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The BEGONIAN



The BEGONIAN

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The Cover: A section of the inflorescence of *Begonia crassicaulis*, enlarged to show the fine reddish wooly covering (tomentum) and the buds and their stipules with the "sparkles." Without the benefit of ample magnification and color printing, these details would be lost to the viewer. Read about the new collection of a little known *Begonia* and its introduction into cultivation (page 4). Story, cover photograph, and related photos by Thelma O'Reilly.

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NEWS/Facts and Figures to Consider

Sometime ago I saw a sign in a small store that read, "This is not intended to be a non-profit organization. It just turns out that way." ABS could paraphrase that little sign to say, "This is intended to be a non-profit organization and it must turn out that way."

We are chartered and we do operate under that constraint. Perhaps when you read the minutes it seems as if there were a lot of money available. The sum total represents both general use and special accounts such as the funds deposited for life memberships, research monies, etc.

A non-profit society under the laws of the U.S. and the several states may not subsidize members by giving them products (i.e. the *Begonian* last year) over and beyond the fees they pay. It can lose the non-profit status and mailing privileges if it does so continually.

In this space in the last two issues, the ABS president and I each addressed the issue of the costs of the *Begonian* during the previous ABS fiscal year (\$14.32 per member). I have managed to lower that figure somewhat for the coming year.*

Let's look at the figures for the *Begonian* using the new contract: printing—\$9300, typesetting—\$3600, labels—\$480, mail preparation—\$840, postage—\$4800, editing expenses—\$1200, mail permits—\$80. Total—\$20,300. This comes to \$11.94 per member. The rest of the society's expenses for advertising, the slide library, the cost of books, the round robin, etc. still have to be considered.

A dues raise will be needed to provide issues of 24 pages with minimal lessening of quality and allow the society's services to continue. This figure does not take into account any drop in membership that could occur, either because of the increase in dues or factors completely unrelated to the society. (It has been suggested that more members would help—and they would, but it would take 1300 new, lasting memberships to be able to completely eliminate a dues increase.)

I sent a detailed report on costs to the members of the publication committee recently. Most of those who replied to me have indicated that they are reluctant or opposed to raise dues. I myself would prefer not to; however, there seems to be no acceptable choice.

The alternative to raising dues is cutting back still more. A lot of people think that the color cover is the most expensive item and so suggest eliminating that. However, that is not of the right order of magnitude. To reduce the size by four pages in every issue is the only way to bring costs into line with present dues.

I do not want to lose precious space. There are articles waiting to get into print. Ask Rudy Ziesenhenne how long it took to get his most recent article to you, for example.

But I am going to shift the burden to you. IF A DUES RAISE IS NOT APPROVED, WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO DO WITHOUT?

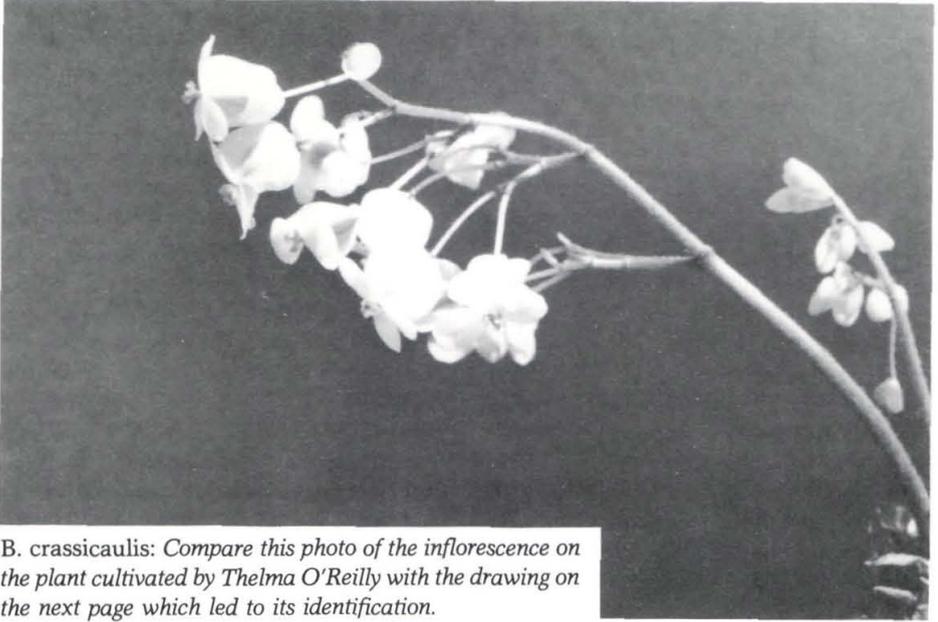
- Ads (they are a service**)
- Convention notices (before)
- Convention coverage (after)
- Directory of Associated Groups
- List of Officers
- List of Services
- Minutes (requires change in Constitution)
- Question Box
- Registered Cultivars List
- Round Robin
- Seed Fund
- Unidentified Species List

The Constitution requires that the dues raise be approved by the national directors from the branches. This means that the members-at-large who say "The *Begonian* is my contact with the ABS" have to make their wishes known to the national directors who do vote.

Continued on page 21

Begonia crassicaulis — FANTASY OR FACT

Thelma O'Reilly



B. crassicaulis: Compare this photo of the inflorescence on the plant cultivated by Thelma O'Reilly with the drawing on the next page which led to its identification.

Let's go back in time to the mid-sixties. I was spending days and nights pursuing every possible avenue for published material about begonias. One of the first botanical studies I obtained written in English was *Flora of Guatemala* by Lyman B. Smith and Bernice G. Schubert, published by Chicago Natural History Museum, Nov. 13, 1961. What a treasure — detailed line drawings and descriptions in English!

One illustration, *Begonia crassicaulis*, caught my eye because it appeared distinctly different. I was fascinated with the line drawings used to illustrate *B. crassicaulis*. They showed an erect, thick rhizome with short nodes. Emerging from the top of the rhizome were a long inflorescence and two short petioles with immature leaves. An illustrated mature leaf resembled *B. heracleifolia*, and female

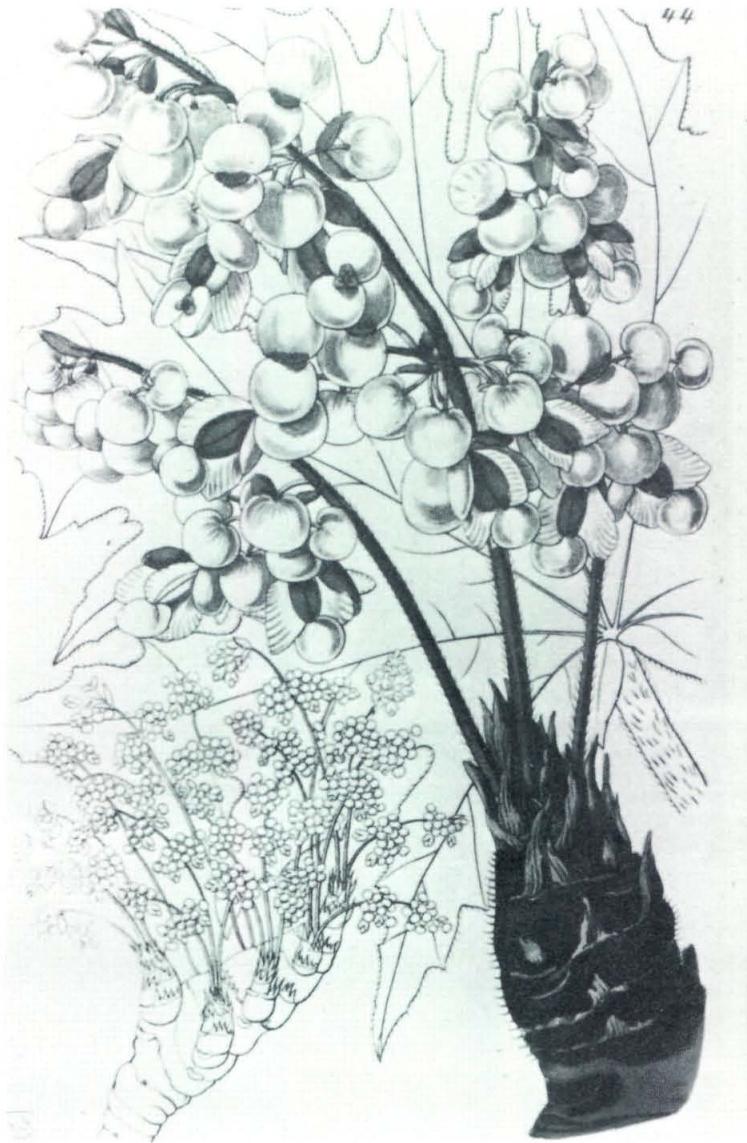
It took Thelma O'Reilly 20 years to track down this species. She carries out her literary searches at 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 92041.

flowers were bracteolate. The rhizome was described as simple or with very short bulbous branches, the inflorescence as unilaterally cymose so that the larger side appears to be a continuation of the peduncle.

My imagination was fired and stayed lit until the search for this distinct begonia ended in 1981.

Shortly before my collecting adventure to Costa Rica in 1976, I spent hours searching through back issues of the *Begonian* for information on begonias native to this area. I was amazed to find an article titled "Begonias of Guatemala" by Alex D. Hawkes on page 136, July 1963 issue. Always on the alert for mention of *B. crassicaulis*, I proceeded to read it and found the opening paragraph was a review of the publication by Drs. Smith and Schubert, *Flora of Guatemala*.

Following his discussion of several begonias native to Guatemala, Hawkes wrote the following: "I very much believe that I have found *B. crassicaulis* growing as a rather common epiphyte near Santa



Taken from a slide of a print from *Bot. Reg.* 28: plate 44. 1842. Courtesy L. B. Smith, the Smithsonian Institution.

Maria de Ostuma in Nicaragua, since the drawing of it in this work certainly looks much like the very "leafless" tree-dwelling species of that area."

My fire burned brightly throughout the field trips and private garden tours in Costa Rica, hoping this species had found its way further south. My search was in vain.

During the 1979 ABS convention in New

York City, Scott Hoover and I had an interesting conversation about his forthcoming field trip to Mexico and South America. His purpose was to collect epidermal peels from different species of *Begonia*. I was fascinated to learn that the beautiful "sparkles" on the underside of some begonia leaves were clusters of stomata which Scott would collect for his



Mature plant during the foliage phase. It blooms after leaves have fallen. Photos by the author.

study. When he mentioned a stopover in Guatemala to collect some species for the study, I decided to make a contribution. I explained my interest in any new species from that area, especially *B. crassicaulis*. Again, my hopes were high.

Scott left for Mexico in November 1979. A package arrived on December 29. It contained live begonia cuttings collected in Guatemala. Information included with the plant material listed "S.H. 172, *B. crassicaulis* (3 cuttings) and S.H. 178, unidentified species (3 cuttings), 3,600', Rd. from Goding to Cocala, Salola, Guatemala — a new species." Both species were leafless with upright rhizomes but S.H. 178 was by far the more interesting. For safety insurance I shared with Rudy Ziesenhenn and Pat Maley.

My cuttings grew slowly at first, then took off like rockets. By this time I could see that S.H. 172 was not *B. crassicaulis* and I had a growing suspicion that S.H. 178 was my long sought treasure. November 18, 1980, I wrote to Scott: "Species you designated as *B. crassicaulis* is in bloom. This is incorrect identification. I think flowers will prove S.H. 178 to be that species."

By mid December 1980, leaves on S.H. 178 started to yellow; a month later, it was leafless with an inflorescence beginning to emerge from the top of the rhizome. As it developed during the next two weeks, my excitement mounted. By then I knew without a doubt, Scott had (with the help of an Irish prayer) discovered the elusive *B. crassicaulis*. Camera in hand, I photographed over forty slides as this unusual species came into full bloom.

Yes, I knew my sixteen year treasure hunt was over but needed confirmation by an authority. Carrie Karegeannes and I met in Washington, D.C. on July 5, 1982 and headed for the Smithsonian Institution and Dr. Lyman B. Smith. Unfortunately, his wife was taken ill that morning. He made arrangements for our access to his office and the herbarium. Carrie and I cataloged my twelve specimens, designating Coll. No. 14 for the specimen of S.H. 178. All were left for Dr. Smith to examine and retain in the herbarium. July 20, I received a letter advising that my herbarium specimen #14 was *B. crassicaulis* and an added comment, "the slides are great."

In 1982 Carrie sent me a copy of a comprehensive description and discussion of *B. crassicaulis* from Kathleen Burt-Utley's "Systematic Revision of the Central American Species of the Genus *Begonia* Sect. *Gireoudia*," Ph.D. dissertation, 1981. I found the following comments most interesting, "*B. crassicaulis* is one of the most poorly known species in sec. *Gireoudia*, represented by only a handful of collections. Compounding problems inherent in studying little material is the absence of leaves from most herbarium specimens because *B. crassicaulis*

characteristically flowers when leafless." At the end of this discussion the author lists "Specimens Examined. Mexico. Guerrero steep banks along small river in Canada de Colotlipa between Chilpancingo and Colotlipa, *Moore s.n.* (US)."

Phyllis Bates was due to spend a day here recently, reviewing slides and discussing future projects for the *Begonian*. I decided to photograph my specimen plant since it had grown considerably during the past two years and would make better photos for the magazine article. Carrying it over a stone path, I slipped and the heavy plant fell on the stones. Imagine my horror when I realized not only were many of the huge leaves broken but the rhizome branch had lost 6 inches from its tip. I removed all leaves from the broken tip, dusted the 1½" cut, wrapped the base in damp green moss, put it in a plastic bag, and placed it under the glasshouse bench. I remembered it two weeks ago and found masses of roots under the moss. It was potted and now I am waiting to see what develops with the topped rhizome on the specimen plant.

***B. crassicaulis* in cultivation**

Rhizome erect and branching into a vee about 9" above the soil, succulent, 17" high, internodes short, shaggy hairs on new growth and setaceous (bristly) trichomes on mature growth. Leaves parted, dark green with red spot at petiole junction, upper surface nearly glabrous, under surface sparsely hairy. Petioles 8"-12" long. Stipules large, scarious (thin, dry), keeled, terminating in a long bristle, and persistent throughout the growing season. As soon as the rhizome is leafless the interesting inflorescence appears. Peduncles and bracts are tomentose-lanate (dense-wooly covering of short hairs), bracts are ciliate and serrulate. Male (staminate) and female (pistillate) tepals are white or flesh pink according to light exposure. Bracts, female bracteoles and tepals appear to be coated with tiny glands, causing these floral parts to glisten as if coated with glitter dust. To date all inflorescences developed a one-sided appear-

ance, with flowers facing the same direction.

I use my regular well draining potting mix and water sparingly. *B. crassicaulis* is moved to a spot with overhead covering during our rainy season. I think its thick, succulent rhizome requires strong light and dry conditions during winter months.

My plant was self-pollinated during last blooming season. Germination was excellent. The Seed Fund offers seed in this issue. I'll provide more seed in the near future so all ABS members have an opportunity to grow this handsome begonia.

To Scott Hoover, my blessings, for making it possible to turn a Fantasy into a Fact.

From the Nomenclature Department: **NOTES ON BOTANICAL PUBLICATIONS**

The final manuscript of the revised species list being worked on by Carrie Karegeannes with Jack Golding, who headed the project, and Dr. Lyman B. Smith's world key to *Begonia* was given to the Smithsonian Institution's editor in February. It is anticipated that publication will not occur in the near future.

Phytologia vol. 4 (no. 7), January 1984, carried three articles on *Begonia*:

"Notes on Begoniaceae—III"

by L. B. Smith and D. C. Wasshausen of the Smithsonian.

"*Begonia* Nomenclature Notes, 7"

by J. Golding and C. Karegeannes.

"Notes on Mesoamerican *Begonia*"
by Kathy Burt-Utley of the University of New Orleans.

The September issue of *Horticulture* 63(9):50-52 contains an article by Eliot Tozer on Jack Golding's indoor garden room under lights.

NEVER SAY, "NEVER AGAIN" TO GROWING FROM SEED

Susan Johnston

First of all, let me state that this article concerning my method of seed growing is strictly autobiographical and should in no way be construed as *the* clinically proven, Good Housekeeping seal of approval, way to do it. I have managed to be creative. If Julia Child can do it with chicken, so I can with seeds.

I first made my decision to attempt seed growing both for economic reasons, and for some quasi self-esteem. I ordered three packets of seed from the Seed Fund, and the 25¢ flyer on "Growing from Seed". Two weeks later after reading the flyer, midnight heartburn, a kitchen sterilized from top to bottom with clorox, and an accumulation of instruments and paraphernalia that rivaled the laboratory of Dr. Frankenstein, I sowed my seeds. Needless to say, the prelude to my seed growing was successful.

Upon contemplating my initial experience, however, I knew there had to be an easier way (my husband could tell you about the shortcuts I've taken—harrowing adventures!). Enter the scene at this time, my mentors, Ruth Wills and Dorothy Caviness of the Barkley Branch, and Millie Thompson, *ex parte*. Together with their guidance and my own sadistic need to achieve, I derived my means of growing from seed.

Firstly, you must select an appropriate container, acquired from a myriad of sources. I have accumulated and incorporated the following, but keep in mind it must be a "closed container," covered with either a plastic bag, Saran Wrap, or a lid of glass or plastic, and of clear to nearly clear consistency.

- a. shoe boxes and sweater boxes (if you cannot find with a clear lid, cover with plastic wrap or glass or turn upside

Our energetic experimenter and reporter, Susan L. Johnston, lives at 832 S. Lahoma, Norman, OK 73069.

- down, using the lid as a tray to hold pot or pans);
- b. plastic drink cups, covered with any of the above;
- c. 2-3" plastic pots, enclosed;
- d. cake or cupcake pans with plastic lid (containers from purchased items in the bakery section at the grocery store: recycled for seed pans);
- e. Dairy Queen (or other ice cream parlor to-go cups for sundaes, etc. (of clear plastic with snap-on dome type lids);
- f. fast food to-go trays with snap-on clear lids. (Wendy's has great ones);
- g. TV dinner trays (covered with a plastic bag, etc.); and
- h. plastic pans and other unmentionables given me on leaving the hospital and converted to use for seed growing.

There are endless possibilities. Whatever you use, punch holes, or use a hot icpick to melt holes in the bottom for drainage and for ease of bottom watering if the mix should get too dry.

Seed sowing mixes are a source for many an argument, and I firmly condone the use of whatever has proven successful for you. In running the full cycle of mix-mash, here is where I sing Millie Thompson's praises to the tune of 1 part Jiffy Mix, 2 parts perlite, and 2 parts vermiculite. In summer, I eliminate the vermiculite—it holds water and during summer heat stress in Oklahoma, the medium stays too wet. For the transplanting, Millie recommends 4 parts Jiffy Mix to 1 part perlite. I started with this mix, tried many others (primarily due to the difficulty in finding Jiffy Mix) from Redi-Earth to perlite and vermiculite and many combinations thereof. I ultimately came back to Millie's mix as it worked best for me, and I now order the Jiffy Mix specially via my local, accommodating nurseryman.

Placing the medium in a large pail, I run it under warm faucet water (the mix absorbs it better) until dampened well—it will clump together in your hands—and massage with my hands. The products I

use are pre-sterilized, so no need to bake, microwave, saute, or otherwise mess with them. I used to moisten with Captan, but have come to the conclusion that this proves no more advantageous than not using it.

Before sowing each packet of seeds, I take a plastic pylon, and with a laundry marker, identify the begonia, seed source (ex., ABS Seed Fund), and the date sowed. To sow the seeds, I empty the packets carefully onto a square (or relatively square) piece of white paper (I have been known to use my kids Big Chief tablets), which has been folded and then opened flat. With the seeds in the crease, I take the paper, holding it over the seed pan, and tap gently. As the seeds roll off, I move it around the pan, broadcasting them sparsely over the area. Sowing them too close together will create future problems in transplanting.

Cover the pan with either a lid, Saran or Baggie. During cool weather, I put the seed pans either on top of the refrigerator, or in a Parks mini-greenhouse tray (approximately 26" x 11" with 70° bottom heat, covered with a clear plastic dome). I don't use either of these during our torrid Oklahoma summers, as simply placing them in the basement under lights, about 6" from tubes, with room temperatures about 70-75° is sufficient.

There seem to be discrepancies among growers as to the degree of light required for germination. I find more important than light, the bottom temperature necessary to initiate germination. The top of an icebox may feel cool to the touch, but if you touch a 70° heat tray, so it feels cool as well. Watch your trays closely, for once germination has taken place, then *let there be light!* I then move the trays to the basement, or a bright window (no direct sun, though), where any seeds which have not come up yet will rapidly follow suit.

After I can be relatively sure that all (or nearly all) seeds have germinated, I begin a moderate fertilizing program—meaning very dilute (1/8th strength and not constant). I have been satisfied with using either Peters' 20-20-20, or Peters' African

Violet 12-36-14 Plant Foods. Once again you will find controversy surrounding the hows, whys and shoulds concerning fertilizers and their effects on seedling growth. Some say high phosphorus content (middle number on the can) promotes vigorous root growth and thus, a better **established plant**. Whatever you choose to do, most experts will stress the adverse affects of using organic fertilizers. I do not know why organics "kill" seedlings, but mine shriveled and died.

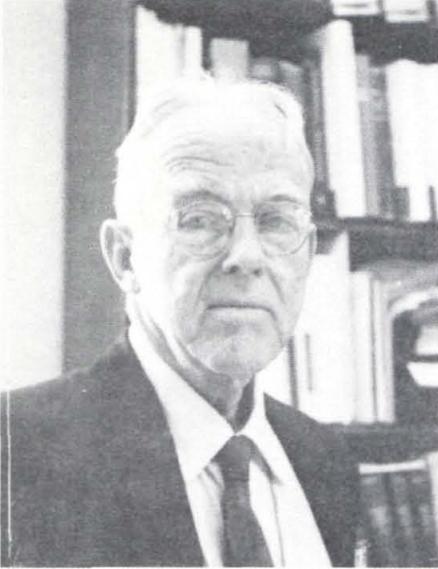
Sometimes, especially in the summer, green algae will form on the medium. This has never proven detrimental

I wait until seedlings are about 1" tall to transplant. It's easier to handle them, and they're not so delicate either. I have transplanted some before they've developed a true leaf, but only because they have hung around for weeks in a state of suspended animation. Nine times out of ten, the move to the next medium (I call this the "twilight zone" syndrome), stimulates them to grow. *B. incisa* was an example of this behavior.

I prepare the transplanting mix, dampen it as before, and either put the seedling in a small pot (1-1½", depending on the size of the plant and root system), or in a community tray. Don't use a lot of mix, about 2" of mix in a tray or pot—"a little dab'll do ya!" I lift the seedlings gently out of the seed pan with a spoon, trying not to disturb the roots! I make a shallow hole in the transplant mix with the spoon (not large enough to swallow the tiny thing!), then place the seedling in its new home. I water just enough to settle the seedling, with a solution of 10 drops Superthrive (B-1) to a gallon of water.

I have had about 95% success with ABS Seed Fund seed, which I consider phenomenal. Joy Porter has been gracious in answering questions. Seed growing is not as hard as you think. The results are beautifully encouraging; it's an economical way to perpetuate our species begonias and a great way to acquire all those begonias you've always wanted but were afraid to try. . . And if at first you don't suc-ceed, try again for peat's sake.

LYMAN B. SMITH: A TRIBUTE



Dr. Lyman B. Smith

Photo by P. Karegeannes

Lyman B. Smith, botanist emeritus at the Smithsonian Institution, recently passed two milestones: he celebrated his eightieth birthday last September 11th and a few weeks later sent to press a definitive study, a key to the Begoniaceae, representing a distillation of 56 years of botanical work.

Dr. Smith has devoted his career to the study of a number of tropical and semi-tropical plant families, making significant contributions to the knowledge of Bromeliaceae and Begoniaceae. He has prepared numerous papers and monographs, including studies of the *Begonia* of Venezuela, Santa Catarina, Mexico, Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Guatemala, and Brazil. There is similarly a long list of papers related to the bromeliads.

Dr. Smith has gathered numerous specimens on collection expeditions to Central and South America and observed their habitats. His ability to recognize, remember, and differentiate among the closely related species has been important in the lifelong study of these plants. In the

herbarium his analytical skills have resulted in more than 100 species of *Begonia* being published.

Among his collaborators in these work have been his wife, Ruth C. Smith, Bernice G. Schubert, P.C. Standley, and numerous collectors, associates, and students. Always those who work with him mention Dr. Smith's sense of humor and his generosity with his time and attention.

The key to the Begoniaceae that was recently completed was begun with Dr. Fred A. Barkley and continued with Jack Golding and Carrie Karegeannes. This huge project will make it possible for the botanist to find the name of any identified *Begonia* by its key traits.

Dr. Smith studied at Harvard University, earning A.B., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees. He was a staff member of the Gray Herbarium at Harvard for 17 years, five of which he served as curator. He then joined the National Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution for 28 years. In connection with his studies he has carried out research at various herbaria in Europe and the United States, and lectured at the George Washington University in the District of Columbia. He was appointed Botanist Emeritus at the Smithsonian in 1974 and, although retired, continued to work on his projects with as much zest as ever.

In 1968 the American Begonia Society recognized his important studies of begonias by presenting him the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award along with Dr. Bernice G. Schubert of Harvard. Together they had named almost 90 *Begonia*. At the time of his retirement, a list of his publications relating to *Begonia* was published in the *Begonian* (January 1975). Obviously, the list now needs to be updated.

The members of the American Begonia Society send congratulations and gratefully acknowledge his accomplishments. *Thelma O'Reilly* supplied information for this article. For an earlier article, see the January 1975 issue, pages 5-7.

A NEW ECUADOR SPECIES

Lyman B. Smith and Dieter C. Wasshausen
Smithsonian Institution

Since our paper of 1979, "Begonia of Ecuador", in *Phytologia* (44: 223-256) we have added four new species, using the opportunity to publish the first one in the *Begonian*. In comparison with our manuscript of all Begoniaceae, *Begonia neoharlingii* comes nearest to *B. exigua* Irmscher of interior Brazil.

Begonia neoharlingii L.B. Smith & D.C. Wasshausen

Plant slender from a tuberous base, wholly glabrous; stem more or less curved, simple, with the internodes elongate or with a few short branches. Stipules persistent, suborbicular, 3 mm long, thin, nerved. Petioles 1-3 cm long. Leaf blades mainly oblique but a relatively few straight, broad with broad shallow rounded lobes, to 5 cm long, minutely punctate beneath. Peduncles terminal on the main stem, to 10 cm long. Inflorescence 1-flowered or 2-flowered and racemose. Bracts like the stipules. Pedicels 1-3 cm long. Staminate tepals 4, white (Harling), 10 mm long, the outer elliptic, the inner obcordate. Stamens many on a column; filaments short; anthers oblong. Pistillate bracteoles elliptic. Tepals 5, 4 of them elliptic, the fifth obcordate. Ovary ellipsoid, the wings unequal, narrowly triangular. Styles basally short-connate, twice bifid.

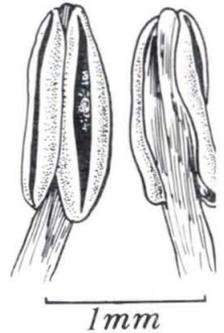
A *B. exigua* Irmscher, in Brasilia interius, cui affinis caulis plus minusve curvatus, stipulis suborbicularibus, foliorum laminis subtus punctulis, tepalis masculis albis, exterioribus ellipticis interioribus obcordatis differt.

Type: ECUADOR. Loja: between Cariamanga and Sozoranga, 2000 m, 12 Nov. 1982, G. Harling, J.-E. Bohlin, Marie Lindstrom & Suzanne Roth 20648 (Holotype: Goteborg Botanical Museum, Sweden; isotype: U.S. National Herbarium, Smithsonian Institution).

Lyman B. Smith and Dieter Wasshausen are working on Begonia for a flora of Venezuela, and botanists and museums from all over the world therefore send them specimens, including unidentified material to identify or name. New species *B. neoharlingii* was such a specimen sent from Sweden.

Begonia neoharlingii L.B. Smith & D.C. Wasshausen

Drawing by A.R. Tangerini





STATUE OF LINNAEUS



Linnaeus Sculpture at the Chicago Botanic Gardens

Photo by Dan Haseltine.

A monument to Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus now introduces visitors to the Chicago Botanic Garden. The 21-foot bronze by Robert Berks pays tribute to the Father of Botanical Nomenclature. The young Linnaeus is depicted as he kneels to study a wild rose blossom. His notebook, walking stick, specimen bottle are nearby. Around him on the marble base are bronze side pieces into which are sculpted almost a hundred plant examples from the more than 10,000 species he had classified in his life's work.

Carl Linnaeus devised the basis for the naming of plants as it is done today. He reduced long complicated names (short descriptions, really) to two names, the genus and species epithet, in an orderly fashion based on characteristics of the plant. (Bauhin had tried to use two names almost a century earlier, but without the unifying scheme of classification.)

Each plant Linnaeus studied was given a

unique name in Latin, the then universal language of science. He wrote numerous letters and books, particularly the *Species Plantarum* (1753), and defended his ideas before the learned scientific societies of the time. His collection of herbarium specimens is in England now.

His system allowed for indefinite expansion as new species were discovered. For instance, Linnaeus listed the few *Begonia* known to him as varieties of *B. obliqua*. These had been described by others earlier. In the decades after the *Species Plantarum* was published, plant discoverers brought *Begonia glabra*, *B. nitida*, *octopetala*, and the other early tuberous species into cultivation, and these were designated in the Linnaean manner in the literature.

Although one cannot find a sculpted *Begonia* by the statue, *Begonia* can be found in the Chicago Gardens from time to time.

Carrie Karegeannes, nomenclature director

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

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

***Begonia* 'Steve Tankersley'**

No. 872—*Begonia* 'South Pacific' x unknown 'Steve Tankersley'

Semperflorens Cultorum group. Synonym *B.* 'Steve T'. Plants, reaching 10" height, carry 2¼" x 1¾" smooth green leaves with thin red, slightly crenate edge, 8 to 9 main veins, ½" petioles, and green stipules. They are everblooming with ¾" x ½" coral-red and yellow flowers of unusual form on 1½"-2" peduncles (flower stalks). The flowers have two coral-red tepals backing a slightly smaller mass of enlarged, flattened, bright-yellow anthers edged in coral red, giving the impression of a mass of coral-and-yellow striped tepals backed by the contrasting true tepals. Originated in 1980 by Robert B. Hamm, 2951 Elliott, Wichita Falls, TX 76308; first bloomed in 1981; first distributed in 1981. Tested by Mae Blanton, Lake Dallas, TX. Registered Nov. 14, 1984.

***Begonia* 'Gingle Bells'**

No. 873—*Begonia* red-veined Costa Rica species (#4355) x Brazil species 'Gingle Bells'

Thick-stemmed, under 1' tall, with many stout upright trunks. Dark green, hairy, cleft, 4" x 3" leaves are shallowly cordate and have 8 reddish main veins, red at the petiole, and serrate margins. Dark red petioles are 5" to 8" long; stipules are ½" x ¾". Flowers are soft pink. Originated

in 1977 by Bob Cole, 18007 Topham Street, Reseda, CA 91335; first bloomed in 1981; first distributed in 1981. Described in undated Plant Shop's Botanical Garden catalog received June 1982. Registered Nov. 14, 1984.

***Begonia* 'Hockey'**

No. 874—*Begonia* #4047 x *B.* 'Serenade' 'Hockey'

Upright *B. rex* cultivar with habit of growth like that of *B. hatacoa* and showing the *B. rex* influence in leaf coloration. Young leaves are blackish with some silver overlay, irregularly blue and aqua in strong light, turning with age to dark green and silver with red underneath. The 5½" x 4" leaf blades are narrowly ovate, acuminate-tipped, shallowly angled, and cordate at the base. They have ciliate margin, somewhat hairy surface, 8 main veins, somewhat maroon petioles with white hairs, and 7/8" x ¾" stipules. Pinkish flowers are borne on 8" peduncles. Originated in 1977 by Bob Cole (address above); first bloomed in 1982; first distributed in 1982. Described in undated Plant Shop's Botanical Garden catalog received June 1982. Registered Nov. 14, 1984.

***Begonia* 'Maria Tall Chief'**

No. 875—*Begonia* 'Madame Butterfly' x 'Her Majesty Sylvia Leatherman' 'Maria Tall Chief'

Upright stemmed *B. rex* cultivar—a hybrid of a canelike cultivar crossed with a *B. rex* cultivar. Sharply lobed, broadly ovate and deeply cordate, 8" x 5" leaves are heavily silvered with dark-green center and veins, flushed pink around the center and on the edge. The margin is serrate and ciliate; the surface "bumpy," with 8 main veins. Petioles are hairy and stipules measure 7/8" x ¾". Flowers are pink. Originated in 1978 by Bob Cole (address above); first bloomed in 1982; first distributed in 1982. Described in undated catalog above. Registered Nov. 14, 1984.

Begonia 'Mohegan Summer'

No. 876—*Begonia* 'Paiute' x *hydrocotylifolia* 'Mohegan Summer'

Low-growing, compact, rhizomatous plant with shiny, bright-green 4" x 3" leaves laced with black and edged with brown. Ovate-rounded leaf blades have crenate, ciliate margin, smooth surface, and 7 main veins. The 4" reddish-green petioles are hairy. The stipules measure ½" x ½". Pale pink, 2-tepaled male and female flowers contrast with bright red bracts. They are carried in small clusters of about 6 flowers on 8" peduncles in the spring. Ovaries have 3 wings. Originated in 1977 by Bob Cole (address above); first bloomed in 1982; first distributed in 1981. Described in undated catalog above. Registered Nov. 14, 1984.

Begonia 'Notre Dame'

No. 877—*Begonia* 'Zippo' x *kellermanii* 'Notre Dame'

Thick-stemmed with ¾"-thick stem less than 1' tall. Peltate, black-streaked, bright-green 5" x 4" leaf blades with a red spot above the petiole attachment are almost round, entire, and smooth, with 9 main veins. Smooth green petioles are 9" long; stipules are ¾" x ½". Variegated pink flowers with two 1" female tepals and ½" ovary are borne in loose, branching clusters on 6" to 8" peduncles (flower stalks) winter to spring. A compact, thickset plant originated in 1978 by Bob Cole, (address above); first bloomed in 1982; first distributed in 1981. Described in undated Plant Shop's Botanical Garden catalog received in June 1982 and in Mildred L. Thompson, *Begonias: 1984 Update*, 1984. Registered Nov. 27, 1984.

Begonia 'Splatter'

No. 878—*Begonia* 'Lospe-tu' x 'Dainty Lady' 'Splatter'

Rhizomatous cultivar with erect rhizome. Blue-green, acutely lobed, ovate and shallowly cordate, 8½" x 6" leaf blades have a puckered, hairy surface, ciliate margins, and 8 main veins. Petioles, 12" long, are green with red splotches and

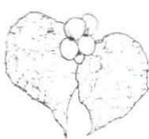
white hairs; stipules are ¾" x ¾". Large, soft-pink flowers splattered with hot red-pink include 2-tepaled females with 1¼" tepals and 3-winged 7/8" ovaries, borne in loose, open clusters on 2½" peduncles in winter. The bracts are green. Originated in 1978 by Bob Cole (address above); first bloomed in 1982; first distributed in 1982. Name listed in above undated catalog; included in Thompson, *Begonias: 1984 Update*, 1984. Registered Nov. 27, 1984.

Begonia 'Tonto'

No. 879—*Begonia* 'Persian Brocade' x 'Dainty Lady' 'Tonto'

Synonym *B.* 'Green Eyes' (Cole's, not Susie Zug's of 1954). Rhizomatous cultivar with 5" x 3", crystalline-blue-green leaf blades that are ovate and cleft, with basal lobes overlapping. Margins are ciliate and the surface smooth, with 7 main veins. Petioles, 4" to 6" long, are dappled red and are white-hairy; stipules are ¾" x ¾". Bright apricot flowers are borne in open clusters on 8" peduncles in winter, contrasting with the blue-green foliage on small compact plants. Originated in 1977 by Bob Cole (address above); first bloomed in 1982; first distributed in 1982. Listed without description as 'Green Eyes' in above undated catalog; renamed because of prior use of the name. Registered Nov. 27, 1984.

Begonia Buttercup



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ROUND ROBIN/*Robin flight anticipates "Year of the Cane."*

Joan Campbell, director

Soon it will be time to check the Robin roster with the Membership Secretary's records. Robin members nine or 10 months in arrears will be dropped from flights. Your membership expiration date is printed on the address label of your copy of the *Begonian*.

The **cane begonia** lovers have been busy comparing notes. Elaine Ayers, Ohio, thinks a cutting taken from a young seedling cane will often be a more vigorous grower than will the original seedling. Dora Lee Dorsey, Florida, says that *B. 'Sophie Cecile'* must have good bloom food and she uses a rose food formula on this plant.

Bob Dodd, Oklahoma, wonders how much should be pinched back on canes. A light pinch may give you a four-foot branch with a break on the second node below the pinch. He knows canes one year old, or older, should be pinched right back to the soil line, but it's hard to do that when the cane may be a slow-growing variety, one, perhaps, which has taken a few years to grow one good branch. Cut it back to a few nodes and nothing will be left.

Glennis Crouch, Texas, thinks *B. undulata* makes a lovely basket cane, with creamy white, fragrant blossoms all summer. Dael Jones, Texas, prefers to grow *B. 'Grey Feather'* as a trailing-scandant type rather than as a cane.

King Langenberg says the seedlings of *B. platanifolia* are beautiful, the markings look as though they were done in needlepoint. However, the mature plant is difficult to make branch or hold its leaves. Frances Hoffman, New York, says her *B. platanifolia* grew so large she put it outdoors one summer and it thrived, but had to pass it along to a friend as it grew too

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.

large to get back into her greenhouse.

Russ Hammer, Texas, says his biggest problem is too many blooms on his canes! It is difficult to grow cuttings from a cane which has no vegetative buds on the stems, a fact seldom mentioned by professional growers or known by cane fanciers. If Russ were to hybridize canes, he would aim for a cane which would bloom from only every other leaf axil, then propagation would be simple. Russ favors a 1-1-1 mix of vermiculite, perlite, and peat. He adds Baccto or sand for cane begonias, sand for cacti and succulents, and pine bark mulch for aroids.

Frances Hurley, Illinois, cuts back her canes in early fall rather than in late winter, as she feels they root better then and the old plant sends up new growth better while it is still warm outside. Fran thinks dark-leaved canes stand more sun in her area and have a nicer color. She will root several cuttings of one variety of a cane, pot them up in the same pot, and have a larger plant that way.

Pat Maley, California, feels canes have a definite bloom period, spring through fall for the majority, but growing conditions and climate can alter the cycle. Pat feels steady good feeding is an absolute necessity for bloom, as blooming requires so much of a plant's energy that some basically stop growing while in bloom. Seed production also consumes energy and slows down growth and future blooms in some varieties. Rhodora Buss, Iowa, thinks good air movement is important in preventing leaf drop in canes.

New flights have been proposed, one on growing the Asian species, and another on growing thick-stemmed begonias and hybridizing them. I have flight vacancies in these flights: 'Tropical Plants, Southwest Growers, Windowsill, General Culture, Gesneriads, Bromeliads, and Branch Administration. If you are interested, please contact the Round Robin Director.

Joy Porter, Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Director

- J-F 1— *B. ludwigii*: Species from Ecuador with large cleft, sparse, hairy green leaves with a touch of red at sinus and white tips on each lobe. Added to this charm is a green lacy collar at petiole and sinus junction. Classified as thick-stemmed, non-ramified, it forms a tuberous root and goes dormant in winter under greenhouse conditions, but not under lights. Although listed as spring-flowering, mine blooms from September into December with medium-size white flowers on 12 inch dichotomous peduncles. per pkt. 1.00
- J-F 2— *B. williamsii* (syn. *wollnyi*): Thick-stemmed species with an underground bulbous root which goes partially dormant in winter; blooming late winter with medium sized greenish white flowers. The beautiful leaves are sharply lobed, bright green with white markings. per pkt. 1.00
- J-F 3— *B. kenworthyae*: Distinctive rhizomatous species from Mexico with large ivy-shaped leaves with purplish bloom on the surface, blooming in late winter with white medium-sized flowers. Named in honor of Eva Kenworthy Gray who wrote and published (on her own printing press) in 1931 the first book about *Begonia* in the U.S. per pkt. 1.00
- J-F 4— *B. olsoniae* (syn. *vellozoana*): Absent for some time from Seed Fund listings, this lovely shrub-like species from Brazil has large, round-ovate velvet leaves of olive green with light veining, reddish below. Blooms intermittently with 1½ inch white flowers with rose-backed upper tepals. Its beauty and compact growth makes it a "must" in every collection. per pkt. 1.00
- J-F 5— *B. J-11*: This thick-stemmed, thick-set species with round-oval dark green 5 × 8 inch leaves, red flushed below, has curious red fleshy horizontal collars spaced along the length of the petiole. I have not seen it in bloom. per pkt. 1.00
- J-F 6— *B. solananthera*: "Brazilian Heart." This trailing-scandent species has small, heart-shaped, pea green leaves and, in late winter through spring, large clusters of fragrant white flowers with deep red blotch in the center. per pkt. 1.00
- J-F 7— *B. sutherlandii*: Tuberous species from South Africa with small green serrated leaves, red petioles and red veins. Small soft-orange flowers for summer baskets. Can be kept blooming in winter with additional lighting. Bulbils will be listed in March-April issue. per pkt. 1.00
- J-F 8— *B. U103* (Rudolf Ziesenhenné #6577) is a tall tuberous species from Bolivia with branching, vine-like growth and having red stems and petioles. The 2½ inch fragrant flowers are white, flushed pink. Stamens on male flowers are most attractive and unusual in *Begonia*. Flowers summer through autumn. per pkt. 1.00
- J-F 9— *B. cinnabarina*: Tuberous species, 18 inches, with 3 inch deep orange single flowers. per pkt. 1.00
- J-F 10— *B. palmeri* (syn. *B. californica*): Mexican tuberous species with 2 inch pink flowers. per pkt. 1.00
- J-F 11— *B. gracilis* var. *martiana*: "Hollyhock Begonia." Mexican tuberous species with 2½ inch pink flowers hugging the stem. Grows to 3 feet. per pkt. 1.00
- J-F 12— *B. boissieri*: Mexican tuberous species to 2 feet with fragrant milky white flowers veined with rose. per pkt. 1.00
- J-F 13— *B. boliviensis*: Tuberous species with wand-like growth; long, narrow dark green serrated leaves. Flowers are nodding, with long pointed tepals of brightest scarlet. per pkt. 1.00

- J-F 14— *B. crassicaulis*: Glossy, dark green, palmately lobed leaves are handsome. When they drop at end of growing season, lots of white blossoms develop along peduncles that emerge from the leafless erect thick rhizome. per pkt. 1.00
- J-F 15— *Ligularia*: Perennial with large, lush kidney-shaped leaves for moist, sunny areas. Many gold, daisy-like flowers on tall stalks in late summer. per pkt. .50
- J-F 16— *Platycodon grandiflorum*: Long-lived perennial with blue, cupped, star-shaped flowers in June-July. per pkt. .50

Experience with the Mexican tuberous species grown from bulbils in 1983 and 1984 has taught us two important facts: Bulbils (no matter when planted) will not germinate until May-June, with blooming period August through December. To bloom well, they must be hardened off at an early stage to full sun. Bulbils will be listed in March-April issue.

Due to postal increase, orders from U.S., Mexico, and Canada need 45¢ over seed price for postage (55¢ if over 12 packets). Foreign orders require \$1.40 for postage. Send checks or money orders in U.S. funds made payable to Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. Mail to Joy Porter, 9 Bayberry Lane, Framingham, MA 01701.

BEGONIAN MINI-ADS

BEGONIAS and EPISCIAS

Plants and Cuttings. Send 50 cents for listing. Wilson's Greenhouse, Route 1, Box 165-4, Ozark, MO 65721

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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.

Invitation to Visit

Paul Lowe invited ABS members to visit his greenhouse at the time of the Convention. He has notified us that he will not be able to ship plants to many locations during the times of frost, and will ship as soon after March 31 as possible. His ad appeared in the last issue and also is in this one.

Begonia 'Can Can'

Dr. Eric Catterall has sent a note about *Begonia* 'Can-Can' mentioned in the Jan/Feb issue on the subject of "Blackmore and Langdon-Their Exceptional Tuberhybrida". He says that 'Can-Can' has shown no evidence of color breakdown in tissue-culture propagation and that all of these cultivars have come absolutely true.

The color breakdown occurred in an as yet un-named cultivar that is not available to the public. The flowers are a shade of yellow/orange with a gold overlay. The tissue cultured propagations had failed to display the gold overlay.

He also mentions that although the possibility of "sporting" during tissue culturing exists, it has not yet been observed. There are two documented examples of such "sports" being produced by normal propagations by cuttings.

Dr. Catterall is honorable secretary of the National Begonia Society and has recently written a book, *Growing Begonias*.

BEGONIA STARS/ *on Biscayne Bay*

Convention fun trips have been arranged to complete a vacation in April. Because space will be limited, reservations for these should be made as soon as possible.

PRECONVENTION TRIP

April 22 to April 24

DISNEY WORLD, EPCOT CENTER AND CYPRESS GARDENS

Three days and two nights to visit these fabulous places. Cypress Gardens should be in full bloom in April making this a perfect time to observe nature at its prettiest.

Fee for the trip includes round trip bus fare, admission to all three attractions, two nights at the Caravan Hotel and transportation between the hotel and the attractions. This will be a trip which you will remember for many years to come.

Single, \$152; Double, per person, \$124; Child, under 16, \$77.

Preconvention trip reservations require a deposit of \$25.00 per person by February 25, and payment in full by March 11.

POSTCONVENTION TRIP

April 29 to May 3

NASSAU AND FREEPORT

Sail on the S.S. CARNIVALE of the Carnival Cruise Lines. Visit exotic Nassau and Freeport and enjoy a full day at sea. Prices are based on a minimum number of cabins being reserved by our group, and do not include port taxes of \$19.00 per adult, \$13 per child.

The rates per person (double occupancy) for inside cabin are \$380 (reg. price \$585) and for outside cabin \$460 (reg. price \$615). Rate for a child under 16 is \$125.

To be assured of a cabin at these prices, since the number of cabins assigned to us is limited, please make your reservations as early as possible. Cabin reservations require a deposit of \$50.00 per person by January 29, and payment in full by March 11.

Cruise prices include all your meals, entertainment, deck space, swimming pools, casino and duty-free shopping. Quoted prices do not include tips.

Reservation forms are available in the

convention package which will be or has been mailed directly to you. Late reservations may be made for either of these trips for an additional fee of \$10 per person. Late reservations will be made on a space available basis.

AIR TRAVEL PLANS TO MIAMI

Eastern Airlines has been appointed the official airlines for the American Begonia Society convention. You will be given the lowest available fare at the time you buy your ticket, or a 35% discount from Eastern Airlines' regular coach fare. If Eastern Airlines does not offer service from your home city, reservations will be booked on alternate airlines using the most convenient schedule and at the lowest available fare.

Take advantage of these low fare opportunities: Call Eastern Airlines direct, 1-800-327-1295 from anywhere in the United States, or 1-800-432-1217 from anywhere in Florida. Be sure to give the person who answers your call the following identification code: EZ 4P35. You will then be given the specially discounted fare and make your reservation if you wish. Then fill out the form in your convention packet and mail it with your check to Melloul Travel Consultants, 2339 Salzedo Street, Coral Gables, Florida 33134, or you may charge your ticket to the credit card of your choice. (See previous issue and convention packets.)

FREE TICKET DRAWING. If you purchase your ticket from Melloul Travel Consultants, you will be eligible to win one free round trip ticket at coach fare on Eastern Airlines to any city in the continental United States served by Eastern Airlines. Some minor restrictions will be applicable. The sweepstakes drawing will take place at the convention. Sylvia Ben

New Branch Officers

If your branch elects and installs officers at this time of the year, be sure to notify ABS secretary Arlene Davis immediately to be included in the next branch directory.

THE BOARD

November 10, 1984

The meeting of the American Begonia Society was held at President Bob Ammerman's home on this Saturday afternoon along with a very nice potluck lunch. The meeting was attended by 27 members and guests. The aims and purposes were read by Jeanette Gilbertson.

The Treasurer reports that we have a current bank balance of \$29,519.22 total of all accounts. The Dallas Convention sent a check for \$6808.70 which will be in the November balance. They also sent a check for \$135.00 specifically for conservation. As we cannot pass this along to another organization according to laws governing nonprofit organizations we have it in with Research and will change the name to "Research and Conservation." This money must be spent for our own efforts on conservation.

Membership Chairman, Pearl Benell, received \$2607.91 in dues for the period of Sept. 1 to Oct. 1, 1984. The membership is now 1728 persons. Branch Relations Director, Chuck Richardson, received a letter from the Glendale Branch stating that they were having trouble surviving. We would like to encourage them and will help in any way that we can to get them on their feet again.

Charles Jaros, our Consulting Begonian Chairman, writes that with the work on the 1985 convention, he has not been able to do too much on this project, but will get back on it as soon as possible.

Public Relations Director, Gil Estrada, has been getting exchange ads with Pacific Horticulture, American Ivy Society and is working on several others.

Joy Porter, Seed Fund Director, sent a check for \$696.32. In her letter she mentioned Mr. Roberto Brin has been sending seeds that he collects for the Seed Fund. She asks that we help him by sending him \$200.00 to aid in his research. The Board approved of this measure and has done so.

President Bob Ammerman asked approval of three appointments: Jeanette Gilbertson as corresponding secretary, Mike Kartuz, research director, and Dorothy Patrick as one member of the award committee.

Thelma O'Reilly, members-at-large, received 15 letters, with 12 requests for 12 of her newsletters. She is working on the possibility of a members-at-large branch and would like some input on starting it. This is so that the MAL members will have a vote in ABS activities. She will have a further report at next board meeting.

Carrie Karegeannes has written that there are 4 new cultivars registered.

We wish to send Dr. Lyman Smith our heartiest congratulations on his 80th birthday. We wish him well and a much longer life.

We regret to report that Annetta Lorenz of the Glendale Branch has passed away at the age of 94 years. She was a charter member of the branch.

It was suggested that we have our board meeting on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon instead of the Monday nights due to traveling. As the place that we are now

meeting may not be available to us, we are looking into this possibility for the January meeting. We are looking for someone to host the 1987 convention and show. Mildred Thompson has been sent the "14 Reasons" to be put into her book that she sends to non-members.

Phyllis Bates reports that the \$35.00 charge does not cover the costs of sending out the roster or labels to those members that request them. The board moved and seconded that the charge be raised to \$45.00. The Deadline for articles for the Begonian will be: November 5 for January, January 7 for March, and March 4 for May. There are four covers ready. Photos are needed using Begonias as part of the landscape. She needs in-ground planting.

If you have moved and are not getting your Begonian, please contact Pearl Benell. As the post office does not return third class mail, there is a charge of \$2.85 for replacements. Please send us your new address.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

The January meeting place will be announced at a later date.

Arlene Davis, Secretary

Facts

Continued from page 3

*One of my cost saving systems involved separating the various functions and services and utilizing the company offering the best price. This means that I have driven almost 400 miles to prepare a single issue. If I attempt to cut down on the driving, then I must have several weeks additional preparation time.

**The cost to the society to run a miniad is estimated to be 97 cents per line. The charge to the advertiser is a dollar per line. The cost to run a column inch ad is approximately \$10.45 and the charge is \$12.50. ABS pays 35% of its gross advertising charge in taxes. Note that I have prepared the type for the miniads on my computer so the society would not lose money on them.

Continued on page 22

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Fortieth Orchid Show

The South Florida Orchid Society will hold its 40th Annual Show in Miami on March 8-10, the largest annual show held in the United States. The display of orchids from all over the world will be held at the Coconut Grove Exhibition Center.

Ideas for the Future

It has been very pleasant to put aside production problems and consider plans for the new year. I have worked on a schedule and a content plan for the *Begonian*.

Those of you who are not interested in, nor able to grow, tuberous begonias will be glad to know that 1985 will be "The Year of the Cane." There will be a series on canelike begonias.

I have been in touch with Scott Hoover and Dael Jones of the conservation committee, to assist with a series about plant conservation.

A third idea is a group of short pieces and photographs about the use of begonias in landscaping. This is meant to be a reader participation project. As you grow begonias in your landscape this spring and summer, take a photo or two, and send it to me with a short note about what begonias you have selected, what companion plants were included, how you prepared for the planting, how long the area looked well, or anything else that might apply.

Also keep your eyes open for begonias in landscaping elsewhere — you may see semperflorens and shrubby begonias in a public garden or around an office building. More about this later, but do keep it in mind.

I've started to contact various persons about other topics of importance to expand our horizons, but these plans are too premature to announce. There are many interesting avenues to develop, such as the begonias for the light table. What will actually appear in print will depend upon you; on the work of various authors, researchers, artists, and photographers; and upon the funds available.

Deadlines

The deadlines for future issues starting with March are January 7, March 4, May 6, July 2, and September 1. The result should be copies at the post office at the first of the month listed on the cover.

A check of the dates of mailing for the past year revealed that the numbers went to the post office at about eight week intervals with one issue being mailed six weeks after the previous one.

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P.O. Box 485, Berkeley, CA 94707

IN MEMORIAM

Annetta Lorenz was the oldest charter member of the Glendale Branch. She would have been 94 years old next March. Although she would not hold an office, she enrolled many new members and served the branch in many ways. At one time Glendale was the largest branch having 125 to 130 regularly attending their meetings. Annetta grew epiphyllums and had a large group of rhizomatous begonias which she valued for their bloom during the winter season. She never missed a national convention in California. Her son Elmer, is also a charter member of the Glendale branch.

The Sacramento branch announced the loss of three of their members recently.

Lou Thompson joined the society in 1969. He was active in the branch and served often on the board of the branch. He was a good grower who gave unselfishly of his ferns, staghorn pups, and camellia grafts as well as begonias. He served as 1978 Plant table procurement chairman for the ABS Convention and attended numerous ABS conventions. Mr. Thompson died of cancer in late November.

Mary Ann Flunker was an excellent treasurer for the Sacramento Branch and she served in that capacity for numerous terms. She was well known for the healthy plants she grew in her nursery. Mary Ann was instrumental in forming the Fern Forum in the area. She died on Thanksgiving after a long bout with cancer.

John Moniz joined the Sacramento Branch about two years ago because his wife loved begonias. They attended faithfully although they drove over seventy miles to the meetings. Although not an officer, he was a helpful member of the branch.

The membership secretary was notified of the death of Eric Smith of Springfield, Oregon. He was a member-at-large and participated in the robins.

Note: Only notices sent by the family or a branch officer are obliged.

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

ABS AIMS AND PURPOSES

TO stimulate and promote interest in begonias and other shade-loving plants.

TO encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants.

TO standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

TO gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation and culture of begonias and companion plants.

TO issue a bulletin which will be mailed to all members of the society.

TO bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

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.

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.

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