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*The* BECONIAN

# The BEGONIAN

Publication of the American Begonia Society

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(continued on back cover)

The Cover: *Begonia* 'Preussen' is planted in a 20-foot redwood tub in the Thompson Greenhouse. Dallas conventioners saw Thompson's slides and heard about their botanical garden devoted to *Begonia* at the banquet. Cover photograph by E. & M. Thompson. (All rights reserved)

Lynda and Lawrence Goldsmith visited Southampton last fall to interview and photograph for the *Begonian*. Their story and pictures in this issue will bring the same experience to members who could not be at Dallas.

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

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**Show Guide Now Available**

*Guidelines for ABS National Conventions and Annual Shows* are now ready for distribution. The pamphlet was compiled by Thelma O'Reilly who served as chairman of the committee appointed by former president Nate Randall from questionnaires and interviews with various show chairmen and directors of the ABS. It includes information about procedures for administering the national events. The costs of the initial printing were donated by Thelma and Tim O'Reilly.

Copies of the *Guidelines* are available to anyone who might find the information useful. They may be ordered through the ABS Bookstore for \$2.50 each.

**Branch Show**

The Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch Show and Sale, Buenaventura Shopping Center, 185 S. Mills Rd., Ventura, June 22 from 10 am to 9 pm and June 23 from 10 am to 6 pm.

**Exhibition Manual Update**

Mildred Thompson has announced that she has completed a revised version of *Exhibition Manual of the Thompson Begonia Guide* and that it is expected to be ready to mail in September. The guide contains in-

formation for classifying begonias for shows and was adopted for ABS use in 1981. It was a supplement to the original three volume *Thompson Begonia Guide*. The new revision will contain many additional listings. The revised manual will be made available to members at cost.

**Dues Renewal Notices**

Renewal notices for memberships are being mailed in the form of postcards. If you pay dues through your branch, please give the card to the membership chairman to send with the renewal. If there are any changes in the information on the card, please indicate the correct information.

Those whose renewal date is 84/05 or before will not receive another issue until dues are paid. Missed issues cost \$2.00 each.

**Library Addition**

Copies of *Begonias: 1984 Update*, by Mildred L. Thompson, have been donated to the ABS Library by Ed and Millie Thompson. This 50-page soft cover book is the same size as the book *Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide* by the Thomps- sons (Time Books, 1981). It is an addendum to the parent book and contains information about new cultivars and species.

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## A MUSEUM THAT LIVES

Lynda Goldsmith

On a November day crisp as a Mackintosh apple my husband and I boarded the ferry in New London, Connecticut that would carry us to the eastern tip of Long Island. We were on our way to visit Ed and Millie Thompson's "living museum" of begonias in the greenhouse they own on the campus of Southampton College. My anticipation mounted steadily as we left the ferry and made the pleasant hour-long drive past vineyards and fields full of dark-green broccoli ready for harvest. At last we reached Southampton and there, visible from the moment we left the highway, was the greenhouse.

Although anxious to enter, we stopped to admire the remains of the summer's perennials. Not content with caring for more than 1600 begonias, Millie and Ed last summer set out to make the approach to the greenhouse attractive and inviting. During the preceding winter Millie had researched the subject of perennials for poor, dry soil and planned the garden, growing 90% of the plants from seed. In the spring the soil was weeded and turned over three times, and then the plants were set into pockets of added soil and organic fertilizer. Besides the plants grown from seed, many purchased sedums and 150 *Rosa rugosa* plants were set out.

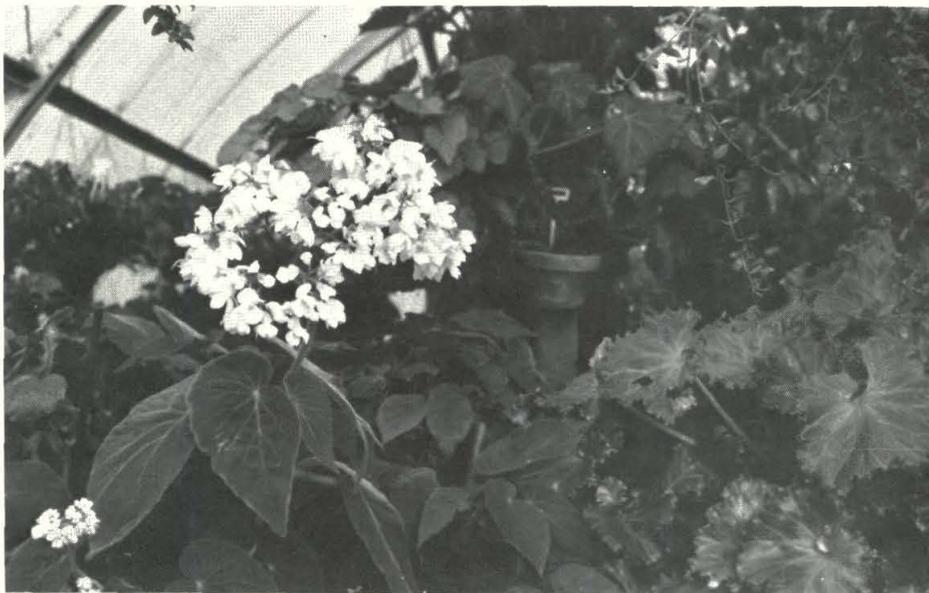
Turning from the garden, we found Millie waiting for us, and as we stood inside the door shedding layers of outer clothing, loading cameras, and allowing our lenses and eyeglasses to adjust to the warmth and humidity, Millie told us about the greenhouse itself. It had been in operation just over a year, having been ready for occupation the fall of 1982, just before frost.

The Thompsons' philosophy is to use little commercial equipment, but to outfit

their greenhouse as much like the average home greenhouse as possible, to show that begonias can be grown without elaborate technology. They feel their 30 x 72 ft structure differs from a hobbyist's greenhouse only in size, the only sophisticated innovation being a large, perforated plastic tube suspended under the length of the building's roof, circulating warm or cool air as needed. In choosing a greenhouse to fit their budget, they opted for a fiber glass quonset style, and are very glad they did, for they find that the snow and ice roll off the rounded roof more readily than from the traditional type of peak. The fiber glass tends to keep conditions very humid (70-80%); although this is higher than many begonias require, 'Silver Jewel' and some of the African species such as *B. rhopalocarpa* thrive in it.

Now we were ready to begin our tour, but where to begin? In the entryway where we stood were some very tall plants including an 11-ft *B. dichotoma* hort. that needs to be cut back each time it reaches the roof (about 14 ft high at the center). On the nearby benches were canes such as 'Tom Ment' laden with blossoms, and in baskets above them were *Hiemalis* and *Multiflora* tuberous begonias such as 'Helene Harms' competing for attention. Millie and Ed grow a wide variety of types but grow only a few of the large-flowered *Tuberhybrida* each season because they do not do well in the hot Long Island summers. Begonias such as the *Hiemalis* group can be depended on to add the splash of color necessary, as Millie explained, to command the attention of casual visitors who are not yet begonia enthusiasts. (While we were there an elderly man brought his small granddaughter in for their weekly visit—the collection was obviously the destination and highlight of their walk together. The child left with a spray of begonia blossoms presented to her by Katie Cunningham, the Thompsons' assistant of 5 years.)

Lynda Goldsmith of R.D. 2, Fairfax, VT 05454 is presently working on a research project on begonias for her master's degree.



*Begonia* 'Lorene Brown' in bloom at left; *B.* 'Essie Hunt' at center bottom

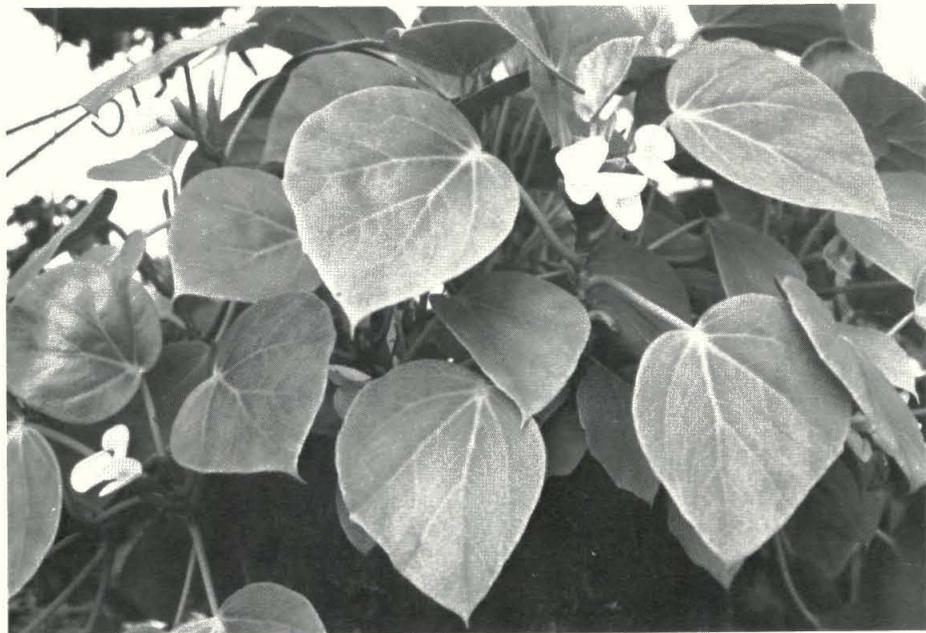
The collection is open to the public at certain times each week, it is available for study by the students of the college, and there are tours by groups such as local garden clubs. Because the visitors tend to come in small groups, Millie likes to go through the greenhouse with them when possible. (She has been interested to find that people of different professions view plants very differently.) But the Thompsons like it best of all when begonia people come—now they can talk about their pet plants and know that their visitors will understand their enthusiasm for some rare but, to the uninitiated, insignificant looking species.

After leaving the entry area, one is confronted with a choice of three aisles, each inviting one with a profusion of plants on benches, under benches, in hanging baskets, and suspended on posts at the ends of each bench. But if the first impression is of sheer numbers of plants, the second is of meticulous grooming. Millie said they would have preferred to group all the plants horticulturally but because of space and care requirements, they've had to

group them to some extent according to their needs. Thus many of the moss-lined baskets hang together, the backs of plants on the benches must be clipped to provide air circulation, those plants that have to be put where light requirements are not quite met must be rotated with others, rexes are moved out from under dripping baskets at watering time, etc.

Everywhere the attention to detail is obvious. All watering and fertilizing are done by hand, again to keep the growing conditions as similar to home growing as possible. Millie spends about 8 hours a day, 6 days a week with the plants; her writing and research must be done in the remaining hours. She attributes the healthiness of the plants to Ed, who, after putting in long hours at their heating and plumbing business that supports the collection, shares in the grooming and fertilizing, repots large plants, and is responsible for all the spraying.

Having given up any attempt at a logical progression to our tour, Millie and I made our way through the greenhouse while my husband was delegated to take pictures.



*Begonia ampla* at the Thompson's Greenhouse

We let our attention jump from one plant to another, excitedly offering information (mostly Millie) and asking questions (mostly me). For instance, I learned that *B. deliciosa* and *B. diadema* can be expected to look better in winter. Although they are Asian species, Millie suspects they grow at higher altitudes and therefore prefer cooler temperatures.

Of two *B. polygonoides* specimens, one in a basket and one on driftwood, the latter was a more attractive plant, because in its native Africa this species is epiphytic and grows better if its roots are restricted.

New Guinea species are very sensitive to direct foliage sprays, showing spotting and leaf damage. The spray suspended within the greenhouse air seems to be enough to prevent insect damage to them. This is also true of jointed rhizomatous plants such as the *rexes*.

Canes will do better if allowed to be pot-bound for a while. Then when they are repotted, they burst with new life.

One of the most challenging plants has been *B. caraguatubensis*, a species with an interesting multiple collar of hairs on the

petiole. Their plant struggled along for a long time and is just now beginning to be a plant to be proud of.

Millie and Ed grow many Japanese hybrids. When I asked why, Millie said that plants often remind her of people—the people who sent them, or the hybridizer—and these hybrids remind them of their many Japanese friends, some of whom visited the greenhouse last summer.

The Thompsons are currently very intrigued with the African species, especially the section *Tetraphila*, with its unique fusiform ovary, and *B. ampla*, with its fleshy yellow fruit.

When a begonia enthusiast comes, the tour continues with a visit to the Thompsons' collection of terrarium plants at home. Here, under lights, is where new cuttings and seedlings of rare species from all over the world are nurtured, for in addition to their desire to demonstrate the great horticultural interest of begonias, Millie and Ed are also deeply committed to collecting and keeping in cultivation species that are losing habitat in their homelands. When a new species is received, Millie



B. 'Looking Glass' shows large silvery areas

researches it as completely as possible, looking up the original description in the botanical literature and determining the conditions under which it grows. The results of all this research are contained in 12 file drawers of references, including a folder for each species or cultivar. The plants are also documented photographically (a joint husband-wife effort), and the excellent results are known to us through convention programs, the ABS slide shows, and the pages of the *Begonian*.

Besides the light room and "begonia office" there is a large workspace at home where, for example, all the moss baskets must be made, then carried to the greenhouse a mile away since the working area at the college is tiny. (The round trip is made at least 3 times a day, more often when it's cold.) Here at home may also be seen three small greenhouses including the 6 x 12 ft one where it all began 25 years ago!

The emphasis throughout is on collecting, learning, and growing, not selling. Only a few small plants are offered for sale in an inconspicuous corner at the campus

greenhouse, and cuttings may be obtained. The Thompsons gave up selling plants by mail about a year ago in order to concentrate on their publishing projects; they do not plan to resume the mail-order business unless it becomes necessary in order to help support the museum.

The latest publication, *Begonias: 1984 Update*, is an addendum to their 1981 book. The softbound addendum is now available (\$6.75 including postage) and includes 21 photographs and a revised directory of begonias (Appendix A of the original book) in a new format.

If you are planning a visit to New York City, I strongly urge you to include Southampton, less than 2 hours away, in your itinerary. You can get a brochure giving directions and hours, or you can make an appointment, by calling or writing Ed and Millie Thompson (516/283-3237 or 516/283-1633. The address is PO Drawer PP, Southampton, NY 11968). Do let them know you're coming, for they will want to spend some time with you. A rare treat is in store for anyone who shares the Thompsons' love of begonias.

## TUBEROUS BEGONIAS: SUMMER CARE

*Howard Siebold*

These beauties can give spectacular results when they are grown under conditions that they like: a temperature range of 60° to 80°F., a humidity of 60 or 65%, dappled shade, a growing mix that drains quickly, and good air circulation. There aren't many areas of this country that have all of those conditions naturally so the trick is to come as close as possible by anticipating what will be required. For example, where the humidity is lower or higher than those figures, misting several times per day can be a big help.

Air circulation can be assured by spacing the plants 16 or 18 inches apart when setting them out in beds or in pots. As the plants grow and bloom, you will notice that the bottom leaves will turn brown on the edges or will show brown spots — especially after the flower associated with that leaf has finished blooming. Removing those leaves will greatly improve air circulation. When the plant has several stems, the leaves can be crowded in the center of the plant cutting off air flow. Some of those leaves should be removed.

In removing leaves or flowers, cut the stem about an inch from the main stem or branch. The short stub will fall off in a couple of weeks leaving a healed surface. There is an intimate relationship between the flower and its associated leaf. Removal of a leaf before the flower has bloomed can result in a smaller flower or one that will not stay long.

Where summers are hot, sink the pots nearly to the rim in the beds. This will keep the roots cool. Mulching will also help. Use a mulch that will not pack and will not stay soggy after watering or after rain.

If the dappled shade is provided by trees, the lowest tree limbs should be at least ten

feet above the plants. A lath house gives excellent shade and the new shade fabrics will provide just the right shade economically. Here on the coast, 40% or 45% shade fabric is about right. In some areas, 60% or 80% might be necessary.

The soil or mix in the beds should have a consistency much like the potting mix described before. The beds should be raised above the surrounding ground level by six or eight inches. Old railroad ties make good retainers.

The first few flower buds should be removed when they are about the size of a dime. This is to establish a strong plant. Be careful not to break off the growing tip. This disbudding can be stopped when the main stem is about an inch in diameter. The large center (male) blossom will be larger if the two side buds are removed early. These suggestions do not apply to the pendula or hanging basket types.

The largest possible blossoms will be obtained if the plant is limited to one stem. Two stems per plant will provide more flowers that are slightly smaller. With two stems, there is some cushion, in case one stem is damaged. More than two stems can create problems in difficult areas mostly due to restricted air circulation. Extra stems can be removed and rooted as cuttings. This will be discussed another time. Of course, with the pendula or hanging basket type, as many stems and branches as possible are desirable.

When the plants are ten or twelve inches high, provide some support with a stake or several stakes. The stems are very succulent and brittle and are easily broken off by wind or by animals. Install the stake behind the plant being careful to avoid piercing the tuber. When azalea pots or bulb pans are used, the best support may be three or more stakes tied together at the top to form a tripod or tepee. This arrangement works best with the three or four foot bamboo stakes.

*Howard Siebold continues his series about tuberous begonias. He lives at 32050 Westwood Dr., Fort Bragg, CA 95437.*



Vibrant yellow blossoms in Siebold's display bed. They are contained in 12 inch bulb pans and have 4 foot bamboo stakes for support.

Tie the stems and branches to the stakes securely but not tightly. Use flat plastic tying tape. Avoid wires or tape containing wire and all cord, string, or cloth ties. Wires cut the stems and cloth holds moisture against the stems which can initiate stem rot.

Pay no attention to printed instructions that suggest that you pinch the growing tips of the pendula or hanging basket types — "to encourage branching". This thought could be a carry-over from growing some of the species which can get rather straggly if they are not pinched back. The tuberhybrida will always show buds at the first two or three nodes of a stem or a branch that will produce branches and in the pendula sometimes the first four or five will produce branch buds. All of the subsequent nodes will produce buds that will show flowers. Pinching will remove those and can only delay flowering by six or eight weeks. It will take at least that long for any new branches to show flowers.

Water when the surface of the soil or mix begins to show dryness. Fertilize about every three weeks with half strength soluble fertilizer — preferably one containing trace elements. There are several available for soilless mixes that include the trace elements. In the beds and in pots, I alternate, using a 15-15-18 for soilless mix

one time and 15-30-15 the next.

That is as close as I will come to suggesting a fertilizer to use with the tuberhybrida. Even if I knew the test results of your soil or mix, there are too many unknowns (like drainage) to try to be accurate with a recommendation. If anything, err on the side of underfeeding. Overfeeding shows as a rolling under of the leaf edges and can result in stems that are much too succulent and tender.

Those plants in pots should be moved to the next size pot when the roots reach the pot wall. All clay pots, whether new or used, should be soaked in water for a day or two before use.

**EXHIBITION MANUAL  
OF THE THOMPSON  
BEGONIA GUIDE**

is being updated and reprinted and will be available September 1984.

To reserve a copy, write The Thompsons, P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, NY 11968.

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## QUESTION BOX/ Altering lighting promotes bloom on *B. ficicola*

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Mabel Corwin

**QUESTION** In the July-August 1983 issue you discussed *B. ficicola* blooming. Another grower and I both have the plant that we thought was *ficicola* and it blooms almost constantly. Now we are told that our plant may be *ficicola*. Mine is in a terrarium in the south window which is protected by the patio. It will get a little sun in the winter in late afternoon for a few minutes.

I am sending a leaf and a picture and I hope you can identify the plant.

**ANSWER** The leaf arrived in very good condition. I feel sure your plant is *B. ficicola*. I compared it with mine. The puckering on yours seems to be a little tighter, but the shape, color, veining and the stem appears the same. Mine grows in rather low light, so that could be the difference in the puckering since yours apparently gets more light.

Everyone that I have ever talked to about this plant has found it to be a shy bloomer. I'm not sure why the plant that you have should bloom better. It might possibly be the particular clone that you have. Perhaps it is the light that does it. My plant didn't do very well for a long time. When I gave it less light it started to grow better, but has bloomed only once. There is always some slight difference in species that are collected in the wilds or grown from seed. I just feel that you have a superior strain or that it has acclimated very well to the conditions that you are giving it.

There is confusion about the proper name of many of the species that were collected in the past. Often more than one explorer obtained a plant and gave it a name. I have never known of any other plant to be confused with *ficicola*, so I think your plant is correctly named.

After reading my comments in the *Begonian* about *B. ficicola* one reader shared her experiences. She wrote: I have 3

plants of *B. ficicola*. I carefully planted 2 in their own little terrariums with holes in the top and placed under lights. The 3rd one I crowded into a terrarium with *B. 'Wanda'* and *B. picta*. There were no holes in the top. It is very crowded and shaded by 'Wanda'. It is always very wet. It blooms incessantly. I feed all of them with 4 drops of Schultz fertilizer in a quart of water when the surface is dry.

So it seems begonias are full of surprises. That is why they are such a challenge to grow.

**QUESTION:** What fertilizer do you recommend to make plants bloom?

**ANSWER:** I use a fertilizer with a 15-30-15 formula, or something similar for bloom. You can also use a fertilizer with 0-10-10 or 2-10-10 formula.

Different kinds of begonias have different blooming seasons, so fertilizer isn't the only answer. Rhizomatous begonias bloom during winter and spring. They need long nights to set buds. Cane begonias bloom during summer and fall. Rex begonias start to bloom in late summer when they have completed the season's growth. This is a signal that they are going to rest. If the plants are healthy they will usually bloom on schedule without any special fertilizer.

I start feeding in the spring with a 20-20-20 formula and continue with this until July when the plants have made most of their growth for the season. Then I switch to a formula with less nitrogen such as the 15-30-15.

**QUESTION:** I have a beautiful 10 gallon aquarium absolutely full of *B. thelmae*. It is under lights and covered with glass. Would it be possible to remove the glass and let it cascade at will, or do you think the reduction in humidity would be too much? I have taken some cuttings and I have one nice plant of *B. thelmae* that seems to be doing well. Would that be a better choice?

**ANSWER:** I doubt if *B. thelmae* would grow under lights without the cover. It

Send your questions to Mabel Corwin at 1119 Loma Vista Way, Vista, CA 92083.

requires high humidity and the heat from the lights would probably dry it out too much. The best way to grow *B. thelmae* seems to be to let it spread. I grow mine under the bench in the greenhouse and it spreads all over the walk and up the sides. It tends to die back during the winter. I cut it back and the next summer it takes off again. Some growers have difficulty keeping it alive. It is good to take tip cuttings and keep new plants coming along. It does not make a very good hanging plant. The center of the plant tends to be bare with new growth at the tips.

*B. thelmae* doesn't require strong light. Perhaps you could find a spot away from the lights where there would be enough humidity for it. If you could give it some damp sphagnum to creep along I feel it would be happy.

**QUESTION:** I have some questions on terrarium culture. I have been using a 4 to 1 mix of long fiber sphagnum moss and perlite and have had really nice growth (too good in some cases!) I have made one mistake that I am now aware of by using Osmocote in the terrarium. I read some old BEGONIANS that said MagAmp was superior due to a slower release. Is this best, or would a periodic spraying with dilute fertilizer be better?

Also, I have noticed an algae problem in two terrariums. Is that due to the fertilizer or is it a separate problem? How do I get rid of the algae or how often do I need to change the entire mix?

**ANSWER:** I really don't feel terrarium plants need either Osmocote or MagAmp fertilizer. I water with a weak fertilizer solution (one fourth teaspoon to one gallon of water) and that seems to be all they need. As you discovered, too much growth is not desirable. They don't need to be watered very often, but I always use the weak fertilizer solution when I do water.

Algae seems to be more of a problem when plants are grown under lights. I'm not sure the fertilizer would cause the problem. It may very well be an indication that you need to pot up in fresh mix. I find

it is best to change the mix at least once a year. The bowl should be thoroughly cleaned and usually the plant needs to be pinched or trimmed a bit. The plant seems to stop growing and generally decline if left in the same mix too long. I am now growing most of my plants in small pots. I set the pot in the bowl and tuck damp sphagnum around the pot. Most plants seem to be doing better when grown that way.

**QUESTION:** When I repot my begonias they die, even though I am using Begonia Mix that I purchased from the nursery. What should I do when all leaves fall off and the root begins to turn brown? Should I continue to water? I lose so many plants in the winter months even though I keep them in sunny windows.

**ANSWER:** Be sure your plants need repotting. They should have a pot full of good, healthy roots before they are moved. Then move up only one pot size at a time. A plant in a 3 inch pot should go into a 4 inch pot. Begonias should never be over potted.

After potting, water thoroughly. Then don't water any more until the plant really needs it. Too much water may be fatal. Begonias should be kept moist, but they need to dry out slightly between waterings.

It is possible your mix is too heavy and holds too much water. Most of us "doctor" the commercial mixes to suit our own needs. Most mixes need to have perlite added to lighten them. I suggest you try several different mixes until you find the one that works best for you. I have even tried two together with perlite added with good results.

If your plants are too close to a sunny window, it is possible the leaves are burning. If they are close to the glass the cold at night could be affecting them.

The plants do need a rest after an active growing season. I water sparingly until the plant begins to put out new growth, then start to give more water and fertilizer. Perhaps some of your plants just need to rest for a few weeks.

Carrie Karegeannes, nomenclature director

Applications to register *Begonia* cultivars may be obtained from Carrie Karegeannes, 3916 Lake Boulevard, Annandale, VA 22003. Each form must be typed or printed in ink and accompanied by a \$2 check or money order payable to the American Begonia Society. Photos, drawings, and dried specimens of new cultivars are encouraged. ABS is the International Registration Authority for *Begonia* cultivar names.

In the citations of cultivar parents below, the female (seed) parent is listed first.

### ***Begonia* 'Mount Soledad'**

No. 860—*Begonia* 'Essie Hunt' x *carrieeae* 'Mount Soledad'

Rhizomatous cultivar. Medium green, 14" x 10", leathery leaf blades are marked by 9 deeply indented, light green veins and are light green on the reverse with a trace of red. They are obliquely cordate with lightly crested, ciliate margin, overlapping basal lobes, and "bubbly"-textured surface covered with fine hairs that thin out as leaves mature. Petioles are 6-8" long, thick, succulent, green with light streaks, hairy; stipules are ¾" long, broadly ovate, light green, keeled, reflexed, hairy. Broadly rounded, 1¼" x 1¼" pink flowers with light green, pink-winged ovaries on the 2-tepaled females are carried in loose clusters in the spring on 10-14", green, densely fine-hairy peduncles. Male buds fall unopened. The large, lightly crested, thick, succulent, hairy leaves distinguish this cultivar. Originated in 1979 by Pat Maley, 1471 E. Madison, El Cajon, CA 92021; first bloomed in 1981; first distributed in 1982. Tested by Thelma O'Reilly, La Mesa, Calif. Described in *Begonian* 48: 214, photo 213, October 1981—second place, New Introductions, Hobby Grower, 1981 ABS National Show. Registered Nov. 17, 1982.

### ***Begonia* 'Pickobeth'**

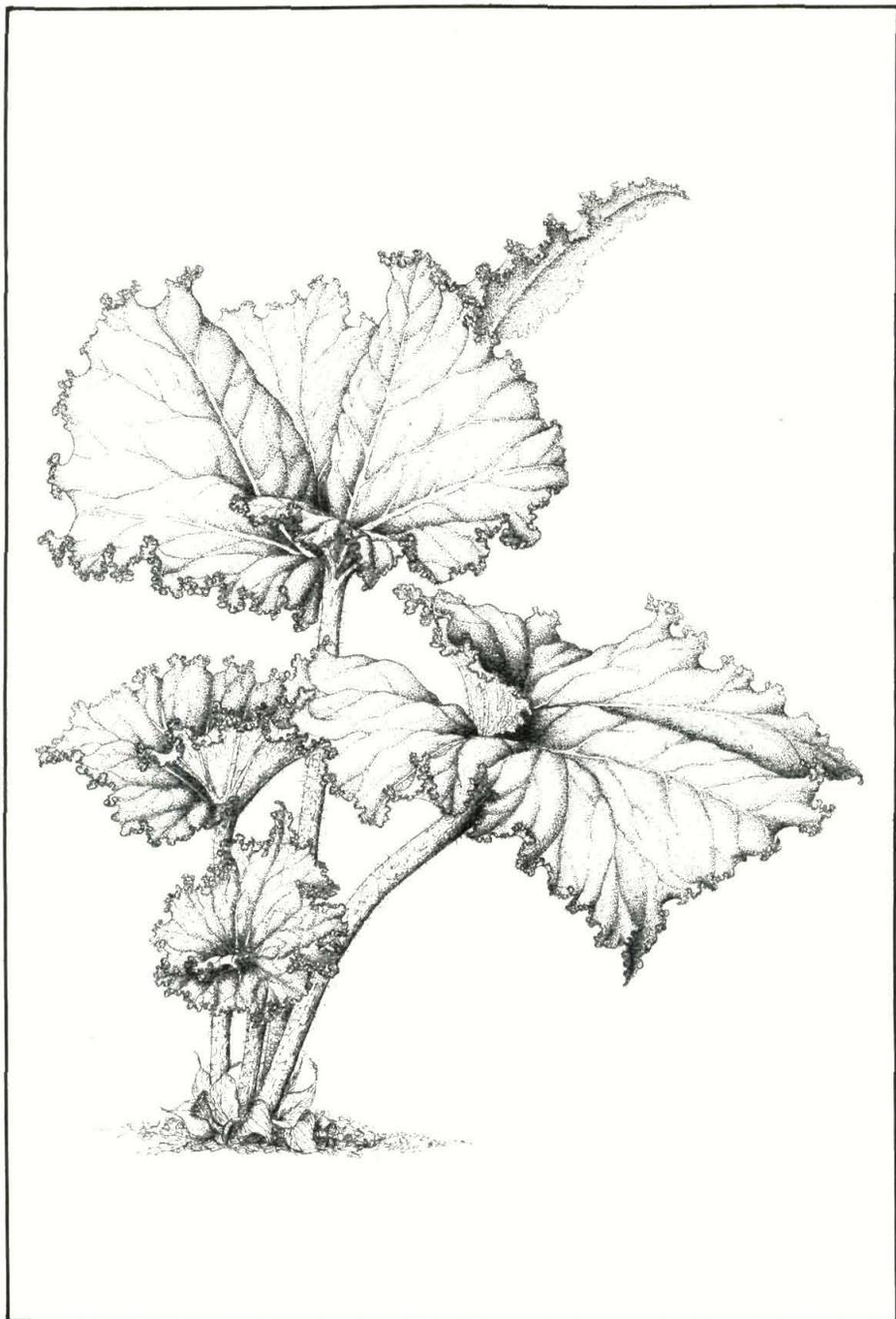
No. 861—*Begonia dregei* seedling x 'Laura Engelbert' 'Pickobeth'

Canelike with 3'-tall stem with short internodes, bearing 8" x 3½", obliquely ovate and shallowly cordate, bronze to jade-green leaves, finely red edged and spotted with silver or sometimes cream. Crisp with satiny surface, the leaves have serrate, rippled margins and 5 to 7 main veins. Petioles are ¾" long; stipules are ½" x 1", green, persistent. Flowers, 1½" x 2", are shocking pink with pink-winged white ovaries on the females, borne in large, profuse clusters on 6" peduncles summer to fall. Male flowers have 2 tepals; females 7-8. Short petioles and the stem's closely set nodes give the leaves a distinctive layered appearance, and the spots appear embossed on the younger leaves. Originated in 1970 by Mae Blanton, 118 Wildoak Drive, Lake Dallas, TX 75065; first distributed in 1976. Tested by Thelma O'Reilly. Name listed in Thompson and Thompson, *The Thompson Begonia Guide*, ed. 1, vol. 1, pp. C-15, P-23, 1974; A-33, 1975; with photo in vol. 3, p. R-6, 1976. Described with photo, *Begonian* 48: 60, 78, March 1981. Registered July 5, 1983.

### ***Begonia* 'Beverly Kozlow'**

No. 862—*Begonia* 'Madame Butterfly' x 'Her Majesty Sylvia Leatherman' 'Beverly Kozlow'

Rex Cultorum group, with unusual growth resulting from a cross of a canelike begonia with a rhizomatous *B. rex* cultivar, described by the originator as "rhizomatous shrub." *B. rex*-like leaves are lobed and cordate, 8½" x 7", deep bright green, flushed purple-maroon at center and edge, covered with pin point silvery-white dots, and lightly hairy. The margins are serrate, main veins number 8, petioles are 8" long, and stipules are 1" x 7/8". Flowers are pink. Originated in 1979 by Bob Cole, 18007 Topham Street, Reseda, CA 91335;



) *Begonia* 'Mount Soledad'. Drawing by Patricia Maley. This drawing also appears on the membership brochure for *Pacific Horticulture* magazine.

first bloomed in 1980; first distributed in 1981. Described in undated Plant Shop's Botanical Garden catalog received in June 1982. Registered July 5, 1983.

### ***Begonia* 'California Bronze'**

No. 863—*Begonia* 'Lizzy Pearl' x *hydrocotylifolia* (bluish form) 'California Bronze'

Large rhizomatous cultivar with 10" x 8", cordate, cleft, serrate, ciliate leaves whose rich red undersurface shows through to give bronze highlights to the puckered, subtle green upper surface. The main veins number 9, the petioles are 12" long and hairy, and the stipules are 1" x ¾". Flowers are pink, with 2-tepaled males. Originated in 1979 by Bob Cole (address above); first bloomed in 1981; first distributed in 1981. Published in *Begonian* 48: 264, October 1981, as third place winner, New Introductions, Commercial Nursery Division, ABS National Show. Registered July 5, 1983.

### ***Begonia* 'Gie'**

No. 864—*Begonia dipetala* x 'Pattern' 'Gie'

Thick-stemmed cultivar with 3½" x 5" soft green, pubescent, unlobed, obliquely cordate, kidney-shaped leaves with dark vein markings, a red mark at the petiole attachment, and 7 main veins. Petioles are 4" long, red, pubescent; stipules are ¾" x ¾". Flowers are bright pink, shaped like those of the seed parent. Originated in 1977 by Bob Cole (address above); first bloomed in 1980; first distributed in 1979. Name first listed in Plant Shop's Botanical Gardens begonia catalog, 1980, p. 6. Registered July 5, 1983.

### ***Begonia* 'Subtle'**

No. 865—*Begonia* 'Su Go Go' x *masoniana* 'Subtle'

Rhizomatous cultivar with distinctive foliage. Pustulate, lightly hairy, 5" x 4½" leaves are rounded, unlobed except for cordate basal lobes, ciliate, with a subtle buff-bronze overlay on light green. They have 7 main veins, hairy 6" petioles, and ½" x ½" stipules. Originated in 1979 by Bob Cole (address above); first distributed

in 1981, with no bloom by that date. Described in undated Plant Shop's Botanical Gardens catalog received in June 1982. Registered July 5, 1983.

### ***Begonia* 'Suzanne Colaizzi'**

No. 866—*Begonia* 'Su Go Go' x *masoniana* 'Suzanne Colaizzi'

Rhizomatous cultivar with distinctive foliage. Pustulate, 4" x 3½", rounded oval, shallowly cordate leaves with serrate, ciliate margins are deep emerald green with golden bronze overlay along the veins. The leaves are smaller, more pustulate, and they hold a deeper bronze color than on sister seedling B. 'Subtle' above. They have 5 main veins, hairy 5" petioles, and ½" x ½" stipules. Flowers are rounded, ½" x ¾", white, green tipped, with 2-tepaled males, carried on 10", white-hairy, tan peduncles in the spring. Originated in 1979 by Bob Cole (address above); first bloomed in 1981; first distributed in 1981. Described in the above undated catalog. Registered July 5, 1983.



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This is an addendum to *BEGONIAS:  
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GUIDE.*

Joan Campbell, director

Summer will soon arrive and Mary Harbaugh, Wisconsin, thinks three things are important when the temperature is high: 1. Keep your begonias thoroughly watered and check them at least once a day; 2. Keep them out of direct sunlight; 3. Protect them from drying winds although *light* air circulation is beneficial. Mae Blanton, Texas, feels summer is a critical time for rhizomatous begonias. It is easy to overwater during hot weather; many plants are resting during that period.

Susan Johnston, Oklahoma, agrees that rhizomatous begonias seem to prefer cool temperatures. She found B. 'Freddie' to be least affected by the summer heat and dry weather. It was kept outdoors and she assumes its rhizome stored enough water and the humidity in the air helped it survive.

Joyce Martin, Illinois, has read that begonias can stand a lot of heat in the daytime if they have a temperature drop at night. Charline Franklin, Texas, and Beryl Orchard, Massachusetts, agree that their semperflorens begonias planted directly in the ground did better than those grown in containers above ground.

The rexes perplex Elaine Ayers, Ohio, who thinks it may make a big difference in the way you start out with a **rex begonia**. For example, she has found a few rexes at her super market which were growing in a hard, peatlike mix and doing fine. And they continued to do well, until she had to transplant them into her own preferred potting soil, then they didn't last another three days and she wonders why.

Ruth Paslay, Utah, notes the temperature in her home is always between 60° and 85° and her rex begonias do not go dormant. Helen Clements, Illinois, says B. 'Helen Teupel' gets a purplish sheen when

it gets plenty of light. If it isn't getting bright light, it may be dark with spots on the leaves. Doug Hahn, Kentucky, comments that B. 'Helen Teupel' has a tendency to sport; that B. 'Supercurl' is a beauty, but some find it difficult to grow. Mabel Corwin, California, doesn't keep her rex plants more than two or three years. She starts over with leaf cuttings or breaks the plant apart when it is ready to start growing and pots up the younger part of the rhizome, discarding the old one. Mabel thinks if one grows rexes indoors under lights, the plants should be moved to a cooler location with less light in the fall so they can rest. They need a rest period just as other types of begonias do. Rexes bloom when they are ready to rest. Removing the blooms might slow dormancy somewhat, but Mabel feels it is better to give the plant a definite rest when it is asking for one.

Kathleen Herr, Ohio, puts her dormant rexes in plastic bags so they don't shrivel away, as it is easy to overlook watering a pot which apparently contains nothing but soil.

Elaine Ayers, Cincinnati, Ohio, found in experimenting with rooting rex cuttings in water that in most cases new plantlets formed at the leaf sinuses, rather than at the stems.

Discussing **terrarium culture**, Joan Hill, England, repotted *B. pustulata* into a bigger bubble and it literally took off. She feels all begonias respond rapidly when repotted. Joyce Smith, Virginia, thinks *B. U074* and *B. thelmae* grow so rampant that terrariums are not right for them. *B. U074*, although fast to spread, is low growing with small leaves. *B. prismatocarpa* and *B. prismatocarpa* 'Variegation' do well for her, as do *B. decora*, B. 'Wood Nymph' (it stays small), *B. versicolor*, and *B. quadrialata* which gets large. *B. crispula* is pretty, with pleated, round and flat leaves, and grows low and is slow to spread. Avoid getting water on its leaves, they will rot. Joyce says *B. staudtii* does well and is pres-

*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.*

ently crowding out of an 11" bowl and *B. bogneri* does best for her in a fully sealed container.

**Plant hybridizing** interests some flight members. Clara Tuota, San Francisco, California, has heard that a plant will occasionally revert from a hybrid form to resemble one of its parents.

Rhodora Buss, Iowa, thinks that knowing the parentage of a begonia cross would be helpful. For example, a begonia may appear to be a cane in all respects, but the parentage might be such as to throw the normal bloom period for canes forward or backward. With rhizomatous-cane crossings, she wonders how the plant knows when to bloom. She feels plants are individualistic and that we can only guess how we think they should perform; there may be a strain in a plant which makes it a sparse bloomer, or a very brief seasonable one, or even an irregular bloomer. Many garden perennials have short bloom periods and often are very dependent on what the preceding year's growing conditions have been.

Doug Hahn, Kentucky, comments that seedlings produced from *B. masoniana* (rhizomatous) crossed with *B. grandis* (tuberous) show that this cross was mutually compatible and that *B. masoniana*'s foliage and *B. grandis*'s vigor and hardiness are good characteristics to try and pass along. The usual process would be to raise these seedlings to maturity, then back cross to either parent, or even self them, to see whether recessive characteristics not expressed in the first generation might become evident in the next generation.

Discussing seed, Ruth Wills, Oklahoma, comments that Mae Blanton once could not set seed on *B. quadrialata* because of rot. Then Mae read about "sowing" the soil on which a begonia grew, so she tried that with soil of *B. quadrialata* in a terrarium and seedlings did appear. Ruth thinks this might work with *B. triflora* and others which appear to be rotting, rather than setting seed.

Joan Hill, England, occasionally has

problems finding pollen on some begonias. She says Mac MacIntyre used to say the best results came from just letting the male flower wither, then using it. Sometimes, though pollen may not have been visible, it was present as seed pods did result from the try. Most begonias are monoecious, but a few are dioecious and there is a good article in the November issue of *Natural History* magazine describing how some dioecious plants are pollinated.

The **Windowsill growers** have listed species begonias which they grow year round at windows and some of these are *B. albo picta*, *B. acutifolia*, *B. foliosa*, *B. solan-anthera*, *B. rajah*, *B. olsoniae*, *B. heraclei-folia*, *B. listada*, *B. goegoensis*, *B. bartonea*, *B. imperialis*, *B. manicata* 'Aureo-Maculata', *B. ludwigii*, *B. venosa*, *B. scandens*, *B. dipetala*, *B. schmidtiana*, *B. U008*, and many semi-tuberous. Some of these are grown in terrariums near the windows, rather than on windowsill. Clara Tuota, California, grows *B. 'Fireflush'* successfully. Her method is to put the plant on a shelf which is about a foot below the window level. Light reflects from her white porch wall through the window which faces east and the plant grows well there and even blooms. If she should try it elsewhere in her house, it won't be happy.

There are some openings at present in "Hybridizing", "Arid Climates", "Cacti", "Species Tuberous", and "Small Commercial Growers". The proposed flight, "Pollinating the Species", is for members with species begonias who have problems making them bloom and set seed. The idea is to pool suggestions about bloom and successful pollination of the plants, and any seed produced from the joint effort would benefit the Seed Fund.

Requests have been made for the following flights: Branch Administration (for new and established branches), Pacific Northwest Growers, Learning Together (for the novice), All Male Begonia Growers, All New York, All Canadian, All Australian, Southern Growers, Cheimantha (Xmas) Begonias, and Tropical Plants. For further details, contact the round robin director.

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## SEED FUND/Unidentified species to challenge and intrigue seed growers.

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Joy Porter, director, Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund

All the seed in this and the previous listing from Panama were collected (and beautifully cleaned) by Roberto Brin of Panama City, Panama, who hopes you will get as much enjoyment from growing them as he had in searching and seeing them in their natural habitat. Next year he plans to look for epiphytic types which grow in the northern provinces. He is planning to attend the 1985 National Show and Convention in Miami. Wouldn't it be great if he could see hundreds of seedlings (muy bonito) from his seed entered in the Seedling Division of the Show?

- M-J 1—*B. tonduzii*: Medium-size shrub-like species with pink flowers. Seed collected near La Mesa, Panama. Photo taken by Roberto Brin in its native habitat. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 2—*B. multinervia*: Large thick-stemmed species with glossy, bare leaves, depressed venation and a cusp, or hooked point. Large inflorescence of small white flowers. See this *Begonia* on the cover of the May-June, 1982 *Begonian* and pages 54 and 55. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 3—B. U112: Rhizomatous with large, dark green hairy leaf. Seed collected near El Valle, Panama. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 4—B. U114: Seed collected near El Valle, Panama. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 5—B. U115: Seed from a cultivated plant in El Valle, Panama which closely resembles *B. multinervia* in growth but leaf has red reverse, red petioles, and pink flowers in closely-bunched inflorescence. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 6—B. U150: Seed from a cultivated plant in El Valle, Panama; rhizomatous with cleft leaf much like *B. heracleifolia* but the lobes themselves have small curly lobes. If seedlings have variations, it is of hybrid origin. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 7—B. U117: Rhizomatous species with hairy, entire leaf, 8x5 inches with open sinus. Seed collected near El Valle, Panama . . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 8—B. U118: Rhizomatous species; hairy 8x6-inch leaf with a slight flat-sided lobe on the broad side. Seed collected near El Valle, Panama. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 9—B. U119: Rhizomatous species similar to above, possibly smaller, less hair, and with tiny points at nerve endings on the margin. Seed collected near El Valle, Panama. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 10—B. U120: Large shrub-like species with beautiful leaves, 6½x3 inches. Seed collected near La Mesa, Panama. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 11—B. U121: Rhizomatous species with entire, sub-entire 6½x4½ inch oval leaf with 2 cm. "drip-point". Seed collected near El Valle, Panama. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 12—*B. formosana*: Another form of *B. palmata* syn. *laciniata* most commonly found in Formosa with underground rhizome and branched, upright stems. Large pink flowers in summer and fall.
- M-J 13—*B. megaptera*: (pronounced mega-ter-a and meaning large wing) Same manner of growth as the above; this species from Himalaya and Burma has 5x7-inch leaves with irregular sharp-pointed lobes and toothed margins; red veins beneath. The 2-inch flowers have a striking similarity to apple blossoms. See photo and story by Henry Teuscher on page 27, *Begonian* 2/47. Last fall I told Prof. Dorrenbos how much I have wanted this *Begonia* for over seven years. His generosity to the Seed Fund is much appreciated. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 14—*Asparagus compacta*: Lovely form of the *Asparagus* "fern". Art Sakenruther put in many hours cleaning this seed. . . . . per pkt 1.00

Orders from U.S., Mexico, and Canada need 40¢ over seed price for postage (50¢ if over 12 packets). Foreign orders require \$1.20 for postage. Send checks or money orders in U.S. funds made payable to the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. Send orders to: Joy Porter, 9 Bayberry Lane, Framingham, MA 01701.

## BEGONIAN MINI-ADS

Mini-ads are \$1 per line per insertion with a minimum of \$4. A line is 38 characters including punctuation and spaces. Payment must accompany order. Send to Arlene Davis, Corporate Secretary, 923 E. Francis, Corona, CA 91720

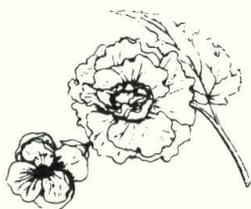
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## THE BOARD/Condensed minutes of two meetings

### ANNUAL MEETING

August 20, 1983

The annual meeting of the American Begonia Society was called to order by President Chuck Anderson at 1:30 p.m., in the Holiday Inn, Riverside, California.

Chuck Anderson gave the President's report saying that it had been a useful and satisfying year. There were only four board meetings held, but each was packed with action and information.

Audit Committee chairman Eleanor Calkins said that she had examined the treasurer's books for July 1982 through July 1983. She had a few areas to discuss with Treasurer Bill Scarbrough, who was not present.

There was a discussion on the mix-up with the post office box being used for ballot counting.

Bobbie Lovera reported that it had been an excellent year for both the Bookstore and for back issues sales and that she doubled the budgeted income of the bookstore.

Scott Hoover of the Conservation committee reported that during the year they submitted a proposal to the ABS to conserve and preserve the tropical rainforests in the world. All points of the proposal were accepted by the board, providing the ABS with conservation aims and goals in the future.

The Director of Consulting Begonians, Charles Jaros, said that he is formulating guidelines for the department. He plans a network of knowledgeable members available to the public for questions, shows and demonstrations. They can create opportunities to present begonias to the public.

Brief committee reports were given by Darlene Fuentes (International Begonia Congress), Margaret Lee (Judging), George Ghiotto (Library), and Thelma O'Reilly (Members-at-Large).

Slide Librarian Dan Haseltine appealed for slides of begonias for the slide library. He received a few suggestions for using the library for identifying begonias.

Speaker's Bureau Director Muriel Perz reported that many speakers are dropping out of the speaker's list and that more are needed.

Karen Bartholomew, Begonian Editor, reported that the July/August issue is being prepared at the typesetter and should be mailed in several weeks.

Branch reports were given by Ruth Wills of the Barkley Branch, Barbara Vallejos of the Orange County Branch, Daniel Haseltine of the Greater Chicago Branch, and Darlene Fuentes of the Glendale Branch.

Bob Ammerman received a letter from Phyllis Wright of Seattle who had been nominated as Third Vice President. She wrote that she declined to accept the position. The membership voted to empower the new President to appoint a Third Vice President. Bob Ammerman selected Bob Cole whose appointment was ratified by the membership.

Tasmin Boardman invited everyone to the next convention, Begonia Roundup, to be held in Dallas, Texas, on April 13-17, 1984.

Charles Sayers proposed several changes to the

bylaws. Bob Ammerman said he plans to start a committee to revise the constitution and bylaws. The members voted to refer the proposals to the new committee.

Arlene Davis and her convention crew were thanked. The membership applauded outgoing President Chuck Anderson.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Deborah Best, Secretary

March 19, 1984

The March meeting of the American Begonia Society came to order at 7:50 P.M. at the home of Sandy Sandoval. The Aims and Purposes were read by acting secretary Arlene Davis. The minutes were not available. The treasurer was not present but a copy of his report was filed for December 1983. The total balance in all accounts is \$38,429.66.

A letter was read that was written by President Bob Ammerman to Secretary George Ghiotto with several demands concerning the secretary's job. It was sent to George on March 10. Having had no response, it was brought before the board. A motion was made to vacate the position of the secretary for the good of the society. The motion was seconded and approved. (Note From the President: The day after the meeting a resignation letter from Mr. Ghiotto was received in the mail.)

Reports were read from Joan Campbell, Joy Porter, Chuck Richardson, Mabel Corwin, Bobbie West, Thelma O'Reilly, Pearl Benell, Gil Estrada, Margaret Lee, and Arlene Davis. Chuck Richardson is sending out questionnaires to each branch.

There were 26 nominations for awards sent in this year. The winners have been selected by the committee, and they will be secret until the presentation in Dallas. Thelma O'Reilly tells us she will be having a meeting of the members-at-large at the convention in Dallas. An ad for the ABS will appear the next three issues of the Flower and Garden Magazine. New speakers lists will be out by the next meeting says director Muriel Perz.

A motion was passed to reprint the "14 reasons," and to give to new and prospective members. Renewal post cards will be sent when it is time to pay dues. (If you are to pay all dues through your branch, please give the card to your membership chairman. If there are any changes in the information on the card please make them so that the records will be correct.)

The revised Constitution and By-laws of the Santa Clara Branch have been approved by the board.

Thelma has reported that the ABS Convention Guide-line is ready to go to the printer and will be available through the book store in a short while.

A bid by the San Diego Branches, San Miguel, Palomar and Alfred D. Robinson, to co-host the 1986 Convention and Show was approved by the board.

We have a notice from the California State Board of Equalization that there is a violation of our 1983 Sales

tax return. A meeting with them is scheduled for March 28.

As there isn't enough time to set up a regional show in September, the board has decided that an Annual meeting and installation dinner would be held. Committees from the different areas of Southern California are looking into places and prices.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 P.M.  
Respectfully,  
Arlene Davis  
Acting Secretary

### Board Meeting Dates

The board of directors will meet at the Fullerton Savings and Loan Community Room on July 16 at 7:30 p.m. The address is 2310 E. Lincoln Avenue, Anaheim.

The annual meeting of the ABS will be at the Holiday Inn in Laguna Hills (at the La Paz exit of Freeway I-5 near Mission Viejo) on Saturday evening August 18th. More information will be included in the next *Begonian*.

### ABS News

#### New Branch Formation

Branch Relations Director Charles Richardson will assist persons who wish to form a new branch in their area. He has membership rosters in zip code order and can furnish names and addresses of members in the approximate vicinity and also information about starting a branch.

### 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.

(Name of person)  
American Begonia Society  
P.O. Box 1129  
Encinitas, CA 92024-0990

## Library

Information about borrowing should be requested from the ABS librarian. To purchase copies, refer to the Thompsons.

### Bookstore Notes

Bookstore Manager Bobbie West announced that the last copy of Alice Clark's *Begonia Portraits* was sold at the Dallas Show.

A new book on growing begonias by Dr. Eric Catterall of the British Begonia Society will be available soon. Details will appear in the next issue of the *Begonian*.

The Bookstore now has copies of *Begonias in Color* by Yuji Murotani with numerous beautiful color photographs by Hideaki Tatsumi. The soft cover book is 5x7½ inches and contains 184 pages. *Begonia* names are given in both English and Japanese, and Hikoichi Arakawa has prepared an English translation to accompany it. The book and the translation are available through the ABS Bookstore for \$12.50, including postage and handling.

The pamphlet *Guidelines for ABS Conventions and Shows* by Thelma O'Reilly may be ordered at \$2.50 including postage and handling.

Copies of the original *Buxton Check List and Supplements* are presently available for \$20.00 including postage and handling.

California residents will be required to add 6 percent sales tax to prices of book ordered. Send checks and money orders in U.S. funds payable to the American Begonia Society to Bookstore Manager Bobbie West, 6073 De La Vista, Rubidoux, CA 92509.

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## IN MEMORIAM

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### Peter Karegeannes

Peter Karegeannes succumbed to cancer on May 4, 1984. He was deputy chief of the European Press Branch of the U.S. Information Service, and had served for nearly 20 years when he retired. He was the husband of Carrie Karegeannes, ABS nomenclature director.

## Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee announced that the following persons had agreed to have their names placed on the ballot:

President—Bob Ammerman

First Vice Pres.—Dan Haseltine  
Michael Ludwig

Second Vice Pres.—Joy Porter  
Jess Martinez

Third Vice Pres.—Howard Berg  
Secretary—Arlene Davis

Treasurer—Eleanor Calkins

Bob Ammerman, the incumbent, served as president of the San Miguel Branch, and is proprietor of a wholesale nursery in Vista, California.

Dan Haseltine of Chicago, current first vice president and slide librarian, is past president of the Greater Chicago Branch.

Michael Ludwig of San Diego, served in several capacities, including president, on the board of the San Miguel Branch.

Joy Porter is currently serving as second vice president and director of the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. Joy lives in Framingham, Massachusetts, and is an active member of the Buxton Branch.

Jess Martinez is a partner in Ferns and Foliage Nursery. He has a degree in horticulture from UC Davis. He is a member of the Rubidoux Branch and national director for the San Miguel Branch.

Howard Berg is a past president of the Knickerbocker Branch. He has served as national vice president previously, and has attended many conventions.

Arlene Davis was appointed secretary to complete the term of the resigned secretary. She has served as ABS secretary previously and has been active in several other societies. She was Chairman of the Riverside Convention.

Eleanor Calkins, of Escondido, California, replaced the resigned treasurer and has agreed to serve again. She has been ABS treasurer before. She is an accountant for a hospital.

The nominating committee consisted of Barbara Vallejos of the Orange County Branch, Jeannette Gilbertson of the

Palomar Branch, and Pearl Benell, Whittier Branch, chairman.

Voters must return the enclosed ballot so that it reaches the post office box by August 11, 1984. A person holding a spouse membership may request a ballot by sending a self-addressed envelope to Membership Secretary Pearl Benell immediately.

## ANNUAL MEETING ARRANGEMENTS ANNOUNCED

Pleasure will be combined with business at the 1984 annual meeting of the ABS. The event will be at the Holiday Inn in Laguna Hills (at the La Paz exit of Freeway I-5 near Mission Viejo) on Saturday evening August 18th. Members may arrive for convivial conversation and refreshments starting at 5:30 pm, with dinner slated to be served at seven.

The program for the evening will include the business of the annual meeting, the installation of officers, and a special speaker. Door prizes will be given to all. Semi-formal dress is requested.

The menu lists sliced London broil with mushroom sauce, green salad with choice of dressing, broccoli mornay, duchess potatoes, hot rolls, dessert, and beverage.

All board members are urged to attend and all ABS members are invited to participate. To make reservations, send checks (payable to ABS-dinner) for \$17.50 per person to:

John Ingles, Jr.  
8922 Conway Street  
Riverside, CA 92503

Please make reservations by August 1.

Persons who want to stay overnight at the Holiday Inn may arrange directly with the Holiday Inn, 25205 La Paz, Laguna Hills, CA 92652, phone: (714) 586-5000. Rates are: single, \$66 and double, \$76. The hotel management said that if sufficient reservations are received, a group discount will be effective. When you make reservations, mention that you are a part of the ABS.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND  
WITH YOUR FRIENDS

## Annual Reports Due

To Branch National Directors  
and other Board Members:

You should prepare a summary of the activities which you have conducted during the past year. These reports are due by August 8th, as I plan to review each one and include information from them in a combined form at the banquet instead of having them read or presented individually. The summary need not be long, but it should include pertinent information. I ask you to cooperate by preparing your report for the year now. I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting.

Bob Ammerman, ABS President  
1770 Foothill Drive  
Vista, CA 92083

## People to People Travel Program

Since October 1957, the Goodwill People to People Travel Program has been sending delegations to all areas of the world. Each delegation consists of people of one specific interest and all are devoted to improving international understanding and goodwill.

The American Begonia Society has been contacted about the possibility of forming a travel delegation to England, Ireland, and the Netherlands next year. The mission would be an official, approved program of the Dwight D. Eisenhower People to People International organization and would be devoted to meeting plant growers, with special emphasis on begonias. Various sightseeing highlights are also included. The length of the tour would be two to three weeks. The tour can be tailored somewhat to the expressed ideas of the group.

The board decided to inform the members about the tour to see if there would be sufficient interest to form a delegation to go to Europe following the convention in Miami next June. Each person would pay his own costs and expenses. The entire delegation need not be ABS members, so family members and friends could be included. Travel arrangements

are scheduled through Maupintours, Inc.

If you would like to know more about a begonia tour, please write to either Past President Gil Estrada or President Bob Ammerman to tell them of your interest. If you have suggestions of places and persons to be included on the itinerary, please note them. If there is sufficient response, you will be contacted directly, and additional information will appear in the *Begonian*.

Bob Ammerman    Gilbert A. Estrada  
1770 Foothill Dr.    7914 Springer St.  
Vista, CA 92083    Downey, CA 90242

## **Clarification of Status in Previous Article About Tuberous Begonias**

Please refer to the article, *Blackmore and Langdon: Their Exceptional Tuberhybrida* by Joy Porter, *The Begonian*, Vol. 51, page 8, Jan-Feb 1984 and specifically to the paragraph (with accompanying footnote) that begins "As an aside, this season's disappointment was a bench of perhaps 150 tissue-cultured plants. . ."

Professor A. C. Cassells of the Department of Botany, University College, Cork, Ireland, wishes to point out neither he nor his postgraduate student, Fionnuala Morrish, nor any member of the Department has any connection with the firm of Blackmore and Langdon nor have they at any time supplied tissue-cultured plants to this firm. Further, any tissue culture material which may have been a cause of disappointment did not originate in Cork. Indeed, Professor Cassells points out that he has published several scientific articles on the problem of deviation from type in tissue cultured plants.

The author and the staff of the *Begonian* regret that some persons have interpreted the text incorrectly, and apologize to Dr. Cassells, Miss Morrish, and the firm of Blackmore and Langdon for any inconvenience and anguish that may have resulted. The only intent of the footnote was to advise that research was continuing on tissue culture of begonias so that the readers could look forward to learning more about it later.

## 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.

## 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 Bookstore for \$1, \$6/full year. 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 (\$10.) Also available are a booklet on point scoring ( \$2. ), the old (unofficial) classification booklet (\$2), information on fuchsia and fern judging, and other requirements to become a judge. Add \$1 for 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.

Begonia. Misono, 1974. Japanese text with 302 good color photos identified in English. \$30 hard cover. (English translation with no photos. \$5.50 paperback. Order both for \$34.)

Begonias. Japanese text with 431 excellent color photos from 1980. \$23 paperback.

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

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

Pamphlets. Begonias from Seed, 35 cents each, with book order 25 cents. Culture of Begonias, 75 cents each, with book order 50 cents.

Begonian binders. Hold one year's worth. No repunching. Black. \$5.25 each.

## ABS Bookstore

African Violets and Related Plants. 117 color photos plus 21 photos of gesneriads. \$4.50.

Begonia Portraits. Collector's item by the late Alice Clark. Only a few copies. \$11

Ferns. How to identify and grow 84 common ferns. Color photos. \$4.50.

Mother Nature's Secrets for Thriving Indoor Plants. Fundamentals of indoor gardening. Color photos and information on 341 house plants. \$5.

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