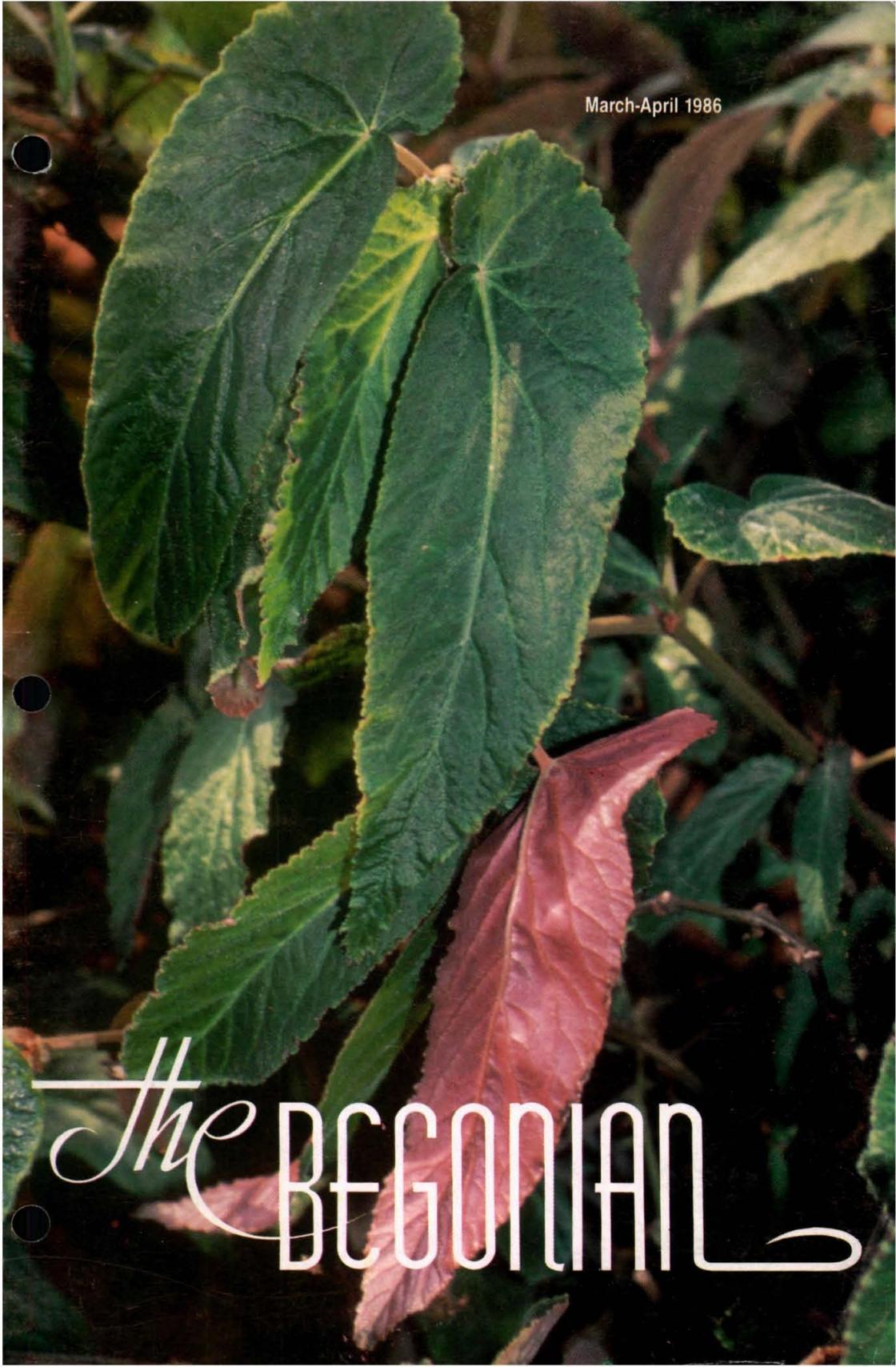


March-April 1986



*The* BEGONIAN

# The BEGONIAN

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**The Cover:** *Begonia* U049 is one of the more enigmatic members of the Unidentified Species List. Thelma O'Reilly tells of sifting through clues to find its source and its name. Plants have been in cultivation for several years and are traded and hybridized among members. Its lovely colors are shown in Thelma's cover photograph.



### INDEX INSERT

The Index was planned so it could be easily removed and filed with the 1985 issues. Then the full photo of *Begonia* U049 will be visible.

### RECORDS UPDATE

The illness of the former membership secretary has resulted in delayed, misplaced, or lost mail. Membership Secretary John Ingles has been working to update records and put the membership roster into good order. He has written many letters to try to straighten out data. If you have a problem, or are aware of someone else who does, write to John Ingles of the details. It will save time if you include a copy of a cancelled check if it involves payment of dues.

### CORRECTIONS

The address of the advertising manager was listed incorrectly in the last issue and is still incorrect on the inside front cover of this issue (printed at the same time). The correct address is:

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

The name of N. Uemura, hybridizer of *Begonia* 'Lubbergei' was incorrectly spelled on page 80, July-August 1985 issue, within the article, "Cane Showcase."

### CARNIVAL OF BEGONIAS

The annual show and sale of the Jacksonville Branch will be at the Roosevelt Mall, Roosevelt Blvd. at San Juan Ave, Jacksonville, Florida, on May 22, 23, and 24. They anticipate that the Carnival of Begonias will attract a good crowd to see begonias at top form for the year.

### LIBRARY SUSPENDED

The committee to inventory the library completed a list of the books and reported that the condition of the books was only fair. Most of the books about begonias have disappeared, except those which were placed in the Library at Los Angeles State and County Arboretum for safekeeping. The committee recommended suspension of the circulating library and either sale or discarding of the remaining books.

### OLD BOOKS/OLD BEGONIAS

Often the bookstore gets requests for books about begonias that are out of print. The bookstore will gladly accept donations of books or will buy certain books, so long as these are about begonias. Write to Bob Bailey, bookstore manager, about arrangements before you send books. Include titles and authors of books.

Donations of copies of old *Begonians*, dated before 1960, are also sought. Julie Panntaja handles back issue sales.

## BEGONIAS SOUTHERN STYLE STARRING MERRIL AND KATHLYN CALVERT

*Susan Johnston*

Envision Alice's looking glass. As you step through the greenhouse doors at Merrill and Kathlyn Calvert's, it's easy to imagine a close encounter with the White Rabbit and the Red Queen — and even several Cheshire Cats in the form of Tarzana, Sam, and Black Cat, the Calverts' familiars. For many of us, growing specimen begonias is a fantasy; for the Calverts, it's been a reality for many years. I've visited the Calverts on several occasions, and each time is a passage into a fantasy land for me.

Picture Scarlet O'Hara with a demure disposition, and you've conjured up Kathlyn Calvert, who modestly denies that she should be the focus of our journalistic venture into her magical greenhouse province. But Merrill, with an ever-present twinkle in his eyes, is prone to capture the limelight with his capricious begonia tales told with a flourish of quick-witted Irish blarney. Their personalities, Kathlyn's southern grace and charm and Merrill's roughish wit, draw the definitive line of their individualities. Together they grow the most stunning begonia collection this side of China (if you take the direct route).

Both Calverts are now retired, Merrill having been an electrician with Gaddis-Walker Company in Oklahoma City for 35 years and Kathlyn having devoted many years to hotel management in the metropolitan area. Their spare time was dedicated to Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, PTA, church, politics, ceramics and square dancing. They now "limit" their interests to ABS, Southwest Region, and Barkley Branch activities.

The Calverts became members of the ABS and the Barkley Branch in 1980. The reorganization of the Southwest Region, for which

*Susan L. Johnston, 832 S. Lahoma, Norman, OK 73069, is a member of the Barkley Branch and is active in the Southwest Region. She grows begonias from seed in a basement light garden.*

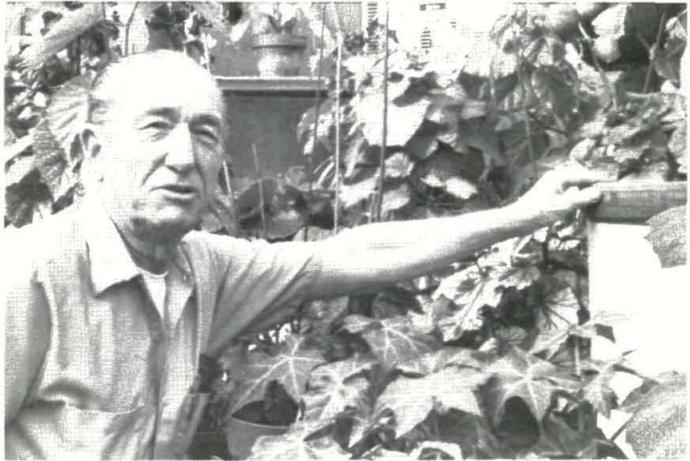
they were largely responsible, now finds Merrill the 1985-1987 director, and Kathlyn now serves as president of the Barkley Branch.

Though their active participation in ABS seems relatively recent, their interest in the plant kingdom has spanned nearly 60 years. Both Calverts were born of parents who shared the same love and knowledge of horticulture with their very small children — a legacy that continues to thrive in Merrill and Kathlyn's three children. Kathlyn asserts that begonias have proved to be one of her biggest and most exciting challenges.

Curiosity led me to ask Kathlyn about the origin of her interest in begonias, and she related that during a confinement in the hospital, Merrill brought her an armful of plants — begonias, of course — *Begonia masoniana* and several rex cultivars. The year was 1969, the lure was cast, and the bait taken.

The first growing area, occupied primarily by rex begonias, was the family garage converted to a light garden. Kathlyn rapidly graduated to her first greenhouse, a 12' x 14' area constructed with Merrill's engineering expertise (he's referred to as the "begonia lady's handyman" by branch members). Later, a small 8' x 10' adjoining greenhouse was added to accommodate Merrill's cacti and succulents, numbering about 200 rare plants now in the process of being identified and catalogued. Another addition brought Kathlyn's growing area to 26' x 24'.

A couple of years ago the need of Calverts' son Bob for additional greenhouse space for his burgeoning business in Oklahoma City, yielded the 80' x 30' greenhouse. This oversized building stuck out like a sore thumb and drew so many inquisitive green thumb enthusiasts that the Calverts were impelled to discretely name their tourist attraction. Thus, "The Calverts' Playhouse — no plants for sale" was born. A few begonias are housed in the Playhouse, interspersed among large tropicalls such as palms, dieffenbachias, hibiscus, and a host of others.



*Kathlyn Calvert,  
Merril Calvert,  
B. kenworthyae,  
and  
B. vitafolia,  
all in Calvert's  
greenhouse.*



Handsome unnamed seedling with inflorescence of 'Pink Chaser' at left

The fairytale atmosphere of the greenhouse prevails throughout the spacious grounds, where azaleas, hardy orchids, daylilies, and magnificent trees – redwood, birch, cypress, tulip, four magnolias of varying bloom colors, sweet gum, and oak fill the eye of the beholder. Motley species of birds flock to the trees, goldfinches and cedar waxwings among them.

I asked Kathlyn the inevitable question, to what trade secrets could she and Merrill attribute to their success. They are very firm in their belief that they have *found* methods that work well for them, not always what might work for someone else.

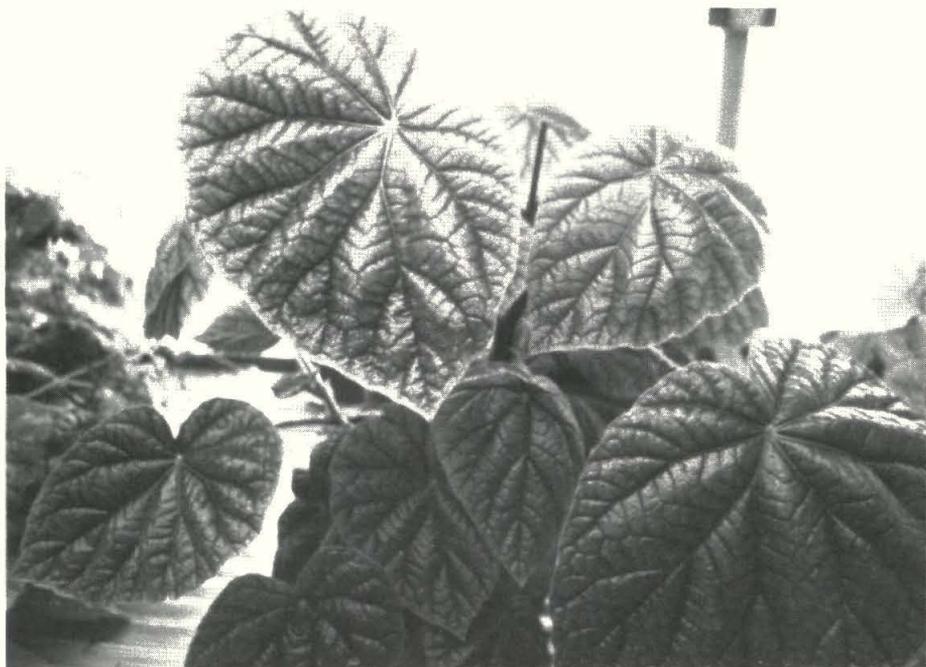
My theory is that Peter Pan miscalculated his landing pad one foggy begonia eve, and found himself in Kathlyn's greenhouse, his shadow pinned beneath a massive pot of *B.* 'Ricky Minter'. Peter, driven by desperation to retrieve his shadow, bargained Tinkerbell in return for its repair. The rest is history, as she now cavorts through the greenhouse sprinkling fairy dust on all the begonias...of course, I've yet to see them fly!

Kathlyn and Merrill both feel that adequate spacing of plants, so that no plant is touching another, is essential for proper growth and air circulation (which they bolster by the use of four circulating fans).

She repots her plants into the next size pot *before* the roots touch the edge or bottom of the pot. Her soil mix consists of equal parts by volume of perlite, vermiculite, ground sphagnum, finely ground bark for porosity, Longhorn cow manure, and Michigan black peat. After repotting, she immediately waters with B-1 solution, Super Thrive, at 10 drops to a gallon of water. She fertilizes, generally with Peter's 20-20-20, at every watering starting January 1, continuing through October, at which time she brings the plants into the greenhouse from summering outdoors.

Before returning to the greenhouse, certain winter preparations are made. First, the plants are given a good washing off with "plain old soap and water" (Kathlyn's theory: if it works for people, why not plants!). Second, she follows the bath by repotting in new soil, and a final fertilizing before the winter rest. Third, the greenhouse itself is subjected to a thorough cleaning with soap (either Ivory or Palmolive dishwashing liquid), Chlorox, brown bottle Lysol, and water. Both Photographer Bob Dodd and I agreed neither of us would hesitate to eat directly from the floor of her greenhouse. Kathlyn adheres to the adage, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness." The Calverts are conscientious about grooming their plants, too, though Merrill insists his active approach to begonia growing consists *only* of mixing dirt and grooming plants.

When I approached them about their biggest challenge in raising begonias, they both agreed that mildew, to which begonias have a propensity, is a constant threat with our ubiquitous Oklahoma high-low temperature extremes. Various fungicides have been tried and tested, and with some disparity of success. Merrill says that Funginex is the only product they have found that will not leave a residue on the foliage. It can be used a few days before show time, and no tell-tale residue will linger on the leaves from a broad spraying of the greenhouse. Merrill feels that



*Begonia* 'Zuensis', at top, and *B.* 'Quito', bottom, are both Calvert prize winners.



Another view of the greenhouse. Note plant spacing.

alternating brands of fungicide should be implemented to be effective in a program to conquer mildew.

For general pest problems, Merrill uses a relatively new systemic designed originally for nematodes, called Oxamyl, which he has found to be an effective broad spectrum approach for all chewing insects and nematodes. He also uses Pounce 3.2EC, a liquid insecticide that works on contact, and leaves no residue on the leaves. These products, used by commercial nurserymen, are difficult to find in small quantities for the hobbyist, and are expensive as well.

Merril contends that the problem with many insecticides is their petroleum base. He cautions everyone to be aware that even the inert ingredients in products which may have a profound effect not only on the plants but also on the growers. He stresses that he only uses chemicals when he needs to and not just because it is time to.

Kathlyn's list of favorite begonias includes *B. 'Quito'*, *'Moonstone'*, and a hybrid of Bob Dodd's that will be released soon. Merrill adds his special appreciation of *B. 'Pink Chaser'* for its unique habit of growth and bloom. Kathlyn does hold a special sentiment for *B. masoniana*, the first she ever received. It seems appropriate that this is also the begonia for which she won Best in Show at the Barkley Branch Show in 1980, her first show.

Speaking of Best in . . . honors, Kathlyn has won them all, if not several times over. Awards, trophies, and ribbons are extensive in the Calverts' home. Winning the Best in Show at the Barkley Branch Show four out of the five years she has been in competition, Sweepstakes in 1980 and 1983, and achieving the ultimate Sweepstakes, Best in Show, and the Thompson Showing is Sharing, plus dozens of ribbons and cultural awards at the 1984 National Show in Dallas. These are evidence of the exceptional growers they have become.

With quiet reticence, Kathlyn recalls a time in early childhood on a warm, sultry afternoon when she dallied along a country road, her small puppy tagging behind, and collected handfuls of brightly colored hollyhocks and daisies which she carried home with her. Arriving home, she found her lovingly gathered bouquet wilted and dying quickly. Perhaps from an incident so seemingly small, yet so infinitely important, has evolved her love of horticulture. I can only say that while most of us are still traveling the road, Merrill and Kathlyn Calvert have arrived.

**Begonia Buttercup**

**KARTUZ GREENHOUSE**  
**1408 Sunset Dr., Vista, CA 92083**  
**(619) 941-3613**

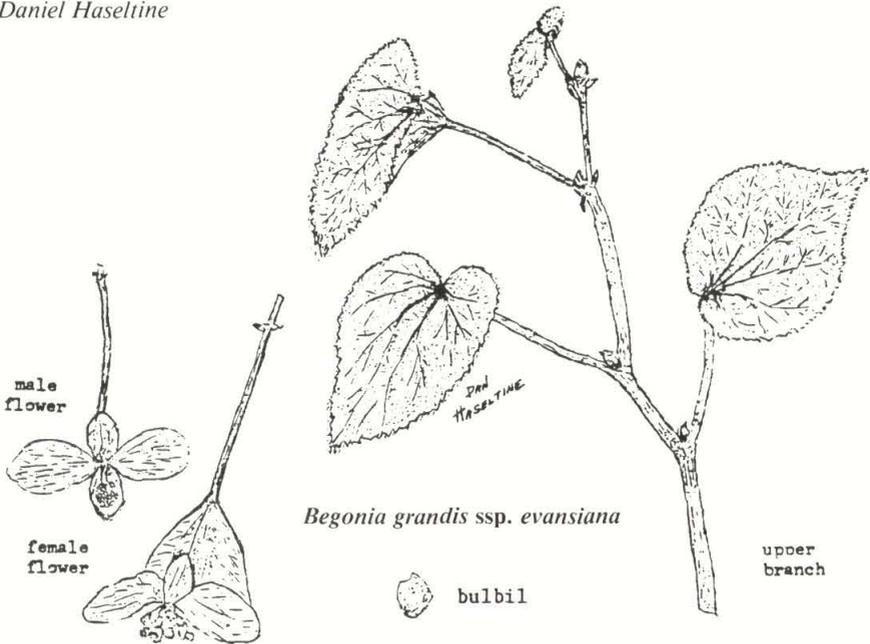
**Open Thurs. thru Sun., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Begonias, gesneriads, flowering tropicals,  
 including our exclusive introductions.

**Catalog \$2.00**

## GROWING BEGONIAS: *Begonia evansiana*

Daniel Haseltine



I have grown *Begonia evansiana* in the yard under a tree for a few years. By covering it with well with leaves, it survived our cold winter. It was slow coming up in the spring because of its sheltered location, and I finally dug the corm up and put it into a pot.

Last fall before frost I put the pot on the north side of the greenhouse on the floor. During the early winter, *B. evansiana* went dormant and, in doing so, dropped some bulbils on top of the soil of the pot.

I refrigerated the bulbils during the winter and planted them in a pot in the spring. These

*Daniel Haseltine is editor of the Chicago Begonian where this article first appeared. His address is 6950 W. Nelson Street, Chicago, IL 60634.*

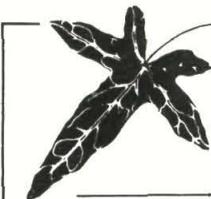
small plants did not get large enough to bloom. By fall they developed some bulbils as large as the ones I used as the parents.

The original plant bloomed with its pendulous pink flowers during the summer and late fall. With the shorter days and cooler weather, *B. evansiana* formed bulbils in the leaf axils of the stems.

There is also *B. evansiana* var. *alba* hort., a white flowering variety that I have seen growing in California. Often the white flowers are fragrant.

I have been growing my plants in a light sandy loam. There are others that grow in various mixes, and it does equally well. Once the plant goes dormant, it is best to withhold water until growth starts again in the spring.

*B. evansiana* has been reported to be hardy in some parts of Canada. See page 41



### THE AMERICAN IVY SOCIETY

is the International Registration Authority for *Hedera*; provides sources for new & unusual ivies; publishes *Ivy Journal* three times a year with reports on research, hardiness testing, life-sized photos of ivies. Memberships: General \$15; Institutional \$25; Commercial \$50. Information: The American Ivy Society, PO Box 520, West Carrollton, OH 45449-0520.

## TISSUE CULTURE, BEST FRIEND OF THE BEGONIA HYBRIDIZER

*H. Gilbert Harlow*

Few members of the plant world produce more variety from seeds than the tuberous begonia. No two seedlings are ever identical. Plant three hundred seeds from a single cross and you may have individual plants that are blue ribbon winners and others that are plain or even downright ugly. Plant thirty thousand seeds as I do, and there will always be a dozen or so that are clearly superior to the rest.

Now consider the tissue culture method of plant reproduction, first utilized by Morell to propagate valuable orchid plants, but now in general use for all plants that are difficult or slow to reproduce from cuttings. Admittedly labor intensive and requiring considerable expensive laboratory equipment, tissue culture is a technique that can turn out replicates of begonias or virtually any other plant with the efficiency of an office copying machine. As the monk in the ABM ad would say, "It's a miracle."

Most tuberous begonias are stingy with cuttings. Taking into account the necessity of long days for growing and short days for tuber formation several, plants a year is all that can be expected from a single specimen. With tissue culture it is simply a case of how many you want and what facilities you have to care for them.

One starts with a tiny segment of a choice plant. A section of a petiole or peduncle an eighth of an inch long is sufficient. Any part of the plant can be used, although some parts are easier to disinfest than others. Disinfesting is the process by which one attempts to eliminate all of the pathogens which are found in abundance on the surface of the plant. The medium in which the plant part will be placed contains about 20 minerals, vitamins, and hormones. Bacteria and molds grow even faster on this material than the plant parts, so

*Prof. H. Gilbert Harlow last wrote for the Begonian in 1968. His hobby is growing tuberous begonias. His address is C. E. Dept., Union College, Schenectady, NY 12305.*

that unless they are completely eliminated they will quickly fill the test tube or petri dish.

The plant parts can be supported on a thin layer of the medium in a gel formed by the addition of agar, on a capillary mat or bridge of filter paper, or in a liquid that is rotated or agitated so that the plant part is alternately in and out of the liquid.

With the appropriate hormonal balance tiny adventitious shoots will appear in about a month. A day length of 16 hours appears best. Soon the original propagule can be divided into six or eight parts and returned to new test tubes or petri dishes. All divisions and transfers must be carried out under sterile conditions. This is usually provided by working within a laminar flow cabinet which keeps a constant flow of germ free air moving past the sterile field. This is the multiplication stage, and it can be continued until one has as many tiny plants as are required.

A change in the hormones will cause the plantlets to form roots, at which point they can be transferred to a soil mix. This is one of the more difficult parts of the process and it takes considerable experimentation to develop a technique that will yield a high percentage of "takes."

If you can remember the glorious plants in Frank Reinelt's Capitola greenhouses, just consider what this method of reproduction could have done for all of us. He often said that it would take so long to build up a stock of a particular clone that by the time it could be listed in his catalog it would be obsolete in comparison with the best of his new seedlings. Now with tissue culture the multiplication could take place in two or three years rather than the ten or twelve required to produce a few hundred from cuttings.

Another bit of wisdom from Frank Reinelt was that each year a tiny number of plants would prove to be vastly superior as parents in his breeding program. With tissue culture those plants could be multiplied ad infinitum, making it unnecessary to use unproven plants as parents except in experimental crosses.

When Mr. Reinelt retired from begonia breeding in 1967 I was lucky enough to get over one hundred tubers from his breeding stock. Now some 18 years later that material is mostly represented by genes spread through my own breeding stock. If tissue culture had been available I could still have all of the Reinelt originals in whatever numbers I desired.

Now to my purpose: I propose to start a cooperative arrangement among tuberous begonia collectors that will permit each of us to contribute prized varieties that can be propagated by tissue culture and distributed to all the participants. Any remaining Reinelt stock would be particularly valuable. Blackmore and Langdon named varieties can be included and some of the very fine hanging basket types from Antonelli. I am sure that there are other very valuable plants from many other sources that would be welcome additions to our collections. We might circulate colored slides or prints to let other participants know what we have.

If there are others in the ABS that are involved in tissue culture I would welcome their help in the propagating operation but anyone with one or more really outstanding plants would be welcome to take part. It will take a little time to get this operation organized but

I think we can accomplish something that is really worthwhile. Many years ago I conducted a begonia test program for the Men's Garden Clubs of America and we had about 75 or 80 testers all over the country. I feel certain that there are at least that many who could contribute to and benefit from the project I am proposing.

If there are other begonia growers with laboratory facilities available I would be happy to provide them with the necessary instruction for them to get started in tissue culture. It takes much time but it is very rewarding. Most commercial laboratories are off limits to visitors because each has developed its own techniques and has nothing to gain by passing them along to potential competitors. College facilities are normally open to any interested persons so if there is a college or university near you with a strong biology program, you can probably tour their tissue culture laboratory. I am an engineer, not a biologist, but my laboratory is open to any of you who are within reach.

If you are interested in participating in the arrangement I have outlined please write to me indicating what you would like to obtain from a program like this and what you might have to offer.

## BEGONIA PORTRAIT

### *Begonia masoniana*

This was the first begonia other than semps that I ever grew from seeds. It adapts well to Florida growing conditions, both under natural and artificial light, and its light green leaves with the chocolate Iron Cross markings always attract attention from visitors.

I grow it in a soilless mix and have found that it needs about the same humidity as rex cultivars, although it can take more heat than most. The Iron Cross is mainly grown for its foliage, and the greenish white flowers are not at all showy. I propagate it often, as I prefer small plants for my shelves, usually by putting down a whole leaf flat on moist vermiculite and making a few slits across the main veins

[on the lower side next to the soil surface]. Sometimes I let a rhizome creep over the pot rim into the soil of another pot, and get a new plant that way.

By Banks Mebane, Melbourne Beach, FL  
Adapted from the MAL NEWSLETTER

### PHOTO CREDITS

Ed Bates 53  
Bob Cole 56  
Ralph Corwin 57  
Jackie Davis 54  
Bob Dodd 33-36  
Thelma O'Reilly 42, 47

## Glasgow Botanic Gardens: The M. L. MacIntyre Begonia Trust



The Begonia House at Glasgow showing *B. foliosa* var. *amplifolia* prior to move to new display area. For another view, see the Seed Fund, Sept.-Oct. 1984.

### *Eric W. Curtis*

The begonias in Glasgow form one of our long established collections. From the 1950s onwards this was further built up through the stimulus of plants received from many sources, including Maurice Mason of Fincham, Norfolk, Rudolf Ziesenhenné of California, Professor Doorenbos of Wageningen, and in particular, M. L. MacIntyre, well known as a former member of the American Begonia Society\*

Malcolm L. MacIntyre, of Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, developed a close interest in the Glasgow collection over a period of about 12 years, and the M. L. MacIntyre Begonia Trust has now been established by his widow. Mr. MacIntyre's interest in begonias started when he bought a plant of *Begonia* 'Argenteoguttata', the so-called trout begonia. As a keen fisherman he was attracted to this!

*Eric W. Curtis, curator of the Glasgow Botanic Gardens, Glasgow, G12 OUE, has kept the ABS informed about begonias in his charge.*

Since he had only a small greenhouse, he came to specialize in the smaller rhizomatous kinds, especially those with *Begonia bowerae* as one of the parents. He raised many of these compact miniatures with attractively marked leaves, such as *B.* 'Red Tracery', 'Scottish Star', 'English Knight', 'Fred Benson', and 'Holmes Chapel'. These were registered with the American Begonia Society, and they now form a useful part of the Glasgow collection.

The new Trust is based at Glasgow Botanic Gardens with the purpose of promoting begonias and their research. It will be used to improve the scientific base of the collection and the facilities for growing them in the Gardens. It is intended in time to mount an exhibition to publicize the diversity of the genus and the collection at Glasgow. This would be in photographic form to be used as a travelling exhibition which would be available through organizations such as the American

\*See "The Scot With Dozens of Hybrids to his Credit" in the June 1980 *Begonian*.

Begonia Society and the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens.

It is through this latter organization that the Glasgow collection of begonias is formally designated the "National Collection" — although specifically excluding the tuberous and winter-flowering hybrids. This is the first National Collection of a group of tropical, rather than hardy, plants. A genus of about 1000 species and innumerable hybrids cannot be included in any single collection, but the aim, as laid down in the "Objectives," is to maintain as complete a collection of species as possible, preferably of known wild origin, as well as helping to conserve the well-documented cultivars from pre-1940, and a representative selection of post-1940 cultivars. The listed collection is now available on a computer printout which includes data of origin and useful literature references. Both a photographic record and a collection of herbarium specimens are now being prepared.

The collection itself is kept in two areas, both for purposes of display and to help to ensure its secure maintenance. Glasgow Botanic

Garden has a large range of display houses, one of which has been devoted to begonias. However, this is no longer adequate, and this part of the collection is in the process of being moved to a larger section where a central display area is being prepared for their "natural" display. To be transferred is a specimen of *Begonia foliosa* var. *amplifolia* received from Rudolf Ziesenhenné in 1969. This must surely qualify for the *Guinness Book of Records*. Before it was cut back recently in preparation for the move, it extended over 30 feet and had produced flowers every day of the year for ten years. At least one of every species/cultivar is retained in the separate range of supply houses — with a few growing under different climatic conditions, for example, the "difficult" *B. prismatocarpa* which is now thriving in the Filmy Fern House.

The operation of the Trust and the stimulus of being the National Collection both help to ensure that future development of Glasgow Botanic Gardens includes begonias as one of its important facets.

From the CHICAGO BEGONIAN

#### A Little History

*Curtis's Botanical Magazine*

Pl. 3536, 1812

*Begonia evansiana*

Two Colored Begonia

We doubt whether this plant be not a variety of *Begonia grandis*; it so much resembles 'KAEMPFERS' figure, that we can scarcely find any other difference than that of the leaves being less angulated, and the female flowers more cernuous [drooping]. In both these flowers are, contrary to most of the species, four-petaled and similar to the male, the stamens are monadelphous [united at the base], the alae of the capsules nearly equal, and the upper surface of the leaves are covered with minute spinules — but THUNBERG, in his description of the same plant under the name of OBLIQUA, expressly says, the leaves are pale on the under surface; while in our

plant the older leaves are on the undersides, entirely bright red; in the younger leaves, the veins only have this color, the interstices being of a bright green.

In the *Botanist's Repository*, it is said that Mr. Evan's collector first found this plant growing in the clefts of the rocks in the Island of Pulo-Pinang, in the year of 1808. Dr. Donn in his catalog, names it as a native of China and dates its introduction to this country four years earlier. It is really cultivated in China. It has been in the royal collection at Kew from about the time Donn states.

Ed. note: *Begonia evansiana* = *Begonia grandis* ssp. *evansiana* as published by Dr. Irmscher in 1939 (pronounced ee-VAHN-see-ahn-na; ssp. = subspecies). The former name has been in use for many years and it is still common. It was the first *Begonia* published in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*.

## THE POT OF GOLD

Thelma O'Reilly

Many people spend a lifetime searching for the Pot of Gold at the end of a rainbow. A few, myself included, seek the Pot of Gold in a faraway begonia habitat. As the miner sifts for gold, I sift for clues.

I became acquainted with *B. U049* about eight years ago while visiting the Begonia House at Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. The plant was labeled *B. peruviana*. I still remember driving home that day, filled with excitement and anticipation. I could hardly wait to check my literature to learn more about this distinct, handsome begonia.

Descriptions said *B. peruviana* was glabrous. This did not fit the Arboretum's plant which was "hairy" on all parts (the plant was not in flower). A letter and pressed leaves were sent to Dr. L. B. Smith at the Smithsonian Institution. His answer verified my suspicions that the name *B. peruviana* was not the correct identification for this plant. He said he could find nothing like it in the Peruvian section of the Smithsonian Herbarium.

The next important clue appeared when Francis Michelson registered *B. 'Withlacoochee'*, listing *B. peruviana* as its male parent. I wrote asking for additional information about this plant. Francis cooperated by sending me an excellent drawing of the leaf and live plant material. The drawing immediately triggered my memory of a similar leaf drawing in the past. Where, when, and by whom?

Finally, I remembered. Yvonne Wells of Texas, in the early seventies, had sent me a leaf sketch of a fabulous new species. Filed under

\*Originator Francis Michelson subsequently corrected the original spelling 'Withlacoochee'. The correct spelling 'Withlacoochee' has been entered on the official ABS registration.

*Thelma O'Reilly enjoys matching the Begonia to the botanical description. Her address is 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 92041.*



her name was a folder chocked full of letters plus a sketch and two pressed leaves labeled "an exciting new begonia species from Peru" — a perfect match to the plant Francis had used as a parent for his hybrid.

A quick query for the source of his plant resulted in a most valuable clue. It was the ABS Seed Fund, June 1965, where this appeared:

No. 2—Brazil sp. Angel wing type with velvety leaves. Plants found in dense forest at 300 ft elevation on the Rio Ribiera 250 mi south of Sao Paulo.

Francis reported that this unidentified species had been said to be *B. peruviana* at the 1978 Eastern convention.

When the ABS Nomenclature Department Unidentified Species Project was established, I requested a number for this species which was then designated *B. U049*.

Sifting through information about this species and a few others led me to a careful study of the Seed Fund listings in the mid sixties.

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\* = photo or illustration

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Florence Gee, the director at that time, made several references to her "Friend" from Brazil.

About this time I acquired *Tales of Spencer*, a small book published by South Bay Bromeliad Associates. I was acquainted with the late Ralph W. Spencer of Palos Verdes Estates, Calif., through our mutual interest in bromeliads. He was an experienced collector of orchids and bromeliads. As I read the absorbing tales of his adventures in plant collecting when he lived in southeastern Brazil (1963-66), I realized that I had found Mrs. Gee's friend, the collector responsible for the treasure of Brazilian species and hybrids that beautify our present collections. Later, Rudy Ziesenhenné verified that Ralph Spencer was the collector who furnished seed from Brazil to Mrs. Gee.

In 1980 I spent several hours in the Arboretum Begonia House taking notes and slides of *B. U049*. I was given permission to remove enough plant material to prepare a herbarium specimen. Fortunately, the plant was coming

into bloom. (See cover photograph.)

In July 1982, I took the herbarium specimen *Thelma O'Reilly No. 18* to Dr. Smith. After studying the material he wrote that this could be a new species.

Clues continue to surface; notes fill two folders. Mae Blanton reported that Yvonne's source was the late Mrs. Routh. In the early seventies, Mae and Yvonne experimented to learn how many begonias, other than rhizomatous, would grow a plant from a leaf cutting. *B. U049* was successful. In these trials, they also learned that mature leaves of this plant proliferated at leaf apices when the plants were grown in a contained atmosphere with high humidity.

Writing to me during those years, Yvonne indicated that this begonia was "touchy" and should be pinched or cut when it was cool or plant and cutting would die.

Recently I followed a clue that led to Dr. Benjamin Herman of Tucson who advised me to take cuttings only when there will be leaves left on the plant after the cutting is removed.

Carrie Karegeannes has been of invaluable assistance during my search for this Pot of Gold, and she has boosted my morale during periods of frustration. Joy Porter has helped by tying *B. U049* to other U number listings. Many ABS members in addition to Francis Michelson, have willingly shared information and plant material.

Mabel Corwin is growing a plant of each of the four beonia names in the following list, giving me the opportunity to compare them and discuss their traits and merits with a knowledgeable grower: *B. peruviana*,, Peruvian species (listed in Logee's latest catalog), African species (Wilson's Greenhouse listing), and *B. U099*. *B. U049* is being grown under all these names, and it has been reported that *B. U035* may belong in this list. I have not seen the plant to make a comparison.

As the sifting of clues continues I am hopeful that the Pot of Gold is within reach—containing a name, old or new, to be shared with you.

## Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund

Joan Campbell, director

- B. macduffieana* M-A 1 *B. U057* M-A 7  
Rare Amazonian species pictured on the cover of the November-December 1985 *Begonian*. Canelike growing habit, green leaves, and red blossoms. First time offered. Collected in the wild near the Wawai River, New Guinea. This is a different type from that offered in the Seed Fund in June 1981.
- B. solananthera* M-A 2 *B. convallariodora* M-A 8  
Trailing-scandant species from Brazil. One of the most beautiful species. Heart-shaped leaves and fragrant, white flowers, each with a red center. The seed is short lived and should be refrigerated until planted. Shrublike species from Guatemala. The plant has medium-sized oval leaves and may grow to two or three feet tall. The scent of the small, white blossoms has been compared to lilies of the valley.
- B. petasitifolia* M-A 3 *B. U186* M-A 9  
Thick-stemmed species from Brazil and a good one for beginners. It has thick, glossy leaves 5" x 6" on red petioles with a small cuff of hairs at the petiole and leaf junction. Small white flowers on rose peduncles. Species from Venezuela. Donor received plant as SH 1980, and it is of the section *Ruizpavonia*.
- B. multinervia* M-A 4 *B. U187* M-A 10  
Thick-stemmed species from Costa Rica. Leaves are glossy with depressed venation and a cusp or hooked point on the leaf. Small, white flowers in large inflorescences. Although the plant grows tall, it stays small under home conditions long enough to enjoy those odd leaves. Easy to grow, it was pictured on the cover of the May-June 1982 issue. From Peru, distributed as Chavez 1701. Plant is described as covered with sticky hairs. It will grow to about three feet. Blossoms are white.
- B. acida* M-A 5 *B. rex cultorum* M-A 11  
Shrublike Brazilian species with distinctive foliage. Collected from the Munich Botanic Gardens. It has a close resemblance to *B. peleata*, but has larger leaves with a pebbly texture. White flowers. Does well at 50° to 70°. Seed from two growers who are serious about their crossings.
- B. nigro-venia* M-A 6 Hybrid rhizomatous M-A 12  
Popular rhizomatous species from Mexico (syn. *B. dayi* hort., *B. hidalgensis*). Yellow green leaves are thick and shiny with dark red veins, white flowers. There is a color picture of this plant with accompanying article in *Begonian*, August 1981. Seed from an Australian donor.
- Cyrtomium falcatum* M-A 14  
Spores of the holly fern. Those who tried *B. socotrana* in the November-December listing should add lime to the potting mix for the seedlings. In nature, *B. socotrana* grows in chalky soil. If you resist growing the species from seed because you are afraid you will end up with two dozen plants all alike, I'd like to point out that the seedling stage of growing has a high mortality rate. As a general rule, many young seedlings die. However, there is a high probability that the surviving immature plants will live and grow.

# TIME FOR NOMINATIONS FOR ABS AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

*Michael Ludwig, Awards Committee  
Chairman*

ABS friends will convene Thursday, September 4 to Sunday, September 7 in San Diego for the annual convention and show. One of the highlights will be the annual presentation of the awards of the society: the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award, the Herbert P. Dyckman Award, and the Alfred D. Robinson Medal. Your nominations are solicited for these kudos.

Your written nominations must state the reasons for believing the person or plant is deserving of special merit. The Awards Committee members make a decision on the basis of qualification. The winner may or may not have received the most nominations.

Please read carefully the following rules governing the awards.

## EVA KENWORTHY GRAY AWARD

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

1. For contributing something of spiritual value toward cementing good will and harmony among our members.
2. For contributing original material toward helping our members to further their study of begonias.

## The Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund

### To order seeds:

You may order seeds from the listings of the previous 12 months, but please list alternate choices in case some of the listings have been sold out.

I have more types of *semperflorens* on hand now than were listed in the November-December issue. It's late to start them for bedding plants, but it's never too late for houseplants.

## HERBERT P. DYCKMAN AWARD

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

## ALFRED D. ROBINSON MEMORIAL MEDAL

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

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

Please use your privilege as an ABS member to nominate the person or plant you consider worthy of receiving one of these prestigious awards. I must receive your letter no later than June 30, 1986 for consideration by the committee. Send letters of nomination to:

Michael Ludwig, Awards Chairman  
642 Torrance Street  
San Diego, CA 92103

All packets of seed through M-A10 are \$1.00 this month. M-A 11 through M-A 14 are 50¢ per packet.

"Growing From Seed" pamphlet is 25¢. Orders from U. S., Mexico, and Canada need 45¢ over seed price for postage (60¢ if over 12 packets are ordered). Overseas orders require \$1.20 for postage. Send checks or money orders in U. S. funds made payable to Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. Mail to **Joan Campbell, 814 NE Honey House, Corvallis, MT 59828.**

## ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Mary Ellen Taback, director

*The Research Robin #54 is growing Begonia U166.* Each member was supplied with a small growing plant, and each is growing it under different conditions of soil, light, etc. The members are keeping careful records of results which are mailed around in the Robin. Mary Weinberg, IL, is coordinating the project, and Dan Haseltine chairs the robin. There are several requests for another such robin as more members want to get in on the fun. When the Robin Director receives enough such requests, and a volunteer to act as chairman, another Research Robin will be launched.

Picturesque **phrases** are a part of growing plants. Instead of the familiar "dampoff," Ian Robertson, Australia, calls the sudden loss of plantlets "meltdown", a very descriptive phrase. Mickey Meyers, also of Australia, reminds her Robin friends that the lack of viable seed when hybrids are crossed is not surprising. They are "mules," she says.

The robin members who attended the ERABS seminar at the Thompsons' last fall, picked up many good ideas which they are passing around in their letters. Chris Giordano, NY, was inspired to replant some of her begonias in ways more natural to them. Her *B. solananthera* looks much better now that it has made the move from pot to wire basket, she reports.

Troubled with **transplants**? Mary Simon, OH, believes meltdown is caused by a virus. It affects her *B. exotica*, *breviramosa*, *chlorosticta*, 'Peridot' and 'Wood Nymph' seedlings. Virginia Hamann, IA, keeps the soil surface dry and waters from the bottom of the pot to keep meltdown from occurring. Dora Lee Dorsey, FL suggests that transplants be allowed to establish themselves before being given fertilizer.

*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.*

Arline Peck, RI responds to a less experienced grower: if a seedling has been germinated in a covered container, then cover the seedling when it is first transplanted. She likes to use clear plastic bags for this.

The **environment** where the begonias are being grown makes a difference in culture. We are reminded of this by a Texas grower complaining of the edge browning of leaves due to low humidity as we turn to a letter from Albert Whitehead, England, who says "one thing common to begonias is that high humidity destroys them all." Christine Cook, OH, recounts that her plants look healthier now since her recent move from a wood-panelled house to one with light colored walls and more windows.

Joan Campbell, MT, has made an alphabetized list of the plants mentioned in the Tuberous Species Flight, with plenty of space for comments as they come along. This idea might help the rest of us **organize** our **robin hints**.

Several robins have discussed using Knox gelatin as a **fertilizer** for begonias. Lee Thomas, NY, uses it once a month to "green up" her plants.

Elaine Ayers, OH, follows this recipe acquired from a robin: Dissolve a package of gelatin in hot water, then dilute to one gallon. Add some B vitamins (found in Stress Tabs), some calcium tablets, and a couple of potassium tablets.\*

Dora Lee Dorsey, FL, recommends Ideal's Triple Super Phosphate. Chelated iron is good to use sparingly to intensify color in foliage, she notes. Kathleen Herr, OH, finds that rhizomatous begonias develop better coloration if they are not kept too cool in the winter, and if they are given natural light. Tubers fare better over the winter if given a final fall feeding of potash to harden the tubers. Russ Richardson, GA, noticed an amazing difference in his canes when he changed from 20-20-20 to 10-30-10 fertilizer formulation.

When a Californian grower complained of **soil worms** killing miniature begonias, Dora Hale, CA, suggested a dose of *Dipel* which will kill the larvae of moths without hurting the plant. A liquid form called Thurocide is easy to use. May Kendall, CA, uses wood ashes in the pots to keep these insects out.

Frequently a problem for begonia growers is **mildew**. Risa Young, OH notes that fluctuating temperatures encourage that problem. While Elaine Ayers, OH, uses Tinactive to control it, Hazel Snodgrass, CA, prefers Doospray. Risa thinks the continued use of *Benomyl* causes the mildew to build a resistance to its effectiveness. Ruth Wills, OK, plays it safe with Phaltan and Safers. Phaltan controls the mildew and is least toxic of such sprays, she says.

**Preparing plants for winter** was an activity that brought several suggestions. To avoid leaf drop common when plants must be brought indoors in the fall, Elaine Ayers, OH, proceeds as follows: in mid September she uses a fungicidal spray, followed by *repotting*, then a weak application of Rapid Gro. Finally she topdresses each pot with her own recipe of blood meal, cottonseed meal, manure, and leafmold to which some systemic granules have been added. She claims that all this hard work pays off in no mildew, no leaf drop.

To assure bloom from her rhizomatous begonias in the winter, Elaine keeps them in the greenhouse where the natural, short days trigger the bloom. Betty Tillotson, CA, reminds her robin friends that only the rhizomatous group should receive fertilizer from November through February.

Three robins about growing under lights produce many interesting contributions for **winter growing**. Banks Mebane, FL, reports that Sylvania Color Brite tubes put out a yellowish light that is brighter than the warm white tubes, and according to the manufacturer's claim, brighter than cool whites. Banks found that he could raise his fixtures and get a larger growing area with the new tubes.

Banks grows under lights in summer as well as in the other seasons. In summer, problems develop as the house is closed

and airconditioned, and there is little change of temperature from day to night. Many begonias seem to need that drop at night. Those that do well regardless are *Begonia partita*, *olsoniae*, *kenworthyae*, U067 and U171.

Mary Bucholz, FL, keeps her lights on for 14 to 18 hours a day until she wants to encourage the rhizomatous to bloom. Then at two week intervals, she reduces the hours of light until the periods of light and dark are equal. When the flower buds form she reverses the procedure to resume the long days.

Although the literature recommends keeping the plants eight to ten inches away from the light tubes, Susan Johnston, OK, finds that her plants do well two feet from the tubes. Carl Walker, Jr., NC, reminds us that fluorescent fixtures accumulate dust which reduces the light a surprising amount. As he replaces lights which have burned many hours, he does not discard them, but moves them to fixtures under which grow plants preferring low light levels. Some plants require very high light levels. Diane Tuska, MD, says that miniature geraniums, for example, should be grown under a four-bulb fixture.

If you grow under lights and are not in a Lights robin, there are vacancies in each of these three robins. Why not join in the discussions!

*Ed. note: For the safety of our begonias and our members, when you recommend using products that do not have manufacturer's instruction label, including your own recipes, it is important that the amounts of chemicals be given as precisely as possible.*

*Those who use solutions mentioned in the column this month: Please send information to the editor or the round robin director, and we shall see that the recipe is printed immediately.*

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# The Newcomer's Notebook About Begonias and Other Things

Jim Whistler

*It seems that there have been a bunch of requests for help for newcomers who find the Begonian confusing. Phyllis Bates asked me to write an article for newcomers to get them acquainted with the begonias and growing and the ABS.*

## **Our Plant Society**

When people join plant societies like the American Begonia Society they have to learn how to talk with everyone else. True Oldtimers call it the "Begonia Society" with a little bit of reverence in the tone. Those who are involved with the parent organization seem to follow the 'alphabet soup trend' and call it the "ABS." Busy members from local groups talk about "the branch." Sometimes they call the branch by its name, but usually not—its one of those things you pick up on sooner or later.

The local groups are supposed to be branches according to the ABS Constitution. People being ornery as they are. . . some branches say they are clubs. Maybe that's okay, too, as long as they like begonias.

A while back some of the branches thought it would be good to get together as many members as they could from the surrounding area for a begonia show and a day of discussing and chatting. This is where the regions fit in. Nowadays they do have some fancy goings-on!

If you don't belong to any affiliated group, just the ABS, you are a member-at-large, which is really something! There are more members-at-large than branch members.

## **Begonia Mush**

You would be surprised at the number of members who joined ABS because they have tried to grow the Iron Cross begonia—you know the one with the brown cross-shaped pattern on a pebbly green leaf.

When I say 'tried,' I mean t-r-i-e-d. Lots of them say they have bought the plant four or



The Iron Cross Begonia  
*Begonia masoniana*

Say it "may-SOHN-ee-ah-na." The name means *belonging to or associated with* (M. L.) Mason, a British plant collector

five times, and sooner or later end up with a flower pot of mush!

Help for them is easy. The oldtimers know that all you do is take away their watering cans for a while. Water droplets on the leaves concentrate the sun's rays and cook holes in the leaves. Rot takes over along the edges of the holes and the leaves seems to melt. If there's no sun, water on the leaves can still smother the leaf's breathing apparatus, and the result is the same.

Too much water on the roots is also a problem. If the soil seems wet but the plant looks wilted, it is overwatered. Zip—it's a goner before you know it. When you take a drink, you have to stop for a breath of air—so do the begonia roots. It's a good idea to let the soil stand until it's almost dry before you give your iron cross begonia another drink.

See, we just solved about fifty per cent of the begonia-growing problems. About the rest of the problems: you got a lifetime to work on them.

*I only agreed to do Newcomer Notes again on two conditions: one, it has to hit the target and be what you are asking for, and two, I won't answer a lot of letters. If you want answers, there is a Question Box column.*

## UNIDENTIFIED BEGONIA SPECIES LIST

*Thelma O'Reilly, project director*

The ABS Nomenclature Department maintains a list of unidentified species. These are assigned numbers preceded by "U" (for "unidentified").

Many inquiries have been received about the unpublished group of U numbers from *B. U033* to *B. U049*. Information covering the majority of listings in this group is scarce and sometimes confusing. The following list completes all U numbers assigned from *B. U001* to *U089*.

It is possible some of these U numbers are new species. Further research is in progress. Your cooperation in supplying any information, including observations, photographs, slides or drawings, for this group or any other unidentified species will be appreciated. Write to Thelma O'Reilly, 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 92041.

A few of the U-numbered species have been identified. This information will be published in the *Begonian* along with additional listings, which now have reached number *U191*. We will also include added information, including cultural findings, on earlier listings as these become available to us.

### **U033**

Plant material imported from Japan and distributed by Rudolf Ziesenhenné under his number RZ 275. Rhizomatous; leaves medium green, broadly cordate, 3" x 3 1/2", upper surface glabrous with satiny finish, undersurface glabrous but on nerves there are white hairs that turn rusty and wooly with age, subentire margin ciliate and finely edged in red, crisp texture; petioles 3" - 4" with abundant 1/8" - 1/4" white hairs that turn rusty and wooly with age; stipules 1/2", persistent; flowers white, glabrous, on 3/4", 4 male tepals—two being much smaller than others, stamens yellowish orange, about 25 of which become thin and flat-appearing while drying and thus resemble tiny tepals; 3 female tepals, deep pink ovary with 3 long, narrow (barely noticeable) wings. Spring blooming.

### **U034**

No distribution under this number. Seed not viable.

*B. U033*. Leaves are evenly colored



### U035

Source, Finnish Botanical Garden. Offered by ABS Seed Fund in late seventies under incorrect name of *B. acuminata*. It is reported that *B. U035* may be the same as *B. U049* and *B. U099*.

### U036

Guatemala. Seed supplied by R. Ziesenhenné in 1978. Possibly a form of *B. heracleifolia*.

### U037

Asia. Offered by Seed Fund. Canelike; leaves green; flowers white and pink picotee on leafless stem. Dormant in winter.

### U038 = *B. chlorosticta* Sands

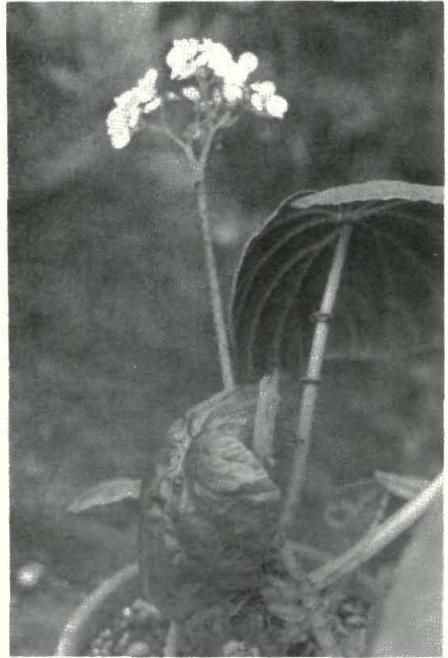
Sarawak, Borneo. Collected by B. L. Burt and A. M. Martin in August 1967. The begonia we have been calling *B. species ex Kew*, introduced through the Royal Botanical Gardens of Kew and into the United States by the late M. L. MacIntyre of England, was determined to be a new species by Martin Sands of Kew. He named it *B. chlorosticta* in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* 183(4)133-37 and plate 827, Feb. 1982. This was brought to our attention by Maurice Mason.

The name means "green spotted." Shrublike, stems succulent with slight swelling at lower nodes and scattered small, light green lenticels; leaves medium to dark green, patterned overall with distinct light green blotches, 3" x 6", ovate-oblong, inequilateral, glabrous; margin serrulate with a light green band; stipules green flushed red, glabrous, deciduous; flowers white with 4 small male tepals and 5 larger female tepals, bloom sparse, fall to winter. Terrarium culture is recommended.

For articles and photographs in the *Begonian*, see Sept. 1976, p. 246; Sept. 1980, pp. 240-243; Sept. 1980, pp. 240-43; and Mar. 1984, cover and p. 27.

### U039 = *B. heracleifolia* var. *nigricans*

Vera Cruz, Mexico. Collected by Stephen Morgan between Tampico and Orizabo in



*B. U043*, also grown as J-11

1976 (coll. no. 5L). rhizomatous; leaves large, green with blackish green coloring along outer portions of blade; margin deeply lobed; petiole stout, long, pale green. Identified by Bob Cole.

### U040

Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. Collected by John Womersley. Shrublike plant found clambering over rocks in full sun at elevation of 2800'. Pink flowers.

### U041

Fortin, Mexico. Collected by Fred Barkley. rhizomatous; leaves green with soft white hairs; margin subentire; distinct black nerves on young plant disappear with maturity. It appears to belong to the *B. lindleyana* complex, although the rhizome is not erect. Scott Hoover collection number 346 = *B. U041*; identified as same by Joy Porter.

### U042

Peru. Source, J. Doorenbos. Offered in the Seed Fund in October 1980 as OT-11. Species related to *B. bracteosa* in

#### U043

Brazil. Source a plant cutting brought into the United States by Sylvia Leatherman on her return from visit to Brazil in the late fifties. After propagation, this unusual species was distributed as *B. J-11*. It is grown under this same designation today—still unidentified. Thick stemmed, thickset; green, medium-sized rhizomelike stem sometimes crawls and roots into soil before growing erect, as high as 20", pale green lenticels and narrow trichomes between closely set nodes; 7-nerved leaves 5 1/2" x 8", upper surface medium to dark green with bronze highlights and iridescent, satiny sheen, glaucous, cupping under along outer portion, deeply cordate and overlapping at sinus, undersurface dark red, covered with tiny, stiff red hairs; short narrow red trichomes are scattered on light green nerves; subentire margin is serrulate and ciliate; emerging new leaves red and pleated resemble a cockscomb; petiole 8" - 12", light green with distinct horizontal bands of broad, lacerated, red scales at intervals over entire length, giving rise to nickname of "lariat begonia"; flowers are white, in clusters held above foliage, 4 male tepals; peduncle green, patterned with red trichomes; fall lowering.

See article: *Begonian*, Nov. 1961, p. 216; photo: *Begonias*, Thompson, p. 115.

#### J044

Bombay. Offered by ABS Seed Fund. A thick-stemmed species with white flowers. Identified as *B. dipetala*.

Description (based on original published by Graham and J. D. Hooker in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* 55, Plate 2849, 1828): Stem erect, tapering, grayish brown with a few small, round vermilion spots. Leaves elongated, asymmetrically obovate, acute and doubly serrato-dentate, slightly bullate, with white spots and having a short awl-shaped hair arising from center of a few spots, but when old, blanching, smooth; veins prominent, especially below: petioles distichous, slightly channeled above. Cyme axillary, peduncles rather longer than the petioles and foliage; two nearly obsolete bracts on the fe-



*Begonia dipetala* = *B. U044*  
From the original publication  
Plate 2849, 1828,  
*Curtis's Botanical Magazine*

male pedicel but none on the male. Flowers pink, dipetalous, large (female 1" broad by 3/4" long, male 3/4" in both directions). This species flowered in April 1828 at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh where it had been sent by Dr. Johnstone from Bombay.

#### U045

Polynesian Village, Disney World, Florida. Offered in the Seed Fund October 1980 as OT-11. Tentatively identified as *B. cucullata*.

#### U046

Madagascar. Source, J. Doorenbos. Offered in the Seed Fund, October 1977 as Madagascar No. 4. Joy Porter reports, "I raised one seedling and kept it for two years. It was a rhizomatouslike tuberous plant. It went dormant and came back several times before I lost it in the 1984 freeze." Mabel Corwin and Patrick Worley reported similar results.

If anyone is still growing this species, please report on your plant and growing techniques.

**U047**

Lae, New Guinea. Collected in lowland rain forest near Scieer. Found in a track near Gambwabila, Ferguson Island area. *B. U047* was applied to plants raised from seed distributed by Carrie Karegeannes who received it from John Scott as "Lae species 10832." John obtained it from Bernard Yorke, whose friend (unknown) collected the seed.

A second source for this species was J. Doorenbos. This seed was offered in the Seed Fund, October 1978 as OT-3 and possibly May 1979 as MY-7. It was also widely distributed through the Round Robins by Bernard Yorke.

Shrublike; succulent stems to 3" high; green leaves thin textured, lightly spotted white and red veined. In seedling stage, green cordate leaves are heavily spotted white with irregular silver frosting around the margins. Most of the silver color disappears as the plant reaches maturity. Plant habit and pink flowers are reminiscent of *B. incarnata*. Like *B. incarnata*, it is short-lived.

**U048**

No distribution under this number is known.

**U049**

Brazil. Collected by the later Ralph Spencer of Calif. Offered in the Seed Fund, June 1965 as "No. 2, Brazil species" with the following information: Angel-wing type with velvety leaves—plants found in dense forest at 300' elevation on the Rio Ribeira 250 mi. south of Sao Paulo.

Shrublike; 2'-3' high with furrowed, erect stems covered with short, fuzzlike, tawny hairs; leaves falcate, 1 - 2" x 8", upper surface dark green, sometimes bronzed, pubescent, undersurface red purple, pubescent including veins, margin ciliate, serrate and dentate, texture velvety; petioles 1/2" - 1"; lanate; stipules 1/4" by 1/2", acuminate, quickly drying, persistent. Flowers about 1" across, white, sometimes flushed pink; male flowers with 4 tepals, two large, ovate and 3 much narrower with scattered white to pink hairs on backs; female flowers with 5 tepals (occasionally 7), uniform size with hairs on backs, 3 wings, white flushed pink, one larger, margins ciliate; soft hairs on peduncles and pedicels. The leaves of this species develop a distinct trait when the plant reaches its full potential: grown under optimum conditions, they fishtail into shaggy proliferations. It has been reported that *B. U035* and *B. U099* may be the same as *B. U049*.



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## IN MEMORIAM



### Pearl Benell

Pearl Benell passed away on February 21, 1986. She was membership secretary of the ABS from 1967 to 1971 and from the fall of 1983 until shortly before her death. She served as President of the American Begonia Society in 1970-71, and was president-elect and president in the appropriate years.

Pearl frequently participated on special committees such as the nominating committee or a committee to determine information for the board. She also was a senior judge and served not only the ABS, but other plant societies in that capacity. Over the years, she was very active in the Whittier branch, holding various offices including the presidency.

In recognition of thirty years of service to the Society she received the Herbert P. Dyckman Award at the Dallas Convention in 1984.

Her husband, Elmo, a quiet person who did not take an active part in the ABS, passed away within a few hours of Pearl's death.

### Anna Mae Belle Anderson

Anna Mae Belle, known as Mabel to her ABS friends, passed away March 4, 1986. A long time resident of Covina, Calif., she was a member of the Whittier Branch. Five years ago she moved to Campbell and attended the San Jose Branch regularly. She was editor of the from November 1969 to December 1971 for 26 issues of the *Begonian*.

## CATALOG of REGISTERED CULTIVARS of the GENUS BEGONIA

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## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

January 12, 1986

The board meeting of the American Begonia Society was held at the Corona Steak House, Corona, Ca. President Margaret Lee called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m. Aims and Purposes were read by First Vice President Arlene Davis.

Treasurer Eleanor Calkins reported \$14,038.90 in the checking account and \$29,332.06 in the savings accounts as of December 31, 1985.

The minutes of the October meeting were accepted. Board approved Mabel Corwin as branch relations director and John Ingles, Jr. as membership chairman.

Reports were given by advertising, awards (deadline June 30 for nominations), business manager, conservation, budget, members-at-large, nomenclature, public relations, speakers bureau, round robins, and seed fund directors. Board moved to furnish Seed Fund with a complete set of the *Begonian* for reference (to remain with the office).

Ballot counting committee reported low response. All changes passed, and new Constitution and Bylaws are now in force. Branches and regions will be sent a copy. Individual members will be able to get a set for \$1.00 postage and handling cost from parliamentarian.

The library service was discontinued temporarily for general assessment and book inventory. Ronnie Nevins and Arlene Davis were appointed to help with the inventory.

The board approved a \$500 grant to the Thompson Begonia Museum with stipulation that ABS receive articles for publication and cutting material be made available for research and distribution. Research materials from Carl L'Hommedieu will be sent to the president, and the nomenclature committee will organize that material to get it into print.

Membership is 1717 as of December 31. List has been computer coded so members will get correct number of ballots in the future. Letters will be sent to members who did not renew in 1984 and 1985. Alphabetical and zip code rosters will be available to members at \$15 each from the membership secretary. John Ingles will send a letter to branches listed whose memberships have expired. The board commended John for updating and reorganizing the membership materials.

The current printer cannot continue to print the *Begonian* but will complete the catalog of hybrids already started. The editor has been interviewing printers. When the bids come in, the publications and finance committees will meet to select a printer. The January-February issue will be late. Branches should report changes in branch directory listings to Secretary Jeannette Gilbertson.

The 1986 convention will be held Sept. 4-7 at the Hanalei Hotel in San Diego. The theme will be Hawaiian. A site is still needed for the 1987 convention.

Southwest Region Get Together will be April 25-27 at the Holiday Inn at Louisville Tx. Mr. Terrell requested that the logo be put back on the cover of the *Begonian*.

Nominating committee was appointed: Bob Ammerman, Michael Ludwig, and Ed Bates.

Next meeting was scheduled for March 2, 11 a.m. at Quail Botanical Gardens, Encinitas, CA.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Jeannette Gilbertson, secretary

### MEETING CALL

The next board meeting will be held April 12 at the Corona Steak Company, Corona, Calif. All directors and other board members will be notified by the secretary, Jeannette Gilbertson. Others who wish to attend should contact her for information. The meetings are open to all members.

### NOTICE

Mention of a product in the *Begonian* does not constitute an endorsement of that product by the Society, its officers, or the author of the article. The ABS assumes no responsibility for reader's use of methods described.

### BRANCH DIRECTORY

All information for the Directory of Branches and Regional Groups MUST be sent to ABS Secretary Jeannette Gilbertson. Only changes reported to her will be reflected in the listings in the *Begonian*.

### THANKS FOR ASKING

You missed the *Begonian* when it was delayed, and many of you wrote or called various officers to inquire. Among these was Hallie Roup, a member-at-large for many years. She is unable to attend any meetings and says she looks forward to each issue to see what new *Begonia* she can add to her collection. It is reassuring to know that you worry when the copies do not arrive.

The officers acted in the best interests of the Society to avoid legal entanglements. The editor and all others concerned regret the delays.

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## AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

### ABS AIMS AND PURPOSES

- stimulate and promote interest in begonias and other shade-loving plants.
- encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants.
- standardize the nomenclature of begonias.
- gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation and culture of begonias and companion plants.
- issue a bulletin which will be mailed to all members of the society.
- 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 do not 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, \$10. Also available: 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.

**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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