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The BEGONIAN

The BEGONIAN

Publication of the American Begonia Society

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AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

ABS 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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(continued on back cover)

The Cover: *Begonia leathermaniae* O'Reilly & Karegeannes shows its distinctive leaf shape. The characteristic collar of hairs at the top of the petiole was shown on the cover photo of the September-October issue. Photos by Jack Golding, Kearny, New Jersey.

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ABS NEWS

GREETINGS

As we approach the new year it seems appropriate to thank all the people who have been helpful and willing to get the new officers off to a good and productive start.

This year I shall try to establish the very necessary communication lines between the national board, the branches, and the members-at-large.

I need to know what the branches and members expect from the national officers and the many departments and services offered. I want to hear from you or your national representative. I shall be happy to answer your questions, as will the committee chairmen.

I wish you all Happy Holidays. May the New Year bring into friendly contact all who love and grow Begonias.

Bob Ammerman
ABS President

As a small measure of appreciation for their loyalty and dedication to growing begonias, to promoting interest in begonias, and service to the Buxton Branch, the memberships of Nancy Alvard, Jeanette Kingsbury, Joy Logee Martin, and Arlene Peck in the Buxton Branch of the American Begonia Society were deemed on April 23, 1983, to be paid up and in good standing for life. These four members have, together, contributed over 150 years as members of the Buxton Branch.

The mixture of type in this journal represents the work of several different workers. We're using what we have and hope you understand.

Tamsin Boardman, publicity chairman for *Begonia* Roundup, reminds you to be sure to get to the right Hilton in April. It's the Hilton LBJ where ABS will convene.

Pamela Brewster, the registration chair, will be handling *Begonia* Roundup registrations on her Apple II computer; she can keep track of all registrants and the events they are interested in attending, and also communicate with the hotel's computer to give numbers for the banquet and other functions.

American Airlines offers all members flying to the Dallas convention either a Super-saver rate, or 30% off their regular coach fare; they will also make rental car reservations at a discount for members wishing cars, and will keep the convention committee advised of arrival and departure times of all participants.

Photo Credits

Photos in this issue were taken by:

Chuck Anderson	143,159
Jack Golding	147
LaVerne Hanell	149R
Thelma O'Reilly	149L
Joy Porter	150
Millie Thompson	145,152

Thank you to LAIFS Journal for permission to use photo on 149R.

Pearl Benell took the photo of Doug and Goldie Frost that was in the last issue of the *Begonian*. She's always snapping away at the conventions, but this is the first time (in a long while, anyway) that she's had her work in the *Begonian*.

Begonia leathermaniae, a New Bolivian Species

Thelma O'Reilly and Carrie Karegeannes

Once again, years of exploring puzzles concerning a begonia introduced into cultivation in the United States through ABS has culminated in a new name.

In 1957, Sylvia Leatherman of El Monte, Calif., then ABS research director, brought in three live plants of a begonia new to California from Dr. Oswaldo Handro of the Instituto de Botanica Sao Paulo, Brazil. This species grew tall and long-stemmed, up to 10 feet for some growers, rarely branching and usually dropping lower leaves to expose the lower stem and its swollen base. Handsome deep-green to bronzy-green, silver-streaked leaves were finely short-hairy, deeply divided into lobes radiating from the center (palmately lobed), and beaded with crystallike glands, chiefly underneath. Eventually flowers appeared in winter and spring—infrequent, rather large, and pale pink or white tinged pink.

Sylvia shared it with ABS growers as an unidentified Brazilian species. When members found it to be like a plant grown widely in Europe as *Begonia plataniifolia* Schott, it came to be generally accepted as that species, although Sylvia always questioned that identification. Many plants now grown in Europe originated from plants from the Agricultural University in Wageningen, The Netherlands, which obtained material from E. Irmscher's collection in Weihenstephan, Germany. Prof. J. Doorenbos of the university shared seed with ABS—see photo in *Seed Fund, Begonian*, August 1970 and August 1971, and an enlargement in Alva Graham's 1975 English translation of Charles Chevalier's *Begonias*, facing page 136; see also photos in Mildred Thompson and Edward Thompson, *Begonias* (1981), p. 68 and color p. 2.

Authors O'Reilly and Karegeannes of the nomenclature committee cooperated over a long period to determine identity and status of this new species.

Thelma O'Reilly in 1969 wrote Carrie Karegeannes her questions about this begonia's differences from descriptions and illustrations in the literature of *Begonia plataniifolia* Schott. The plant grown in California was tall, yes, with large, palmately lobed leaves, yes—but Thelma's plant and all the plants we know of in cultivation carry, persistently and consistently, a striking shaggy collar of "corn silk" hairs where the petiole joins the leaf blade. Surely this would be too evident and important a feature to be missed repeatedly by both botanists and artists? Yet no description or illustration of *B. plataniifolia* in the literature indicated a collar of hairs, and a working manuscript key used by Lyman B. Smith in the U.S. National Herbarium specifically grouped it with begonias *not* having a ring of trichomes at the top of the petiole. Rudolf Ziesenhenné, then ABS nomenclature director, in 1971 reported no collar of hairs present on photos from Europe of early *B. plataniifolia* dried specimens.

Continued observation by ABS growers found no variability in this trait on the plants now in cultivation; the collar (or "cuff") of hairs was always present. Further, the leaves were much more deeply cut, with the lobes long, narrow, and tapering (acuminate), instead of wide and broadly acute.

Ten years of correspondence with other growers and with botanists—and a hunt for original type specimens and all possible clues—has turned up the evidence that convinces us, finally, that this begonia is a separate, new species, not the *B. plataniifolia* named by Heinrich Schott in Sprengel's *Systema Vegetabilium* in 1827 and pictured in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* plate 3591 in 1837 with a detailed description by Graham of Edinburgh Botanical Garden. The illustration in *Paxton's Magazine of Botany* 3: 125 (1837) and the description by Alphonse de Candolle in his *Prodromus* 15(1): 315-16 (1864) belong to Schott's species also, but not to our plant.



B. leathermaniae in flower. Two widely open male blooms are at right, remainder are females. Photo by Ed & Millie Thompson. Other views of live plant include two cover photos, one on this issue and the other on the previous one. Cover photos by Jack Golding.

In 1979, Bernice G. Schubert of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University most kindly provided us photos she had taken of the earliest specimens at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England: one sent from Edinburgh to Hooker's herbarium (no. 435), cited by A. de Candolle, and one from Bentham's herbarium (no. 436). Graham at Edinburgh had based his description on cultivated plants sent from Berlin, identified as from Brazil. De Candolle did not find Schott's original specimens from Brazil in the Vienna and Berlin Herbariums when he wrote his classic account of *Begonia* published in 1864, so he used specimens in Hooker's herbarium, in Lenningrad, and his own.

The early photos clearly showed that the top of the *B. platanifolia* petiole did not carry a collar of hairs, and the lobes of the leaves were wide and not deeply cut or again divided. Jack Golding of the ABS nomenclature committee also visited Kew

and examined these specimens, confirming the differences.

The Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago meanwhile had provided a photo of a specimen in Berlin labeled *Begonia platanifolia* variety *acuminatissima* Kuntze, collected by Otto Kuntze in Bolivia, not far from the Brazilian border. The leaves were markedly like those on our plant, and it was named for the acuminate lobes that distinguished it from the broad-acute lobes of the typical *B. platanifolia*. The main lobes were often lobed again into narrower lobes as in our plant. Tantalizingly, however, the two overlapping sheets photographed showed only one leaf and did not expose the underside or top of petiole. We could not see whether it had the distinctive collar of shaggy hairs, and Kuntze's brief description did not mention the hairs. We noted, however, that Smith and Schubert in their 1945 study of *Begonia* of Bolivia cited the type specimen—a companion to the Berlin speci-

men—as being at the New York Botanical Garden. Perhaps that would answer our questions at last.

Jack, visiting the New York Botanical Garden to photograph Kuntze's type, discovered the crucial clue was indeed there. He found two sheets for Kuntze's specimen. A photo of one is in the U.S. National Herbarium at the Smithsonian, but the second sheet must have been overlooked by many—for it displayed the striking collar of hairs on a reversed leaf, a significant difference from Schott's species. Lyman Smith, Botanist Emeritus at the Smithsonian, studying the photos, agreed that Kuntze's variety should be raised to species rank. The collar of hairs at the top of the petiole had proved a good specific character in other species of *Begonia*, and he did not find an earlier name for the species.

Carrie also visited the New York Botanical Garden Herbarium to examine the Kuntze type in detail. We conclude that the plant now grown in cultivation is the same as *B. platanifolia* var. *acuminatissima* Kuntze, but that this plant is different enough from Schott's original *platanifolia* to be considered a distinct species. We therefore now name it *Begonia leathermaniae* in honor of Sylvia Leatherman, who originally introduced plants into cultivation in the United States:

Begonia leathermaniae O'Reilly & Karegeannes, sp. nov., stat. nov.

Begonia platanifolia Schott var. *acuminatissima* O. Kuntze, Rev. Gen. Pl. 3(2): 106. 1898, non *Begonia acuminatissima* Merrill, 1912.

A *Begonia platanifolia* Schott, cui paulo similis, petiolis ad apicem pilorum setiformium anulo ornatis, laminarum lobis plus minusve attenuatis differt.

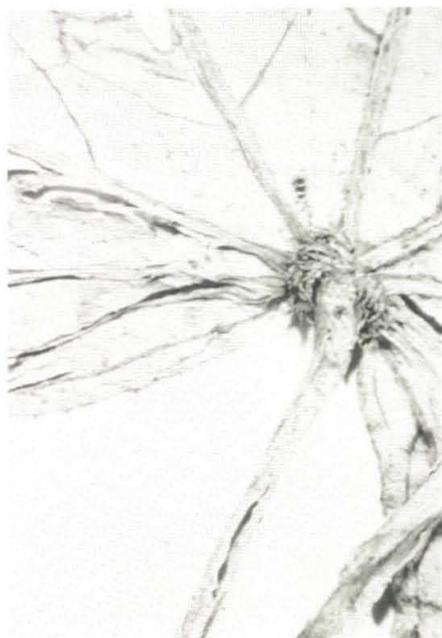
O. Kuntze, sine no., Bolivia, Santa Rosa, 1-4 April 1892, ex herb. Ktze., in N.Y. Botanical Garden Herb., typo; Berlin, isotypo (Field Museum of Natural History Neg. 20884). Also studied were O'Reilly 22, cult., 1982, in Karegeannes herbarium (duplicate in U.S. Nat'l. Herb), and Karegeannes 188, cult., 1978, in Karegeannes herb., as well as live plants.

Begonia leathermaniae is shrubby in botanical classification (canelike in horticultural show classification) with erect, woody, glabrous stem (gnarled and netted in our live plants). Leaf blades are broadly ovate to orbicular in outline, to 7" long by 9-1/4" wide, broadly cordate at the base, palmately 5- to 8-veined and deeply 4- to 5-divided with each lobe usually further divided and cut, yielding 6 to 8 or 9 smaller acuminate lobes. Leaves are very finely short-hairy on the upper surface and glabrous with prominent veins on the lower. The margin is cuspidate at the ends of the veins, dentate, and sparsely and finely ciliate. Stipules are not present on the type and isotype, which carry only a small piece of stem, but in life are large (1-5/8" x 5/8"), ovate, with small teeth at the broadly acute tips, and soon withered although remaining for a time. Petioles are 3-1/2" to 8" long, with a ring of pale, dense, thick, long and shaggy trichomes at their tips, just behind the base of the leaf blade.

The peduncle (flower stalk; 8-1/2" to 10-1/2" on the type) is longer than the petiole, and the cyme is three or more times dichotomous (forking). Bracts are ovate, acuminate, and scarious (separate and folded on the sheet of Kuntze's type), falling off very quickly ("caducissime," Kuntze noted on the sheet).

Male flowers are pale pink, unequally 4-tepaled, with 2 tepals (petals) broadly ovate and 2 narrower and about half as wide, the tepals entire but slightly ciliate. The anthers are oblong to obovate, almost equal to the filaments, with the filaments slender, shortly joined (connate) at the base.

Female flowers, also pale pink, are subequally 5-tepaled, the tepals broadly to narrowly elliptical, entire, slightly ciliate. Both ovary and capsule on the type are rounded to ovate, with 2 ribs or very narrow wings and 1 elongated, semi-ovate to lunate, membranous wing, much larger on mature capsules than on ovaries. Styles number 3, each 2-divided and 2-lobed, Kuntze noted on the sheet under the dried styles; in our live plants they appear expanded into broad, auriculate and shortly bilobed tips, with papillae on the margins.



First sheet of specimen collected by Otto Kuntze in Santa Rosa, Bolivia, 1-4 April 1892, from Kuntze's herbarium, now in New York Botanical Garden Herbarium. Type of *Begonia platanifolia* var. *acuminatissima*, now *Begonia leathermaniae*. (Portion of sheet omitted.) At right: Second sheet of Kuntze's specimen and close-up of leaf, collar, and petiole. Photos by Jack Golding.

Growing Begonia Leathermaniae: What Lies Ahead?

Thelma O'Reilly

NO ADMITTANCE - To a plant collector these two words can mean excitement because of what lies behind the closed door and frustration because what lies behind is usually "Not For Sale".

Even though it was nineteen years ago, I clearly remember the feeling of anticipation when I entered the door bearing those two words at Leatherman's Begonia Garden in El Monte, CA. Admittance was a special privilege available to me because I was the guest of Marge and Paul Lee who were close friends of Buck and Sylvia Leatherman.

Amidst all of the begonias, ferns and tropical companions, three plants vividly remain in my memory. A breathtaking *B. 'Fire Flush'* of shrub-like size, an exotic, green and cream, wavy lined bromeliad from Ecuador (later identified as *Guzmania lindenii*), and a lush, beautiful leaved, unidentified begonia species imported from Brazil by Sylvia (described in this issue of *The Begonian* as a new species, *B. leathermaniae*).

Sylvia related that Dr. Oswald Handro gave her 3 plants of this begonia when she visited Brazil in the late fifties. She found it easy to grow under her tropical greenhouse conditions but reluctant to bloom. Also, its tall stem with nodes far apart was not conducive to propagation. Reluctance to bloom was a drawback to seed distribution, so it remained unavailable.

About 1966 Sylvia finally succumbed to Paul Lee's numerous requests for a start of this begonia by giving him one of the original plants (which still remains in the Lee collection). I think she had an ulterior motive - no more "bugging" for bloom information from Thelma O'Reilly who lived in the area of the Lees.

Everytime male flowers appeared I would haunt the Lees for news of female blooms. Finally, in the late sixties, Paul called and said the big event was about to occur - the first female bloom. With writing materials

and camera in hand, I spent an afternoon taking notes and photographs. The huge, delicate pink, female flower was exquisite.

Paul realized this flower was necessary to complete my herbarium specimen. What a difficult decision. How could he remove this flower for pressing when he had waited so long to use it for hybridizing? Friendship prevailed and it went into my press. The complete specimen was shipped to Smithsonian and I received a report that nothing matched it in the Brazilian files.

Within a few years Paul's plant reached a height of nearly nine feet. He made a cutting from one of the rare side shoots and I began the difficult job of raising it under my adverse conditions—hot, dry summers and the occasional nighttime dip in temperature to below twenty-five degrees. I thought my problems with this contrary species would end when the greenhouse was built a few years ago but I found the warm, humid conditions cause problems of rot, too. Now, with the rising cost for utilities, I keep a cooler temperature in the greenhouse and am having more success.

In early December I give the plant a light sprinkle of slow release fertilizer and place it in the sunniest part of the greenhouse. As soon as the heavy spring rains cease I return it outdoors under shade cloth protection. I find that it prefers the cool nights we usually experience in Southern California. My plant has only bloomed once. Two years ago it produced large clusters of pale pink male flowers that were highlighted with masses of crystalline glands—no females appeared. These glands are a common characteristic of *B. leathermaniae*, appearing at random on all parts of the plant, and leaving behind an obvious black residue. My efforts to pollinate with other begonias failed.

B. 'Phantom' (*B. pseudolubbersii* x *B. leathermaniae*) appears to be the only widely distributed cultivar of *B. leathermaniae*. It was developed in 1969 by Paul Lee, San Diego, CA. It should be noted that the original registration application form (#272) for



Freshly opened female bloom on plant grown by Margaret Lee and photographed by Thelma O'Reilly.



Sylvia Leatherman, honored by the naming of this species, brought plant into cultivation in U.S. She is shown here with her husband, Buck, at home.

this cultivar lists *B. lubbersii* as the seed parent. Marge Lee informs me that their plant of *B. lubbersii* was correctly identified as *B. pseudolubbersii* several years after registration of *B. 'Phantom'*. The cultivar is a tall, shrubby, cane-like plant with chatoyant, acutely lobed, emerald green leaves that are irregularly silver striped and spotted. It is easier to grow than its parents and rewards the grower in fall and winter with pendulous clusters of large, white, flushed pink flowers. *B. 'Phantom'* is pictured on the cover of *The Begonian*, December 1977.

After contacting most of the California hybridizers who grow *B. leathermaniae*, it appears there are no other named cultivars in cultivation here at the present time.

Using *B. leathermaniae* as the seed parent, Martin Johnson made a cross with *B. dipetala*. This hybrid resembles its seed parent but does show distinct differences. Luxuriant, forest green, large leaves are splashed with metallic markings. Lobes are acute, and hairy, prominent red veins on

the undersurface are distinct. Martin is waiting for blooms before deciding if it is worthy of a cultivar name.

Bob Cole of the Botanical Garden's Plant Shop, Resada, CA reports many attempts to use *B. leathermaniae* as a parent but has had no success.

I was excited to learn that Patrick Worley of Kartuz Greenhouses, Vista, CA has been hybridizing with *B. leathermaniae* for the past few years. He is enthusiastic about his results: This species has proven successful several times as pollen parent and a few times as seed parent. Patrick's creative talent includes several hybrids being groomed for future release. He says some are compact and some are beautiful, small leaved plants. I predict they will make interesting additions to our collections.

I would appreciate information from members with knowledge of any other hybrids using *B. leathermaniae* as a seed or pollen parent.

SEED FUND/ *Tuberous seeds and bulbils for early starts*

Joy Porter, director, Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund

- N-D 1—*B. pearcei*: Low-growing tuberous species with dark olive-green, velvety leaves and single yellow flowers. per pkt 1.00
- N-D 2—*B. cinnabarina*: Low-growing tuberous species with not only bright red-orange single flowers, but with pedicels and ovaries of the same color as well. per pkt 1.00
- N-D 3—*B. boliviensis*: Tuberous species with scarlet flowers. Its wand-like stems with elongated leaves and flower petals are unique. per pkt 1.00
- N-D 4—*B. boissieri*: Tuberous species, 2 feet tall with dark green, rounded leaves at the bottom of the stalk, becoming pointed-ovate at the top. Each translucent white, fragrant flower, flushed with pink margins and reverses is held in a round cup-like bract of the same colors. Stems and petioles are red. per pkt 1.00



Begonia bulbifera

- N-D 5—*B. bulbifera*: Three foot tall tuberous species from Mexico with glossy bright green 4-inch lobed and dentate leaves. The pink 1½-inch flowers on short pedicels, the leaves and the branching stems all grow out of the stem at the same juncture. Nestled between the leaf and stem is a leafy bract holding 40-80 tiny bulbils. These little rascals are harder to corral than a herd of dogs. These cannot be mailed in an ordinary envelope. 3-5 bulbils 1.00
- N-D 6—*B. gracilis* var. *martiana* (often called the "Hollyhock Begonia"): Grows 3-5 feet high with glossy, triangular 6½-inch leaves, bright pink 2-inch flowers on short stems, and branches all growing from the leaf axis. At this time I cannot say whether you will get seed or bulbils. If specifying bulbils, please enclose the additional 40¢ for special packaging, as they cannot be mailed in an envelope. per pkt 1.00
- N-D 7—*B. U103*: A 2-foot tuberous species from Bolivia with red stems and peduncles, bright, glossy 3-inch lobed leaves and 1½-inch white flowers flushed with pink. It branches readily and blooms profusely although they are on rather long peduncles. per pkt 1.00
- N-D 8—*B. californica*: For the first time, this tuberous species from Baja, California is being offered in the Seed Fund. This seed is from plants grown by Prof. Doorenbos from seed collected by Scott Hoover in 1976 (*Begonian*, Oct 1978). Are the flowers really pink/purple as Martin Johnson asks (*Begonian*, Mar 78)? One pkt per customer 1.00

- N-D 9—*B. sutherlandii*: Dainty tuberous species from Africa with bright green 3-inch leaves, red stems and small orange flowers. I understand that this one can be grown in a light garden if given 14-16 hours of light daily. Seed or bulbils.
..... per pkt 1.00
- N-D 10—*B. Tuberhybrida*: Doubles, from a world-famous grower, hand-pollinated from selected parents of proven worth. A collection of 6 colors, packaged separately.
..... **per coll 5.00
- N-D 11—*B. Tuberhybrida*: Doubles, mixed colors from same grower as above.
..... **per pkt 1.50
- N-D 12—*B. Tuberhybrida*: Pendulas, mixed colors. **per pkt 1.50
- N-D 13—Bronze leaf *Semperflorens* cultivars. Please state color(s) desired: pink, red, or white picotee. per pkt .50
- N-D 14—Green leaf, *Semperflorens* cultivars. Please state color(s) wanted: pink, red, or red/white picotee. per pkt .50
- N-D 15—*B. Semperflorens* cultivars: Large, green leaf; white/pink picotee or white/salmon-orange picotee. Large flowers. per pkt .50

**Shipping note: These items cannot be mailed in an SASE. Please include sufficient additional monies for padded, hand-cancelled package.

If ordering more than 10 packets, please include 50¢, instead of usual 40¢ for special packaging.

For the novice grower, I would like to explain that all of the above (with the exception of N-D 10, 11, 12) were grown outside and pollinated by the whims of nature. Anything can happen, and occasionally something of interest does appear. Share your results with other growers via the Seed Fund.

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.

GROWING FROM SEED/ *Tuberous*

Joy Porter

The summer-flowering tuberous species and *Tuberhybrida* seed and bulbils listed in this issue are not house plants. Growers with climates too hot and humid, or too hot and dry, please forgive — I will make it up to you in the next issue.

Unlike the majority of *Begonia* seed, tuberous should be planted in January and early February for the long growing season needed to produce good bloom. If you cannot provide extra light for *Tuberhybrida* seedlings, especially during January, February and March, do not attempt them; if the amount of darkness in a 24-hour period equals or exceeds the amount of light, the seedlings will form tubers at the expense of top growth.

Keep them actively growing on by transplanting as roots fill the container, providing 14-16 hours of light a day. As well, do try misting with a foliar feed as seedlings have far less root system to assimilate root-feed.

I had thought that it was not possible to grow and bloom tuberous species from seed in one season; however, if optimum conditions are maintained at all times, it can be done. I planted *B. boissieri* (2-year old seed) on February 9, with germination complete on February 16 (for those of you planting by moon signs — the moon was in Scorpio). Seedlings were transplanted three times, including into the final 12 inch clay bulb pans, which held three seedlings each. These were sunk into the ground, where

Go to page 161.

Begonia 'Pink Dream'

Mildred L. Thompson



Begonia 'Pink Dream' sometimes seems to have as many blossoms as leaves.

In 1880, an outstandingly beautiful winter-flowering species was collected by Dr. Issac Bayley Balfour, of Edinburgh Gardens, in Kirschen, Socotra, a hot, dry island off the east coast of Africa, a most unlikely place for a species of *Begonia*. This species was found growing in the shade under granite boulders. In 1881, Dr. Joseph Dalton Hooker named this species *B. socotrana*. Shortly after, in 1882, *B. socotrana* was distributed by James Veitch & Sons, renowned English commercial grower of that time. Hybridizers lost no time in crossing this species with the summer-flowering tuberous begonias in an effort to get winter-flowering begonias with flowers that were similar to the summer-flowering tuberous begonias. As a result, a colorful group of begonias originated; and, finally in 1933, the group was named *Hiemalis* by Karl Fotsch.

Around 1978, Leslie Woodriff started to introduce begonias that had characteristics

similar to the *Hiemalis* begonias; their cultural requirements were also similar. However, the parentages of these introductions were slightly different from the *Hiemalis* begonias; they were a result of tuberous begonias, *B. socotrana*, or *B. socotrana* derivatives crossed with rhizomatous begonias. In 1981, in *Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide* (Times Books, 1981), I proposed the name *Hiemalis*-like for this new group. In my opinion, only when we have a larger number of begonias in the *Hiemalis*-like group being introduced and grown can the need for further work in the classification of this group be evaluated and accomplished. Presently there are three outstanding cultivars in the *Hiemalis*-like group:—*B.* 'Ever Reddy' (Woodriff, 1978); *B.* 'Baby Rosebud' (Woodriff, 1980); and *B.* 'Pink Dream' (Woodriff, 1978).

Since my husband and I received a small plant of *B.* 'Pink Dream' from the Woodriffs in December 1979, it has been a favorite in our greenhouses. Leslie Woodriff developed this cultivar when he crossed *B.* 'Patty Sweet' x *B. socotrana* X *B. herbacea*. *B.* 'Patty

Mildred Thompson's address is P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, NY 11968.

Sweet' is a beautiful Tuberhybrida Pendula begonia that was developed in 1944 by Leslie Woodriff; *B. socotrana* is the winter-flowering bulbous species; and *B. herbacea* is an epiphytic distinctive rhizomatous species with lance-shaped leaves. *B. 'Pink Dream'* was first distributed in 1978, and it was registered #698 by the American Begonia Society in September 1978.

B. 'Pink Dream' is a very floriferous plant that blooms all year. The deep pink flowers are similar to *B. socotrana*, and the somewhat cascading flower stems and graceful racemes are also similar to those found in *Hiemalis* begonias. Even though *B. 'Pink Dream'* blooms all year, I find that it blooms much more profusely during the winter months. *B. 'Pink Dream'* is a low-growing, compact plant that produces numerous basal shoots. The stems are never more than twelve inches in length. The widely ovate medium green leaves measure about 4" x 5". The smooth surface of the leaves has a satiny sheen and the leaf margins are toothed.

This delightful begonia is not difficult to grow. The correct amount of light is important for the profuse blooming that is characteristic of this cultivar. In most locales, the sunlight must be filtered to some degree from spring through summer; whereas, in the winter, the maximum amount of sunlight is necessary. Temperature should be within the 60-70 degree range. The preferable relative humidity should be around 40%. Good air circulation will help to prevent powdery mildew and botrytis, the two most prevalent diseases of *Hiemalis* and

Hiemalis-like begonias. Fertilize only once a month with a water-soluble complete fertilizer; if fertilized more frequently, there will be an excess of foliage and diminished flowering.

Occasionally the amount of flowers decreases for a period of time, but usually when this happens, much new growth at the base of the plant can be seen. As the new growth develops, I slowly remove the old stems a few at a time until all of the old growth is removed. In a short time, the plant is blooming once again.

We prefer to grow *B. 'Pink Dream'* in a moss-lined wire container; we started to grow it in this kind of container shortly after receiving it from Leslie Woodriff. We use the same potting mix as we do for *Hiemalis* and *Hiemalis*-like begonias (i.e., 2 parts spagnum peat moss, 1 part perlite, and 1 part soil). We move it to the next size container only when the root system fills the soil ball.

The beauty of *B. 'Pink Dream'* has been truly captivating through the years, and it continues to be a delightful addition to our collection that not only brings us and our visitors happiness with its never-ending beauty but also reminds us of Leslie Woodriff, a fine hybridizer who has given the Begonia World so many excellent cultivars for more than forty years. I think *B. 'Pink Dream'* is among his finest introductions!

*Photos by Edward and Mildred Thompson,
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QUESTION BOX/ *Tuberhybrida* from Tubers

Mabel Corwin

Question This is my first year trying to grow tuberous begonias. I started them under Gro-lights, and out of 12 tubers, 9 sprouted. Some grew very nicely, some very small, then they all stopped growing. I moved them outside when the weather warmed, but nothing happened. They didn't die and they didn't grow. Can you solve my problem?

Answer I'm sorry your tuberous begonias didn't do well. I don't know your summer weather conditions, but I will make some suggestions that I hope will be helpful.

Tuberous begonias need cool temperatures and high humidity. They grow to perfection in the coastal areas where the weather is cool and the fog rolls in at night. They will not tolerate heat and dry air. I wonder if it might have been too hot for them under the lights.

The tubers sprout and the plants grow as the days lengthen during the spring and summer. In October when the nights are getting longer the plants stop blooming and die down. Perhaps you changed the day length and confused the plants into thinking it was time to rest.

Tuberous begonias are heavy feeders when they are growing and blooming. They should be fed regularly for optimum growth. While they are growing a formula such as 14-14-14 is good. When they set buds it is better to switch to a fertilizer formulated for bloom such as 0-10-10 or 15-30-15.

I hope you used a good soilless mix to plant the tubers. If you used garden soil it is possible you have something in the soil that is attacking the roots.

I don't believe they need to be grown under lights. I start my tubers under the benches in the greenhouse where the light is low and the humidity is high. When they

are growing nicely I move them to a shade area where they get more light, but never strong light.

I suggest using a liquid fertilizer once a week during the growing season. One teaspoon to a gallon of water is what most growers use.

If these don't perform for you, I hope you will try again next year following these suggestions. If there are others in your area who are growing tuberous begonias, talk to them and observe their conditions. Keep trying! We all have to learn by trial and error.

Question: You wrote that you plant your seeds during winter. Is there a reason for this? It seems to me it would be better to plant when the weather is warmer.

Answer: Yes, I have a reason for planting begonia seeds in the winter time. I set the plastic sweater box containing the seeds on a heating tray so they keep warm. There is a fluorescent light above which is on about 16 hours a day. So they have the light and warmth they need for germination.

When the seedlings start to grow, there is a real "population explosion!" As they are transplanted into trays and then small pots (still in plastic boxes), they take lots of room. By having the seedlings coming along during spring and summer, I can move them a few at a time to the greenhouse to harden off. The weather will then be warm enough so they can be moved out to the shade house.

It is important that tuberous begonia seed be planted during the winter. I plant tuberous in December and January. This will give them a full growing season to develop a tuber. If they are started during the summer months, often they die down when they have only a very small tuber and it may not sprout again.

I do sometimes plant seeds at other times, if I receive seeds of a new species, or if I make a cross and want to test the seeds. I always plant a few seeds to test for germination before sending the rest to

Turn to page 155.

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.

Thelma O'Reilly

Holiday Greetings Everyone!

As I write this newsletter, 1983 is nearing its final days. Let's turn back the clock one year and see what has occurred since my request for "input" from you.

Members from ten states responded: California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wisconsin.

Some of the requests and suggestions have already been implemented. You will receive three newsletters annually; one will be published in *The Begonian*, and two will be written and mailed to all members-at-large who send me a request, including a stamped, self-addressed envelope. A notice will appear in *The Begonian* when the letters are ready for mailing.

Phyllis Bates, editor, has promised more articles about companion plants for begonias and begonia personalities.

The Board of Directors fully understands the urgent need for most members-at-large to have personal contact with nearby or in-state begonia growers. There are a few members who do not want their addresses released, so the board gave me permission to list the names and addresses of those members anxious to contact other members and share information.

Dick Brainard, 112 Hillbridge Drive, Warner Robins, GA 31093 is a new member who would like to hear from members sharing similar growing conditions (hot summers). He is trying tuberous begonias with poor results. He wants to learn more about growing small semperflorens and rhizomatous begonias.

Phil Mudgett, 9005 W. 5th Ave., Lakewood, CO 80226 is another new member who would like to be acquainted with any members living in Colorado or vicinity.

Marti Taylor, 1214 Buena Vista Ave., Tacoma, WA 98466 would enjoy contact with members from the Tacoma area.

Here's your opportunity to do a good deed for a new member and the ABS. Please write and make them feel welcome.

"Color" in *The Begonian* was mentioned in more than half the letters I received. The editor is obtaining some prices which I'll discuss in the next newsletter along with an idea about how you can participate in a project for more color in the magazine.

Leslie Woodriff of CA reports that he is still working with his "black bottle and brush." He shares exciting news. What about a cross of double red semperflorens with huge leaved, sweet scented *B. megaphylla*? Or *B. nitida* with near double red semperflorens? *B. fusca* x *B. imperialis* and many interesting crosses with tuberous begonias and other types are being tested for future release. (Leslie is an outstanding lily hybridizer and lilies make great companions for begonia plantings.)

Howard Siebold, 32050 Westwood Drive, Fort Bragg, CA 95437 is hybridizing tuberous varieties and invites members to visit the gardens. During blooming season, they are open every day from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm.

A special thanks to Pauline Chambers of Florida for her letters filled with information, new ideas and motivation. I want to personally thank all of you who wrote during the past year. Your letters were constructive and encouraging. They made me feel I shall be able to assist the members who are unable to take an active role in an ABS Branch.

1983 was a beginning. Let's set a 1984 goal. Can we grow and have enough participation by 1985 to be a Member's-at-Large Branch? Let's try. I'll need more "input" from you.

Question Box
(from page 154)

the Seed Fund. Except for tuberous, it doesn't matter what time of year you plant the seed as long as you can provide the conditions they need.

In areas where the summers are very hot, some growers have the problem of seedlings "cooking" in the plastic boxes. That is not my problem. It is a case of finding room in the house for all those "babies."

Joan Campbell, director

Robin members still report good results using insecticidal soap. Doreen Vandertuin, Simi Valley, California, had an invasion of scale on her orchids. She took Q-tips wetted with the soap and cleaned off all the scale that she could find and then sprayed the plant with the soap solution. The next week she found a few scales more on the plants and repeated the routine. The third week, although she saw no pests, she sprayed again wanting to take no chances. After two weeks there was no sign of scale.

However, David Atkinson, Morrilton, Arkansas, found that the leaves on several scheffleras dropped after he sprayed with a mix of the soap, but he feels he may have used too strong a solution. Christine Norvell, Waco, Texas, reports the soap solution was hard on her African Violets when used as a drench. It seemed to make them hold too much water and rot. Carl Walker, Jr., Lenoir, North Carolina, used soapy water once when he had mildew. He washed off the plants and rinsed them and changed the top ¼" of soil, improved the air circulation, and has had no further problem with mildew.

Dora Lee Dorsey, Tampa, Florida, commenting about rhizomatous begonias, says that *B. paulensis* will not start from a leaf. Frances Hoffman, Northport, New York, says that *B. gehrtii* will not start from a leaf either, that it will form roots, but no plantlets appear.

Discussing shrublike and trailing begonias, Bob Hamm, Wichita Falls, Texas, reports that *B. convolvulacea* did well in dense shade on the floor of his greenhouse, but burned in pots and baskets with more light. Mabel Corwin, Vista, California, says that *B. molleri* is an interesting species, but that she has never been able to make a

beautiful plant of it. It puts out long awkward stems and when she cuts it back the new growth grows straight out to the side. She finds that "rather weird".

Mabel also says, "I grew 'Murray Morrison' for many years and never had a bloom on it anywhere. I have a very large *B. vitifolia* that grows through the top of the 10-foot lathhouse. I had a nice plant of 'Murray Morrison' and no place to put it. So I planted it in the ground at the base of the *B. vitifolia*. A year ago it bloomed and now it is in bloom again. It is quite shady there and formerly I kept giving it light as that usually promotes bloom. I don't know if it is the extra shade or the fact that the roots are in the ground. Our soil is so heavy I'm surprised that it flourished."

Robin members have been discussing leaf fall on their canes. Joan Campbell, Corvallis, Montana, did a little research in past issues of *The Begonian*, etc., and found many comments about "bare bottom canes"; "Too much water and too high humidity" (Thompsons); "Keeping them too dry" (Haring); "Keeping them too cold" (Hamm); "Too little light" (DeCola) "... means they need fertilizer" (Pease).

Mabel Corwin, Vista, California, notes that canes will lose their leaves if there are sudden changes from hot to cold; also that during winter some leaf loss is normal, that the plant is just resting. The older leaves serve their purpose, then can be cut back. She waits until they are ready to put out new growth. A general rule is to cut back about two-thirds, but it depends a lot on the variety and how you want them to grow. Cutting back forces new growth along the cane and also from the soil to make a bushier plant. Canes are heavy feeders and they will also drop their lower leaves if they are hungry.

Rhodora Buss, LeMars, Iowa, thinks canes dislike being watered during the hottest part of the day. They like air circulation to let them dry a bit between waterings and a little air motion will keep them from burning if the sun gets too intense.

Information about joining a robin—a packet of letters circulated among begonia lovers—is available from Joan Campbell, round robin director. Write to her at 814 NE Honey House Lane, Corvallis, MT 59828.

Susan Johnston, Norman, Oklahoma, says she had problems with *B. 'Irene Nuss'* when she first got it. It wouldn't branch or send up basal growth. She took a cutting and began pinching as soon as it had rooted and now the cutting has sent up three basal shoots and branched. It is a much fuller plant than the parent.

Bob Hamm, Wichita Falls, Texas, says after a sudden drop in temperature followed by a rise, feeding the cane begonias will prevent leaf drop. It is very helpful to know this, comments Tasmin Boardman, Roanoke, Texas, should your greenhouse heater fail.

Bob says that lack of top growth on begonias can be caused by nutrient deficiency (needs either repotting or feeding) or the plant may be semidormant because of too hot or too cold growing conditions. Repotting at this time will cause problems. When a newly replanted begonia refuses to grow it may be unhappy with its soil mix, or it may not like a new growing area if it has been moved.

Dora Lee Dorsey, Tampa, Florida, says *B. lubbersii* is always more green and less spotted grown in natural light in the greenhouse.

Priscilla Beck, Mystic, Connecticut, is using a soilless mix for her begonias with some perlite, sand, and pine bark added, otherwise the mix would stay too wet in winter. Erich Steiniger, Oxford, Ohio, had some plants die after using fir bark in the bottom of the pots. Dan Haseltine, Chicago, Illinois, remarked that fir bark starts to decompose, gets soft, and holds too much water so the roots rot. A fast draining medium is needed when using fir bark and one should cut back on the frequency of watering.

Dorcas Resleff, Ridgefield, Washington, has tried different mixes for her rex begonias. A good one she tried once consisted of equal parts peatmoss, soil, perlite, with a bit of milled spagnum, egg shell or oyster shell (for poultry) and some commercial fertilizer. It had good drainage and the oyster shell improved the colors. She has found thin leaved rexes more difficult to

propagate — they may rot in water. Alta Soule, Sacramento, California, uses the oyster shell to counteract acidity. She crushes it to powder and mixes it in the soil — or if a plant is already planted, she mixes it in the top of the soil and waters it in well.

Lynda Goldsmith, Fairfax, Vermont, is pursuing her Master's Degree in Botany. Lynda has been experimenting with begonia leaves and cold temperatures and has found that begonia leaves *seem* more resistant to cold temperatures than tropical plants are supposed to be. A small, random selection of begonia leaves took 28° temperature without much ill effect, which Lynda found interesting. But of course this can't be taken as a definite statement regarding all begonia leaves and cold temperatures.

Betty Davenport, Pasco, Washington, reports that two plant experts at the University of Washington said you cannot raise the humidity of an area by misting and she hasn't misted since then. Her plants have not been hurt by it.

A friend in Canada gave her the following directions for germinating hard coated seeds: "All equipment should be sterilized. Place the seeds in a pint jar with sterile water. Add only *one* drop of Vel-Dove dish-washing soap in the morning and allow them to soak all day, shaking the jar at frequent intervals. About 7:00 or 8:00 p.m. add one or two drops of chlorine to the soaking seeds, stir well. After no more than one hour drain the seeds using cheesecloth over the jar mouth. Wash the seeds in three or four changes of sterile water, return the seeds to the jar and fill with sterile water. Add two drops of hydrogen peroxide and soak overnight. Plant seeds in sterile medium and use only sterile water 'til the leaves are up and the plants well under way." This worked for Betty with lily, allium, iris, and succulent seeds.

There are almost always some vacancies on the robins — contact your Round Robin Director and she will be glad to get you started as a fledgling!

ABS AWARDS/ Time for letters of nomination

Mabel Corwin

The next annual convention will be held in April. It is already time to be thinking about the top American Begonia Society Awards for 1984: the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award, the Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service, and the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial Medal.

This is not a popularity contest. You must state in a letter your reasons for believing the person or plant is deserving of the award. The Awards Committee members make their decision on the basis of qualification. The winner may, or may not, have received the most votes.

Please read carefully the following rules governing the awards:

Eva Kenworthy Gray Award

This award may be presented to a person for one of two reasons:

1. For contributing something of a spiritual value toward cementing goodwill and harmony among our members.

BEGONIAN MINI-ADS

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BEGONIAS: THE COMPLETE REFERENCE GUIDE, by Mildred L. and Edward J. Thompson, 384 pages, 850 illustrations (165 in color). Culture, classification, and history. \$25.00 (jacket price \$37.50) for a limited time only. (Shipping included in U.S. To order autographed copies write The Thompsons, P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, NY 11968. Enclose a check for \$25.00 or use your Mastercharge or Visa card.

2. For contributing original material toward helping our rank and file members in furthering their study of begonias.

Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service

This award is presented to a member who has rendered long-time or very outstanding service above and beyond the normal duties of a member or officer of ABS.

Alfred D. Robinson Memorial Medal

This medal is awarded to an outstanding begonia hybrid. The following rules govern this award:

1. All begonia nominees must have been registered with the ABS Nomenclature Director.

2. The originator of the begonia nominee must be a member of ABS.

3. The begonia nominee must have been released to the public for at least five years, but not more than ten years prior to nomination.

As an ABS member you have the privilege of nominating the person and plant you consider worthy of receiving one of these prestigious awards. I must receive your letters no later than February 14. Send your nominations to:

Mabel Corwin, Awards Chairman
1119 Loma Vista Way
Vista, CA 92083

FAIRYLAND BEGONIAS: Tiny Gem miniature everbloomer. Bokit hybrid, spiral green star, black or brown markings; China Curl, versicolor x Cathayana x rex, spiral purple, black, silver zone. Gift plant. 4 plants \$12. prepaid. New descriptive begonia and lily catalog 50 cents. Leslie Woodriff, Fairyland Begonia and Lily Garden 1100-B Griffith Rd., McKinleyville, CA 95521

BOOK SALE: Collection of Begonians, nearly complete 78-83, \$25. Begonias for Beginners by Haring, \$3. Bromeliads by Padilla, \$10. Brazil by M. Foster, \$10. Begonias for American Homes, First ed., by Krauss, \$25. Complete Book of House Plants by Fitch, \$10. Thompson Begonia Guide, Vol. I and II, \$35. Shipped postpaid. Paul Lowe, 1544 West Rd, Lake Park, FL 33403.

ABS NEWS/ Activities and Services you'll find of interest

There was an error in the state abbreviation for new Round Robin Director Joan Campbell. Blame it on the editor's lack of experience, bad eyesight, or whatever, but please address your letters to MT - Montana when you write to Joan.

This is a fine opportunity to introduce Joan Campbell. The last two robin columns have been a mix of her work and that of Mary Harbaugh, who has returned to school.

Joan has been a member-at-large of ABS and a robin member for at least five years. She is married, has a B. S. in Business Administration from Montana State University, and has done secretarial work for many years, but is not now working. She has served as secretary and reporter for her local

Back Country Horsemen club and held offices for other organizations.

It's amazing how far people will go for begonias: a group of ABS members from Japan attended the Riverside Convention, flew east to visit Logee's Greenhouses in Connecticut and The Thompson Begonia Museum on Long Island. They visited with ABS friends in northern California before returning home. (See photo below.)

Joy Porter, the Seed Fund Director, went to England in October and sent or brought back seeds and tubers of *Tuberhybrida* for the seed fund.

Lorra Almstedt, Ronnie Nevins and other members of the Orange County



A few days after attending the Riverside convention, ABS members from Japan traveled to Northern California, where host Marguerite DeCola, M.D., of the Santa Clara Valley Branch took them to see Sunset Magazine's gardens. They are (left to right) Dr. DeCola; Yuji Murotani, author of a new book on begonias; Masuo Yamada of the Hyogo Botanical Garden; and Hikoichi Arakawa, who attends ABS conventions regularly and has assisted in translating several Japanese begonia books.

Branch will be going to Sherman Gardens to assist in identifying the begonias in their collection.

IN MEMORIAM

Louise Bower of the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch died on June 21. She was president of the branch in 1966. She taught school for 35 years in Texas and was a substitute teacher in Ventura. She also taught astronomy and was interested in natural history. Her first love was begonias. She was very knowledgeable about them and shared information very freely: she had an educational display at the national ABS conventions for many years. The branch made a gift to ABS research fund in memoriam.

Ethel Reid was president of the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch in 1965. She died of cancer in August. She had a beautiful garden that she opened to the branch and the public every year to show Begonias in the landscape. She was an outstanding grower of tuberous varieties. Ethel was chairman of the branch booth at the county fair and worked many years on that project. She started the branch college scholarship for a horticultural student, and she and her husband Elmer made a contribution to the fund every year. He has stated that he will continue to contribute to the fund in her name.

Mason Thorne of the Desert Begonia Club passed away in July. He had served as president of this group for two years, and his wife Violet is the current president.

D. G. Sullinger died at his Downey home in September. He served numerous times as national representative for both the North Long Beach and Whittier Branches. He served as president of the North Long Beach Branch for five years and was an ABS Life Member. His hobbies were his plants and dancing. He was a carpenter, and worked on many civic buildings including the Los Angeles Art Center, the Music Center, the Hall of Records, and Dodger Stadium.

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Write Ed and Millie Thompson, P.O. Box PP, Southampton, N.Y. 11968 for a free brochure about the greenhouse hours and location.

Mail Box

In order to comply with postal regulations, the ABS has acquired a post office box which is now the official society address. Any mail coming to this box will be forwarded to the appropriate person for action, and communications addressed to the title of an officer can be sent to the box.

The list of services and officers will continue to appear on the inside covers of *The Begonian*. In most cases it will be faster to address your letter directly to the person who heads the department you want to contact as you have been doing in the past.

Lending Library

All members are welcome to use the ABS Lending Library at any time they seek gardening information. Books may be borrowed for a 30-day period, but may be renewed for an additional 30 days by written request.

A deposit of \$10.00 for each book is required at the time of ordering. This check will be held until the book is returned to the library with a self-addressed stamped envelope. Then the check will be sent back to the borrower. A postage and handling charge of 80 cents in stamps should be sent at the time the deposit check is sent. This charge also helps to pay for the printing of the book list. Send your requests directly to the ABS Librarian.

Slide Library

Three new programs with tapes have been added to the slide library: Rhizomatous Begonias by Millie and Ed Thompson, Japanese Hybrids by Millie and Ed Thompson, and Begonia Collecting in the Wild by Scott Hoover.

With winter approaching, the outdoor activity will lessen, and it will be a good time to review all of those good slides you took during the summer and send them to the slide library. With cold weather and snow in the Chicago area, Dan Haseltine will have time to assemble slides into new and interesting programs.

All slides of begonias are acceptable, preferably identified. A few slides or a full

program — rest assured that none will be discarded.

One program of slides that we would like to assemble would be composed of slides from the 50th anniversary convention. We would appreciate any slides donated toward such a program. Many branches would like programs on propagation, as there is always something to learn from each other. There have been requests for programs on *semperflorens*, *species*, *scandent/trailing* types, *rexes*, etc.

Of course, there is much interest in seeing how begonias are raised in various parts of the U.S. from Florida and Texas to Montana, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Our membership is international, so let us see what we can of Japan and Asia, Europe, Australia, South America — wherever *The Begonian* goes. The slide librarian would like to hear from you.

Daniel Haseltine
Slide Librarian

Growing from Seed (from page 151)

they received full sun from morning through later afternoon, and had begun to bloom by late July.

Bulbils are another story, as I think they have a built-in clock. I planted *gracilis* variety *martiana* bulbils on January 4th, and they did not germinate until April, but then grew quickly and bloomed by mid-July.

I would like to see many more growers trying tuberous, especially from seed. Time is money in this particular game, and one can have fifty plants for less than the price of one tuber, and have them in comparable time. As well, there is the exciting prospect of a unique cross appearing from seed. Of course, if something unusual springs up for you, please send the resulting seed to the Seed Fund.

**The Indoor Light Gardening Society
of America Inc., Dept. B,**
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Dues \$8.00. LIGHT GARDEN published
6 times yearly,
cultural guides, seed exchange,
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THE BOARD/ September 20, 1983

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Ammerman at 7:45 pm at the Fullerton Savings and Loan. There were 16 members in attendance and four guests. John Ingles read the aims and purpose of the society.

Correction and addition to minutes: Pearl Benell stated that her name had been misspelled. It was omitted in the previous minutes that Mabel Corwin had suggested we write the Thompsons and thank them but feel that awards should be given by ABS rather than individuals and that the board will consider something for continuing literary effort.

Treasury report: \$2155.07 with \$186.15 in disbursements. Bill stated that the audit was not ready yet and apologized.

Members-at-large: Thelma O'Reilly reported that she had written to those who had responded to her begonia article and asked them how they would like an open newsletter in *The Begonian* and two others made available upon request; also to include any questions and comments they might have along with a self-addressed stamped envelope. She is writing the annual newsletter (1983) for publication in the Nov.-Dec. issue. Many who responded wanted addresses of local members they could contact for information. She suggested that the new member's name be published in the newsletter with a request that someone knowledgeable in their area contact them. Many new members also requested information on companion plants, sources of supplies, equipment and services that are available (such as lending library and round robins). Bob suggested that the branch reps inform Thelma of shows and activities to be included in the newsletter. She would like to see members-at-large get more involved: perhaps form their own branch, those who want more color work could set up a fund with donations, they could submit articles.

Judging committee: Margaret Lee reported that she received a total \$7.12; 31 certificates of culture were issued and one certificate of distinction.

Book store: Bobby Lovera reported a total of \$1172.18. She had the begonia handbook issue reprinted in black and white without advertising and it will be available to members who request this back issue for \$1 each plus postage. Motion made and carried that Bobby have more of these special issues printed. She stated that there are approximately 30 different single issues unavailable and would like permission to reproduce these missing issues, starting with those most in demand. Motion made and carried. Bobby announced that the book store will pay for the service of the storage garage. It was requested that any individuals or branches that have surplus back issues donate them to the book store. Motion made and carried that any back issues sold for 1982 will be priced at \$1.50 single issue; \$6.50 for the year. Cost will remain the same for back issues prior to 1982.

Advertising report: Arlene Davis reported that she has sent letters with information on our corporate membership to several of our advertisers. So far no response has been received.

Show and convention chairman Arlene Davis gave a short report on the success of the convention and called on John Ingles, convention treasurer. The bottom line was \$5792.47 for this year. John thanked all the people from the different branches who helped to make this such a fun and profitable convention.

Upon completion of the convention report Arlene donated pictures taken at the convention to the historian.

Thelma called for a big hand to the convention committee and host branch, and asked the board to consider giving the host branch 10% of the profit.

Correspondence: Letter received from Lynda Goldsmith, branch relations director, stating she would have to resign her post by September 30. Motion made and seconded that we accept with regret her resignation. No replacement appointed.

Letter received from Mabel Green in Florida requesting that Charles Jaros be appointed convention chairman for 1985. Motion made and carried to accept Charles Jaros.

Bob read letter from Scott Hoover requesting a donation of \$1500 from ABS to help finance a begonia expedition to Sri Lanka. Tabled for later discussion.

Bob gave a report on the mailbox fiasco. He has receipts on P.O. box in Sacramento: first receipt for \$10 for period ending May 11, 1983, second receipt shows payment as of July 22, 1983 (ending Jan. 1, 1984), thus P.O. box ran out and was reopened after ballots started coming in.

Old Business: Bob Ammerman received letter from the Thompsons expressing dissatisfaction with the decision the board made to reject their offer of an award. Bob read both their letter and his response to the board members.

New Business: John Ingles brought up the need for new envelopes as supply has dwindled. The price is: \$66.95 (2500 6 1/4 envelopes) and \$71 (2500 #10). Motion made and carried to order envelopes. Motion also made and carried that John Ingles, business manager, should use his discretion in ordering stationery at the same time if it would be cheaper to have both printed.

Pearl Benell suggested that we have a western regional show and annual meeting in the fall as the convention will be in Dallas in spring of 1984. Bob is looking for volunteer branch to host. He also suggested that it be show and dinner meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

George Ghiotto, Secretary

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ABS SERVICES

These services are available to all ABS members. For names and address 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 her 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 editor.

BEGONIAN BACK ISSUES—Individual copies of *The Begonian* more than a year old are available from the back issues sales chairman (75 cents). A full year is \$6.50 for any year in the 1940s. \$5 for any year from 1950 through 1980. 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. Contact the librarian for a list of books and the procedure.

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

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 projects periodically. The department also has other activities, including the review of requests for ABS backing of outside projects. For details, contact the director.

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

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

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

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

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