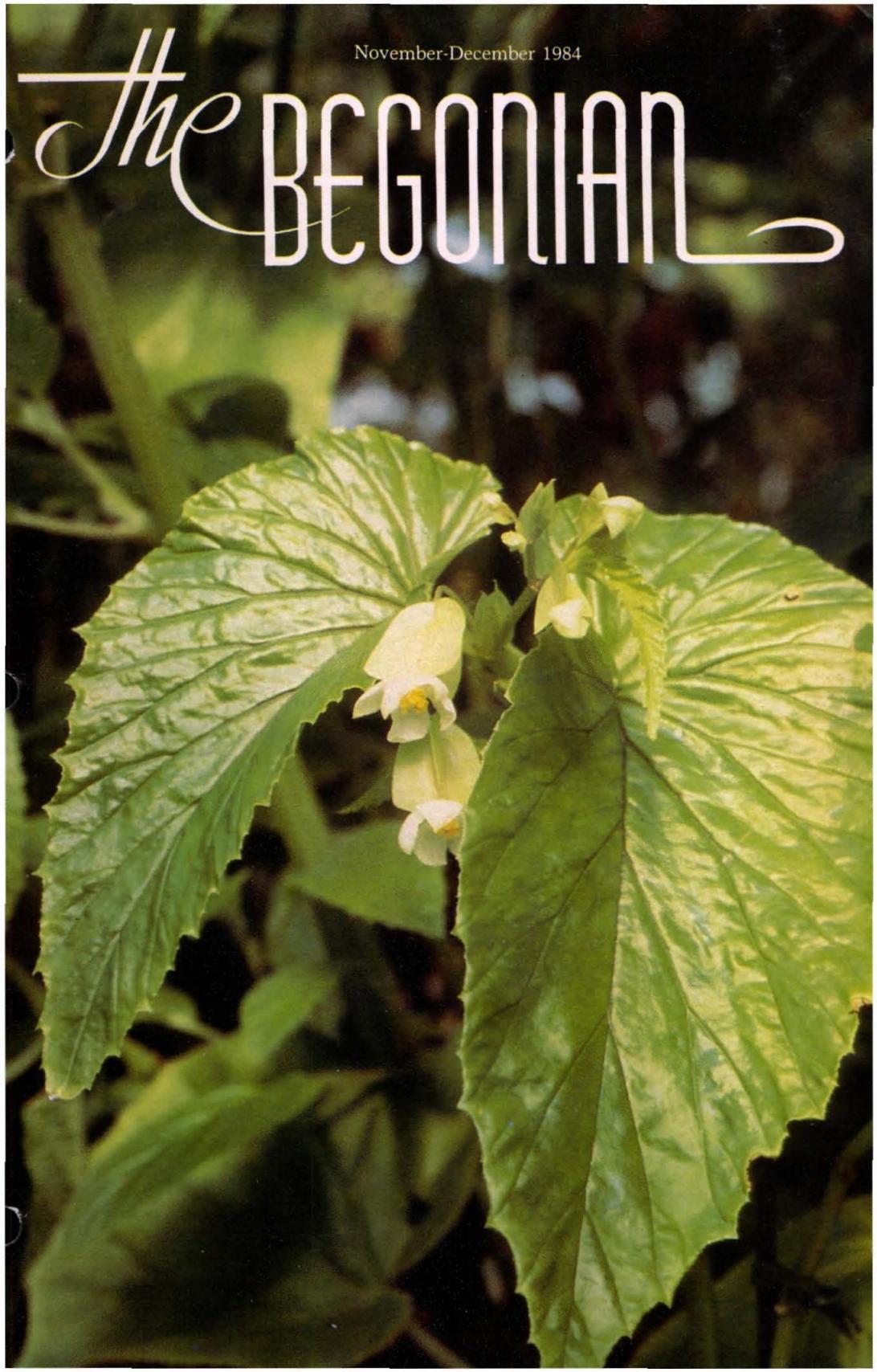


November-December 1984

# *The* BEGONIAN



# The BEGONIAN

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*The Cover:* Unidentified *Begonia* from New Guinea listed with the ABS Nomenclature Department as U057. Seeds were offered in the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund as JN-3 in June 1981, the source for the cover plant, grown and photographed by Millie and Ed Thompson. It is a shrubby *Begonia* with large glabrous leaves. The five-lobed female flowers are white with ovaries tinged with green. For more about this plant see "Unidentified Species."

Growing Tuberhybrida		Unidentified Species	124
Under Lights	118	Seed Fund	127
Books	120	Begonia Stars	128
Round Robin	121	ABS Awards	130
Question Box	122	Minutes	131

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ABS NEWS/ *A Cheery Holiday Season to all, and to all a Good Year.*

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### President's Message

Greetings of the Season to all of you, and my sincere wishes to you for another successful year personally and as a grower and lover of the marvelous *Begonia*. I hope the last year has been as satisfying to you as it has to me in bringing into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

I feel that the ABS has taken many steps forward. We have had excellent response to the Seed Fund and Bookstore. The Annual Convention in Dallas was a huge success in all respects including financially.

All of the many directors and chairpersons have worked hard and made real progress. To list a few items: our ads are appearing in other publications, we shall be issuing a charter for at least one new branch, the members-at-large newsletter is available, Round Robins are keeping the mails busy, a list of speakers is available, some marvelous new slide programs have been donated and are available for loan. These are just a few of the various activities done on a voluntary basis. My thanks to all the officers and members for their devoted efforts on behalf of ABS.

I especially want to thank the editor of our *Begonian* for her perseverance during some very difficult problems. Even with the money saving techniques she has employed, the *Begonian* is still costing more than the annual dues. This obviously means a change either in the size and quality of the *Begonian*, or an increase in dues just to keep the *Begonian* in its present form. We need to hear from all of you. The *Begonian* is your magazine. Please let us know your thoughts. With your participation we can go forward to good things in the next year.

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

### Award Announced

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society has announced that Edward and Mildred Thompson were presented one of two Certificates of Merit for 1984 at the annual meeting of the Society on November 14. The certificate was given for recognition of their writings and horticultural pursuits with *Begonia*. ABS sends its congratulations.

## GROWING TUBERHYBRIDA UNDER LIGHTS

*Howard Siebold*

When Gro-Lux fluorescent lamps were first introduced in the early 1950s, I thought that I could have tuberous begonias blooming for Christmas. Even though I started with a four-lamp fixture, the two small blossoms that I got were definitely not worth the time and the cost.

Some suppliers advised that cool-white lamps were just as good, so I tried them too. I have also used warm-white, wide-spectrum, and Agro-Lite. After some thirty years of testing, I still can't find much advantage in the expensive growing lamps.

Now, before you start writing letters to the editor, I must emphasize that my experience is with tuberhybrida only. It is quite likely that begonias that require less light may bloom better or show better leaf color with the special lamps. The tuberhybrida need a light intensity for blooming that is difficult to obtain at a reasonable cost.

Fluorescent lamps are a real help in seed germination and are a necessity for continued growth of the tiny seedlings until the day length and light intensity are sufficient to use natural daylight only. This occurs usually early in March. It helps if the set-up allows the fluorescent lamps to augment the hours of daylight.

A light intensity of 400 to 600 foot-candles is enough for seed germination. After the seedlings appear, though, the intensity must soon be boosted to 800 foot-candles, or more, to keep them growing and to avoid having them go dormant. When growing in outdoor beds, they do nicely when the light is in the 1,000 to 5,000 foot-candle range.

The light intensity is increased by moving the plants closer to the lamps. In

*Howard Siebold, 32050 Westwood Drive, Fort Bragg, CA 95437, has emphasized the importance of light for good tuberous begonias outdoors, and now turns his attention to indoor culture.*

doing so, watch the temperature at the plants. You may need to move the lamp ballast away from the area or perhaps install a fan.

The light available at noon on a clear summer day will be around 10,000 foot-candles.

Fluorescent lamps will show a reduced light output as they age. The available light will also be reduced if the reflector becomes dirty or stained. The light output can be augmented by having reflecting walls or surfaces nearby. Self-adhesive white contact plastic is easy to apply and is easy to keep clean.

Some users replace the lamps at specific time intervals. If you are using the growing lamps, this can be expensive. If you have many lamps, you might invest in a light meter. You would compensate for a reduced output by moving the plants closer to the lamps. It should be possible to use the light meter on your camera even though it may not read in foot-candles. Simply take a reading when the lamps are new and compare it with later readings.

The other need to be considered is the length of the light period. For germination and for growing on, 14 to 16 hours of light per day seems to be adequate.

You will note in the tables that Agro-Lite and the warm-white lamps have about the same light intensity. The light that they produce looks about the same to the eye, also. In using the tables, if you wish to find the light available from a fixture with one warm-white and one cool-white lamp, use the average of the two figures shown.

I still use the old four-lamp fixtures but my new germinating cabinet uses two two-lamp fixtures side by side over each shelf. The light output is the same as a four-lamp fixture at a considerable saving in cost for the fixtures. The ballasts are mounted outside the cabinet.

To summarize, fluorescent lamps are a help in germinating the seed of tuberous

LIGHT METER READING in FOOT-CANDLES

Distance from lamp Inches	Gro-Lux	Gro-Lux wide spectrum	Agro-Lite	Warm white	Cool white
Two-lamp fixture, white reflector, no reflecting walls.					
18	80	180	200	200	280
15	100	200	210	210	300
12	110	230	240	240	350
9	130	280	300	310	430
6	170	360	380	400	580
3	280	500	550	600	850
Four-lamp fixture, white reflector, no reflecting walls.					
18	100	130	240	270	370
15	120	180	300	330	460
12	150	250	360	400	600
9	190	330	440	490	760
6	250	460	570	600	1000
3	300	600	800	830	1360

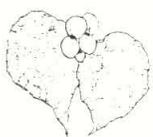
begonias and for growing on the seedlings after sprouting. They are also helpful for extending the hours of light when the daylight lasts for less than 12 hours. Trying to use them for bringing tuberhybrida into bloom can be expensive and somewhat frustrating.

**EASY NO-SCRUB WAY TO CLEAN CLAY POTS**

*Eva M. Scott*

To a ten-quart pail of warm water, add about a quarter cup of Lysol liquid cleaner and a half cup of vinegar. Add all the pots you can stuff in, but make sure they are covered with the solution. Soak overnight. Wash off—the dirt and deposits come off easily. Soak again in clear water. If the pots are extra dirty it may be necessary to repeat the Lysol-vinegar soak. Your pots should look like new—well almost anyway.

*Eva M. Scott, of 395 Mount Hope St., Attleboro Falls, MA 02763, has used this work-saving method frequently. She says she has a couple hundred clay pots to care for and has done them this way for several years.*



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Review/Chuck Anderson

**Growing Begonias**

**Eric Catterall**

**Timber Press, 1984**

**148 pages, illustrated. \$17.95**

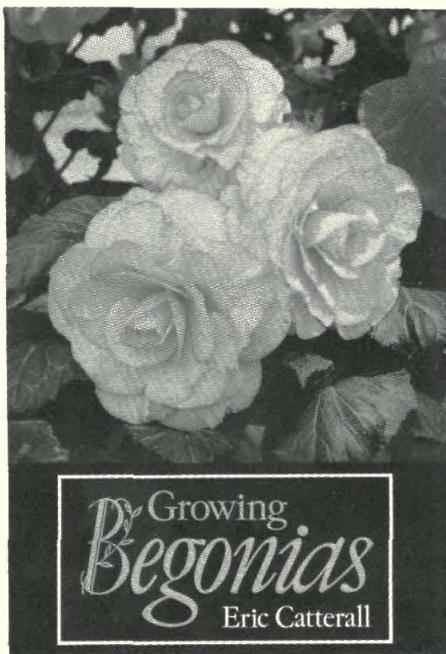
Considering the paucity of books on begonias among the hundreds of gardening books currently in print, this is a very welcome addition. Dr. Catterall, secretary of the National Begonia Society of England and Wales, has written a volume of considerable value to his begonia-growing countrymen and -women.

Drawing on his long experience and information from other authorities, he has assembled a lot of cultural and historical data on tuberous species and hybrids, the overwhelming choice of British growers because of Great Britain's cool, humid climate. The book also contains identification information on other types of begonias and cultural information on them.

Since the emphasis is on tuberous types, this is a fine book for growers who specialize in the huge-flowered tuberhybrida begonias or their species ancestors. If you have more than a passing interest in other types, though, you will want to supplement the book with information from your ABS branch meetings, *The Begonian*, and other books. The only other begonia book in print in the U.S. that I know of is the exhaustive *Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide* by Mildred and Edward Thompson.

Dr. Catterall's book is sold by the ABS Bookstore, as are several others no longer in print you may want to add to your library. (See the bookstore advertisement on page 137.) You also can order *Growing Begonias* directly from the publisher at P.O. Box 1631, Beaverton, OR 97075.

*Chuck Anderson of 826 Santa Rita Ave., Los Altos, CA 94022 is an ABS past president who with wife Karen Bartholomew grows a begonia collection which emphasizes tuberous types.*



It is clear that Dr. Catterall is not out to compete with the Thompsons; his book is unabashedly British and should be read as such. When he examines potting mixtures, he dwells on John Innes loam-based composts—common in Britain but foreign to most Americans. In the U.S., this should remind the reader to find another source of information on University of California mixes, Cornell mixes or other American equivalents. Similarly, the chapter on pest control discusses some chemicals not known in America and omits some used widely here, such as karathane, a fungicide that eradicates powdery mildew.

Since many American books on begonias have given short shrift to tuberous types, however, it is refreshing to see the balance restored. Those of us fortunate enough to live in climates where tuberous begonias can thrive have been hungry for detailed new information on culture, exhibition, historical background, and propagation. We now have it in a form that includes handsomely reproduced color photographs—all tuberous types but one.

Joan Campbell, director

Susan Johnston, an active robin writer, is interested in thick-stemmed begonias and invites others to band to explore this little known group.

Millie Thompson, in *Begonias*, claims that thick-stemmed begonias could hardly be called beautiful or lovely, but she adds that they are interesting, intriguing and unusual. To say the least, I might add.

Little has been done to perpetuate the class, although the few hybrids that have been created are lovely and distinct, such as 'Snow Peaks', 'Bangles', 'Hazel Harmon', 'Star Frost', 'Rudy', 'William Cook' and 'Bill Cook', hybridized by Rudy Ziesenhenne, Thelma O'Reilly, Mae Blanton, Michael Kartuz and Bob Cole, respectively.

Thick-stemmed begonias are a challenge to grow, and exhibit much diversity in appearance (from shrub-like *B. 'Hazel Harmon'* to cane-like *B. 'Templinii'*). The only ones that appear to truly be thick-stemmed in appearance are those grouped under "trunk-like, non-ramified", such as *B. lindleyana*, *B. pilifera*, etc. These at times confuse the beginner who oft times mistakes them for an upright rhizomatous.

I grow my begonias primarily under fluorescent lighting in my basement, and the thick-stemmed begonias appear to be highly receptive to the conditions. I am interested in discussion with other growers of various techniques for cultivation.

I have asked Joan Campbell, our Round Robin Director, to open a new robin communication for "Thick-Stemmed Begonias and Hybridizing Them" in hopes that interest can be stimulated in this particular area, and therefore result in heightened awareness of the class itself and the creation of new hybrids. If your interest has been piqued by the challenge and peculiarity of the thick-stemmed begonia, I urge you to contact Joan to participate in this robin.

**Species begonias** are most often discussed on the "Odd/Rare/Unusual Begonias" flights. Daniel Haseltine, Illinois, grows *B. polygonoides* in good light, but not in direct sun. He thinks it needs more humidity than others. *B. staudtii* grows best for him on the cool side, with not too much light. He reports *B. serratifetala* in its native New Guinea grows at an altitude of from 7500 to 8000 feet, but is more usually found at the higher altitude. It can withstand cold in its native habitat and may grow to six feet or more there.

Sue Haffner, California, has seen *B. peltata* offered for sale in the catalogs of cacti and succulent dealers under its old name of *B. incana*. Sometimes it is referred to as the "succulent" begonia. Dael Jones, Texas, finds *B. cavalyensis*, *B. fenicis*, and *B. pinetorum* difficult to grow.

Joyce Smith, Virginia, has two plants of *B. kenworthyae* which she grew from seed. One was not doing well in the greenhouse so she put it under lights where it doubled to twice the size of the other plant. The latter plant did bloom easily in the greenhouse, though. Her *B. bogneri* has never gone dormant. She grows it completely sealed in a bowl under lights and the blooms last a long time. She grows it in moss and perlite and roots its leaves by sticking them into the moss with the plant. She changes the moss often as black algae appears from time to time.

Lynda Goldsmith, Vermont, heard it suggested that mildew is likely to occur with alternating conditions of wet and dry. She has been trying harder to avoid letting the kitty litter under her pots dry out and feels she may have eliminated a lot of her problems.

*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.*

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## QUESTION BOX/Help with problem seedlings

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Mabel Corwin

I have had several requests to give the location of the person asking the question. Since conditions vary so much, what works for one grower may not work for another. Editor Phyllis Bates agrees this is a good idea, so from now on I will identify the area of the grower asking the question. (During the transition a few may still be "unlocated." — Ed.)

It would be very helpful to me if you will give me more information about your growing conditions when you send me your questions. For instance, are the plants grown inside under lights, in a greenhouse, or in the garden? Also, something about your potting mix and fertilizing program would be helpful. Sometimes I have to guess a lot. If I have more information it helps me to identify the problem.

**Question:** Why do the leaves on my rexes become limp, shriveled on the edges, and fade in color? Some have turned yellow or orange. This has happened to almost every rex after about six weeks. I've lost every rex I bought earlier this summer. This has not happened to the rexes I started from seed. These have been kept separately in a closed terrarium. They are flourishing.

The plants are about 9 or 10 inches from two eight-foot lights, one cool, one warm. They set on egg crate in trays of water. The humidity is at least 75% and I mist them three or four times a day. I don't overwater. A small fan is on low for circulation.

Since I learned about mildew, I have sprayed Funginex and Karathane alternately each week.

*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.*

I am still watering the stubs of these plants and a few are getting some new growth, but most are dead.

I discovered some of my plants had mealy bugs, some had spider mites, and most of the rexes had mildew. What kind of spraying routine should I adopt? Should I spray plants that look healthy to be safe? Is there any way to get rid of these pests for good? What do you think I'm doing wrong? I'm very discouraged. I have ordered some new rexes and hope to have this cured before they arrive. (Glendale, California)

**Answer:** I think your first problem might be growing your rexes under lights. This has been a very hot summer and there could be a heat buildup under the lights. I lost some of my african violets that were growing under lights and had to turn the lights off for a week. Rex begonias do not like strong light. I suggest you move them to another location with less light. The humidity is good and so is a fan for air circulation. My rexes are grown in the shadehouse. I keep them on low benches where it is cooler.

Shriveled edges on leaves usually indicates dry air and fading is probably caused by too much light. I'm not sure why the leaves would go limp.

You may be damaging your plants with so much spray, especially if you spray while they are under lights. I would isolate any plants with mildew or pests and treat them individually. Don't spray a plant unless there is a problem.

If I see mildew on a plant I use Doo Spray (Karathane) immediately. This kills the spores. Funginex is better as a preventative spray.

Kelthane is recommended for mites, but I have never used it. I have never used Malathion on begonias, so I'm not sure if it would be safe. If I see a mealy bug I dip a cotton swab in alcohol and touch the bug. I check the plants nearby to see if any others are infected. By checking the plants fre-

quently I can usually prevent a real infestation. If I feel there is a problem I use Cygon 2E as a soil drench (1 tsp to a gallon of water).

When you get your new plants I would suggest you put them in a cooler location without the lights. Be sure the plants are not crowded and have good air circulation. Spray only if it is really necessary. Good luck!

**Question:** Each fall I take tuberous begonia cuttings and most of them grow tiny tubers before the leaves turn yellow and drop off. Some years none of the tubers sprout the next spring or come up if I water them in the soil mix. This spring I did have two tubers grow and they are doing fine. This was from about 20 tubers. I was pleasantly surprised with the two, but wonder why I don't get more. (Oregon)

**Answer:** I believe your problem with tuberous begonia cuttings is timing. The cuttings should be taken as early as possible to give a long growing time for the tuber. I referred to *The Tuberous Begonia* by Brian Langdon. He recommends taking a basal cutting from the tuber when it is a few inches tall. One or two stems must always be left on the tuber.

In the July-August issue of *The Begonian* there is an article on tuberous begonias by Howard Siebold. On page 71 he tells how to make basal cuttings and stem cuttings, and how to handle the tubers from these.

Both Mr. Langdon and Mr. Siebold recommend keeping the cutting grown plants growing as long as possible to increase tuber size. They both suggest keeping the tubers in the pots over the winter to hold a little moisture.

**QUESTION:** My begonias don't bloom. They all have beautiful, lush foliage and their growth is wonderful, but no flowers. The problem occurs with all types: canes, rhizomatous, and rexes. I feed them Peters 20-20-20 and have experimented with windows (for type and duration of sun) until they all seem happy, but still no flowers. What am I doing wrong?

**ANSWER:** It is possible you are fertilizing your begonias too much and getting lots of lush growth at the expense of bloom. I suggest you switch to another formula with less nitrogen such as Peters 15-30-15 or Miracle-Gro, which is the same formula. This should encourage bloom.

Cane type begonias usually need lots of light to bloom. Rhizomatous begonias set buds when the nights are long in late fall and early winter. They bloom in later winter and spring. If you are growing them indoors where the lights are on during the evenings they may never set buds. Moving them to another room might solve the problem. Rexes are grown for their beautiful leaves. They do bloom, and some of the newer hybrids have very attractive flowers. They need less light to bloom well than the canes and rhizomatous.

For my begonias, I use Peters 20-20-20 in the spring to encourage new growth. After July 1 I use a formula with less nitrogen to encourage bloom. I use cow tea (liquid manure) between feedings with commercial fertilizer. I'm not sure it could be used indoors as there might be an odor. It has enzymes and trace elements that are beneficial to the plants.

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## UNIDENTIFIED *BEGONIA* SPECIES LIST

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Phyllis Bates/Thelma O'Reilly



Blossoms of *Begonia* U057

Photos by E. & M. Thompson (All rights reserved.)

*Begonia* U040, unidentified tropical species from Papua, New Guinea apparently got its start in cultivation by ABS members who got the seeds from John Scott, an Australian member of the Round Robins. It has been reported that these seeds were from Bougainville Island, but also from Papua and from John Womersley. The plant of U040 that I had seen was a terrarium specimen.

In a very moist container it thrived, produced numerous air roots, and branched to fill the container. The leaves were small, and the reddish brown tone of the succulent stems was notable.

There seems to be no connection between *Begonia* U040 and U057 other than being from New Guinea, and perhaps the note connecting the two in the previous listing on page 85 can be dispatched by growers of the plants who may send com-

ments and observations to the new U-number project director.

Thelma O'Reilly will be happy to add information to the listing about the sources and descriptions of unidentified species. Write to her at 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 92041.

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### U063

Baler, The Philippines, Collected May 1981 as seeds by Martin Johnson and sometimes referred to as "Baler No. 2." Tall, shrublike with leaves the size of *B. 'Lucerna'*. White flowers.

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### U064

Baler, The Philippines. Imported by Martin Johnson as seeds in May 1981. May also be labeled "Baler No. 3." Low-growing and will climb. Vigorous grower

once established. Leaves leathery, cordate with rather flat point, about 3' in diameter. Flowers pale pink,  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. long, staminate flowers have two round and two narrow opposing tepals, pistillate flowers have pinkish ovary with three greenish white triangular wings, one of which is much extended. Offered in the Seed Fund in September 1983.

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#### U065

Mindinao, The Philippines, Imported by Martin Johnson as seeds in 1981. Shrublike plant with white flowers. Sets seed and dies in manner of annual plants. This may be the same species as U022.

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#### U066

Species from Taiwan. Rhizomatous. Shell pink, rather large (2 in.) fragrant flowers. This is now determined to be the same plant that is designated U016.

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#### U067

Nicaragua. Offered as OT-1 in the 1981 Seed Fund. Bears Ziesenhenne's plant number 4547. Rhizomatous. Leaves manicate, rippled margin finely edged in red. Pink flowers in large clusters.

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#### U068

South American Species collected by Fred Barkley. This is the plant listed in Barkley & Golding, *Species of the Begoniaceae*, as *B. heracleifolia* var. *paramidilio* hort. and coming from Costa Rica in 1946. There had been herbarium specimens at Northeastern University, and these may have been destroyed. The identification apparently was uncertain. It could be the same as Guatemalan species U036, offered in the Seed Fund, October 1982, as OT-2. A rhizomatous plant with all green leaves having 7-9 lobes and sparsely white-hairy. The flowers are white to pale pink and appear in the spring.

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#### U069

Brazil. Collected as seeds by Jeffrey and Maggie Kent in 1982. Leaves are peltate, enormous.

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#### U070

Brazil. Listed in the Seed Fund, JA-2 in 1982. Similar to *B. vitifolia*, but with lax growth habit. Leaf texture is rough. Flowers are small, white, but inflorescence is large.

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#### U071

Paete, Laguna, the Philippines. A climbing plant to 2m tall, flowers white. Imported by Martin Johnson in 1983(?).

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#### U072

Plant imported and distributed by Martin Johnson in 1983. This rhizomatous plant may be rex related or of rex type. Leaves are asymmetrical, cordate, lightly spotted along dark pointed lobes, light green mid area.

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#### U073

Laguna, Sierra Madre Mountains, the Philippines. Imported by Martin Johnson as No. 50 in 1983. A climbing begonia with orange flowers. Leaves differ from U026.

Photo by P. & E. Bates



*Begonia* U074 in terrarium

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**U074**

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Lobo, the Philippines. Imported by Martin Johnson as No. 11 in 1983(?). Creeping habit. Leaves variably marked. Stems, petioles, and peduncles rose colored. Male flowers show two rounded and two narrow tepals, with occasional blooms having a narrow fifth tepal. Color more intense when grown in strong light.

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**U075**

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Polilio, the Philippines. Imported by Martin Johnson with No. 46. Leaves tiny, trilobed with occasional white spots on lobes. Stems reddish, habit trailing.

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**U076**

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Species from the Polilio, the Philippines. Imported by Martin Johnson as No. 45. Shrub-like, with deeply lobed leaves, delicate nature. Identified by R. Ziesenhenné as *B. incisa*, a plant which he grew in the 1940s from seeds furnished by Bessie Buxton.

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**U077**

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Species from Lucban, the Philippines. Martin Johnson imported with No. 42. A climbing plant, leaves dull green with pink color evident along the veins and general rosy overtone to entire plant. Leaves ovate-cordate with six main veins. Flowers in clusters of five tiny buds. Male flowers show two pink oval petals and two white narrow, elongated tepals.

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**U078**

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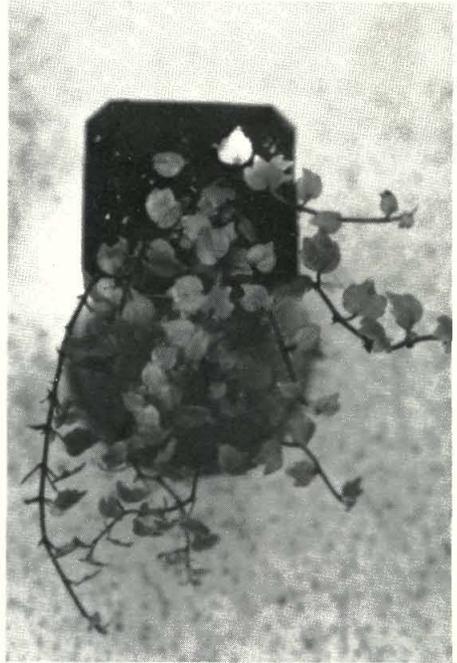
Source unknown. Had been in general cultivation among members of the Jacksonville Branch who referred to it as a Taiwan species. Offered by Joy Logee as "Lubbersii hybrid" in 1980,

Leaves very dark green with large silver oval spots, obtrullate, glabrous, similar to *B. lubbersii*, dark red on reverse, to about 6 in. long.

Bob Hamm found it very difficult to grow during hot weather.

Carrie Karegeannés said this is probably the true *B. maculata*.

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*Begonia* U075 resembles miniature ivy plant, leaves are less than 1/2 inch across.

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**U079**

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Baler, the Philippines. A climbing begonia imported in 1982 by Martin Johnson. Flowers red. Leaves differ from U011.

**U nos 80 through 87 appeared in the Begonian in July 1982, pages 83 and 89.**

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**U088**

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Brazil. Collected as seeds by Jeffrey Kent in February 1982 near Rio de Janeiro.

Leaves dark green, palmate, compound (fully divided), dark red to purple underneath, sparsely hairy.

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**U089**

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Species from West Africa from the collection of E. Irmscher, but apparently unpublished. See description in January 1980, page 13 in article by J. Doorenbos: *The Yellow-flowering Species From Africa*. Photograph on that cover.

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## SEED FUND/ *Time for seeds of tuberous and bedding types.*

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Joy Porter, Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Director

NOTE: In all fairness, I must mention that mildew is a problem with N-D 1, 2 and 3, however timely spraying will prevent this.

- N-D 1—*B. partita*: Semi-tuberous species from Southeast Africa with tiny three-parted dark green leaves; small and well-branched with white flowers in summer. . . . per pkt 1.00
- N-D 2—*B. natalensis*: Semi-tuberous species from Southeast Africa with 2-3 inch lobed leaves; well-branched, blooming in summer with white flowers. . . per pkt 1.00
- N-D 3—*B. sonderana*: Tuberous species from the Transvaal, South Africa with light green maple-shaped leaves and pink flowers summer and fall. Rots easily if kept too wet. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- N-D 4—*B. pearcei*: Yellow-flowered tuberous species from Bolivia with beautifully-marked brown-green velvet leaves with cream veining. Low-growing. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- N-D 5—*B. 'Helene Harms'*: Hybrid tuberous with 3-inch, wedge-shaped leaves, low-growing and bushy; flowering profusely with 2-inch yellow flowers with tufted centers. A delightful addition to the summer garden, and easier to grow than the larger tuberhybrida. Hybrid seed produces variations. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- N-D 6—*B. 'Clips'* is a new tuberhybrida with low, broad growth; good for bedding or baskets. The very full flowers are smaller (6 cm.) than 'Nonstop' and appear in greater numbers. Especially early blooming. Mixture of white, yellow, orange and scarlet. . . . . per pkt 1.50
- N-D 7—*B. Tuberhybrida* begonias, standard type. Choice seed from California in mixture of colors. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- N-D 8—*B. Tuberhybrida* begonias, pendula type. Choice seed from California in a mixture of colors. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- N-D 9—Mixture of *Begonia* species containing: *paleata*, *rotundifolia*, *thelmae*, *dayi* hort.-*pinetorum*, U113 (rhizomatous from Panama with pointed lobe opposite sinus.) . . . . . per pkt 1.00
- N-D 10—*B. semperflorens cultorum*: Green leaves, pink flowers; 'Linda' and 'Glamour'. Packaged separately, please specify. . . . . per pkt .50
- N-D 11—*B. semperflorens cultorum*: Green leaves, white flowers; 'Viva' and 'Glamour'. Packaged separately, please specify. . . . . per pkt .50
- N-D 12—*B. semperflorens* cultivar 'Scarlanda', green leaves, scarlet flowers. . . per pkt .50
- N-D 13—*B. semperflorens* cultivars with bronze leaves: 'Othello' (red), 'Vodka' (red), 'Gin' (pink). Packaged separately; please specify. . . . . per pkt .50
- N-D 14—*B. rex cultorum* seed. . . . . per pkt .50
- Growing from Seed pamphlet . . . . .25

Orders from U.S., Mexico, and Canada require 45¢ over seed price for postage (60¢ 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.

The beauty and lush glamour of Miami will be the American Begonia Society's home for its 1985 National Convention and Show. Convention dates are April 25-28, 1985. Show and Convention to be held at the Miami Marriott on Biscayne Bay where conventioners may view the beautiful vista of Biscayne Bay from their hotel rooms. Rates are \$55.00 single and \$55.00 double.

Banquet speaker will be Mr. Hugh McLauchlan of Glasgow, Scotland, President of the Scottish Begonia Society. Fabulous tours and speakers are planned for the convention. A boutique table with beautiful crafts will also be at the convention. Many of these items will have begonias on them.

At Simpson Park, off Brickell Avenue, is a large estate, a remnant of the original coastal hammock where the vegetation has been preserved. This is where the Miami Branch meets. There will be a Picnic and Hammock Walk sponsored by the Miami Branch.

Florida, the land of the Everglades, was only a century ago a land of palmetto swamps with sandy beaches, bordered on the east by the beautiful Atlantic Ocean and the blue Gulf of Mexico on the west.

Florida was discovered by Ponce de Leon in 1513. Sighting the mainland of Florida on Easter Sunday, (Pasqua Florida to the Spaniards) Ponce de Leon landed with his party near the present site of St. Augustine. Delighted with the luxuriant growth of flowering trees and shrubs and in honor of Easter Day, he christened the new country Florida.

Florida became a state in 1845. Its state flower is the orange blossom and its state bird is the mockingbird.

A large portion of the Everglades is still unspoiled; a percentage of the southern

*Convention Chairman Charles J. Jaros knows you will enjoy visiting Miami. His committee plans an eventful week.*

coast has been set aside as the Everglades National Park. It is here that numerous Seminole Indians make their homes. They live very much as their ancestors did in their "chickees". These are made with a thatched roof of palm fronds. The roof is supported by rough timbers and all four sides are open. Furnishings are of natural materials. Along the Tamiami Trail there are many Seminole Villages to be seen. In these vast and silent Everglades one may see egrets, ibises, white and blue herons, and swallowtail kites.

East of the Everglades is the city of Miami along beautiful Biscayne Bay, a shallow sub-tropical lagoon with warm temperatures most of the year. It is the habitat of at least 512 fish species.

The word *Miami* is Indian and means "big water" and was originally spelled *Mayaimi*. *Mayaimi* became *Maymi*, then *Miami*. *Miami* became a city in 1895. Before that, starting in 1567, it was the Jesuit Mission of Tequesta, and in 1836 *Miami* was a military post named Fort Dallas.

So make plans now to come to Miami and enjoy the "Begonia Stars on Biscayne Bay". Stay awhile: pre- and post-convention trips are being planned.

### **AIR TRAVEL PLANS To ABS Miami Convention**

Eastern Airlines has been appointed the official airlines for our annual convention. Melloul Travel Consultants, 2339 Salzedo Street, Coral Gables, Florida, 33134, will reserve flights as well as pre-convention and post-convention fun trips, or you may use a toll-free number for booking your flights directly with Eastern Airlines.

Whether you make your reservations through Melloul Travel Consultants or Eastern Airlines, you will be given the LAF (lowest available fare) or a 35% discount from the regular coach fare. Be sure to ask

about *SUPERSAVERS*.

All members who purchase their tickets from Melloul will have their names placed in a sweepstakes which will be drawn at the convention. Even if you make your reservations directly through Eastern Airlines, if you indicate at the time that the tickets are to be purchased from Melloul, you will still be eligible for the sweepstakes prize. The winner will receive from Melloul Travel Consultants one round trip ticket to any city in the continental United States served by Eastern Airlines. The ticket will be good for one year and will include some minor restrictions

Sylvia Ben, a member of the local branch has been appointed travel coordinator for our convention. She will be glad to assist you with travel plans. Mrs. Ben may be contacted in care of Charron Williams College, 255 Southwest Eighth Street, Miami, Florida, 33130. Her office telephone is 305/854-9770, her residence 305/666-1115.

Two low cost fun trips are planned. The preconvention trip is for three days and two nights to visit Florida's Disneyworld, Epcot Center and Cypress Gardens. The postconvention trip will be a four day cruise to Nassau on the Carnivale Cruise Lines. Complete details for both trips, including costs, will be included in the January convention packet.

### **People-to-People Travel Program**

Maupintours, Inc. was not able to get hotel reservations for the 1985 spring tour originally scheduled to follow the ABS convention in Miami. All hotels in London, England are booked solid for the annual spring flower show.

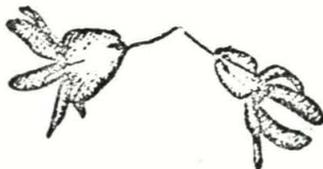
A new skeletal itinerary outline has been put together, tentatively scheduled for departure from New York on Sunday, August 11, 1985 with a return to New York on Monday, August 26, 1985. The tour includes Ireland, England and Belgium. We will spend a day and a half at the famous Begonia Festival in Lochristi, Belgium.

Maupintours has requested applicable quotations from points abroad to establish a trip rate for this program. When all necessary information is available, an outline of the travel program and the price quote will be mailed directly to ABS members and persons who have expressed an interest in joining us in the travel program. You may add your name to the list by writing to: Gilbert Estrada, 7914 Springer St., Downey, CA 90242.

*The SAN MIGUEL BRANCH says  
Nothing fancy—nothing grand—  
Just a simple small command—  
Have a Merry Christmas and  
A Happy New Year!*

May the Peace and Hope  
of Christmas  
Brighten your coming year.  
*The Alfred D. Robinson Branch*

Loving *Holiday Greetings*  
to all our ABS Friends  
*A Wish for a Wonderful  
Year of Growth*  
*The Glendale Branch*



*Westchester  
Begonia Society,*  
celebrating 25 years of  
Sterling Growing,  
sends *Season's Greetings*  
and *Good Wishes* to all.

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## ABS AWARDS/ Time for letters of nomination

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The next annual convention will be held April 25-28, 1985. We must now be thinking about the top American Begonia Society Awards to be presented at that time: the Eva Kenworthy Award, the Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service, and the Alfred D. Robinson Medal.

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

Please read carefully the following rules governing the awards:

### *Eva Kenworthy Gray Award*

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

1. For contributing something of a spiritual value toward cementing goodwill and harmony among our members.
2. For contributing original material toward helping our rank and file members in furthering their study of begonias.

### *Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service*

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

### *Alfred D. Robinson Memorial Medal*

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

1. All *Begonia* nominees must have been registered with the ABS Nomenclature Director.
2. The originator of the *Begonia* nominee must be a member of ABS.
3. The *Begonia* nominee must have been released to the public for at least five years, but not more than ten years prior to nomination.

As an ABS member you have the privilege of nominating the person and plant you consider worthy of receiving one of these prestigious awards. I must receive

your letter no later than February 23. Send your nominations to:

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

### RECIPIENTS OF THE EVA KENWORTHY GRAY AWARD

Bessie Buxton/1955  
Charlotte Hoak/1956  
Constance Bower/1957  
Alice Clark/1958  
Rudy Ziesenhennel/1959  
Louise Schwerdfeger/1960  
Helen K. Krauss/1961  
Bert Slatter/1962  
Bernice Brilmayer/1962  
Dr. Clyde Drummond/1963  
Mary Gillingswaters/1965  
May Taft Drew/1966  
Sylvia Leatherman/1967  
Drs. Lyman Smith and  
Bernice G. Schubert/1968  
Harry M. Butterfield/1969  
Ruth Pease/1970  
Elda Haring/1972  
Dr. Fred Barkley/1973  
Carrie Karegeannes/1974  
Dr. J. Doorenbos/1975  
Alva Graham/1976  
Mildred & Edward Thompson/1977  
Jack Golding/1978  
Thelma O'Reilly/1980  
Edgar and Phyllis Bates/1983  
Scott Hoover/1984

### DYCKMAN AWARD RECIPIENTS

Florence Gee/1968  
Herb Warrick/1968  
Alva Graham/1969  
Edna Korts/1969  
Everett Wright/1972  
Walter Barnett/1973  
Hazel Snodgrass/1974  
Mae Blanton/1975  
Gordon Lepisto (posthumous)/1976  
Gene Daniels/1977  
Paul and Margaret Lee/1978  
Margaret Taylor/1979  
Rudy Ziesenhennel/1980  
Mabel Corwin/1981  
Clarence Hall/1982  
Doug and Goldie Frost/1983  
Pearl Benell/1984

See the previous issue for a list of the Robinson medalists.

# THE BOARD/Condensed minutes of two meetings

August 18, 1984

The installation dinner and regular board meeting was held at the Holiday Inn in Laguna Niguel. The dinner began at 7:00 p.m. There were 31 persons in attendance.

The meeting started at about 8:30 p.m., with the Aims and Purposes of the ABS read by President Bob Ammerman. The minutes of the last meeting were read by Secretary Arlene Davis, and were accepted as read. At this time we had a moment of silence in memory of Earl Calkins who passed away on Sunday the 12th of August.

Acting treasurer John Ingles Jr. gave the treasurers report for Eleanor Calkins. John is helping out until Eleanor is able to return to her duties. Our total balance as of July 31, is \$33,172.88.

Membership Chairman Pearl Benell reported that from 15 July to 31 July she took in \$843.00. A total of \$10,236.78 in membership and \$20.00 for back issues from 1 Jan. 1984.

Dan Haseltine needs some more slides to incorporate into the slide program.

Joy Porter had a very good year for the seed fund. \$3,527.59.

Mabel Corwin had received more letters of recommendation for awards than any other year. She had 26 nominees.

Dan Haseltine has been trying to start a region like the Southwest region but has very little success.

Charles Jaros has been assembling the committee on Begonians (like the Rosarians) that answer questions. Their numbers will be advertised soon.

Margaret Lee has been working on judges' training and Pat Maley is working on a new judges' course.

Carrie Karegeannes has been doing a great job, chiefly involving correspondence recently.

Gil Estrada has fostered a lot of Public Relations items, although of his \$1,000.00 budget he has spent only \$628.00 this year.

Anthony Croce will be resigning the position of Research Director. We will be needing a new director.

Joan Campbell has 64 round robins going around the country.

We are pleased that the Dallas Convention was such a success. They made over \$6,000.00 profit for the ABS. It was a great Convention and those who didn't attend really missed a goood time.

Muriel Perz now has the new Speakers list completed.

We have received very few Branch reports. So please send in these as soon as possible. We would really like to hear what you have done throughout the year.

A report from the editor was given, and as a whole all is well, considering all the problems that have been met. A multitude of thanks to all who help in getting the Begonian out. The Begonian cost \$14.34 per person, and as dues are only \$10.00 you can see that membership does not pay the bill. The deadline for articles in the Begonian for Sept./Oct. will be Sept. 14. If your

Branch would like to put in a Christmas message, get it in by Sept. 14th also. A 1-inch ad will cost \$12.00. Please send your ad with check to Advertising Chairman, Arlene Davis.

Thelma O'Reilly made a motion to give the hosting branch 10% of the net profits of the Convention and show. It was moved and seconded that we do this starting with the 1985 Convention.

Judy Wallech has been made a lifetime member.

There were 211 votes cast and mailed in to the ballot counting committee. The counts are as follows. President: Bob Ammerman—193, 1st Vice President: Dan Haseltine—113, Mike Ludwig—91, 2nd Vice President: Joy Porter—134, Jess Martinez—77, Treasurer: Eleanor Calkins—202, Secretary: Arlene Davis—194. All persons who ran have been notified of the results of the election. Pat Maley installed the officers present at the dinner. After the meeting Mabel Corwin gave a talk on the history of the ABS.

The next board meeting will be at the Fullerton Savings and Loan in Anaheim on Sept. 17, 1984 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

September 17, 1984

The American Begonia Society Board meeting started at 7:40 p.m. President Bob Ammerman led the Flag Salute and Jeanette Gilbertson, President of the Palomar Branch, read the Aims and Purposes.

One correction in the minutes was made: Howard Berg was elected 3rd Vice President.

Committee Reports:

The balance reported in the checking account is \$6,227.95, in the savings accounts is \$25,071.21, Total \$31,299.16. The Audit Committee has completed the audit and the tax forms have been completed and sent.

Reports were also made by the Book Store (Bobbie West), Judging (Margaret Lee), Advertising (Arlene Davis), Membership (Pearl Benell)—we have 1,746 in memberships at this time—Speakers list (Muriel Perz), Historian (Norma Pfrunder), Branch Relations (Chuck Richardson), Charles Jaros wrote that he needed confirmation that he is '85 convention chairman and that they need the advanced \$1,000.00.

Gil Estrada reported that the People-to-People Travel program has asked him to write a letter on ABS stationery and supply the envelopes and they will supply postage on the proposed trip on Begonias. The board voted to do so. More information will be coming on the trip.

Any branch wishing "The Fourteen Reasons" contact Pearl Benell, and she will send them to you.

Dallas convention netted \$6,617.80 plus interest that they will be forwarding to Treasurer Eleanor Calkins.

Paul P. Lowe has been advanced to Senior Judge and Suzanne Colaizzi to Sophomore Judge.

The board has voted to discontinue the Corporate Membership. The trial year did not bring in the response that we thought it would.

It was voted on by the board to ask life members to pay the postage on their magazines. This is first class postage only.

It was voted to send a donation of \$25.00 to the South Coast Botanical Gardens, rather than take a membership for \$50.00.

We are looking for a new librarian, as George is very involved and we have had some complaints that correspondence is not being answered.

The next meeting of the board will be at Bob Ammerman's home in Vista on November 10 at 1 p.m. It will be a potluck luncheon with the meeting following.

Arlene Davis  
Secretary ABS

### Publication Delayed

The *Thompson Begonia Guide Exhibition Manual (Revision)* was planned for publication in September 1984. Due to circumstances beyond their control, the Thompsons announce that they must delay publication until spring.

### In Memorium

Grace Riordan, dear friend to the members of the Glendale Branch, has left to go to a greener, better garden. She was a willing worker, and she served fifteen years as refreshment chair for the branch. They will miss her very much.

*Season's Greetings*  
*from the*  
**ORANGE COUNTY  
BRANCH**



**Season's Greetings**  
and  
**Warmest Wishes**  
for the New Year  
to  
All Our Friends.  
*The Rubidoux Branch*

## MINI-ADS/

**VIOLETS - BEGONIAS - EPISCIAS**  
Cuttings only. 50 cents for list.  
Wilson's Greenhouse, Route 1, Box  
165-4, Ozark, MO 65721

**AFRICAN VIOLETS, BEGONIAS, GESNERIADS,**  
terrarium and dish garden minis,  
cuttings only. Windowsill Gardens,  
Box 943, Center Moriches, NY 11934.  
List 35 cents.

**BEGONIA - BROMELIADS - VIOLETS**  
List 50 cents. Open by appointment.  
LEAVES OF GREEN NURSERY 3306 Marzelle,  
Houston, TX 77093 - Phone 694-2250

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

**BEGONIAS, CACTI, FERNS, GESNERIADS.**  
ANNOUNCING named Atkinson Hybrids now  
ready. List 50c Special 12 Begonias  
\$15.95pp Special Price for Group  
Purchases (write) Atkinson's GH Rt2  
Box28, Morrilton, AR 72110.

**UNUSUAL BEGONIAS**—new Lowe hybrids.  
Rooted/unrooted cuttings. Cert. all  
states but Hawaii. Visit during 1985  
convention. Show special 2 in. pots  
\$1 at Nursery. List \$1. Paul Lowe,  
1544 West Rd., Lake Park, FL 33403.

**FAIRYLAND BEGONIAS:** Golden Goddess—  
pointed & spiraled chartreuse leaves  
with brown markings. Burgundy Velvet—  
medium star burgundy leaves, light  
green edges, rhiz. Raspberry Swirl—  
double spiral rex, silver, raspberry  
overlay. Cat. \$.50. 1 free plant with  
\$15 prepaid order. Woodriff,  
Fairyland Garden, 1100 Griffith Rd.,  
McKinleyville, CA 95521. 839-3034

**SEASON'S GREETINGS**  
from the  
**EAST BAY BRANCH**

## 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  
6073 De La Vista  
Ruidoux, CA 92509

**ANTONELLI BROTHERS**  
 2545 Capitola Road  
 SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060  
 22-page color catalog \$1.00

**BEGONIAS**  
**REX BEGONIA SEED**  
**RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE**  
 \$1.00 per pkt plus 20¢ postage  
 Calif. residents add 6% Sales Tax  
 1130 NORTH MILPAS STREET  
 SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93103

**BEGONIAS, GERANIUMS, EXOTICS**  
**FERNS, OXALIS, CACTI, HERBS**  
 New 1984-86 Full Color Catalog—\$3.00  
**LOGEE'S GREENHOUSES**  
 Dept. B, 55 North St., Danielson, CT 06239

*Join the NATIONAL*  
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