vowing to respond in a few days. (If you're like us, you probably won't get around to it!) Start your list right now!

We want to know which five canes you can't live without, in order with your favorite listed first.

Secret ballots will be accepted (if you're afraid your choice will offend us or you want to stack the election), but we'd appreciate knowing what state or country you're from so we can document regional differences.

Send your list as soon as possible (but not much later than Jan. 15) so we can begin preparing a profile on the winner. The cane issue tentatively

is scheduled for March.

We're especially anxious to hear from growers who live in foreign countries (foreigners may ignore the deadline).

Send your entries to:

"Classy Canes" Contest
 ABS
 826 Santa Rita Ave.
 Los Altos, CA 94022

□

Round Robin Director Mary Harbaugh reports openings in robins on—greenhouses, miniatures, light growing, international topics, Eastern growing, gesneriads, species, ferns, propagation, research, *semperflorens*, *begonias* as houseplants, rexes, and "general."

And Mary passes on a reminder for robin members: please send your courtesy card to the flight chairman, not to Mary. The director gets requests to join robins and address changes.

New robins may soon be started on orchids, All-Australian, Midwestern, and photography. If you are interested—and enough others are—Mary will get them launched. —C.A. & K.B.

Convention '80

A SEASIDE RENDEZVOUS

LONG BEACH, CALIF.

Herbert P. Dyckman and his little band of fellow begonians probably would have been a bit surprised and certainly would have been pleased and proud:

Here was the society of begonia growers they launched in his Long Beach living room 48 years ago returning "home" for its annual convention.

There were several hundred participants, an impressive begonia show, several thousand small begonias for sale, and plenty of good spirits at this "Seaside Rendezvous" convention Sept. 4-7.

Begonia lovers came from throughout the West, Florida, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey—and even Japan.

They heard Mabel Corwin disclose her growing secrets, Rudolf Ziesenhenné tell about begonias of Mexico and Joy Logee Martin tell about begonias of yesteryear, Patrick Worley describe how to pack begonias in boxes, and Kit Jeans outline how to hybridize. Some seminars were serious and educational, others light-hearted and educational.

One devoted worker who missed all the seminars was Art Sackenruther of Redwood City, Calif., who was doing such a brisk business selling new Philippine species that he couldn't get away. Art was handling the species obtained by Martin Johnson of Redwood City and grown by a number of California members for sale to benefit *The Begonian*.

Plants at the regular sale went briskly, too.

The convention marked the return to the podium—as installing officer—of Past President Margaret Ziesenhenné and the appearance of Charles Jaros of Miami as banquet master of ceremonies.

A lot of attention was paid to the startling new cultivar *B.* 'Midnight Sun', introduced by Logee's Greenhouses. It has rose-red, green, and white foliage simultaneously. *B.* 'Midnight Sun' was chosen best new cultivar—it won a record of 99 of 100 possible points.

On the following pages you'll find the details.



B. 'Lulandii', best in show, grown by Mabel Corwin

B. unidentified Mexican species, sometimes labeled *B. fusca*, grown by Cecelia Grivich



ABS convention show trophy and award winners

Herbert P. Dyckman Service Award

Rudolf Ziesenhenne

Eva Kenworthy Gray Award

Thelma O'Reilly

Alfred D. Robinson Medal

B. 'Murray Morrison' hybridized by
Belva Nelson Kusler

Best in Show

Mabel Corwin, *B.* 'Lulandii'

Sweepstakes (grower with most blue ribbons)

Mabel Corwin

Begonia Hybrid of Distinction

Logee's Greenhouses, *B.* 'Midnight Sun'

Cultural Awards

Mabel Corwin, *B.* 'Lulandii', 98 points
Mabel Corwin, *B.* 'Purple Petticoats',
98 points



Pat Maley won a trophy for her unidentified Brazil species (left) while *B.* 'Sulcu' won the novice division trophy for Betty and Bud Cole. Elia Skinner received a trophy for *B.* 'Fireworks' (right), growing in a novel container—fern bark. The small-flowered *B. partita* (lower far right), grown by Doug and Goldie Frost, was adjudged best tuberous. Joy Logee Martin (upper far right) holds the plant that created the biggest stir at the show. *B.* 'Midnight Sun'. Named the Begonia Hybrid of Distinction and winner of the commercial introduction division, the plant displays green, white, and red leaves simultaneously. Thelma O'Reilly grew the specimen entered by Logee's Greenhouses. (*The Begonian* will report further on this plant in an upcoming issue.)



- Bob Ammerman, *B.* 'Ricky Minter',
96.3 points
Cecelia Grivich, unidentified Mexican
species, 95 points
Doug and Goldie Frost, *B. partita*,
94 points
Elia Skinner, *B.* 'Fireworks', 93 points
Bob Ammerman, *B. parilis*, 92 points
Pat Maley, *B.* 'Preussen', 91.66 points
Bob Ammerman, *B.* 'Medora',
91 points
Mary Lewis, *B. rajah*, 90 points
Division A. Cane-like: The Lee Trophy
Wanda Elin, *B.* 'Lubbergei'
**Division B. Shrub-like: Alva Graham
Trophy**
Pat Maley, *B.* 'Preussen'
**Division C. Thick-stemmed: San
Gabriel Valley Branch Trophy**

- Bob Ammerman, *B. parilis*
**Division D. Semperflorens character-
istics: Redondo Branch Trophy**
John Ekstrand, *B.* 'Pink Cascade'
**Division E. Rhizomatous:
The Thompson Trophy**
Bob Ammerman, *B.* 'Ricky Minter'
**Division F. Rex Cultorum: Barbara
Philip Trophy**
Mabel Corwin, *B.* 'Purple Petticoats'
**Division G. Tuberous: Louise Bower
Trophy**
Doug and Goldie Frost, *B. partita*
**Division H. Trailing-Scandent: Garden
Grove Branch Trophy**
Pat Maley, unidentified Brazil species
**Division I. Contained atmosphere:
Denton County Branch Trophy**
Mary Lewis, *B. rajah*



Division J. Species: The O'Reilly Trophy

Cecelia Grivich, unidentified
Mexican species

Division K. Hanging container or wall pocket: Palomar Branch Trophy

Mabel Corwin, *B. 'Lulandii'*

Division L. Cultivar in cultivation 25 years or longer: San Miguel Branch Trophy

Bob Ammerman, *B. 'Medora'*

Division M. Novel methods of growing: Corliss Knapp Engle Trophy

Elia Skinner, *B. 'Fireworks'*

Division O. New commercial introductions: Sacramento Branch Trophy

Logee's Greenhouses, *B. 'Midnight Sun'*

Division P. Begonia collections (five

plants): Edna Stewart Trophy

Mabel Corwin, *B. 'Di-Erna'*,
B. sutherlandii, *B. 'Waltana'*,
B. 'Dwarf Houghtonii', *B. 'Medora'*

Division Q. Novice grower: Santa Barbara Branch Trophy

Betty and Bud Cole, *B. 'Sulcu'*

Division T. Artistic photograph: The Porter Trophy

Kit Jeans, Begonia window scene

Division U. Planters: Orange County Branch Trophy

Bob Heckenlaible

Division V. Ferns

John Ekstrand, *Polypodium aureum*
'Ekstrandii'

Division W. Other shade plants: The McGough Trophy

Dennis Maley, *Dioscorea discolor*



Convention '80



Prize-winning grower Mabel Corwin (right) and her *B. 'Purple Petticoats'*

How show winner Mabel Corwin does it

Lynda Goldsmith

Mabel Corwin of Vista, Calif., an impeccable begonia grower and frequent trophy winner, insists she has no secrets. The keys to her success, she told an ABS convention seminar, are attention to detail, good culture, and hard work.

She spends at least a few minutes with her plants every day and believes neglect leads to irreversible damage.

Starting with small plants, cuttings, or seed, she believes it is important to keep the plant growing actively. Mabel, for example, never would allow a plant to be rootbound for several months; she would repot it as soon as it's ready. Likewise, she fertilizes and grooms regularly, keeping her plants turned and pinched, especially while small, to promote bushiness.

When she is getting ready for a show, she begins by studying the show schedule. The odds of winning a trophy are better if six plants are entered in different divisions than if six rhizomatous plants, say, are entered. The rhizomatous ones would compete against each other in the same division and only one trophy could be earned.

Lynda Goldsmith traveled from East Coast to West to attend the ABS convention at Long Beach. She lives on RR 2, Fairfax, VT 05454.

If more than 10 plants are to be entered, preregistration usually is required, another good reason for planning in advance.

Once the plants are chosen, they get extra attention from Mabel until show time. She first checks the pot, feeling there is no excuse for a dirty pot since this is the easiest defect to correct. If a clay pot will not clean up easily, she may slip the plant into a clean pot of the same size.

Next she checks for pests; a plant with pests is automatically disqualified.

Finally, Mabel grooms and grooms. She frequently removes the show plant from the bench and places it alone on a table where she can check readily for shapeliness, remove old, broken, or damaged leaves, old stipules, and old flowers or dried ones that may have fallen onto flowers or foliage below.

Before replacing the plant she holds it up; she says she always sees something requiring attention when she looks up into a plant.

You may not experience the benign Southern California climate that Mabel Corwin does. You may have reasons for not devoting the time to your begonias that she does. But if you want to grow trophy winners, heed Mabel's advice: be a perfectionist!



Thelma O'Reilly, winner of the Gray award, and Rudolf Ziesenhenné, Dyckman award honoree

Awards: Rudy, Thelma, B. 'Murray Morrison'

One of the highlights of every ABS convention is the announcement of winners of the society's three most coveted awards—a ceremony that has all the suspense of the Academy Awards presentation. This year in Long Beach Rudolf Ziesenhenné stoically accepted the Herbert P. Dyckman award for outstanding service to the society. Thelma O'Reilly was literally shocked speechless when she was declared recipient of the Eva Kenworthy Gray award for literary achievement. She also cried a lot. Belva Nelson Kusler was honored with the Alfred D. Robinson medal for her outstanding hybrid, B. 'Murray Morrison'. The award was accepted on her behalf by Mabel Corwin, a long-time friend for whom another of her hybrids is named.

□

Rudolf Ziesenhenné probably has been a member of ABS longer than any other person. He joined the budding society in April 1935—three years after it was founded in Long Beach, California.

It didn't take Rudy long to become an active member. Within a month of joining he offered to translate from German sections of the newly acquired book, *Die Begonien*, by Karl Fotsch. The translations began appearing in the *ABS Bulletin* (predecessor of *The Begonian*) in May 1935.

Returning to the founding city 45 years later, Rudy was presented the Herbert P. Dyckman award for distinguished service to the society.

Convention '80

In the interim Rudy established himself as one of the foremost authorities on the genus *Begonia*. He has introduced many species to cultivation and created many outstanding hybrids at his Santa Barbara, Calif., begonia nursery.

Serving the society for many years as nomenclature director, he also pioneered the point system for judging begonia shows and helped prepare the first "ABS Suggested Guide for the Classification of Begonias."

He has traveled extensively lecturing to branches about begonias since the late 1930s. Countless plants from



B. 'Murray Morrison' and its hybridizer, Belva Kusler

Photos/Ralph Corwii

his greenhouse have been donated to branch and ABS plant sales.

□

After three years of giving away awards as ABS awards chairman, Thelma O'Reilly of La Mesa, Calif., came out on the receiving end in Long Beach. She capped 20 years of writing and 17 years of plant collecting and growing by winning the Eva Kenworthy Gray award for literary achievement and promotion of begonias.

This gregarious lady, daughter of a New Jersey farmer, has been writing plant profiles and other articles for *The Begonian* since the late 1960s.

She first came to know begonias when she began buying Rex Cultorum leaves to use in her floral arrangements. In 1963, she moved to California, joined the San Miguel Branch, and switched from flower arranging to collecting and growing plants.

A self-taught horticulturist, Thelma was on the ABS research committee for many years, which helped spur her to write. She has written about bromeliads and succulents for *California Garden* and the *San Diego Union* and is an accredited judge of begonias and tropical plants, a lecturer, and a collector of plants in their

native habitats.

Her husband, Tim, who insists begonias hate him, is, according to Thelma, "very patient."

□

B. 'Murray Morrison', the popular shrub-like begonia hybridized by Belva Nelson Kusler in 1969, is winner of the Alfred D. Robinson medal for an outstanding cultivar 5-10 years old.

The result of a cross between *B. listida* and *B. paranaensis*, B. 'Murray Morrison' is an easily grown plant resistant to diseases. It has forest green trowel-shaped leaves with soft red hairs that give it a pinkish cast.

It can get as tall as five feet, especially if planted in the ground in mild areas. Its flowers are white with red hairs on outer petals, but the plant is an extremely shy bloomer. Many never bloom at all.

Mrs. Kusler of Frederic, Wis., who is reportedly "very pleased and honored" at the selection, named the plant for the late Murray Morrison, a member of the Knickerbocker Branch who had served as treasurer and newsletter editor.

Another of Mrs. Kusler's hybrids, cane-like *B. 'Sophie Cecile'*, won the Robinson medal in 1966.



Photos/Ball Seed Co.

B. 'Pink Avalanche' is the apt name for this new Semperflorens Cultorum plant

Look what's happening to those semps

Chuck Anderson

Look what has happened to those old plant-and-forget Semperflorens Cultorum begonias:

They have bigger, fancier flowers than ever before, a development which has catapulted these free-flowering cultivars into the Top 8 of bedding plants sold in the United States.

If you are among the many begonia hobbyists who ignore semps now that you have found out about flashier begonias, perhaps it's time for a re-discovery.

Begonias have become top sellers in general nurseries "mostly because of the new varieties developed by breeders here and in Europe," says

Chuck Anderson is co-editor of The Begonian.

William Carlson, executive director of Bedding Plants, Inc., a growers' trade organization.

"Fifty million flats of bedding plants are sold in the U.S. annually, and begonias represent 5% or 2½ million flats," Carlson said. That's more than 100 million semperflorens begonia plants sold each year.

Many of the new varieties are showy enough to be grown as specimen plants in pots or hanging baskets and, of course, make attractive low masses of color in beds. That is the traditional use in which these plants have come to be known as "bedding begonias." (This is an unrecognized name, as is the other popular term, "wax begonias.")

To get the enormous number of



Two red-flowering cultivars are *B.* 'Gladiator Red', whose sizeable flowers are shown close-up at left, and *B.* 'Mars', which has two-inch flowers on compact plants



plants needed to fill the demand, growers produce not cutting-propagated cultivars but F_1 hybrids. These are created by planting large fields of a single variety as the female or seed parent, using a single variety as the male or pollen parent. Other begonias which could contaminate the process are kept out of the vicinity.

When the right parents are used, the resulting seed produces very uniform plants with a fast growth habit known as "hybrid vigor." The process of finding the right parents to produce hybrid plants that are both uniform and vigorous takes years and large amounts of research money.

Great research strides have been made in the past five years or so, leading to superior plants and the jump in popularity. Ball Seed Co., one of the biggest wholesale dealers, now calls the begonia "the perfect bedding plant."

If you buy them at the nursery as pony-pack plants, just pot them up or put them in the ground, water regularly and feed with a complete fertilizer (14-14-14, for instance). They will live until frost. (In mild winter areas, the plants will regrow in the spring.)

You can buy seed, too, from mail-

order suppliers. Don't cover seed after you sow it. Keep moist through frequent misting, and maintain a temperature of 60-65 degrees until well past germination. Keep pots or trays in bright light for 21 days.

Here is a rundown on some of the most popular varieties now sold in the mass-production market:

Some Semperflorens Cultorum begonias sold in nurseries

- 'Adeline'—Very dwarf; deep green leaves; small rose-pink flowers

- 'Ambra' series—White, scarlet, or rose flowers; dark bronze leaves

- 'Ball Red'—Dwarf; red one-inch flowers; green leaves

- 'Bicola'—White flowers, red edge; green leaves

- 'Boix de Vaux'—Six-inch plant; deep rose flowers; green leaves

- Cocktail series—Dwarf; dark bronze leaves; varieties named for drinks

- 'Coco' series—Seven-inch plant; dark bronze leaves; red, pink flowers

- 'Comet' series—Dwarf; bronze leaves; red, rose, pink flowers

- 'Derby'—Eight-inch plant; green leaves; rose-and-white flowers

- 'Flamingo'—Six-inch plant; white-and-pink flowers

- 'Frisly' series—Ten-inch plant; large, ruffled red, pink flowers

- 'Gladiator'—Ten-inch basal-branching plant; red flowers

- 'Glamour' series—One-foot plant; two-inch flowers in red, rose, white, picotee

- 'Glow'—Large deep red flowers

- 'Indian Maid'—Dwarf plant; bronze leaves; scarlet flowers

- 'Linda'—Eight-inch plant; dark green leaves; one-inch rose-pink flowers

- 'Mars'—Ten-inch plant; green leaves; 1½-inch red flowers

- 'Organdy' series—Dwarf plant; green or bronze leaves; red, pink, white flowers

- 'Orient' series—Eight-inch plant; green leaves; scarlet, pink flowers

- 'Othello'—Ten-inch plant; dark bronze leaves; scarlet flowers

- 'Pink Avalanche'—Fifteen-inch basket plant; one-inch pink flowers

- 'Rosabella'—Rose pink flowers

- 'Scarlanda'—Eight-inch plant; green leaves; red flowers

- 'Scarletta'—Eight-inch plant; large pink, rose, scarlet flowers

- 'Sensation' series—Ten-inch plant; large pink, rose, scarlet flowers

- 'Snowbank'—Eight-inch plant; large white flowers; light green leaves

- 'Tausendshon' series—Nine-inch plant; red, white, pink flowers

- 'Venus'—Identical to 'Mars' but with rose flowers

- 'Verdo' series—Eight-inch plant; salmon-scarlet, pink, white flowers

- 'Viva'—Seven-inch plant; green leaves; 1½-inch white flowers

Begonia surprise on a Costa Rican farm

Thelma O'Reilly

A plant breeding farm—our destination the morning following the return trip from Las Cruces on my 1977 horticultural tour of Costa Rica. I had heard about Captain Claude Hope's extensive growing area near Cartago, Costa Rica, several times during the past few years, particularly the spectacular displays of annuals.

However, I had some reservations about seeing this farm. I was not particularly interested in observing geraniums and petunias. Secretly, I thought I would much rather be visiting tropical nurseries or remaining behind to start preparing the numerous plants I had collected for entry into California.

Upon our arrival, Captain Hope, a Scotsman, greeted us with an interesting resume of his seed-producing establishment. At that time 500 laborers were employed. The main market was impatiens, geraniums, coleus, snapdragons, and cobeas, plus several others, some in the experimental stage.

Captain Hope chose this particular area to establish his seed farm because of its ideal weather for growing plants. The temperature rarely drops to frosting; relative humidity rarely drops below 65%, reaching 100% at night.

The tour started in the seed preparation room where special machinery is used to separate seed of different sizes. After several machine processes, hand sorting is still necessary.

The seed drying room was ex-

Thelma O'Reilly travels to discover begonias when she isn't caring for them at 10942

Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 92041.

Part one of this saga appeared in the February 1978 Begonian.

tremely warm. Here small amounts of seed are packaged and put into large bags.

The pollen-collecting room was interesting. All utensils were sterilized in alcohol. Five pounds of pollen can be harvested in two weeks. When thoroughly screened, the pollen is put into small envelopes which are put into plastic bags and stored at 20 degrees below zero. Petunia and tomato pollen can be stored for five years.

Next, we were escorted into the growing area where workers were pollinating petunia blossoms with a clever man-made implement. A small piece of felt pad attached to a piece of wire brushed pollen onto stigmas.

Touring through several different plant growing areas, including geraniums, petunias, cobeas, and coleus, we arrived at the huge impatiens growing area which was a panorama of color.

We were informed that impatiens require little container room and a small amount of food. Captain Hope is aiming for large flowers without large leaves and a greater abundance of flowers. The room prepared to harvest impatiens seed was an amazing sight. The entire area, including benches at different levels, was covered with white plastic. The impatiens foliage and colorful blossoms were the only visible objects. When impatiens seed is ripe it bursts from the pod and flies quite a distance onto the plastic covering which facilitates its collection.

As we moved beyond this area, we found some of the plants under experimentation—and I “flipped” over the most exciting find of the tour.

I could hardly believe my eyes



The new *B.* 'Frilly Pink' Photo/Thelma O'Reilly

when they lit upon a row of the most beautiful *B. Semperflorens* Cultorum imagineable. I was shocked because nobody had ever mentioned begonias in connection with Captain Hope's famous establishment.

The compact, full plants were 12-16 inches tall with rich, glossy, dark green foliage. The colors were clear and lovely—snow white, two shades of pink, two shades of red, and my favorite, a snow white-clear pink combination. The flowers were huge, about 3 inches, and floriferous—different from any other semp because they were frilled and ruffled, bearing a strong resemblance to some of the large, single tuberous begonia blossoms. As I took slides I berated myself for leaving my close-up lens on the bus.

When I finished, the tour group had disappeared. Finally, a worker helped me locate them in the New Guinea *impatiens* section. Captain Hope had turned the tour over to Leon, a young man from Massachusetts, who supervised the tropical plant section. He discussed the great variety of *impatiens* hybrids and selections from the handsome New Guinea species. He allowed me to photograph their selection of the first hybrid they plan to give a cultivar name. It was a dazzling beauty with yellow and green foliage and brilliant, large orange flowers.

I was amazed at the variety of plants undergoing experimentation for marketing. They included *Kalanchoe blossfeldiana*—aiming for a wide color range, more tepals (already suc-

ceeding with six), dwarf size and masses of bloom without pinching.

Gloxinias were gorgeous, some as large as grapefruit—aiming for masses of bloom over longer periods, bendable leaves and simple doubles with strong stems.

Already created was a stunning cultivar between *Anthurium crystallinum* and *A. clarinervium*. Several *Sinningia* hybrids were promising.

During the 30-minute hike to the bus, I stopped to ask Captain Hope if the *B. Semperflorens* Cultorum seed was available. He said it would be on the market within approximately three years and mentioned two well-known seed establishments.

(This strain is now available as *B.* 'Frilly Pink' and *B.* 'Frilly Red'.)

By now the bus driver was serenading me with horn blasts. As I was about to board the bus, Leon asked if I had seen the begonias they had just collected for seed harvesting. Closing my ears to unfriendly groans from my companions, I climbed a nearby embankment and found more than 100 cans of *Begonia conchifolia* in full bloom. It was interesting to note the number of different leaf forms. A few plants had the red spot on the leaves which is the plant Jack Golding officially described as *B. conchifolia* var. *rubrimacula* (syn. *B.* 'Zip'). Leon said the plants had been collected the previous day from a damp area on the lower side of the mountain—45 minutes away.

A beautiful mountainous drive to Orisi gave me time to ponder the past few hours. Fate had stepped in and changed my morning of anticipated boredom into a rare opportunity to enjoy a "sneak preview" of exciting plants of the future.

Slim Helm's poofy *semperflorens* flowers

Eleanor Hollis

James "Slim" Helm, a charter member of ABS' Central San Joaquin Branch, has been growing plants since "way back when," and he has strong feelings about *Semperflorens Cultorum* begonias.

"The most overlooked begonia is the semp," he insists, "particularly the double or camellia-flowered type."

So for the past 30 years this tall man with a cowboy drawl has been hybridizing *Semperflorens Cultorum* plants, strictly as an amateur.

In his greenhouse, with heating and cooling when necessary, they bloom year-round and, in his eyes, rival *Tuberhybrida* begonias for color and beauty.

Thirty years ago, Slim began trying to extend the color spectrum of these plants. He experimented by soaking cuttings in colchicine, which produced plants with strange, heavy, green petals and only male flowers. He has one plant left from these early experiments but has stopped working with colchicine because it now costs \$35 a dram.

Just five years ago he noticed a pink *Semperflorens Cultorum* plant at a Porterville, Calif., nursery, then found a similar red one in nearby Visalia.

An erstwhile member of the Central San Joaquin Valley Branch, Eleanor Hollis now lives at 1687 Seventh St., Los Osos, CA 93401.



One of Slim's tassell-like bloom clusters



James 'Slim' Helm

Photos/Eleanor Hollis

The labels were marked "Hansen" and the plants were close to what Slim had been seeking.

He began a program of pollinating, growing, culling, and saving seedlings. His aims continue to be new color shades and strong flower stems to hold the large, very double blooms.

So far, this program has produced a white which Slim thinks may be a "mule" because it has no female flowers and a pink with a light violet cast which he hopes will help lead to a blue-flowered begonia.

Slim also has crossed orange-flowered *B. dichroa* using pollen from his white "mule" in hopes of getting a yellow flower.

The plants Slim has developed are everblooming and have blooms the size and shape of golf balls. Plants grow upright and bloom clusters look like tassels.

An oddity Slim also has produced has blooms with the slightly pointed shape of strawberries. Tightly packed petals are red, pink, yellow, and white. The male-only flowers appear in winter.

Slim intends to continue working toward a blue-flowered and a yellow-flowered *Semperflorens Cultorum* begonia.

Easy to grow: B. 'Red Planet'

Elda Haring

Among my favorite begonias for greenhouse, windowsill, or fluorescent light gardens is *B.* 'Red Planet'. It is classified as rhizomatous, medium leaved with a fairly smooth edge, the leaf somewhat heart-shaped and the leaf stems covered with tiny red hairs.

The leaf is dark green and heavily marbled with reddish brown, as in the underside of the leaf. A red dot shows where the leaf meets the stem. Pale pink flowers usually appear in late winter and spring. This one was originated by M. L. "Mac" MacIntyre, who crossed *B.* 'Scottish Star' and *B. conchifolia* var. *rubrimacula*, formerly known as *B.* 'Zip'.

B. 'Red Planet' is a compact grower and in suitable light leaf stems are short with leaves overlapping. I have done considerable experimenting with this little begonia for it seems indestructible. I grow it in my own potting mix containing some soil, but have grown it in a number of the packaged potting mixes purchased at local nurseries.

I also have a lovely one growing in a propagation mix of 2 parts vermiculite, 1 part perlite and 1 part milled sphagnum moss, which I feed twice a month with a water-soluble fertilizer during the growing season. In this mix the leaves grow just 3 inches long and 2½ inches wide. Those kept in four-inch pots in my potting mix are smaller, being 2½ inches by 2 inches.

This is one of the best to grow un-

Elda Haring, author of Begonias for Beginners, has grown a sizeable collection of begonias for many years and is generous with advice, especially to novices. She and photographer husband Walt live at Box 236, Flat Rock, NC 28731. This is one in her monthly series on easy-to-grow begonias.

B. 'Red Planet'



der fluorescent lights. For several years I have grown one plant in a four-inch pot, repotting every other year, cutting off the bottom third of the rootball, and giving it a fresh layer of potting mix, in the process setting it a little deeper than it had been growing so as to give it a top dressing of fresh mix.

B. 'Red Planet' can be quite neglected — getting very dry without showing signs of damage except for a few dried leaves.

Under the conditions where I grow my plants too much water could be damaging. I do not rewater until I am quite sure the rootball has become dry. This method of watering, however, requires close attention for the idea is to keep it on the dry side but not to the point of damage.

Our normal outdoor humidity fluctuates from 30 percent on sunny days to 60 or 70 on cloudy or rainy days and fluctuates thus indoors winter and summer. In the light garden in summer humidity may go as low as 40 percent, yet none of the begonias I grow on the benches show any signs of needing extra humidity.

B. 'Red Planet' propagates easily by leaf stem cuttings as well as from wedges. They may be propagated any time of year but will root and grow new plantlets quickly from May to October. Where summer temperatures

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Begonia huberti, a new species

Rudolf Ziesenhenn

Hiking through a rain forest on a November 1956 trip across the Sierra Madre mountains of Chiapas, Mexico, from Finca Custipec to Las Margaritas, the late Thomas MacDougall, the veteran New York plant explorer, found what he later described as a "new high" in *Begonia* species collections, 10 species which he numbered C.182 through C.191, six of which he believed he had not collected before, the others possible duplicates of a previous Finca Prusia-El Triunfo collection.

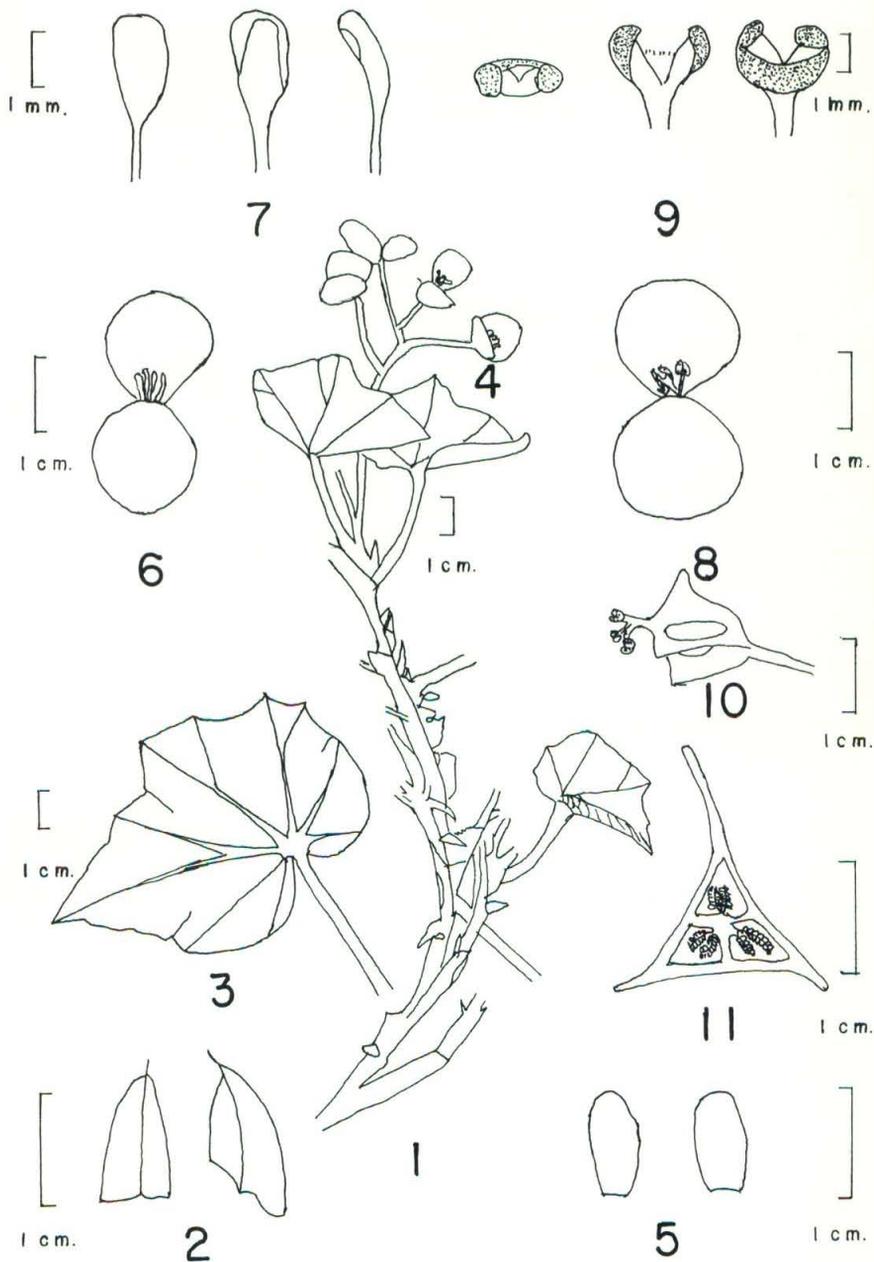
One of the new species, *Begonia bettinae*, numbered C.185, I named in *The Begonian* of November 1965, Vol. 32, No. 11, on pages 226-228. The plant, dwarf in habit and with deeply three-lobed leaves, unfortunately has been lost to cultivation.

MacDougall's *Begonia* specimen numbered C.188 finally flowered after many years when it was left in the lathhouse during winter. This *Begonia*, which I wish to present as a new *Begonia* species, makes an attractive small basket plant, with leaves green above and deep red below and pink flowers produced from November to February.

Begonia (section *Giroudia* [Klotzsch] A. DC.) *huberti* Ziesenhenn, new species, herbaceous perennial: stem (figure 1) persisting, erect then bending downward and arising again, circular in cross-section, woody, one foot tall, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch diameter at base, branching freely, with foliage covering

the stems, and with internodes about one inch at the base and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch near the tip, smooth, green and brown, bare, new growth slightly hairy, lenticels few, striations red, dull; *stipules* (figure 2) remaining, papery, egg-shaped with tip sharp-pointed and terminating in a hair, about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch long, low keeled, pale green, quickly turning brown, bare; *petiole* circular in cross-section, thin, $\frac{3}{32}$ inch at base, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, pale green, currant-red spots, thinly hairy with colorless hairs becoming brown and shedding, dull; *leaf blade* (figure 3) papery, fern green (Royal Horticultural Society color chart 0862/1), dull, seven-nerved, bare, below oxblood red (00823/2), dull, with nerves light green, sparsely hairy and with hairs $\frac{1}{32}$ inch long, red then brown, the blade unequally broadly ovate, with three angles on the outer side and one angle on the inner side, tip sharp-pointed, basal lobes moderately developed, margin undulating, slightly overlapping, irregularly toothed, bare, $3\frac{5}{8}$ inches long, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, palmately seven-nerved with four nerves on the outer side, one at the base, and two on the inner side, the interveins level; *inflorescence* an axillary raceme (figure 4) few-flowered with the terminal flower perhaps female, flowering from November into February; *bracts* (figure 5) quickly falling, China rose (024/1), shiny, elliptical with tip blunt, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch long, $\frac{3}{32}$ inch wide; *male flower* (figure 6) tepals two, China rose, very broadly ovate with tip blunt and margin entire, bare, $\frac{7}{16}$ inch long, $\frac{9}{16}$ inch wide; *stamens* 8-12 (figure 7), filaments free, of various lengths, shorter than anthers, anthers obovate, tip slightly rounded,

Rudolf Ziesenhenn of 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103 has published dozens of new species. This is the latest. For more on him, see page 297.



Begonia huberti Zies.



***B. huberti* in a hanging basket**

base wedge-shaped, $1/16$ inch long, $1/32$ inch wide, the connective not produced; *female flower* (figure 8) tepals two, transversely broadly elliptic with tip blunt and narrowing at the base, $5/8$ inch long, $11/16$ inch wide, margin entire; *styles* (figure 9) three, united at base to $1/32$ inch, branches $5/32$ inch long, tip shortly two-horned; *stigma* papillae make one entire twist and end on top of each horn; *capsule* (figure 10) $1/2$ inch long, $1/4$ inch wide, triangular, unequally three-winged with one larger wing $9/32$ inch long, triangular, its tip terminating abruptly in a little point, the other two wings $1/8$ inch long; *ovary* (figure 11) narrowly elliptic with ends blunt, three-celled, placentas two-divided carrying

seed on all sides.

This plant is close to *Begonia bettinae* Ziesenhenné but differs in the following manner: a raceme for inflorescence instead of a cyme; seven-nerved leaves with three angles instead of two lobes and basal lobes rounded instead of sharp-pointed; stigma papillae around the side of the stigma instead of on top; stigma two-horned.

Begonia huberti honors Don Hubertus von Knoop, superintendent of Finca Prusia at the time of MacDougal's collecting trip.

Begonia (section Giroudia [Klotzsch] A. DC.) *huberti* Ziesenh., spec. nov. Herba perennis: caule persistenti, erecto tum flexo deorsum tum sursum, curculari, lignoso, 30 cm. elato, 7 mm. crasso, libere ramoso, caulibus foliis turgentibus; internodiis 2.5 cm. longis ad basi, 7 mm. ad apicem; laevi, viridi et brunneo, nudo; lenticellis paucis; striis rubris, obscuris; stipulis persistentibus, papyraceis, ovatis, acutis, piliferis protrudentibus, 1.1 cm. longis, 7 mm. latis, humiliter carinatis, pallide, viridibus, cecleriter brunnescentibus, nudis; petiolis teretibus, 2 mm. crassis, 4.5 cm. longis, pilis tenuibus sine coloribus, obscuris; foliis papyraceis, filici-viridibus (Royal Horticultural Society color chart 0862/1), opacis, nervis pallide viridibus, pilis 1 mm. longis, sparsis; inaequalis late ovatis, externis triangulatis, internis unangulatis, apice acutis, basi rotundis, margine undulato et imbricato, irregulariter dentatis, nudis, 9.5 cm. longis, 6.5 cm. latis, palmatinervis, nervis 7, extus lateralibus 4, basilaribus 1, intus 2; inflorescentia axillari racemo, pauciflore; pedunculis teretibus, 5.5 cm. longis, 2 mm. crassis, ciridibus; bracteis deciduis, nitidis, ellipticis, apicibus obtusis 9 mm. longis, 2.5 mm. latis; tepalis masculinis 2, roseis senisibus (024/1), latissime ovatis, obtusis, integris, nudis, 1.1 cm. longis, 1.4 cm. latis; staminibus 8-12, filamentis antheris breviora, liberis, inaequalis, antheris obovatis, apice rotundo, base cuneato, 1.75 mm. longis, 1.5 mm. latis, connectiva non producti; tepalis femineis 2,

New variety and color forms of *B. mazae*

Rudolf Ziesenhenné

The first new *Begonia* species collected by Thomas MacDougall in 1946 was named *Begonia mazae* and appeared with a photograph in *The Begonian* for August 1947, Vol. 14, No. 8, page 152; the Latin description was printed in the December 1947 *Begonian*, Vol. 14, No. 12, page 242. MacDougall had sent me two cuttings numbered C.41 from north of Ocozauhtla, Chiapas, Mexico, in 1946. On July 20, 1947, he collected more specimens from Pico Carrizal, on the upper slopes of the hills, where the plants were separated from other *Begonia* species.

In my correspondence with MacDougall in 1948, I called his attention to some plants which were smaller, had thinner, weaker stems and narrower leaves which tapered more gradually before terminating in a long point. These plants also had almost entirely black leaves with green areas only near the leaf margin but with the black-marked nerve ends at the margin. This plant I name *Begonia mazae* variety *deminuta* Ziesenhenné, new variety.

Among *Begonia mazae* collected material were two other variations in the leaf color, one feature common to all the plants being the black markings on the nerves at the leaf margin. The areas on the underside of the black mark-

ings at the nerve endings are a dull oxblood red.

The leaf color of the type for *B. mazae* is sage green near the center and along the nerves. The rest of the leaf has a brownish overcast to the green. The underside of the leaf is entirely dull oxblood red.

The most distinctly different color form has spinach-green leaves, lighter green on the underside, but with black markings at the tips of the nerves. As soon as this plant was displayed, it was called "stitched-leaf begonia." I wish to name this plant *Begonia mazae* form *viridis* Ziesenhenné, new color form.

The second color form of *Begonia mazae* has spinach-green leaves with the nerves bordered with black. The underside of the black area is dull oxblood red. This plant I wish to name *Begonia mazae* form *nigricans* Ziesenhenné, new color form.

Begonia mazae var. *deminuta* Ziesenhenné var. nov., differt foliis apicibus gradatim plus contractis, fere nigris; planta *deminuta*. Typo MacDougall No. C.41a.

Begonia mazae forma *viridis* Ziesenhenné forma nov., differt foliis viridis-spinaciae. Typo MacDougall No. C.41b.

Begonia mazae forma *nigricans* Ziesenhenné forma nov., differt foliis centris nigricans extensis secus nervos. Typo MacDougall No. C.41c.

Typo, *MacDougall No. C.41*, in herbario Rudolf Ziesenhenné, 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103, USA.

transversaliter late ellipticis, basibus decrescentibus, 1.6 cm. longis, 1.9 cm. latis; *stylis* 3, basi 1 mm. connatis, parte libera 4 mm. longa, breviter 2-cornutis; *fascia* papilosa bis spiraliter torta semel inferne tenuis cinctis; *capsula* nuda, 1.2 cm. longa, 0.5 cm. lata, triangulari, inaequa-

liter triangulari; ala maxima triangula, apiculata, 7 mm. longa, cetera 3 mm. longa; *ovario* anguste elliptico, obtuso, 3-loculari, placentis bilamellatis, undique ovuliferis. Typo, *MacDougall No. C.188*, in herbario Rudolf Ziesenhenné, 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103, USA.

ROUND ROBINS/ *Semps—easy to grow from seed*

Jan Clark

Semps are among the easiest begonias to grow from seed. Many Robin members enjoy doing some amateur hybridizing, or simply collecting and growing volunteer pods from their plants.

Dottie Lillestrand, Minnesota, says: "Last fall I collected seed from the semps. I planted it in January, and had good germination. They are outside in planter boxes (she wrote this in mid-summer) and are starting to blossom. That was the first time that I collected seed and started my own, and it was a nice feeling."

Raymond Sodomka, California, has a more casual approach. He lets Mother Nature take care of his planting. His semps scatter their seeds, which settle and grow in his fern baskets. He reports that "they do much better than the ones I plant. Later the plants are removed and potted. I may get twenty plants a season that way."

For those wishing to take a serious approach to semp hybridizing, Mae Blanton, Texas, shares some in-depth information:

"Hybrids of semperflorens cultivars do not come true from seed. It takes years of work by a hybridizer to stabilize the seeds so a certain cross will 'come true' from seeds—even then, they tell you only a certain percentage will be like you expect; for instance, the double-flowered semps: a certain percent will be double but the rest

single or semidouble. By crossing, back-crossing (to one of the original parents), and crossing selected siblings, you can eventually arrive at the desired results by selection. If you selfed *B. 'Charm'*, you would get plants with various degrees of variegation, but some would be only green-leaved plants.

"Red flowers are dominant and white flowers recessive on semps. Cross a red and a white semp and you'll get a large percent that will have red flowers or pink flowers, but a very low percent will have white flowers.

"Semperflorens characteristics are so dominant that even though one parent may be totally unlike a semp, the seedlings for the most part will have semp characteristics. *B. schmidtiana* is a species, but its appearance is so dominant that when crossed with other types you still get plants that are obviously mostly "schmidtiana," even though they're hybrids!"

□

Everyone has a favorite semp, and Elda Haring's choice by a landslide is *B. 'Derby'*. She has grown and enjoyed this variety with its picotee pink flowers for many years, and used it for seed-growing demonstrations. To her delight, she found that even old seed retained vigor and germinated. And as if to say "I love you too," one of Elda's *B. 'Derby'* plants produced a beautiful "sport," a mutation with variegated leaves. She has placed it in the hands of a commercial grower in hopes of further development.

While the spotlight is on semp growers this month, another contingent of begonia lovers has a gleam in its eye:

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Jan Clark is round robin reporter.

Information about joining a robin—a packet of letters circulated among begonia lovers—is available from Mary Harbaugh, round robin director. Write to her at Rt. 4, Box 343, Shawano, WI 54166.

SEED FUND / *A whole array of tuberous types*

Joy Porter, director, Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund

- NV 1 — *Tuberhybrida*: Blackmore & Langdon, Bath, England. Hand-pollinated from named varieties of Royal Horticultural Society Gold Medal strain. Do not allow flowers until established in pots or beds. per pkt. 1.50
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- NV 5 — *B. boliviensis*: Bolivian species 18 inches tall with narrow, dark green leaves and long-petaled scarlet flowers. Stems arch, making it valuable as a parent in development of modern pendula hybrids. per pkt. .50
- NV 6 — *B. cinnabarina*: Low-growing species from Bolivia with 2-inch soft orange flowers. Easy to grow. per pkt. .50
- NV 7 — *B. grandis* ssp. *evansiana*: Species from China; 1-1½ feet tall with red-veined and red-petioled leaves, bright pink flowers. Hardy with protection (see *The Begonian*, March 1978). Produces bulbils in leaf axils. per pkt. .50
- NV 8 — *B. micranthera* var. *venturii*: Tall-growing species from Argentina with large orange blossoms per pkt. .50
- NV 9 — *B. wollnyi*: Semi-tuberous species from Bolivia. One foot in height with lobed green leaves with silver blotches and prominent red-purple veins. Pinkish-white flowers in winter when plant is partially dormant. per pkt. 1.00
- NV 10 — *B. pruinata*: Low-growing Costa Rican species with broadly ovate, glabrous leaves glistening with silver sheen. White flowers. per pkt. 1.00
-

Send orders to Joy Porter, 9 Bayberry Lane, Framingham, MA 01701. Include self-addressed, stamped envelope. Massachusetts residents add 5% sales tax. Checks and money orders should be made payable to: Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. Foreign orders: U.S. funds only.

GROWING FROM SEED / *Tuberous techniques*

Joy Porter

Seed Fund offerings this month are from tuberous plants. With the exception of *B. wollnyi*, they have a dormant period in winter, shedding all above-ground growth.

All tuberous seedlings must be grown with at least 14-18 hours of

light, although some growers light seedlings 24 hours daily. Actively growing seedlings must be given adequate fertilizer. Doug Frost recommends misting seedlings with one-half strength foliar feed.

B. acaulis will bloom when mature regardless of season if it has 14-16 hours of light daily.

Tubers are formed when day-length is decreased.

Seed grower Joy Porter of 9 Bayberry Lane, Framingham, MA 01701, is director of Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. Write to her about your seed growing experiences.

Please turn to page 314

Branch shows: effective in public education

Branch shows are among the most effective public relations and public education tools the society can offer. In shopping centers and at arboreta, vast numbers of people are introduced for the first time to the interesting array of plants that make up the genus *Begonia*.

Many ABS branches staged shows during the summer or early fall. Results from some of them (gleaned from branch newsletters) follow:

San Francisco Branch

San Francisco Branch participated in the San Francisco County Fair Flower Show Aug. 28-31 and staged its own show July 26-27.

At the Flower Show more than 30 plants were awarded 90+ points, but in keeping with ABS rules only 10 of these could be given the coveted cultural certificates. The following received both the certificates and best-in-show trophies:

Alice and Isadore Gold, wall pocket *Lloydii*, 97½ pts.; Carol and Red Spediacci, *B. 'Charm'*, 93 pts.; Sue and Hal Muller, *B. 1330*, 98 pts.; Carol and Peter Notaras, *B. 'San Miguel'*, 90 pts.; Sue and Hal Muller, *B. 'President'*, 98 pts.

Cultural certificates also went to: Hilda and Carl Laipple, *B. 'Tingley Mallet'*, 94 pts.; *B. 'Thurstoni'*, 90 pts.; *B. versicolor*, 90 pts.; Sue and Hal Muller, *B. 'Ami Bard'*.

At the July branch show 23 trophies were awarded along with 10 cultural certificates. Certificate winners were:

Sue and Hal Muller, *B. masoniana*, 90 pts., *B. 'It'*, 94 pts., *B. 'Susan'*, 97 pts., *B. Tuberhybrida crispa*, 95 pts.; Audella and Herbert Bloom, *B. 'Norah Bedson'*, 90 pts.; Hilda and Carl Laipple, *B. 'Tingley Mallet'*, 94 pts.; Carol Clement and Ernest Weitz, Reiger, 98 pts.; Carl Bjorseth, *B. Tuberhybrida camellia-type*, 97 pts.; Ann and Carl Meyer, *B. Tuberhybrida picotee*, 94 pts., *B. 'Alan Langdon'*, 95 pts.

Eastside Begonia Branch

The Eastside Begonia Branch of Bellevue, Wash., held its show and sale in August. Member Herb Warrick worked so hard at the show, he ended up in the hospital for several days. Winners in begonia categories (the show included fuchsias, ferns, gesneriads, orchids, and house plants) were:

Alice Ordway, sweepstakes; Levaughn Coleman, amateur sweepstakes; Marie Meagher, best shrub-like, *B. 'Richmondensis'*; Shell Fisher, best semperflorens characteristics, *B.*

'Humpty Dumpty'; Alice Ordway, best rhizomatous, *B. 'Ricky Minter'*; Levaughn Coleman, best upright tuberous begonia; Alice Ordway, best tuberous begonia seedling.

Sacramento Branch

A sizeable contingent from the Sacramento Branch turned out to put on a large show and host a lavish judges' luncheon Aug. 23. (Among the judges were Rudy and Margaret Ziesenhenn, Barbara Philip, Hazel Snodgrass, and Keith Mautino from the Santa Barbara area.) Awards went to:

Joan Coulat, grand sweepstakes, best begonia, most points in begonias only, best terrarium, best begonia collection; Shirley Wilson, best cane, best fern, best thick-stemmed, best hanging basket; Linda Lockett, best rex cultivar; Bob Parrish, best tuberous; Bill Nichols, most points in tuberous category; Jim and Leora Phillipson, best rhizomatous, best trailing-scandent; Alex Baca, best shrub-like; Ana Baca, best shade plant; Patty Joachim, best begonia by a novice; Sally Hausler, best begonia by a student.

Santa Barbara Branch

Members of Santa Barbara Branch participated during the summer in the Santa Barbara National Flower and Garden Show. Barbara Philip won the first Lovell Swisher Memorial Award for her "Garden Oasis" entry of begonias and ferns. Ernest and Metta Thomsen won sweepstakes in the potted begonia division. The Thomsens, Barbara, and two other ABS members, Ethel Arnold and Phyllis Mautino, were among 56 individuals inducted into the show's newly established Hall of Fame.

Monterey Bay Area Branch

Monterey Bay Area Branch members won three first-place ribbons, an excellence in horticulture award, and a best educational ribbon for their displays at the Monterey County Fair this past summer.

Santa Clara Valley Branch

Santa Clara Valley Branch staged a competitive show for the first time in five years Oct. 4-5. Division winners were:

Elisabeth Sayers, best cane, *B. 'Peggy Lynn'*, best Semperflorens Cultorum, unnamed white flowering variety, best rhizomatous, *B. 'Cleopatra'*; Jackie Davis, best thick-stemmed, *B. vitifolia*, best Rex Cultorum, *B. 'Lucy Closson'*; Chuck Anderson and Karen Bartholmew, best shrub-like, *B. 'Metallica'*, best unusual container, *B. versicolor*; Mary Margaret Rafferty, best tuberous, orange blooming *Hiemalis* type.

How Chicago rated its own branch show

The value of taking part in a branch show was described recently in the Chicago Begonian, newsletter of the Greater Chicago Branch:

Were you one of the lucky ones who took in the show? How would you answer these questions?:

What is the true measure of success for a begonia show? Is it the number of exhibitors? (We had only 11.) Or is it the number of entries? (We had 149.) Perhaps it should be rated by its financial success, or the lack of it. (We made money.)

Another possible yardstick would be the number of visitors. (We were too busy to keep track, because the visitors we had were so interested and inquisitive.) Did we gain any new members? (Maybe.)

Did we shore up flagging interest on the part of present members? (You bet we did.) Are we planning a show for next year? (Right on.)

It would be a mistake to judge the show only by the aching backs and tired feet and hasty pick-up meals and exasperating little unforeseen complications when it is so much more pleasant to remember the sincere compliments, the earnest questions, the wide-eyed wonder of "Is that a begonia?" and the stopped-in-the-tracks, open-mouthed look of people catching sight of the trays of tuberous begonia blossoms on the front table.

If we have reached only one or two people in our "public relations for begonias," it has been worthwhile.

ABS NEWS/ *An election to pick 1982 convention site*

ABS directors—including the national director from each branch—will vote by mail to select a location for the 1982 annual convention which will mark the society's golden anniversary.

The choice is between Oklahoma City, Okla., and Santa Cruz, Calif.

Invitations to convene in both cities were presented at this year's annual meeting in Long Beach, Calif., on Sept. 6. Bob Hamm, director of the Southwest Regional Association, proposed Oklahoma City on Sept. 30-Oct. 3. Chuck Anderson, representing the Santa Clara Valley Branch, proposed Santa Cruz on Sept. 9-13.

No decision was reached by ABS directors present, so Bob Hamm asked for a ballot by mail. Secretary Arlene Davis will send the ballots to branches plus ABS' elected officers and appointed officers.

Convention trophies

Trophies costing more than \$800 were presented to division winners at the ABS convention and show in Long Beach. Useful silver trays, baskets, and a pitcher replaced traditional trophies that were common prizes in past competitions.

The following branches donated money to this year's trophy fund:

Redondo, San Miguel, Glendale, Garden Grove, San Gabriel Valley, Denton County, Santa Barbara, Palomar, A.D. Robinson, Buxton, Sacramento, Orange County, Miami, and Edna Stewart Pittsburgh.

Contributions also were made by:

Millie and Ed Thompson, Katharine Alberti, Barbara Philip, Alice M. Clark, Thelma and Tim O'Reilly, Louise Bower, Gil and Frances Estrada, Alva Graham, Walt and Elda Haring, Corliss Knapp Engle, Paul and Margaret Lee, McGough's Nursery, Joy Porter, and Frank Kerin.

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More Growing from seed

From page 311

I managed to wing my way West to the ABS Convention in Long Beach in

Begonia Portraits

by Alice M. Clark

A coffee table bouquet

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Color and line illustrations
Limited edition, autographed

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September. The food was good, the seminars interesting, and the begonias were big and beautiful.

Best of all, I encountered a multitude of warm and friendly “begoniacs” who promised to send seed of interesting begonias for months to come.

The sight of beautiful Tuberhybrida blossoms from Antonelli Brothers decorating the banquet tables was worth any amount of jet lag.

Sharing the table with our dedicated membership secretary, Elisabeth Sayers, and begonia-talk with many interesting and knowledgeable people are wonderful and lasting memories.

More Easy to grow

From page 305

and humidity go very high, some growers prefer spring or fall propagation.

Pinching the ends of the rhizome when new growth shows will help to keep this plant compact. It will grow beautifully in a wire hanging basket lined with sheet moss. This method is best for greenhouse growing. It can be grown this way in a window, but only if taken down for watering and permitted to drain until there are no more droplets of water falling from the basket.

If you are fortunate enough to have a sunporch or plant room with vinyl flooring, a few drops can be mopped up quickly.

More round robins

From page 310

growers of rhizomatous begonias are anticipating winter’s glorious burst of bloom. Maxine Zinman, Virginia, has kept a record of bloom for the past few years. She says, “It’s always interesting to see what’s coming, and when something doesn’t bloom to try to figure out why.”

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These services are available to all ABS members. For names and addresses of department heads and other officers, see inside front cover.

AT-LARGE MEMBERS—Services for members who don't belong to branches are handled by the members-at-large director. Contact him for details. If you are interested in finding a branch or starting one in your area, contact the branch relations director for help.

THE BEGONIAN—The monthly journal of the society publishes how-to articles, scientific information, and ABS news. Articles on a member's personal experiences with begonias are welcomed, as are black-and-white photos of begonias and color slides suitable for use on the cover. Contact the editors. Individual copies of *The Begonian* more than a year old are available from the back issue sales chairman (75 cents). A full year is \$6.50 for any year in the 1940s, \$5 for any year from 1950 through 1978. Back issues less than a year old are ordered from the membership secretary for \$1 each.

BOOKSTORE—Books on begonias and related subjects can be purchased mail-order from the bookstore librarian. Contact him for a list of books available. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The bookstore also sells reproductions of antique begonia prints.

JUDGING DEPARTMENT—The judging department offers a course by mail with which you can learn to become an accredited begonia show judge. Also available are a booklet on point scoring, information on fuchsia and fern judging, and other requirements to become a judge.

LIBRARY—Books about begonias and gardening may be borrowed by mail from the lending library. Contact the librarian for a list of books and the procedure.

NOMENCLATURE — The nomenclature department monitors newly published findings on begonia names as well as handling official international registration of new begonia cultivars. Registrations are published in *The Begonian*.

RESEARCH—The research department conducts a Grow and Study project in which members experiment with various begonias and compile their findings. The department also has other activities, including the review of requests for ABS backing of outside projects. For details, contact a co-director.

ROUND ROBINS—Members exchange information about begonias and their culture through a packet of letters which circulates among a small group of growers. There are dozens of these packets—called flights—on many specialized subjects. To join one or more, contact the round robin director.

SEED FUND—The Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund offers seeds of begonia species and cultivars by mail. New offerings are listed in *The Begonian*. Donations of seed are encouraged. Please contact the Seed Fund Director.

SLIDE LIBRARY—A series of slide shows on begonias and begonia growing can be borrowed by mail for showing at meetings and seminars. New shows are under preparation. Contact the slide librarian for fee information.

SPEAKERS BUREAU—The speakers bureau maintains a directory of speakers on begonias and related subjects. Contact the director.

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