

September/October, 1987

The BEGONIAN



The BEGONIAN

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Cover photo: B. 'Ginny,' by Don Miller, Dallas, TX

American Begonia Society

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

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.

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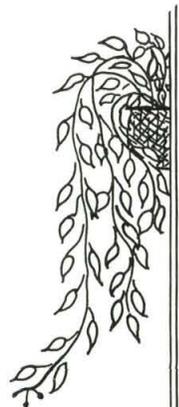
NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED

DC

Mary Bucholtz installed President Arlene Davis, First Vice President Michael Ludwig, Third Vice President Bob Dodd, Treasurer Eleanor Calkins Secretary Jeanette Gilbertson (Second Vice President Charles Jaros in absentia).

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PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

It is my pleasure to be here tonight, and to have the vote of confidence that you have given me.

There will not be many changes in the board. I hope that those of you who haven't asked to be relieved of your duties will stay on. To those who have, I will find replacements as soon as possible. We sincerely thank you all for the diligent work that you have put forth.

I will not make any promises to you, but will strive to continue making the American Begonia Society the close knit organization that it used to be, by attempting to break down the barriers that seem to be building higher and higher between the East and West. We must also build our membership, as we have 300 less members now than at this time last year. It cannot be done alone. We will need the help of everyone in the society. I as president am not the ABS. This board is not the ABS. YOU are the ABS, all of you, and it is up to you to let us know what your desires are. We should all strive to build a better society. We can all help by taking responsibility of doing the tasks that need to be done, and doing them to the best of our ability.

Let us make a commitment to each other to follow our aims and purposes, and promote friendship. We can grow Begonias. Now let us try growing a little love. It blooms as beautifully as the plants that we nourish.

Thank you.

Arlene Davis

ABS TOP AWARDS GIVEN



DC

The Eva Kenworthy Gray Award, given for contributing original material toward helping our members in furthering their studies of begonias, was presented to Pat Maley for her many articles in the *Begonian*, especially her series "The Year of the Cane," and for her spectacular watercolors.



BCB

The recipient of the Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service must have rendered long-time or very outstanding service above and beyond that usually expected of a member or officer. This year the award was presented to Thelma O'Reilly, Members-At-Large Director, who has served on almost every ABS committee, chairing most of them. Thelma has previously been voted the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award (1980) and the Alfred D. Robinson Medal (for B. 'Universe'), and is only the second person to receive all three of our top awards (Rudolph Ziesenhenné was the first).



TB

Mabel Corwin's B. 'Christmas Candy' (B. 'Glamour Picotee' x UO14) won the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial Medal for outstanding registered Begonia hybrid.

BEGONIA HOMECOMING



DM

B. 'Emerald Jewell,'

Best in Show

1987 Convention Show Results

BEST OF SHOW: B. 'Emerald Jewell,' entered by
Marie McCooey
Trophy donated by ABS members

SWEEPSTAKES: Eric Seel, with 9 blue ribbons
Trophy donated by ABS members

SHOWING IS SHARING: Eric Seel, with 21 entries
Trophy donated by Kathleen E. Slowey
in memory of Hazel Snodgrass

DIVISION WINNERS

Cane-like: B. 'Fabulous Tom'
Exhibitor: May Light
Trophy donor: Juana & Robt. Curtis

Shrub-like: B. 'Platysun'
Exhibitor: Elaine Baxter
Trophy donor: Miami Branch

Shrub-like,
Dist. Fol.: B. 'Midnight Sun'
Exhibitor: Ronnie Nevins
Trophy donor: Palm Beaches Branch

Rhizomatous: B. 'Winkey's Chocolate
Chip'
Exhibitor: Mabel Corwin
Trophy donor: Thelma & Tim O'Reilly

Rhizomatous,
Crested/Spiral: B. 'Essie Hunt'
Exhibitor: Lillian Patburg
Trophy donor: Garden Grove Branch

Rhizomatous,
Dist. Fol.: B. 'Emerald Jewell'
Exhibitor: Marie McCooley
Trophy donor: Palomar Branch

Rex:
Exhibitor: B. 'Fortune Cookie'
Mabel Corwin
Trophy donor: Paul Lee Memorial

Tuberous:
Exhibitor: B. 'Pink Parasol'
May Light
Trophy donor: Westchester Branch

Cont. Atmos.,
Single Begonia: B. *herbacea*
Exhibitor: Vivian Hill
Trophy donor: Mae Blanton Branch

Hanging Cont.: B. 'Flamingo'
Exhibitor: Ken Dahlquist
Trophy donor: Greater Chicago Branch

Wall Pockets: B. *albo-picta* var. *rosea*
Exhibitor: Ken Dahlquist
Trophy donor: Alamo Branch

Old Begonias:
Exhibitor: B. 'Fire Flush'
Marie McCooley
Trophy donor: San Miguel Branch

Novel Grown:
Exhibitor: B. 'Leopon,' on rock
Robt. Lindgren
Trophy donor: Timothy Anderson

New Intro.,
Hobby Grower: B. 'Martin Johnson'
Exhibitor: Mabel Corwin
Trophy donor: Knickerbocker Branch

New Intro.,
Com. Grower: mini-Superba #82787
Exhibitor: Patrick Worley
Trophy donor: San Gabriel Valley
Branch

Seed Fund

Seedlings:
Exhibitor: B. *acaulis*
Eric Seel
Trophy donor: Martin Johnson

Novice:
Exhibitor: B. 'Tondelayo'
Vivian Hill
Trophy donor: Monterey Bay Branch

Artistic Photo:
Exhibitor: B. *homassasa*
Mary Bucholtz
Trophy donor: Orange County Branch*

Los Angeles
Hybrids:
Exhibitor: B. 'Gooseberry'
Eric Seel
Trophy donor: Gilbert Estrada

Shade Plants: Orchid (Den. x Phal.)
Exhibitor: Elaine Baxter
Trophy donor: Santa Clara Valley

* in honor of Don and Migon Waters



TB

Begonia species: an educational exhibit by Goldie and Doug Frost

At the 1987 ABS Convention in Long Beach, June Dan of Monrovia Nursery gave a seminar on tissue culture. This is a summary of some of her remarks.

DE-MYSTIFYING TISSUE CULTURE

by Virginia S. Carlson

Have you picked up a potted plant in a nursery, observed the letters "T.C." on it and wondered what they meant? The letters stand for "Tissue Cultured" and you are likely to see more of them as time goes on.

There are many advantages to propagating plant material by tissue culture techniques. Only a very tiny portion of a plant is needed to make dozens of new plants. Thus a plant does not have to be large or old to become the parent of innumerable offspring, all identical to the parent. The offspring will be free of viruses and other pathogens because the portion of the plant used for culture is newly formed, undifferentiated cells (sometimes called the "apical meristem") which have not been infected with viruses which may be present in the vascular system of the plant. Another advantage is that the plants will be very uniform in size, conformation, and growth rate. All the plants will be ready to be moved on to the next pot size at the same time.

Orchids, ferns, and poinsettias are commonly grown by tissue culture at the present time but more and more plants are being propagated by this technique. Herbaceous perennials such as bergenia are being tissue-cultured by Monrovia Nurseries. Woody plants will continue to be propagated by conventional methods in the immediate future (except for roses, which Armstrong's Nursery is producing through tissue-culture and calling "roselings").

Tissue culturing must be carried out

under sterile or aseptic conditions. For this reason it is not easy to set up a lab in your kitchen; but it is possible to duplicate some of the steps with ordinary kitchen equipment. Everything must be sterilized by dipping or soaking in 10% bleach solution, 70% isopropyl alcohol, by flaming in an alcohol burner, or by sterilizing in an autoclave or pressure cooker.

The process begins when the growing tip of the plant to be cultured is severed and peeled back to reveal the very tiniest leaves. They shield the growing tip of meristematic or undifferentiated tissue (cells not yet organized into stem, root, or leaf tissue). This terminal bud is held by sterile forceps and dipped into the alcohol, then into the clorox solution. It is then peeled further, using a sterile exacto knife or razor blade and a magnifying glass, and the lump of undifferentiated cells is cut into tiny blocks which may be as small as .05 mm. wide or as large as .3 mm, (the size of pepper specks). These bits of tissue, now called explants, are immediately popped into a sterile tube containing the growing medium.

One growing medium which has been in common use for about 25 years is by Murashige and Skoog. This may be a solution, in which case the explant is placed on sterile filter paper on glass wool in a tube or flask which is then agitated. Or the explant may be placed on a solid medium such as that used in a bacteriology lab, an agar gel slant. Agar is a gel-like substance obtained from seaweed. It resembles gelatin but melts at a

much higher temperature. The agar has been sterilized and mixed with a sterile solution of salts which include sucrose, vitamins and plant hormones. The acidity of the solution is carefully adjusted.

The formulas for the various media are tailored to the different species of plants and for the various stages of growth. Activated charcoal is added to absorb the toxic substances generated by the growing plants. The temperature must be kept uniform, about 75 degrees, and the tubes are kept under lights for about 16 hours a day. About 10 lux are needed for the earliest stages. For stage 2, where differentiation takes place, up to 100 lux are needed; for stage 3, where shoot growth takes place, 10,000 lux are needed. Over 30,000 lux will be used for the final stages of growth. The quality of light affects growth: red light promotes root development, blue light promotes shoot development.

Initially, the tiny explants are grown into a large undifferentiated lump which can again be subdivided into more plants. These can be grown on and again divided, or the proportion of growth hormones can be changed to promote root and shoot development. By this time you can have hundreds of plants from the original tissue.

Dividing and transplanting is done under a laminar flow hood, a chamber in which doubly filtered air blows from the back across the flasks or tubes toward the operator to prevent contamination. Contamination is detected by checking the tubes for a cloudy appearance in the gel or a glassy appearance of the plants. After handling, the tubes or flasks are always sealed with paraffin to prevent contamination.

When the newly formed plantlets have roots and leaves a couple of inches long, they can be hardened off by gradual exposure to the open air. When hardened off, they can be transplanted into the normal growing medium for potted plants and grown under lights like ordinary cuttings.



June Dan

Tissue culture produces large numbers of plants of good size quickly, a factor which makes them competitive with plants grown by conventional methods. They will be fuller, and continue to grow faster also, which is possible because they are disease-free. You may see the letters "dtf," which stand for "disease tested, free."

Those interested in trying tissue culture can consult the horticultural department of local colleges or universities for information on the requirements for specific plants, and sources of supplies. See also the *Begonian*, M/A 1986, p. 38, for an article by H. Gilbert Harlow.

Miss Dan also showed slides of the Monrovia Nursery growing ranges in California and Oregon and of their various departments, and discussed all phases of their growing operation. Monrovia's growing formulas included one mix of 90% perlite and 10% peat moss, and one with 44% peat moss, 18% perlite, 18% sand, and 18% redwood sawdust or compost. All products are steam-sterilized and fertilizer is added.

Virginia Carlson is doubly qualified to tackle technical material, being both a bacteriologist and a writer. She lives at 1137 N. Highland, Fullerton, CA 92635.



SAFE AND SANE MANAGEMENT OF INSECT PESTS

Jean R. Natter, instructor at Cerritos College, gave a fascinating seminar on pest management at the Long Beach Convention. We've all read of the problems caused by indiscriminate use of pesticides; Jean presented suggestions for safe control of pests. Her very inclusive hand-out is reproduced here:



Jean Natter

Integrated Pest Management uses all possible means of control, but always starts with the safest methods. Some of the possible strategies:

1. Resistant plants
2. Cultural control:
 - a. healthy plants
 - b. proper environment
 - c. hose (harsh streams of water; periodic mists)
 - d. handpick
 - e. control of ants
3. Barriers and traps
 - a. sticky yellow traps (against white flies)
 - b. sticky bands (against ants)
 - c. moats (snail defense: stand bench legs in water)
4. Natural enemies
 - a. what they are
 - 1) predators
 - 2) parasites
 - 3) pathogens
 - b. how to use them*
 - 1) naturally occurring
 - 2) collect your own, release, feed, water them
 - 3) purchase and release

5. Pesticides
 - a. soaps
 - 1) liquid Ivory for dishes, up to 2 tablespoons per gallon
 - 2) Safer's Soap
 - b. botanical derivatives
NOTE: some highly toxic to people and pets
 - c. dormant oils
 - d. traditional pesticides

*for use in terrariums, greenhouses, shade houses, as well as indoors and outdoors, see Wm. H. Jordan's book, [What's Eating Your Houseplants](#) (listed under References)

Several common pests and their natural enemies

aphids

ladybugs (ladybeetles); both adults and young are predators
lacewings*
syrphid flies (flower flies); look like bees, with larva resembling caterpillars; young are

predators

Cryptolaemus montrouzieri, mealy bug destroyer; young and adults are predators, look like large wooly mealybug

Aphidoletes aphidimyza, a tiny fly; young are predators

Aphidius "wasps": parasites, convert aphids into tiny tan blimps

several fungus diseases: pathogens

mealybugs

you, using alcohol swab or spray

Cryptolaemus montrouzieri, mealybug destroyer; young and adult are predators

lacewings*

mites

lacewings*

beneficial mites: predators

whiteflies

lacewings*

Encarsia formosa; parasite of young whiteflies; for greenhouse use

several fungus diseases: pathogens

*in So. California, only

young are predators

INFORMATIVE REFERENCES about control of insect pests:

Books

(NOTE: Pesticide recommendations are often out-of-date shortly after a book is published. Also, pesticide regulations vary from state to state. Obtain up-to-date information from your county's agricultural commission or cooperative extension).

1. Rodale's Color Handbook of Insects by Anna Carr, Rodale Press, 1979. Now out of print, but has been re-issued by another publisher.

2. The Gardener's Bug Book by Cynthia Westcott, Doubleday, 1979. An extensive, non-technical entomology book.

3. Windowsill Ecology by Wm. H. Jordan, Rodale Press, 1977. What's Eating Your Houseplants? is the 1979 paperback version. Non-technical discussion of helpful insects and how to encourage them.

4. "Handbook on Biological Control of Plant Pests" is Vol. 16, No. 3 in the series of handbooks from the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens. A non-technical introduction to biological

control. Black/white photos.

5. "Biological Control and Insect Pest Management," publication 1191; \$4, postpaid, from ANR Publications (to order, see below, under Univ. of California Publications). 102 pages, basic concepts, semi-technical.

6. The Basic Principles of Insect Population Suppression and Management. USDA Agriculture Handbooks 512, \$10 from Superintendent of Documents, Washington D.C. 20402. 659 pages. Basic concepts. Semi-technical.

SUBSCRIPTION

1. "Common Sense Pest Control Quarterly," \$30/year (4 issues). Order from BIRC, PO Box 7414, Berkeley, CA 94707. A non-technical publication for least-toxic management of pests in the house, garden, or landscape. Each issue contains at least one extensive article on a common pest as well as shorter articles, book reviews, research updates, ads from sources of helpful insects.

2. "National Gardening," home gardening; 12 issues/year; \$18; NGB, Depot Square, Peterborough, NH 03458-9983

3. Rodale's "Organic Gardening" home gardening, 12 issues/year; \$12.79 US, \$18.97 other; send to Gardening, 33 E. Minor St., Emmaus, PA 18098.

4. "Growers Talks," 12 issues/year; \$19 US, \$25 other; commercial growers; send to "Grower Talks", PO Box 501, W. Chicago, IL 60185.

5. "Greenhouse Grower," 12 issues/year; free to commercial growers of bedding crops, pot plants, woody ornamentals, greenhouse vegetables, cut flowers, or nursery crops. Request from "Greenhouse Grower," Willoughby, OH 44094.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PUBLICATIONS

Agricultural Publications Catalog, free, from ANR Publications, 6701 San Pablo, Oakland, CA 94608-1239. Lists prices, and a few free publications. You do not have to live in California to order.

SOURCES OF NATURAL ENEMIES

1. retail nurseries
2. garden supply catalogs
3. "Some Commercial Sources of Biological Control Agents in California," 1979, Leaflet 21105, Division of Agricultural Sciences, U. of California.
4. "Suppliers of Beneficial Organisms," 1982, from CDFA, Biological Control Services Program, 3288 Meadowview Rd., Sacramento, CA 95832.
5. "Resources for Organic Pest Control" is free from ROG, 33 E. Minor St., Emmaus, PA 18098. Send business size stamped and self-addressed envelope. (This list was offered in the August 1987 issue of Rodale's "Gardening")

Jean showed slides of the various "good" insects at work, and discussed ways to attract them. Ladybugs, she said, will fly away when released - although they may munch a few pests before leaving. Try them in a terrarium to get aphids. Certain flowering plants will attract beneficials: daisies, dill, parsley, fennel were among the ones she mentioned.

Pesticides, unfortunately, destroy more of the beneficial insects than pests. Even some of the botanical derivatives are becoming a problem. Nicotine, for example, will remain in the soil for 50 years, killing beneficials more effectively than pests. Other botanical derivatives which have been discovered to have unfortunate side effects are pyrethrum and rotenone.

Finally, a note on spraying with soap: soap will remain stable, and the mixture can be used for several days, unlike many of the pesticides. Jean likes to keep a spritzer bottle with 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon of soap (depending on the size of the bottle) ready to use. Do not spray the plant to the point of drenching, just mist.

Jean R. Natter has a B.S. Horticulture. In addition to teaching, she writes a newspaper column on horticultural topics. Her address is 260 Bennett Ave., Long Beach, CA 90803.



AUSTRALIAN CONVENTION

The Australian Begonia Society will hold its first Begonia Convention in Adelaide, South West, April 1 to 3, 1988. Watch for more information.



CONGRATULATIONS

Bob Ammerman and Alma Crawford have advanced to senior judges. Ed Bradford, Timothy Last, Mary McClelland, and L.W. Voss received their junior cards.

ADDRESS CORRECTION

The correct address for Robert Moore, Director of the Pinellas County Branch in Florida is: 7660 57th St. N., Pinellas Park, FL 33565.

BEGONIA HOMECOMING



The judges at work

TB

Plant Sale:

selecting is serious work!



TB

A light moment during the seminars



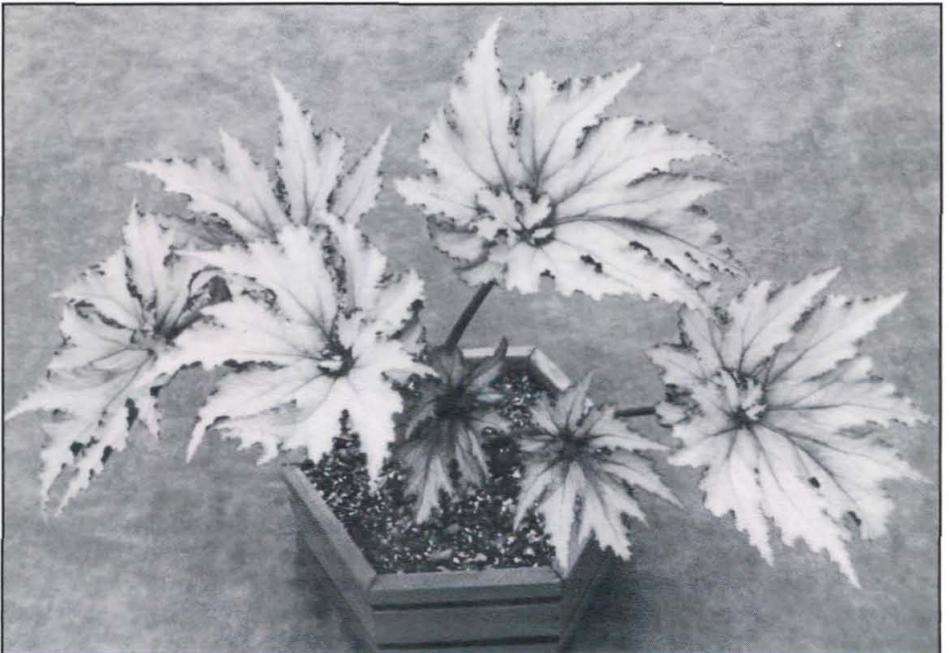
TB



TB

Thelma O'Reilly at the MAL meeting

New Intro.,
Hobby Grower: B. 'Martin Johnson'
Photo: Mabel Corwin



The hospitality room even had a Begonia arrangement



DM



BCB

President Margaret Lee conducts the business meeting

On tour:



DM

Sherman Library and Gardens



BCB

Roger's Gardens

Photo credits:

BCB--Bruce C. Boardman

TB--Tamsin Boardman

DC--Don Case

DM--Don Miller

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Margaret Coats, Round Robin Director

In a **semperflorens** Robin much discussion was going back and forth about why the lovely coloring of B. 'Charm' turns to green. Pauline Chambers (FL) said one of her sources for Peters 20-20-20 accidentally sent 15-30-15 in one of her orders and as she started using it, the leaves began turning green, indicating too much nitrogen. She also thinks poor light and not enough sun adds to the problem. Charlene Franklin (TX) says she gets the color back by using BR-61, and doing much pruning.

Mildred Swyka (DE) writes that she could always count on her rhizomatous Begonias to start blooming right after the new year; however, for some unknown reason, they didn't this year. In March some were just beginning, but she says they were all full of blooms.

As she hybridizes, Dorcas Resleff (WA) marks her plants with strips of paper which bear the names of the cross and the date. She ties the strips on with pieces of thread. When making the cross, she touches the flowers of one flower section, usually about six flowers.

Joan Campbell (MT) reports to her **tuberous species** Robin that B. *pearcei* grown from seed this year has larger blooms than B. 'Helen Harms.' The leaves and blooms look much larger than previous plants, and she wonders if selecting the larger specimens over the years hasn't given us a larger species than originally collected. She also reports that B. *sutherlandii* and the B. *dregei* complex are very closely related.

Fifi Madigan (OH) is singing the praises of

her new-found way to root canes. She is encouraging others in her Robin to try it. She puts the cuttings and about 15 small pieces of charcoal into a glass jar of water and places the jar in an east window.

Here is something to make all you Begonia growers in the United States thankful. Dr. Ian Robertson (Australia) writes that all plants shipped in must be quarantined for three months at a cost of \$10.00 per plant - which is charged whether the plant lives or dies! (Director's note: Just recently this charge has almost doubled). At this hefty cost, one would really have to be a lover of plants!

In one **species** flight some of the members are doing what every other Begonia grower finds hard to do - throwing out those plants that do not do well for them, or that they find uninteresting. Gwen Stephens (CA) also pitched those whose requirements she cannot or will not meet. Mabel Corwin (CA) says she has a good "house cleaning" every year and discards some she does not find interesting. She also starts new plants and discards the old ones about every three years.

Mary Simon (OH) gave a nice report on B. U166 in her **General Culture** Robin. From three seeds, she got up two nice plants. One was planted directly into soil in a terrarium, and did not survive. The other plant she had in a pot, which she placed in an empty terrarium along with 1 1/2 tablespoons of plain water, making sure the pot would not absorb the water from the bottom. She then partially closed the lid of the container. Several weeks later she noticed it began to bud out, and it bloomed beautiful small pink flowers for several months. She reported that the few times

when the moisture had evaporated, the plant seemed to be affected.

Jeanette Gilbertson (CA) convinced herself that she would do no propagating this year after her branch grew a thousand or so plants for the convention sales table last year, but, like so many of us, just could not throw away a good leaf or cutting. Spring weather has this effect on most of us. Jeanette also reports several things her branch does that might give other branches ideas for programs. Members are encouraged to bring in a plant they feel is especially interesting or beautiful and tell how they grow the plant, and how long they have grown it. A moderator then may add a few remarks about percentage, etc. The branch also has a segment called "What do I do with it?" Members would bring in plants they were having trouble growing or did not know how to prune or report.

For those of you having trouble with *B. chlorosticta*, Mabel Corwin (CA) had some very good growing tips. She reports that since it does grow quite tall, it needs a lot of pinching to make a full plant. It is also a good idea to keep putting cuttings down, for it can be here today and gone tomorrow. It grows from leaf wedges as well as from cuttings. She kept her plant in a terrarium until she had a good strong plant, then took the terrarium to the greenhouse and opened it gradually. She has found that after it blooms, it dies back - sometimes growing again and sometimes not.

In one of the **cane** Robins, Frances Jurley (IL) finds growing her canes in the ground much better than in pots. As winter approaches, she lifts the plants, garden soil and all, and pots them up. She finds this way they bloom all winter for her. When the weather warms, she prunes them back and away they go into the flower beds once more.

Margie Smith (TX) tells her **rhizomatous** Robin friends how she maintains her small plants: she sets each pot down in open sweater boxes with damp potting mix around

them. This has cut down her losses tremendously.

In the **tuberous** Robin one member was complaining about getting so many single flowers from seed. Howard Siebold (CA) states that one should expect to get a high ratio of singles, but if one got 300 seeds from a pod and all of them were big beautiful flowers, what would one do with them all? He says it would take many years of record keeping to pin down which parents reliably give a high percentage of double offspring. He also stated that if you are looking for a specific result from a cross, the chances of getting it in the first generation aren't too great. However, the singles are a good source of pollen for the second generation cross, and this is where your chances are better for finding what you want.

In her **seed** Robin, Joan Campbell (MT) wanted to share her experience of setting seed on two female plants of *B. bulbifera*. When the pods had ripened and seed had been harvested, she found about six seed in each pod; the rest was chaff. She wonders if this is the norm for this plant, and perhaps for other Begonias.

Dora Lee Dorsey (FL) claims transplanting from water is easy if you just dip the roots into dry medium and shake to separate them so they can be spread out in the soil and won't cling together and rot. As with so many other Begonia growers she is sold on the idea of taking cuttings during the first week following the New Moon.

Virginia Hamann (LA), a member of one of the **Midwest Growers** Robins, has found that Begonias need a stronger plant food than African violets. Years ago she fed both the same diet, and since the Begonias looked only okay, she decided to begin mixing their feedings a little stronger: 21 drops of Schultz's Instant to 2 quarts of water. Lo and behold, they bloomed and greened up so much that she continued. She warns that this heavy feeding is done only on mature plants. In the same Robin

Rhodora Buss (LA) says that when she gets a plant, she immediately puts down a leaf or cutting, as she seems to have better luck growing a plant she starts.

Talk about survivors—in a **general culture** Robin, Kingsley Langenberg (IL) reported that he found out by experience the past winter that it is possible to neglect Begonias totally for several months at a time and still have viable plants come spring. He states that from January to April he watered his canes and mature rhizomatous Begonias only once. He kept them cool, fairly dry, and quite poorly lit, but they did survive. As warm weather appeared, he cut them all back severely and about 90% of them are sprouting out. He is also going to be testing some advice given in another Robin that it is hard to over-fertilize a cane when it is actively growing. He plans to feed a 10-10-10 ratio every 3 or 4 weeks until August and see what happens. In the same Robin, Tamsin Boardman (TX) has a personal theory that plants which have the most problems with mildew benefit the most from heat and light. She tried B. 'Lucerna' and B. 'Medora,' two she has had trouble with in the past, in the Texas summer sun last year, with partial shade only after 4 p.m., and they were gorgeous and bloomed continually.

Although he grows Begonias of all types, Bob Hamm (CA) told his **seed** Robin friends that he finds himself going more and more into U numbers. He finds them very interesting to work with. One in particular that he just received is B. UO62, and he finds it particularly impressive.

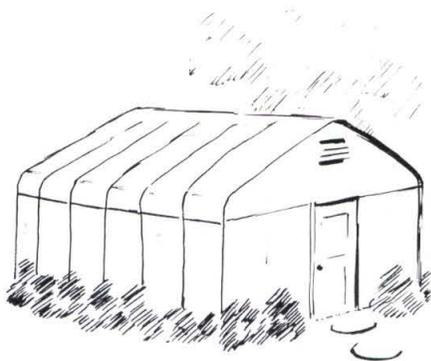
If you would like to exchange begonia notes via one of the Robin flights, write to:

Margaret Coats

11203 Cedar Elm

San Antonio, TX 78230

and tell her what your interests are. There are over 60 flights circulating.



GETTING THE GREENHOUSE READY FOR WINTER

Do you depend on your greenhouse to keep your Begonias from freezing? Here are some steps you can take to make their winter inside more carefree:

1. Check heaters, thermostats, fans several weeks before the first freeze to allow time for repairs. Do you have back-up sources of heat?
2. Remove shade cloth.
3. With all plants out, hose down the greenhouse, inside and out, with detergent. Include benches and floor. Leave the suds on for a few minutes before rinsing.
4. If mildew has been a problem, try spraying all interior surfaces with Lysol; and/or, blow a small amount (fistful or less) of sulphur into the air. Other helps with mildew: increase light, raise heat.
5. Before bringing plants in, wash them with soap (Safer's, or Ivory Liquid). Wipe off pots. Many growers repot at this time, too.

You're off to a good clean start!

BACK ISSUES

Our Back Issues sales are being transferred to the Book Store, and orders will be filled by Bob Bailey. If you have ordered back issues from the previous director, and have received no reply or the back issues you ordered, please contact Bob. We will fill your orders as soon as possible

WHEN AND HOW MUCH?

WATERING ISN'T ALWAYS SIMPLE...

by BOB HAMM

Keeping your plants watered is the most basic task of any plant grower and probably the one area that creates the most misunderstanding and bad advice. How often I hear questions such as "What watering SCHEDULE do you use?", "Is once a week enough?", or "How much water should I give my plants?"

People want simple answers and unfortunately there is not always a simple answer. In this article I am going to try to give some help to both beginning plant growers and experienced collectors, not only on technique (how much), art (when), but also on some of the special problems that have come up concerning the water itself.

The simplest and easiest question is the technique of watering, or "how to." The general answer for all potted plants is to water the soil mass thoroughly so that the entire root mass is dampened. For pots with drain holes this is usually translated as "until water comes out the bottom." The problem with that answer is that very dry soils, especially the soilless mixes used today, are often slow in absorbing water. So if you stop the second any water comes out the drain hole, your plant may still be dry. Remember that as long as your pot drains, you can not give too much water in one watering. So give the pot a good drenching, then let it drain.

One precaution: just because the pot has drainage does not mean that it can sit in

water. If the pot has a dish or saucer under it, be sure to empty the extra water after a short period.

The next question is the hard one, commonly asked as "How often?" First find out how much dampness your plant wants. Is it a moist or dry climate plant? A second consideration is your potting mix: does it dry slowly or readily? Third, consider where the plant is growing and its growing conditions. Hot sunny window? Shady damp poolside?

Now try this translation: moist damp soils should be allowed to dry just slightly on the surface, but should not stand in water. Dry soil plants should be allowed to dry as far as one inch or more down, but not until the plant shrivels or wilts. Dry does not mean bone dry, but barely moist. Intermediate plants generally can be allowed to dry 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep, depending on the pot size (farther down for bigger pots).

Nothing works as well as practice and attention in knowing when to water what. Also, you must consider the season and state of growth of the plant. Many supposedly "dry" plants can stand long periods of dryness when dormant, but when in active growth should be watered as you would a more medium moisture plant. Keeping them too dry at this time will stunt growth and force dormancy.

The opposite is true of many "moisture lovers." When dormant, or in dull light or cool weather, many plants that want constant moisture during active growth do much better if allowed to dry moderately between waterings.

Weather is very important also. Sunny periods with low humidity mean plants will use water rapidly and need more water. Cloudy, cool spells cause slow drying.

One problem I see a lot in hot climates is that in some cases even a plant which is damp will fade, or even wilt a bit during the heat of the day. Often this is caused NOT by a lack of water at the roots but the actual inability of the roots to absorb water fast enough to keep up with evaporation. Watering a stressed damp plant under these conditions will only promote various root fungi and rots. When you have this problem, you can help by any or all of the following: increase shading, raise humidity by misting (not watering), and decrease exposure to wind.

Now I wish to address a few problems that have only recently, in most cases, come to growers' attention. The first is a problem of the local water itself. In some cases, a water supply may have chemicals in it naturally that will affect certain plant species. If you move to a new area and your plants don't seem to act "right," you may want to check on this. Unfortunately the only solution is using rain or bottled water, and a caution is needed here: using distilled water will draw all the nutrients out of the soil and roots, so a diet of distilled water for your plants should be avoided.

The second "modern" problem with water is one of treatment. Both home and water system treatments can create problems. The classic problem of chlorine is solved easily by letting the water stand for twenty-four hours. This also will work with fluoridated water (fluorine will cause foliage burning on some plant species).

However, I have seen a number of cases where a person will go along with his local water fresh from the tap, and then suddenly have problems. Remember that water suppliers will sometimes change chemicals, or may have a problem and add extra chemicals to the water. The Sacramento area experienced this during the heavy rains of 1986, when extra chemicals were added to the water

system to offset leaking into the system. A number of fish hobbyists had major problems and I am sure many growers spent weeks puzzling over the sudden browning of leaves on their plants - and never figured it out!

Home water softeners do not remove the chemicals in water. They generally work by exchanging one chemical for another to make the water taste better. Unfortunately the replacement chemicals can be deadly to plants!

The last problem is one that I became aware of because of extensive research done by the Texas Gesneriad growers or why their plants would do great for awhile, then slowly decline. The culprit was water that over a period of time changed the pH readings of their soils and caused the decline. The pH and chemical composition of your water can slowly affect your soil mix. This is why growers in some areas do well adding lime while growers in other areas find it a disaster, and also why mixes with high peat content do well in some areas but give poor results in others. Lime counteracts acidic reactions; peat is very acidic over time and will counteract water with a high pH reading. Thus the different recommendations about soil mixes often have to do with the local water and not the plants themselves.

Hopefully I have helped a few of you with your questions on watering. This is not a complete story. There is always more to learn, and no two growers will ever agree unless they are growing under IDENTICAL conditions. Take my guidelines, or anyone else's, as a starting point. Find out what works for you!

Bob Hamm is a nurseryman and self-confessed Begonia freak. He is a past Vice-president of ABS, past Director of Southwest Region., and served as Placement Chair for the 1987 Convention. Bob lives at 10065 River Mist Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.



SPOTLIGHT ON:

Begonia herbacea



by Mary Weinberg

B. herbacea is known to be an epiphytic plant growing on trees and can be grown nicely on pieces of tree fern trunks. However, it will grow in regular begonia soil mixes, peat mixes, or moss. When the plant is well grown, it sends out side rhizomes and makes thick clumps. *B. herbacea* makes an unusual and excellent terrarium plant.

B. herbacea was first described and illustrated by Jose Vellozo, a Brazilian botanist, sometime before 1811, but because of political situations the drawing did not appear until 1831 and the description was not published until 1881.

B. herbacea is in the Trachelocarpus section, and has 56 chromosomes. It is an epiphyte, having a thick creeping rhizome covered with root fibers. It has oblanceolate minutely saw-toothed light green leaves that rise from the rhizome without a petiole. Female flowers rise from the rhizome on a pedicel so short the ovary appears to be sitting on the rhizome; the blossom is extended upward on tall petioles. Blossoms are white, but appear pink under fluorescent light. *B. herbacea* is everblooming. Leaves are sometimes silver-spotted, depending on light conditions. An interesting characteristic of this plant is the secretion of a crystal-like

substance on leaves and flowers. *B. herbacea* requires terrarium care, or humidity of at least 60%.

I have three plants of this *Begonia*. Two are growing in separate containers under lights in the basement. They have done fairly well, blooming most of the time but not profusely (usually one or two flowers at a time). In the summer there will be a few more flowers. Light is given from two cool white tubes; the light fixture is 16 1/2 inches from the top of the shelf. The growing medium used is 5 parts sphagnum moss to 1 part perlite. Leaf color is good. Temperature in the basement throughout the year varies widely: in summer it is usually 10-15 degrees cooler than in the house; in late fall when the heat is turned on it is overly warm until cold weather sets in and then drops to the 50's and low 60's. Last winter the temperature dropped to 47 degrees.

The third plant is in an old converted fish tank. The tank lies on its side with a plastic flap over the opening to keep moisture in. There is a layer of long grain sphagnum moss on the bottom, about 1/2 inch thick; I keep the moss slightly moist. *B. herbacea* is in a small pot containing a growing medium of 2 parts sterile soil, 1 part sphagnum peat moss, 1 part perlite, 1 part Jiffy Mix. The light fixture is 10 1/2 inches from the rim of the pot, and has one grow-lux tube and one cool white tube. *B. herbacea* blooms profusely, having male and female blossoms at the same time. Roots are growing through the bottom of the pot and have attached themselves to the sphagnum moss. Temperature in the tank is 68 degrees, and the humidity is 70%.

B. herbacea is an easy-care plant. It does not appear to be temperamental, and is very easy to self-pollinate or cross-pollinate.

CULTURE:

WATER: Keep evenly moist.

LIGHT: As for other rhizomatous plants.

HUMIDITY: At least 60%.

GROWING MEDIUM: I think the medium used in my tank arrangement is good; can

also be mounted on tree fern or driftwood, or put into a moss-lined basket, providing humidity requirement can be met.

TEMPERATURE: A range of 70-75 degrees would be ideal; I do well at a lower level.

If you would like to try other *Begonias* from the *Trachelocarpus* Section, I have listed them below. All are lanceolate or oblanceolate. You may have to do some searching to find a source.

SPECIES:

agraensis
attenuata
depauperata
fulvo-setulosa
repens
gracilipetiolata
velloziana

HYBRIDS:

'Bebe'
'Midge'
'Nellie'
'Speckled Spear'

Reprinted with the author's permission from The Chicago Begonian, February, 1987.

Artist/writer/*Begonia* grower Mary Weinberg lives at 1527 W. Highland Ave., Chicago, IL 60660.



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NEW CULTIVARS

Official International Registration Numbers 915-919

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 requested. ABS is the International Registration Authority for *Begonia* names.

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

Begonia 'Rory'

No. 915—*Begonia cinnabarina* x *Begonia boliviensis* 'Rory'

A first generation tuberous cultivar with stems to 2 1/2' tall and orange flowers. Narrow, 6" x 2", green leaf blades taper to a point and show red at the basal sinus. Margins are serrate and surface smooth, with 7 main veins. Petioles are 1" long. The bright-orange, single, cup-shaped flowers measure about 1 1/2" across, with 4 male or 5 female tepals and 3-winged ovaries. They are borne on 3" peduncles from May to October in California. The hybrid resembles both parents, but is intermediate between them and a more abundant bloomer, flowering prolifically over a long season. Originated in 1981 by Goldie Frost (10622 Teal Drive, Garden Grove, CA 92643); first bloomed and distributed 1982. Tested and recommended by Mabel Corwin of Vista, CA. Registered Aug. 18, 1987.

Begonia 'Glennis Crouch'

No. 916—*Begonia* 'Essie Hunt' mutation 'Glennis Crouch'

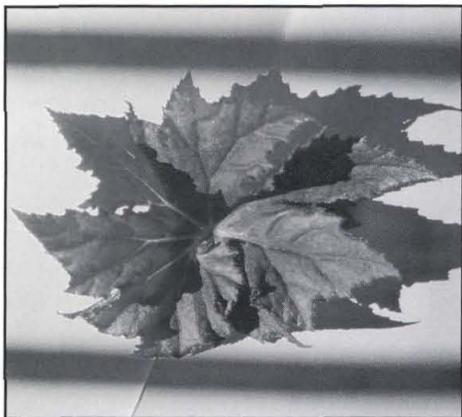
Rhizomatous cultivar with erect rhizome

and crested, variegated green-and-white leaves with red veining. The 6 1/2" x 5 1/2", heavy-textured, waxy, crisp leaf blades are broadly ovate, almost round, with rounded basal lobes overlapping, acute tip, 6 pale main veins, and toothed and crested margin. The creamy white areas vary, sometimes to 75% or 80%, contrasting with red veins and edge. Petioles are 2"-5", pale green with white hairs; stipules are 5/8" x 3/8", whitish green. Originated about 1981 by Mae Blanton (118 Wildoak, Lake Dallas, TX 75065), a mutation from her 1974 cultivar *B.* 'Essie Hunt', whose parents were *B. conchifolia* var. *rubrimacula* (syn, 'Zip') and *B. manicata* 'Aureomaculata Crispa'. No flowers had appeared by the time of registration application. Tested and recommended by Robert Hamm of Sacramento, CA. Published in Robert B. Hamm Newsletter, January-March 1987, and with photo in the Begonian 54: 34 (March-April 1987). Registered Aug. 18, 1987.



Begonia "Blood Silver"

No. 917—*Begonia* 'Sir Percy' x unknown
'Blood Silver'



Begonia 'Sharon's Image'

No. 918—*Begonia* 'Duchartrei' x *coccinea*
'Sharon's Image'



Rhizomatous cultivar with creeping rhizome and silvery-green, parted, spiraled leaves. The glabrous to very slightly hairy $7\frac{1}{2}$ x 6" leaf blades are deep red on the reverse, almost round in overall outline, and parted into broadly triangular lobes and sublobes tapering to long-acuminate points enhanced by coarsely serrate margins, lightly ciliate on young foliage. Basal lobes are spiraled. The 7 palmate pale-green main veins are indented above, prominent and sparsely hairy beneath. Petioles averaging 6" long are pink to green with white, $\frac{1}{8}$ "- $\frac{1}{4}$ " hairs. Stipules, $\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{3}{8}$ ", are green with greenish-white $\frac{1}{4}$ " hairs. White to very pale pink flowers, $\frac{5}{8}$ " in diameter, are formed of 2 oval $\frac{3}{8}$ " x $\frac{7}{16}$ " tepals and are borne in few-flowered clusters on 6" peduncles in late winter or spring. Originated in 1984 by Mickey Meyer (16 Yuppapa Street, Tathra, 2550 NSW Australia); first flowered and distributed in 1987. Tested and recommended by Robert Hamm of Sacramento, CA. Described in Robert B. Hamm Newsletter January-March and April-June 1987. Registered Aug. 18, 1987.

Shrubby cultivar to 2' tall, with glossy foliage and contrasting pink flowers. Leaf blades, 7 " x $3\frac{1}{4}$ ", are rather narrowly ovate with shallowly cordate base and acute to acuminate tip, smooth and glossy dark green with red reverse. Margins are double-dentate to shallowly cusped. The 7 main veins are not prominent and match the leaf color. Petioles are $1\frac{1}{2}$ ", a deep red, and bare. "Neyron" rose (RHS color chart) flowers have 4 male tepals or 5 female, with dark-pink wings on white ovaries. Tepals are $\frac{1}{2}$ " across. The many-flowered clusters are borne on 4" peduncles from late spring through summer. The leaves are not as thick and leathery as those of *B. coccinea* or hairy as on *B. 'Duchartrei'*, and flowers are pink rather than scarlet as on *B. coccinea* or white with red hairs as on 'Duchartrei.' Originated in 1983 by Jan Goodwin (63 Second Avenue, Sefton Park, South Australia 5083); first bloomed in 1986. Inspected and recommended by M.C.R. Sharrad of Ridge Haven, South Australia. Registered Aug. 18, 1987.

***Begonia* 'Boomer'**

No. 919—*Begonia* UOO3 x possibly *vitifolia* 'Boomer'



Synonyms *B.* 'George Fix', *B.* 'Via', *B.* 'Ria'. Thick-stemmed cultivar grown from seed offered in ABS Seed Fund in December 1979 as Brazil species No. 3 mk (also called "the Burle Marx begonia," a popular term for *B.* UOO3, but not true *B. burle-marxii*, an entirely different species). Seedlings proved different from *B.* UOO3, also, and evidently arose from a chance pollination of that species. They combine foliage markedly influenced by *B.* UOO3 but with an upright habit and flower arrangement similar to those of *B. vitifolia*.

Stems are woody, reaching 3' or 4'. Crisp leaf blades are bullate with short bristly hairs and colored green with yellow-green wash along the veins, splashed with bronze shading into bronze-red, finely edged with red at the denticulate margin, and flushed red underneath. They are 8 1/2" x 6", broadly ovate to almost round, angulate to shallowly lobed, and cordate at the base, palmately crossed by 6 main veins. Petioles are 5"-6", green, pubescent; stipules are 1" x 1/2", green, chartaceous, keeled, with a few short hairs on the upper surface and a bristle at the apex, drying and remaining on the plant a long time before dropping off. White male flowers are 3/4" x 1/2" with 2 roundish and 2 narrow tepals. They are arranged in cymose clusters like those of *B. vitifolia*, borne on 8"-9", green, finely-hairy peduncles in spring. *B.*

'Boomer' is distinguished from other thick-stemmed begonias by the unusual color and pattern of the bullate leaves. Unlike many thick-stemmed, it becomes shrub-like in habit and is reported easy to grow. Developed in 1979 by Mabel Corwin (1119 Loma Vista Way, Vista, CA 92084); first bloomed in 1982; first distributed in 1981. Inspected and recommended by Thelma O'Reilly of La Mesa, CA. Discussed by Robert B. Hamm Newsletters, April-June 1987, July-Sept. 1987. Registered Aug. 19, 1987.



MORE COLOR IN THE BEGONIAN

by Thelma O'Reilly

Sounds great, doesn't it? With the cooperation of members and branches the possibility can become a reality.

At the annual ABS business meeting I made a plea for attendees to ask their branches and its members to send a donation to the Color Fund started by the Members At Large. At the suggestion of an attending member, two baskets were passed around. \$107.00 was donated! That kind of cooperative spirit is heartwarming.

Additional donations made by Virginia Boyer, Margaret Coats, Darlene Fuentes, Margie Griffith and Tim and Thelma O'Reilly make a grand total of \$351.00 in the fund to date.

All of you, everywhere, can help by sending a contribution to Thelma O'Reilly, 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 92041. Any donation, small or large, will be appreciated, acknowledged, and name of donor listed in the Begonian.



BUXTON SHOW

The Bessie Buxton Branch will hold its annual Fall Show Oct. 17, 1987. Plan to attend if you're in the Boston area! President is Mary McQuillin, 305 Highland Ave., Winchester, MA 01890.



AROUND ABS

Notes from our Newsletters

Picnics abounded for ABS Branches this summer. The August meeting for Rubidoux was held at Shamel Park, with swimming and horse-shoe pitching; Barkley had a July barbecue at the home of Thelma and Bob Dodd, with Merrill Calvert, past Director of Southwest Region, manning the grill. Santa Barbara's annual picnic was held at Barbara Phillips' ranch, where Begonias and other shade plants grow under ancient oaks. Mabel Corwin provided drinks for touring members of Westchester Branch on Sept. 12, and they "brown-bagged" in her garden. Truly elegant was San Francisco's September Sunday picnic at Junipero Serra County Park: steaks, salads, and champagne!

The champagne was earned -- San Francisco members participated in a July Tanforan show and sale, bringing home lots of blue ribbons and a nice profit from the sale (and no sale plants). Alice & Isadore Gold and Carol & Red Spediacci won cultural awards, and Deborah Best won two. The next month they plunged into the S.F. County Fair Flower Show.

Monterey Branch members, meanwhile, were taking ribbons at the Monterey Fair, and Palomar Branch had a show at Quail Gardens north of San Diego.

Westchester Branch is celebrating its 28th birthday! Also celebrating a birthday was Alfred D. Robinson Branch, which had a party complete with cake. And by the time you read this, in October, Pinellas County Branch in Florida will be celebrating its very first birthday, with plans for a show and sale in the near future.

From Knickerbocker Branch comes welcome news that Jack Golding is working on a Begonia Glossary. Soon we'll have a reference guide when reading technical material about Begonias.

Martin Johnson writes in the Members-At-Large newsletter:

"Recently I was talking to Rudy Ziesenne about Scott Hoover's upcoming expedition to Ecuador. Rudy said he hoped Scott didn't meet up with the people who broke up some fern collectors' efforts to retrieve a new species of platycerium. The collectors were using a helicopter to get close to their prize in the treetops when they were repelled by spears hurled at the helicopter. I just had a report from the Phillipines that one collector on a trip to Mindoro had six days of walking and slept under trees. On another trip he is now 3 days overdue. A different collector had to negotiate several days for safe passage and had to rush his work. There are many more hazards facing botanists and collectors in the wilds. I hope every MAL will support Scott's expedition with a generous contribution."

Martin himself took a less hazardous trip this spring on the Jazz Band Circuit. While in such places as New Orleans and St. Louis, he visited botanical gardens and seed companies, combining two hobbies. Another way he combines interests is by naming his Begonia cultivars for jazz compositions and musicians: Jelly Roll Morton, Connie Boswell, King Porter Stomp, Ace in the Hole, Turk Murphy.

Here's more from the MAL newsletter: Ruby Tetrault would like to have a Begonia

pen pal in Scotland, where her grandparents were born. Ruby's address is RR 1, Box 229, Bonfield, IL 60913. Pauline Chambers (FL) combines semps with Dusty Miller for a smashing contrast in her flowerbeds.

Howard Siebold (CA) hybridizes tuberous Begonias, and Brown Bulb Farm has just purchased some of his fragrant pink and scarlet tubers - now they will be distributed commercially. Thelma O'Reilly found that *B. 'Claire-Cal'* was not fazed by the freezes she suffered last winter. She purchased her plant from David Atkinson, and describes it as resembling *B. 'Cleopatra'* but with more art shading, with leaves of a thick crisp texture and flowers of pink. It is listed by the Thompsons as *B. 'Clairecal.'*

The MAL newsletters are published by Thelma O'Reilly, 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa CA 92041. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to receive each one. You don't have to be a member-at-large to get the newsletter.

Here's an idea from the Southwest Region Begonia Leaflet: Martha Curry of Weatherford, TX gave her local library a gift subscription to the Begonian. She's hoping to find some local Begonia fans (or to create some).

Mae Blanton reports in the SWR newsletter that her *B. masoniana* is in bloom, and very fragrant: it has a citron scent.

From the Knickerbocker News is this short article by Marjorie Mack:

BEGONIA OF THE MONTH

Begonia *schmidtiana*, a species semp, was discovered in Brazil in 1876 by Scarff & Haage and introduced by them commercially two years later. It is 'everblooming' with small clusters of single flowers, whitish pink to very pale pink. Leaves are olive green, ovate, with slightly velvety surface. Growth habit is bushy, with succulent stems. It matures to twelve inches or more, depending upon culture.

Indoors, *B. schmidtiana* can be grown in East, West, or South windows. It needs

protection from intense sunlight in a South or West window in summer. Place it near the central tube in a light garden. Of course, it enjoys the summer outdoors in partial sun.

Keep this plant slightly underpotted. Standard 1-1-1 potting mix can be used (some growers add a measure of soil to the mix). Water when slightly dry, and fertilize every two weeks with a balanced fertilizer. There are no special humidity requirements, but if humidity is high in a warm room, be careful not to over water, and watch for mildew.

B. schmidtiana is easily grown from seed, and can be propagated from tip or basal cuttings with at least two nodes.



**ATTENTION,
BRANCH OFFICERS!**

IF your last listing in the branch directory (the Begonian, March/April 1987, p. 48) was behind the times, or IF you change officers in January, please notify ABS secretary Jeanette Gilbertson, 410 JoAnn Circle, Vista, CA 92084 so that your branch will be listed correctly in the January/February issue. That sounds like a long way off, but the issue must be typed and in the printers' hands by Dec. 1 - please give us lead time.

ABS has a new Public Relations Director! What does this mean for your branch, you may be asking? Good news! Lorra Almstedt is a PR professional, and her talents are at your disposal. Are you having a special meeting, or a show, or a sale? Lorra will help out by writing press releases and giving you suggestions on where to send them; she will help design posters and flyers. Perhaps you need an idea for a meeting which will attract non-members: Lorra can help there, too. Her address is 1965 Celeste Lane, Fullerton, CA 92633. While Lorra will respond promptly, newspapers have deadlines (usually 2-3 weeks) for publicity submissions, and magazines are even worse (3-6 months!), so write to her ahead of time.

EACH BRANCH is responsible for sending an annual report on activities to the National Board. Has your Branch reported?

IS SOMETHING SPECIAL HAPPENING in your branch? We'd all like to hear about it! Please send news to Tamsin Boardman, Box 249, Roanoke, TX 76262. And a big thank you to those of you who have included me on your branch newsletter mailing lists!

SEED FUND NOTES

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Director Joan Campbell regrets that there is not enough seed at press time for a listing in the September/October issue. Perhaps your branch would be willing to be responsible for sending Begonia seeds - particularly needed are seeds of species, self-pollinated. Should setting seed be new to you, the November/December 1986 Begonian had an excellent article by Dr. Jan Doorenbos on how to pollinate and collect seed (pages 156-159).

IN MEMORY

Begonia grower, artist, friend - the words are inadequate to describe Mildred Hooton, charter member of Southwest Region and one of our "sparkplugs," who died September 2, 1987. Mildred was knowledgeable and hard-working, tackling the dreariest tasks with cheer. Her standards were high, but she managed a light touch and her wit brightened many a meeting. Our deepest sympathy to husband Ray and their children. We shall miss her very much, too.

ABS STORK REPORT!

Our youngest member is Christopher Michael Ludwig, born July 31, 1987, who weighed in at 7 pounds, 7 ounces at birth but had gained four pounds by the time he received his ABS Life Membership on August 29th! We expect great things from this young charmer, whose behavior at convention was exemplary.

TERRARIUMS, BUBBLES

CAL-MIL Plastic Products will manufacture Lucite or Plexiglass terrariums, available wholesale in large quantities. Their address is 6100 Paseo del Norte, Carlsbad, CA 92008.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

July 19, 1987

The July 19, 1987 Board meeting of the American Begonia Society, held at the home of Mabel and Ralph Corwin, was called to order at 11:30 A.M. First Vice-president Arlene Davis read the Aims and Purposes. Minutes of the May 3 meeting were approved.

The treasurer's report showed a balance as of June 30 of \$17,491.92 in checking and \$33,271.09 in savings.

Book Store Manager Bob Bailey reported that he has new books to sell and a balance in the Book Store account of \$75.96. Back Issue Chairman Julie Panteja asked to be relieved of the job and the Board appointed Bob Bailey to take over.

Conservation Co-chairman Scott Hoover still needs additional funds for his trip. Martin Johnson requested that every member of ABS send \$5 to the Conservation Fund, c/o Martin, to enable ABS to fund Scott's trip and future conservation efforts. Donations should be designated for Scott's trip and an Honor Roll of Contributors will appear in the **Begonian**.

Branch Relations reported that the Eastern New York Branch has dissolved. Their charter constitution, and treasury of approximately \$115 will be sent in.

Phyllis Bates' resignation as editor of the **Begonian** was accepted with regrets and many thanks for all the years of good work. The Editoria Committee has met and selected Tamsin Boardman as new editor. Board approved this appointment.

Mary Bucholtz and Rudy Ziesenhenné have been added to the committee to revise the judging course.

The Members At Large Color Fund has been formally established. It has \$200. Please send any donations to this fund for more inside color in the **Begonian** to Thelma O'Reilly. MAL meeting at the convention will be at 4 P.M. Friday, Aug. 28.

The Membership Chairman reported 82 life members, 109 institutions, 1353 dues paying members.

The Seed Fund Director reports income of

\$427.20, expenses of \$11.35. A check for \$414.85 has been sent to ABS, leaving \$25 in the Seed Fund account.

The Slide Library Chairman sent a check for \$35 for April and May receipts.

The Historian would like news items, photographs, branch newsletters to put in the history book.

Old Business: there being no response to questions concerning procuring plastic terrariums, the ABS will not make this a project.

New Business: a \$25 donation was made to the Los Angeles Arboretum.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 P.M.

Jeanette Gilbertson,
secretary.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

AUGUST 31, 1987

The annual business meeting of the American Begonia Society was held after the Saturday luncheon at the 55th convention, "Begonia Homecoming," in Long Beach, CA. President Margaret Lee called the roll of branches and states.

Vice-president Arlene Davis read the Aims and Purposes. The Minutes from the 1986 annual business meeting were dispensed with. Treasurer's report for the period August 1, 1986 to July 31, 1987 showed income of \$49,720.05, expenses of \$44,019.49, for a year-end balance of \$19,286.67 in checking, and \$32,252.38 in savings.

President Margaret Lee announced she has completed the listing of duties of chairmen and officers of ABS. She turned them over to the secretary. Anyone who wishes a copy may request same from the secretary.

Audit report was received, and all appears to be in order.

Back Issues and Bookstore have been combined.

Ballot Counting Committee reported only 213 ballots were received. The elected officers are as follows: President, Arlene Davis; First Vice-president, Michael Ludwig; Second Vice-president, Charles Jaros; Third Vice-president, Bob Dodd; Treasurer, Eleanor Calkins; Secretary, Jeanette Gilbertson.

Branch Relations reported the Eastern New York Branch has dissolved, but a new Branch is forming in the Brooklyn-Queens-West Long Island area of New York. The Greater Cincinnati Branch is re-organizing after several years of inactivity. The Branch Relations director offers assistance to any member-at-large in forming a

new Branch, and welcomes correspondence from the established Branches on their activities.

Editor Phyllis Bates reported the July-August issue of the **Begonian** is in the final stages. Phyllis thanked the many contributors who cooperated with her while she was editor, and thanked the ABS board for their understanding and support.

Judging chairman reported Bob Ammerman and Alma Crawford were advanced to Senior judges. Timothy Last, Ed Bradford, Mary McClelland, and L.W. Voss received their Junior cards. A committee has been formed to revise the judges' course. Two meetings have been held.

Conservation Department reported funds are still being collected for Scott Hoover's trip to Ecuador and Colombia. It will be an extensive expedition. Scott will try to collect colonies of seedlings, instead of cuttings. These will be distributed to proven growers in the east and west to grow and distribute.

Members-at-Large Director reported a busy year. The MAL Color Fund donated \$200 to ABS to establish a fund for more color in the **Begonian**. Thelma reminded the members present that ALL members of ABS can donate to the Color Fund. A collection was taken up, which produced \$107 for the Color Fund, and \$41 for the Conservation Fund.

Membership reported 1340 dues-paying members, 82 life members, 111 institutions.

Nomenclature reported 5 new cultivars registered, in addition to the 8 published in the Sept-Oct issue and 6 in the Nov-Dec issue, totaling 919 cultivars registered. U #s have been assigned to reach a total of 228, including 3 to recently collected tuberous Mexican species which were available at the convention.

Lorra Almstedt has been appointed new Public Relations Director. She will be happy to assist National and Branches with writing and placing publicity articles in newspapers and magazines.

Seed Fund reported \$3,091.68 in sales in 1986-7, and requested Branches to please self-pollinate species for the Seed Fund.

Board approved lengthening the time a cultivar is eligible for the Alfred D. Robinson Medal from 5-10 years to 5-15 years.

Speakers Bureau Director Muriel Perz requested someone please send her a copy of the list of available speakers as her copy was lost in a fire at her house. Secretary will do so.

End of year Branch reports were received from Alfred D. Robinson, Buxton, Greater Cincinnati, Jacksonville, Pinellas County, and San Miguel Branches. We thank you for these informative accounts of your activities, and request those Branches that have not sent in a report to do so.

1988 Convention Chairman Wanda Macnair invited all ABS members to attend the 1988 con-

vention in Boston Sept. 15-18. Wanda also gave the history of the Barkley Collection at Northeastern University, which will be on one of the tours.

Board requested that the ABS Board Minutes be read at the Branch meetings. The job of the National Representatives is to inform the Branches of ABS activities. This is not always being done. To ensure the Minutes going to the right person, please inform the Secretary.*

The Board and all ABS members present at the luncheon gave Membership Chairman/Business Manager John Ingles a big "thank you" and standing ovation for his hard work and dedication.

President Margaret Lee presented for our consideration a proposal to hold the National Convention every other year instead of annually.

Tamsin Boardman told of many foreign members dropping out because of the high cost of getting US dollars for their dues. She suggested Branches consider sponsoring a foreign member at a cost of \$35 each.

Show Chairman Gil Estrada thanked those who have helped in putting on this convention, especially since they only had six months to make all the arrangements. Gil gave out several cultural awards. Besides the awards for those plants which were awarded 95 points and over, Mabel Corwin was awarded the "Begonia Hybrid of Distinction" for her new hybrid, B. 'Martin Johnson.' Eric Seel was awarded the "Showing and Sharing" for entering 21 plants, 9 of which won blue ribbons. He was also awarded Sweepstakes.

President Margaret Lee thanked all her chairmen and officers who made the past two years such a pleasant experience.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 P.M. The next meeting will be held at the Corona Steak House, Corona, CA on Sunday, November 8 at 11:00 A.M. Lunch will be at 1:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Gilbertson,
Secretary

*A personal request: please send me a separate note. Sometimes the info is in the newsletter, but gets missed.

BEGONIAN MINI-ADS

Mini-ads are a service to our members. The charge is \$1 per line per insertion with a minimum of \$4. A line is 36 characters including punctuation and spaces. Payment must accompany order.

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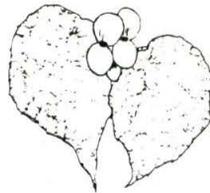
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