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The BEGONIAN

The BEGONIAN

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American Begonia Society—P. O. Box 1129, Encinitas, CA 92024-0990

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

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

Advertising Manager—Arlene Davis, 923 E. Francis Street, Corona, CA 91719 (714)371-8042

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Phone (619)239-3196

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The Cover: The dazzling red blossoms of newly named *Begonia macduffieana* brighten our year-end issue. A real winner,

this canelike species was discovered in Brazil by Thomas McDuffie. For the related stories, see pages 133-136.

ABS NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to thank all who have expressed confidence in me by their vote, and I shall certainly strive to be worthy of it.

However, I will need your help. This is not just *my* organization, nor the organization of any *one* chairman, but it is *your* organization, and it is up to each of you to make it work and grow.

Your board of directors would like to hear of your feelings on matters that are important to you.

Perhaps the most important of the Aims and Purposes of the American Begonia Society is "To bring into friendly contact all who love and grow Begonias." We should all strive to remember that during the coming year. We may replace a plant with an identical one, but, once lost, we cannot replace the same identical friend.

Have a happy holiday season.

Margaret Lee, ABS President

DUTIES OF OFFICERS PAMPHLETS NOT READY

The list of officers and committee chairmen and a preliminary description of their duties was delivered to the ABS president with suggestions for final revision before publication. The review would update changes in operating procedures that have been put into effect recently, and would reflect any revisions in the Constitution and Bylaws.



President Margaret Lee with Mabel Corwin, installing officer, and Bob Ammerman, retiring president, at the annual meeting in Sacramento.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY ILL

Membership Secretary Pearl Benell has been seriously ill. She has been hospitalized for tests and treatment. She would enjoy cards or messages from her friends.

RESEARCH TRIP PLANNED

Scott Hoover is preparing to make another research trip to Colombia and Panama in January and February 1986 to study leaf stomata of *Begonia*. He has been awarded a research grant by the ABS. He will collect begonia seeds.

Recently Scott was named to the staff of plant collectors for the Missouri Botanical Garden at St. Louis. He was also elected to membership in the Explorer's Club.

BEGONIAS IN SCOTLAND

Report by Carrie E. Karegeannes



Judging at the Scottish Begonia Society Show, 1984, class of 12 plants. Judges, left to right: Sandy McCallum, S. B. S. president; Ron White, Scottish commercial grower of begonias; and George Jackson, English exhibitor and judge.

“Begonias and Begonians of Scotland” formed the colorful and historical slide talk Hugh McLauchlan brought from the Scottish Begonia Society to the ABS Convention banquet in Miami April 27. President of the Bishopbriggs Horticultural Society near Glasgow and photographer and lecturer for the Scottish Begonia Society, Hugh shared photos of huge tuberhybrida prize winners in greenhouses and shows, as well as of some of the early Scottish growers. He wound up with a rollicking auction of outstanding tubers.

Hugh began with a photostat of the schedule for the 1885 Bishopbriggs horticultural show, the 23rd show of that society. That year, Alfred D. Robinson [who went from England

Nomenclature Director and one-time journalist, Carrie Karegeannes covered the banquet festivities. She lives at 3916 Lake Blvd., Annandale, VA 22003.

to the United States to become a pioneer begonia nurseryman and ABS member] was 19 years old. There was no mention of begonias in that 1885 show--“they were all too busy playing golf!” In 1927, Tom White in Inchinnan opened Scotland’s first commercial begonia business, and it is still in operation, run today by his son Ron and wife.

Three founding members of the Scottish Begonia Society, shown in 1948 photos, all lived into their 80s and “left a wonderful heritage”: Alan King, a forest worker and excellent hybridizer of begonias; Tom Brownlee, a tailor and good grower of begonias (“a lot rubbed off him onto our members today”); and Alec Dewar, “a marvelous character.” Getting together was the backbone of success in culture; they argued out the different problems to establish growing methods. No chemicals or bought fertilizers were available in



George McCormick, raiser of B. 'Alison Jane', the "world's biggest begonia bloom"—11 1/8" in 1973. Grown by Tam Ramage in 1974, it reached 12 1/4".



Alan King, a founder of the Scottish Begonia Society in 1936. The photos with this article were selected from those shown at the Convention Banquet.

those days, but Scotland has plenty of good bog peat, loam, and river sand.

A 1954 show in Glasgow Hall displayed brilliant begonia bloom. The society itself was formed in 1936. The early growers set standards still followed today. Members grow and show mostly tuberhybrida varieties, and the pendulas are popular. A number of *B. rex* cultivars are also exhibited, and other classes are gradually being added.

Begonias are grown entirely indoors, except for seedlings planted out for selection. Scotland's lack of humidity permits growers to induce what they need, and greenhouses may be carpeted for hosing down. Long days, with light from 5 a.m. in the spring and up to 11 p.m. June through August, encourage bloom. Temperature with an 80° high and averaging 60 to 70°F is "perfect for begonias." Fertilizing is restrained; too heavy feeding makes big leaves but smaller flowers. Disbudding promotes large blooms. Flowers may be grown against cardboard discs for show and must measure at least 9" across or won't be shown.

Among Scottish personalities, John Proudfoot receives mail from all over the world addressed to "The Begonia Man, Biggar, Scotland." At 95, John still grows begonias and sends out orders by bus. And Hugh feels "the future is secure with growers like George McCormick of Kirkconnel, a good grower with many new seedlings."

Sandy McCallum of Motherwell is current president of the Scottish society. A recently retired parks superintendent, Sandy is still very active. Mrs. Isa C. Hendry, the secretary, is "a very busy lady who also breeds goats!"

The White Nursery in Inchinnan spreads fields of tuberhybrida seedlings, perhaps growing thousands without finding one good one—but the good ones that do show up reap big rewards. Begonias—ruffled, camellia form, picotee, carnation—with individual blooms wrapped in cotton, are tied up and loaded for transport to shows, seeking a gold medal.

The annual begonia show in Eyr each August is like a country fair, attended by 60,000 visitors in three days, thronging to see

Tom Brownlee,
a founder of the
S. B. S.



the rows and rows of color competing for the British championship. Some entries are potted plants and others are cut blooms. In one class, a 36" × 36" board carries 12 cut blooms. Other classes include groups of 3 pots, 6 pots, or 12 pots; single-stem with as many flowers as you can get; also multistem. One *Begonia* 'Buttermilk' entry had 22 flowers. Amateur growers compete successfully with commercial growers. "It's easy to grow begonias, but you must have a greenhouse—and you never bang the door."

Hugh McLauchlan's photos of elegant variety after elegant variety dazzled us, climaxing with *B.* 'Alison Jane', a huge pink carnation-form grown in 1972 by George McCormick and given to "Wee" Tam Ramage. It is listed in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the "Biggest Begonia in the World." In 1973, the flower measured 11 1/8" across; grown by Ramage in 1974, it reached 12 1/4"—not yet bested.

Others included *B.* 'Alan King', a double white; 'Corona', double yellow picotee with red edge; 'Bali Hi', creamy white double with deep red, slightly frilled edge; 'Roy Hartley', double pink tinged salmon; 'Elaine Tarttelin', double cerise pink; 'Mary Heatley', orange with lots of petals; 'Robert Brown', frilled blush-pink double; 'Rose Princess', rose pink double; and 'Miss Rankin', light salmon pink double—"a very good one to remember; it has won best bloom in show."

Also *B.* 'Mrs. James Brownlee', red; 'Tahiti', fiery orange double; 'Hawaii', exotic red; 'Peach Melba', yellow-to-peach double; 'Falstaff', deep pink, "another very good one to remember;" 'Mrs. T. White', a double

salmon bicolor grown for many years and still a good one, used also in hybridizing; 'Hercules', a double red, strong grower; 'Wedding Day', white picotee with pink edge; 'Red Admiral', double red, "good but difficult;" 'Avalanche', "one of the best whites;" and 'Jenny Brownlee', pale salmon pink double.

B. 'Evelyn Dunne' is one of the best of the new seedlings by George McCormick. And last year's seedlings, as yet unnamed and blooming in September with 9" flowers, included luscious pinks, yellows, a pale yellow with deeper edge, red, picotees, high centers, good depth, different styles of petaling, and many-petaled flowers.

Tubers donated by Hugh and friends in Scotland—including a tuber of the "Biggest Begonia"—were auctioned off, with the proceeds going to ABS. The first on the block, *B.* 'Zoe Colledge', an orange double, was bought by Martin Johnson for \$46 after spirited bidding. The variety does well as either cut flower or plant, Hugh said. Joy Martin bought 'Sugar Candy', a pale pink, for \$30, and 'Miss Rankin', another pink—1979 best in show—for \$20.

A large pink, *B.* 'Sweet Dreams', went to Thelma O'Reilly for \$23, and salmon picotee 'Mrs. T. White', went to Joy Porter for \$23. Gary Bricker took deep pink *B.* 'Falstaff' for \$20, and Chuck Anderson salmon pink 'Jenny Brownlee' for \$23. Ilene Anderson bought another *B.* 'Falstaff' for \$21. Martin Johnson closed the auction with his \$40 bid for *B.* 'Alison Jane', the Guinness record holder, with a damaged tuber of a white and red picotee thrown in.

TUBERHYBRIDA BLOSSOMS FOR EXHIBITION

Howard Siebold

Tuberous begonia growers are generally a competitive lot. They enjoy growing better plants and larger blossoms than the other fellow and most hope to achieve the large flowers shown in catalogs or ads—or seen at shows. Here are a few hints that may help you increase the size of your flowers.

The first and most important requirement is to purchase tubers or seed of stock that has the ability to produce large flowers. Blackmore & Langdon stock is one such.

I mentioned last year that the flower buds may drop off before they open if the growing conditions are not to their liking. This is true, also, of the flowers after they open. These blossoms will continue to grow in size as long as they hang on the plant. Thus, the second requirement is to try for ideal growing conditions.

Where conditions are less than ideal, it would help to grow tuberhybrida in a greenhouse where all factors can be controlled. In the midwest area for example, those in outdoor beds will generally have flowers with a maximum diameter of five to six inches with an occasional larger one. The results in a greenhouse would depend on the effort you are able to expend in providing the conditions they like. The protection afforded from wind, rain, hail, and animals would help a lot. A blossom that will fall off after ten days outside might continue to grow larger for many more weeks under controlled conditions.

In midsummer, many areas will experience air temperatures that must be reduced. Regular air conditioning might be required although fans, a mist system, or evaporative coolers might be sufficient in some areas. It is most important to keep the root systems cool (65 to 75 °F) if possible. Wrap the pots in wet burlap or sphagnum moss that is kept moist.

Howard Siebold grows begonias at 32050 Westwood Drive, Fort Bragg, CA 95437. He shares the techniques for producing the largest blooms possible on tuberhybridids.



Begonia 'Delicado'

A plant that is growing rootbound in a pot will produce larger blossoms than the same plant growing in a larger pot. The tuber will not be as large at the end of the season because the energy that would normally produce a larger tuber has gone to producing larger flowers.

I also mentioned last year that a plant with a single stem will produce larger flowers than one with two or more stems. If you want larger flowers but also want the added insurance of another stem, just remove all of the flower buds on the extra stem as they appear.

The first few flower buds on the plant are removed to build up the plant size. If you continue to remove the flower buds as they appear, when you finally allow it to bloom, the flowers will be very large. The trick here is to halt the bud removal the correct length of time before you wish to show or display. This will vary with different plants, so a year or more of observation and experimentation is almost a necessity. It takes roughly six weeks for a bud the size of a dime to produce an open blossom. As mentioned above, the blossom will continue to grow larger as it ages.

If you are aiming for a single flower to enter in a show, remove all flower buds prior to the one you intend to use and all that appear after

Continued on page 140

THE YEAR OF THE CANE

Canes in Winter

Pat Maley

The cold winter season is upon us — and our begonias. Cane begonias seem to weather the winter far more successfully than other types, given a little protection and care. Ideally, in a bright, heated greenhouse, they fare marvelously, many blooming right through the winter. Few of us, however, have such conditions available for our plants. Many people grow outdoors during the warm months, and then must bring plants inside for the winter. In other areas, more mild, the plants may remain outside or under lath or fiberglass, but the grower must expect some damage or slowing of growth from even moderate cold.

If your plants must come indoors, they often require some cutting back in order to fit them in. With adequate space, warmth, humidity, and light, most will go right on growing and blooming. In less desirable conditions, they may drop their leaves and enter a dormant state. Give them good air circulation and as much light as possible. *Don't* keep them constantly wet. If they are to get through the winter in rather cold conditions, such as under lath and plastic or fiberglass, it is especially important to not overwater. They use much less moisture in these conditions. Grooming is vitally important now, as any debris or dying growth can quickly develop mold and rot in cold, damp weather. If conditions do not allow for active growth, do not fertilize until growth begins again in the spring.

Many growers do their major pruning during the fall and winter months, though others must wait until early spring. This is determined mainly by your location and the conditions the plant must endure. In coastal

southern California, some growers prune their plants as early as November. The more cautious wait until the first of the year, at least. I know of one cane grower there who always prunes her canes on January first while her husband watches the traditional football game! For those of us where winter is more severe or lingers long, I recommend waiting, unless the plants are housed for the winter in conditions conducive to active growth. Pruning stimulates new growth from lower nodes. If it is done too early, the tender new growth may be damaged by later cold spells. If warmth and light are adequate, however, do it early to get a head start on the season's new growth.

Be patient. Don't rush to throw out what appears to be a dead cane plant. Very often such a plant will surprise you. My own experience has proven it again and again. Last Thanksgiving weekend, my best canes and shrubby begonias were lined up along a 50 foot east-facing deck. We had had some cold and rain, but they were still growing strongly. With the holiday rush, I figured I could wait to move them as we seldom get snow here till late December or January. Suddenly the temperature dropped. We had a storm that alternated snow, hail, and rain. The next morning, my plants were the mushy brown aftermath of freezing. Some, like *B. Phantom* g. were frozen to the soil level. I cut them back to stubs — or half-alive canes in some cases — and moved them to my fiberglass shelter under the west deck. Here the plants are protected from direct wind and frost but this shelter is unheated. Spring comes late at 3000 feet, and we always have snow in late April. Gradually the warmth of the sun drew out new growth buds from the long dormant plants. Nearly every frozen plant came back eventually. It was late May, and I'd nearly given up hope when, at last, new canes came poking up through the soil from the roots of *B. Phantom*. Canes are the real survivors of the begonia world!

Pat Maley continues to care for her collection of cane begonias and often uses them as subjects for her drawings and paintings. She lives at 7384 White Oak Drive, Placerville, CA 95667.

NEW CULTIVARS

Official International Registrations Numbers 890-895

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* 'Annie Sharrad'**

No. 890—*Begonia conchifolia* var. *rubrimacula* x 'Beatrice Haddrell' 'Annie Sharrad'

Synonym *B.* 'Annie S'. Rhizomatous with thin, short, creeping rhizome having short internodes and covered with dried scales. Thick, round, 3½" x 4" leaves with a sharp point are reddish brown with 7 green veins and a red spot at the center. Margins are entire. Petioles are 6 ¼" long and red spotted; green stipules quickly turn brown. Pinkish flowers in the spring are borne in a dichotomous (forked) cyme on 6 ¼" peduncles (flower stalks). Both males and females have 2 round 3/8" tepals; ovaries are 5/8" x 3/8". Originated in 1972 by M. C. R. Sharrad, 11 Lumsden Avenue, Ridgehaven, South Australia 5097; first bloomed in 1974; tested by the Australian Begonia Society. Name first given as *B.* 'Annie S.', *Begonia Journal of Australia*, 1980. Registered August 13, 1985.

***Begonia* 'Christmas Candy'**

NO. 891—*Begonia* U014 x 'Glamour Rose Picotee' 'Christmas Candy'

A cross of unidentified Argentina species U014, as seed parent, with a *Semperflorens* Cultorum cultivar. Shrublike, low and



Begonia 'Christmas Candy'

spreading, to 12"—16" high. Bright green, finely red-edged, glabrous and succulent, elongated-ovate leaves are 2½" to 3" x 4" to 5" with 6 main veins. Petioles are 1" to 2" long; stipules, soon dry and papery, are persistent. Everblooming, large, bright orange red flowers, 2" across with 2 male and 5 female tepals, hang in pendulous cymes on 3" peduncles. Three red bracteoles nearly cover the white ovaries, as on *B.* U014. Originated in 1980 by Mabel Corwin, 1119 Loma Vista Way, Vista CA 92083; first bloomed in 1981; first distributed in 1981. Tested by Thelma O'Reilly, La Mesa, CA. Name first published, *Begonian* 49: 123 (Sept-Oct. 1982); full profile and photo, *Begonian* 49: 146, 152(Nov.-Dec. 1982). Registered Aug. 15, 1985.

***Begonia* 'Ada Perry'**

No. 892—*Begonia* 'Dr. Jim' x 'Cachuma' seedling 'Ada Perry'

Rhizomatous cultivar with 12 and over, orbicular green leaves palmately parted into 5 or 6 deep, ovate, acuminate lobes, the basal lobes overlapping. The leaves are lightly fluted and slightly bullate, with a hint of dark stitching on the irregularly toothed margins. The upper surface is covered with



B. 'Brown Sugar'
Begonia 'Ada Perry'



B. 'Ada Perry'
Begonia 'Brown Sugar'

cf. *Begonia* J.F. 86, 22—descriptions are ok.

very short, rough white hairs and palmately crossed by 7 to 9 light green, barely hairy, depressed main veins. The underside is light green and bare except for red scaly hairs on the prominent, pale creamy green veins. The long, thick, ridged petioles are thickly ringed with coarse, red, white-tipped scaly hairs, or fimbriate scales, and carry a heavy collar of red scaly hairs at the top, also white tipped. Blooming in the spring, pink flowers in dichotomous cymes on 12" to 15" peduncles have 2-tepaled, 2" male flowers and 2-tepaled, 1" to 1½" females. The lobes of the leaves on 'Ada Perry' are more deeply cut than on *B.* 'Cachuma', and the leaves more fluted. 'Cachuma' does not show as much marginal stitching. Originated in 1979 by Robert J. Ammerman, 1770 Foothill Drive, Vista, CA 92083; first bloomed in 1980; first distributed in 1980. Tested by Edna Francis, San Diego, CA. Named in honor of the late Ada Perry, long-time garden writer for the *San Diego Union*. Registered Aug. 15, 1985.

***Begonia* 'Brown Sugar'**

No. 893—*Begonia* Mexican species x 'Dr. Jim' 'Brown Sugar'

Rhizomatous with huge, orbicular, palmately lobed, dark green, smooth leathery leaves marked by a star burst of 8 to 10 heavy, pale green veins and fiery, deep red reverse. New leaves are the color of dark brown sugar until half mature. Mature leaves reach far beyond 12" across, with the 6 broadly triangular, acute lobes somewhat angulate on their margins, the 2 basal lobes

overlapping. On the red underside, the pale veins are prominent and slightly hairy. Petioles are 18" to 24 long, red spotted, and thickly hairy; stipules are small. Light pink, 2-tepaled, 1½" to 2" flowers are borne in dichotomous cymes on 12" to 18" peduncles in the spring. Originated in 1979 by Robert J. Ammerman (address above); first bloomed and distributed in 1980. Tested by Ingeborg Foo, Vista, CA. Registered Aug. 22, 1985.

***Begonia* 'Jess Martinez'**

No. 894—*Begonia* 'Mustang' x 'Mustang' seedling 'Jess Martinez'

Synonym *B.* 'Mr. Jess'. Rhizomatous, with 8" x 8", deep olive green, orbicular leaves double spiraled and palmately, deeply cleft, the upper lobes long-acuminate and lower lobes nearly obtuse. Mature leaves—fluted and held upright on full, compact plants—have a silvery overlay and prominent black stitching on the ciliate, denticulate margins. The 5 to 7 light green veins are sparsely hairy underneath. Petioles are green with sparse hairs arising from red spots; stipules are small, fluted, tightly folded, and fall off. White to pale pink, 2-tepaled, 1" flowers with red-spotted, pale green ovaries on females are borne in dichotomous cymes on 8" to 10" peduncles in winter and spring. Originated in 1978 by Robert J. Ammerman (address above); first bloomed in 1979; first distributed in 1980. Tested by Thelma O'Reilly, La Mesa, CA. First published as *B.* 'Mr. Jess' in *Begonian* "49" [48]: 214 (October 1981), second place in New Introductions by Com-



Begonia 'Jess Martinez'

mercial Grower, ABS National Show, Ventura, August 1981. Registered Aug. 22, 1985.

***Begonia* 'Pat Maley'**

No. 895—*Begonia* 'Dr. Jim' x Mexican species 'Pat Maley'

Rhizomatous with 12" or larger, orbicular, palmately lobed, leathery leaves that are dark satiny green with random red flush at edges and red spotting, mostly at vein junctions. New leaves are yellow green deepening to rosy red at margins. The broadly triangular, acute lobes are mostly shallower than those of *B.* 'Brown Sugar' from the reverse cross. Margins are slightly serrulate and the 8 to 12 main veins are light green



Begonia 'Pat Maley'

above and below. Petioles are up to 18" long, green, red spotted, hairy; stipules do not remain long on the plant. White to light pink, 2-tepaled flowers—1½" females and 1" males—borne in dichotomous cymes in the spring. Apple green ovaries on the females have the largest wing reaching 1" and turning light pink at the edge. Peduncles are 15" to 20" tall, medium green, and red spotted; pedicels do not have spots. Originated in 1979 by Robert J. Ammerman (address above); first bloomed and distributed in 1980. Tested by Pat Maley (Placerville, CA) for whom it is named. Registered Aug. 22, 1985.

☆ *Begonia* Stars on Biscayne Bay ☆

SHORT SEMINAR REPORTS

There are a lot of events at a convention that you simply cannot appreciate from a report on paper. To have the privilege of being in another member's greenhouse, to experience the pleasure of having breakfast with someone whom you have known from letters in a robin flight, to have worked at breakneck speed to get the plants ready for the members, and to have been the recipient of many kindnesses from the host branch are among these. Several members who had agreed to report on activities that fit into this group were Susan Johnston, Mary Weinberg, and Mabel Corwin.

There are still several major articles based on Convention events of interest to all members, and these will appear soon.

Carrie Karegeannes conducted a session to acquaint members with some of the terminology necessary to describe *Begonia*. Although it was meant to assist those who are going to register a new cultivar, the talk helped everyone to appreciate the descriptions that are included in the *Begonian*. Descriptions should be so detailed that others may recognize their plants from the descriptions.

Carrie showed slides to illustrate the various terms. For instance, there were pictures of distinctive leaves, the pustular and quilted, as well as those with a plain surface. She drew our attention to the placement of the petiole and the attachment to the leaf blade. The blades of several plants were

shown to illustrate serrate and dentate margins, the various kinds of leaf shapes (such as ovate and elongate), and the shape of the leaf tips. Flowers also were considered, with a suggestion to look at the size, shape, number of tepals (since male *Begonia* blossoms usually have fewer than females), and the color of the tepals and ovary.

Carrie displayed the avid interest she holds for begonias and the registration of hybrids. Viewing of many slides makes this a difficult seminar to report to the readers. It was really important to be present to get the most from it.



Nina Bassing gathered various containers and complementary plant material, and she showed how to incorporate begonias into artful flower arrangements in several styles.



Pastel drawing of *Begonia* 'Orange Rubra' won a blue ribbon for Clara Bada de Montan. Below, on black lacquered pedestals are a group of miniature arrangements using begonias as major plant material.

SERENDIPITY IN SOUTH AMERICA

On a little tributary of the Tapajos River, which is one of the feeder rivers of the great Amazon, Tom McDuffie was making his way by small boat through a forested region that fits most people's mental image of "jungle," though the growth was probably less dense than in that image. On either shore there were tall trees, vines such as philodendrons, ferny foliage, epiphytes clinging to branches, and a ground level tangle of brush and weeds. The air was hot, near 100 degrees both day and night, and it was humid as a result of the daily rainfall. Tom and his fellow travelers were constantly damp.

The forest buzzed with mosquitos hatched in the numerous puddles and ponds. Raucous birds and wonderful butterflies formed fleeting glints of bright color, but most of the color in the jungle, perhaps 60 to 70%, can be attributed to bromeliads.

From the small boat Tom could see a patch of color among the leaves—a hue different from those they had been observing. Along the bank was a somewhat open area, perhaps 200 feet across, where there was a huge stand of wild *Begonia* with flower clusters of the most marvelous and intense shade of red. There was only one *Begonia* growing on the site, and it was very plentiful. Obviously it was tasty to the insects and animals, for the plants were well chewed. The arching canes in the semishade of the jungle habitat were growing in humus of decomposed leaves, relatively low in nutrients because of constant leaching by abundant rainfall.

McDuffie described an aspect of the Amazon basin that is not generally mentioned. The layer of hardpan is seldom more than 24 inches below the soil level and the topsoil is constantly on the move as rushing water and erosion play their roles in the rainforest. Trees and other plants move about the river areas. The sand bars shift and the rivers and streams change their paths with the passage of the rains. The Amazonian basin is not particularly fertile. Clearing the jungle for agriculture is not productive for more than a few seasons at best.



Begonia macduffieana

Although he might reasonably expect to find it, Tom never saw the *Begonia* growing anywhere else although he traveled in other upstream locations from which it could have washed. The initial site could have been in the mountains of Peru, but the fact that the stand was so well populated with the plant indicates that it had been growing undisturbed for many years.

He did not travel with an entourage to handle equipment and packing and had a minimum of baggage—not even a camera. He collected only three tip cuttings of the *Begonia* which he wrapped in moss and carried throughout the rest of his journey in his shirt pocket. Thus did the *Begonia* ultimately make its way back to New England in 1973.

On one portion of his trip, Tom rode on the narrow gauge railway to see the fabled ruins of Machu Picchu. The railway, cut into the steep slopes, travels a precarious route, inch-

ing along the steep mountainsides where there were numerous begonias growing wild. These are close enough to touch from the train. Here he saw wonderful wild heliconias and *Clerodendron thompsonii* with its white bracts and tiny red heart-shaped drops.

One plant from which he collected seeds was a vine with delicate-looking, fernlike foliage. Its flowers were the most brilliant shocking-red color he has seen and formed in clusters in the fashion of a hoya. Later, the five seeds from the precious packet sprouted in the greenhouse but all dampened off. He would still like to find this vine to enjoy in his garden.

Tom McDuffie has traveled 57,000 miles around the world's tropical regions. When he found at his disposal the time and funds to go exploring, he took off to see "the real thing," the places of origin of the plants and birds he had been growing. His special reason for going to South America was to see the habitat of the black-necked South American swans, a breed he had successfully cultivated. These *nonmigratory* birds are a food source to the indian peoples in South America.

His interest in birds and plants started in Michigan where he grew up. His parents encouraged these intense, precocious interests. They provided him with the means to get stock, the supplies needed to handle them, and the information to do so. They assigned some land to him where he could learn and expand his interests.

In college, his concentration was focused in an entirely different direction. Tom McDuffie became an opera singer. At first he performed in American musical comedy and in theater-in-the-round. His appearances on Broadway included a part in "Carousel." He decided this was not what he really wanted to do, so he accepted a contract to sing grand opera in Europe where he ultimately performed for twenty years. He retired from the opera stage to manage an estate in New England. Thus he returned to his early interests and incorporated his managerial skills.

Later he was appointed curator of the New England Society for the Preservation of Antiquities and handled The Vale, the Lyman Estate at Waltham, Mass. This apparent

digression enters into the present story of the Amazonian *Begonia*.

The Lyman estate at Waltham, just outside of Boston, originally consisted of more than 2,000 acres deeded by the English Crown. In the 1700s, Theodore Lyman had built a successful shipping business in the colonies by taking hardwood from New England to the southern states. On return trips the ships were laden with whatever cargo that could be arranged--often plants. Among them were camellias from South Carolina and, years later, from all over the world.

Lyman established a greenhouse to protect and raise the plants. This led to the establishment of the first true botanical garden in the United States. There was a camellia house, a grape house, places for bananas and pineapples (those early exotic treats for New England), an orchid house, and ultimately a staff of 25 gardeners to care for the gardens as the family business prospered. Five generations of Lymans ultimately lived at The Vale. The gardens were part of the estate that McDuffie oversaw, and so were the flock of black-necked swans that he successfully kept at the waterfall area, and which were the impetus for the trip to the Amazonian Basin.

So, it was to these greenhouses at the Lyman Estate Tom brought the three Brazilian *Begonia* cuttings and successfully grew them. The plants grew strong canes and in bright light bloomed almost constantly with clusters of large orange-red blooms. Ultimately in the ensuing years, visitors to the greenhouse bought numerous pots of the unknown *Begonia* propagated from cuttings of the original. As part of the program to gain funds to save the wonderful old greenhouses from being knocked down to make way for housing tracts, various means were used to keep the grounds intact, including plant sales, weddings, and social events. Thus the red-flowered cane *Begonia* helped a bit in the effort to save the historical botanical garden.

Meanwhile, at the urging of his children, Tom consulted Dr. Bernice Schubert at the Arnold Arboretum to learn its identity. Finally she and her colleague, Dr. Lyman B.

Continued on page 136

A NEW CANE BEGONIA FROM AMAZONIAN BRAZIL

Lyman B. Smith

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

Bernice G. Schubert

Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

Most of the cane begonias that we see today are cultivars of a few natural species like *Begonia maculata* and *B. corallina*, so Tom McDuffie has made a most unusual discovery. Also, begonias of any kind are extremely rare in Amazonian Brazil.

*Begonia macduffieana** L. B. Smith & B. G. Schubert, spec. nov.

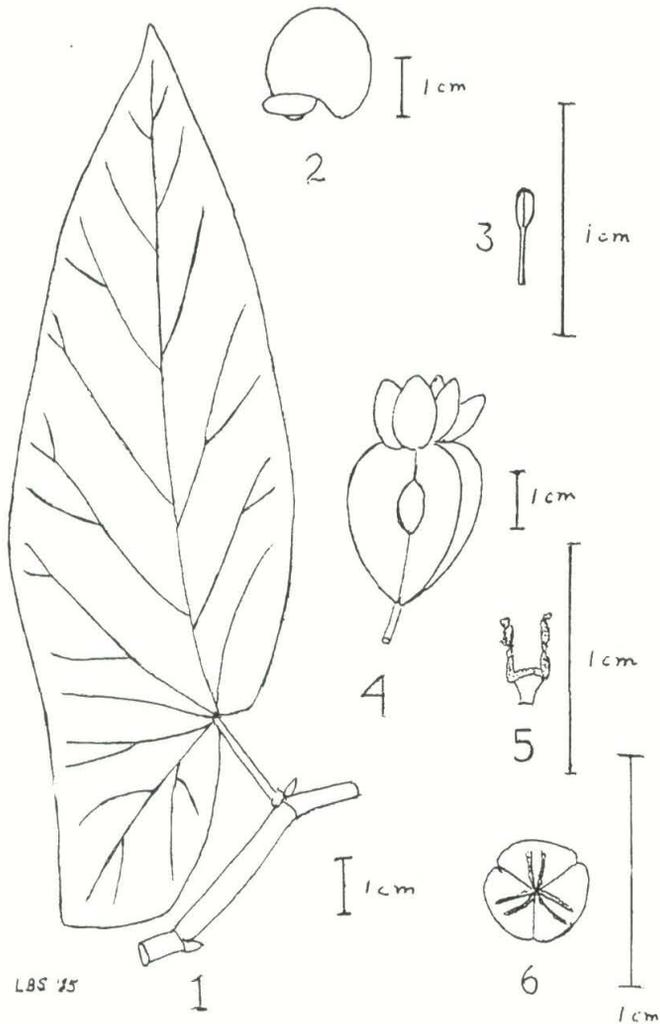
Stem erect or the apex slightly arching, 60-120 cm tall, 25 mm thick, completely glabrous, woody, flowering continuously; branches pendulous; stipules quickly deciduous, ovate, acute, 6 mm long, petioles 15-20 mm long; blades transverse to the petiole, oblong-ovate, to 16 cm long, 5 cm wide, acute, shallowly cordate at base, entire, thick, fleshy; peduncles axillary, slender, 8-11 cm long; inflorescence unisexual, laxly 3-4 times dichotomous; bracts deciduous, not known; staminate pedicels 10 mm long; tepals 4, reddish orange (McDuffie), the outer broadly ovate, rounded, 18 mm long, broadly cordate at base; the inner elliptic, 10 mm long; stamens ca. 50; filaments free, long, anthers narrowly ellipsoid; pistillate tepals 5, subequal, ovate, 10 mm long; styles 3, deeply bilobed; stigmas linear, continuous, much twisted; ovary ellipsoid, 10 mm long; wings semiobovate, tapered below, 30 mm long; placentas bilamellate, ovule-bearing on the outside.

Begonia macduffieana differs from *B. maculata* by its unspotted leaves and from *B. corallina* by its leaves with the smaller lobe straight instead of spreading.

Erecta vel apice paulo arcuata, 60-120 cm alta, robusta, 25 mm diametro, glaberrima, lignosa, semperflorens; ramis pendulis; stipulis mox deciduis, ovatis, acutis, 6 mm longis; petiolis 15-20 mm longis; lamini transverse oblongo-ovatis, ad 16 cm longis, 5 cm latis, acutis, basi breviter cordatis, integris, crassis, carnosis; pedunculis axillaribus, gracilibus, 8-11 cm longis; inflorescentiis unisexualibus, laxe 3-4-dichotomis; bracteis deciduis, ignotis; pedicellis masculinis 10 mm longis; tepalis 4, rubro-aurantiacis (McDuffie) exterioribus late ovatis, rotundatis, 18 mm longis, basi late cordatis; interioribus ellipticis, 10 mm longis; staminibus ca. 50, filamentis liberis, longis, antheris anguste ellipsoideis; tepalis femineis 5, subaequalibus, ovatis, 10 mm longis; stylis 3, profunde bilobatis; stigmatibus linearibus, continuis, valde tortuosis; ovario ellipsoideo, 10 mm longo; alis semiobovatis, basi cuneatis, 30 mm longis; placentis bilamellatis, extus ovuliferis.

Type in the herbarium of the United States National Museum, collected on incline of a feeder stream (no name) about 20 miles up the Tapajos River (Brazil: Para Department) which feeds into the Amazon, 8 April 1973, cultivated January 1977 from the original collection by E. Thomas McDuffie (without serial number).

*The "mac" is an intentional misspelling of Tom's name by the rules governing the making of legal Latin names.



Begonia macduffieana Smith & Schubert

1. Leaf and branch section. 2. Staminate tepals. 3. Stamen. 4. Pistillate flower. 5. Style. 6. Section of ovary.

Continued from page 134

Smith of the Smithsonian Institution, determined that it was a new species and have named it for Tom McDuffie. Surely some people who had purchased the *Begonia* as an unknown cane will now recognize that they have *Begonia macduffieana*.

Only a few ABS members in southern California have plants of *Begonia macduffieana* and they are working to propagate

plants and to set seed. Dr. Lyman Smith alludes to its value as a parent species that can mean a whole new series of cultivars.

P. P. B.

Thomas McDuffie has moved to the San Diego area to be near his children and to garden and raise redheaded parrot finches, Australian grass keets, and other exotic birds. His address is P. O. Box 16596, San Diego, CA 92116.

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund

Joy Porter, director

This is the last seed fund column prepared by Joy Porter who has been a very capable director. She has been prompt, careful, and knowledgeable about handling seeds and assisting members with advice on growing from seeds. Joy wants to be able to travel and enjoy a more leisurely life style, and we certainly hope that she will do so; yet all ABS members would enjoy hearing from her from time to time in the Begonian.

N-D 1 per pkt. \$1.00

B. socotrana: bulbous species native to the Indian Ocean island of Socotra. Round peltate leaves and profuse pink flowers in winter. Young plantlets go dormant in April, with growth resuming in August. It is the parent of many hybrids called Cheimantha and Hiemalis types. It is essential to add extra lime to both the seeding and growing mixes. One packet per customer.

N-D 2 per pkt 1.00

B. gracilis HBK: described and depicted by Francisco Hernandez in 1651 (see *Begonias, the Complete Reference Guide*, p. 5) This tuberous species from Mexico is 2-3 feet tall, blooming summer and fall with 2", rose-pink flowers hugging the stem. In northern latitudes it needs full sun to bloom profusely.

N-D 3 per pkt 1.00

B. cinnabarina: lovely, low tuberous species from Bolivia with cinnabar red flowers. See note below.

N-D 4 per pkt 1.00

B. Tuberhybrida: standard types. Please state whether you desire mixed colors, or order by color. This is not a combination offer. Each type sold separately. Pendula type sold only in packets of mixed colors. I am hoping to have seeds of the spectacular cross *B. 'Santa Monica' X 'Tahiti'* which is fragrant and has a color range from coral to peach.

N-D 5 per pkt 1.00

B. grandis ssp. *evansiana*: hardy tuberous species from China with a 6" x 9" heart-

shaped leaves with red veining. Fragrant, 1 1/2" pink flowers from August to frost. After frost danger in spring, set seedlings outside in a well prepared bed in a shady spot. Your bed of seedlings, multiplying by bulbils, will become 50 to 100 carefree beauties in three years. In northern latitudes, a 1' layer of hay, straw, or leaves are necessary for winter protection.

N-D 6 per pkt 1.00

B. michoacana: Mexican tuberous species.

N-D 7 per pkt 1.00

B. odeteiantha: shrublike species from Brazil with arching, purple-green stems, large pale stipules, and undulating 5" leaves. Blooming winter to fall, the flowers have curled tepals. Grows best in a basket.

N-D 8 per pkt 1.00

B. oxyloba: large, variable species from West Africa with jointed rhizome and erect stems. Leaves can be palmately lobed or entire, and flowers are pale pink with berry-like fruits. N-D 9 and N-D 10 are also mentioned in the story of this species by Dr. Jan Doorenbos in the *Begonian*, June 1981.

N-D 9 per pkt 1.00

B. crateris: thick-stemmed species from West Africa somewhat similar to *B. baccata* (Seed Fund, *Beg.* Oct. 1979). First time offered in Seed Fund.

N-D 10 per pkt

B. seychellensis: thick-stemmed species native to the Seychelle Islands in the Indian Ocean.

N-D 11 per pkt 1.00

B. loranthoides: trailing-scandant species from West Africa with bright green, wavy leaves, and pale pink 1 1/2" flowers. Females have fusiform ovaries. Has been called a philodendron "look-alike." Fleshy dried pod contains seeds.

N-D 12 per pkt 1.00

B. ebolowensis: thick-stemmed species from West Africa with profuse white flowers in early spring through summer. Females have fusiform ovaries. Some of the species



B. tonduzii at La Mesa, Panama

from West Africa have large seeds with a short viability period. Supply has been refrigerated for preservation.

N-D 13 per pkt 0.50

Semperflorens seeds: For the past two years, response for Semperflorens seeds has been sparse, so available seed will be listed and should be ordered separately by name. *Begonia*: 'Viva' (small white), 'Gin' (small, pink, bronze leaf), 'Linda' (rose pink), 'Scarletta' (scarlet), 'Frimly Red' (large), 'Frimly Pink' (large), and for background, *B. setosa* X unknown semperflorens (2', dark red stems and 1 1/2" white/pink picotee flowers).

N-D 14 per pkt 1.00

B. tonduzii: lovely shrublike species with pinnately nerved leaves, arching branches and reddish pink flowers collected in La Mesa, Panama by Roberto Brin.

Note: In August, when this list is being compiled, it is impossible to know all the species of tuberous for which seed will be available. I suggest that you order from listings of previous years, with a notation that new tuberous species may be substituted if your choice is unavailable.

The abbreviation *ssp.* used in N-D 5 stands for subspecies.

Joan Campbell, recent director of the Round Robins, has taken over operation of the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. She will fill orders from this list, so please be sure to mail your requests to her.

Orders from U.S., Mexico, and Canada require 45 cents over seed price for postage (55 cents if over 12 packets). Foreign orders require \$1.40 for postage. Send checks or money orders in U.S. funds made payable to the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. Mail to: **Joan Campbell, 814 N. E. Honey House, Corvallis MT 59828.**

The Indoor Light Gardening Society of America Inc., Dept. B,
5305 SW Hamilton St., Portland, OR 97221
Dues \$8.00. LIGHT GARDEN published 6 times yearly,
cultural guides, seed exchange,
round robins, chapters, slide library.

ROBERTO BRIN SEED COLLECTOR

Joy Porter

Roberto Brin (pronounced Breen) provided ABS conventioners with a firsthand look at Panama and the territory covered in his search for *Begonia* seed for the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund.

B. tonduzii, his favorite because it was the first he discovered, was shown growing in La Mesa among ferns and other shade-loving plants. It is a shrub with blue-green, 5-inch leaves on arching branches. It sports reddish pink flowers in drooping clusters near branch tips. First listed in the Seed Fund in 1984, it appears again in the list this month. After having seen a photograph taken by Elizabeth Mercier in the *Begonian*, February 1969, Roberto photographed the same view. It shows the fifteen foot high vertical bank near Madden Dam, carpeted with rhizomatous *Begonia*, and indicates their

need for excellent drainage.

Roberto, director-manager of Servicios Aliados and father of three teenagers, has served three terms as director for the Kiwanis Club de Panama and, at present is vice president on the board of directors of S. O. S. Children Villages of Panama, affiliate of S.O.S. Kinderdorf International. A member of ABS since 1981, he finds *Begonia* a great therapy as an escape from daily stress.

His wit and charming sincerity won him many friends and admirers at the 1985 convention on Biscayne Bay. For a grateful seed fund director, he has been a 'dream come true.' His seed contributions will be reminders to his many ABS friends of the gentleman from Panama.

A TIME FOR GRATITUDE Seed Supply Maintenance a Must for ABS

Joy Porter

The past five years have been very rewarding, and I am grateful to the many people who have worked to make it so.

First thanks must go to Prof. Jan Doorenbos whose work at the Agricultural College at Wageningen, the Netherlands, has been invaluable to all of us in the ABS. His thousands of hours spent in seed production have been far beyond the call of duty. For example, the seed pods of *B. robusta* must ripen for 7-9 months! Prof. Doorenbos is retiring soon, and the extensive *Begonia* collection at Wageningen will be dispersed. ABS members must continue his seed development work (as Jackie Davis of Aptos, Calif., has been doing for five years) so that

the species which he has introduced will not be lost. I do not forget the contributions of Prof. Doorenbos's assistant, Mr. J. J. Karper, who braved vicious insects and other discomforts to collect the African species in their natural habitats. I will miss the excitement I felt each time the mailman delivered a package from the Netherlands.

The Seed Fund has benefited from the concern and dedication of others as well. When Mabel Corwin introduced *B. incisa* into cultivation at the annual meeting, she did not forget the members who could not attend, for she also made seed for the Seed Fund. As well, her efforts have made *B. U104* widely available. For many years,

Doug and Goldie Frost have been seed donors, for they realize the importance of keeping the species in cultivation. Overseas members, some as far away as India, were especially pleased with the availability of hybrid cane seed which was collected in Marge Lee's garden by Marge and Thelma O'Reilly. Arline Peck's seed of *B. paulensis* topped all seed sales with 94 packets!

Roberto Brin, Lynda Goldsmith, Scott Hoover, Martin Johnson, and Tracy McLellan have contributed to our pleasure, as well as to conservation, with their seed collections from Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, the Philippines, Trinidad, and Venezuela. *B. sonderana* of Africa was introduced with seed from Eric Curtis, curator of the Glasgow Botanical Gardens. Financial contributions from Millie Thompson, George Fix, Howard Siebold, and the Edna Stewart Branch enabled the Seed Fund to purchase seed of tuberhybrida and *B. 'Love Me'* from Europe.

The Seed Fund prospered through the efforts of many: fern spores from Dora Lee Dorsey, Mickey Meyer, Art Sackenruther, and Hilda Seiler; semperflorens from Beryl Orchard, Earl McKinley, and Mary Powers, hybrid seed from Australians Jim Bleakley, Ross Bolwell, Mickey Meyer, Ian Robertson, and Bernard Yorke. I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all these members and to the following, whose efforts will live on, providing pleasure for many and promoting conservation of the family Begoniaceae:

Thelma Adair	Hugh Mack
Hiko Arakawa	Wanda Macnair
David Atkinson	Pat Maley
Chris Baker	Alan Meerow
Dr. Fred Barkley	Phil Mudgett
Phyllis Bates	Northeastern
Mae Blanton	University
Joan Campbell	Frank Nudge
June Davis	Dick Spenser
Norman DuFresne	W. O. Sutherland
Daniel Haseltine	Wally Wagner
Joan Hill	Mary Weinberg
Frances Hoffman	Jean West
Eiichi Kawamata	Ruth Wills
Kingsley Langenberg	Rudolf Ziesenhenn

My hours spent compiling listings were

shortened by information from Millie Thompson, the *Thompson Begonia Guide* and Barkley & Golding, *Species of Begoniaceae*. Requests for information to Jack Golding, Carrie Karegeannes, Thelma O'Reilly, Dr. Bernice Schubert, and Rudy Ziesenhenn elicited prompt and helpful replies. Of much help also were the many germination reports sent by busy people, who took the time because of a sincere wish to help other growers and further the knowledge of growing from seed. Thank you to the many people (Ruth Wills, in particular) who saw that I never ran low on film canisters, and to the editors of the *Begonian* for their suggestions and patience.

My regret at relinquishing the Seed Fund is lessened by the knowledge that it is in good hands. Joan Campbell is a caring, enthusiastic grower of seeds, and your association with her and Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund will be a winning combination.

Tuberhybrida for Exhibition

Continued from page 127

it. This will produce the largest flower possible under your growing conditions. To show a whole plant in bloom, you would remove all flower buds until the proper time but not those that follow. This should give some large flowers and some partly open buds.

Eric Catterall, in his new book *Growing Begonias*, on pages 80-82, covers this dis-budding technique in more detail than this space will allow. (Buy it from the ABS Bookstore.)

I prefer to grow in outdoor beds and, with 500 to 600 plants, I must skip most of these suggestions. I use only the best stock. With a nearly ideal climate and some TLC, the results are well worth a trip here to see them.

The photo shows the beautiful eight-inch blossom of my cultivar *B. 'Delicado'*. The outer rear petals are pink blending to medium yellow in the center which gives the appearance of being illuminated from within. It has one defect — it doesn't propagate easily.

BEGONIA QUESTION BOX

Mabel Corwin

QUESTION: Recently I ordered from Logee's Greenhouses most of the miniature rexes listed in their catalog. Now my friend tells me that I might just as well have burned my money. She tried more than once to grow the miniature rexes and lost them every time. She also stated firmly that they are very difficult to keep alive for any length of time.

I still want to try. I have a small greenhouse. I plan to grow the mini rexes in terrariums, mostly under lights. I would like to bring them in the house for short periods for all to enjoy. Could you give me any help on soil, food, light, or whatever they might especially need to survive? KANSAS

ANSWER: I believe your friend is wrong. The miniature rexes are not all that difficult. I'm not familiar with all of them. I know that 'Mini Merry' is very easy to grow. I found 'Ethel Arnold' and 'It' difficult. I don't think the others should be a problem, especially in a terrarium.

You would be wise to place them in the terrariums until they start to grow. I would be careful not to overpot them. I like to place the small pots in the terrarium and tuck damp sphagnum moss around them. This helps keep the moisture even and creates humidity. This way it is easy to make changes as the plants grow.

A planting mix that drains well should be fine. I usually add some perlite to purchased planting mix. I constant-feed terrarium plants with a 20-20-20 or 15-30-15 fertilizer, using 1/4 teaspoon per gallon of water.

Relax! I don't think you have anything to worry about. I would be interested in hearing how you get along with your new plants.

QUESTION: For three years I have planted

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.

tuberous begonias on the north side of my house where they get shade, and then sun later in the afternoon. They bloom beautifully, then the leaves turn yellow and they die. I use the same fertilizer on them that I use on my rose bushes, also the same insecticide and fungicide that I use on the roses. I asked at the local garden center, but they have no answers. I would appreciate any help that you can give me. WISCONSIN

ANSWER: After tuberous begonias bloom during the summer months, it is normal for the leaves to turn yellow and the top to gradually die down completely. As the days get shorter in the fall, the plants tend to grow tall and spindly. This is a signal that they are ready for their winter rest. You should gradually withhold water and let the plant die down naturally. Tubers should be stored in a cool place for the winter, but the temperatures should be above freezing. They need about three months of rest, then when the little pink sprouts show it is time to plant and start the cycle all over again.

I wonder if you are using too much fertilizer and insecticide, fungicide on them. Most growers use liquid fertilizer about every two weeks. Mildew and rot are the most common problems with tuberous begonias. If you used Funginex according to directions it shouldn't have caused any problems.

If you will refer to the *Begonian*, January-February, May-June, and September-October 1984 you will find some excellent articles describing the care of tuberous begonias.

QUESTION: Will you please tell me how you prune your cane begonias? I am never satisfied with the results after I prune mine. TEXAS

ANSWER: I prune just before they start to make new growth in the spring. First, I cut out completely the old, woody canes.

Usually I take off about two-thirds of the growth of the entire plant. I always make sure to cut above a node that is facing outside. This assures a nicely shaped plant. Most varieties will need some pinching when they really start to grow fast. This makes a nice, full plant and gives lots of blooms.

Each variety has its own individual habit of growth, so it is necessary to take that into consideration when pruning and pinching. Some varieties make nice plants with very little help, while others tend to grow straight upward without branching and are difficult even with pruning.

QUESTION: A couple of years ago, just for fun, I crossed two of my rexes. Several of the plants were nice enough to keep. One of them bloomed recently and has fragrant flowers. It is a nice looking plant and not quite like any of the ones that I have seen in books or cata logs. It is not difficult to grow, and I have even propagated it. My problem is that I don't know if it's unusual enough to be of interest to other growers. How would I go about finding out if I should pursue this, or if I should just continue to grow and enjoy my plant privately?
VERMONT

ANSWER: I suggest that you give starts of your begonia hybrid to at least two or three dependable growers for testing. Ask them to grow it for a year and give you an opinion on its merit. Is it fairly hardy and easy to grow? Is it distinctive? The fragrant blossoms are certainly a good feature.

I do lots of hybridizing with my rexes and grow several hundred seedlings each year. They go through at least one summer and

one winter before I even consider them as possibilities. If they suffer from the heat or don't come up strong after the winter cold, they are discarded. If they are difficult to propagate, I discard them. So many begonia hybrids have disappeared after a few years because they are difficult to grow and propagate.

After testing, if you feel your hybrid is distinctive, then you should give it a name. It is a good idea to register it. Write to the Nomenclature Director and she will send you a blank to fill out to describe your plant. She will research the name to be sure it has not been used before.

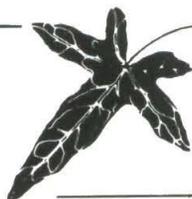
If you decide your plant is not different enough to release, then grow and enjoy! I have many hybrids that are beautiful, but I don't feel they are distinctive enough to name and release. They make a beautiful display in my shade house and I continue to grow them for my own pleasure.

NEW BRANCHES BEING ORGANIZED

A charter was granted to a newly organized branch in Plantation, Florida, after approval of their constitution and bylaws. Any members-at-large in the area are especially invited to affiliate with the group. The organizing and charter president is Eleanor Fisher-Bender, 4201 SW 6th St, Plantation, FL 33317. It will be known as the Fort Lauderdale Area Branch.

Several people in the Toronto area have expressed interest in a branch. Please contact the new branch relations director.

The charter was sent to the Eastern Regional organization. Howard Berg is chairman pro tem.



THE AMERICAN IVY SOCIETY

is the international headquarters for nomenclature; offers new and unusual ivies; features *Ivy Journal* three times a year with reports on research, uses, history. Memberships: General \$15; Institutional \$22; Commercial \$50. Information: The American Ivy Society P.O. Box 520, West Carrollton, OH 45449.

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Joan Campbell, director

This column was prepared by Joan Campbell who will be changing jobs. Joan will assume the directorship of the Seed Fund. She bravely volunteered to handle both departments temporarily until a replacement could be found for the Round Robins. Thanks go to Joan for her smooth-running operation and compiling of the Round Robin column. Everyone enjoys these helpful suggestions.

Mary Ellen Taback has agreed to handle the robin flights. Mary Ellen is no stranger to robin readers. She has been a participant in several flights and looks forward to getting acquainted with all of the robin writers.

Flight members who are growing the **thick-stemmed begonias** find some contradictions in discussing their care. Joyce Smith, Virginia, finds growing thick-stemmed types in a loose soil mix in clay pots works best for her. She treats them very like ordinary succulents. If fertilized regularly they seem to get top heavy too early in their development, so she prefers to starve them a bit. Her pots are small and shallow as these plants don't have much of a root system. She adjusts the soil mix to suit the porosity of the clay container, which can vary. Joyce has learned her thick-stemmed begonias like sun and need bright light in her growing conditions. If allowed to get too cold and chilled, this type may rot.

Ken Freiling, Ohio, agrees thick-stemmed begonias can be grown as one would grow succulents. He is experimenting with a mix for them composed of pumice and ground cork.

Millie Thompson, New York, feels thick-stemmed begonias need a substantial program of fertilizing to encourage branching, more so than other types of begonias do. She notes they prefer shallow pots and like to be potbound. There is a definite growth/decline period with these plants. Many will go dormant to the point of losing their foliage. A few such as *B. pilifera*, prefer the cool

of winter and decline during summer.

Thick-stemmed *B. 'Nita McClain'* goes dormant in late winter just after it has started blooming. Tamsin Boardman, Texas, feels the plant resembles a fruit tree then, showing no leaves, only flowers. Just before defoliating, black specks appear on the leaves. Susan Johnston, Oklahoma, describes *B. sericoneura* from Costa Rica as one of the greatest beauties seen at the Miami Convention. It has large velvet leaves, striped dark green and maroon.

Albert Weatherhead, England, spent some of the winter in **Spain** last year. He reports he saw a lot of begonias there, mostly the rhizomatous type, grown in pots which were painted in colorful shades. The advantage of porosity of clay pots in that climate was lost. On the balconies of nearly every house, no matter how small, were pots of begonias with rhizomes sometimes an inch or more thick. All were very dry and in some cases did not seem to have been repotted for a few years. Feeding them seemed to be a haphazard affair, the main ingredient appeared to be soapy water. He saw none in bloom.

Some members of the **Terrarium** flights grow their begonias in containers, not because they require humidity, but because they feel that container plants need less care than most pot plants do. Glennis Couch, Texas, keeps her plants within bounds in terrariums with the "Mae Blanton method," that is, one simply removes the outer leaves when they grow too large for the container.

If you cover your containers with plastic wrap which loses its tension, Bob Moore, Florida, has a suggestion for you: spray the rims of the container with water before applying the wrap. This initially gives a tighter fit and also helps keep the plastic taut.

Charline Franklin, Texas, learned at one seminar at the Dallas Convention that if no

growth occurs on a plant in a closed container, ninety per cent of the time the mix has become too acid for food absorption.

Ruth Wills, Oklahoma, reminds us that plants such as *B. pavonina* and *B. princeae* must have low light when grown in terrariums. If the plants are too close to the lights, they will die.

To fill a terrarium when planting a single begonia, Joyce Smith likes to add miniature creeping fig and *Myrsine nummularifolia* to the bowl. Miniature *Aeonium* also grows well.

Marguerite Vernon, Texas, rooted *B. exotica* from a leaf wedge. She grew it on in a closed plastic terrarium 15 inches tall. Thereafter she had an accident and was hospitalized for some time. When she got home the plant was about three inches from the top of the container. She pinched the growing tips, but that did not hold it back for long. She had to find a larger container.

Joyce Smith, Virginia, notes that *B. attenuata* stays neat and compact when grown in a bowl. She says that *B.* 'Wanda' roots easily from a leaf, but grows large in a terrarium. Joyce and Mary Harbaugh both report adventitious leaflets on this plant. Joyce tried to root them without success. She associated the condition with high humidity and warmth in the bowl over an extended period of time. Joyce finds *B.* 'Exotic Peridot' a rampant grower in a terrarium. *B. hydrocotylifolia* is low growing and round leaved and does well in a terrarium. *B.* 'Smidgens' does stay small in a terrarium. She finds *B.* 'Glory of St. Albans' winters best in a terrarium.

Dora Lee Dorsey, Florida, prefers her own container recipe: sphagnum moss dipped or soaked in fish emulsion and pressed as dry as you can squeeze it. This is then placed on top of perlite and charcoal chunks in the terrarium. She has tried a layer of potting mix in the bottom with sphagnum on top, but couldn't see that the plants did any better.

Dora Lee says if the sphagnum moss you buy is tan or almost white in color, put it in a plastic bag, dampen it and lay it in a sunny

place. If it hasn't been bagged too long, it may turn green and grow for you and will continue to grow in your terrarium. If it gets too tall there, just push it down.

Discussing some of the **unknown species**, Frances Hoffman, New York, says *B.* U075, a small-leaved trailer, resembles a delicate miniature ivy. *B.* U116 is a small shrublike type with very distinctive foliage. The leaves are long and pointed and have red protuberances resembling hairs scattered over the leaves. Martin Johnson, California, grows *B.* U092 outside a terrarium. If you grow rex begonias, this one will grow well side by side with them.

Mabel Corwin, California, finds *B.* U149 interesting. The leaves are tiny and the stem is so slender it almost isn't visible. She had small plants grown from seed in a sweater box which did well for a while. The leaves started to yellow, so she prepared a sphagnum and perlite mixture and replanted the seedlings. In a week the leaves became nice and green again. *B.* U149 may be *B. maurandiae*. The seed was collected in a Mayan ruin.

Ruth Wills, Oklahoma, notes that the adult leaf of *B.* U082 has a red flush and that the adult leaf of *B.* U089 has a gold flush. Both must be grown in terrariums.

Would you like to exchange growing information with other members? There is a long list of topics each of which is the special theme for one or more robins, for instance: Pollinating Species Begonias; Growing Begonias in the Midwest; Asian Species Begonias; and Thick-Stemmed Begonias. The Research Flight has started a simple growing project with *B.* U166 as the subject.

If you would like to join a robin—a packet of letters circulated among begonia lovers—write for details and a complete list of flight topics to **Round Robin Director Mary Ellen Taback, 151 Shoe Lane, Newport News, VA 23606.**

IN MEMORIAM

Ferris Jones, a past president of the San Miguel Branch, passed away in October. He had been a member of the American Begonia Society since 1959.

Betty Cooper, a member of the Alfred D. Robinson Branch, died of cancer in September. She was chairman of the 1976 Convention in San Diego.

This was incorrectly reported last month as Ada Perry, who had passed away some time ago. Our apologies to all concerned.

PHOTO CREDITS

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Howard Siebold 127

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☆ Begonia Stars on Biscayne Bay ☆

At right:

Those on the bus tour at Miami visited the garden of Ed Harrell, who grew this cane begonia with pink-edged buds and pink wings on white ovaries.

BEGONIAN MINI-ADS

Mini-ads 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 Jess Martinez, 1770 Foothill Rd., Vista, CA 92084.

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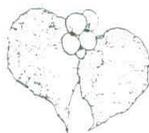
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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

September 7, 1985

The annual business meeting of the American Begonia Society was held in conjunction with the Sacramento Branch annual flower show and plant sale. The president thanked the Sacramento branch on behalf of the society for all the hard work and extra time involved for them to handle all the arrangements.

The meeting started at 8:15 pm after dinner. The following branches were represented A. D. Robinson, Buxton, Knickerbocker, Long Beach, Orange County, Palomar, Rubidoux, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Miguel, Santa Clara, and Ventura, plus members-at-large.

Treasurer Eleanor Calkins reported that the yearly income was \$51,540.74, expenses \$41,154.27 [with bills for the August issue outstanding].

The election results were as follows:

Total ballots received: 558

President:

Margaret Lee 391

Daniel Haseltine 167

First Vice President:

Arlene Davis 440

Bob Dodd 113

Second Vice President:

Howard Berg 489

Third Vice President:

Tamsin Boardman 486

Secretary:

Jeannette Gilbertson 387

Gilbert Estrada 159

Treasurer:

Eleanor Calkins 502

Committee reports submitted in writing to the president by the following committee chairmen: audit, membership, ballot counting, advertising, round robin, members at large, judging, bookstore, nomenclature, branch relations, and awards.

A list of committees and offices and descriptions of their duties was turned in to the secretary for revision.

Parliamentarian Marge Lee reported the revisions in the ABS Constitution and Bylaws. They will be printed in the Begonian to be voted on as they were approved by the members at the annual meeting.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the new officers were installed by Mabel Corwin. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Arlene Davis, secretary

MEETING CALL

The Board of Directors will meet on Sunday, January 12 1986 at the Corona Steak Company Restaurant, 1195 Magnolia Avenue, Corona, Calif. The meeting will convene at 11 a. m., will recess for a no-host lunch, and will reconvene as necessary.

LETTERS READY FOR MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Holiday Greetings to all members-at-large (MAL) both near and far. The past year has seen the creation of a MAL committee, a great meeting at the Miami convention, four MAL newsletters, the last of which is ready NOW.

Three letters are planned for 1986, to be mailed in February, June, and October. The newsletter is available to all members-at-large, free of charge. Donations to the MAL Special Fund do not include expenses for mailing the newsletters. Send your requests with self-addressed, stamped envelopes. You may send envelopes for all three at once if you choose. Copies of all four 1985 letters are still available. Be sure to designate which issues you want.

Sparkling San Diego is waiting to give you a warm welcome at the ABS Convention in 1986. Tim and I are planning a special event for all attending at-large-committee members.

Thelma O'Reilly, Chairman

NEW CHAIRMEN

The list on the inside cover reflects re-appointments and new appointments that had been accepted at the time of preparation of the cover. Since that time the roster has been amended and the following new appointments were made. All were approved at the board of directors' meeting in October:

Advertising Manager, Jess Martinez
1770 Foothill Dr., Vista, CA 92084

Awards Committee Member, Jack Golding
47 Clinton Ave, Kearny, NJ 07032

Seed Fund Director, Joan Campbell
814 N. E. Honey House, Corvallis,
MT 59828

Round Robin Director, Mary Ellen Taback
151 Shoe Lane, Newport News, VA 23606

Circulation Manager Juana Curtis was inadvertently left from the front cover. She will continue in this capacity. Also, Charles Jaros is listed as branch relations chairman and this is incorrect.

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.

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