

September 1981

The BEGONIAN

The BEGONIAN

Publication of the American Begonia Society

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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: *B. imperialis*, one of the pustulated-foilage begonias, was photographed by Walter Haring of Flat Rock, N.C. It and other species and botanical varieties with "distinctive foliage" are discussed by Elda Haring in the first of a two-part series starting on page 192.

Distinctive foliage Elda Haring discusses fascinating species. 192
What do I do now? After you hybridize, there's plenty, by Pat Maley. 194
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NOTES/ *From the editors*

The reason this issue is a bit later arriving than usual is to include news from the ABS convention Aug. 15. You'll find it under ABS news on page 200. Additional coverage, especially of the "Begonia Holiday" show, will appear in the October issue.



One important issue discussed at the annual meeting during the convention was the annual budget, which dictates the size of *The Begonian* and the frequency of its publication.

This year the proposed budget is based on annual dues of \$15—an increase from the current \$10. A dues hike was determined by the committee to be the only way to finance ABS services at their current levels, including *The Begonian* monthly.

To execute a dues increase takes a vote by mail of all ABS directors, including branch national directors. The subject is expected to be on the agenda for the Oct. 19 meeting of ABS directors. If a motion is made and seconded, the mail ballot will be executed shortly afterward. All directors will be interested in your feelings.

If the increase is not authorized, the first consequence probably will be to publish *The Begonian* bi-monthly.



Another action taken at the annual meeting is not reported under ABS News,

but we make note of it here so you will know about it when it happens.

By a split vote, the membership decided that all ballots, convention information, and national show schedules will be published henceforth in *The Begonian* instead of being mailed separately as is now done.

This means, of course, that to vote in an ABS election you will have to cut up a page of the magazine; the same is true if you want to register for the annual convention.

(This year the ABS officer election ballot was mailed to members; 253 voted. Last year a bylaws revision ballot was published in *The Begonian*; 26 voted.)

It also means the society will spend money to typeset and print *Begonian* pages—and sometimes pay for additional postage—to include information which ultimately will be used by a small proportion of the membership.



You will find in the center of this issue something which you might have thought had become extinct—a *Begonian* index.

For this very competent guide to the 1980 volume of this magazine we have Sonsie Carbonara Conroy of Grover City, Calif., to thank. An ABS member for only two years, Sonsie is a professional indexer and editor.

Please detach the index from the staples and file it with your 1980 issues.

—C.A. & K.B.



Photos/Walter Haring

***B. pustulata* var. *argentea*, rugged and handsome**

The distinctive-foilage pustulated begonias

First of two articles

Elda Haring

When I began this article about the *B. imperialis* and *pustulata* species and some of their cultivars, I thought it would be easy because these interesting and satisfying begonias have been favorites ever since I purchased the first ones from my friend Paul Lowe of Florida many years ago.

During my research this past winter I checked every page of *The Begonian* from 1961 to 1981 and much to my surprise found very little written about this group. I know many of these species and their cultivars are grown throughout the eastern U.S., but do not recall seeing groups of the species being grown elsewhere.

Some members consider these species difficult to grow. When I first obtained mine, I was not aware that they were difficult. As a result, they got the same treatment all of my begonias received and they grew and thrived to give me much enjoyment.

Elda Haring, a long-time begonia grower, lives at P.O. Box 236, Flat Rock, NC 28731.

When we lived in Connecticut, I grew them in my greenhouse on the bottom shelf of a double-deck bench since these species do not like bright light or sun. I also grew them in my living quarters in a north window or near the east window where light was adequate but there was no direct sun during the summer since the window was shaded by a flowering tree, and in winter direct sunlight was very weak.

Here in North Carolina, they are best grown in much dimmer light with no direct sun at any time of the year.

The Thompson Begonia Guide lists the following species: *B. imperialis* Lemaire, *B. imperialis* var. *brunnea* Lemaire, and *B. imperialis* var. *smaragdina*, all found in Mexico in 1860. Others in this group also found in Mexico are *B. pustulata* var. *argentea*, *B. pustulata*, and *B. pustulata* var. *silver*. There was a time when some growers sold "dark" or "brown" *imperialis* and at one time it was believed that *B. pustulata* var. *silver* and *B. pustulata* var. *argentea* were the same plant. Although over the years some cultivars have been shown with *B. imperialis maculata* as a parent, I can find no reference to this

species in any of the limited literature I have on this group of begonias.

All of the species are classified as rhizomatous with distinctive foliage, pustular type. In my research, I found that descriptions varied greatly. Much depends, I am sure, on the conditions under which they are grown—climate, light, humidity, potting mixes, and fertilizer, all of which could affect the coloration markedly.

B. imperialis has plush, ovate, green leaves with light reddish brown along the veins, and it produces white flowers in summer. Some descriptions mention that there are sometimes white or silvery splotches on the leaves.

B. imperialis var. *smaragdina* has emerald green leaves of soft velvet. It is a beautiful plant not often grown any more and difficult to obtain. Years ago, Nancy Alford of Massachusetts showed a gorgeous specimen of this rare species at a Buxton Branch show and deservedly won the trophy in that division.

B. imperialis var. *brunnea* is described in Misono's book, *Begonia*, as a smaller grower, somewhat pustular, with a serrated green leaf, showing lighter veins interspersed with brownish and light green colors in a mosaic pattern. A plant that I had had for years, purchased from a reputable grower and marked "dark imperialis," resembles the photo in the Misono book. Some experts who have visited me question this identification. At any rate, it is a beautiful begonia and grows quite happily in a corner of my sun porch.

Another source indicates that sometimes this one has a few silvery splotches and in growth resembles *B. pustulata* var. *argentea* in that it sends out long, runner-like growth.

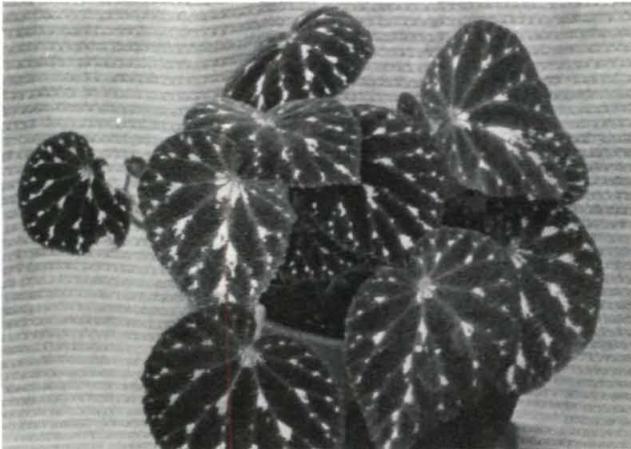
B. pustulata, found in Mexico in 1953 by Liebmann, has green leaves with brownish veins and is described as having pink flowers. I once had two of these, one growing in builder's sand and one growing in potting mix, both fed at the same time. They were almost identical in size, and I once wrote a story for *The Begonian* showing these plants.

B. pustulata var. *argentea* is a very handsome and easily grown plant. Under fluorescent lights in my cellar, it has a tendency to rest during the winter months but starts new growth in March. The young new leaves are smooth green as are most of these in this group, but mature leaves are definitely pustulate, splashed silvery white. It is a rugged plant and a great favorite.

B. pustulata var. *silver* came from Mexico in 1952. I have seen several plants of this that vary; the one I have marked *B. silver* var. *pustulata* is quite similar to *B. pustulata* var. *argentea* but with browner, rosy plush leaves.

Years ago many understood that *B. silver* var. *pustulata* was a synonym for *B. pustulata* var. *argentea*. Apparently since then research has shown that *B. pustulata* var. *silver* is separate.

Next: the cultivars



B. pustulata var. *silver*, an arrival from Mexico in 1952

After you've hybridized, then what?

Pat Maley

You did it! You played bee with selected begonia flowers, watched the seed pod mature, the seed germinate into minute green leaves. Now they have grown enough for individual pots, and each one is a bit different. Each new leaf brings some exciting new change.

The next question is: What do you do with all these little unnamed "offspring"? Never thought there'd be so many, did you? Boy, are they growing quickly. Hundreds of little liner pots take up some space, but what about when they move up to 4-inch pots—and 6-inch pots? Scary, isn't it?

Let's take this one step at a time. You're transplanting those babies of yours into their individual pots. Now is the time to make the first drastic move. Pot up only the strongest, most interesting seedlings of each cross. (That will still be many!) Dump the rest in the trash can. (Don't cry—it does get easier with time.)

The weak, spindly ones seldom develop into anything worth bothering with. A good hybridizer must discard ruthlessly. After all, you don't want to put your name on any but the best. Think of some of the best known names in hybridizing. Every one of their named hybrids is distinctive, because they ruthlessly culled out all but the best. Your name can one day join theirs. Set high standards for quality, and don't let yourself down.

Now, you've chosen those with potential—so give them every chance to attain it. Give them plenty of good light. Try to give them enough growing room; don't crowd them. Feed them well. A young plant can grow at a tremendous rate, and so needs adequate feeding to grow strong, robust, and with good color.

A very important item: Label each with the names of the parents and/or a numbering system. Don't count on memory to keep track. Don't give any individual names yet—they have to prove themselves

Pat Maley, ABS co-director of judging and chairman of show classification and entries, lives at 1471 E. Madison Ave., El Cajon, CA 92021.

worthy first. Keep some records of the cross if at all possible. So many plants we'd love to know the parentage of, but the hybridizer neglected to keep track of it.

Keep an eye on them. You won't be able to resist that, for each new leaf continues to bring change, and nothing is more exciting to a hybridizer. Watch below the soil, too. Knock one out of the pot occasionally and check root growth. When the roots have spread throughout the soil, transplant. Don't wait. If you do, the plant gradually will slow its growth as it becomes potbound. Once the continued pace of its growth is hampered, it will never quite catch up.

So into 4-inch pots they go. But not all of them. Once again, examine all the seedlings of each cross, and keep only the most interesting ones—ones that don't resemble other begonias you've seen. At this stage, it is very tempting to give a few of the discards to an interested friend. But for the sake of all begonia growers of now and the future who want to *know* what they are growing... *don't*. Nomenclature is already cluttered with nameless unknowns and with mediocre plants that should have gone in the discard pile.

If you want to share with one or two friends for testing purposes, don't give them one of the individual seedlings or *you* won't have it. The plant is big enough now—take a leaf or stem cutting, label it with the exact plant it came from, and propagate to share for testing. Be sure to ask your tester not to give it to anyone else without your permission. Testing is an important step, for it tells you how your hybrid will do in different environments.

A very important consideration—one that has too often been ignored by amateur hybridizers—is propagation. If a plant proves difficult to propagate, that should make you reconsider naming and showing it. We have all at times fallen in love with some newly introduced hybrid, only to find that it is so difficult to propagate that it will never be well distributed,

Please turn to page 202



Drawing/Pat Maley

The author crossed *B. 'Bokit'* x *B. nelumbifolia*, got about 100 seedlings, and culled to the best two. This, *B. 'El Capitan'*, is one; the other is *B. 'Granite Hills'*.

Good begonias for the indoor light garden

Pat Morrison

I have never decided whether begonias were born to grow under fluorescent lights or whether fluorescent lights were invented so we could grow better begonias. Whatever, all begonias do well under lights, but most of us prefer compact and/or miniature plants that don't take up all the room we have available.

Among the many begonias that fill this need, some of the most beautiful were born in Northern California—McKinleyville, to be exact—where the Woodriffs now have their Fairyland Begonia Gardens. Leslie Woodriff is a genius at hybridizing and one of the highlights of my trip to California two years ago was the chance to visit the greenhouses he maintains with the constant help and guidance of his wife, Ruth, and his daughter, Winkey, who is following in her father's footsteps as a creative hybridizer.

Mr. Woodriff's begonia creations go back a long way, with an interlude of some years devoted entirely to lily growing and hybridizing. His *B. rex* cultivar 'Little Pet' was registered in 1936 and from then until 1951 he developed 16 more rexes, which include favorites like *B.* 'Baby Rainbow', *B.* 'Peacock', *B.* 'Curly Fireflush', and *B.* 'Silver Sweet', plus three cane-like (one is the famous *B.* 'Orange Rubra'), a shrub-like, a semperflorens, three rhizomatous—among them *B.* 'It'—one semi-tuberous, one scented tuberous (*B.* 'Yellow Sweetie') and two trailing begonias.

Twenty years later he began again and since has developed a host of begonias, mostly rhizomatous or trailing, that are treasured by begonia fanciers everywhere. Some are large, making big specimen plants or baskets, but I want to tell you about a few (of the many) which are perfect for growing in the average light



Begonia 'Sweet Magic'

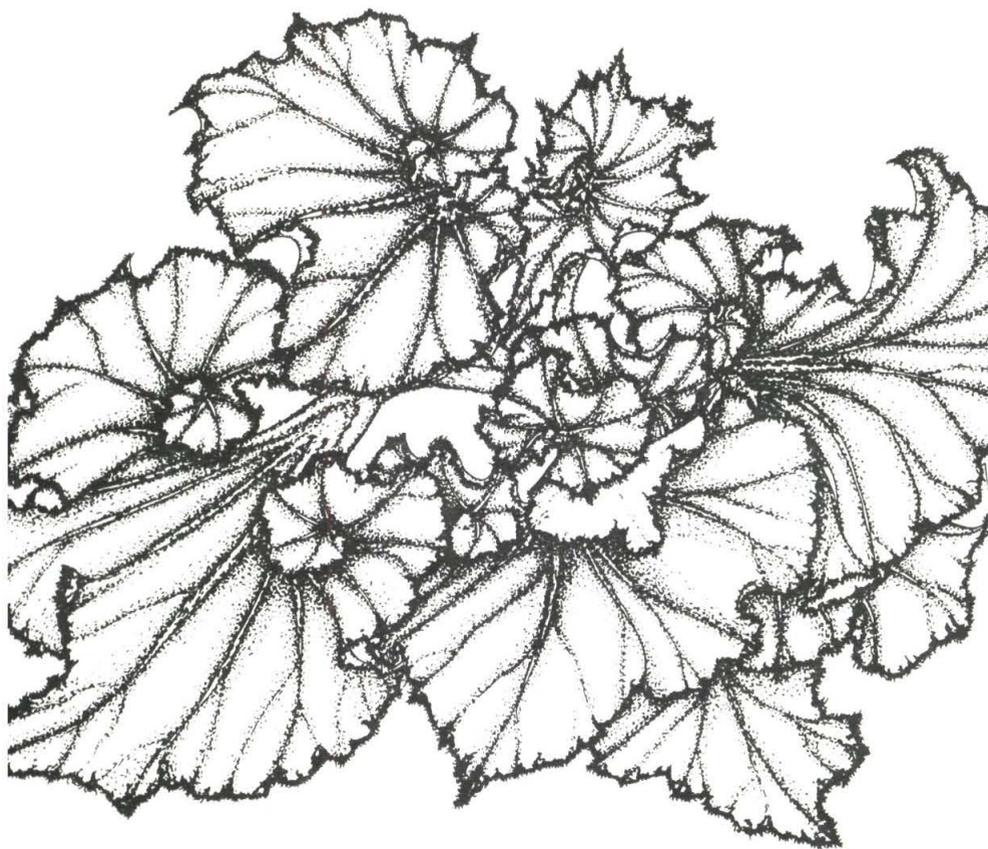
Begonia 'Fairyland'

garden.

B. 'Bokit' is the result of a cross between Mr. Woodriff's own patented *B.* 'Tiger Kitten' and Chet Nave's *B.* 'Bowtique'. The small leaves are double-spiraled, ruffled and of deep olive-green with gold spots and swirls. It is an excellent small plant.

Another rhizomatous type, *B.* 'Sweet Magic', is a most desirable, compact plant. The size of the leaves depends on where you live and the warmth, humidity, and light in your growing area. In Southern California, where they grow many plants in lath houses in summer and unheated greenhouses in winter, the leaves get much larger than they do under four 8-foot, Gro-Lux Wide Spectrum tubes in my plant room—but smaller plants are what we want under lights. Ruffled, double-

Pat Morrison, an ABS member and former begonia dealer, is executive director of the Japan Garden Society of Oregon. She lives at 5305 S.W. Hamilton St., Portland, OR 97221. This article first appeared in Light Garden. Copyright 1979 by Indoor Light Gardening Society of America, Inc.



Drawings/Pat Maley

spiraled and curly, which should be enough for any leaf, the mahogany-red underside glows through the bronzy-green top which has a satiny sheen. The flowers are lemon-scented, which is another plus for this most attractive plant.

B. 'Fairyland' won the prize as the best commercial introduction at the 1976 American Begonia Society Convention Show. A slow-growing, very compact plant, it has rich green leaves that are double-spiraled and curly, with darker, hairy edges and red veins. A cross between *B. conchifolia* and *B. 'Bokit'*, the growth is dense and thick—so much so that it is often advisable to remove a leaf or two so others can grow and some air can reach the heart of the plant.

As with most rhizomatous begonias, *B. 'Fairyland'* produces tall sprays of light

pink blossoms in late winter and early spring in natural light. Under lights this can be regulated by having a separate light garden for your rhizomatous begonias and giving them a shorter day (or longer night) starting gradually in the fall and reaching the apex in December—just like Mother Nature!

If you have a bit more room in your light garden, you might like to try *B. 'Stepping Stone'* (*B. echinosepala* x *B. 'Orange Rubra'*). A few cuttings of this shrub-like plant make a very compact basket plant and, with judicious pinching, it could stay in your light garden placed on an upturned pot or a pedestal of some type for a long time. The leaves are on short internodes, long and wavy, a dark, glossy green with bronzy overtones. If there is a fault with this plant,

it is that the profusion of blooms is white. Any shade of orange would have been perfection.

But now we have perfection! A truly miniature cane-like begonia to enjoy and admire for years under your lights. *B. 'Tiny Gem'* (*B. 'Tiny Orange Rubra'* x *B. solananthera*) is just that. Its leaves are small—1½ x 3½"—of a shiny, medium green, the margin cut and wavy, and the profuse blooms are bright pink. It propagates easily and quickly from tip cuttings and I just can't grow enough of them. *B. 'Tiny Gem'* won the top prize for commercial introductions at the 1978 ABS Convention in Sacramento.

An unusual plant in the Woodruff collection of hybrids also has an unusual name—the Pink African Violet Begonia! I am hoping it will soon be named in a more proper fashion, but, in the meantime, that name is most descriptive.

The cross is *B. herbacea* x *B. socotrana*, and any begonia fancier knows they are not the easiest to grow. This hybrid, however, has much strength and vigor and has proven to be very easy. This begonia forms a rosette, just as an African violet, often with multiple crowns of smooth, light-green leaves. My plant has not yet bloomed, but Pat Maley says hers is 9 inches across and the clustered deep pink, almost red blossoms continue blooming through 110-degree heat in the summer and chilly—sometimes down to 30 degrees—nights in the winter.

None of these begonias needs "special" care, but watering must always be carefully handled on the rhizomatous—especially *B. 'Bokit'* and *B. 'Fairylant'*. It is recommended that rhizomatous begonias be grown in squat azalea pots. Plastic pots are fine under your lights. The rhizome stores water and the roots are very shallow, so—especially when the plant is very young or newly repotted—you must be very careful not to "drown" the fine root hairs.

The shrub-like and cane-like begonias are less fussy, but all begonias need careful watering without letting them dry out.

A loose, porous soil mix is desired and my 1-1-1 mix is practically perfect. 1-1-1 mix is 1 part sphagnum peat moss, 1 part medium coarse perlite, 1 part horticultural

vermiculite, with 1 tablespoon of dolomitic lime added per gallon of mix (adjust this in high-alkaline water areas—use less lime).

Feed with a balanced fertilizer every time you water, but only use 1/8 or 1/10 strength of what the package or bottle recommends (the exception to this is the famous one using 7 drops to a quart) or fertilize quarter-strength once a week. Changing brands of fertilizer is often wise, alternating between a high phosphorus fertilizer (higher middle number) and a balanced one—or use an organic fertilizer once in a while.

I grow my begonias from 8 to 12 inches under the tubes and have never had any trouble with bleached leaves or burn. This is a complaint of some growers, however, and I suggest you raise your humidity rather than raising the lights. Begonias need a great deal of light, in spite of their label as "low-light" plants, but they also need humidity of at least 50 to 60 percent with good ventilation.

Increase your humidity by placing your plants on waterproof trays filled with pebbles or coarse sand and keep the trays half filled with water. Misting helps temporarily, but you must have good ventilation to risk misting. In extreme cases, do invest in a humidifier—especially in the winter when the furnace dries out the air in our homes.

If mildew should appear, spray immediately and regularly on leaves, stems and soil with a fungicide. Your local plant shop will recommend the best type sold in your area.

We can continue to look forward to many more new hybrids by Leslie and Winkey Woodruff, and enjoy growing others I was unable (for lack of space) to describe in this article: *B. 'Two Face'*, a trailer with simply beautiful shimmery pink and silver leaves; *B. 'Silver Cascade'*, whose silver leaves have red veins; *B. 'Pink Chaser'* with pink *B. socotrana*-type blossoms and heart-shaped, medium green leaves; *B. 'Brown Twist'*, a curly, double-spiraled version of *B. 'Tiger Kitten'*; and the lovely, spiraled rex, *B. 'Supercurl'*. These are just a few of the compact ones that I grow; there are many more in the wings.

ROUND ROBINS/ *Many ways to propagate*

Mary Harbaugh

Propagation methods are a popular topic in the robins and our members have many interesting suggestions you might find useful.

Norman and Donna Bakewell of Canada have discovered that with hiemalis kinds the tuber forms during the shorter days of fall. When they were continuously under the lights they didn't make tubers but when grown naturally they produced good tubers that could be saved and regrown.

Tuberhybrida seedlings have to have long days under artificial lights or they just produce a tiny tuber and die.

Elda Haring of North Carolina says you can cut tubers in half, dust the cut half lightly with rooting hormone, and get two for one. She also comments that tuberous types do not like hot weather and do better in shaded and sheltered areas away from wind.

Ways to root cuttings

For rooting cuttings, Marian Cross in Oregon likes to use a flat of fifty 2- by 2-inch plastic pots filled with vermiculite and placed on the heating cable. She doesn't know why, but finds that it seems to work better than just vermiculite in a flat. They are much quicker to root.

In California, Ray Sodomka uses florist oasis to start his begonia cuttings. He takes a 2" cube and pokes a hole in the center. The cutting is inserted and the hole is closed around the cutting. They are then soaked in a nutrient solution and put in a shoe box in a warm place.

When the cutting is rooted he breaks away some of the material and plants it with some of the oasis material left on the roots.

Dorcas Resleff of Washington propagates her rhizomatous types by breaking off the rhizomes that extend over the pot

edge. She lays these rhizomes in a pan and keeps them in about one-quarter inch of water in the pan.

In two or three weeks roots grow along the bottom of the rhizome. When these white roots are about one-half inch long she pots them up, just barely covering the rhizome.

She also feels that potting up the first time is crucial in propagating begonias. This means watching the cuttings, potting them up at the best time and growing them on in warmth and light.

When to take cuttings?

Barbara Grill of Florida and Doreen Vander Tuin of California both find that for them it is better to take cuttings in fall. Barbara says the cooler shorter days of fall promote root growth first and then shoot growth. If she takes them in the spring she tends to get all shoot growth.

Doreen has found that fall and winter months with their cooler weather allow the plantlets to get to a good size before the summer heat hits, and they survive the hot weather much better than the smaller plants or seedlings of cuttings taken in the spring.

Mabel Corwin of California has best results propagating in the spring. She feels that in the fall the plant knows it is time to rest and seems to be much slower to root or grow.

"Of course, it depends a lot on the conditions. Most of the people that I correspond with in Florida say things start to do better in the fall when the temperatures cool down."

Heating cable burnout

If you use heating cables, you might be interested in this discovery by Pat Maley of California: The heating cables in her propagation beds were burning out every few months. They had been installed with the mix of peat and perlite directly on the cable. Both are insulating materials which trap the heat in the cables, not letting it dissipate through the mix.

The thermostat sensor said the cable was not warm enough and called for

Please turn to page 202

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 W2899 Homewood Ave., Shawano, WI 54166.

ABS NEWS/ *Six vice presidents? It's up to vote*

A system of six vice presidents, each representing a geographical region, would be established if members adopt constitution and bylaws amendments approved at the ABS annual meeting Aug. 15.

A ballot is to be prepared by Secretary Arlene Davis for *Begonian* publication on these proposed changes in the society's governing documents:

1. The present two vice presidents would be replaced with six. The borders of the geographical regions would be established by the board of directors. (Each vice president would be expected to coordinate regional activities and be a contact point between the national society and the branches and individual members.)

2. The president-elect would succeed automatically to the presidency without having to run for election.

3. The limit on the number of terms an officer may serve would be eliminated, except for the president and president-elect who would be able to serve only one one-year term.

4. Elected officers would be subject to being removed from office if just cause existed.

5. Membership and quorum requirements of the executive board would be changed to accommodate the six new vice presidencies.

6. Show classification and entry committee and horticultural classification committee would be established and de-

SEED FUND/ *Easy B. salicifolia, exotic B. purpurea*

Joy Porter, director, Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund

- SP 1 — *B. hatacoa*: Formerly called *rubro-venia*. Rhizome jointed at or below with erect stems. The dark green leaves on grooved petioles are deep red underneath, 4 to 6 inches long, tapering to a long point. Flowers in summer are small, greenish-white tinged with pink. A most un-begonia-like begonia. per pkt 1.00
- SP 2 — *B. salicifolia*: Cane-like. Donor says: "Branching, to 6 feet; glabrous, spotted, 1- by 6-inch leaves with white flowers in clusters. An easy grower for beginners." per pkt 1.00
- SP 3 — *B. involucrata*: Thick-stemmed species from Costa Rica. The irregularly toothed and lobed green leaves are minutely pubescent. White flowers amid the foliage. per pkt 1.00
- SP 4 — *B. purpurea*: Possibly a form of *B. macdougallii*. Rhizomatous with giant, compound, dark green leaves with chartreuse flowers on tall peduncles in late winter. Exotic. per pkt 1.00
- SP 5 — Mixed hybrid cane-type seed from a Japanese grower. per pkt 1.00
- SP 6 — Mixed species seed including *B. heracleifolia* var. *pyramidalis*, *B. bowerae* var. *nigramarga*, *B. violifolia* and more. None has been offered since 1979. per pkt .50
- SP 7 — Florists' cyclamen. 6 seeds for .50
- Growers in warm climates: If you want to try tuberhybrida and tuberous species in winter, by planting seed now, send list and include 75 cents per packet. November Seed Fund will be all tuberous for growers in cold climates.*

Send orders to Joy Porter, 9 Bayberry Lane, Framingham, MA 01701. Include self-addressed, stamped envelope or add 40 cents for padded, hand-cancelled package. 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 and add \$1.20 for postage.

fined.

7. The requirement that the annual convention and show be held in late summer or early fall would be removed, making it possible to hold the convention and show anywhere in the United States.

Budget tops \$47,000

A fiscal 1981-82 ABS budget calling for \$47,625 in revenues—based on \$15 annual dues—and \$44,330 in expenditures was recommended by the finance committee at the annual meeting Aug. 15.

The increase in the current \$10 annual dues was to be decided by mail ballot of all ABS directors, including branch national directors. *Begonian* printing and some other expenses are expected to continue to rise, and without a dues increase it would have been a deficit budget.

The Begonian's total budget was tagged at \$34,840. The magazine always is the largest single expense.

Hamm wins vice presidency

Robert B. Hamm of Wichita Falls, Texas, has been elected 1981-82 second vice president of ABS, outpointing Howard Berg of New Canaan, Conn., by 139-107. Hamm is director of ABS' Southwest Region and Berg is president of the Knickerbocker Branch.

Theirs was the only election contest. Re-elected without opposition were President Gil Estrada with 209 votes; President-Elect Chuck Anderson, 222; First Vice President Michael Kartuz, 44; Treasurer John Ingles, Jr., 247; and Secretary Arlene Davis, 246.

Ballot Counting Chairman Pearl Benell reported to the annual meeting Aug. 15 that 255 ballots were received, of which 134—or 52 percent—were from members living outside California. Two ballots were received with no votes cast.

October show in desert

The Desert Branch of ABS will stage its annual show Oct. 24-25 in Tucson, Ariz., at the Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N. Alvernon Way.

In memoriam

Harold W. Hart

Harold W. Hart, ABS president in 1945-46, has died. Word of his death this spring was received recently by the society.

Lillian Ashe

Lillian Ashe of Oakland, Calif., past president of the San Francisco Branch and a 40-year member of ABS, has died.

THE BOARD/ *ABS directors' meeting July 20, 1981*

Treasurer John Ingles Jr. reported a balance June 1 of \$1,815.02, receipts of \$2,430.40, and disbursements of \$2,879.10, leaving a balance June 30 of \$1,366.32.

Convention and show chairman Barbara Schneider suggested that convention registration material and show schedules be published in *The Begonian* instead of mailed separately to members. She also suggested that election ballots be published in *The Begonian*.

Co-editor Chuck Anderson pointed out that in the past members have been extremely reluctant to deface *Begonians*, even if instructed to do so or if an election insert is printed so that a *Begonian* article is difficult to read until the insert is removed.

The board took no action.

Pat Maley, co-chairman of judging and chairman of show classification and entries, said several branches reported difficulties using the Thompson *Begonia* Guide Exhibition Manual for classification and judging. Pat also said author Mildred Thompson had told a member that the manual was out of print and a new one would be available around the end of the year.

After some discussion, the board on a voice vote with no "noes" authorized Pat to begin preparing a supplementary handbook on judging and classification. Pat and judging co-chairman Margaret Lee pointed out that the Exhibition Manual continues to be the official ABS show guide.

Pat reported that in a letter Millie offered to permit ABS to photocopy as many as 25 copies of the Exhibition Manual if necessary before she can publish a new edition. Chuck Anderson moved accept-

ance of the offer and the board approved. Copies will be made only as they are needed.

President Gil Estrada reported that the Southwest Region has offered to host the 1984 convention and show in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, area. Gil asked that board members be prepared to discuss this at the annual meeting in Ventura.

At Gil's request, Chuck Anderson presented two alternate proposed *Begonian* budgets for fiscal 1981-82, one calling for bi-monthly publication for reasons of economy. Chuck said there were other cost-cutting alternatives, including elimination of color covers, publication of fewer pages, and using different printing techniques.

In answer to questions, Chuck said the monthly *Begonian* could be continued at its present level of quality with a modest raise in dues. The board took no action. Chuck pointed out these matters would be dealt with in the annual budget-writing process.

Chuck also reported that printing costs are expected to rise, as are postage costs.

Written recommendations from the constitution and bylaws revision committee were distributed to the board by the president. They will be presented at the annual meeting, at which time they may be amended and other proposed revisions may be introduced.

Gil reported receiving word from new Research Director Tony Croce endorsing three research guidelines: 1. Periodic publication of research contributions. 2. *Publication of a solicitation for research* donations. 3. An understanding that any plant explorer receiving an ABS grant shall provide seed and/or cuttings to the research department, which will supervise distribution.

More seedlings

From page 194

and may well even disappear from cultivation in just a few years.

A good hybrid must be propagated or it is useless to the world of begonia growers. This should be determined before a plant is ever shown or released. Always have a spare started. Begonia nomenclature does not need any more names made unavailable by plants that no longer exist.

Names are as important to your hybrids as your name is to you. Check classification lists or *The Thompson Begonia Guide* to determine if a name has been already used. Two or three begonias with the same name can mean a real headache for some future nomenclature director.

If you are unsure about a name, write to an ABS nomenclature director to find out if it is available for use. You don't want your plant to be confused with any other.

Descriptive or "pretty" names are often overused. How many begonia names start with "Pink"? Try to make your name unique as is the plant. One method is to name hybrids for family members or friends. (They should be asked.) Another is to use geographical place names. We recognize most of the Cachuma Indian names used on many of Rudy Zieshenne's hybrids.

Kit Jeans's variations on a theme ('Clean Jeans', 'Holy Jeans', 'Calamity Jeans', 'Rhinestone Jeans', 'Alexander's Ragtime Jeans', to name just a few), are recognizably hers. Those into fantasy reading can easily come to relate to Kit's growing series of Dragons ('Dragonflight', 'Dragon Lady', 'Denny's Dragon'). Be inventive!

The ABS Nomenclature Department is the international authority for registering begonias. Registering is special—and it is *supposed* to happen to only the most distinctive hybrids. That is determined by the integrity of the hybridizer. A nomenclature director seldom sees the plant being registered (though she'd prefer to have a photo or drawing with each form) and therefore can't easily refuse to register a plant not of distinctive quality.

Not every begonia worthy of naming is worthy of registering. Out of hundreds of seedlings grown in the last three years,

I have named seven.

Keep your standards high and others will respect you for it. If you do decide to register, write to a nomenclature director for proper forms. Return the completed forms, with \$2 for each, to the nomenclature director.

Now be patient. Many lists of names must be checked to determine if the name has been used before. That includes long lists of tuberhybrida and semperflorens hybrids developed in other countries, many of which we'll never see or know. Even if a name has not been registered, if it has been used anywhere it cannot be used again.

It is no easy task to keep up with all the new begonias named, as they must get into print first (in *The Begonian* or catalogs or lists) or otherwise be brought to the attention of the nomenclature department. So, if you finally decide to name those "babies" of yours, send a list of the names and crosses to the Nomenclature Department to help ensure that someone else does not choose the same name.

So go to it! Hybridize and select and grow and propagate and name and register—and maybe in 8 or 10 years your distinctive, widely grown and loved hybrid will receive that coveted ABS honor, the Alfred D. Robinson Medal. I'm dreaming of it; aren't you?

More Round robins

From page 199

more heat. The cables burned themselves out trying to heat the soil. The solution calls for one inch of sand below and two inches of sand above the cable, with the mix above this. The sand dissipates the heat safely up into the mix.

New flight ideas

I have received the following suggestions for new robin flights: Southwest Growers, Pacific Northwest Growers, Judges, Branch Administration, and Begonia Identification. If you are interested, please write.

Directors meet Oct. 19

ABS directors will meet on Monday, Oct. 19, at 7:30 p.m. at Fullerton Savings in Anaheim, Calif.

ABS SERVICES

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.

BEGONIAN BACK ISSUES—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 1979. 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 manager. 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 (\$8). Also available are a booklet on point scoring (\$1.25), information on fuchsia and fern judging, and other requirements to become a judge. Add \$1 postage and handling to all orders and 6% tax for California residents.

LIBRARY—Books about begonias and gardening may be borrowed by mail from the lending library. Con-

tact the librarian for a list of books and the procedure. Include a stamped self-addressed No. 10 envelope.

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.

QUESTION BOX—Send begonia-growing questions to veteran collector Elda Haring, P.O. Box 236, Flat Rock, NC 28731. You'll get a prompt answer and Elda will use questions of general interest in her Begonian column.

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 the 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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