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The BEGONIAN

The BEGONIAN

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The Cover: Begonia 'Maurice Kane', a tuberhybrida cultivar exhibiting an exquisite pink picotee margin, was grown and displayed by Isadore and Alice Gold of San Francisco and photographed by Ed Bates.

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ABS NEWS/Editor's message and other notices

Officers for 1984-85

The ballot and election committee announced the results of the recent voting:

President-Robert J. Ammermann
First Vice President-Daniel Haseltine
Second Vice President-Joy Porter
Third Vice President-Howard Berg
Secretary-Arlene Davis
Treasurer-Eleanor Calkins

There were 211 ballots cast.

Those present at the meeting in Mission Viejo were installed by Patricia Maley, and those who were unable to be present were declared installed in absentia.

At-Large Newsletter

Thelma O'Reilly, the director for members-at-large, has compiled another newsletter especially for members who are not affiliated with any branch. At-large members may obtain a copy by sending a request with a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Thelma O'Reilly
10942 Sunray Place
La Mesa, CA 92041

The letter has been ready for distribution, but the notice failed to appear in the last issue. For this oversight, the editor apologizes to the members-at-large.

Thelma met with the members-at-large at the Dallas Convention.

Zip Codes

Arlene Davis, the ABS Secretary, asks all branch secretaries and others who write to her to note that her postal zip code has been changed. Letters should be addressed to 923 E Francis Street, Corona, CA 91719.

Note that the ABS post office box address carries four additional numbers: 92024-0990. These last four digits are specific to this box and do not apply to the editor's personal box.

Gradually, as the numbers are assigned, the ABS will add the new four-digits to your zip code on your address label. At present some areas of the country have already been notified by the post office, and if you have received such notification please remember to send this information to Membership Secretary Pearl Benell. This is one way you can help your Society to use its funds well.

Excerpts from the Editor's Report
Prepared for the Annual Meeting

ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE

As all of you are aware, we have had a crisis an issue all year. We have dealt with them and there is no advantage to be gained by recounting each situation that caused a delay or emergency action. It is

Turn to page 112

ALFRED D. ROBINSON

Early ABS Mentor

Rudolf and Margaret Ziesenhenn

In 1931, the depths of the Depression, a group of Long Beach professional people formed the California Begonia Society. There were several educators, a realtor, an attorney, local nurserymen, and others. The group soon looked to the neighboring towns for other *Begonia* enthusiasts and among them was Alfred D. Robinson of Point Loma near San Diego whose influence was soon felt as it was he who suggested that the young group nationalize its scope and the American Begonia Society was founded. Until his death on February 26, 1942, Robinson gave benevolent guidance to the ABS and in his memory the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial Medal was authorized by the ABS board of directors in May, 1947.

Born to a cultured family in Waton, England on October 9, 1866, Robinson, a younger son, had prepared for a career in the ministry but came to the United States in 1887 at age 21, heading for California where he aspired to become a cattle rancher. A short period as a cowboy took care of that ambition. During a stay in San Francisco he met and in 1895 married Marion James Duncan, the only child of a wealthy couple, Hilarian and Charlotte Duncan.

Following the birth of their first daughter, Larona, on December 28, 1901, the Robinsons moved to Point Loma where they purchased an acreage at 510 Silvergate Avenue, built a large residence and several outbuildings; eventually a begonia garden which became the showplace for the genus *Begonia* in California was created on the property frontage.

Marion Robinson's inheritance permitted the family to live comfortably.

Rudolf and Margaret Ziesenhenn, 1130 N. Milpas Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93103, drew from their memories as well as delving extensively into the records to tell of Alfred D. Robinson.

Their second child, Charlotte Duncan Robinson, was born in August 1908. The older daughter Larona passed away in 1910. Marion Robinson died in 1919.

Robinson's hobby from 1902 until his wife's death had been the breeding, raising, and showing of the Rosecroft strain of Barred Rock chickens, which he exhibited from Los Angeles to New York; but from 1902 he was also involved in San Diego County's horticultural future, including the collecting and growing of *Begonia*.

In 1909 Robinson was one of the founders of the San Diego Floral Association and was the first editor of its publication, *California Gardens*. In the struggle to get these endeavors launched he sometimes gave not only his talents but his funds to keep things going. He had great interest in plant shows, but at the same time instilled civic pride in developing all the arts. He encouraged the establishment of botanical gardens and street tree planting. He assembled plants from all parts of the world for the first exposition grounds in Balboa Park, San Diego. His inspiration and advice were a great factor in the beautification of San Diego and its environs.

Robinson's location on Point Loma was perhaps the most ideal for growing *Begonia* as it is situated on a peninsula running south from the mainland, forming and enclosing San Diego Bay, The peninsula is only one mile wide at Rosecroft and has the Pacific Ocean to the west; the warm water of San Diego Bay is on the east; these provide a cool, humid atmosphere with a uniformly mild climate.

Begonia collecting at Rosecroft began with Robinson's purchasing plants throughout the United States; he imported *Begonia* seed from Europe; he obtained plants early from Theodosia Burr Shepherd in Ventura; he exchanged plants with San Diego growers, Eva Kenworthy Gray, W. M. Grant, Constance Bower, and Chauncy Vedder. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Fewkes

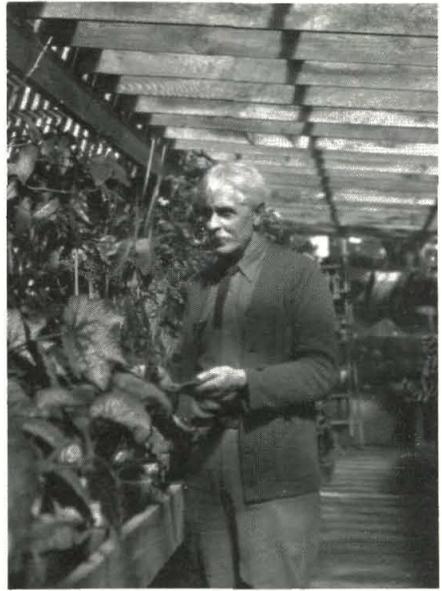
helped in propagating plants for him in their San Diego nursery during his last decade.

In 1920 Robinson married Annie Louise Colby, a friend of the family, 26 years his junior, who was a nurse in training at a San Diego hospital. Five children were born to them: Marion Louise in 1921, now Mrs. Richard A. Smith of Los Angeles, mother of four; Virginia May in 1923, now Mrs. Frank Perkins of San Diego, mother of two; Alfred D. Robinson, Jr., in 1924, now of Duarte, father of seven; Margaret Ann in 1926, now Mrs. Charles Curtis of Ramona, mother of five; Richard Michael in 1930, now of College Station, Texas, father of four.

Charlotte Duncan Robinson, Robinson's second daughter by his first wife, died in 1931; it is reported that at this time Robinson destroyed all his diaries kept during his marriage to Marion.

Because of his interest in the California Begonia Society Robinson gave it his full support, hosting it on June 3, 1934, for its regular monthly meeting, at Rosecroft Begonia Gardens. After a picnic lunch, Robinson told the group that he felt the begonia society was too good a thing to keep just for Californians and that it should be shared with the whole country, suggesting a name change to the American Begonia Society. With over one hundred members present a motion was made and passed to change the name from California Begonia Society to American Begonia Society. Robinson contributed 36 articles to the early *California Society Bulletins* and to the *Begonian*, sharing his wealth of knowledge with the members from February 1934 until his death in 1942. He was one of the first advertisers in the March 1936 *Bulletin* and later the *Begonian*.

Robinson issued but never dated his catalogues, *Rosecroft's Begonia Guide*; he used them until he felt a new one was needed. He kindly marked for us the 1927 and 1929 tuberous begonia seed list, and the 1930, 1931, 1934, and 1935 supplements. In the catalogue for 1934 he marked his hybrids and the dates he produced them.



Alfred D. Robinson on his patio

When Robinson first started hybridizing *Begonia*, *Begonia* 'Corallina de Lucerna' tree-type (tall canelike) hybrids were his favorites. These included: 1920 *Begonia* 'Orrell', 'Lugano', 'Helen W. King', and 'Rosie Murphiski'; 1922 *Begonia* 'Maybelle E.'; 1924 *Begonia* 'Serra-Belle'; 1933 (named for European lakes) *Begonia* 'Bellargio', 'Codelargo', 'Maggiore', 'Neuchatel', 'Lecco', 'Alzasco', 'Constance', 'Interlaken', 'Mussolini', 'Palu', 'Rigi', and 'Tanay'; his last catalogue lists *B. 'Lucendro'* also.

The tree forms of the *Rubra* type also attracted Robinson and he produced the following hybrids: *Begonia*, 1930 'Shasta', 'Mrs. W. D. Harney', 'Mrs. Schinkle', 'Rubra Odorata', 'Rubra Dielytra', 'Martha', 'Jinnie Mae', 'Mary', 'Shrimp Rubra', 'Grace', 'Robego', and 'Jean'; 1932 'Bennett Rubra', and 'Pink Shasta'; 1934 'Audree', 'Elithe', 'Lady Low', 'Velma S.', 'Clemmence', 'Louise Rubra' ABS reg #90, 'Lillian S. Rubra', 'Marge Rubra' ABS reg #357, 'Erna Rubra', 'Rose Rubra', 'Arlene', and 'Annie Laurie'; his last catalogue also lists *Begonia* 'Rubra Fragrance' and 'Annabelle'.

Robinson produced in 1925: *Begonia* 'Undine' (intermediate bush type), 'Richard Robinson' (low-growing branching type), 'Prunifolia' (*B. scharffiana* group); of the latter group he produced in 1933 *B.* 'Frutescans', and in 1936 *B.* 'Undermille'. In 1924 working with the *Begonia rex cultorum* group he produced: (large-leaf types) *Begonias* 'K. O. Sessions', 'Sea Nymph', and 'Poincare'; (medium-sized leaves) *Begonias* 'Mrs. Frevert', 'Moonbeam', 'A.D. Davis', 'Mrs. Drew', and later *Begonia* 'Hilda', 'Alfreana', and 'Kathleana'. He was also responsible for producing *Begonia* 'Marion', 'Sharstar', 'Pink MacBethii', and 'Glaucadaw'.

Begonia 'Scotch Luxurians' which he grew from seed received from Scotland was later identified as *B. mollicaulis*; he had ordered it as *B. luxurians*. Another plant Robinson listed in the 1931 *Rosecroft's Begonia Guide* as *B.* 'Schnitzeri' was found to be *B. sutherlandii*; he had given it the first name, he explained with a twinkle in his eye, because he had "snitched" a cutting in a park in San Francisco!

Annie Robinson was also interested in hybridizing and in 1937 produced *Begonia* 'Dianna'; in 1939 she produced *B.* 'Di-Erna', and still later *B.* 'Di-Shasta'. She also produced a tuberous strain by crossing *B. ricinifolia* with *B. micranthera fimbriata* (*B. cinnibarina*) to obtain the "Rosecroft Strain" of tuberous begonias.

When Alfred D. Robinson died in February 1942, he left Mrs. Robinson well provided for. She kept the nursery operating until April 1943 when it was closed due to World War II. In September 1946 the nursery's sale ended the "Golden Days of Rosecroft." Mrs. Robinson married Clarence P. Tedford in 1960; he passed away in 1977. Mrs. Tedford died in Los Angeles October 19, 1981. Her sister, May, now Mrs. Samuel E. Brode of Santa Barbara, and her daughter, Mrs. Smith, were most helpful in furnishing details of the personal history of Robinson.

One of the first acts in the American Begonia Society to memorialize Alfred D. Robinson was the formation of the Alfred D. Robinson Branch of the ABS in the San

Diego area; the organizing meeting was at Rosecroft Begonia Garden in November 1942; it is still an active branch.

At the annual meeting of the ABS on November 7, 1942, in Glendale, the ABS membership voted to establish the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial Exhibit, a perpetual display of living plants to be established and maintained at Lincoln Park, Los Angeles, to honor the memory of the "Dean of Begonias". It was maintained in a glasshouse by the ABS until October 1945 when the park officials ordered it removed as the space was needed for other purposes.

The Alfred D. Robinson Award was originated in 1947 for the most outstanding ABS registered begonia hybrid produced by a member of ABS. The original motion was made by Mrs. Mary Hazel Drummond at an ABS directors meeting on May 26, 1947: "That we establish a medal, either bronze or other material, to be given for the best seedling of fibrous, rex, or tuberous begonia each year in the name of Alfred D. Robinson, and that the medal be called 'The Alfred D. Robinson Medal.'" After the motion was passed, ABS president George Lawrence appointed a committee to work out details.

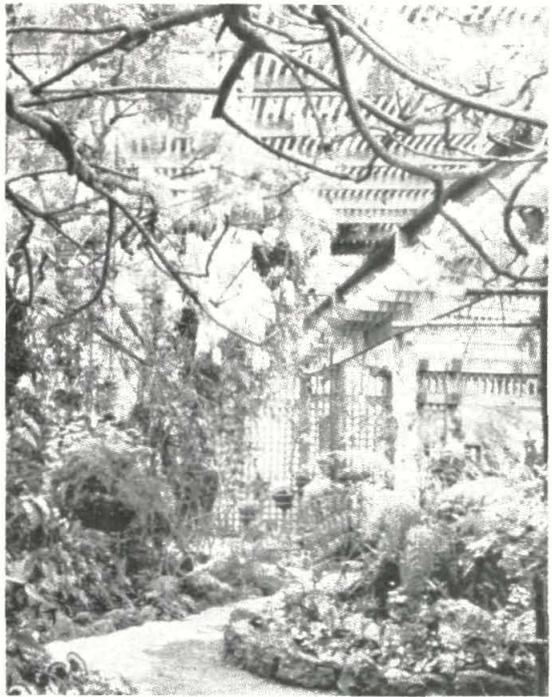
The original requirements for the medal by the committee were printed in the June 1948 the *Begonian*, page 132.

The first Alfred D. Robinson awards were presented in Santa Barbara on May 16, 1954 by Awards Chairman Edna Korts. Elsie M. Frey received the first for *Begonia* 'Silver Star' produced in 1945, and Rudolf Ziesenhenné received the second for *B.* 'Freddie', produced in 1946; the award for 1947 was given to Leslie Woodriff's *B.* 'Orange Rubra'.

Since its inception Alfred D. Robinson award requirements have been changed. The current rules state:

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 the ABS.
3. The *Begonia* nominee must have been released to the public for at least five years

Begonia/Year Awarded/Hybridizer
 'Silver Star'/1945/Elsie M. Frey
 'Freddie'/1946/Rudolf Ziesenhenn
 'Orange Rubra'/1947/Leslie Woodriff
 'Golden West'/1949/Frank Reinelt
 'Ricky Minter'/1950/Marie Turner
 'Glendale'/1950/Eleanor V. Slocum
 'Virbob'/1951/Mabel Walker
 'Verde Grande'/1957/Susie Zug
 'Kumwha'/1961/Don Horton
 'Madame Queen'/1964/Beth Bath
 'Sophie Cecile'/1966/Belva N. Kusler
 'Purple Petticoats'/1968/Peter P. Lee
 'Lady Frances Jean'/1969/Sylvia Leatherman
 'Eunice Gray'/1972/Irene Nuss
 'Paul Bee'/1973/Ruby Mae Budd
 'Universe'/1974/Thelma O'Reilly
 'Wanda'/1977/Leo W. Porter
 'Bowtique'/1978/Chester Nave
 'Murray Morrison'/1980/Belva N. Kusler
 'Buttercup'/1981/Michael J. Kartuz
 'Nokomis'/1984/Margaret & Paul Lee



At left: A.D. Robinson's photo of his wisteria-covered garden in 1938.

but not more than ten years prior to nomination.

We quote A. M. Rainford's tribute to Alfred D. Robinson, upon his passing, in the *California Garden* of April 1942, Vol. 3, No. 9: "Left now is only the imprint of a gay and genial spirit. He was a liegeman to the amenities, our mentor and leader in so many directions, a gardener first and always and an eminence in the field of horticulture that will long continue. This oak in our midst, so sturdily rooted in good California soil, so benignly spread and of such sure understanding of the smaller growth about. . . has been cut."

We visited Robinson at Rosecroft several times from 1935 on and were impressed by the perfect order of his garden and the large specimen begonias he had in his lath-house; a picture in his catalogue shows two six-foot *B. 'Jessie'* flanking the library door; there were huge specimens of *B. 'Odorata Alba'* in the neat beds towering over the smaller plants. A wisteria trailed along the ceiling.

Robinson visited us once, in August 1941, about three months before Pearl

Harbor. He was dignified, kindly, and appreciative, but we felt he was discouraged by world conditions and the war-time trauma in the English homeland he had left 54 years before as a youth of 21. He was a little weary, perhaps, but vitally interested, encouraging and inspiring as far as Rudy's collection was concerned — the collection which the originator of the first plant to receive the Alfred D. Robinson award, the late Elsie M. Frey, would care for for three years until the war ended and Rudy was released from civilian duty at the Naval Materiel Shipping Base (Pacific Naval Air Bases), Port Hueneme.

In the afternoon we drove Robinson to Ojai to visit Verna and Henry Flaitz and to show him their beautiful hillside landscaped mostly with huge *Rex cultorum* and other begonias. We then drove to Ventura to see the lovely backyard begonia and fern garden of Katherine and Herman Weitz, where we dined with other Ventura ABS members. We were grieved when a scant six months later we heard that he had passed away.

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS: FALL CARE

Howard Siebold

The cooler weather of September should result in some spectacular blossoms on your tuberous begonias. Ease off on fertilizing in September. If this is a rainy period in your area, check those in pots for good drainage. If there is any sign of sogginess, move them to a protected location. Tubers kept constantly wet and cool will be susceptible to rotting.

Let's review the essentials for success with tuberous begonias:

1. A large healthy root system.
2. Good drainage.
3. Good air circulation.
4. Enough dappled shade to prevent sunburned leaves or flowers.
5. Frequent inspection for mildew or stem rot.
6. Of course, use only the best stock.

Let's add one more to that list:

7. Pay attention to what is going on.

Come to think of it — that list could apply to most begonias and to many other plants.

The shorter daylight hours of October will bring smaller and less double male flowers. Many areas will have a frost about mid-month that will stop the flowering and maybe damage the leaves. Withhold water and cut off the tops leaving about six inches of stem. Before the first hard frosts, lift the tubers with a ball of soil and store in a frost free place — with some daylight, if possible.

The ideal situation would be to grow the plants well into December under natural daylight conditions. During the short days, the tuber matures and gets ready for the next season.

The stems will separate from the tubers gradually, a section at a time. When the last section is off, gently brush or wash the soil off. Be very careful as the skin may rub off leaving a scarred surface that will not grow roots next year. Dip the tubers in a

Howard Siebold completes the instructions for growing spectacular tuberous begonias throughout the year. He lives at 32050 Westwood Drive, Fort Bragg, CA 95437.

Lindane solution and allow to dry for a few days until completely dry.

When they are dry, inspect the tubers for any spots of rot. Cut away any such spots and dust with a rose dust.

Store the tubers on trays or in open boxes. Cover them well with slightly damp peat moss, shavings, sawdust or any material that will allow air to reach the tubers but will not encourage the loss of moisture. The ideal area would be an old-fashioned root cellar to give a cool temperature and a fairly high humidity. Just a few tubers could be stored in the vegetable bin of your refrigerator.

If you live in a cold winter area, your heating system may keep the humidity rather low. When that happens, inspect the tubers every 3 or 4 weeks. If the covering material becomes dry, replace the moisture. Handle the tubers very carefully during inspection to avoid damage to any buds or shoots. If buds or shoots develop too early, move to a cooler location. Mold on the outer surface of a tuber indicates rot inside. Remove any that are mushy or rotted.

GROWING FROM SEED

Growing Tuberous Begonias from seed can be most rewarding — especially in problem areas. It does, however, require the facilities — such as a greenhouse — for growing the seedling plants for several months.

Seedling plants perform as well as those from tubers, and in some climates, are distinctly better. It is impossible to predict the exact form or color of seedlings and that is part of the excitement of growing from seed. You may find some truly spectacular plants and, of course, some not so spectacular. A seed packet labelled "Pink" may produce flowers ranging from pale pink through deep rose.

If you desire uniformity, then you must buy tubers. If you want "named" varieties, you will have to stay with tubers and propagate by taking cuttings.

The seed is very fragile and is easily

crushed. You will most likely be ordering seed by mail so insist that it be mailed in a padded envelope, or better yet, in a crush-proof container. It is a good idea to inspect the seed with a microscope before sowing. A low-cost hand-held microscope with a 50X or 60X magnification is adequate. Then if germination is poor, you can rule out damaged seed. The traditional way of separating crushed seed and chaff from the good seed is to put all of it on a sheet of white paper. Lift the paper and tilt slightly while gently tapping it. Allow the good seed to roll off on to another sheet of paper. Practice this many times and inspect what rolls off and what does not with the microscope until you become proficient. Tuberous Begonia seed, under magnification, looks like Figure 1, page 71, of the May-June 1983 *Begonian*.

The seed germinates best at a temperature of 65° to 72°F. After germination, the plantlets do best at 60° to 65°F. A heating cable or germinating mat will help in maintaining those temperatures. The seed needs light for germination. Fluorescent lamps located about six inches above the seeded surface and "on" 14 to 16 hours per day will suffice.

The seedlings will appear in 7 to 10 days — sometimes longer. They will then require lighting that approaches daylight. If they must be under fluorescent lamps, move to within 2 or 3 inches of the lamps. Watch the temperature. The lamps do give off considerable heat. Augment with as much daylight as possible.

Use shallow seed pans or pots. An inch or so of germinating mix is deep enough. Use a sterile mix and sterilize all pans and covers. Use distilled water or boiled rain water. I prefer milled sphagnum moss as it effectively prevents damping-off. Premoisten the mix with a quart of water to four quarts of mix.

Fill the pots or pans about 1½ inches deep and gently firm the surface smooth. Using a one-cup flour sifter or a similar screen, sift a thin layer of very fine mix over the surface. This is to fill and cover any voids. Any seed that falls below the surface will not germinate. Using room

temperature water, set the pot or pan in water not quite as deep as the mix. A misting from above will help as will a little wetting agent, such as Aqua-Gro, in the water. The layer of fine material on the surface must be wet through before proceeding. With the surface wet, sprinkle the seed lightly over the surface. To do this, fold a file card lengthwise into a sharp "V". Place the seed inside and lightly tap the end of the card with a pencil. The seed will roll out of the end in single file. The rate of rolling is controlled by the angle at which you hold the card.

When the seed is sown, gently mist again from above to insure that the seeds are wet. Label each pan or pot and cover with glass or place in a transparent plastic bag or box. Moisture will collect on the glass covers so wipe it off a couple of times daily. Mist the surface or set the container in water at 3 or 4 day intervals. The seed must not be allowed to dry out.

When the seedlings appear, provide a little ventilation. Water with ½ or ¼ strength fertilizer solution — at room temperature — and mist from above with the same. The small plants must not be allowed to dry out either.

Every grower has his or her best time for transplanting the seedlings. Some prefer just before the third (the first true leaf) appears and others wait until the fourth leaf is well established. Some of us have to transplant often — like it or not — to avoid the blue, green, and black algae that can build up enough to smother the roots of the small plants. The transplanting mix can be coarser and contain more fertilizer than the germinating mix.

When the roots reach the sides of the pot, repot to the next larger size. When they reach 6" or 8" pots, treat seedling plants the same as those grown from tubers. Supplemental lighting should not be necessary after March first.

Plants from seed sown in January will have formed tubers by mid-November that are two or three inches in diameter.

Store extra seed in a closed jar in the refrigerator — not frozen. It will remain viable for several years.

Joy Porter, Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Director



Mr. E. W. Curtis, Curator, Botanic Gardens, Glasgow, Scotland stands below a large specimen *B. holtonis* given the gardens in 1968 by Rudolf Ziesenhenné. In May 1983 the *Begonia* collection here was designated the official collection of the British Isles and is being progressively enlarged and improved. The collection escaped almost unscathed when gale winds shattered the glass in the *Begonia* House this past winter.

Formerly, the collection was tended by rotating university students as a part of their studies of various plant families. It now flourishes under the constant care and direction of Derek Kane, and it is hoped those of you who travel to the British Isles will include a visit to this very interesting and charming *Begonia* collection. For a more complete description of this collection, please read "Begonias in Glasgow" by E. W. Curtis, *The Begonian*: 33, August 1966.

- S-O 1—*B. masoniana*: This exotic rhizomatous species, named for Maurice Mason who introduced it to cultivation, is also called "Iron Cross *Begonia*" because its large, round-ovate leaf with a bullate texture is marked with a brownish-black "iron cross". Small greenish-white flowers in summer. All *Begonia* shows, large or small, should include a specimen as the public expects to see it. per pkt 1.00
- S-O 2—*B. hemsleyana*: This aristocratic species from China with its palm-like leaves has a rhizome jointed at or below the soil-line with erect stems. Fragrant light pink flowers in winter. Requires care and patience. per pkt 1.00
- S-O 3—*B. olbia*: This thick-stemmed species from Brazil has medium, hairy, lobed olive-green leaves with silver spots in a single strand between the veins. Spots fade on older leaves which get more light. Large white flowers in spring and summer. This

beautiful *Begonia* has produced valuable hybrids and its interesting story is told by Thelma O'Reilly on page 6, *The Begonian*: 45(1) 1978. . . Small amount per pkt 1.00

- S-O 4—*B. stigmosa*: (Scott Hoover Mexican collection #373). Rhizomatous species with large round-ovate glossy green leaves with curious brownish-black triangular spots at nerve junctures, from which it gets its name. White flowers in spring. per pkt 1.00
 - S-O 5—*B. fenicis*: Large-leaved rhizomatous species from Philippines with medium-size white flowers in spring. per pkt 1.00
 - S-O 6—*B. radicans*: Most recently called *B. procumbens* but best known as *limminghei* or *limmingheana*, and in older literature called *glaucophylla*, this trailing-scandent species with 4-inch wedge-shaped leaves has, in late winter, large trusses of glorious salmon-orange flowers whose margins are tipped with creamy-white. Many lovely hybrids claim this as a parent. per pkt 1.00
 - S-O 7—*B. holtonis*: Everblooming white-flowered shrub species which in the past has been sold in the Seed Fund as *B. foliosa* var. *amplifolia*. This seed came from a plant stretching across the roof of the Begonia House at the Botanic Gardens, Glasgow, Scotland, per pkt 1.00
 - S-O 8—*B. corallina* x *solananthera*: This cross was made in Europe, and, if not already named by its commercial grower, will be given a grex name later by its originator. *B. corallina*, a tall (unspotted) cane type with red flowers is an old favorite in the U.S., and grown here as *B. coccinea* or *B. 'Red coccinea'*, and sometimes referred to as *rubra* type. per pkt 1.00
 - S-O 9—Hybrid rhizomatous Begonia seed—some from spiral and silver types. . . per pkt .50
 - S-O 10—*Cyrtomium falcatum*: Japanese Holly Fern. This is slightly different from M-A 16. per pkt .50
 - S-O 11—*Hippeastrum*: Seed from choice Amaryllis hybrids from Australia. per pkt 1.00
- Growing From Seed pamphlet: 25

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. Mail to: Joy Porter, 9 Bayberry Lane, Framingham, MA 01701.



Photo by R. Das

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A MYSTERY SOLVED

Don't call *B. 'Zee Bowman'* "*Curley*"

Mary Weinberg

Two years ago I became aware of a plant circulated among our members called *Begonia 'Curley Zee Bowman'*. What struck me about this plant was its close resemblance to *B. 'Sir Percy'*.

I set about checking all reference sources available to me, and could not find any reference to a plant by that name, other than *B. 'Zee Bowman'*. My next step was to write the Nomenclature Co-chairman Thelma O'Reilly; I described the plant to her, and asked if she would check all the registrations for a plant by that name. Thelma wrote me a short time later to tell me that a plant had not been registered with that name. She also told me that from the description I had given her the plant sounded like a begonia named *B. 'Gigi'*.

While Thelma was checking registrations, I purchased a plant of *B. 'Curley Zee Bowman'*, and proceeded to photograph it. I mailed a picture off to Thelma, and she wrote back that it certainly looked like *B. 'Gigi'*, and if I was coming to the annual show in Riverside California to bring a plant for her, she would then be able to check it with members who were also familiar with *B. 'Gigi'*.

As it turned out I did not go to the convention, but Dan Haseltine said he would be happy to deliver the plant to Thelma. A few months later Thelma again wrote that the plant known as *B. 'Curley Zee Bowman'* was indeed *B. 'Gigi'*, Thelma had shown the plant to Helen and Charles Jaros who had given her a plant of '*Gigi*', and she had been growing the two plants side by side and they were identical (except that my plant was doing better than hers).

Mary Weinberg, 1527 N. Highland Ave., Chicago, IL 60660, first shared the results of her search with members of the Greater Chicago Branch through their newsletter. She drew the illustrations, too.

Plants for one reason or another get names switched, or someone gives them a name because they have lost the original name. If you have any doubts about a plant name, do a little research, check it out with the ABS Nomenclature Chairmen. Browsing among the publications we have at our disposal can lead to an interesting side hobby.

Below is a brief description of *B. 'Sir Percy'*, *B. 'Zee Bowman'*, and *B. 'Gigi'*:

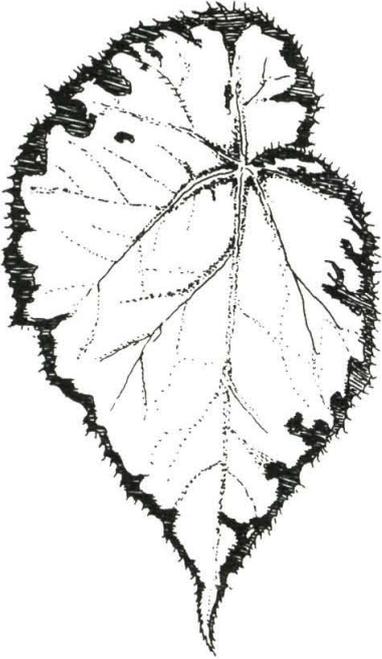
B. 'Gigi' is a sport of *B. 'Sir Percy'*. It is a rhizomatous plant with medium sized silver green leaves, entire/subentire, with an olive green irregular border on the edges, breaking occasionally into the silver area; surface and underside of leaf are sparsely covered with hairs; underside is dark red; peduncles are light green with sparse hairs. Flowers are pink.

B. 'Sir Percy' is a cross of *B. 'Silver Star'* with *B. 'Speculata'*. It is a rhizomatous begonia with medium sized silver-green leaves having sparse white hairs on the surface of the leaves. The leaves are entire/subentire, and have a narrow irregular olive green band on the edges, with short pale red hairs on edges and underside of veins; underside of leaves are a dull light red; peduncles are pale green with sparse hair. Flowers are white, tipped pink.

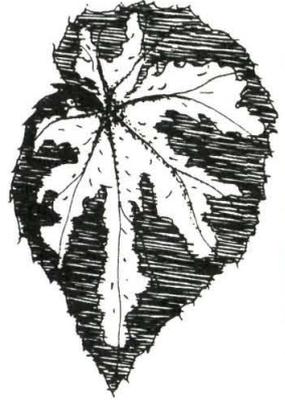
B. 'Zee Bowman' is a *B. bowerae* seedling. It is a rhizomatous plant with medium sized, lobed leaves; emerald green with irregular silver areas surrounding and over veins; sparse short white hairs on the upper surface and edges of leaves; underside of leaves are light green with red veins; peduncles are tan with red striate markings, and are sparsely haired.

If you have a plant labeled *B. 'Curley Zee Bowman'* please change the label to read *B. 'Gigi'*, if it looks like the leaf pictured with this article and if the description given above is the same as your plant.

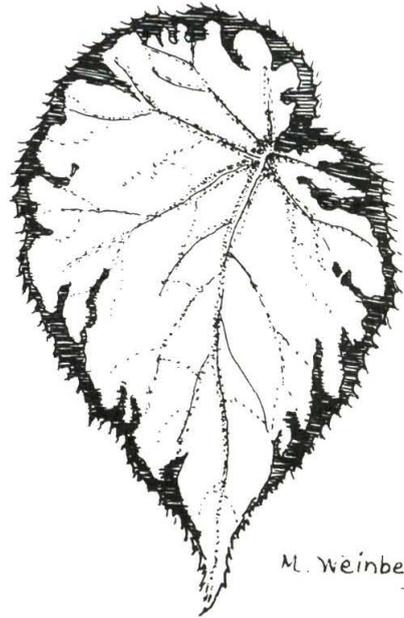
B. ('Curley Zee Bowman') 'Gigi'



B. 'Zee Bowman'



B. 'Gigi'



M. Weinberg

B. 'Sir Percy'

Joan Campbell, director

It's time to start **winterizing the green-houses**. Ralinda Howard, Wisconsin, recaulks her greenhouse where necessary. She also caulks the vents and door shut with silicone caulking, and staples and nails a big sheet of thick plastic over the entire greenhouse. Then hay bales are put along the bottom of the outside walls. She heats her home with wood which in turn heats the greenhouse and even in cold weather the benches stay about 40 to 45°.

Last winter, Beryl Orchard, Massachusetts, found wallpaper paste a good agent for making insulating bubble wrap stick to her greenhouse walls, as it didn't sun scorch and the vinyl adhesive for securing the edges of the wrap didn't yellow. The bubble wrap was effective for summer screening, too, so she left it on, and used portable screening where she found she needed additional protection.

Art Sackenruther, California, covers his greenhouse with fiberglass "Filon" which is made especially for greenhouses. He recommends caulking with silicon between the wooden framework and fiberglass, and says that a bead of caulking material should also be put between all joints. On cold nights Art uses a large electric fan in an open area which has a shade cloth top between his house and the greenhouse. It keeps the air moving. It works for citrus growers and he's found it works for him too.

If your power should fail, it is surprisingly helpful to throw newspapers over the tops of your plants, and Art recommends trying to get the heaters going again as soon as possible, for canes may survive, growing again from the roots. Many plants, especially older ones, will send up shoots

If you would like to join a robin—a packet of letters circulated among begonia lovers—write for details and a list of flight topics to Round Robin Director Joan Campbell, 814, NE Honey House Lane, Corvallis, MT 59828.

after this sort of enforced "rest" period.

Mary Ellen Taback, Virginia, found after a night of record low temperature that many begonias were badly damaged. *B. 'Richmondensis'*, *B. 'Curly Zip'*, *B. 'Sir Percy'*, and *B. 'Helene Jaros'* and some semps were not bothered. She comments the micro-climate for each plant probably had a lot to do with its survival. The water in the greenhouse containers had about one-quarter inch of ice, so it had been below freezing for quite a while.

Iris Shepherd, Texas, was lucky enough to have a box of candles in the house during last winter's freeze which helped keep the temperature high enough to protect her plants.

King Langenberg, Illinois, used an electric heating cable (10 ft.) on a shelf covered with an old blanket and put small plants in terrariums or sweater boxes. They wintered so well this way last year he plans this winter to have heating cables for all three shelves in his basement.

Dottie Lillestrand, Minnesota, brings her houseplants which summered outdoors back inside *before* the time comes to turn on the heat, as the plants have hardened off to some extent outdoors and would be apt to drop their leaves if the change from a cool environment to a heated one were too extreme.

Pauline Chambers, Florida, passes along a Fall warning from the U.S. Department of Agriculture which points out that Black Widow spiders "nest" in stored flower pots and will attack while nesting. She suggests we all look at our stacked pots carefully before taking them from darkened storage areas.

Discussing **rhizomatous begonias**, Mary Harbaugh, Wisconsin, notes *B. 'Natchaug'* and *B. 'Frances Fickewirth'* seem to have thick, waxy leaves and Mary thinks they require less care than other rhizomatous. She would like to find more with those characteristics.

Russ Hammer, Texas, likes *B. 'Nightmare'* as it also has a thick, slick leaf with

heavy substance. It is easy to grow and easy to propagate.

Betty Tillotson, California, says oddly shaped plants like *B. 'Cathedral'* can be improved in appearance by cutting the plant into three rooted rhizome pieces. Then place the largest piece in the middle of the pot with the others set where they balance the shape. You'll have a larger and better looking specimen.

Don and Chris Lill, Australia, comment that for them *B. 'Cathedral'* sets only female blossoms.

One of Mae Blanton's favorite hybrids is Yvonne Wells' *B. 'Mae Bee'*. She grew it to exhibit at the convention side by side with its parents, *B. versicolor* and *B. morelii*. Mae finds the variegated *B. 'Essie Hunt'* an easy grower.

Bob Hamm, Texas, says that most spiral leaved plants grow with flat leaves until a certain age is reached, depending upon the variety.

Chris Giordano, New York, rejuvenates her rhizomatous begonias in the spring by trimming the rhizomes on plants which have bloomed. She cuts off the old rhizome and, if the plant itself has some age on it, she will restart it entirely with a new, young piece of rhizome.

On the "Organic Growing" flight, Ardis Hartwig, California, reported she heard a speaker who blended small dibrotica beetles in a blender, strained them, and used the liquid as a spray. Mary Harbaugh, Wisconsin, commented that when something like this does work it is said to be caused by a disease present in the insects which were used. When sprayed, any new bugs which came in contact with the spray were then given the disease and killed.

Beryl Orchard, Massachusetts, says that years ago in England soot from coal fires was used on plants. A little was scraped into the soil around the top of a pot, and ashes also went into the garden. Beryl uses eggshells routinely in her potting mix, pointing out that primula and certain ferns supposedly like them. Kathleen Herr, Ohio, read that calcium should be in a soluble form to be useful to plants and that

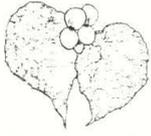
eggshells are not particularly water soluble.

Some members use powdered **sulfur** to fight **mildew**. Mildred Swyka, Delaware, placed saucers with powdered sulfur among her plants and felt her problems were less after doing that.

Mae Blanton, Texas, says a squeeze bottle, such as one which has contained a nasal spray, makes an ideal "duster" for sulfur powder. Ease the little stopper with the small hole out of the empty, *dry* container and fill two-thirds full of powdered sulfur, replace the stopper, and puff!

Ruth Wills, Oklahoma, comments that *B. 'Hazel Harmon'* (*B. wollnyi* x *B. malabarica*) is a product of mildew-prone parents. Last January Ruth's plant had lost every leaf from mildew and she was tempted to toss it. However, she had taken a cutting earlier for insurance and found it grew beautifully under her cool white fluorescent lights where the leaves developed pastel colors. So, she put the parent plant under lights too and it quickly grew leaves similarly colored and by April 12, 1984, at the ABS convention, her *B. 'Hazel Harmon'* won a trophy and cultural award. So Ruth's moral is: Grow all mildew-prone problem plants under lights.

There are one or more openings in the following flights: Midwest Growers, Photography, Arid Climates, Tropical Plants, Orchids, Windowsill Growing, Research, Southwest Growers. Would you like to participate?



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QUESTION BOX/Help with problem seedlings

Mabel Corwin

Question: I have a plant that is long and spindly and has never bloomed. Its leaves are rich red with light green veins on the underside. The leaves look healthy, but curl under at the top. Leaves half way down the stem are dying. Should I prune this plant? Any suggestions on how to doctor it?

Answer: A spindly plant may indicate not enough light. It could be the nature of that particular variety. It probably does need to be pruned. I would cut it back at least two thirds. Some varieties need to have the new growth pinched to make a bushy plant. When new growth starts, feed regularly.

QUESTION: I am attempting my second sowing of *B. incisa* seeds. A friend had one or two germinate, but they just melted away immediately. First, let me describe my culture for seeds. I germinate at 70 degrees with bottom heat, then under lights in my basement approximately 8'' from tubes. I use the Thompson's recommended mix of 2 parts perlite, 2 parts vermiculite, and 1 party Jiffy Mix. Although I have tried others, this works best. Seeds are sown sparsely in 2'' pots, and the pots are placed in a shoe box covered with Saran wrap, then onto the Park's germinating tray (bottom heat of 70 deg.), or on top of the refrigerator, which is approximately the same temperature. Can you give me further cultivation hints if these *incisa* seeds should germinate?

ANSWER: Your method of starting seeds sounds fine. It is basically the way I do it. The next step is possibly the most critical.

Mabel Corwin will answer your questions about horticultural problems. Please include some information about your growing conditions when you write to her at 1119 Loma Vista Way, Vista, CA 92083. Include a stamped self-addressed envelope; you'll get a prompt reply.

When it is time to transplant I use the trays that come in the Park's mini-greenhouses, but any shallow container will do. I use the same mix for the first transplant as for sowing the seeds. I water carefully with a weak fertilizer solution (¼ tsp. to gallon of water) to settle the mix around the tiny seedlings. A small ear syringe is a good way to water small seedlings.

The trays of seedlings are put in a plastic box or mini-greenhouse and put back into the same environment as the seed boxes. They stay there until the seedlings have grown large enough to be transplanted into small pots. When they have been transplanted into small pots they are once again placed in a plastic box and given the same environment.

Many growers lose their seedlings because they try to move them along too fast. I think the secret is to keep them in an enclosed atmosphere until they are growing in individual pots. Then you can begin to open the top a little at a time and gradually harden them off.

B. incisa appears to be very fragile, but it really isn't at all difficult to grow. Some growers keep it in a terrarium, but I find it grows well in the greenhouse and even outside in the shadehouse during the summer months.

I hope your seeds germinate and grow well for you. Patience is the name of the game with seedlings. It seems like a slow process, but the time comes when they take off and really start to grow fast.

Question: What causes leaves to curl back on themselves?

Answer: The first things that come to mind are lack of humidity, or too much light, or both. It doesn't seem that would be a problem in your area. If you are growing under lights the plants could be too close to the tubes. I really can't help without knowing what kind of begonia we are talking about and something about your culture.

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.

Thelma O'Reilly, as co-director of the nomenclature committee, worked on the processing of cultivars numbered 860-866 in the May-June issue as well as those on the current list.

***Begonia* 'Calender Girl'**

No. 867—*Begonia kellermanii* x 'Southgate' 'Calender Girl'

Thick-stemmed cultivar with 2½'-to 3'-tall, brown-felted stems that carry dark green, round, peltate, 8" x 7½" leaves with entire margin, lightly woolly surface, 9 main veins, 8"-10" brown-felted petioles, and ¾" x ¾" stipules. Male flowers are variegated pink and females pale pink, borne in clusters in winter. The many flowers and peltate leaves make a showy plant. Originated in 1977 by Bob Cole, 18007 Topham Street, Reseda, CA 91335; first bloomed in 1980; first distributed in 1982. Described in undated catalog of the Plant Shop's Botanical Garden received in June 1982. Registered July 5, 1983.

***Begonia* 'Chia Ah Lin'**

No. 868—*Begonia* 'Lospe-tu' x 'Dainty Lady' 'Chia Ah Lin'

Rhizomatous cultivar with hairy, bright green, 8" x 10", spiraled, lobed and cleft, ciliate leaves. Main veins number 9; petioles are reddish-hairy, 15" long; and stipules are ¾" x 5/8". Hot red-pink flowers show some spotting. *B.* 'Chia Ah Lin' was named for a friend in Borneo.

Originated in 1977 by Bob Cole (address above); first bloomed in 1982; first distributed in 1982. Described in the above undated catalog. Registered July 5, 1983.

***Begonia* 'Chop Suey'**

No. 869—*Begonia* 'Dainty Lady' x *hydrocotylifolia* (bluish form) 'Chop Suey'

Rhizomatous cultivar bearing 4" x 4" leaves shaped somewhat like those of *B.* 'Cathedral', irregularly rounded with distorted margin and shallowly cordate at the base, colored dark green with blackish green markings, whitish green mutated veins, and bright red markings underneath. The surface is smooth and the number of main veins variable. Petioles are smooth, greenish, 8" long; stipules, ¼" x ½". Soft-pink 2-tepaled male and female flowers are borne on 6" peduncles. Originated in 1979 by Bob Cole (address above); first bloomed in 1981. Described in above undated catalog. Registered July 5, 1983.

***Begonia* 'Doe Boy'**

No. 870—*Begonia* 'Southgate' x *kellermanii* 'Doe Boy'

Thick-stemmed with 2'-tall, trunklike stems and bright-green, obliquely ovate, peltate, thick, 6" x 4" leaves with entire margin, smooth surface, 8 main veins, 8" brown-felted green petiole, and ½" x ¾" stipules. Flowers are pinkish white with 4-tepaled males, 3- or 4-tepaled females, and 3-winged ovaries. Originated by Bob Cole in 1977 (address above); first bloomed in 1980; first distributed in 1981. Described in above undated catalog. Registered July 5, 1983.

***Begonia* 'Ed Hummel'**

No. 871—*Begonia* 'Pink Lemonade' x *hydrocotylifolia* (bluish form) 'Ed Hummel'

Rhizomatous with 5" x 2½", dark-green leaves overlaid with metallic charcoal gray, the 7 bright green main veins forming a contrasting center star. Obliquely ovate

Turn to page 110.

ASSOCIATED GROUPS/*Visitors always welcome.*

ARIZONA

Desert Begonia Branch
Mrs. Mason Thorne, Pres.
5714 East 3rd St.
Tucson, AZ 85711
Barbara Rogers, N. Dir.

CALIFORNIA

Alfred D. Robinson Branch
2nd Tuesday, 10:30a.m.
Homes of members
Betty Bauhan, Pres.
5630 Bellevue Ave.
La Jolla, CA 92037
Margaret Lee, N. Dir.

Central San Joaquin Branch
Irene Cabibi, Pres.
685 W. Morton
Porterville, CA 93257
Esther Passet, N. Dir.

East Bay Branch
3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.
Northbrae Community
Church, Berkeley
Milton Watt, Pres.
119 Kenyon Ave.
Kensington, CA 94708
Helen Myers, N. Dir.

Garden Grove Branch
1st Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
12860 Euclid St.
Garden Grove, Calif.
Joy Blair, Pres.
10006 Pomeroy Rd,
Downey, CA 90240
George Allison, N. Dir.

Glendale Branch
2nd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
Glendale Federal S & L
401 N. Brand, Glendale
Helen Baker, Pres.
1832 N. Ontario St.
Burbank, CA 91505
Darlene Fuentes, N. Dir.

Long Beach Parent Chapter
3rd Saturday, 1:30 p.m.
Mercury S & L
4140 Long Beach Bl, L. B.
Ruth M. Hurd, Pres.
2942 Sawyer St.
Long Beach, CA 90805
Gilbert Estrada, N. Dir.

Monterey Bay Area Branch
4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
New Monterey Neighborhood
Center, Lighthouse & Dick-
man Sts, New Monterey
Raymond Peterson, Pres.
192 Walker Valley Rd.
Castroville, CA 95012
Leslie Hatfield, N. Dir.

North Long Beach Branch
2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Mercury S & L
4140 Long Beach Blvd,
Long Beach, Calif.
Edith Van Landingham
Pres., 6925 Lime Ave

If your listing is
incomplete or inaccurate,
please notify the ABS
Secretary and send a copy
of your letter to the
editor. Deadline for next
update is January 10.

Long Beach, CA 90807
George Ghiotto, N. Dir.
Orange County Branch
2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Fullerton S & L
2310 E. Lincoln Ave.
Anaheim, Calif.

Lorra Almstedt, Pres.
1965 Celeste Lane
Fullerton, CA 92633
Cruz Sandoval, N. Dir.

Palomar Branch
2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Glendale Federal S & L
898 E. Vista Way, Vista
Jeannette Gilbertson
Pres., 410 JoAnn Circle
Vista, CA 92083

Rubidoux Branch
4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
West Riverside Memorial
Auditorium
4393 Riverview Dr.
Rubidoux
Bobbie West, Pres.
6073 De La Vista
Rubidoux, CA 92509
R. H. Terrell, N. Dir.

Sacramento Branch
3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
Garden Center
3330 McKinley Blvd.
Sacramento, Calif.
Connie Metro, Pres.
6209 Glenhurst Way.
Citrus Heights, CA 95610
Marvin Vipond, N. Dir.

San Francisco Branch
1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Garden Center
Golden Gate Park,
9th Ave. and Lincoln Way
Russel Hutchison, Pres.
577 Briarwood Ct.
Livermore, CA 94550
Carol Spediacci, N. Dir.

San Gabriel Valley Branch
2nd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
Los Angeles State and
County Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Ave.
Arcadia, Calif.
Gene Schrider, Pres.
136 N. Sunset Pl.
Monrovia, CA 91016
Dorothy Kosowsky, N. Dir.

San Miguel Branch
1st Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Casa del Prado, Rm. 104,

Balboa Park, San Diego
Michael Ludwig, Pres.
644 Torrance St.
San Diego, CA 92103
Margaret Lee, N. Dir.
Santa Barbara Branch
4th Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
The Cottage,
1130 N. Milpas St.
Dara Emery, Pres.
517 W. Junipero St., #2
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
Kay Willis, N. Dir.
Santa Clara Valley Branch
3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.
Saratoga Library
13650 Saratoga Ave.
Saratoga, Calif.
Elizabeth Sayers, Pres.
369 Ridge Vista Ave.
San Jose, CA 95127
Mary Margaret Rafferty,
N. Dir.

Theodosia Burr Shepherd
Branch
1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Senior Citizens Bldg
420 Santa Clara St.
Ventura, Calif.
Jinny Peterman, Pres.
131 E. Fiesta Green
Port Hueneme, CA 93041
Mary Stine, N. Dir.

Westchester Branch
1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Allstate Savings
8800 S. Sepulveda Blvd.
Los Angeles, Calif.
George Kalmanson, Pres.
220 23rd Street,
Santa Monica, CA 90402
Clair Christensen, N. Dr.

Whittier Branch
1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Palm Park Community Ctr
5703 South Palm Avenue,
Whittier, Calif.
Bill Scarbrough, Pres.
Nellie Weaver, N. Dir.

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Branch
4th Monday, Homes of
members, Arline Peck,
Pres., Eagle Peak Road
Pascoag, RI 02859
Priscilla Beck, N. Dir.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AREA

Potomac Branch
4th Sunday, 2:00 p.m.
Sherwood Hall Library
1205 Sherwood Hall Lane
Alexandria, VA
Maxine Zinman, Pres.
Rte 1, Box 73
Boyce, VA 22620
Linda Record, N. Dir.

FLORIDA

Jacksonville Branch
 3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m.
 Garden Club/Jacksonville
 1005 Riverside Ave.
 Ed Harrell, Pres.
 1628 Broward Road
 Jacksonville, FL 32218
 Mary Harrell, N. Dir.

Miami Branch
 4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
 Simpson Memorial Garden
 Center, 55 South West
 17th Road, Miami
 Maybelle Green, Pres.
 13940 Harrison Street
 Miami, FL 33176
 Charles J. Jaros, N. Dir.

PalM Beaches Branch
 2nd Monday,
 Horticultural Center
 531 N. Military Trail
 West Palm Beach
 Edwin F. Maley, Pres.
 1365 Redpine Trail
 West Palm Bch, FL 33411
 Helene Jaros, N. Dir.

Tampa Bay Area Branch
 3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
 North Tampa Comm. Center
 N. 11th St. & E. Seward
 Tampa, Florida
 Mary Breit, Pres.
 2713 N. B St,
 Tampa, FL 33609
 Marie Van Etten, N. Dir.

ILLINOIS

Greater Chicago Area Br.
 4th Sunday (x Dec), 2 p.m.
 Oak Park Conservatory
 561 Garfield, Oak Park
 Mary Weinberg, Pres.
 1527 W. Highland Ave.
 Chicago, IL 60660
 King Langenberg, N. Dir.

MASSACHUSETTS

Buxton Branch
 Call for meeting Info.
 Richard Spencer, Pres.
 323 Cambridge Street
 Burlington, MA 01803
 Rosemary Norton, N. Dir.

MINNESOTA

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

NEW JERSEY

Elsa Fort Branch
 Helen Green, Pres.
 2100 Hunter St.
 Cinnaninson, NJ 08077
 Gladys Cooper, N. Dir.

NEW YORK

Eastern New York Branch
 Herbert Speanburg, Pres.
 75 Swaggertown Road
 Scotia, NY 12302

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

Knickerbocker Branch
 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
 Hort. Society of NY
 128 West 58th St
 New York, NY
 Barbara Berg, Pres.
 16 Highview Terrace
 New Canaan, CT 06840
 Howard Berg, N. Dir.

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

OHIO

Greater Cincinnati Branch
 Erich Steininger, N. Dir
 208 Beechpoint Dr.
 Oxford, OH 45056

OKLAHOMA

Fred A. Barkley Branch
 1st Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
 Huey Long Community Ctr
 Del City, Oklahoma
 Mrs. L. Sullivan, Pres.
 118 E. Myrtle Drive
 Midwest City, OK 73110
 Ruth Wills, N. Dir.

PENNSYLVANIA

Edna Stewart Pittsburgh Br.
 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
 Pittsburgh Garden Center
 Suzanne Colaizzi, Pres.
 115 Lillian Road
 Pittsburgh, PA 15237
 Frank Kerin, N. Dir.

Western Pennsylvania Br.
 2nd Wednesday, 11 a.m.
 Ricardo's Restaurant
 Butler, Pennsylvania
 Antonette Ponteri, Pres.
 407 Canterbury Trail
 Mars, PA 16046

William Penn Branch
 4th Tuesday, noon
 Homes of members
 Mrs. J. Leroux, Pres.
 Dove Lake House
 Gladwyne, PA 19035
 Mrs. L. Sims, N. Dir.

RHODE ISLAND

Roger Williams Branch
 3rd Monday night
 Homes of members
 Arline Peck, Pres/N. Dir.
 Eagle Peak Road,
 RFD #1, Box 478
 Pascoag, RI 02859

SOUTHWEST

Southwest Region
 Tamsin Boardman, Dir.
 Box 249
 Roanoke, TX 76262

TEXAS

Astro Branch
 Gloria Quinn, Pres.
 234 Tallant Drive
 Houston, TX 77076

Coastal Bend Begonia Soc.
 Helen Gonzales, Pres.
 Rt. 1, Box 103
 Taft, TX 78390

Dallas Area Branch
 3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
 Dealy Rec Center
 6501 Royal Lane, Dallas
 Merle Gotcher
 Pres. and N. Dir.
 4453 Dee Lane
 Fort Worth, TX 76117

Houston Texas Branch
 4th Monday, 10:30 a.m.
 Garden Center
 1500 Herman Drive
 Houston, Texas
 Nancy Blakeman, Pres.
 11838 Bayhurst
 Houston, TX 77024
 Mrs. G. Herzog, N. Dir.

Mae Blanton Branch
 4th Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.
 Homes of members
 May McKnight, Pres.
 908 Live Oak
 Denton, TX 76201
 Glennis Crouch, N. Dir.

WASHINGTON

Eastside Begonia Branch
 4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
 590 116th Avenue N.E.
 Bellevue, Wash.
 Lewis VanderCook, Pres.
 12671 SE 161st Street
 Renton, WA 98055

Seattle Branch
 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
 Bethany Lutheran Church
 7400 Woodlawn Ave, N.E.
 Anton Soder, L. Fullner
 Robert McCarter, Co-Pres.
 Phyllis Wright, N. Dir.

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

New Cultivars

(Continued from page 107)

and cordate, the leaves have almost entire, ciliate margins, smooth surfaces, 7½" petioles with red dots, each dot with a hair, and ¾" x ¾" stipules. Pink male and female flowers are 2-tepaled. A compact plant with unusual coloring. Originated in 1979 by Bob Cole (address above); first bloomed in 1982; first distributed in 1981. Described in undated catalog cited above. Registered July 5, 1983.

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Begonias in Botanical Gardens

Although Bob Cole continues to hybridize and propagate begonias, last year he reduced the Plant Shop's collection from over 1,000 different named cultivars and species to about two hundred. The cultivars were sent to Lyon Arboretum in Honolulu and the species went to Waimea Arboretum in Haleiwa, Hawaii, where they were to be placed on display.

A second large collection that was reduced in size was that of Leo Porter. Part of his plants are in the Begonia House at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, with some being installed even earlier at Sherman Gardens in Costa Mesa, California.

Mildew Control

The California Cooperative Extension Bulletin (April 1984) reports the label expansion to include safe use on begonias and African violets of Milban 39% EC (dodemorph) to combat powdery mildew. Read the label carefully for information about rates and frequency of application, toxicity, etc.

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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Rare Begonias incl. Lowe hybrids. 25
diff. bareroot plants, \$35. 25 rhiz &
cane cuttings, \$25. Priority mail \$3;
\$5 W. of Miss. Paul Lowe, 1544 West
Rd., Lake Park, FL 33403. No List.

The meeting was called to order at 7:48 pm at the Fullerton Savings and Loan Building in Anaheim. There were 12 people present, not a quorum, so various discussions were held but no official decisions could be made. The president led the Flag Salute and the secretary read the Aims and Purposes.

A letter from the Dallas Area Branch was read: they wish to add to the aims and purposes the clause "To support the world wide collection of Begonias for the purpose of perpetuation and to work toward the ending of their destruction in their natural habitat." The matter was referred to the constitution and bylaws committee as this would be a change in the constitution, and it would have to be approved by the board and the entire membership.

Treasurer Eleanor Calkins reported that the combined amounts in the treasury as of 1 July were \$31,549.23. The expenditures for May-June were \$7,685.04.

Seed Fund Director Joy Porter reported gross sales for May-June of \$1153.17, expenditures of \$176.16, remittal to the treasury of \$977.01. Seed sales at Dallas were \$96.80.

Carrie Karegeannes reported activities including letters, phone calls, and ten new named cultivars sent for publication in the *Begonian*.

Margaret Lee sent the treasurer \$43.72 from judging courses.

Joan Campbell, round robin director, queried the possibility of a membership directory for traveling members to get in touch with others of similar interests. It was suggested that the visitors contact the president of the branch in the appropriate area or the members-at-large director for names in the area of travel.

A discussion of the point scoring schedule approved at the January meeting was held. Margaret Lee said she has had letters stating that the schedule did not go far enough to upgrade the quality of plants. A proposal was made at Dallas in a meeting of judges and interested persons to revise the schedule: cultural

certificates 95 points, trophy 93, blue ribbon 90, red ribbon 80, white ribbon 75. These were proposed for all national shows, to take effect for the new year. The matter would be brought up again at the next board meeting.

Pearl Benell reported \$3,362.76 was received for membership from May 15 to June 14. Five new members resulted from ad in *Flower and Garden*, 18 through the branches, and 35 from other sources. Total *Begonians* mailed 2037.

John Ingles, business manager, reported that the matters with the IRS were still pending.

Chuck Richardson said that replies to the questionnaire sent to branches were very good.

Bobbie West reported bookstore sales of \$2029.97 between February and June, sales at Dallas of \$1267.00, expenses of \$852.79.

Public Relations Director Gil Estrada reported on the ads he has placed, those proposed, and on articles about begonias appearing in other publications.

A reminder was made for reservations for the annual meeting to be held at the Holiday Inn at Mission Viejo on August 18. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Arlene Davis, secretary

A.D.R.'s Project

May Brode, Annie Robinson's sister, added an interesting note to the article on Alfred D. Robinson. She wrote that he was very persistent with a project of planting a grove of Live Oak trees east of El Cajon, Calif. He initiated the idea and stayed with it until it was set aside as a county park.

Alfred D. Robinson was an excellent photographer. Many of his photos appeared in the *Begonian*, and ABS Archives contain copies of them.

BEGONIA STARS ON BISCAYNE BAY

Now that the Dallas Convention is history, it is time to think about next year's convention. The Miami Branch cordially invites all Begonia lovers from all over the world to come to the Fun and Sun Capitol of the World, Miami, Florida, to attend the 53rd Annual American Begonia Society Convention & Show, April 25-28, 1985, to be held at the beautiful new Miami Marriott Hotel on Biscayne Bay. You will find fun and surprises as you bask in the sub-tropical climate of South Florida. A boutique will be featured at this convention. So come and see the "Begonia Stars on Biscayne Bay". We want to see you in Miami.

Speakers List

Many of you have received the "Speakers List" and as time goes on there will be additions. Please add this to your Speakers List:

Millie and Ed Thompson
P. O. Drawer PP
Southampton, NY 11968

Persons on the list are able to speak on all phases of Begonia growing: culture, greenhouse growing, light gardens, outdoor gardens, nomenclature, research, history of begonias, horticultural classification, etc.

If anyone wishes their name listed, please contact Muriel Perz, 2141 W. 29th Street, Long Beach, CA 90801.

Accentuate the Positive

(Continued from page 93)

better to accentuate the positive and plan ahead for a better tomorrow.

Despite the problems, there were six issues during the year. The budget for the year was \$10,000 less than was spent for the previous year, and I did try to stay within the amount. Nevertheless the *Begonian* cost over \$14.00 per member last year. There were some one-time expenditures that will not have to be repeated during the next year.

I continue to initiate cost cutting to maintain the magazine in the familiar form. For example, I have become more experienced with paste-up techniques, and am grateful that no one has complained too loudly about the times when the lines were not perfectly straight or type came loose.

I am grateful to Pearl Benell, Joan Campbell, Mabel Corwin, and Joy Porter for their support. I cannot name here all the others who contributed to filling the pages of the *Begonian* with meaningful information, but I appreciate all their work. Lastly, I thank Bob Ammerman, John Ingles, and Eleanor Calkins, whose efforts do not appear on the pages of the *Begonian*, but whose support and work have been essential to its production.

The people from the Southwest region who were involved with the Dallas Convention set a high standard for handling matters for the *Begonian* right from the start. They are "the greatest." I sincerely hope that all of them will continue to contribute to the *Begonian*.

At the end of a year, it is appropriate to consider goals for the future. I barely made the goal that was given to me at Riverside: six issues within the budget within the year. I did not attain my own goal of getting the magazines into the mail earlier and earlier until the date on the cover coincides with the date on the calendar. So I hold to that goal for the next year. There are other things I still want to accomplish, including getting more information to the members. These will depend upon some choices to be made in the near future. Meanwhile, I carry on. Phyllis P. Bates

Show at Ann Arbor

October 22, 1984

The Indoor Gardening Association of Ann Arbor will hold its annual sale and auction at the University of Michigan's Matthaei Botanical Gardens. The auction will start at 8 pm with the plant tables open after the auction. Orchids, begonias, ferns, bromeliads, succulents, African violets and other gesneriads, and many rare and unusual plants will be for sale. The gardens are located at 1800 North Dixboro Road.

In Memoriam

Earl Calkins, husband of Treasurer Eleanor Calkins, died of cancer on August 12, 1974. He had been a member of the Palomar branch almost since its beginning, and attended numerous national conventions.

Articles About Begonias

The *Los Angeles Times Home Section* for July 8th included a double-barreled article on begonias and ABS members. The front cover illustration was a photo of a group of yellow tuberous blossoms tipped with a fiery red picotee. The stories featured tuberous begonias as grown by Evelyn and Bob Weidner and family at Weidner's Begonia Gardens in Leucadia and rex begonias grown by Bob Cole of the Plant Shop's Botanical Gardens in Reseda, CA.

Author-Editor Bob Smaus included general information about these two groups of begonias and helpful hints about growing them in the southern California area.

Mildred Thompson was author of an article on begonia growing that appeared recently in the *Christian Science Monitor*. More recently it appeared as a result of syndication in various other newspapers throughout the country. It is an introduction to *Begonia* growing with suggestions of kinds of begonias to choose to start a collection.

The September 1984 issue of the *Bulletin of the Garden Clubs of America* contains a feature article about the Thompson's Begonia Museum on Long Island.

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.

Growing Begonias, Eric Catterall, 1984. Hard Cover \$15.00

Begonias: 1980. Japanese text by H. Arakawa with 431 excellent color photos. \$23 paperback.

Begonias in Color. Text by Yuji Murotani, color photographs by Hideaki Tatsumi, with English translation \$12.50.

ABS Show & Convention Guide, compiled by Thelma O'Reilly \$2.50 incl. postage and handling.

Buxton Check List. Reprints of original and supplements \$20.

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

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.)

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.

All prices include shipping. California residents add 6% sales tax. Send check or money order in U.S. currency payable to American Begonia Society.

Bobbie West, Manager
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