

May-June 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 multinervia*, a thick-stemmed species, grows wild on a Costa Rican farm. This plant is nearly six feet tall. Photograph by Karen Bartholomew, co-author of the article about *B. multinervia* on page 54.

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NOTES / *From the editors*

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Here we are—late again.

This time, we think you'll like the reason:

This issue was printed as soon as the deadline (June 22) passed for petition candidates to file papers to run in the ABS officer election. At that point, we completed the ballot and started the presses.

You'll find the ballot on a card bound into the issue. It's easy to remove, cast your vote on, and mail. So please do it today.

Ballots must be received by Sept. 4 to be counted. The address of the ballot-counting committee is on the ballot card.



Please get out your March-April 1982 issue and turn to page 41. Then pick up a pen or pencil.

Scratch out the November date listed just above the board minutes and write in the *real* date that meeting happened: Feb. 15, 1982.



Printed in the center of this issue is the four-page *Begonian* index for the 1981

volume. Please remove it and file it with your 1981 *Begonians*.

Compilation of the annual index, always a long, precise job, was performed this time by Shirley Sayers. Her manuscript was typed for our typesetter by Peggy Bader.



Latest news on plans for Begoniafest, the ABS golden anniversary convention Sept. 9-12 in Santa Cruz, Calif., is reported under ABS News on page 62 of this issue.

In addition to this, the five host branches mailed details to all members in mid-June. If you haven't received your packet yet—and don't get it soon—write for yours to convention chairman Mary Margaret Rafferty. (Her address is on the inside front cover.)

Inside the packet are a convention registration card and a hotel reservation card. These must be filled out and returned right away; organizers believe that hotel rooms and banquet seats—both limited—will disappear well before the start of the convention.

—C.A. & K.B.

# The Begonian Interview: Jack Golding

*Often within a plant society recognition is centered around fantastic growers who have an undaunting commitment to their plants—and rightly so. However, in doing this, too often the people who work tirelessly in unsung areas—nomenclature, taxonomy, and botany of Begonia—remain relatively unknown to growers; this is unfortunate because their work is important to growers as well as botanists.*

*One such person is Jack Golding of Kearny, N.J. He started his hobby growing spectacular trophy-winning plants that were unequalled in the East, but something happened that changed the focus of his interest to the in-depth study of the nomenclature of Begonia.*

*Jack and others like him who work tirelessly in research and the compilation of information seldom receive the accolades that they deserve. Yet without their work, growers would not have the correct names and correct spelling of begonias and the latest information.*

*They are the people who are continually being asked to identify unknown begonias and supply information about known begonias. Without them, there would be a great void in the availability of accurate information.*

*We asked Mildred L. Thompson of Southampton, N.Y., to conduct this interview, which she did by correspondence.*

**You are a mechanical engineer and run a very successful business in New Jersey. When and how did you become interested in growing plants?**

As a child and young adult, I took care of the normal chores in my parents' garden and had a casual interest in plants. But I really became involved many years later, in 1959, when we moved into our present house and started to landscape the outside garden.

**Why did you decide to specialize and grow begonias almost exclusively?**

At first, I grew all types of plants out-

---

*Mildred Thompson of P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, NY 11968, is author with her husband, Ed, of Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide.*



Photo/Charles Marden Fitch

doors and indoors. I started to grow begonias because I was looking for plants to grow in the shade on the northeast side of the house. (I have since learned that in our area, begonias grow much better in full sun.)

I joined the American Begonia Society in 1961 or 1962, and began to specialize in growing primarily begonias in the mid '60s.

**How were you able to accommodate so many begonias in an urban area?**

About this same time, I began growing begonias under fluorescent lights in my cellar. I started on one table and now have the three cellar rooms and my garden room on the first floor of our house full of plants, almost all begonias. During the summer I move the plants outdoors to my gardens around the house and backyard patio.

**As your interest grew, so did your expertise in growing. You won numerous trophies and ribbons for your magnificently grown begonias. This is a**

**Jack Golding in his light garden room; inset, a recent monograph he wrote**



**BEGONIA NOMENCLATURE: HOTEL, A**  
 BEGONIA NOMENCLATURE: WILLIAMS AND COLLEGE SPECIAL  
 Jack Golding, 47 Clatsop Ave., Beaverton, R., 97001

The Begonia of the Plantation, Hotel, A, was the first to be named and the first to be listed in the Begonia Nomenclature. It was named by the author and the name was first published in the Begonia Nomenclature, Hotel, A, in 1972.

The history of Begonia Nomenclature, Hotel, A, is a story of the author's search for the correct name for the species and the history of the name. The name was first published in the Begonia Nomenclature, Hotel, A, in 1972.

**INTRODUCTION**  
 This monograph is a study of the history of Begonia Nomenclature, Hotel, A, and the history of the name. It is a study of the history of the name and the history of the species. It is a study of the history of the name and the history of the species.

These labeled Begonia specimens are...  
 The history of Begonia Nomenclature, Hotel, A, is a story of the author's search for the correct name for the species and the history of the name. The name was first published in the Begonia Nomenclature, Hotel, A, in 1972.

**great accomplishment, particularly when one lives in an urban area. Through the numerous workshops and lectures that you gave and continue to give you have inspired many growers in urban areas, who also have less than optimum conditions, to work at growing fine show-worthy specimen plants. When and why did you become interested in more than just growing?**

At first, I was interested in proving that I could grow prize-winning begonias under artificial lights that could compete with begonias grown in greenhouses. During this time, I studied and experimented to learn why plants grow, and how to create the best environment for them.

Until the late '60s, I was a "hermit

grower." I read literature and grew plants for my own enjoyment. But when I joined the Knickerbocker Branch of ABS and the Metropolitan Chapter of the Indoor Light Gardening Society of America, I found that I was not alone. There were many other people who also liked to grow plants as I did.

Also, as I wanted to talk about my plants, I found I could not pronounce their names. I could visualize and recognize the names, but I could not vocalize them. Hearing others talk about their plants, I could not recognize the names and they could not understand me.

I started to study the correct pronunciation of botanical names and shared the results of my work in a series of articles published in *The Begonian* during 1969 and 1970.

When I read about begonias I noticed that the spelling of the name and the suffixes were inconsistent, sometimes ending in a single "i," double "ii," or "ae." I obtained the rules of botanical nomenclature and started to correct the orthographic errors as required by the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature.

For this purpose, I had to collect and study the literature about begonias to determine the names of the people and places used for the epithets of begonias. To share the results of my research, I wrote about the correct spelling of begonia names in *The Begonian* in January 1972.

**Your work in the nomenclature of Begonia is known and recognized worldwide by botanists. What made you focus most of your attention on nomenclature, a particular area of research?**

It developed as an evolution of my interest in begonias, from growing, to identification of my plants, to correcting the orthography of the names, to a study of the literature, to a correction of synonymy, to the verification and correction of begonia names and synonymy; with each step my interest, fascination, and involvement increased.

**In 1978 you received the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award for your outstanding contributions to the literature on**

**Begonia. Did this encourage you to delve even further into research?**

I was already deeply committed to my quest of correcting the nomenclature of *Begonia* when I received the award. It was gratifying to have my efforts recognized by the ABS.

**Many long hours of research are needed to sort out just one of the many entanglements of pre-Linnean nomenclature as well as those that arose after that time. Would you explain what is involved in solving one of these cans of worms, as you have often referred to them?**

Research was started on my latest monograph, "*Begonia culcullata* Willdenow and Included Species," in 1975. I collected and studied the literature. The plants growing in my gardens were identified and compared to the citations of the early 1800s. Many of the citations were translated from Latin and German.

In the early spring of 1981, I reviewed my previous research and actually started writing the paper. After more research, rewriting and checking, the paper was completed in February 1982 and published in April.

**Many serious growers who are also interested in research were elated when your findings were published in *Phytologia* under the title "Begonia Nomenclature Notes." There have now been six in this series. Will you continue your work in this area?**

Yes, I will write additional papers to record my research, correcting the nomenclature of *Begonia*.

**We are fortunate in the begonia world to have a number of professional botanists and horticulturists who encourage and help serious growers and researchers so that contributions like yours can be made. Who helped and encouraged you through the years?**

I have been encouraged and helped continuously by Dr. Lyman B. Smith, Dr. Bernice Schubert, Dr. Fred A. Barkley, and Dr. Jan Doorenbos.

**Have you ever thought of giving up your tedious and exacting tasks because of the seemingly endless amount**

**of work yet to be done—much more than can be accomplished in any one lifetime?**

Any project, no matter how large, is merely an accumulation of many small details. It is just a matter of resolving one detail at a time. It is amazing, but before you know it, the project is complete.

I don't know if I will ever complete all the projects I want to do, but, in the meantime, I am getting a lot of pleasure and satisfaction with the work I am accomplishing.

**You are now working on an enormous project with Dr. Lyman Smith and Carrie Karegeannes. Could you tell us about it?**

Dr. Lyman B. Smith and Dr. Dieter Wasshausen are preparing for publication by The Smithsonian Institution a key to Begoniaceae.

I have been correcting "The Species of the Begoniaceae" since it was published in 1974. As a companion book to the "Key," I am now preparing a Begoniaceae Species List, an evolution of "The Species of the Begoniaceae."

I have been reviewing the literature to verify that the citations are correct. The synonymy is also being verified, and the author with the citation that determined the synonymy is being included.

**What kinds of begonias do you especially enjoy growing?**

Occasionally, I will show a nice-looking specimen, but I do not grow specifically for show. I grow all kinds of *Begonia*, but I am most interested in growing species that are related to my research.

**What is your favorite begonia?**

*Begonia* 'Esther Albertine'.

**We have seen your family with you at meetings and conventions. Do they help you with your work?**

My wife, Dot, is not involved with either my growing or research of *Begonia*. She does enjoy the beauty of begonias.

My son, Mark, also grows many begonias and helps me with the construction and landscaping of my garden.

My daughter, Marilyn, helps by illustrating begonias for my writings and grows some begonias.

# Rediscovering the Crispas and Cristatas

Carol Spediacci

When we look at the magnificence and diversity of today's tuberous begonias, it is hard to realize that they have a common heritage in such species as *B. boliviensis*, *B. pearcei*, and *B. davisii*. In tracing the development of today's varieties, we find that "*B. crispa*" was "born" in the early part of this century, and "*B. erecta cristata*" was first available in 1895.

My first sight of a *Cristata* begonia was a gorgeous pink "poodle" of a flower in Hyacinth Smith's San Francisco greenhouse. I wish we could still find it, but even Hyacinth has lost it.

A *Crispa Marginata* with its contrasting colored edge was also one of our early treasures. We are still enjoying other *Cristata* and *Crispa* plants, so when I read in Brian Langdon's book, *The Tuberous Begonia*, that these plants are believed to be extinct, I became concerned.

It seems that in the hybridizer's quest for improving the size, substance, and form of the large tuberous begonia flowers which are in such demand, unusual-flowered varieties have declined in popularity.

Worth Brown, patriarch of the giant Brown Bulb Ranch, explains that the unusual tuberous begonias such as the *Crispa* and *Cristata* are difficult to obtain because wholesale growers have little demand for them, so cannot produce them profitably. However, we amateur growers can enjoy the beauty and color of a variety of begonia forms. Seek and share tip cuttings in summer, tuber cuttings in February, and keep these rare varieties growing.

The *Cristata* (or crested) flowers are big, brilliant, single, and distinguished by a tufted crest on each of the four petals.

*Crispas* are large frilled flowers. *Crispa Marginatas* have petals edged in a contrasting color.

I'm glad to say that these are not yet

---

Carol Spediacci of 1189 Glenwood Dr., Millbrae, CA 94030 belongs to the San Francisco Branch, is a senior ABS judge, and grows splendid tuberous begonias.

extinct, though they are difficult to find commercially. Amateur growers who want to try creating their own crosses will find that the *Crispa* and *Cristata* types are most accommodating, since pollen is available on the male flowers earlier in the season than on the large double flowers of the *Camellia* or *Roseform* tuberous begonias.

The characteristic female flower has the three-winged ovary below the petals. The male flower has the stamens bearing the soft golden grains of pollen. Dust the pollen directly from the stamen of the male to the stigma of the female. We tag the fertilized flower: if the cross takes, the ovary swells, then dries, and the seeds may be harvested.

Care required for the *Crispa* and *Cristata* types is the same as for other tuberous begonias.

They can be grown from seed, stem cuttings, or established tubers (which is the simplest method). We start our tubers when the growth buds appear in late winter by planting them in flats of composted oak leaf mold. We cover the tubers with about an inch of the leaf mold so a good root system will develop all over the tuber.

When the new plants are four to six inches tall they should be potted, using a loose, open mix. Water well, and stake the plant at this time.

During early stages of growth we feed with a high-nitrogen fertilizer every two weeks. When flower buds form, we change to fertilizer high in phosphorus and potash, plus fish emulsion.

The brilliant display of the many kinds of tuberous begonias will reward us for months. Each type—*Roseform*, *Camellia* type, *Picotee*, *Pendula*, *Crispa*, and *Cristata*—has its own special beauty.



**A *Cristata*, or crested, *Tuberhybrida* begonia blossom**

Photo/Antonelli Brothers

# Begonia knoopii, a new species from Mexico

Rudolf Ziesenhenne

In November of 1956 Thomas MacDougall, the late New York plant explorer, hiked across the Sierra Madre mountains of Chiapas, Mexico, from Finca Custipec to Las Margaritas, collecting 10 species of *Begonia* which he numbered C.182 through C.191. He believed six of them were new to science.

In *The Begonian* of November 1965, Vol. 32, No. 11, on pages 226-228, one of these plants is described. *Begonia bettinae*, MacDougall's collection number C.185, which was named for Doña Bettina von Knoop, wife of the superintendent of Finca Prusia, where he was collecting. A second plant, collected as C.188, was named *Begonia huberti* for Don Hubertus von Knoop, superintendent, and was published in *The Begonian* of November 1980, Vol. 48, No. 11, on pages 306-309.

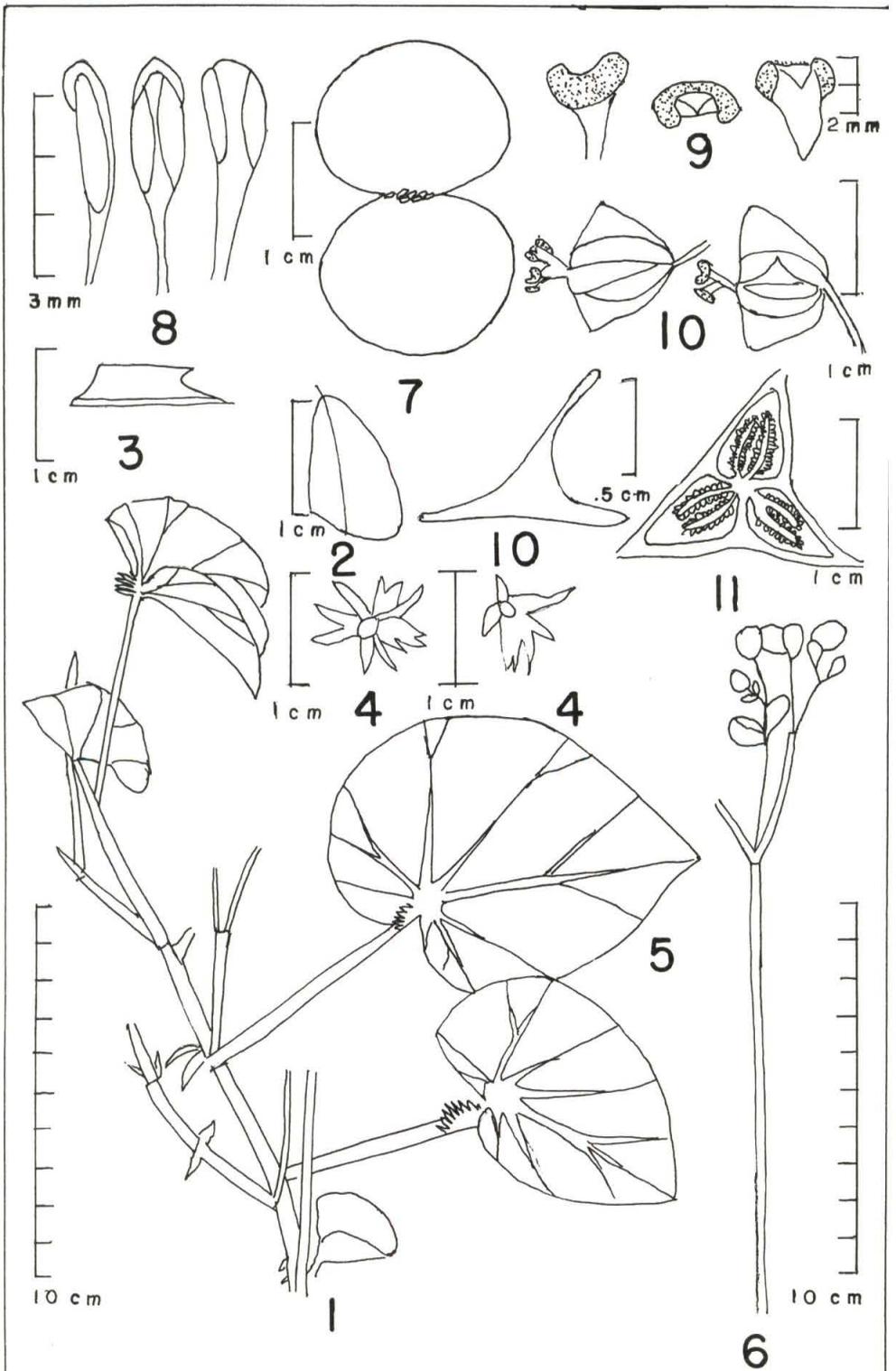
This article presents the new species *Begonia knoopii*, MacDougall's C.186, for the family name of von Knoop.

*Begonia* (section *Gireoudia* [Klotzsch] A.DC.) *knoopii* Ziesenhenne, new species, herbaceous perennial, dwarf, shrubby: *stem* (figure 1) persisting, slanting-erect, circular in cross-section, base somewhat fibrous, 8 inches tall,  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch in diameter at base, branching freely, with foliage covering the stems, internodes about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches long, smooth, veronese green (Royal Horticultural Society color chart 660/1) with orient red (319/2) dots, oblong markings and striations to  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch long, more abundant on the back side, lenticels few, nodes slightly swollen, dull; *stipules* (figure 2) remaining, papery, uneven egg-shaped, terminating at once to a point, margin even,  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long,  $\frac{5}{16}$  inch wide, keeled (side view of keel, figure 3)  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch long, the top edge  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch long, ending in a projecting point, the keel sloping down to a point extending  $\frac{1}{32}$  inch beyond the point of the stipule, bare,

veronese green; *petiole* circular in cross-section,  $\frac{3}{32}$  inch thick,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, veronese green, moderately minutely dotted and oblong marked orient red, smooth, bare except at the end nearest to leaf blade and about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch from it where is affixed a cuff encircling the petiole or in most cases an incomplete cuff circling in a partial spiral, cuff irregularly and unevenly long-lobed (figure 4) up to  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch long, the base orient red with the lobes veronese green, dull; *leaf blade* (figure 5) papery, spinach green (o960), on the young, more shaded leaves there occur irregular spots of dark red color, smooth, glossy, nerves lighter green, bare; below veronese green with dull orient red, irregularly spaced, small spots, dull, nerves not prominent, bare, the blade asymmetrical almost circular, running out to a sharp point, base lobed, lobes moderately rounded, almost equal, open or the inner lobe overlapping, margin even with a small tooth at the end of each nerve,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches long, 3 inches wide, palmately 9-10 nerved, areas between nerves level; *inflorescence* an axillary, evenly divided cyme (figure 6) with about 25 flowers November to February; *flower stalk*  $\frac{3}{32}$  inch in diameter at base,  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches long, veronese green, orient red dots, oblong markings and striations, smooth, bare; *bracts* falling quickly; *male flower* (figure 7) tepals two, rose, very broadly egg-shaped, tip blunt, margin even, bare,  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long,  $\frac{11}{16}$  inch wide; *stamens* (figure 8) filaments free  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch long, anthers inverted egg-shaped  $\frac{3}{32}$  inch long, tip rounded, connective slightly protruding; *female flower* tepals two, as in the male flowers but slightly smaller; *styles* (figure 9) three, united at the base, then free, each very shortly divided with *stigma* papillae band making one twist around arms and top; *capsule* (figure 10)  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch long,  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch wide, 3-winged, the largest  $\frac{5}{32}$  inch long, triangular, sharp pointed, the others  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch and  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch long; *ovary* (figure 11) elliptical, ends rounded, three-celled, placentas two-divided carrying seed on all sides.

Rudy Ziesenhenne, an ABS member since 1935 and former nomenclature director, lives and sells begonias at 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103.

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**Begonia knoopii Zies.**

# Hunting the jungles for *B. multinervia*

*Chuck Anderson  
and Karen Bartholomew*

We were stalking the wild begonia in the jungles and mountains of Costa Rica. And we weren't finding any.

This bright and warm Central American nation was supposed to be home to several *Begonia* species. But the few scrawny species we had turned up by the second week of our search hardly deserved mention.

They were eclipsed by brilliant *Passiflora* vines, immense Guanacaste trees, and many big, dramatically colored birds.

The flora and fauna provided the reason for our joining a tour for 24 led by UCLA tropical botanist Mildred Mathias

*Chuck Anderson and Karen Bartholomew of  
826 Santa Rita Ave., Los Altos, CA 94022  
are Begonian co-editors.*

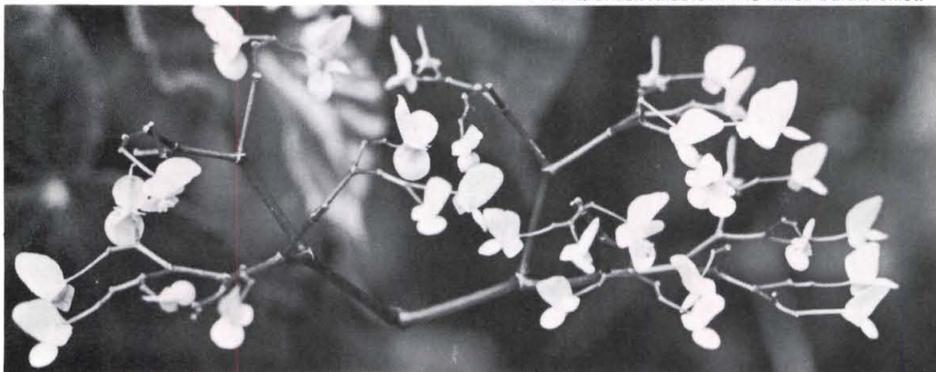
last February and March. Two-thirds of the way through the 2½-week trip, we were about to abandon the begonia search when we arrived at the ranch—*finca*—of our co-leader, Costa Rican botanist-ornithologist Alexander Skutch.

"Begonias?" he inquired. "Oh, we have several growing here on the ranch. I'll show you." Thus began a curious odyssey.

Alexander farms a small portion of his *finca* and leaves the rest in its wild state. Out behind and downhill from the house—just past the horse pasture—we came upon the plant you see on this issue's cover.

Green with a blue cast and bearing white flowers, it grew on the edge of the pasture, standing nearly six feet tall among miscellaneous weeds in partial shade. Alexander said he remembered it

Photos/Chuck Anderson and Karen Bartholomew



**An inflorescence of *B. multinervia*'s small white flowers**



**Sizeable leaf of *B. multinervia*—at least 10 inches long—ends with hooked point or "cusp"**

as "*Begonia cuspidafolia*" and recalled writing about it in *The Begonian* many years ago.

The leaf indeed has a pronounced cusp—the little "hook" at the point—but neither of us had ever heard or read of "*cuspidafolia*."

We quickly decided to leave the name-chasing for later and concentrate on recording our find and collecting seed, since the plant had been blooming for several months and there were plenty of ripe seed pods.

In succession, we noted the plant's description, removed a quantity of seed pod clusters and stuffed them into plastic bags, and photographed the plant. Alexander mentioned there were more specimens elsewhere on the ranch, but we chose to stick with this one.

Nearby stood another example of the same species. This plant was smaller and

sparser, but it bore more seed pods. We collected seed from it, too.

Not far from it, on a small rock outcropping, we found thick, upright stems with very few leaves, but enough to determine that it was a begonia. Its growth habit was reminiscent of *B. lindleyana*.

"*Begonia cuspidafolia*" is illustrated on these pages. We brought home our photographs and some seed. We also returned with curiosity about the identity of this handsome plant.

Right off, we looked for any reference to "*cuspidafolia*" or "*cuspidifolia*." Neither was mentioned in any works we have. The closest name was *B. cuspidata hort.*, so we went about comparing our plant with that name.

Tracing the name and the plant's description, it didn't take long to determine that what we had found was, in fact,

**Please turn to page 57**

**Costa Rican specimen of *B. multinervia* is as tall as 5-6½ co-author.**



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## ROUND ROBINS/ *New arrivals, cuttings*

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*Mary Harbaugh*

Is your cat as fond of begonias as you are? Risa Young of Lyndhurst, Ohio, has found a way to keep both her cat and her plants happy. Her cat, George, has become a permanent fixture in her plant room.

"He has his own catnip plant growing on the floor where he can just walk up and chew a few leaves. Then he goes and curls up in a corner near the heater that we have left empty for him. He is very good with the plants and as long as he has his catnip he doesn't bother the rest of them."

Also Risa has found that she cannot use fish emulsion fertilizer—George would go crazy and attack the plants.

### **How to handle new arrivals**

Do you have new plants arriving in the mail? Perhaps many of those early losses could be avoided if we follow Mabel Corwin's suggestions:

"When I receive plants in the mail I always put them in a terrarium or plastic box for a few days in fairly low light, then gradually harden them off and get them used to their new home. Many people complain because they lose small plants that they order through the mail. I think in most cases they wouldn't lose them if they would give them some extra protection while they are getting acclimated."

Dottie Lillestrand of Bloomington, Minn., finds that her young plants get better established under artificial lights. Then she moves them to her windowsill gardens.

If you order plant cuttings, Doug Hahn of Madisonville, Ky., suggests cutting the stem or rhizome as soon as the cuttings arrive and soaking them in room temperature water for a few hours until turgid.

### **Rooting cuttings**

When rooting cuttings, Elda Haring of

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*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.*

Flat Rock, N.C., puts hers into uncovered sweater boxes in separate little pots and uses old carpeting to mat-water them.

Dan Haseltine of Chicago, Ill., roots his rhizomatous cuttings that have no roots or leaves by burying them about one-fourth inch so that roots form on all sides. He says growth will take a little longer because the roots will grow first; later, shoots form along the stem and then the leaves come up. When he finds that more humidity is needed for some cuttings, he uses long-fibered sphagnum moss cut up a bit with scissors.

If you need a deeper enclosed area for rooting large cuttings, Rhodora Buss of Le Mars, Iowa, gives us this idea:

Clamp either small plastic clothespins or small paper clamps along the top edge of one sweater box and then invert another plastic sweater box over it. This will leave a narrow crack between the boxes, but not wide enough to cause problems. The legs of the clothespins will hold the box steady.

Dora Lee Dorsey of Tampa, Florida, says she is a believer in moon phases' effects on plants and always has more success rooting cuttings set down after the new moon and before the full moon.

### **When you send cuttings . . .**

When Elda Haring is shipping cuttings, she takes the cutting or leaf and puts the stem end in water for a couple of hours to crisp it up. Then she puts them in a baggie (not the heavy zip-loc type), adds a drop of water, blows air into the baggie, and closes with a twist tie. The leaves are packed close together in a sturdy cardboard box just large enough to fit them. Cuttings packed this way have arrived in good condition even as far away as California.

### **Temporary terrariums**

Pamela Brewster of Sanger, Texas, recently described her use of terrariums as a temporary planting. She has several that "are replanted every year for rexes. They are very fussy here in our arid climate and will not last through the hot, dry summer.

"Every fall I clean them out, replant

"I recently joined the American Begonia Society and am interested in joining a round robin. How does one join?"

"I am sort of a beginner and afraid that I might not fit in."

"I am a little leery of getting into a robin. I hate to show my ignorance, but I want to learn. I hope the robin people will bear with me."

Are you interested in the round robins but have not joined because you feel as those above do?

Meeting new people can make all of us a little nervous, but you will find that robin members are a warm and friendly group. They enjoy meeting new growers and many of them are new to the robins themselves. Last year we had about 60 new members in the robins.

Most flights are a mixture of novices and experienced growers. Remember—we were all beginners once!

Robins enjoy sharing their knowledge and helping those new to begonians learn more. Questions new members ask help to spark a lot of conversation and make

the flights much more interesting. Even the pros are learning all the time.

In their letters to me and to each other, members have related what the robin flights mean to them.

"I am in several robins and enjoy them all as I find people who like to grow plants. Being in robins you get information of all sorts from all over the country that is very interesting."

"The robin flights have been my best source of begonia friendship and sharing since we do not have a branch near here."

"Robins are a very important part of the American Begonia Society, especially for isolated members and non-branch members."

So if you are at all interested, write to me today. I will send you an information sheet describing how the robins work and a list of the many flight topics. To join, you just write back and indicate which flights you are interested in. As soon as a space becomes available, you will be added. I look forward to hearing from you!  
—Mary Harbaugh

the design, and start over with new soil, rocks and charcoal in a sterilized container. I dust part of the soil with fern spores or transplant tiny fern plantlets that look almost like moss.

"In February I will plant the rex seeds among the 2-inch-tall ferns in the bare

spots which I left before. By late April the ferns will be 7 to 8 inches tall and the rexes will have 10 to 12 very colorful leaves. We use and enjoy them through May and June as table centerpieces and then by late July they are gone. I transplant the by-then-mature ferns to existing bowls."

### **More *B. multinervia***

#### **From page 55**

*Begonia multinervia*. Jack Golding in 1978 determined that *B. cuspidata* and *B. multinervia* were synonymous and that *B. multinervia* takes precedence as the name.

Native to Costa Rica, *B. multinervia* has been known since 1853, when Frederick Michael Liebmann published its collection in a Danish botanical journal. Botanists place it in the *Begonia* section Gireoudia. Horticulturally, it is a large-leaved, bare-leaved, thick-stemmed begonia.

Shortly after making this discovery, Chuck was thumbing through back issues of *The Begonian* in search of something else when he ran across the article

Alexander remembered writing with his wife, Pamela, in the September 1953 issue.

"The most abundant begonia on the farm," they reported 28 years ago, "is the species variously known as *Begonia cuspidata* C. DC. and *B. multinervia* Liebm."

"With its tall, stout stems, richly colored, glossy foliage and ample clusters of delicate flowers, this is a most attractive begonia."

*B. multinervia* is an occasional offering of the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund and is sold by several mail-order begonia dealers. If you have room for a large plant, it will reward you. In *Begonias*, Millie and Ed Thompson classify it as one of the easiest of the thick-stemmed begonias to grow.

## QUESTION BOX/ *What's wrong with B. luxurians?*

Mabel Corwin

**Question:** I ordered plants from one of our commercial growers. They arrived in excellent condition. One of the plants is *B. luxurians*. Presently I have it under Gro Lights but have also had it in a west window, slightly shaded by a building. It doesn't look quite up to par to me. The color seems a little washed out and a few of the leaves are curled over. I have looked carefully for any insect or disease, but can find none.

A plant of *B. 'Rosea Gigantea'* is growing well and looks healthy, but has lost the pretty red markings at the stem leaf joints. Any suggestions?

For future reference, could you tell me if the two plants above and *B. eminii* can be propagated by stem cuttings?

**Answer:** I think your *B. luxurians* may be getting too much light and possibly too much heat from the lamps. Also, there may be a lack of humidity.

I suggest moving it to another location with moderate light and creating extra humidity. One way to do this is to set the pot on top of wet pebbles in a shallow container. Of course, you should make sure there are no insects on the plant. However, I really feel the problem is light and humidity. Be sure to feed regularly with a weak solution of liquid fertilizer.

I am not familiar with *B. 'Rosea Gigantea'*. *The Thompson Begonia Guide* lists it as a *B. semperflorens* x *roezlii* cross. Too much light could cause the color to fade. Or perhaps it is natural for the color to change as the plant gets older.

Light, heat, humidity, potting mix, and fertilizer are all relative, so it is usually a combination of different factors that determines the success or failure of a plant. Sometimes we have to experiment with these factors until we find the condition the plant likes.

A good example of what I am saying is

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*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.*

my experience with *B. eminii*. I received a nice plant in the mail. I hung it up rather high in the greenhouse. It clung to life for two years. It didn't grow; neither did it die.

One day I said: "To heck with it" and decided to toss it. I hung it under the bench temporarily and forgot about it. It started to grow right away. All it wanted was less light and more humidity.

Yes, *B. eminii* and the other two begonias we have discussed can be grown from stem cuttings. If you can plant several rooted cuttings of *B. eminii* together in one pot you will get a nice full plant.

**Question:** I cannot slip my Hiemalis (including Rieger) begonias. I get some started sometimes, then they get (a) mildew, (b) something that looks like powdery mildew, (c) limp, (d) uppity, (e) leaf drop, and (f) a sort of floral eczema. I am sure I overwater, but have tried not to. What temperature should I use (not that I can control the temperature that well without a greenhouse)? I ordered the plants by mail originally and the first season they bloomed magnificently, then got the vapors.

**Answer:** Hiemalis begonias are considered difficult by most growers. They don't tolerate heat or cold. They prefer a temperature range of 60 to 70 degrees with good air circulation. They are not heavy feeders and do not like to be overpotted.

They bloom to some extent year-round, but the peak of bloom is during the time of long nights (short days). They do not have true tubers, but there is often a tuber-like formation at the base of the plant.

They are propagated either by leaves or basal cuttings. Perhaps you made your cuttings from the stems that had bloomed. These will never make good plants. Leaf cuttings will make a full plant with more basal shoots.

These begonias are very susceptible to mildew and botrytis. Good air circulation is essential. They need to be sprayed regularly with a fungicide such as karathane.

I think you did very well if they bloomed magnificently the first season.

# SEED FUND/ *Mexican mystery seeds*

Joy Porter, director, Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund

- MY-JU 1 — *B. xanthina* var. *pictifolia*: Himalayan rhizomatous species with yellow flowers. See cover picture and story by Mildred Thompson in January-February *Begonian*. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- MY-JU 2 — *B. loranthoides* (syn. *mauricei*): Trailing-scandent species from West Africa with bright green, leather-like leaves that look as though they twisted to follow the light. Sparse, large, light pink flowers with dull red fusiform ovaries. Seeds are large and germination excellent in 20 to 40 days. . . . . 6-8 seeds for 1.00
- MY-JU 3 — *B. versicolor*: Terrarium jewel from China, best grown in sphagnum moss kept on the dry side in high humidity. Plush leaves are toned mahogany, emerald, apple-green, maroon and silver. Even under ideal conditions, seeds will take at least 45 days to germinate. . . . . per pkt 1.00

The following seeds were collected by Scott Hoover in Mexico. All are rhizomatous.

- MY-JU 4 — SH #347 . . . . . per pkt 1.00
- MY-JU 5 — SH #356 . . . . . per pkt 1.00
- MY-JU 6 — SH #370 . . . . . per pkt 1.00
- MY-JU 7 — SH #373 . . . . . per pkt 1.00
- MY-JU 8 — SH #384 . . . . . per pkt 1.00
- MY-JU 9 — SH #415 . . . . . per pkt 1.00

(Nos. 356, 370, and 384 may be identical, but were collected in different locations.)

- MY-JU 10 — Begonia cross made by Australian hybridizer: *B. angularis* x *metallica* x *tomentosa*. . . . . per pkt .50
- MY-JU 11 — Stephanotis: perennial greenhouse vine with white fragrant flowers. . . . . 2 seeds for .50

In the September-October issue, I will have a summation of the past year's trials and tribulations of your growing-from-seed efforts. Please send any information which you think might be of help to other growers.

## PAMPHLETS

*Begonias from Seed, Sowing and Growing* . . . . . ea. .25

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.

I'm sorry to be discouraging, but it just doesn't seem to be practical for the hobbyist to try to keep them going from one season to the next.

After bloom they should be cut back to about 4 inches from the pot. There should be new growth from the base of the plant. This is the growth that should be used for cuttings. Sometimes they will continue to grow and bloom for another season.

Last year I bought two lovely plants in full bloom. They were nursery grown. I

put one in the house and one in the shade house. Exactly one week later both plants were suddenly covered with mildew, although there was no other mildew anywhere near either one.

**The Indoor Light Gardening Society of America Inc., Dept. B,**  
 128 West 58th St., New York, NY 10019  
 Dues \$8.00. LIGHT GARDEN published 6 times yearly,  
 cultural guides, seed exchange,  
 round robins, chapters, slide library.

Margaret Lee of San Diego, Calif., and Bob Hamm of Wichita Falls, Texas, are running for ABS first vice president, and Dan Haseltine of Chicago and Charles Jaros of Miami are candidates for second vice president in the 1982-83 officer election.

All other elective offices are uncontested. The ballot is published as an insert card in this issue of *The Begonian*.

The slate of officers was selected by a nominating committee consisting of Charles Richardson of Vista, Calif.; Pearl Benell of Whittier, Calif.; and Sandy Sandoval of Anaheim, Calif. Charles, who is chairman, reported the slate to directors on May 17.

Other candidates are Chuck Anderson of Los Altos, Calif., running for president; Bob Ammerman of Vista, candidate for president-elect; Debbie Best of San Leandro, Calif., secretary candidate; and Bill Scarborough of Whittier, candidate for treasurer.

Charles said after the board meeting his committee had sought to find at least two candidates for each position, but could not.

### **Garden Grove Branch show**

ABS' Garden Grove Branch will present its annual show and sale on the weekend of Aug. 28 and 29 at Huntington Center Mall, 7777 Edinger Ave., Huntington Beach, Calif.

### **New branch in Texas**

The Coastal Bend Begonia Society is the newest ABS branch.

ABS directors on May 17 chartered the society, headquartered in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Branch president is Helen Gonzales, Rt. 1, Box 103, Taft, Texas 78390. Helen reports the branch has 14 members.

### **Australian Mickey Meyer turns up at Get-Together**

Mickey Meyer, a noted begonia hybridizer from Tuthra, New South Wales, Australia, described begonia cultivars



created in Australia as speaker at the ABS Southwest Region's annual Get-Together April 28 through May 1.

Accompanied by her daughter, Val Prince, Mickey screened slides of Australian hybrids and discussed the problems and successes of begonia growing in Australia.

The event was at Northpark Inn Convention Center in Dallas with the Mae Blanton Branch as host.

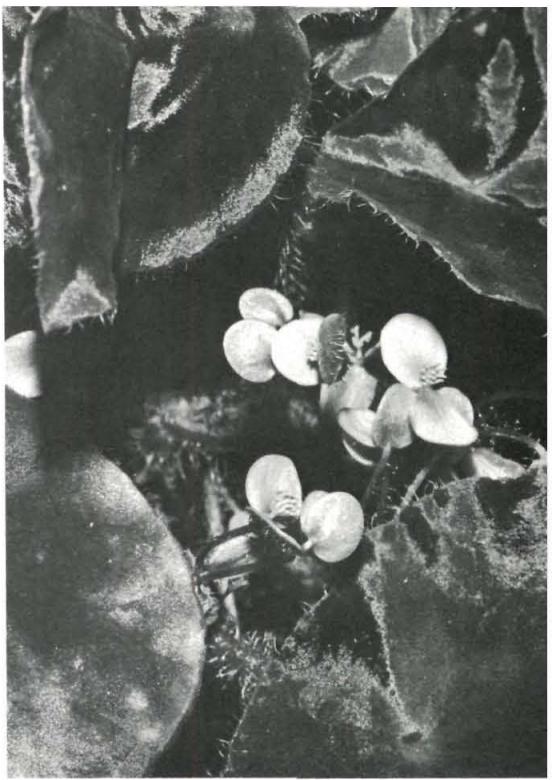
Dozens of members—many from outside the Southwest—compared notes, swapped cuttings, toured nurseries and private collections, and acquired many new begonias at the plant sale.

Locally, regional officers report, the show and sale attracted so much attention that a new branch is forming in Dallas.

Among guests were ABS President Gil Estrada; President-Elect Chuck Anderson; Muriel Perz, a past president; Joy Porter, ABS seed fund director; and Bill Luckie, representing ABS' newest branch, the Coastal Bend Begonia Society of Corpus Christi, Texas.

Bob Hamm of Wichita Falls, Texas, director of the Southwest Region, won the best-in-show trophy with his *B.* 'Marguerite DeCola'. Sweepstakes winner was

*B. quadrialata* in a terrarium won best contained atmosphere honors for Glennis Crouch of Denton, Texas



Southwest Region Director Bob Hamm enjoys a laugh after denuding *B. 'Nokomis'* for giveaway cuttings at seminar  
Photos/Chuck Anderson



Visitors ponder array of offerings at Get-Together plant sale



Dorothy Patrick of Dallas.

The same plant won Bob the best canelike designation, and he won for best semperflorens with *B. 'Christmas Candle'*.

Other division winners were Glennis Crouch of Denton, Texas, best contained atmosphere, *B. quadrialata*, and best rhizomatous, *B. 'Carol Mac'*; George Fix of Dallas, best plant grown by a novice, *B. Brazil* species cross; Bernard Yorke of Brisbane, Australia, best photograph; and Arline Peck of Pascoag, R.I., farthest-traveled entry, *B. unnamed* Mickey Meyer seedling.

Also shown were plants grown by members from seed donated in 1981 by Mickey Meyer through the ABS seed fund. Grower Jeanne Roberts of Dallas donated a flat of Mickey Meyer seedlings for giveaway

at the banquet.

The region's service award for 1982 was awarded to Ruth Wills of the Fred A. Barkley Branch, Oklahoma City.

The region's 1983 Get-Together will be in Wichita Falls, Texas; it will host the ABS convention in Dallas in 1984.

—Tamsin McElyea  
and Chuck Anderson

### Board meets July 19, Sept. 12

ABS directors will meet on Monday, July 19, and on Sunday, Sept. 12.

The July meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. at Fullerton Savings & Loan Assn. in Anaheim, Calif.

The September meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. at the ABS convention at the Holiday Inn in Santa Cruz, Calif.

All directors' meetings are open to any

ABS member. The board consists of elected and appointed officers, including branch national directors.

### Latest on '82 convention

A second call has been issued for donation of sale plants and trophy contributions for the golden anniversary convention, Begoniafest, on Sept. 9-12.

The five hosting branches of the Santa Cruz, Calif., event made the appeal to branches and individuals as detailed plans took shape for the convention.

Branches and members traditionally provide several thousand of the plants to sell at the annual convention. Those wishing to pledge sale plants should contact plant sale chairman Joan Coulat, 4111 DePaul Ct., Sacramento, CA 95821.

If you want to finance purchase of a show trophy or contribute toward one, please contact convention and show chairman Mary Margaret Rafferty, 18531 Ravenwood Dr., Saratoga, Calif. 95070.

In a mailing to all ABS members made in mid-June, sponsoring branches outlined an activity-filled convention that begins with a bus tour of tuberous begonia nurseries on Thursday, Sept. 9, and climaxes with the National Begonia Festival waterborne parade on Sunday, Sept. 12.

A full schedule of seminars and workshops is planned. ABS' golden anniversary will be celebrated at a wine-and-cheese reception Thursday evening.

More members are expected than usually attend the annual convention. For that reason, chairman Mary Margaret urged early return of convention registration and hotel reservation cards which were part of the mailing.

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### In memoriam

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#### Glenn W. Motschman

ABS Past President Glenn W. Motschman, 71, died on April 14.

A resident of Garden Grove, Calif., Glenn specialized in Tuberhybrida begonia growing, especially from seed.

He joined ABS in 1950, was the Inglewood Branch's national director in 1952, and was elected president-elect of ABS for 1952-53. He served as president the following year.

During his presidency, Glenn wrote several Tuberhybrida articles for *The Begonian*, including a report on his experiment to bloom tuberous begonias in winter. He succeeded by adjusting daylength with artificial lights.

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## THE BOARD/ ABS directors' meeting May 17, 1982

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Treasurer John Ingles Jr. reported checking account balance on March 1 of \$3,099.11, deposits of \$7,320.67, withdrawals of \$6,058.49, and balance on April 30 of \$4,361.29. Savings account and repurchase certificate balances on March 1 totaled \$17,282.37 and on April 30 totaled \$17,571.52. The report was filed for audit.

Judging Chairman Marge Lee reported certification of Mary Margaret Rafferty, Saratoga, Calif., and Mary Weinberg, Chicago, as sophomore judges; Betty Tiltonson, Sacramento, Calif., as junior judge; and Carol Spediacci, Millbrae, Calif., as senior judge.

Secretary Arlene Davis reported receiving a response to her inquiry of the former Redondo Area Branch regarding disposition of branch funds. Arlene said information received will be reported to the Internal Revenue Service.

President Gil Estrada appointed Mae Blanton and Dr. Fred Barkley to the awards committee to succeed Linda Luckett and Pat Morrison, whose terms expired. The appointments were ratified unanimously.

Gil reported formation of the Coastal Bend Begonia Society, a new ABS branch in Corpus Christi, Texas, and presented its charter for authorization. The board approved unanimously. The branch has 14 charter members.

Gil reported receipt of a \$25 donation to the research fund from the Sacramento Branch in memory of Tommy Flunker, son of branch member Mary Ann Flunker.

Gil, on behalf of Research Director Tony Croce, reported receipt of a letter from Congressman Foglietta regarding grants and scholarships for non-profit organizations.

Nomenclature Co-Directors Carrie Karegeannes and Thelma O'Reilly reported that ABS's status as International Registration Authority for begonia cultivars is being challenged by two foreign institutions which want to share the responsibility. Carrie and Thelma's report stressed the importance of cooperating with these institutions and early publication of the catalog of registered cultivars. Several board members urged quick and strong support of the Nomenclature Department on this issue. Gil said he would relay the board's feelings to Carrie and Thelma and arrange for any assistance they need to represent ABS before international registration officials.

Chuck Anderson reported on 1982 convention plans, distributed drafts of a convention brochure, and said a mailing to members is planned by the end of May.

Chairman Charles Richardson presented the nominating committee's slate of 1982-83 officer nominees: Chuck Anderson for president, Bob Ammerman for president-elect, Margaret Lee and Bob Hamm for first vice president, Dan Haseltine and Charles Jaros for second vice president, Debbie Best for secretary, and Bill Scarborough for treasurer. Gil noted that any other prospective candidate must file a petition of nomination signed by 14 ABS members by June 22 with Secretary Arlene Davis, 13390 Barker Lane, Corona, Calif. 91720.

Chuck Anderson, co-editor, requested and received authorization to publish the ballot as a post card insert in the May-June *Begonian*, which he said will be late because of the petition candidate deadline.

The board moved to reimburse the president for \$200 in expenses in traveling to the Southwest Get-Together in Dallas.

## More *B. knoopii*

### From page 52

*Begonia* (section *Gireoudia* [Klotzsch] A.DC.) *knoopii* Ziesenh., spec. nov. Herba perennis fruticosa pumila: *caule* persistenti, erecto, tereti, 11 cm. elato, 2 mm. crasso, ramoso libere, caules foliis tegentibus: *internodiis* ca. 3 cm. longis, viridibus veronesii (Royal Horticultural Society color chart 660/1), punctis, notis oblongis et striis, rubris orientalibus (819/2); *lenticellis* paucis; *stipulis* persistentibus, papyraceis, ovatis inaequalibus, acutis, 1.3 cm. longis, 8 mm. latis, carinatis, carinis margine extremis acumenibus projectis, viridis veronesii, nudis; *petiolis* teretibus, 2 mm. crassis, 8.9 cm. longis, viridibus veronesii, punctis, notis oblongis et striis rubris orientalibus, laevibus nudis praeter superne fimbriato-manicatis, manicis basi rubris orientalibus, lobis viridibus veronesii; *foliis* papyraceis, viridibus spinaciae (o960); juvenalibus punctis et notis oblongis atrorubris, laevibus, nitidis, nervis viridibus pallidibus, nudis; subtus viridibus veronesii, punctis et notis oblongis rubris orientalibus tristibus hebetatis; nervis non prominentibus, nudis; asymmetricis, fere circularibus, acutis, basi cordatis, lobis modorotundatis, fere aequalibus, apertis vel lobis segmenta interiora inbricatis, margine integris praeter ad extrema nervorum dentibus parvis, 9.5 cm. longis, 7.6 cm. latis, palmatineriis, nervis 9-10, extus lateralibus 2, basilaribus 3, intus lateralibus 2, basilaribus 1, mediis 1, interjacentibus planis; *inflorescentia* cyma dichotoma, a Novembre ad Februarium; *pedunculis* axillaribus, teretibus 12 cm. longis, 2 mm. crassis, viridibus veronesii, punctis, notis oblongis et striis rubris orientalibus, laevibus, nudis; *bracteis* deciduis; *tepals masculinis* 2, roseis, late ovatis, integris, nudis, 1.3 cm. longis, 1.75 cm. latis; *staminibus* 7-10, filamentis liberis, 1.5 mm. longis, antheris obovatis, apice rotundo, basi cuneato, 2.4 mm. longis, 1 mm. latis, connectivo producto; *tepals femineis* 2, ut in masculinis sed nanis; stylis 3, basi connatis, breviter 2-cornutis, *fascia* papillosa bis spiraliter torta semel inferne contentis cintit; *capsula* nuda, 9 mm. longa, 5 mm. lata, trialata inaequaliter, ala

maxima triangula, acuta, 4 mm. longa, ceteris 3 mm. et 2 mm. longis; *ovario* elliptico, obtuso, 3-loculari, placentis bilamellatis, undique ovuliferis. Typus *MacDougall* No. C.186, in herbario Rudolf Ziesenhenne, 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103, U.S.A.

*Begonia knoopii* resembles *Begonia huberti* in its stems and habit of growth but it differs from it in the following manner: a cyme for inflorescence instead of a raceme, 9-10 nerves instead of 7 nerves, almost circular leaves instead of angular leaves, tepals wider than long instead of tepals longer than wide, the top edge of the keel on the stipule ends in an elevated horizontal point instead of gradually tapering down to the stipule, the largest wing on the capsule gradually tapering to a point instead of abruptly terminating to a little point.

## *B. hispidavillosa* *nigramarga*, new form

*Rudolf Ziesenhenne*

*Begonia hispidavillosa* was described and illustrated in the January 1950 issue of *The Begonian* on pages 12-14. This plant bears Thomas MacDougall's collection number C.64 and was collected March 14, 1948, in the Sierra Madre, northeast of Cerro Atravesado, Mexico, at an elevation of 5,000-6,000 feet.

On June 6, 1963, MacDougall collected specimen C.246 in the Sierra Madre at 5,000 feet, north of Zanatepic, Oaxaca, Mexico. This plant differs from the original plant in that the main nerves are bordered with black. This plant is named *Begonia hispidavillosa* form *nigramarga*.

*Begonia hispidavillosa nigramarga* has had some limited distribution. Martin Johnson of Redwood City, California, has crossed it with *Begonia heracleifolia* var. *nigricans* to produce a beautiful hairy plant with shallow lobes and dark nerves. Seeing this plant for the first time, one would suppose it to be a *Begonia bowerae* hybrid.

*Begonia hispidavillosa* forma *nigramarga* Ziesenhenne forma nova differt foliis nervis marginatis nigris. Typo Thomas MacDougall No. C.246, in herbario Rudolf Ziesenhenne, 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, Calif. 93103, U.S.A.

**Don't miss an issue . . .**

Check address label.

If your membership  
expires within 3 months,  
renew today. Send to:

Elisabeth Sayers, membership secretary  
369 Ridge Vista Ave.  
San Jose, CA 95127

# 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

Esther Passet, Natl. Dir.

### EAST BAY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.  
Northbrae Community Church,  
Berkeley, Calif.  
Milton Watt, Pres.  
119 Kenyon Ave.,  
Kensington, CA 94708

Helen Myers, Nat'l Dir.

### GARDEN GROVE BRANCH

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

Jane Walley, Pres.,

1341 Nanwood St.,

La Habra, CA 90631

George Allison, Natl. Dir.

### GLENDALE BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Glendale Federal S & L,  
401 N. Brand, Glendale, Calif.  
Helen Baker, Pres.  
1832 N. Ontario St.,  
Burbank, CA 91505

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

Florence Hess., Nat'l Dir.

### MONTEREY BAY AREA BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
New Monterey Neighborhood  
Center  
Lighthouse and Dickman Sts.,  
New Monterey, Calif.  
Raymond Peterson, Pres.  
192 Walker Valley Rd.,  
Castroville, CA 95012

Jackie Davis, 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

George Ghiotto, Natl. Dir.

### ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Fullerton S & L, 2310 E. Lincoln  
Ave., Anaheim  
Barbara Vallejos, Pres.  
1021 Cardiff,  
Anaheim, CA 92806

Sandy 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  
Omund 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.  
Elaine Baxter, Pres.  
2333 Trulane,  
Alhambra, CA 91016

Louise Best, 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 McEliderry, 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  
Connie Thornburg, Pres.  
9535 Nan St.,  
Pico Rivera, CA 90660  
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 Area

### POTOMAC BRANCH

4th Sunday, 2:00 p.m.,  
Sherwood Hall Library,  
1205 Sherwood Hall Lane,  
Alexandria, VA  
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.  
Ed Harrell, Pres.  
1628 Broward Rd.,  
Jacksonville, FL 32218  
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, Natf. 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, Mahopoc,

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.

Ricardo's Restaurant,

Butler, Penn.

Antoinette Ponteri, Pres.

407 Canterbury Trail, Mars, PA

16046

### 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.

Arline 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, Natf. 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.,

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.

# BOOKS ON BEGONIAS

**Begonias for Beginners.** Elda Haring's popular primer published in 1976. Very useful. Now sold only by the ABS Bookstore. \$4 paperback. \$6 hard cover.

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Bobbie Lovera, Manager  
6073 De La Vista  
Rubidoux, CA 92509

## Begonia gallery: B. 'Splotches'



Photo/Chuck Anderson

This variegated Leslie Woodriff hybrid, a cross between *B. solanantha* and *B. limmingheana*, has white splotches on its medium green leaves. As its long stems trail, clusters of pink flowers hang, (Note the prominent stigmas on the female flowers.) Dorothy Patrick of Dallas, Texas, entered this specimen in this year's ABS Southwest Get-Together show. Member of the trailing-scandent group, *B. 'Splotches'* was registered in 1978.

## 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 \$2 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.

## BEGONIAN MINI-ADS

**Begonias—violets—episcias.** Cuttings only. List 50¢. Springtime Gardens, 2212 Hickory, Sulphur, LA 70663.

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