

January-February 1982

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: *Begonia xanthina* var. *pictifolia*, whose bright yellow flowers are a perfect addition to its bold leaves, was photographed by Ed and Millie Thompson of Southampton, N.Y., in their own collection. All rights reserved. See Millie's article on page 8.

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NOTES / From the editors

Welcome to the new *Begonian*. Because we are on an every-other-month schedule, we can be bigger and more useful to you.



First off, let's straighten out one thing: This is Volume 49, and it will be all through 1982.

This means that the January through November 1981 issues were in Volume 48, even though we wrote "Volume 49" at the bottom of the right-hand pages. This was a mistake.

So was the marking of the November 1980 issue as "Volume 48," when, of course, it was in Volume 47.

If volume numbers are important to you, get out your back issues now and correct them. Thanks.



On page 4 we introduce The Begonian Interview, a new regular feature. The subject this issue is Mabel Corwin, winner of the ABS Herbert P. Dyckman award for service last year.

The winner of another high ABS award for 1981—*Begonia* 'Buttercup', which won for hybridizer Michael Kartuz the Alfred D. Robinson medal—is profiled by its creator on page 6.

If you'd like to see us interview some begonia personality or would like to see an article on a particular begonia or group of begonias, please let us know.

We'd love to oblige, but can't if you don't tell us. Just write to Chuck or Karen at the address on the facing page.

We are very pleased to announce that Mabel Corwin will assume authorship of our longstanding Question Box column.

This column, of help especially to novice growers, has been handled lovingly in the recent past by Elda Haring.

Elda has had to curtail her writing for health reasons, but she passed the word that she may be able to produce an occasional article, which will cheer her fans. (We know she has many because our readership surveys say so.)

If you have a vexing question about begonias or begonia growing, write to Mabel at 1119 Loma Vista Way, Vista, CA 92083. She'll send a quick answer and we'll publish those of general interest in the column.



We're also pleased to welcome Millie Thompson back into the pages of *The Begonian*.

Now that Ed's and her book, *Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide*, is completed, Millie has found time to write magazine articles after a *Begonian* hiatus of more than 2½ years (not counting the book excerpt we published in the last issue).

You'll find her fascinating story of *B. xanthina* var. *pictifolia* on page 8. The arresting cover photograph is by Millie and Ed, too.

More soon. Making up for lost time, Millie has already submitted an article for the March-April issue.

—C.A. & K.B.

The Begonian Interview: Mabel Corwin

If anyone deserves the title “First Lady of Begonias,” it’s Mabel Corwin of Vista, Calif.

This stately, soft-spoken woman consistently wins top trophies at the ABS annual convention show, inspiring others to greater heights. Her begonia collection makes her home and shadehouse a landmark for ABS members to visit.

Not only has she carried on a long-standing love affair with begonias, but she also gives a great deal of time and energy to ABS. For this, she won the society’s coveted Herbert P. Dyckman award for service in 1981. It was presented at the ABS convention in Ventura, Calif., last August.

Mabel, an ABS member since 1945, is a past president, past Begonian advertising manager, and past round robin director, a job that requires daily correspondence to monitor more than 80 robins and compile the round robin column for *The Begonian*. She still is chairman of more than a dozen robins.

She also is past president of the San Gabriel Valley Branch and helped organize the Palomar Branch and was its founding president.

We asked Kit Jeans, ABS awards chairman—her committee chose Mabel to receive the Dyckman honor—to interview Mabel by mail. The interview began with a discussion of difficulties.

What is the greatest challenge you’ve ever faced as a begonia grower?

Growing a number of the species that are difficult, such as *B. picta*, *thelmae*, *palomata*, species ex Kew, etc. One of the most difficult was ex Kew. I ordered it three times and lost it the first two times before it could become adjusted to my conditions.

The third time the little plant arrived with the growing tip broken. It did have a side shoot which I removed and put in the prop box. When it rooted, I potted

Kit Jeans, who conducted this interview, lives and grows and sells begonias at Rt. 1, New Johnsonville, TN 37134. If you’d like to do a Begonian Interview, please contact the editors.



it up and put in a terrarium. It grew tall, so I propagated the tip. The plant in the terrarium branched and seemed very sturdy.

I discovered it starts easily from leaves, even small wedges. Now I have plants growing and blooming happily in the greenhouse. I keep new plants coming along, though, just in case!

Another example is *B. eminii*. I received a sturdy little plant in the mail. I potted it up and hung it in the greenhouse over the bench. For two years it clung to life. It didn’t die neither did it grow.

One day I decided to give it the heaveho, and hung it under the bench temporarily as my hands were full. I forgot about it and soon it was growing like it should. Now it is a nice plant. It just needed less light and more humidity.

What has been the most difficult plant problem you’ve ever faced?

One that comes to mind because it is current is *Hillebrandia sandwicensis*. I

**Surrounded by begonias in greenhouse,
Mabel Corwin displays Philippine species.**



Photo/Ralph Corwin

had never been able to germinate seed of that one, although I was getting 100 percent germination of most seed that I planted. Joy Porter, the Seed Fund director, told me that her plant died down when the temperature went above 75 degrees and came up from the tuber when the weather cooled down. That shed a whole new light on things.

I planted a few seed in a small pot and put it with other seed I had planted on a heating tray under lights. I decided the bathroom was the coolest room in the house with a fair amount of light. So I planted the seed in a small pot, enclosed it in a Ziploc baggie, and set it on the edge of the bathtub. Three weeks later I had 15 tiny green seedlings—and no germination in the pot on the heating tray. So I moved that pot to the bathroom and have 3 seedlings.

That is the fun and the challenge of growing begonias. Keep trying! This is **Please turn to page 10**

How the 'First Lady' grows her begonias

Mabel Corwin

I have a lathhouse 32 feet by 32 feet. Two years ago we added another section the same size. Instead of lath we covered this with 60% shade cloth. We removed one side of the lathhouse to make one large shade house. The structure is 10 feet high. This is important for good air circulation.

The ground is covered with gravel. This eliminates mud and creates humidity when it is watered.

Most plants are grown on different arrangements of shelves. We use concrete blocks with planks laid across them. The area where the rexes are grown is covered with an extra layer of shade cloth. They like cooler, more shady conditions.

When we moved to Vista, Calif., in 1970 I had disposed of most of my begonias. We had a new house to finish and more than an acre of ground to landscape and plant. This kept us very busy for a year. Then I began to miss my begonias.

I tried to propagate a few things and missed my greenhouse. So we built a new greenhouse. It is 9 feet by 32 feet with a center aisle and benches along both sides. It is made of a redwood frame covered with off-white fiberglass. The color is called "snow." It comes in a roll and is easy to saw and nail to the frame. It has two vents in the top, a small heater, and an evaporative cooler. These all work automatically.

In the greenhouse I grow a few orchids and anthuriums, but mostly begonias. I use this area for those begonias that are tender and difficult to grow, and for hybrids that I am testing. I have propagating flats under the benches.

In the house, my sewing room has pretty much been taken over by plants. When I can find a little time to sew, I have to move terrariums and plastic boxes

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Mabel Corwin's begonias live with her and husband Ralph at 1119 Loma Vista Way, Vista, CA 92083.

B. 'Buttercup', Robinson medal winner

Michael J. Kartuz

When I first obtained *Begonia prismatocarpa* a number of years ago, propagation was a bit of a problem—how to grow enough plants to meet the demand. Fortunately, I soon learned that it would grow readily from leaf cuttings, even little

Mike Kartuz operates Kartuz Greenhouses at 1408 Sunset Dr., Vista, CA 92083. He's also ABS' first vice president. B. 'Buttercup' was awarded the Alfred D. Robinson medal of honor at the 1981 ABS convention.

pieces of leaves.

In the meantime, I self-pollinated some of the flowers to obtain seed. The seed pods were slow to mature, but eventually produced viable seed, which grew into plants every bit as sturdy as those grown from leaf cuttings.

Begonia ficicola was acquired a few years later. It grew equally well for me in the greenhouse and in a large terrarium. Usually in early summer, *B. ficicola* blooms profusely with masses of bright yellow flowers above the broad, bright



The 1½-inch flowers on *B. 'Buttercup'* are yellow with red streaks. Petal undersides are orange.

B. ficicola, a parent of *B. 'Buttercup'* has deeply pebbled leaves and spectacular clusters of yellow flowers, but it isn't easy to grow.



green, distinctively peltate, bullate leaves.

(Its rather large size and high humidity requirements make *B. ficicola* somewhat less than easy to grow.)

I imagined a plant having a combination of the best characteristics of *B. prismatocarpa* and *B. ficicola*, and went about trying to create such a hybrid. Pollination was done both ways, using both species as reciprocal seed parents.

B. prismatocarpa proved to be the successful seed parent. The seedlings grew very well and started flowering quite young.

Individual seedlings varied very little in

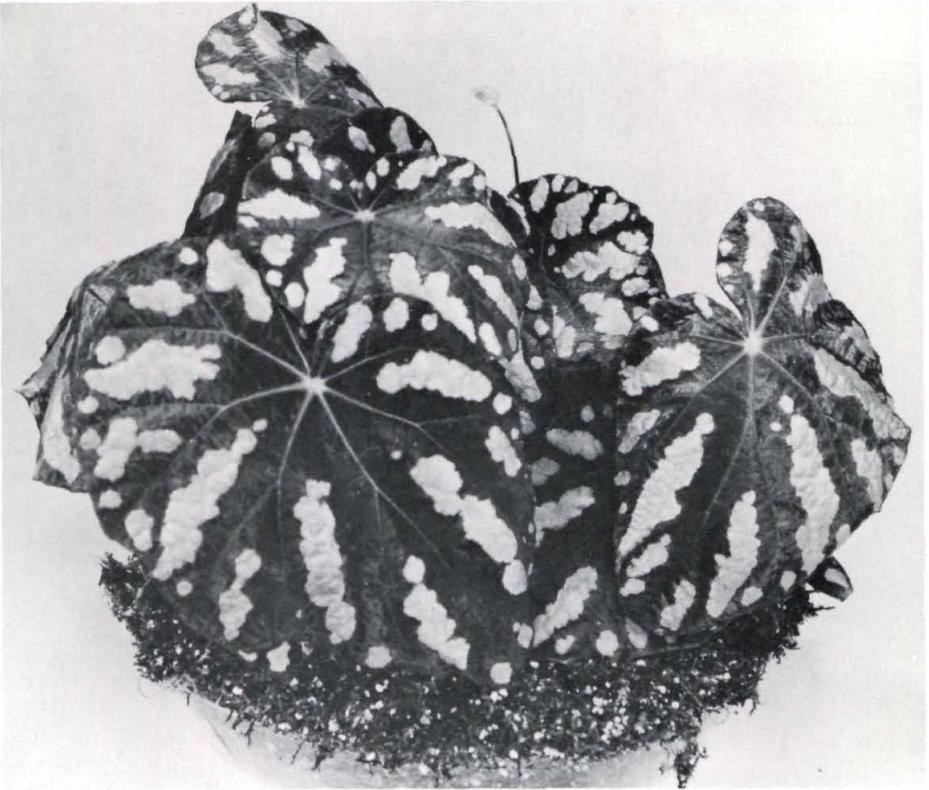
appearance and flowering habit. However, one seedling was selected, named, and registered as *Begonia* 'Buttercup' in 1975. Its popularity was immediate and continues to this day.

B. 'Buttercup' grows and flowers best in a terrarium, but it will grow wherever it is provided with moderate humidity and light.

When it was registered, it was described as having flowers larger than those of *B. prismatocarpa*, but more than on *B. ficicola*. It is almost everblooming, the 1½-inch-by ½-inch flowers appearing on 2-inch stems.

Photos/Michael J. Kartuz





Begonia xanthina var. *pictifolia* shows its iridescent markings (see cover photograph)

Very special: *B. xanthina* var. *pictifolia*

Mildred L. Thompson

In March 1979, while I was at the ABS Southwest Regional Get-Together in Texas, Kit Jeans showed me a satiny, deep green leaf with a thin texture. It was a leaf from a plant that she wanted to identify, but I did not recognize it as a species that I knew at the time.

Several weeks after I had returned home, Kit sent me a small plant of this mystery species, and she wrote that it had since been identified as *B. xanthina*. Up to this time, however, I believed the spotting on the leaves was either very faint or non-existent, but otherwise the characteristics of this species seemed to agree perfectly with *B. xanthina* Hooker, a species from

Himalaya.

Kit warned me that this species is very temperamental, and that it would collapse at times without any warning. Knowing this, I decided to place it immediately in a terrarium where it would have the additional humidity that species from Himalaya seem to require, even though most Himalayan species do not otherwise require being grown in a contained atmosphere. I watched this plant very closely on a daily basis to be certain that it would survive.

Suddenly I noticed that the leaves were developing large iridescent greenish-white areas between the veins. I realized that it is not uncommon for species of *Begonia* to have spots on their young leaves, and then, as the plant matures, the spots disappear. This was not the case with this species; the iridescent greenish-white areas became larger and more prominent as the plant matured.

Millie Thompson of P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, NY 11968, is chairman of the ABS horticultural classification committee and co-author with husband Ed of the new Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide.

I wrote to Kit, asking her if all of her seedlings of this species had developed these large areas of iridescent greenish-white between the veins, and she verified that they had. This confirmed that this coloring was not an inconsistent variation within this species, but rather a possible distinguishing characteristic.

Following this verification, I decided to check the original citation of *B. xanthina* so that I could compare my plant with it. I found the original citation had been published on Nov. 1, 1852, in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* by Sir William Jackson Hooker, director of the British Royal Horticultural Society gardens at Kew, who named and described *B. xanthina*, a species sent to him by Mr. Nuttall who had received it from his nephew, Mr. Booth, from Bhutan in 1850. A beautiful illustration (Tab. 4683) by William Fitch accompanied Hooker's description.

It became obvious that our plant matched Hooker's description except for its iridescent greenish-white areas, which Hooker did not mention. The next step was apparent; I would have to check the described varieties of *B. xanthina* to find out if any of the varieties had the same beautiful coloring that my plant had. My search was successful.

On March 1, 1859, in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* Sir William Hooker published a variety, *B. xanthina* var. *pictifolia*. Again it was illustrated by William Fitch (Tab. 5102). Hooker received the plant that he described from Mr. Jackson of Kingston Nursery who had labeled the plant as *B. picta*. Hooker realized that this plant certainly was not labeled correctly because it was not the same species that James E. Smith had described originally as *B. picta*. Rather, Hooker recognized this plant's affinity to *B. xanthina*; thus Hooker named it as a variety, *B. xanthina* var. *pictifolia*. The name of the plant is apt: *xanthina* (from Greek) refers to the yellow of the flowers, and *pictifolia* (from the Latin) means painted-leaved. The coloring of the leaves in the illustration was the same as my plant; my plant was clearly *B. xanthina* var. *pictifolia* Hooker. The mystery was solved.

B. xanthina var. *pictifolia* is classified

horticulturally as rhizomatous, distinctive foliage, unusual surface and/or unusual coloring, large-leaved. The flowers are deep golden yellow and bloom in the spring and early summer. The ovaries have three wings with one wing much larger than the other two. The rhizomes are short and thick. The leaves are ovate with cordate bases and acuminate apices. The mature leaves measure more than 6 inches (usually between 6 and 8 inches). The satiny, thin-textured, deep olive-green leaves have large iridescent greenish-white areas between the main veins. The network of red veins further enhances the beautiful leaves. The 8- to 12-inch petioles are bright red and are covered with short, white hairs. In most cases, the foliage is at the ends of the short rhizomes.

We have noticed that the young plants grown from seeds and from leaf cuttings do not develop the characteristic iridescent greenish-white areas between the veins until the plants approach maturity. New leaves appearing on a mature plant, however, have the iridescent greenish-white areas from the beginning. This undoubtedly explains why our plant and Kit Jeans' plant did not have this coloration when it was first identified.

As Kit warned us, we found that *B. xanthina* var. *pictifolia* can be challenging, but it is very definitely worth the careful observation and extra effort. The additional humidity within a contained atmosphere is, in my opinion, a necessity unless the growing area is very humid.

We have been growing our plant successfully in a long-fiber moss/perlite mix (4 parts long-fiber moss and 1 part perlite); however, we have found that it is advisable to check the pH of the growing mix regularly to be sure that it remains within the 6.5 to 7.0 range. If the pH becomes too low, the growing medium can be replaced with newly prepared long fiber-moss/perlite mix, or lime water can be added to the growing medium (1 teaspoon dolomitic lime to 1 quart water) to raise the pH.

Watering should always be done with extreme care so that the medium is never waterlogged; overwatering can quickly

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More Begonian Interview

From page 5

only the first chapter. Will I be able to grow these plants to maturity? Tune in next time.

What has been your biggest success in growing—that which has given you the most satisfaction?

I think I get the most satisfaction in growing from seed, especially rexes. Since I am doing my own hybridizing I enjoy it even more for they are truly my own babies. Rexes are so fascinating from seed because the first little leaves are green and then each new leaf is a different color. It is usually a year or more before the leaves come true.

What was your most disappointing failure?

Perhaps it was losing the New Guinea begonias. I received some of the seed that Scott Hoover collected there. I was able to germinate most of the seed, but lost the small plants.

It was so frustrating because I had some beautiful little plants growing in plastic boxes. One by one they just melted away even though they were not moved or disturbed. Looking back, I think perhaps they should have been grown cooler. I find most of the New Guinea species difficult.

What is the worst problem you have encountered that was caused by growing conditions peculiar to Southern California?

Vista is in San Diego County. Government statistics tell us this is the mildest area in the whole country. The sun gets very warm, so everything grows. Most of the time we get a nice breeze from the ocean that has a cooling effect and adds humidity.

However, several times a year we have what we call a “santa ana condition.” Hot, dry air blows from the desert to the ocean. This condition usually lasts several days. The plants suffer because they can't take up the water as fast as it evaporates. Leaves and blossoms burn and drop off.

Our other problem is lack of water. Our average rainfall is 10 to 12 inches a year and it all comes during the winter months. So we have many months every

year when we must water our plants. This is very time consuming during the long summers.

What phase of begonia growing do you enjoy the most?

That's a tough question because I enjoy most everything about begonias. I like to grow from seeds and cuttings. Potting is good therapy for me and I enjoy watering, although it does get pretty tiresome before the summer is over.

Most of all I like to sit down and relax for a few minutes once in a while and really see the beauty of the plants. This is when I count my blessings.

What phase do you like the least?

I have to say it's scrubbing pots. It seems like such a waste of time, but is so necessary. The other thing that I don't enjoy is staking, but it is important. I don't really like to put down cuttings, but I do it because I enjoy potting up the new little plants.

What is the most important cultural aspect a new grower is likely to overlook?

Many new growers overwater their plants. Some varieties won't tolerate this.

Members in the robins sometimes report their whole collection was wiped out by mildew or mealybug. This means they were not paying close attention to their plants. These problems start with one or two plants. If the plants are checked often and the affected plants isolated and treated before the problem spreads, other plants would not be lost.

What is your favorite plant?

I don't have a favorite, but there are a few that are special.

B. 'Sophie Cecile' is what I call a classic. It makes a handsome plant and is so carefree. I have three plants in the ground; one is 6 feet tall. It never needs staking and doesn't drop its leaves as much as most canes. So many hybrids are lost and forgotten after a few years, but 'Sophie Cecile' has been with us for a long time and is still a favorite.

Another cane that I am enjoying very much is *B.* 'Silvermist'. Several years ago Irene Nuss made a cross of 'Kentwood' x *dichroa*. She shared some of the seed with me. One seedling was especially

beautiful. Irene saw my plant and agreed it was worthy of a name. She gave me permission to name and release it.

I named it 'Silvermist' and entered it in the ABS show in 1980. It is a strong, upright grower like 'Kentwood', but does not grow as tall. The large, wavy leaves have lots of silver dots and splashes. It is a good bloomer with large clusters of pink flowers over a long period of time.

Rexes are right near the top of the list of my favorites. I enjoy the beautiful colors and patterns, especially the pinks and lavenders. They are a challenge, but worth the effort.

Who has taught you the most about begonias?

I have learned so much from reading, listening, visiting shows, and just doing. If one method doesn't work, try another. The *Begonians* have a wealth of information. I hope every member saves them, as I do. Sometimes I get out a volume and spend a whole evening reading it.

The person who has taught me the most surely must be Rudy Ziesenhenne. He has so many years of experience, and is always willing to share his knowledge. He truly is "Mr. Begonia."

What other plants, besides begonias, do you enjoy growing?

I have two plant carts and I enjoy growing African violets under lights. We grow cymbidiums to have a show in the shade house during winter when so many of the begonias are resting.

Begonias have been my first love for many years and I don't expect that to change. Just when I think I have learned it all, some new challenges come along to hold my interest.

I feel richly blessed because of the many wonderful begonia friends that I have made. My life has certainly been enriched with begonias and begonia people.

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Les Begonia. Charles Chevalier's classic 1938 study of the begonia family translated by Alva Graham from the French in 1975. Illustrated. \$5 paperback.

Begonia. English translation by DeCola and Arakawa of the 1974 book, *Begonia*, by Misono, which contains 302 superb color plates. \$5.50 paperback. (Original Misono book temporarily out of print.)

Begonia prints. Set of eight full-color reproductions of plates from 19th Century *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*. Labeled *B. glandulosa*, *B. microptera*, *B. Mannii*, *B. geranioides*, *B. heracleifolia* var. *nigricans*, *B. Wageneriana*, *B. phyllomaniaca*, *B. Pearcei*. Suitable for framing. \$6 per set.

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Begonias, begonias everywhere in Holland

Chuck Anderson

Begonias pop up everywhere in The Netherlands, where you thought all they grew were tulips.

In a week-long visit to this horticulturally rich North European nation last August, I saw begonias wherever I went—at the flower market, in windows of houses, in nursery test plots, even growing in a battered trash can.

The Dutch obviously love begonias. They love them so much that The Neth-

Chuck Anderson, Begonian co-editor, also interviewed Dr. Jan Doorenbos at the Agricultural University in Wageningen, The Netherlands. This report will run soon.

erlands is growing them for domestic use and export—even though neighboring Belgium already grows 80 million begonia tubers a year.

At the official home of the burgomaster of Amsterdam, an office analogous to a mayor, the garden was ablaze with mixed *Tuberhybrida* begonias in two big beds.

I was in Holland to see the site of the Floriade, a mammoth, once-a-decade horticultural exhibition which will run April 8-October 10 on 125 acres of reclaimed marsh on the outskirts of Amsterdam.

As impressive as the Floriade preparations were, I also went elsewhere looking for begonias. Here are some selections from my scrapbook:



At the famous Aalsmeer flower auction, where retailers buy flowers and plants, hiemalis begonias move past bidders (foreground) and under price clock

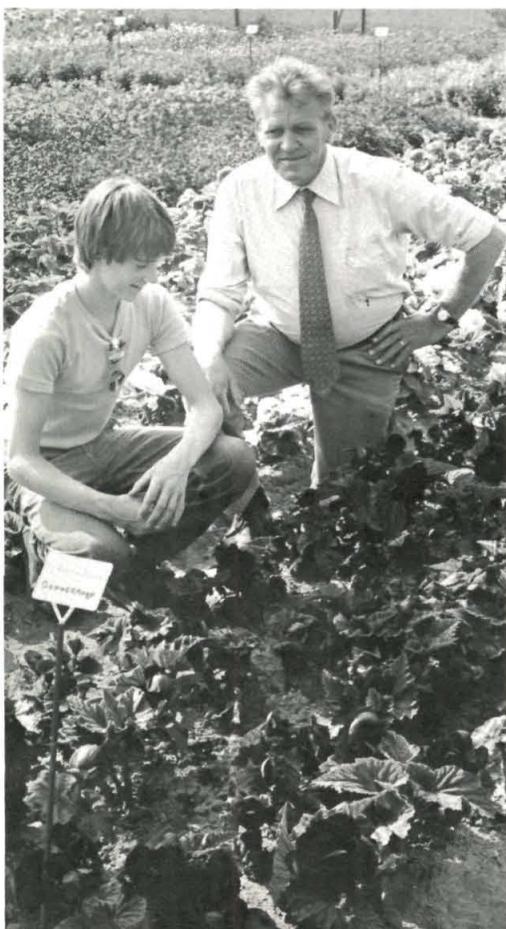


Amsterdam's Singel canal is the site of a floating flower market (top) where tourists and residents are the customers. Unnamed *B. rex* cultivars (bottom left) were offered, along with hiemalis begonias (bottom right) in 4-inch pots for the equivalent of \$4.

The restored green-and-white houses in the museum-like 18th century village of Zaanse Schans include one with his hairy-leaved tub-like begonia in a window.



/Chuck Anderson



New strains of Tuberhybrida begonias grow up on row in test fields at Sassenheim under watchful eye of J. Sjerps and his young assistant.

Unlikely occupant of this trash container in neighborhood of centuries-old office buildings is an orange-flowering Tuberhybrida begonia sharing space with cosmos, other annuals.



More how Mabel grows

From page 5

to use the sewing machine and cutting table. There are two Gro Carts where I grow African violets. There is a home-made unit with lighted shelves for my baby plants. Terrariums are scattered around wherever I can find a spot with enough light.

I have developed a method for growing from seed that gives me 100% success:

I get the best results using Park's Sow and Grow, which I order from Park Seed Co. I plant the seed in 2¼-inch square pots that have been soaked in a bleach solution. I fill the pot half full with sponge rock, then fill to the top with Sow and Grow. The pots are set in a shallow tray. (I use foam plastic meat trays.)

I pour a Captan solution into the tray and let it stand several hours or overnight until the mix in the pots is thoroughly saturated. I use Orthocide Garden Fungicide (50% Captan) ¼ teaspoon to a quart of water.

I line the bottom of a plastic sweater box with a piece of pellon matting cut to fit. This material can be purchased from companies selling house plant supplies. A large sweater box holds 35 2¼-inch pots. A plastic shoe box can be used the same way for planting less seed.

When the mix is well moistened, I let the pots drain and sprinkle the seed on top. It is very important to label each pot with the variety and date.

The matting in the box is soaked with the same Captan solution. Set the pots on the wet matting and put the lid on the box. This is placed on a heating tray and put under lights. I find the heating tray from Park's to be very satisfactory.

Most seeds germinate in two weeks or less and I never have any damping off.

After germination I mist three times a week with a weak fertilizer solution. I am careful to hold the spray bottle well above the pots so that I do not disturb the tiny seedlings. I use a high-phosphorus fertilizer such as Miracle-Gro 15-30-15 three or four times, then use a 20-20-20 fertilizer once or twice.

The lights are turned on when I get up

in the morning, and off when I go to bed. Sometimes my days are long. (I tried leaving them on 24 hours a day for one batch of seedlings and couldn't see that it made any difference.)

When the seedlings have the third leaf, I transplant into trays that are about 4½ by 6½ inches. These come in covered rooting trays sold by Parks. I have four of these trays and they are in constant use. One is used for rooting leaves and cuttings, the other three for seedlings. Eight of the small trays come in each of the rooting trays.

The seedlings can also be planted in community pots and placed in plastic boxes. I continue to mist with the fertilizer solution. When the seedlings have filled the trays they are planted individually in small pots. I keep these in plastic boxes under lights until they are well established. Then they are moved to the greenhouse.

I have two plastic sweater boxes and one of the covered rooting trays that I use for cuttings under lights. The medium for cuttings is 1 part sponge rock, 1 part vermiculite, and 1 part milled sphagnum moss. If you don't have milled sphagnum, equal parts sponge rock and vermiculite is satisfactory. (Sponge rock is called perlite in some parts of the country.)

This is dampened with the Captan solution and pressed firmly in the propagating box about two inches deep. Put the lid on and put under lights. When I run out of space under lights, I try to find a location with a fair amount of light, but never a sunny location.

No, I don't work for Park Seed Co., but do find Park's has the growing supplies I need and good service. If you have a catalog, look to see the items I am talking about. Or write for a free catalog to P.O. Box 31, Greenwood, SC 29047.

Please bear in mind that we live in a very mild climate. You can't always copy my methods in your growing conditions. But maybe you can get some ideas that will help you work out your problems.

Board to meet Feb. 15

ABS directors will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 15, 1982, at Fullerton Savings & Loan Assn. in Anaheim, Calif.

SEED FUND/ *Cane-type cultivars, plus more*

Joy Porter, director, Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund

"All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today."—Anon.

- JA 1 — *B. olsoniae* (syn. *vellozoana*): Low, compact, shrub-like species from Brazil with beautiful satin-textured dark olive-green round-oval leaves with light green veins and red reverse. Large white flowers with backs of tepals rose red. per pkt 1.00
- JA 2 — UO70: Unidentified Brazilian species similar to *B. vitifolia* but growth is lax. Small white flowers in a large inflorescence. Leaf texture is rough. per pkt 1.00
- JA 3 — *B.* 'Glamour Rose Picotee'. per pkt .50
- JA 4 — *B. Semperflorens* Cultorum plant 12-14 inches tall with 2½-inch flowers with wavy red tepals. Good for baskets. per pkt .50
- JA 5 — *B. masoniana* x *B. grandis* ssp. *evansiana*: Interesting cross with many variations; many with silver-marked leaves. The hybridizer will be registering plants from this cross and found it so delightful that he repeated it in quantity for the Seed Fund. per pkt 1.00
- JA 6 — *B.* 'Cubinfo' (Michelson): small-leaved shrub type with medium-size white flowers. Dainty and floriferous. per pkt 1.00

The following seed is from hybrid canes; seedlings will vary and should be labeled "Cane Cultivars." Some lovely cane-stem plants should come from these. The price is \$2 for three packets. The three packets can be of the same variety or a combination of JA 7 through 12.

- JA 7 — *B.* 'Orange Rubra' open-pollinated.
- JA 8 — *B.* 'Kentwood' selfed.
- JA 9 — *B.* Philip's cane, open-pollinated.
- JA 10 — *B.* 'Petaloons' open-pollinated
- JA 11 — *B.* 'Corallicta', a plant from the late Jay Neal of England.
- JA 12 — Mixed, containing *B.* 'Robinson's Peach', 'Osota', 'Rubaiyat', 'Sylvan Triumph', and a cross between a tall, pink-flowered *coccinea* type and *B. albo-picta*.
- JA 13 — *B. pearcei*: Beautiful, low-growing tuberous species with single yellow flowers and small velvety leaves marked with light and dark green-brown. per pkt 1.00
- JA 14 — *B. caffra*, syn. *homonyma*: Semi-tuberous species from Africa with glossy, grass-green, shallowly lobed leaves. 1-inch white flowers in summer and fall. Potato-like tuber growing above and below the soilline. . per pkt 1.00

PAMPHLETS

- Begonias from Seed, Sowing and Growing* ea. .25
- Begonias in General—Basic Descriptions of Classes and Culture* ea. .50

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.

ROUND ROBINS/ *Tips on propagation by cuttings*

Mary Harbaugh

Our flight members often exchange begonia cuttings either through the mail or during personal visits. Cuttings appear to be the favorite method of propagation and are a frequent topic of discussion.

In her cutting boxes, Mabel Corwin of Vista, Calif., uses one part perlite and one part vermiculite. Sometimes she also adds one part of potting soil. She uses the same mix over and over, adding a little new mix to replace what was lost when the rooted cuttings were potted up. (Auxins are manufactured by the plant during the rooting process and remain in the rooting medium. These aid in the rooting of subsequent cuttings.)

Bob Ammerman, also of Vista, has found that a lot of damping off occurs when vermiculite is used alone. He says it should be used with something else because as soon as it becomes wet it begins to deteriorate. As it deteriorates, it can hold more and more moisture, promoting damping off.

Russ Hammer of San Antonio, Texas, roots most of his cuttings in perlite or vermiculite. For him, either one works great in the spring. Sand and a light mix of peat moss, perlite, and vermiculite also works well.

Matters are different during the fall and winter, when he finds the only thing that doesn't hold too much moisture is perlite and perhaps sand. Vermiculite gives him a lot of trouble with damping off during these seasons.

Dottie Lillestrand of Bloomington, Minn., describes the Forsythe method for rooting tip cuttings: First, take a large plastic pot and cover the holes with something such as pieces of nylon hose. Fill the pot to within an inch of the top with vermiculite. Set this in a pan of water until it is moistened thoroughly. Drain the

pot until no more water runs out.

Take a small clay pot and cover the hole with floral clay (some people use chewing gum). Be sure no water seeps out of the bottom hole. Set the pot in the center of the vermiculite-filled pot and sink it down to the top edge of the clay pot. Fill it with water. Insert tip cuttings into the vermiculite around the clay pot. Keep the clay pot filled with water. The water seeps through the clay pot and keeps the vermiculite damp.

Iris Shepherd of Port Arthur, Texas, roots her cane and shrub cuttings in a styrofoam cup. She labels the cup and puts a pinch of terrarium charcoal in the bottom, fills it $\frac{3}{4}$ full of vermiculite, puts a cutting in place, and fills to the top with water. She then takes a medium-size wire and punches a hole in the cup about one-third the distance from the bottom. This leaves the bottom third of the cup filled with water and keeps the rest damp.

When she waters the greenhouse, she fills all the cutting cups full of water and they slowly leak down to the one-third level. When the cutting is well rooted, she pots it in a light mix. She saves the leftover vermiculite and uses it to start a new cup and new cuttings again because of the auxins present.

Bob Ammerman says that for cane-like begonias if you are short on cuttings you can use sections of the cane. Cut them so you get at least one node into the medium and remove all but one or two leaves. If you are unable to get a node buried, it will root just as well but you won't get growth from the base as quickly as with a buried node.

He doesn't always use a rooting hormone unless he is using hardwood. All cuttings are soaked in a mixture of one teaspoon benomyl per gallon of water; the first watering-in is with the same mixture.

Seed-growing project

Betty Davenport of Pasco, Wash., is chairman of the flight on begonia growing in arid climates. She organized a voluntary project in which all members planted the same seed.

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. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

They each sent her a self-addressed stamped envelope and \$1. She sent it all to the Seed Fund and asked Director Joy Porter to pick out something for them to try and mail to each person. The varieties chosen were *B. convolvulacea* and *B. goegoensis*. In the next round all reported on their methods and results.

Betty planted hers on June 23 and reported good germination by July 5. She used a soilless mix one inch deep in a 2-inch pot covered with a thin layer of vermiculite. The pots were sprayed with captan and the seeds planted. They were then placed in a plastic box, covered, and put on a heat tray.

Judy Hansen of Apple Valley, Calif., planted her seeds on July 17 in 2 parts vermiculite, 2 parts perlite, and 1 part Supersoil. This was put three-fourths inch deep in plastic strawberry containers. These were placed 6 inches below fluorescent lights. She kept putting off covering the tops and so had to water a couple of times from the bottom.

They did dry out and there had been

no germination of *B. convolvulacea* as of July 26. She covered the trays with plastic wrap and soaked them. On July 6, seven *B. goegoensis* seedlings were up; two appeared on July 7 and two on July 8.

Sue Haffner of Clovis, Calif., planted her seeds on June 27. She used milled sphagnum moss in 2-inch pots enclosed in a plastic box under lights. She had the heating cable on to start with but then turned it off because of high temperatures. She had no results with *B. goegoensis* but *B. convolvulacea* started to germinate on July 7.

Joyce Kennedy of Mariposa, Calif., used plastic containers with a potting mix that had been sterilized by pouring boiling water over it and letting it set until cooled. After sowing, the containers were put in plastic bags under fluorescent lights on a table in front of a window.

For Joyce, germination was slow and sparse with only one of each species appearing. *B. convolvulacea* came up in about 3 weeks and *B. goegoensis* took 4 to 5 weeks.

QUESTION BOX / *What's the difference?*

Question: What is the difference between a rhizomatous and a rex-cultorum begonia? I think all rhizomatous begonias with green or black leaf markings like the "eyelash" begonia are to be called rhizomatous while those with painted leaves or a combination of green, silver, and red are rex-cultorum. Am I right? A catalog I have shows a deeply cut leaf called "Star Rex."

Answer: While rhizomatous begonias have various sizes and shapes of leaves with markings black, brown, or reddish, a few like *B. versicolor* are as colorful as any rex begonia.

Rex-cultorum begonias are rhizomatous but are placed in a different classification because of their *B. rex* parentage, colorful leaves, and need for high humidity.

The begonia in the catalog you mention

Send questions about begonia growing to Mabel Corwin, 1119 Loma Vista Way, Vista, CA 92083. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope; you'll get a prompt reply.

is often commonly called "star leaf" but it is not a rex-cultorum. It is a species, *B. heracleifolia*. This catalog also shows an "angel wing" begonia with a number but the plant is actually the semi-tuberous hardy *B. evansiana* which would survive over winter (with protection) where you live.

Question: I am having a problem with slugs in my greenhouse. Do you know if spraying begonias with Liquid Slugit will kill or damage them?

Answer: The label on the can of Slugit suggests that it can be sprayed on certain plants but cautions to use an expendable plant before using on all your plants.

If you have slugs in your hanging baskets, mix a solution and pour a little on top of the mix in the basket but be sure not to saturate it for I feel the material may damage roots of plants in baskets or pots.

Mix Slugit full strength and pour on your benches to kill any slugs that might be lurking there.

Dr. Mildred Mathias, an internationally respected botanist and horticulturist, will discuss tropical rain forests—the habitat of many begonia species—as banquet speaker at the ABS golden anniversary convention in Santa Cruz, Calif., on Sept. 9-12.

Dr. Mathias is emeritus professor of botany at the University of California at Los Angeles and an authority on tropical rain forests. She leads natural history expeditions to tropical countries twice a year.

Her talk will be one of many on the convention program, including lectures on begonias of the future, companion plants, and fighting insect and disease pests; workshops for branch officers; a clinic for branch newsletter editors, and numerous other sessions.

“We’re planning a special tribute to the society in its 50th year,” noted Convention Chairman Mary Margaret Rafferty. “We’ll trace ABS’ history and recognize some of the society’s longest-term members.”

Mary Margaret, who is a past president of the co-sponsoring Santa Clara Valley Branch, said the golden anniversary year also marks the first time the convention and show is planned in conjunction with the National Begonia Festival in Capitola, which adjoins Santa Cruz.

Conventioneers will head to Capitola on Sunday to view the waterborne parade of tuberous begonia-bedecked floats on Soquel Creek, the locally popular climax of the festival. (See page 222 of the August 1980 *Begonian*.)

“Because of this attraction, we are calling the convention ‘Begoniafest,’” Mary Margaret said.

Members will tour homes of area begonia collectors, plus tuberous begonia nurseries and growing fields. Also planned is a tasting trip to Santa Cruz area wineries.

The location and timing of the convention make it convenient for members from out of the area who want to combine convention attendance with a Northern Cali-

fornia vacation, Mary Margaret pointed out. Santa Cruz is not far from the Monterey Peninsula, Big Sur, Hearst Castle at San Simeon, San Francisco, historic Sacramento, the Napa Valley wine country, and the coastal redwood forests. Santa Cruz itself is famed for its beach and boardwalk, antique shops, state parks, arts and crafts dealers, and nearby coastal mountains.

Members planning to enter the ABS show or to grow plants for sale at the convention should begin to prepare prospective show plants now and start propagating sale plants as soon as possible, according to Joan Coulat, convention committee representative of the Sacramento Branch, which is handling the sale.

Co-sponsoring branches are Santa Clara Valley, San Francisco, East Bay, Sacramento, and Monterey Bay Area. Mary Margaret said members from across the country will be involved in planning and organizing the convention and show.

A preliminary program, registration forms, and other details will be mailed to members well ahead of time, she said.

Edna Stewart Branch show

Frank Kerin won the best in show award for *B. wollnyi* x *macdougallii* at the annual show of the Edna Stewart Pittsburgh Branch in September.

Sue Colaizzi won both “showing is sharing” and sweepstakes awards with 42 plants and 21 blue ribbons respectively.

Annual show at Chicago

Mary Weinberg’s *B. ‘Buttercup’* in a contained atmosphere was best in show at the Greater Chicago Branch’s annual show Sept. 5-7 at the Chicago Botanic Gardens.

Dan Haseltine was sweepstakes winner with 6 blue, 4 red, and 10 white ribbons. Fifteen exhibitors entered 209 plants.

Buxton’s October show

The Buxton Branch’s Fred Ritzau won the Beatrice Haddrell Memorial Cup for best begonia (*B. ‘Millie Thompson’*) and the Mildred & Edward Thompson “Showing is Sharing” Award for most blue ribbons at the branch show Oct. 3-4.

BEGONIA BRIEFS/ *New code book published*

Hybridizers can keep the rule book for new names handy. The *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants—1980* is now available. Naming cultivars has become increasingly important in the 10 years since the 1969 edition, because of national and international measures taken to protect buyers and breeders.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, for example, is now applying the Code when approving names for patented plants (and is also checking names against ABS registrations).

You may buy your copy of the Cultivated Code from the American Horticultural Society, Plant Sciences Data Center, Mount Vernon, VA 22121 (\$4 for AHS members, \$6.25 for others), or from Crop Science Society of America, 677 South Segoe Road, Madison, WI 53711 (\$5 to U.S. addresses, \$6.50 outside U.S.).

It is also available from the Royal Hor-

tical Society in London (£2.70) and The International Bureau for Plant Taxonomy and Nomenclature in Utrecht, The Netherlands (H.fl. 12.50 or \$6.25 plus handling charge of 12%).

New taxonomic study

Studies in the Begoniaceae, an examination of taxonomic descriptions of 23 rare *Begonia* species by botanist Andrey I. Baranov, has been published by the botanic journal *Phytologia*.

In the new work, Baranov suggests updating and revisions in some descriptions and traces the taxonomic history of the Begoniaceae. It is illustrated with 23 line drawings and several photographs.

The book sells for \$9.95. Shipping is an additional \$1.50 in the United States and Canada, \$2.50 elsewhere. To order, send a check in U.S. currency to Baranov, 18 Locke St., Cambridge, MA 02140.

THE BOARD/ *ABS directors' meeting Nov. 16, 1981*

Treasurer John Ingles reported checking account balance Oct. 1 of \$460.42 and Oct. 31 of \$1,516.66. Bills for publication of September and October *Begonians* had not yet been received. We will have to pay \$307.17 in income taxes on *Begonia* advertising and sales taxes of about \$475-\$500. John said the Nov. 1 checking account balance was \$1,921.94, but tonight he received September computer service bill of 134.94 and *Begonia* printing, mailing, and typesetting bills totaling \$3,634.95.

Co-Editor Chuck Anderson moved and Marge Lee, judging department chairman, seconded transfer of \$1,801.31 in interest from the life membership account to the general account. Motion carried.

President Gil Estrada reported that Rudolf Ziesenne has donated two sets of slides to the slide library and Slide Librarian Ralph Corwin has organized them into two new shows—tuberous begonias hybridized by Frank Reinelt, and parade floats from the National *Begonia* Festival of 1963. Both are available from Ralph for showing.

Gil reported the storage space fee will change from \$32 to \$41 a month starting May 1, 1982.

Gil reported receiving a request from Advertising Director Pam Mundell to declare the advertising bill of Rick Fredericks (Ohno Nursery) as a bad debt. He owes \$69, but he cannot be located. Approval was moved by Marge Lee, seconded by Chuck Anderson, and carried.

Gil read three letters from Mildred Thompson, classification committee chairman: a resignation letter, a letter giving her reasons for resigning, and a letter agreeing to reconsider her resignation. Marge Lee moved to accept Millie's resignation. There was no second.

Gil read a letter of resignation from Pat Maley, co-chairman of judging and chairman of the show entries and classification committee. Pat cited personal reasons. Pearl Bennell moved to accept the resignation with regret. It was seconded and carried.

Gil read a letter from Doug Frost, business manager and speakers bureau director and a member of several committees, resigning because of animosity on the board. Marge Lee moved to write to Doug asking him to reconsider. Pearl Bennell seconded. Motion carried.

Gil appointed committee chairmen and department directors for fiscal 1981-82 (names are listed on the inside front cover of this issue). Ratification was moved by Chuck Anderson, seconded by John Ingles, and carried.

Gil reported receiving an invitation from the Southwest Regional Association to have the ABS convention in Texas in spring 1984, and an invitation from the Miami Branch to have the convention in Miami in spring 1985. Several members expressed approval, and Gil named Chuck Anderson, Michael Kartuz, and Robert Hamm to a committee to gather details on convention facilities at both sites and to try to find a site for the 1983 convention.

Treasurer John Ingles presented the Finance Committee's revised proposed 1981-82 budget, referred to committee last month by the board. The proposal contained three alternative dues amounts and three alternative *Begonia* budgets. Marge Lee moved and Chuck Anderson seconded adoption of the \$10 annual dues option and bi-monthly *Begonia* publication. Carried. The total budget was then adopted, calling for estimated revenues of \$32,797 and estimated expenditures of \$30,475.

Pearl Bennell, chairman, gave the ballot counting committee's report on the Constitution and Bylaws revision election. One hundred twenty ballots were received by the deadline. Results: Constitution Art. IV, Sect. 3 defeated 63-56; Constitution Art. IV, Sect. 5 adopted 92-27; Constitution Art. V, Sect. 2 defeated 64-55; Bylaws Art. II, Sect. 4 adopted 88-30; Bylaws Art. IV, Sect. 5 adopted 99-19; Bylaws Art. IV, Sect. 6 adopted 101-17; Bylaws Art. V, Sect. 1 adopted 102-16; Bylaws Art. XIII, Sect. 1 adopted 98-20. The results were declared adopted by unanimous vote.

Gil announced the ABS Bookstore has acquired the remainder of the copies of "Begonias for Beginners" by Elda Haring, and that the book now is out of print.

Chuck Anderson asked whether the president and treasurer need further authorizations from the board to pay bills before the February board meeting. After discussion, Chuck moved authorization to borrow no more than \$2,000 from the catalog fund to pay bills if necessary. Any funds borrowed would be returned to the catalog fund as soon as possible, and the authorization would expire March 1, 1982. Marge Lee seconded the motion, and it carried.

ASSOCIATED GROUPS/ *Visitors always welcome*

Arizona

DESERT BEGONIA BRANCH

Mary Church, Pres.
1090 E. Grant Rd.,
Tucson, AZ 85719
Barbara Rogers, Natl. Dir.

California

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.
Homes of members
June Rakestraw, Pres.
5458 Avenida Fiesta, La Jolla
CA 92037

Margaret Lee, Natl. Dir.

CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN BRANCH

Mary L. Lane, Pres.
19239 Road 232, Strathmore,
CA 93267

William Ireton, Natl. Dir.

EAST BAY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.
Northbrae Community Church,
Berkeley, Calif.

Helen Meyers, Pres.

6215 Manoa St.,
Oakland, CA 94618

Lloyd Olson, Natl. Dir.

GARDEN GROVE BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m., New
Community Meeting Center
11300 Stanford, Garden Grove,
CA 92643

Doug Frost, Pres.

10622 Teal, Garden
Grove, CA 92643

George Allison, Natl. Dir.

GLENDALE BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Glendale Federal S & L,
401 N. Brand, Glendale, Calif.

Edward Yeckley, Pres.

634 Fischer St., Glendale,
CA 91205

Katharine Alberti, Natl. Dir.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

2nd Sunday, 1:30 p.m., Great
Western S & L

6330 E. Spring St., Long Beach

George Ghiotta, Pres.

702 Sunrise Blvd., Long
Beach, CA 90806

Muriel Perz, Natl. Dir.

MONTEREY BAY AREA BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.

New Monterey Neighborhood
Center

Lighthouse and Dickman Sts.,
New Monterey, Calif.

Jackie Davis, Pres.

170 Wingfoot Way, Aptos, CA
95003

Leslie Hatfield, Natl. Dir.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

Mercury S&L

4140 Long Beach Blvd., Long
Beach

Edith Van Landingham, Pres.

6925 Lime Ave., Long Beach,
CA 90807

D. G. Sullinger, Natl. Dir.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Fullerton S & L, 2310 E. Lincoln
Ave., Anaheim

Norma Taylor, Pres.

P.O. Box 1055, Brea, CA 92621

Cruz Sandoval, Natl. Dir.

PALOMAR BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Glendale Fed'ral Savings & Loan

Katherine Belz, Pres.

2767 High Mead Circle,
Vista, CA 92083

Patrick Worley, Natl. Dir.

*This directory appears every
other issue. If your listing
is incomplete or inaccurate,
please notify the secretary
immediately and send a copy
of your letter to the editors.*

REDONDO AREA BRANCH

4th Friday, 7:30 p.m., R. H.

Dana School Cafetorium

135th St. and Aviation Blvd.

Hawthorne, Calif.

Diane Fries, Pres.

3531 Creeklewood, St.,
Torrance, CA 90505

Diane Fries, Natl. Dir.

RUBIDOUX BRANCH

4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

West Riverside Memorial

Auditorium

4393 Riverview Dr., Rubidoux

Claire Husted, Pres.

13580 Indiana, Corona, CA

91720

R. H. Terrell, Natl. Dir.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.,

Garden Center

3330 McKinley Blvd.,

Sacramento, Calif.

Olive Miller, Pres.

2444 W. Sonoma Ave.,

Stockton, CA 95204

Linda Luckett, Natl. Dir.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.,

Garden Center

Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue

and Lincoln Way

Ormund Stromswold, Pres.

71 Ashton Ave., San Francisco,
CA 94112

Dolores Dupre, Natl. Dir.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m., Los

Angeles State and County

Arboretum

301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia,
Calif.

Eugene T. Schrider, Pres.

136 N. Sunset Pl., Monrovia,
CA 91016

Ken Dahlquist, Natl. Dir.

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Casa

del Prado, Rm. 104, Balboa

Juana Curtis, Pres.

4107 Taos Dr., San Diego, CA

92117

Bob Ammerman, Natl. Dir.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

4th Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

Louise Lowry Davis Recreation

Center

1232 De la Vina St.

Kathy Morehouse, Pres.

5410 Paseo Orlando,

Santa Barbara, CA 93111

Kay Willis, Natl. Dir.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.

California First Bank,

495 S. Mathilda Ave.,

Sunnyvale

Jackie Davis, Pres.

170 Wingfoot Way, Aptos,
CA 95003

Mary Margaret Rafferty,
Natl. Dir.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Senior

Citizens Bldg., 420 Santa

Clara St., Ventura, Calif.

Norm Rohn, Pres.

2033 N. Latham,

Camarillo, CA 93010

Mary Stine, Natl. Dir.

WESTCHESTER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Westchester Women's Club

8020 Alverstone St., Los Angeles

Pat McElderry, Pres.

5137 Inadale Ave.,

Los Angeles, CA 90043

Millie Simms, Natl. Dir.

WHITTIER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Palm

Park Community Center

5703 South Palm Avenue,

Whittier

Gertrude Blackstock, Pres.

15311 Elmbrook Drive, La

Mirada, CA 90638

Billy Scarbrough, Natl. Dir.

Connecticut

CONNECTICUT BRANCH

4th Monday, Homes of members

Arline Peck, Pres.

Eagle Peak Rd., Pascoag, RI

02859

Priscilla Beck, Natl. Dir.

District of Columbia

POTOMAC BRANCH

4th Sunday, 2:00 p.m.,

National Arboretum

Blandensburg & R. Sts., N.E.,

Washington, D.C.

Maxine Zinman, Pres.

Rte 1, Box 73, Boyce, VA 22620

Linda Record, Natl. Dir.

Florida

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH

3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m.

Agricultural Ctr.,

1010 North McDuff Ave.

Ann M. Helton, Pres.

334 Brunswick Rd.,

Jacksonville, FL 32216

Mary Harrell, Natl. Dir.

MIAMI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.

Simpson Memorial Garden

Center

55 South West 17th Road,

Miami, Florida

Dr. James A. McArthur, Pres.

22175 Miami Ave., Goulds,
FL 33170

Charles J. Jaros, Natl. Dir.

PALM BEACHES BRANCH

2nd Monday, Home S & L

Opp. Palm Coast Plaza, W. Palm

Beach, Fla.

April Foster, Pres.

564 Arlington Dr., W. Palm

Beach, FL 33406

Elverna Maley, Natl. Dir.

TAMPA BAY AREA BRANCH

4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Seminole Garden Center,

5800 Central Ave., Tampa

Dora Lee Dorsey, Pres.

8110 N. Edison Ave., Tampa,
FL 33604

Martin Grady, Natl. Dir.

Illinois

GREATER CHICAGO AREA BRANCH

4th Sunday, except Dec., 2 p.m.

Oak Park Conservatory

561 Garfield, Oak Park, Ill.

Dan Haseltine, Pres.

6950 W. Nelson St., Chicago,
IL 60634

Virginia Beatty, Natl. Dir.

Massachusetts**BUXTON BRANCH**

3rd Saturday, Mass. Bay
Community College,
Rosemary Norton, Pres.
979 South St., Roslindale,
MA 02131
Percy Ehrlich, Natl. Dir.

Minnesota**MINNESOTA BRANCH**

2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Homes of members
Gladys Olmsted, Pres.
1840 Eighth St., Elk River,
MN 55330
Thelma Adair, Natl. Dir.

New Jersey**ELSA FORT BRANCH**

Helen Green, Pres.
2100 Hunter St., Cinnaminson,
NJ 08077
Gladys Cooper, Natl. Dir.

New York**EASTERN NEW YORK BRANCH**

Herbert E. Spearburg, Pres.
75 Swaggertown Rd., Scotia,
NY 12302

HAMPTON BRANCH

2nd Monday, 7:45 p.m., Parrish
Memorial Hall, Southampton,
NY
Ed Thompson, Pres.
310-A Hill St., Southampton,
N.Y. 11968
Mary Burnaford, Natl. Dir.

KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Horticultural Society of New
York
128 West 58th St., New York,
N.Y.
Howard Berg, Pres.

16 Highview Terr.,
New Canaan, CT 06840
Marjorie Mack, Natl. Dir.

LONG ISLAND BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Planting Fields Arboretum
Oyster Bay, Long Island, N.Y.
Mrs. Martha Graham, Pres.
55 Duryea Rd., Melville,
NY 11746
Marie Donnelly, Natl. Dir.

TACONIC BRANCH

Mrs. John V. Steiner, Pres.
Bullet Hole Road, Mahopac,

NY 10541

Mrs. John V. Steiner, Natl. Dir.

Ohio**GREATER CINCINNATI BRANCH**

Verda Stull, Pres.
5 Burnham St., Cincinnati, OH
45218
Erich Steiniger, Natl. Dir.

Oklahoma**FRED A. BARKLEY BRANCH**

1st Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
Huey Long Community Center,
Del City, Okla.
Merril Calvert, Pres.
11201 Draper, Choctaw,
OK 73020
Ruth Wills, Natl. Dir.

Pennsylvania**EDNA STEWART PITTSBURGH BRANCH**

3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh Civic
Garden Center
Suzanne Colaizzi, Pres.
115 Lillian Rd., Pittsburgh,
PA 15237
Frank Kerin, Natl. Dir.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 11 a.m.
Richards Restaurant,
Butler, Penn.
Antonette Ponteri, Pres.
407 Canterbury Trail, Mars, PA
16046
Agnes Hodgson, Natl. Dir.

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH

4th Tuesday, noon, Homes of
members
Mrs. Jacques Leroux, Pres.
Dove Lake House, Gladwyne,
PA 19035
Mrs. Lancelot Sims, Natl. Dir.

Rhode Island**ROGER WILLIAMS BRANCH**

3rd Monday night. Homes
of members.
Arlene Peck, Pres. & Natl. Dir.
Eagle Peak Rd., RFD #1,
Box 478, Pascoag, RI 02859

Southwest**SOUTHWEST REGION**

Robert Hamm, Dir.
2951 Elliott, Wichita,
Falls, TX 76308

Tennessee**CHEEKWOOD BRANCH**

Homes of members
Pam Braun, Pres.
Rt. 6, Pinewood Rd.,
Franklin, TN 37064
Kit Jeans, Natl. Dir.

Texas**ASTRO BRANCH**

Gloria Quinn, Pres.
234 Tallant Dr., Houston
TX 77076

HOUSTON TEXAS BRANCH

4th Monday, 10:30 a.m., Garden
Center, 1500 Herman Dr.,
Houston, Tex.
Nancy Blakeman, Pres.
11838 Bayhurst, Houston, TX
77024
Mrs. Grant Herzog, Natl. Dir.

MAE BLANTON BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 10 a.m.
Homes of members
Mae Blanton, Pres.
118 Wildoak Dr., Lake
Dallas, TX 75065
Glennis Crouch, Natl. Dir.

Washington**EASTSIDE BEGONIA BRANCH**

4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
590 116th Avenue N.E.,
Bellevue, Wash.
Nola Emrick, Co-Pres.
730 Renton Issaquah Rd. S.E.
Issaquah, WA 98027
Evelyn Rathje, Co-Pres.
4638 36th Ave. W., Seattle,
WA 98199

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Bethany
Lutheran Church, 7400
Woodlawn Ave., N.E.
Dorothy Williams, Pres.
21519 92nd Ave. W., Edmonds,
WA 98020
Phyllis Wright, Natl. Dir.

SOUTH SEATTLE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.,
Wm. Moshier Field House
430 S. 156th St., Seattle
Joanne Slosser, Pres.
16419 3rd Ave., S.W., Seattle,
WA 98166
Shel Fisher, Natl. Dir.

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Bob Hamm

What do you do when the nearest fellow begonia grower may be 100 miles or more away? For years, growers in Texas, Oklahoma, and surrounding areas faced this question with no answer besides write letters, read *The Begonian*, and pray for an infrequent visitor to talk and share their prized begonias with.

This changed suddenly in 1978 when Mae Blanton, a longtime grower, ABS member, and ex-round robin director, talked me into organizing a gathering of the widespread growers in Texas. For those members who have branches nearby, it may be hard to picture those of us who are spread this thin: Mae and I considered each other neighbors at 135 miles apart, and we are fairly close compared to many ABS members in this region.

Because of the spaces involved, we really didn't expect anyone but "local" Texas growers and maybe some Oklahomans to attend, but when the first Southwest Get-Together convened in 1978, it had 54 begonia fanatics from 11 states present. These were almost exclusively isolated members whose nearest begonia friends were people in Round Robins hundreds of miles away and who had never been to a begonia show or begonia meeting.

The results of the fantastic time that everyone had at the show, sale, lectures, and tour were twofold. First was the formation of a regional group, which eventually became the Southwest Region of ABS. This group is not a branch—it is a group of very scattered begonia lovers who decided that, even as spread out as they were, they could still enjoy begonias among themselves by meeting once a year at a regional get-together (which moves within the region). The second result is really an offgrowth of the Get-Togethers: They have brought a tremendous increase in communication, visiting, sharing of plants and ideas, and in some cases formation of new branches.

Bob Hamm, ABS members-at-large director, lives at 2951 Elliott, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

The Southwest Region will have its fifth annual Get-Together April 28-May 1, 1982, in Dallas—and the organization is still basically a group of very scattered begonia lovers who treasure their chance to meet once a year to see, show, buy, trade, and spend a few days immersed in begonias with fellow begonia lovers.

The enthusiasm of the group is amazing at times, and yet, when you stop and think how you'd react if for 51 weeks a year your only contact with another begonia lover was by letters and phone, you might be very enthusiastic to spend 4 days immersed in a world of begonias.

If you are a member at large, I say: "Don't be isolated!" You don't have to be in a regional organization to coordinate a yearly or biannual meeting, and to share information via a newsletter. You may not be able to share the monthly begonia antics of most branches, but you don't have to sit and hibernate waiting for your *Begonian*, either! A regional group offers a wonderful chance to meet, share, and enjoy other begonia lovers and begonias from around the area.

If you'd like to organize a group, I'd be willing to help, as would Branch Relations Director Lynda Goldsmith. You can write us at the addresses on the inside front cover. We'll give you advice on getting started and a listing of members in your state or region to contact. All it takes is a little enthusiasm and time to get a meeting together. It doesn't have to be a fancy meeting. When you are miles apart and have nothing else to go to about begonias, just a simple display show and the chance to talk to other growers can create a miracle!

(If you live anywhere in the South with our "reversed" growing season and would like to get involved in the Southwest Region, you can get information by writing me, or join by sending regional dues (\$7.50) to La Verne Carpenter, Secretary, SWR-ABS, Route 2, Box 148, Carrollton, MS 38917. You'll get the regional newsletter, all the Get-Together and regional news, have the use of our

Please turn to page 23

ABS SERVICES

These services are available to all ABS members. For names and addresses of department heads and other officers, see inside front cover. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope when you write.

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 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 her for a list of books available. The bookstore also sells reproductions of antique begonia prints and other items.

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.

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 Mabel Corwin, 1119 Loma Vista Way, Vista, CA 92083. You'll get a prompt answer and Mabel 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.

More *B. xanthina* var. *pictifolia* From page 9

cause root rot. Watering should be necessary only when the medium is slightly dry; when it is watered add a constant-feed fertilizer (such as Hyponex or Schultz) to the water to take care of the nutritional needs of the plant.

It has been our experience that *B. xanthina* var. *pictifolia* grows luxuriantly in a terrarium under fluorescent lights with the lights on 12 hours a day. Temperature

More Forum From page 22

mail lending library, and almost certainly find some new begonia friends.

So stop being isolated—get involved with the formation of a regional group for your area. If we can do it with our officers scattered through Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Mississippi, you can, too! Get started. Let's make ABS a more unified and active society for members who don't have a branch.

can be crucial. When the temperature goes below 55 degrees, this species can enter a semidormant or dormant period. In times of extreme heat, it will suffer adverse effects. If the temperature in the growing area is somewhat constantly between 65 degrees and 78 degrees, the plant will thrive.

The use of leaf wedge cuttings is the most successful method of propagation. We have found the rooting medium that produces the best results is long-fiber moss/perlite in the same proportions as used for the growing mix. Because we have found *B. xanthina* var. *pictifolia* to be temperamental, we always propagate several plants so that we have extras in the event that our plant collapses unpredictably.

B. xanthina var. *pictifolia* is a real treasure, and thanks to Kit Jeans' generosity it is now being more widely distributed to *Begonia* enthusiasts than it has been in the past.

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