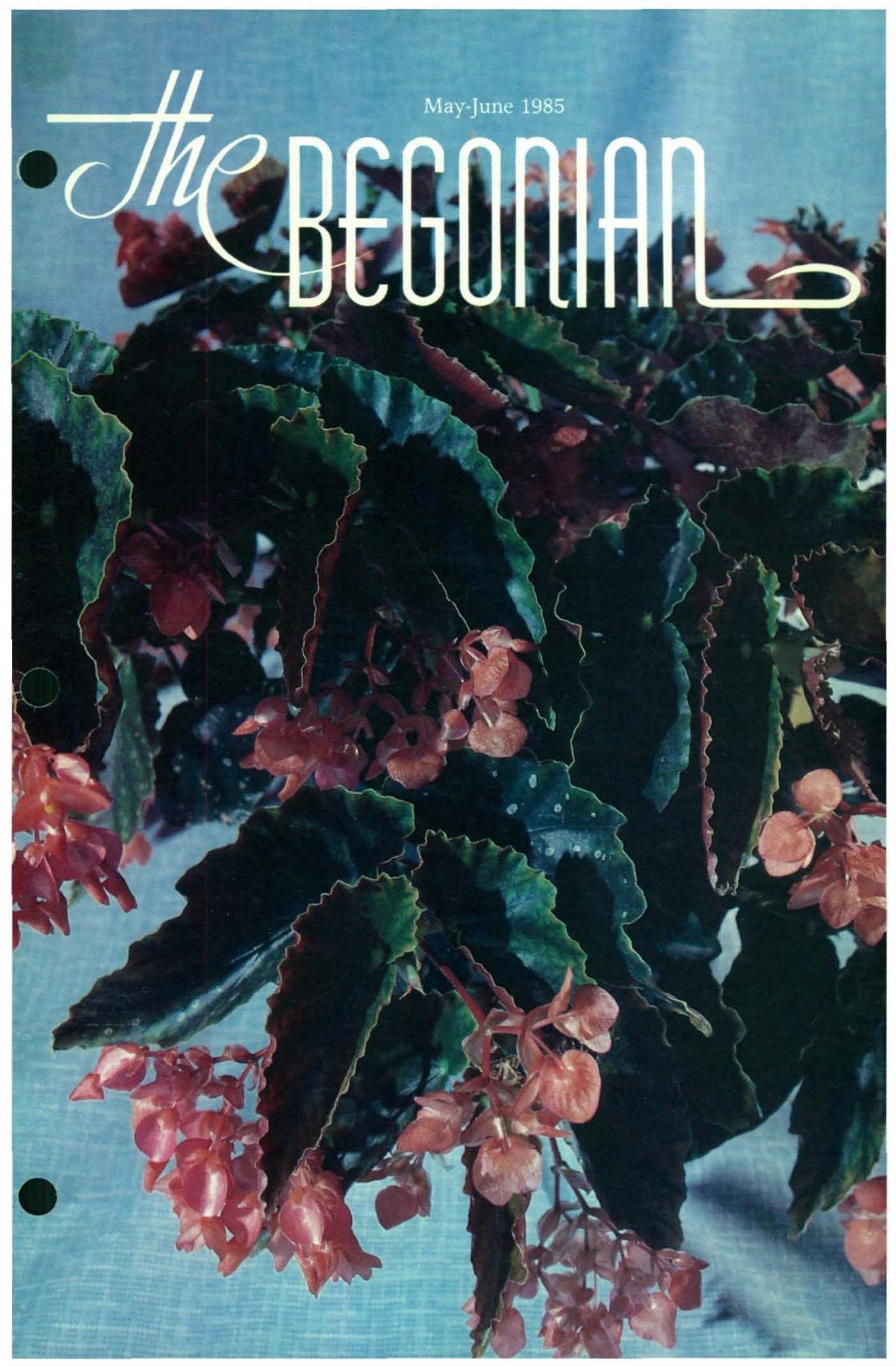


May-June 1985

# *The* BEGONIAN



# The BEGONIAN

Publication of the American Begonia Society

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**AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY** — P.O. Box 1129, Encinitas, CA 92024-0990

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY** — Subscription, dues, circulation inquiries and address changes: Pearl Benell, 10331 S. Colima Rd., Whittier, CA 90604 (213) 944-5641

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**EDITOR** — Phyllis Bates — P.O. Box 502, Encinitas, CA 92024 (619) 436-1419

**ADVERTISING MANAGER** — Arlene Davis — 923 E. Francis St., Corona, CA 91719 (714) 371-8042

Consulting Begonians Dir ..... Charles Jaros  
2621 NW 23rd Court, Miami, FL 33142

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**The Cover:** The vibrant blossoms of *Begonia* 'West Newton' are the summertime reward for the conscientious grower. Pat Maley talks about cultivation of the canelike *Begonia* starting on page 60.

*Begonia* 'West Newton' is a hybrid developed by Michael Kartuz in 1970. The parent plants are *B.* 'Lenore Olivier' and *B.* 'Orange Rubra'. It is a low, spreading, floriferous canelike type. Its name was formerly *Begonia* 'Wayne Newton', but it has been renamed in honor of a town near the site of the original Kartuz Greenhouses.

The plant on the cover was photographed by Ed Bates the ABS Convention in Long Beach. It was grown by Mabel Corwin.

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**QUESTION BOX/** Mail-ordered plants will thrive after pampering.

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*Mabel Corwin*

**QUESTION:** I can't seem to grow *B. masoniana*. I have my third plant and it is not doing very well. Can you give me some suggestions for growing this plant?

**ANSWER:** *B. masoniana* likes high humidity, but doesn't like its roots to be kept too wet. It should have very good drainage. It is a good idea to add extra bark or some other coarse material to the potting mix for this plant.

If the air is too dry the leaves will brown around the edges and curl under. The light should not be too strong.

Some growers have been successful with *masoniana* in a fish tank. They place a layer of damp sphagnum moss on the bottom and set the plant on top of this. The moss provides humidity. They recommend keeping the roots a little on the dry side.

Send questions about begonia growing to Mabel Corwin, 1119 Loma Vista Way, Vista, CA 92083. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope; you'll get a prompt reply.

**QUESTION:** I have trouble with plants that I receive in the mail. Often I lose the plants before they have a chance to become established. Can you give me any suggestions for keeping them alive?  
NEW YORK

**ANSWER:** I have been ordering plants for many years and very seldom lose a plant. First, unpack the plants very carefully. Remove any wrapping from around the plant, and if sphagnum moss or plastic was placed on top of the mix remove that, also. Then give each plant a drink of water and remove any leaves that were damaged in packing. I then place my plants in a plastic sweater box or terrarium with the lid on for a few days. I place them in rather low light until they perk up. After a few days I gradually open the container and move them to the area where they are to grow.

**QUESTION:** I received a nice plant of *B.* 'Christmas Candy' as a gift. I was told it will not grow from cuttings. Why?  
CALIFORNIA

Continued on page 70

## BEGONIAS ADD COLOR TO NOVEL U.S. BOTANIC GARDEN DISPLAYS

by Carrie Karegeannes

In Washington, D.C., summers, the U.S. Botanic Garden spills over onto its outdoor terrace in a lavish display of hundreds of containers of foliage and blooming plants. Luxuriant clusters of begonias are included in the many imaginative arrangements—gathered into “trees,” hanging in baskets, and mounded as parts of many-hued pyramids or at the base of trellis or window.

Each year the plants and arrangements change, but over seven years, at least, begonias have taken part. I especially remember their abundance a few years ago, not so much in number of varieties as in masses of brilliant display. Approaching the Botanic Garden, I first walked by the little park across the street, beside the Raeburn Office Building. The park's beds always overflow with many varied flowers, but I was particularly delighted that day with butterflies embroidered in flowers on the lawn. The larger butterfly grouped pink and white bedding “semps” (*Semperflorens Cultorum* group) to form patterns on wings defined by two or three varieties of ‘Joseph’s Coat’ (*Pseuderanthemum*). Chartreuse coleus marked the tip of each antenna. A smaller butterfly was composed mostly of green- and maroon-leaved ‘Joseph’s Coat.’ (Alas, my exposure setting was wrong and the photos lost.)

Crossing the street to the Botanic Garden, I came to a tall pole hung with *Begonia* ‘Pink Charm’ among great baskets of foliage plants. The cheery pink flowers and creamy-yellow-variegated to pink-tinged leaves of ‘Pink Charm’ were set off by yellow-and-green-leaved ‘Weeping



White-flowered cane begonia with ivy basket and coleus at window niche. Photo by C Karegeannes.

Lantern’ (*Abutilon megapotamicum variegatum*), silvery ivy *Hedera helix* ‘Le Silver’, and Swedish ivy (*Plectranthus australis*). On the other side of the pole hung a large unlabeled “angel wing” (cane stemmed) begonia, laden with red flowers. Several varieties of coleus rose in tiers at the base of the pole.

Tubs of a white-flowered cane-stemmed begonia stood outside a tall window, next to unusual coleus varieties and lantana and beneath baskets of ivy and other vines. The next window bay was banked with

Carrie Karegeannes, ABS nomenclature director, is a member of the Potomac Branch. Her address is 3916 Lake Blvd., Annandale, VA 22302.



*Pink-flowered cane-stems and double pink semps are mounded under the trellis. Slide (and one on next page) courtesy of the U.S. Botanic Garden.*

still more exotically colored and frilled coleus, tall *B. 'Sophie Cecile'* with glossy silver-splashed foliage, and *Kohleria amabilis* in bloom, under baskets of grape ivy, asparagus fern, and fuchsia dripping pink and magenta. A third window bay held more of the white-flowered cane-stemmed begonia (could it be *B. 'White Shasta'*?), full of bloom, banked with *B. 'Richmondensis'* bright with its two-toned pink-red flowers.

Plants of a pink-flowered "angel wing" were clustered in a container atop a pole to make a tree with a four-and-a-half-foot spread, above 'Bird of Paradise' (*Strelitzia reginae*). Orange butterflies fluttered and lit here and there on huge baskets of trailing lavender *Lantana montevidensis*. Another tree of massed 'Richmondensis' atop a pole spread five feet wide, full of its bright stars against the shiny, crinkly foliage.

Still another window was fronted by two large baskets of the lovely white "angel wing" and one of yellow verbena, flanked by Swedish ivy, with *B. 'Richmondensis'*

and more verbena—yellow and orange—on the terrace below.

Last year's terrace display did not use as many begonias, but they made striking splashes. Large moss-lined containers of brilliant *B. 'Orange Rubra'* and another, unlabeled, scarlet-flowered cane-stemmed begonia (*B. 'Di-Erna'* perhaps?) framed window bays. White-variegated ivy cascaded from the container edges in a frosty mat beneath the orange and scarlet. Other baskets of the same begonias hung from the lath trellis in front of the building, the baskets here trailing long streamers of green ivy. One window bay again held huge containers of the white cane-stemmed begonia.

Within the conservatory, facing a waterfall planting of orchids, the many-patterned metallic colors of *Begonia rex* cultivars in a rocky floor planting were interspersed among blue-flowered streptocarpus and a mahogany-leaved episcia that climbed over the rocks. *B. glabra* spread



*Red-flowered cane-stemmed begonias fill a window bay.*

over the ground in a fresh green mat between these plants in a way I had not seen it grown before. Inside greenhouses, more *B. rex* cultivars were tucked here and there in rocky corners or edges as companions to other plants.

In a sunny court, more scarlet cane-stemmed begonias surrounded a wooden summer house, the scarlet set off by banks of white caladiums. Other begonias, including a tall plant that looked like *B. 'Pink Shasta'*, filled a corner of the court, along with lantana and other flowering plants in tubs.

Jim Luby of the U.S. Botanic Garden, who grows these magnificent begonias, has been expanding the garden's interest in the genus. He also lends handsome displays to decorate our ABS Potomac Branch annual shows—and has been taking cuttings from entries after the shows. I wonder what out-sized plants will show up in next summer's display!

#### HELPFUL HINTS FOR HARASSED HORTICULTURISTS

Depending on your location, the rhizomatous begonias should be blooming or past their peak of bloom. Keep all the old blossoms and damaged leaves cleaned away. Don't let them drop on everything and rot, and thus pass disease along to the rest of your plants. When they are through blooming start heavy trimming and repotting.

Trim shrubby types. Grooming now will produce better blooms this summer. Don't throw away any of the cuttings when you groom. Propagate them or give them to other people to start for shows, branch sales, etc.

Keep your tools sterilized when grooming. Scrub them with a brush and let them soak for a few minutes in a solution of one part bleach to nine parts water.

From the *San Miguel Beaco*  
Jess Martinez, edit

## A SPECIAL YEAR FOR MICHAEL KARTUZ

Kartuz Greenhouses celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. From a very small beginning in 1960 in Wilmington, Mass., a town just north of Boston, Kartuz Greenhouses began offering begonias, gesneriads, and other interesting indoor plants through the mail. The first catalog was a mimeographed pamphlet on colored paper with a few illustrations by Michael J. Kartuz.

The late Bernice Brilmayer first introduced Michael to the great variety and beauty of begonias and encouraged him to start his mail-order plant business. The opportunity to do so presented itself in 1959-60. It entailed moving from a New York City suburb to eastern Massachusetts and building a greenhouse. The early years were a learning experience, both growing plants and managerially, a process that still continues.

The New England location, nestled between a forest of tall oak and pine trees, was beautiful. The outside gardens were a delight during the short growing season. The summers were humid and the winters often harsh and unpredictable.

The fuel crisis in the late '70s and rising heating costs brought the realization that Kartuz Greenhouses could not continue to exist in New England. A search was begun for a new site in a milder climate.

Michael attended the ABS Convention in San Diego in 1976 and began giving serious consideration to relocating in southern California after that visit. The convention gave Michael the opportunity to visit the beautiful garden and shade house of Ralph and Mabel Corwin, and that convinced him more than anything that Vista is the place to be.

A small ad in the *Florists' Review* described an interesting piece of property in Vista. The Corwins investigated it and enthusiastically advised it would be worth pursuing. Michael, along with Patrick Worley, flew to the area and decided that this would be the new location of Kartuz



*Michael Kartuz*

Greenhouses. Through a fortunate set of circumstances, the move was begun. The contents of several fair-sized greenhouses were moved coast to coast by air. It was horrendous, but well worth the effort. Michael says he has not regretted the move for a moment.

During the past two years, Kartuz Greenhouses has considerably increased the types and varieties of plants offered, from abutilons to thunbergias, including a selection of flowering vines. Many of the plants offered in the Kartuz Greenhouses are suitable for growing out-of-doors in southern California and other semi-tropical areas.

In the beginning, Kartuz Greenhouses was a one-man operation, run by Michael Kartuz. His mother, Mathild, helped during those early years, packing and processing orders. Later, John Crane and others helped Kartuz Greenhouses grow. Michael's sister, Sonja Cuneo, helped organize the bookkeeping system which they continue to use today. Patrick Worley joined the staff in September 1977 and was instrumental in making the move to



*The greenhouse bench at Vista in March. Photos by P. Bates.*

California possible. His knowledge of begonias, gesneriads, and other plants and his hybridizing expertise have been invaluable. During the past two years Steven Brigham contributed his knowledge and propagating skill with flowering subtropicals. Jeanette Gilbertson makes it possible to run the office efficiently and keep the catalog customers happy.

Michael Kartuz has been a member of the American Begonia Society since the early 1950s. He has served as a vice president and is currently research director. He has a great interest in classical music; his greenhouse resounds with the harmonies of symphonies and concerti from the stereo.

Through the years, Michael has introduced many *Begonia* species through his catalog, such as *B. prismatocarpa*, *B. listada*, *B. sementacea*, *B. bogneri*, the *Symbegonia* species, and others.

*Begonia* hybrids created and introduced by Michael include *B. 'Buttercup'*, an Alfred D. Robinson Medal winner; *B. 'Fireworks'*, a rex x *B. cathayana* hybrid; *B. 'Tonic'*, *B. 'Star Frost'*, *B. 'Caravan'*.

Other Kartuz Greenhouse introductions, hybridized by Patrick Worley, include

miniature rex begonias *B. 'Dido'* and *B. 'Firedance'*; miniature canelike begonias *B. 'Lois Burks'* and *B. 'Guy Savard'*; and many outstanding hybrids like *B. 'Looking Glass'*, *B. 'Firebird'*, *B. 'Maid Marion'*, *B. 'Moon Maid'*, and *B. 'Creme Mint'*.

The new catalog is now off the press and sports a handsome silver cover in honor of the Silver Anniversary, and *Begonia* hobbyists can look forward to another season of good plants from Kartuz Greenhouses.

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**LAST CALL FOR TOUR**

Don't dally if you are interested in the People to People horticultural tour to Ireland, England, and Belgium. The tour will depart from New York on August 11 and return to New York on August 26, 1985. The all-inclusive cost is \$3197 per person. Contact Gilbert Estrada, 7914 Springer Street, Downey, CA 90242 for information and registration forms.

## CONSERVATION COMMENTS

### How Can We Preserve Begonia Species That Don't Germinate Under Cultivation?

By Scott Hoover

Recently I received a letter from George Fix of Dallas, Texas, confirmed by the editor, expressing desire to have a regular conservation column in the *Begonian*. I thought this over and have agreed to write short articles pertaining to some aspect of the conservation and preservation of *Begonia* or tropical growth in general. Your ideas and comments about the ideas presented would be welcome.

An important contribution to the conservation of *Begonia*, and tropical plants in general, concerns the importation of germ plasm and the successful cultivation of that material. Germ plasm is the part of plant cells that controls heredity and reproduction, and it exists in seeds, tubers, rhizomes, etc. The growing and horticultural showing of *Begonia* are perhaps the most important purposes of the American *Begonia* Society. The Society can take any of several directions regarding species from the wild that prove excessively difficult to cultivate, particularly the horned fruit species in the section *Casparya*.

My special interest for a first article was to get a germination report from people who had received seed from my 1984 South American trip; I proceeded to send a letter of inquiry to those I knew had supported the trip and thus had received seed. So far I have had about 35% response, and this gives me some idea of what the status is of raising these plants in cultivation.

The initial germination reports on *Casparya* once again seem to be very discouraging. This 1984 trip to Colombia and Ecuador was the second time a major effort was placed on obtaining seed from the beautiful horned fruit species. I collected seeds from about 20 species, representing 30 populations, at a considerable effort, when one accounts for taking herbarium specimens, photographs, collecting and processing seed. Also, the work of Joy Porter, who apportioned the

seeds was very time-consuming. I helped her for an evening for six hours, and then had to leave. The reports indicate that species in *Casparya* as well as many species from New Guinea and possibly elsewhere, cannot seem to be cultivated by seed.

What should we do in instances where seed does not germinate to ever produce a mature plant? I offer several suggestions:

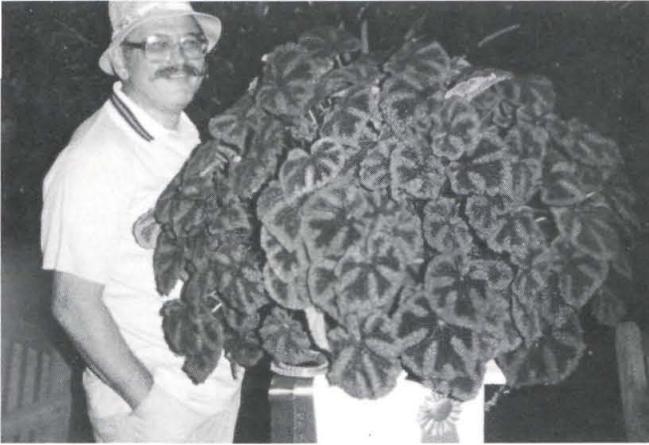
Though collecting whole plants is not an accepted conservation practice, this might be one resort. The practice is limited mostly to cactus, succulents, orchids, bromeliads, and not *Begonia*. One suggestion is to collect several whole plants from a large population (which will not interfere with the reproductive strategy of the species), wash the roots, pack the plant in damp newspaper and bring it back on the plane. In a one week period in Ecuador, many species could easily be collected and brought back to the United States. It is worth the effort.

There is also the possibility of investigating the original habitat very closely to discover ways of altering horticultural practices. It may be that a period of rest for the seed is needed before they will germinate, or perhaps the temperature at which they germinate is different from that usually employed. There are many factors that can be investigated.

If collecting the whole plant also fails, then perhaps we shall have to resign ourselves to more extensively distributed photographs, or even pressed specimens. This, of course, is not what members want, but it contributes to the conservation effort and still allows people to participate on some level.

*Scott Hoover is co-chairman of the ABS Conservation Committee. His address is 718 Henderson Rd., Williamstown, MA 02167.*

## IRON CROSS BEGONIA A BIG WINNER FOR THE WITEKS



Walter Witek with his prize-winning *B. masoniana*, and the miniature carved by Dorothy (below).

Walter Witek of the Greater Chicago Branch won Best of Show over 248 other entries in the fifth annual begonia show sponsored by his branch at the Chicago Botanic Gardens. The grand prize winner was an eight-year-old *Begonia masoniana*. Sometimes called the "Iron Cross Begonia" the specimen is generally grown for its apple green leaves with dark chocolate brown iron cross patterns. This great specimen measured three feet in diameter.

This same plant won Best of Show in the 1978 Lake County Fair and the Witeks wrote to share their pleasure with fellow ABS members. A report and photograph of the plant appeared in the *Begonian* in February 1979, and you may find it interesting to compare the two photographs. Witek said he thought the plant had reached a peak last fall, but that remains to be seen. Witek grew it from a leaf given to him by a neighbor.

The plant, now eight years old, is not growing in a greenhouse! Walter Witek grows his begonias in his butcher shop in Chicago. With high ceilings and large windows, the shop provides the right environment for his collection. The most important reason for keeping the begonias at the shop is Walter's eighty-hour work week. In between customers, he can keep an eye on the begonias. Over the years, he



has learned to read the signs that they need attention. He joked that he goes from "bolognas to begonias." And this constant supervision pays off.

Growing begonias is a hobby the Witeks share. Dorothy Witek also cares for begonias in their home, and she prefers miniature and terrarium types such as *Begonia* 'Buttercup' grown in a glass bubble. She is fascinated by miniature objects as well and combined two of her skills when she sculpted a miniature Iron Cross Begonia done on a scale of one inch to one foot for a doll house. It was complete with pot and terrarium. She won the crafts division trophy in the same show where her husband was awarded Best of Show for this tiny lifelike representation. Mrs. Witek works as an Avon Lady and sells Begonia Pink lipstick.

**ROBERT H. TERRELL**  
ABS Board Member Since 1951

Robert Terrell has been attending National Board of Directors' meetings since 1951 — and perhaps before that. Since the early branch directory lists include the name of the secretary rather than the director of the branches, it is also impossible to state exactly how long he has served as a national representative, but he has been attending board meetings for at least 33 years!

The membership records do not include the length of membership, so there is no date to show when he first joined ABS. *The Begonian* shows that he served as Vice President for three years, 1951-1954. One summer he visited 25 branches as part of his official duties. He was also slide librarian for a couple of years.

During the 1950s he contributed several articles to the *Begonian* one of which was a detailed report of a meeting at which Rudolf Ziesenhenné spoke. Others dealt with growing begonias in the low humidity conditions of the Riverside area.

Born in Indiana in 1890, he got his first job at the age of 14 in Tennessee setting type for a weekly newspaper. Two years later his family went to Texas where he learned Spanish as he worked for another weekly.

After a variety of jobs chiefly in the printing business, his life took a new direction as he enrolled in a three-year course for medical missionaries who planned to work in countries that lacked adequate medical care. At the completion of the program, he worked as a lab technician at what was then San Bernardino's county hospital.

He went to Cuba twice, the second time baby's poor health brought them back to California where he then worked as a technical assistant and anatomy instructor for the Loma Linda University. Lack of a medical degree finally cost him this position.

During the Depression he did gardening jobs including pruning, tree surgery, and



*Robert H. Terrell*

pest control. He wrote gardening articles for the *Riverside Press*, became garden editor in 1945, and inevitably became involved with the Riverside Community Flower Show. In 1952 he began a series of trips to Mexico where he set up missionary schools.

Having outlived most of his immediate family, he moved to the Jarupa Cultural Center near Riverside in 1974. There he does odd jobs, has grown plants, at times written about gardening, and continued to attend meetings and participate in the ABS as part of the Rubidoux Branch. He took the bus to attend the board meetings for quite a while and now rides with others in the branch carpool. He just might hold the record for the longest service as a national representative.

This spring Robert Terrell will be 95 years old. May he always have his flower in his lapel.

*Bobbie West and John Ingles of the Rubidoux Branch supplied information for this article.*

## THE YEAR OF THE CANE/The Growing Season

*By Pat Maley*

Early summer is here, and the cane begonias are in the midst of their most rapid growth, putting out new shoots in the blink of an eye, suddenly shooting up by what seems inches a day. New leaves, so carefully pleated and rolled by mother nature, spread open to catch the light. Those canes that are nearly everblooming or have a long bloom period are already lighting up the greens with brilliant blooms.

A well grown cane, properly pruned in early spring, must still receive plenty of attention and care if it is to develop into a good specimen. From early pruning time on, careful pinching is necessary to control shape and size and to encourage branching to form a well filled out plant.

A lot depends upon the particular type of cane, and just what sort of shape you are aiming for. The lower growing varieties respond especially well to pinching out the growing tip whenever a particular branch has put out about three new leaves. If you are aiming for a show plant for August or September shows, be sure to stop pinching by mid-July at the latest, so that the plant can get on to blooming.

What sort of containers do you grow your canes in? Each grower has his or her own preference, depending upon location, soil mix, watering habits, and aesthetic qualities. My own preference is for redwood tubs; to me there is a naturalness about redwood that complements begonias. They do have disadvantages, the primary one being that eventually they rot.

I grow a lot of my canes, especially the spreading, low-growing basket types, in redwood wall pockets. These allow for good space usage in small growing areas. They can be hung at various heights along posts or on patio walls. This of course eliminates the need to worry about forming a perfectly well rounded plant as a hanging basket would require. No turning needed! Pruning and pinching is essential

to form a well shaped wall-pocket plant, however. They should be cut quite low at first, to encourage a lot of horizontal branching.

My next choice for containers is plastic; not the cheap, thin pots that quickly crack and break, but good quality heavy duty pots in shades of rust, brown, dark green, or even black. The container should be of the proper size for the plant and be proportioned to the height and shape of the plant. A tall cane in a low squatty pot is as completely out of proportion as a low-growing rhizomatous in a tall tub.

Soil mix is an interesting topic, and one that is very personal to each grower. Some people grow everything in a light, soilless mix. Others have one mix for rhizomatous, another slightly heavier for canes, etc. I grow all of my begonias, and most other plants, in the same mix.

It is essential that a mix for begonias be loose, not a solid mass that roots have to fight their way through. If a plant has to put all of its energy into forcing the roots through the mix, it has little left for lush top growth or bloom. Roots need water, but they also need air. If you suffocate them in a heavy mix, they will rot.

My own mix consists of equal parts of fine bark, small to medium bark, leaf mold, redwood compost, and large perlite. In spite of how this might sound, the mixture holds plenty of moisture and also permits air to reach the roots. The roots spread quickly and easily through it. If you haven't settled on a mix that is best suited to your growing, experiment a bit, but only on a few plants at a time.

Most canes bloom prolifically a good portion of the summer and fall. To do this requires a lot of the plants' energy. Adequate feeding is required to insure lush, healthy growth and plenty of bloom. I like to use a timed-release fertilizer such as Osmocote (14-14-14) year round, and supplement with additional feedings by syphon during spring, summer, and fall. I



*Begonia* 'Lois Burks' (left) and *Begonia* 'Pinafore' are both cane-stemmed cultivars of short stature. Plants grown by Joan Coulat of Sacramento, photos by Pat Maley.

use a variety of brands, whatever is a good buy.

This is the peak period for turning a good plant into a prime specimen show plant for later summer shows. That means continual grooming, turning, feeding, and any necessary spraying. You cannot let a plant sit in one spot, never turned or groomed, and expect to pick it up at the last minute and suddenly turn it into a show quality plant. Constant grooming and care is the only "magic" that our best growers know. A young plant in rapid growth may need to be moved up to another pot size during the early summer months. Take a good look at the canes with the most potential for show plants and give them a little extra care.

Properly cared for, cane begonias can be a source of almost unending beauty, with lush foliage and clusters of colorful, often fragrant blossoms most of the year.

*Pat Maley, 7384 White Oak Drive, Placerville, CA 95667 began this series in the previous issue.*

#### HATS OFF TO BEGONIAS!

Howdy fellow Begoniacs! The Southwest Region will hold its annual Get-Together at the Chariot Inn, 7300 North Interregional Highway in Austin, the capital of Texas, on Saturday and Sunday, May 25 and 26. We'll have a dandy show, a whopper of a sale, plus seminars by such learned folks as Joe Patrick, a tour of Lady Bird Johnson's Wild Flower Center, and lots of fellowship and fun. So whether your hat's a genuine Stetson or one of those English silks, come on down and tip it to our very favorite plant: the magnificent *Begonia*.

If you just can't get away from the ranch, send us pictures of all your pretty babies — or needlework, crafts, or what-have-you and we'll get it back to you after the show. Mail to Tamsin Boardman, Box 249, Roanoke, TX 76262.

## CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

Joy Porter, director

Since July and August are a bit warm for successful seed handling, shipping and sowing, there will not be a listing in that issue, but look forward to a good listing in September-October issue, and with your order please include reports of success or failure on this season's seedlings. Your reports influence future offerings, and my reward is your success — so I want to know about it. A lovely quote from a friend in Japan "I am looking forward to meeting the new faces of Begonias you will send me."

- M-J 1—*B. parilis*: Thick-stemmed species from Brazil. Bushy with arching branches, thick with long dark green leaves and in fall and winter tight clusters of white flowers on short peduncles. Can become a large, eye-catching specimen in a short time. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 2—*B. convolvulacea*: A large trailing-scandent Brazilian species with broad glossy green leaves and huge airy globes of small white flowers in late winter. The 4-tepaled male flowers have opened and fallen when the 5-tepaled females with green ovaries appear. Since it roots at the nodes, grow on a totem pole in a cool spot. Please order while fresh as it belongs to the group with long, thin seeds with short viability. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 3—*B. robusta* (Blume): Species from Java, rhizome jointed at or below the soil; large hairy, wavy leaves on long petioles. Blooming in late summer and fall, the creamy-pink flowers are red haired on tepal-reverse. Called *B. splendida* in the 1800s, it figured in the creation of the first *B. rex* hybrids. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 4—*Begonia* species imported from Philippine Islands by Martin Johnson. More information will follow when available. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 5—*B. acaulis* is a small tuberous species from New Guinea with heart-shaped leaves and pink flowers. Terrarium subject. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 6—*B. philodendroides* Ziesenhenné: Mexican species with tuberlike rhizome below the soil with the dark green, lobed leaves and peduncles with 3-4 white flowers arising separately from the soil in late summer and fall. Goes dormant in winter. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 7—*B. U154*: Rhizomatous species collected by Roberto Brin at the first cascada (waterfall) in the Forestal Reserve, Panama. This plant was blooming without leaves at the end of the dry season. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 8—*B. U157*: Rhizomatous species collected by Robert Brin between Summit Gardens and Madden Dam, Panama. Broad green leaf delicately lobed and dentate. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 9—*B. U162*: Collected by Lynda Goldsmith at Mitisus, Merida, Venezuela. Tall, woody shrub (to 6 feet) with small (2½ inch) dark green and leathery ovate leaves with serrulate margins. Flowers are small pinkish-white contrasting vividly with the dark pink ovaries in a large drooping many-flowered inflorescence. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 10—*B. U163*: Collected by Lynda Goldsmith in Merida, Trujillo, Venezuela. Round-ovate, 6" × 9" glossy leaf with delicately dentate and denticulate margin and conspicuous veining. Airy, open dichotomous inflorescence of tiny white flowers. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 11—*B. thelmae*: Tiny creeping trailing-scandent species from Brazil with oval brown-green velvet leaves and small white flowers emerging from leaf axils. Low light and high humidity essential. Renew annually. . . . . per pkt 1.00



Photo taken by Ian Robertson, who lives near Perth, Australia. White labels are all *Begonia* seed from the Seed Fund.

- M-J 12—*B. brooksii* hort. (unpublished species): Collected by Bill Brooks in Mexico, this medium-leaved rhizomatous has entire/subentire brown-green leaves with light green sinus and veins: reddish below. White flowers in late winter. Small amount. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 13—*B. mollicaulis*: This 2-foot shrublike species with wide soft-hairy leaves from tropical Africa blooms profusely in summer and fall with pearly white flowers. Good for beginners and bedding out. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 14—*B. alnifolia*: Collected by Lynda Goldsmith on road to Jaji, Menda, Venezuela, this shrub-like species has medium long-ovate leaves and white flowers. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- M-J 15—*B. "Love Me"*: Delightful little winter-flowering begonia with lovely single pink flowers. Sown now, it should be in full bloom next February for the perfect "I love you" gift. This seed was purchased with a gift from the Edna Stewart Pittsburgh Branch, ABS in memory of member, Pauline Magill who passed away last fall. . . . . per pkt 1.00
- 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.

**NEW SLIDE PROGRAM ON THOMPSON MUSEUM**

The newest addition to the slide library is a set of 173 slides taken at the Living Museum of Begonias owned and operated by Ed and Millie Thompson. There are information sheets for viewers and a 50 minute tape by Millie Thompson. See the inside back cover.

## NEW CULTIVARS

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* 'Saanred'

### ***Begonia* 'Saanred'**

No. 880—*Begonia* 'Renaissance' mutation 'Saanred'

Heimalis group (Rieger Elatior), with erect, 16"-tall stem. An x-ray-induced sport of the scarlet, single-flowered *B.* 'Renaissance', *B.* 'Saanred' has heavily double, bright red flowers (44A on the Royal Horticultural Society color chart), up to 2½" in diameter, averaging 56 tepals in the males, and borne in clusters of 3 to 7. Peduncles, 2½" long, are erect at first but later droop slightly. With management of the length of daylight, the cultivar will flower the year around. Shiny green (RHS 137A), 6" × 5" leaf blades are palmately lobed with finely serrate margins, smooth surface, and 4 to 6 main veins. Petioles are

round and 3" long; stipules are ¾" to 1". Originated in 1975 by W. C. Lin and J. M. Molnar, Saanichton Research and Plant Quarantine Station, Agriculture Canada, Sidney, British Columbia, Canada V8L 1H3; first bloomed in 1975; first distributed in 1983; first published in the *Canadian Journal of Plant Science* 63: 563-64 (April 1983). Plants available from the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation, P.O. Box 725, Durham, Ontario, Canada N0K 1R0. Registered Dec. 12, 1984.

### ***Begonia* 'Connee Boswell'**

No. 881—*Begonia palmata* var *x palmata* × *diadema* 'Connee Boswell'

Rhizomatous cultivar with rhizome jointed at or below the soil and distinctive, doubly and sharply cut lavender-and-silver leaves. Measuring 8-10" × 7-8", the leaf blades are patterned silver-green with lavender center, purple flush along dark-green veins, and outer zones of deep lavender. Thin, fragile, velvety blades are edged by serrate margins and crossed by 7 main veins. Petioles are 3-4" long, clear green with short fuzzy hairs. Stipules are 1" long, tannish green, scarious (dried and papery), acuminate. Long-lasting, loose, pendant flower clusters on 3½" to 5" stalks (peduncles) in the fall and winter bear deep rose-pink buds opening to 1¼"-diameter flesh-pink flowers with the largest wing on the ovaries a dark rose-red. Male flowers are 4-tepaled, females 5. Originated in 1978 by Martin Johnson, 959 Glennan Drive, Redwood City, CA 94061; first bloomed in 1980; first distributed (for testing) in 1981; tested by Thelma O'Reilly, La Mesa, CA. First described and pictured, *Begonian* "49" [48]: 212, 214, October 1981, as trophy winner of Best New Introductions by Hobby Grower Division, also Award of Distinction, ABS National Show. Registered March 2, 1985.

### ***Begonia* 'Jelly Roll Morton'**

No. 882—*Begonia* 'Erythrophylla Helix' × *wollnyi* 'Jelly Roll Morton'

Rhizomatous with usually erect rhizome. Crisp, doubly spiraled, slightly rippled leaf blades are broadly ovate, 5½" × 6½" to 7½" × 8½", hunter green with depressed

silver flecks above and red underneath. Margins are dentate and ciliate, the surface almost glabrous with occasionally 3-5 hairs on first few inches of main veins, the under-surface sparsely short-woolly-hairy. Loose panicles of pink flowers, the females with pale-green ovaries, are carried on 10"-14" stalks in the spring. Male flowers have 2 tepals and usually drop before opening; females are variably 2- or 3-tepaled. Originated in 1979 by Martin Johnson (address above); first bloomed in 1981; first distributed in 1982; tested by Thelma O'Reilly, La Mesa, CA. Begonia Hybrid of Distinction and Best New Introduction, Hobby Grower, ABS National Show, *Begonian* 49: 102-103, Sept.-Oct. 1982 (no description). Photo, brief description, Mildred L. Thompson, *Begonias: 1984 Update*, pp. 18-19, 1984. Color photo, Logee's Greenhouses 1984-86 catalog, p. 32. Registered March 2, 1985.

#### **Begonia 'Debbie'**

No. 883—*Begonia conchifolia* x *kellermanii* 'Debbie'

Rhizomatous with rhizome-like stem erect at first, later sagging, about 1/2" thick with long internodes, felted with whitish hairs when young. Felted but glossy, ovate, peltate and cupped, 6 1/4" x 5" leaf blades are green with a red spot at the petiole junction. They are leathery with entire margins and 8 main veins. Petioles are almost 8" long; stipules are deciduous. Adventitious leaves in the axils cover spreading petioles

of the primary leaves, and small secondary flower spikes arise from the adventitious axils. Pale pink, 1" x 3/4" flowers, branching in pairs, are 2-tepaled (both male and female) with tepal margins recurved. Flowers are borne in the spring on 11 1/2" primary flower stalks, with secondary stalks 3 1/2". Originated in 1972 by M. C. R. Sharrad, 11 Lumsden Avenue, Ridgehaven, 5097 South Australia; first bloomed in 1973; first distributed in 1973; tested by the Australian Begonia Society; offered for sale by R. Perriam, Semaphore Park, South Australia. Registered March 2, 1985.

#### **Begonia 'Herah'**

No. 884—*Begonia* unnamed seedling x 'Beatrice Haddrell' 'Herah'

Rhizomatous with thin, short, creeping rhizome. Star-shaped, thick, 5 1/2" x 4" leaf blades are black stained reddish brown at the margins, with broad green stripes along the 7 main veins making a splash of green at the center of the leaf. Margins are crenulate. Petioles are almost 8" long; stipules are persistent, green drying brown, 3/8" x 1/4", and keeled. Pink 2-tepaled male and female flowers, 3/8" x 3/8" with 3/4" long green ovaries, are carried in clusters branching to one side on 8 1/4" flower stalks in the spring. Originated in 1973 by M. C. R. Sharrad (address above); first bloomed in 1974; first distributed in 1976; tested by the Australian Begonia Society. Registered March 2, 1985.

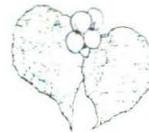
### *Pacific Horticulture*

The color illustrated quarterly  
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P.O. Box 485, Berkeley, CA 94707



Begonia Buttercup

### **KARTUZ GREENHOUSE**

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Open Thurs. thru Sun., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Begonias, gesneriads, flowering tropicals,  
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## ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Joan Campbell, director

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.

Robin members are busy **planting seeds**. Dottie Lillestrand, Minnesota, is going to try one of Thompson and Morgan's sowing methods: take a few tablespoons of perlite and put into a plastic bag, roll it with a rolling pin to make it very fine. Then mix with your begonia seed and sow on the surface of damp, milled sphagnum. You will then be able to see where the seeds are on the surface of the mix. She tried using white sand once, but it was heavier than the seeds and didn't mix well.

Charline Franklin, Texas, pots up begonia seedlings in clumps, rather than trying to separate tiny seedlings. They grow faster for her that way. Elmer Peterson, California, has heard that worm casings mixed with perlite make a good base for sowing cacti seed. A friend tried that and said it worked better than his regular mix, so Elmer wonders how it would work with begonia seeds.

Bob Moore, Florida, comments that there is a "thermometer" at the end of a finger. Stick your finger in the soil and note how cool it feels compared to the air temperature. When advised that plants propagate or seeds germinate at 70-80°, that means **soil temperature**, not air temperature. That is why bottom heat is needed, nature's conditions must be duplicated to produce the same results.

When setting your own seed Mae Blanton, Texas, says you can see if it has "taken" even before the petals fall from the way the blossom repositions the ovary. The flower will turn until the seedpod parallels the stem.

Joan Hill, England, agrees with the idea that re-potting seedlings which seem to "stand still" after germinating often starts

them growing again.

Although begonia seeds supposedly need light to germinate, members report germinating begonia seeds in darkness using a method suggested by Antonelli Brothers in their catalog. Germinating with reduced light saves growing space as the plant lights are not tied up with seed pans. The soil temperature, however, should be kept warm until germination.

Have you ever wondered if your species begonia is truly named? Joy Porter, Massachusetts, has asked her fellow members on the **Begonia Identification** flight to measure the flowers of *B. acida*. She had previously set seed on her plant, but this year when she tried she noted the flowers were larger and the females dropped soon after they apparently accepted the pollen. This is often an indication that a plant is a hybrid and not a species.

When the hot weather arrives, members who have been using "bubble wrap" for **greenhouse insulation** may have a shock when they try to remove it. Many members report that the insulation became brittle from use and when pulling it from the windows it disintegrated into thousands of tiny pieces, impossible to clean up. Beryl Orchard, Massachusetts, is one member who had this happen and she has decided to use it as insulation no more than one growing season, then she will replace it with new "bubble wrap."

If your **camera** is sitting in a drawer in your house for more than a few months, you are not really using it, comments Dan Haseltine, Illinois. You must use it to improve. The more you try the better your pictures will be. Dan suggests allotting time each week to *photography; assigning oneself a project to complete by a certain time* may help you use the camera more.

Dael Jones, Texas, uses a simple 35mm Kodak Pony camera which he has had for many years. He prefers the new fast film from Kodak for plant photography, usually ASA 200 or 400. Vickie Johnson, Louisiana,

recommends a macro lens for really good detail and to fill the frame when photographing plants.

Howard Berg, Connecticut, uses a Vivitar slave unit and an inexpensive flash which is triggered when the main flash goes off. No wires are required, it is very mobile. The slave flood held by someone else fills in those usually dark places in back of plants. There are vacancies on this flight, let me know if you are interested.

Bob Hamm, Texas, says the *Calla* type of the **semperflorens cultorum** group are not supposed to take the heat, but do tolerate it under well drained conditions. Too many people mistake temporary fading during the heat of the day as lack of water and drown them. In heat some fading is normal, especially when grown in direct sunlight.

A friend gave Mary Ellen Taback, Virginia, a semp which was supposed to be winter hardy. She put it to the test and left it out all winter and will report her results in the robin, if she has any!

David Atkinson, Arkansas, thinks the semp *B. 'Pink Avalanche'* is an excellent bloomer. It has big single pink blossoms. He says you should not allow it to get pot bound when small, but keep potting it up for the best blooms.

Susan Johnston, Oklahoma, grew *B. fischeri* var. *palustris* from Seed Fund seed and planted them outside as bedding plants as they resemble semps both in appearance and habit. They grew well, to 18" with leaves 5-6" and produced profuse pink blossoms. They did better in her climate than the semps she started from seed and planted outside.

Pauline Chambers, Florida, says the double-flowered semps, as a rule, have smaller root systems than the bedding types and she finds they will produce more basal growth and blooms if grown quite crowded. She says the dark, red-bronze leaves on some semps will turn green if you use a fertilizer with too much nitrogen. She adds bone meal to her potting mix for semps.

Joetta McMickle, Ohio, has read that you should not handle **sphagnum moss** if you

have a blister or a cut on your hands as it can transmit a fungus. Always wash your hands after handling sphagnum moss. Mae Blanton, Texas, likes to grow some of her plants in living sphagnum moss, they seem to thrive on it. Insectivorous plants are supposed to be grown in it, too.

Carl Walker, Jr., North Carolina, quit using **perlite** as he had trouble a few years ago with soil mealy bugs and couldn't tell them from the perlite in the soil. He uses vermiculite instead.

Frances Hurley, Illinois, observes that perlite works its way to the top in potting mixes, but she stirs it back in or covers it with more soil. She thinks begonias seem to need it to grow well. Martin Johnson, California, also agrees that perlite floats, but thinks his problem is caused by the way he waters his plants. If it gets too bad, he adds a top dressing of potting mix with no perlite in it, then it looks better.

The members of the **judging** flight agree that show plants must be well groomed, but the definition of grooming is a good topic for discussion. For example, good grooming is the removal of old, brown stipules on a plant. However, there are some plants on which the stipules are unusual and attractive, staying green a long time and clinging tightly even when brown. Some members feel they are an integral part of the beauty of the plant and should be allowed to remain. Other members feel stipules should always be removed as they are potential hiding places for mealybugs and other pests.

Joyce Smith, Virginia, thinks a plant of *B. 'Essie Hunt'* grown for show which does not show red markings might not be considered up to standard regardless of how well grown it is. Pat Maley, California, comments that such a plant as this would lose foliage points in the judging. Joan Coulat, California, agrees, pointing out that lime fed such a plant will bring out the red markings in the new growth.

I have vacancies on these flights: Photography, Windowsill, Computers, Cacti, Bromeliads, Orchids. Let me know if you want to join.

## ASSOCIATED GROUPS

If this listing is incomplete or inaccurate, notify the ABS Secretary promptly and send a copy of your letter to the editor.

### ARIZONA

#### Desert Begonia Branch

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

### CALIFORNIA

#### Alfred D. Robinson Branch

2nd Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.  
Homes of members  
Juana Curtis, Pres.  
4107 Taos Drive  
San Diego, CA 92117  
Toni Baker, N. Dir.

#### Central San Joaquin Branch

Irene Cabibi, Pres.  
685 W. Morton  
Porterville, CA 93257  
Esther Passet, N. Dir.

#### East Bay Branch

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

#### Garden Grove Branch

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

#### Long Beach Parent Chapter

3rd Saturday, 1:30 p.m.  
Mercury S & L  
4140 Long Beach Bl, L. B.  
Gilbert Estrada, Pres.  
7914 Springer Street  
Downey, CA 90242  
Ruth Hurd, N. Dir.

#### Monterey Bay Area Branch

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
*New Monterey Neighborhood Center,*  
Lighthouse & Dickman Sts. New Monterey  
Raymond Peterson, Pres.  
192 Walker Valley Rd.  
Castroville, CA 95012  
Leslie Hatfield, N. Dir.

#### Orange County Branch

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Fullerton S & L  
2310 E. Lincoln Ave.

Anaheim, Calif.  
Lorra Almstedt, Pres.  
1965 Celeste Lane  
Fullerton, CA 92633  
Ronnie Nevins, N. Dir.

#### Palomar Branch

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

#### Rubidoux Branch

4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
West Riverside Memorial Auditorium  
4393 Riverview Dr.  
Rubidoux  
Norma Pfrunder, Pres.  
3484 Jefferson Street  
Riverside, CA 92504  
R. H. Terrell, N. Dir.

#### Sacramento Branch

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.  
Garden Center  
3330 McKinley Blvd.  
Sacramento, Calif.  
Mary Vipond, Pres.  
1719 Markham Way  
Sacramento, CA 95610  
Betty Tillotson, N. Dir.

#### San Francisco Branch

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

#### San Gabriel Valley Branch

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

#### San Miguel Branch

1st Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Casa del Prado, Rm. 104,  
Balboa Park, San Diego  
Michael Ludwig, Pres.  
644 Torrance St.  
San Diego, CA 92103  
Margaret Lee, N. Dir.

#### Santa Barbara Branch

4th Sunday, 2:30 p.m.  
The Cottage,

Visitors always welcome.

1130 N. Milpas St.  
Dara Emery, Pres.  
517 W. Junipero St., #2  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105  
Kay Willis, N. Dir.

#### Santa Clara Valley Branch

3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.  
Saratoga Library  
13650 Saratoga Ave.  
Saratoga, Calif.  
Elizabeth Sayers, Pres.  
369 Ridge Vista Ave.  
San Jose, CA 95127  
Mary Margaret Rafferty, N. Dir.

#### Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch

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

#### Westchester Branch

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

#### Whittier Branch

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

### CONNECTICUT

#### Connecticut Branch

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

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AREA

#### Potomac Branch

4th Sunday, 2:00 p.m.  
Sherwood Hall Library  
1205 Sherwood Hall Lane  
Alexandria, VA  
Dorothy J. Aiken, Pres.  
14301 Cantrell Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20904  
Maxine Zinman, N. Dir.

## FLORIDA

### Jacksonville Branch

3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m.  
Garden Club/Jacksonville  
1005 Riverside Ave.  
Johnnie Ramsey, Pres.  
1241 Grove Park Ave.  
Jacksonville, FL 32216  
Mary Bucholtz, N. Dir.

### Miami Branch

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

### Palm Beaches Branch

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

### Tampa Bay Area Branch

3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.  
North Tampa Comm. Center  
N. 11th St. & E. Seward  
Tampa, Florida  
Robert L. Moore, Pres.  
P.O. Box 3961  
Bay Pines, FL 33504  
Alton Lee, N. Dir.

## ILLINOIS

### Greater Chicago Area Branch

4th Sunday (x Dec), 2 p.m.  
Oak Park Conservatory  
561 Garfield, Oak Park  
Dan Paulson, Pres.  
6339 S. Kenneth Ave  
Chicago, IL 60629  
Mary Weinberg, N. Dir.

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Buxton Branch

Call for meeting info.  
Kaia Ann Fye, Pres.  
9 Clarence Road  
Wayland, MA 01778  
Richard Spencer, N. Dir.

## MINNESOTA

### Minnesota Branch

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

## NEW JERSEY

### Elsa Fort Branch

Helen Green, Pres.  
2100 Hunter St.  
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077  
Gladys Cooper, N. Dir.

## NEW YORK

### Eastern New York Branch

Herbert Speanburg, Pres.  
75 Swaggettown Road  
Scotia, NY 12302

### Hampton Branch

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

### Knickerbocker Branch

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

### Long Island Branch

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

## OHIO

### Greater Cincinnati Branch

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

## OKLAHOMA

### Fred A. Barkley Branch

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

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Edna Stewart Pittsburgh Branch

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

## Western Pennsylvania Branch

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

### William Penn Branch

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

## RHODE ISLAND

### Roger Williams Branch

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

## SOUTHWEST

### Southwest Region

Tamsin Boardman, Dir.  
Box 249  
Roanoke, TX 76262

## TEXAS

### Alamo Branch

Clarence R. Hammer, Pres.  
Rt 2, Box 737  
Poteet, TX 78065

### Astro Branch

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

### Coastal Bend Begonia Soc.

Helen Gonzales, Pres.  
Rt. 1, Box 103  
Taft, TX 78390

### Dallas Area Branch

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

### Houston Texas Branch

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

#### Mae Blanton Branch

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

#### WASHINGTON

##### Eastside Begonia Branch

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

##### Seattle Branch

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

##### South Seattle Branch

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

#### BOARD MEETING

The ABS Board of Directors will meet at 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 19, 1985 at the garden of Elda Regimbal, 3117 San Juan Drive, Fullerton, CA.

The annual meeting will be held September 7 and 8 at the Red Lion Inn in Sacramento.

#### Question Box

Continued from page 51

**ANSWER:** *B. 'Christmas Candy'* roots readily from cuttings. However, since the plant is everblooming it does not produce much cutting material. The stems bloom at every node. Those stems will root, but will never branch from the nodes that have had blooms.

One of the parents of '*Christmas Candy*' is a *semperflorens*. Cuttings should be taken from the base of the plant the same as you would propagate a *semp*. You need to have a growth bud on the stem in order to produce a bushy plant.

## BEGONIAN MINIADS

Miniads are \$1 per line per insertion with a minimum of \$4. A line is 36 characters including punctuation and spaces. Payment must accompany order. Make checks payable to ABS and send to Arlene Davis, 923 E. Francis Rd., Corona, CA 91719

#### BEGONIAS and EPISCIAS

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

#### BEGONIAS – BROMELIADS – VIOLETS

List 50 cents. Open by appointment. LEAVES OF GREEN NURSERY, 3306 Marzelle, Houston, TX 77093 – (Phone 694-2250)

#### BEGONIAS, FERNS, GESNERIADS.

List 50¢ Special 12 Begonias \$15.95 pp Atkinson's GH Rt 2, Box 28, Morrilton, AR 72110. Give us a try.

#### UNUSUAL BEGONIAS –

new Lowe hybrids.

Rooted/unrooted cuttings. List \$1.00 Paul Lowe, 1544 West Rd., Lake Park, FL 33403.

#### IN MEMORIAM

Delores Steed Ziesenhenné, wife of Rudolph H. (Skee) Ziesenhenné and daughter-in-law of Rudolf and Margaret Ziesenhenné, died in February. She was an associate member of the Santa Barbara Branch. The hanging *Begonia* 'Delores' was named for her.

The Santa Barbara Branch has also lost members Joseph Ronto and Esther Allen, a past president, in the last month.

The San Gabriel Branch was saddened by the death of Coralie Roberts in December. She was a willing worker for the branch.

#### TOP GARDENER

Ken Petersen of the Monterey Bay Area Branch received the Gardener of the Year Award from the Men's Garden Club. He grows tuberous begonias and fuchsias, working a lot with beautiful hanging baskets. He has assisted with many branch garden displays.

## 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 addresses of department heads, see inside front cover. Include a self-addressed envelope when you write.

**AT-LARGE MEMBERS** – Members who don't belong to branches are represented at board meetings by the members-at-large director. To find a branch in your area or to start a new one, contact the branch relations director for help.

**BOOKSTORE** – See information in this or next issue.

**JUDGING DEPARTMENT** – Mail order course for a member who wishes to become an accredited begonia show judge is \$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 on 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 list of books and procedure.

**NOMENCLATURE DEPARTMENT** – Monitors newly published findings on Begonia names. Handles official international registrations of new begonia cultivars and publishes these registrations. Gathers information about and assigns numbers to unidentified species.

**QUESTION BOX** – Prompt assistance with horticultural questions. Those of general interest will appear in the Begonian column.

**ROUND ROBINS** – Members exchange information about begonias and their culture through packets of letters which circulate among a small group of growers. There are dozens of these packets, called flights, on many specialized subjects. Contact the director for information.

**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 seeds are encouraged.

**SLIDE LIBRARY** – See information in this or next issue.

**SPEAKERS BUREAU** – The director maintains a list of speakers on begonias and related subjects.

## ABS Slide Programs

**Rhizomatous Begonias** 200 slides with taped discussion by Mildred Thompson.

**Japanese Cultivars** grown in the United States. 127 slides, printed list. Taped program. By Mildred Thompson.

**Begonias in their Natural Habitat** by Scott Hoover. Slides from Mexico, Guatemala, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Papua New Guinea, and Jamaica. Taped program.

**Begonias for Contained Atmospheres.** 81 slides. Printed list, taped program. By Mildred Thompson.

**The Tropical Rainforest** by Scott Hoover. 45 minute tape narration. 78 slides.

**The Making of a Begonia Show.** 77 slides of the show being set up and the plants displayed by the Barkley Branch in 1982. Printed slide list.

**A Trip to the Montreal Botanical Gardens.** 92 slides by Jackie Davis and Joy Porter. Printed list.

**Horticultural Grouping of Begonias.** 140 slides by Mildred Thompson. Begonias divided into 8 groups. List.

*This is a partial list of slide programs available for rental to ABS members and branches. The fee is usually \$10 plus First Class Insured return postage. Deposit required. Send SASE for complete list and detailed instructions.*

Daniel Haseltine, Slide Librarian  
6950 W. Nelson Street  
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