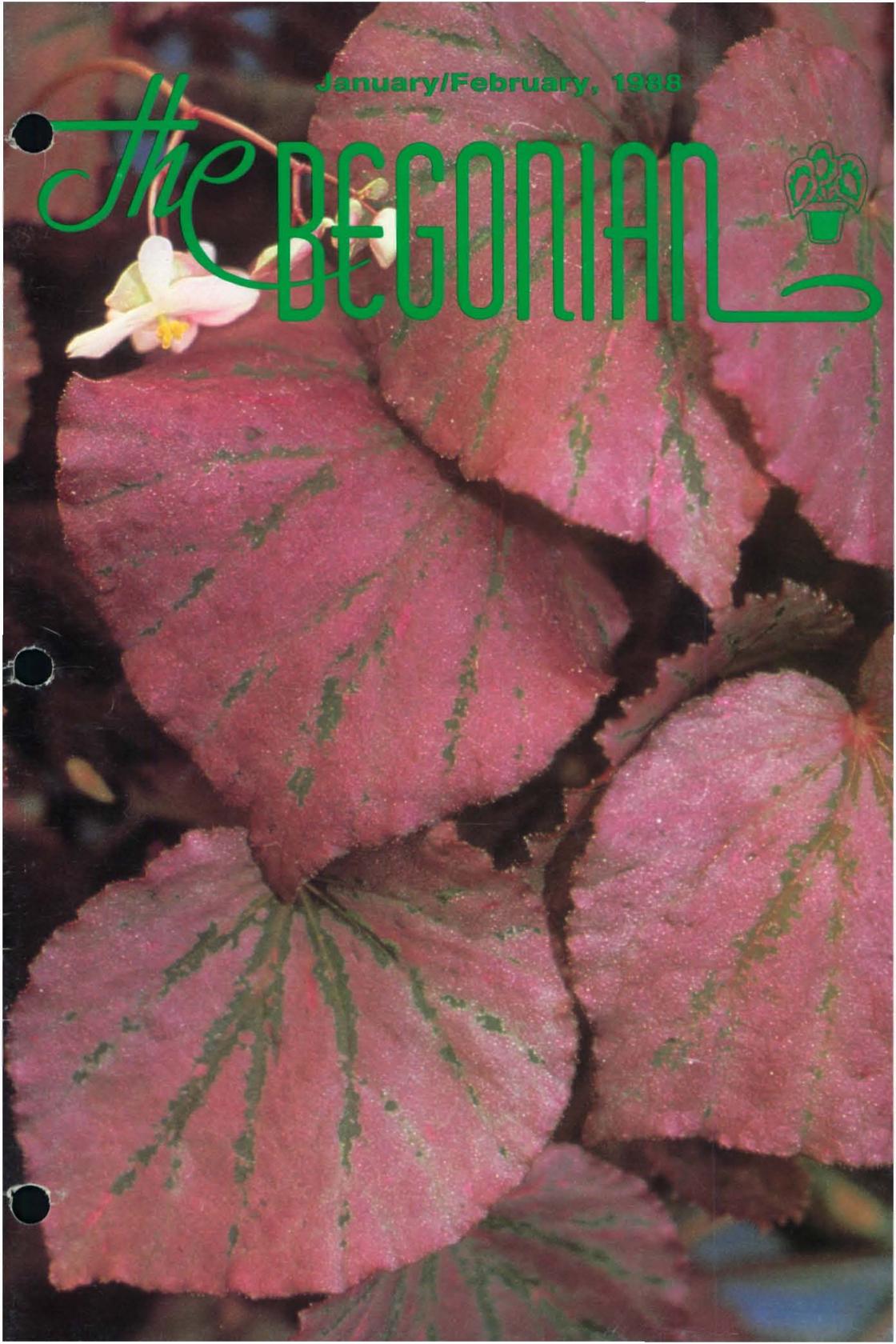


January/February, 1988

The BEGONIAN



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Cover photo: B. U192, taken by Thelma O'Reilly,
La Mesa, CA

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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COVER PHOTO: Thelma O'Reilly took this shot of "Martin's Mystery Begonia," B. U192, at Kartuz Greenhouses. See article, page 5.

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B. LUBBERSII
(species)

KIT JEANS ©1979

COMING THIS YEAR!

April 1-3, First Australian Begonia Convention. Adelaide, South Australia.

May 13-15, Southwest Region Get-Together. Austin, Texas.

September 15-18, ABS National Convention. Burlington, Massachusetts.

See page 6 for details.

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

To all our Begonia friends near and far: the Board and I wish you a very Happy New Year, and hope that all your New Year's wishes come true. The one wish that I have made for the new year is to have peace and harmony in our Society. I would like to see everyone forget personality differences and all work together for the good of the organization.

In the past years, I think that we have made some great strides in the building of our society. However, there is always more to do.

Accomplishments can only be arrived at when we work together. We are a team and we must remain so to promote what we stand for. We must forget boundary lines. There is no east, west, north, south, no ocean between us. I ask you to share with all of us the things that you or your branch are doing, the special things, no matter how big or small. This way we will all benefit, and so will the world.

Let's all get on the band wagon and do the best we can for the American Begonia Society.

Arlene Davis

BUXTON BRANCH TO HOST NATIONAL

Plan to help the Bessie Buxton Branch celebrate their 50th year by attending the ABS Convention 88, September 15-18, in the Boston area. Some of the interesting things to see around Boston include historical sites, museums, and nearby garden centers. The weather will be pleasant, and the fall foliage season will be beginning.

Mni-tours on Thursday and Friday will include the Barkley Collection at the Northeastern University Greenhouses, Harvard's famed glass flowers, and the Wellesley College Greenhouses. The destination of a longer tour on Sunday will be Logee's Greenhouse. Buxton members will be happy to suggest additional tours you might enjoy in the area both before and after the convention.

Accommodations will be at the Burlington Marriott, near Northeastern University.

An added attraction will be special exhibits by five institutions and three commercial growers.

AUSTRALIAN CONVENTION

Adelaide, South Australia, will be the site of the first Australian Begonia Society convention, which will begin with registration and a light supper on Friday evening, April 1, at 7:30. Meetings will be held at the Institution of Engineers Bldg., 11 Bagot St., North Adelaide. Planned are seven talks on various aspects of begonias and their culture; a forum; a dinner; and visits to the gardens of South Australia members, a begonia nursery; and plenty of time to meet and swap ideas with fellow lovers of begonias.

Speakers will include Dr. Eric Catteral, author of Growing Begonias, Merv Sharrad, and Kevin Handreck.

(continued on page 6)

MARTIN'S MYSTERY BEGONIA

by Thelma O'Reilly

FIT FOR A QUEEN but hobnobbing with vegetables at a roadside stand! This magnificent unidentified begonia, now known as B. U192, was the first begonia Martin Johnson acquired on his initial visit to the Phillipines. He purchased it at a roadside vegetable stand but it did not survive.

On a subsequent trip he saw another plant of this beauty growing in a greenhouse at the University. The owner of the plant could not be located. Again Martin was thwarted in his attempts to procure the begonia. Martin says, "This plant was exceptionally well-grown. It had just been watered when the sun appeared, causing a glow of sparkles over the shimmering silver and pink leaves."

A couple of years later Martin was houseguest of some friends in the Phillipines. Imagine his surprise and delight when he spied this mystery begonia being grown as a row of border plants in a house across the street. He obtained a plant and that is how B. U192 arrived in the U.S.A.

Blas Hernaez, a collector who identifies begonias in the Phillipines, doubts our mystery begonia is native there. Martin thinks it could be native because it has the characteristics of several Phillipine species. Martin comments, "I hope someone can identify it after all the trouble I had getting a plant here."

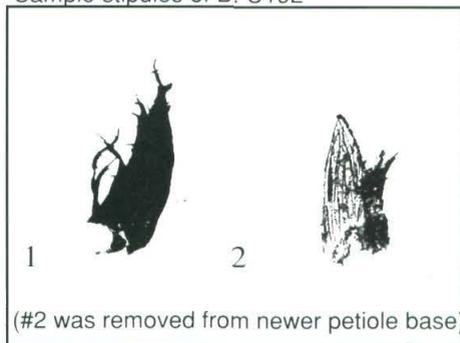
Upon Martin's return to the States, he gave the plant of Bob Haussler and Joan Coulat, two excellent growers from Sacramento, for propagation. Joan shared with Kartuz Greenhouses, which has resulted in its availability and distribution.

When I first saw this begonia at Kartuz Greenhouses, I was overwhelmed by its

striking coloration. I quickly returned with my slide-taking equipment and took many shots using different colored backgrounds. At this time I suggested a U number be assigned to this plant that was labeled "CHJ" (Coulat, Hausler, Johnson) Bicol, Phil. Kartuz agreed, and B. U192 was assigned.

Plant habit of B. U192 is trailing-scandent. Stems are 12"-16", reddish, lenticellate, glabrous except at node areas where bristly, raised bumps show its tendency to grow adventitious rootlets under optimum conditions. Immature leaves are silver-green flushed pink with olive-splashed veins. Mature leaves measure 3"-3 1/2" by 3"-5", and are rose-pink on upper surfaces with areas of yellow-green splashes at main nerves, openly cordate, ovate, with finely dentate, ciliate and closely rippled margins, glabrous upper surface and short, bristly, red hairs on under surface. Leaves glimmer and glow with a sparkling, iridescent, silvery sheen. Petioles are 5"-7", red with sparsely scattered red hairs. 1 1/4" x 1/2" stipules, tan with red nerves, quickly drying and persistent, have the most unusual form I have observed in the Begoniaceae family. They appear to have a feathered plume on one side. (See illustrations, which shrunk somewhat in the drying process).

Sample stipules of B. U192



Flowers are white, sometimes flushed with pink; ovary is green with flushed pink wings, 4 narrow male tepals measure 3/4" x 3/4", 5 female tepals measure 3/4" x 3/4". Peduncles measure 8"-9". Flowering is summer-fall.

Originally grown by Michael Kartuz as a terrarium plant, B. U192 soon grew too big for its container. It was removed and relocated in the greenhouse where it flourished.

Exhibited by Kartuz at the ABS Annual Begonia show in San Diego, 1986, it was awarded an ABS Cultural Certificate with a score of 95 points. A beautiful specimen, it was one of the highlights at "Pua Nani Begonias."

My appreciation to Martin Johnson for the background material on this species, and Michael Kartuz for permission to describe and photograph his award-winning plant, and to remove plant material for a complete herbarium specimen.

Thelma O'Reilly, winner of the Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service at the 1987 convention, has served ABS in many capacities. She is currently Members-At-Large Director, and captivated by the unidentified begonias. She lives at 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 92041.



Australian Convention, con't.

Registration fees of \$85 before February 1 or \$90 before March 21 should be made out to the Australian Begonia Society and sent to P.O. Box 386, Woodville, South Australia 5011, Australia. Please specify whether you will arrange your own accomodation, or would like to stay with a SA member. Note: hotel accomodations may be difficult to find, because of the Easter season.

SWR GET-TOGETHER

The Southwest Region, ABS, invites you to their annual Get-Together, a weekend of begonia show, sale, seminars, and fun May 13-15 at the Howard Johnson Motel in Austin, Texas. Write to Director Kay Tucker, 207 W. Southcross, San Antonio, TX 78221 to add your name to the mailing list for the convention packet.

KNICKERBOCKER EXHIBIT

The Knickerbocker Branch will have an exhibit at the 1988 New York Flower Show sponsored by the New York Horticultural Society March 5-13, in which Pier 90 on the waterfront at West 50th St. will be transformed into 100,000 sq. ft. of gardens. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is \$7 on weekdays and \$9 on weekends, with proceeds going to support the Horticultural Society's beautification and educational projects.



A Guide to the Pronunciation of Begonia Names

by Jack Golding

This guide is to help the reader pronounce the Latinized names of *Begonia* and be understood.

Latin, the international language of the scientific world, has been used for centuries to describe and name plants. The great discoveries and advancement during the 18th and 19th centuries made it necessary to modify the old classical Latin to furnish the terminology needed by the botanist for new and more precise plant descriptions. A new language, Botanical Latin, was evolved by restricting and changing the meaning of some words, by adding new words of Greek origin, and by simplifying the grammar.

The pronunciation of Latin words is established by the sound of the individual letters, the length of the vowels, and the place of stress (accent). Every vowel is pronounced, and is either "long" or "short," according to the relative time employed saying it.

Since Botanical Latin is primarily a written language, most of the early authors were not too concerned with an exact sound for each word. They correctly contended that if a name is stressed at the correct syllable it will be understood.

Most people tend to pronounce botanical names as if they were words in their own language. The same group of letters is vocalized as different sounds by people in various parts of the country and the world. It is therefore unrealistic to expect all to agree on an exact pronunciation for every name, but it is possible to achieve universal recognition.

There are two basic systems for the pronunciation of Latin. The **reformed academic system** is accepted by classical scholars and is approximated most often by continental European botanists. In English speaking countries the **traditional English system** is generally used.

It is recommended that, for *Begonia* names, we employ the **traditional English system** of pronunciation and use the phonetic symbols of the following table. As a help towards international understanding the differences of the **Reformed Academic system** are also noted, as indicated by "R.A."

PHONETIC SYMBOLS FOR THE TRADITIONAL ENGLISH SYSTEM

LETTER	SYMBOL	TYPICAL SOUND	EXAMPLE
a (long)	ay	bay, fate	<i>cucullata</i> kyew-kul-LAY-tuh
a (long) R.A.	ah	father	
a (short), usually when first or last letter	uh	ago, Burma	<i>carnosa</i> kar-NOH-suh
a (short)	a	sat	<i>patula</i> pat-TYEW-luh
ae (diphthong)	ee	bee, aegis	<i>aequata</i> ee-KWAY-tuh
ae ("") R.A.	eye	ice	
au (diphthong)	aw	bawl	<i>crassicaulis</i> kras-si-KAW-lis
au ("") R.A.	ou	house	
c (hard, before a,o,u)	k	cat, kite	<i>cavum</i> KAY-vum
c (soft, before e, i, y, ae, oe)	s	send, center	<i>cirrosa</i> sir-ROH-suh
ch	k	kite, chemist	<i>chlorosticta</i> klo-ro-STIK-tuh
e (long)	ee	me, see	<i>decora</i> dee-KOH-ruh
e (short)	e	pet	<i>edulis</i> ed-YEW-lis
ei (diphthong)	eye	height, ice	<i>eiromischa</i> eye-ro-MIS-kuh
g (hard)	g	gap, go	<i>grandis</i> GRAND-is
g (soft)	j	joy, gem	<i>gemella</i> jem-EL-luh
i (long)	eye	ice, eye	<i>andina</i> an-DEYE-nuh
i (long) R.A.	ee	bee, machine	
i (short)	i	bit	<i>digitata</i> dij-it-TAY-tuh
ia (as word ending)	i uh	Russia	<i>lancifolia</i> lan-si-FOH-li-uh
ii	i eye		<i>woodii</i> WOOD-i-eye
o (long)	oh	note	<i>pilosa</i> peye-LOH-suh
o (short)	o	not	<i>longiseta</i> long-i-SEE-tuh
oe (diphthong)	ee	bee, amoeba	<i>froebelii</i> free-BEL-i-eye

oi	o eye		<i>aceroides</i> ay-ser- o-eye -deez
ph	f	fill, physics	<i>physandra</i> feye-SAND-ruh
ph R.A.	p	pen	
s	s	sit	<i>socia</i> SOH-si-uh
s	z	gas, has	<i>geranioides</i> jer-ayn-i-o-EYE-deez
u (long)	yew	you	<i>fruticosa</i> fryew-ti-KOH-suh
u (short)	u	tub	<i>fusca</i> FUS-cuh
y	same as letter i		

The pronunciation of two vowels together can be confusing. Most of the time they form a diphthong and the first vowel is silent, i.e. ae **ee**, au **aw**, ei **eye**, oe **ee**. But when they are not, the first vowel is short, i.e. ia **i-uh**, ii **i-eye**, oi **o-eye**.

The "correct" sound may vary depending on the system of pronunciation used, but in a Latin word the emphasis or accent is always in accordance with the following rules. The syllable to be accented is capitalized.

1. The emphasis is on the first syllable in names of two syllables, i.e. *hirta* **HIR**-tuh, *nuda* **NYEW**-duh.
2. In names of several syllables the emphasis is on the next-to-last:
 - a. when this syllable ends in a long vowel, i.e. *incana* in-**KAY**-nuh, *palmata* pal-**MAY**-tuh.
 - b. when two consonants separate the last two vowels, i.e. *boliviensis* boh-liv-i-**EN**-sis, *oxyphylla* ox-i-**FIL**-luh
3. When the next-to-the-last syllable has a short vowel (except as in 2b above), the emphasis is on the one preceding it, i.e. *echinosepala* ek-in-oh-**SEP**-al-uh, *flaccidissima* flak-si-**DIS**-si-muh.
4. The accent is never on the last syllable.
5. Do not accent before the third-from-the-last syllable.
6. The exception to the above rules are in the pronunciation of commemorative names. So the names of those people or places will be recognized, it is desirable to pronounce their names in accordance with their native language.

i.e., *ludwigii* **LOOD**-vig-i-aye (German)
warscewiczii **VAR**-shev-it-z-i-eye (Polish)

**Some typical names
and their
pronunciation:**

<i>acaulis</i>	uh- CAWL -is
<i>acerifolia</i>	ay-ser-i- FOH -li-uh
<i>acida</i>	AS -sid-uh
<i>aequilateralis</i>	ee-kwi-la-ter- AY -lis
<i>bowerae</i>	BOW -er-ee
<i>bradei</i>	BRAD -e-eye
<i>bracteata</i>	brak-te- AY -tuh
<i>brevicaulis</i>	brev-i- KAW -lis
<i>caespitosa</i>	see-spi- TOH -suh
<i>carolineifolia</i>	kar-oh-lin-e-eye- FOH -li-uh
<i>cinnabarina</i>	sin-na-bar- EYE -nuh
<i>coccinea</i>	kok- SIN -e-uh
<i>convolvulacea</i>	kon-vol-vyew- LAY -se-uh
<i>cubensis</i>	kyew- BEN -sis
<i>dodsonii</i>	dod- SOHN -i-eye
<i>foliosa</i>	foh-li- OH -suh
<i>fusca</i>	FUS -kuh
<i>gigantea</i>	jeje-gan- TEE -uh
<i>gracilis</i>	GRAS -il-is
<i>herbacea</i>	her- BAY -se-uh
<i>heracleifolia</i>	her-ak-le-eye- FOH -li-uh
<i>hydrocotylifolia</i>	heye-dro-koh-til-i- FOH -li-uh
<i>listada</i>	LIS -ta-duh
<i>longirostris</i>	long-i- ROS -tris
<i>luxurians</i>	lux- YEW R-i-anz
<i>macrophylla</i>	mak-roh- FIL -luh
<i>metallica</i>	me- TAL -li-kuh
<i>multangula</i>	mul-tan- GYEW -luh
<i>nitida</i>	NIT -id-duh
<i>nivea</i>	NIV -e-uh
<i>nubicola</i>	nyew-bi- KOH -luh
<i>obliqua</i>	ob- LEYE -kuh
<i>pilifera</i>	peye- LIF -er-uh
<i>philodendroides</i>	fil-oh-den-dro- EYE -deez
<i>phoeniogramma</i>	fee-ni-oh- GRAM -muh
<i>quadrilata</i>	kwad-ri-al- AY -tuh
<i>subvillosa</i>	sub-vil- LOH -suh
<i>wariana</i>	war-i- AY -nuh
<i>xanthina</i>	zan- THEYE -nuh

Practice and learn. Make a list of all your *Begonia*, using the above table, spell the names phonetically and mark the accented syllable. When you work with them, look at the label and say the name out loud. Use their name when you talk about them at home and at Branch meetings. Vocalize the names of *Begonia* as you read about them. As you practice, it will become much easier to pronounce more and the more difficult names.

Jack Golding, co-author of [Begoniaceae](#), lives at 47 Clinton Ave., Kearny, NJ 07032.



I do not remember when and how I first met the Calla begonia, but it was in the dim and distant past and for a long time our acquaintance was very distinctly a "passing" one-on the Calla's side, for it kept passing up and down and ended by dying on my hands and indiscriminately in the charge of others. I was getting so that I hated to open the mail I so often read "I have had from one to three Callas from you and they all died, what did I do wrong?" "Send me another one and any further information you may have about culture." I was getting information from many sources, but the only one about successful growing said they grew like weeds in old washtubs in kitchens on the Atlantic coast. Desperation was beginning to drive me mad, I cried in my agony, I must do something for these good people for of such will be the Begonia Heaven even if they don't take a single Calla with them and a ray of light broke through the clouds. Prof. Wiesberg of Montana State University had a Calla and he crossed it with a bedding type named "Darling" and sent me some of the seed. His accompanying letter was not supercharged with enthusiasm, but he said the seed would grow and a certain percentage would have variegated foliage. I grew from that seed some two hundred plants, but only here and there was a variegated one and I moved the batch where I did not have to see them too often. After a week or so, feeling the need of something on which to explode my extra spleen, I went to call on my Calla seedlings, and forgot my need to cuss for surely there were more variegated. A count confirmed this, and to close this part of a true, if rambling, history, eventually fifty percent of those seedlings variegated nicely and both red and pink blooms appeared and in a strong light the pink put that color on the edge of its white leaves and the red, red on its leaves. Selecting a few of the best of these as seed parents and continuing to do so for some seasons has continually increased the

percentage of variegated seedlings and today I have a pan of hundreds with a apparent better than 90% variegated, even before the prickling out stage. Am I elated No! I know that the vast majority of plants with variegated foliage are weak members of the family and I shall be happy if I grow half those seedlings to sizeable plants.

Now for a sort of summing up of the teachings of this extended and varied experience they have not brought knowledge, merely suggested guesses. There was a treasure and much respected idea that the Calla must not be overwatered, and yet I have Mr. Buxton's word for it that the huge specimen exhibited by Mrs. Brown in the East, 2 feet high and 3 feet in diameter, was growing in a jardiniere without any drainage hole, in medium so wet it was practically mud, that arrived at the show in perfect condition, well through the week's show without turning hair or leaf either, and went home as it came. This plant was pictured in the Begonia. Another correspondent chronicling good success, grew her plant in gravel and old plaster very much on the dry side, and so ran the bewildering and bedeviling story. Here are some guesses and the Gods and the Cal forgive me for making them.

The Calla is a Vernon* and like most bedders makes better plants from seed than from cuttings. In California to treat it as an annual might be wise, unless one chooses to challenge Mrs. Brown for the Championship.

It makes a comparatively large root system and at least in summer will do better the ground than in a pot. It does not really need to be coddled, but like all spoiled darlings improves with judicious neglect.

In winter it will shed its variegation to reside a partially dormant and natural condition, but this will be resumed with the warm weather.

The Calla is not delicate, it has simply contrived to make you think so. It should thrive in Southern California on exposure as well as do its bathing beauties, seeking a sun an.

"Vernon" is an old fashioned term for a semi-florens with bronze foliage.

*This article by Alfred D. Robinson appeared in the **Begonian** of May, 1941. Thanks to Joan Campbell for pointing it out, and defining the term "Vernon."*

By a fortunate coincidence, seeds for Calla Begonias are available in the Seed Fund this month.



SPOROTRICHOSIS

Gardeners should be aware of a rare but potentially fatal disease which can be contacted through handling plants and soil, and is especially associated with sphagnum moss.

Sporotrichosis is a lymphatic disease caused by the fungus *Sporotrichumschenkii*. The fungus is found in soil, on flowers, shrubs, and sphagnum moss.

Infection can occur when a cut or scratch on the skin admits the fungus spores. The first symptom is a small blister at the point of infection; this blister may take up to four weeks to develop, which makes it difficult to connect with the original scratch or cut. If untreated it will begin to ooze and spread.

As the disease progresses through the lymph system, glands in the arm can become enlarged, creating lumps which may give a burning sensation. The disease can spread to the bones, digestive organs, and skin.

Sporotrichosis is uncommon, and can be diagnosed only by culturing on a special media. It does not respond to antibiotics. Treatment is potassium iodine, taken orally.

IN MEMORY

Alma Walton, wife of William Walton, passed away September 5 after several months of illness. Bill Walton served as ABS president, treasurer, and other board positions and held numerous branch offices. Alma was very supportive of his Begonia interests, and accompanied him at all times. Together they visited all of the California branches, and attended many conventions and shows. Described by a friend as "graciousness personified," Alma lived in Torrance and was a member of Inglewood when it was an active branch.

For those who are unaware, we are saddened to say a long-time friend and member, Velma Hansen, has passed away. She was a good worker and grower, a long time resident of the Westchester area. Our condolences to friends and family. She is greatly missed.

- from the Westchester Branch newsletter



MOVING?

Please remember to notify the Membership Chairman of your change of address. The Post Office does not forward third class mail: ABS is billed for notification of the new address (if one is available), but the issues are destroyed. You miss your **Begonian**; ABS must pay for the issue, the postage, and the notification that you have moved; and no one is happy. If you forget to let the Membership Chair know you've moved, you'll have to purchase your missed magazines from the Book Store.

Where is ABS going in the next decade? This is an interesting topic. A lot of what I have to say about it is personal opinion, and a lot of it is opinions gleaned from members around the country about where ABS should be going and what - from members' viewpoints - ABS needs to do to progress. Certainly I want everyone to go home and think about the topic, and bring it up at branch and regional meetings. Where do we go from here?

In the last ten years there has been a lot of change and progress in ABS. We've seen conventions move about the country, but unfortunately on the negative side we've seen membership dive. The first five or six years of the decade we're just ending saw a lot of new branches formed, especially in the southwest. The past few years found us removing branches that have gone inactive, or having branches drop out. The last few years ABS has been in the doldrums. A lot of people turn around and say all the plant societies have been losing members, that it's a trend.

To a degree that is true, but there are several shining examples that contradict this completely. The Gesneriad Society has been expanding, and constantly adding chapters. The Cactus and Succulent Society is growing; they've managed to pull their national organization together, and they're adding chapters. And so you have to start asking, "Okay, what are ABS and the other groups doing wrong? Or is there something we should be doing differently?"

Part of the problem from my viewpoint - and I saw this both in the Southwest Region and in Sacramento - is the fact that a lot of people don't stop to think that the lifestyles of the newer people coming into ABS are drastically different than when they joined. Nowadays most families are two working people, not one at work and one

staying at home who has time for the plant society and the plants.

Some of these comments are not only for ABS, but for the chapters, too. Do new or prospective members want to go through long business meetings and methods of doing things we're used to? Old members may not want to hear programs repeated; but if we're going to bring in new members, we have to continue to bring in the elementary topics. As an example, we have four new members in our Sacramento Branch; in the last six months they've had two programs on begonias, two pot-luck dinners, and two show programs. Where are they going to learn the basic, elementary begonia know-how they joined to learn?

You have also situations where people can't take time off. In the business world vacations must be scheduled in advance - my vacation time is scheduled in December for the next year. This means that conventions must be scheduled in time for people to make arrangements to come to them. I think one thing ABS is going to have to do is get a **long-term planning committee**; we need to know, at least two years in advance, where the next conventions are going to be, because for a lot of us it takes two years of planning to get everything together - not only for the group that's putting it on but also for those of us that are coming. There's no reason an organization like ABS can't schedule national conventions several years in advance, and a central planning committee might be able to get a branch to put on a national convention. That's not the national board's job - they have other duties.

One thing we learned in Southwest Region is that one branch does not have to do all the work alone; other members and branches will pitch in. Yes, a local organizing committee is necessary, but most of the work

at the convention can be done by those who come to the convention.

If the conventions are to move around the country, branches and regions must get used to the idea of putting on a convention - not just once, but again in a few years' time.

Shows are important to many people. *But it has to be remembered that shows, whether branch, regional, or national, are a way of promoting ABS. The main purpose of a show is not so that ABS members can get together and win ribbons; it's for bringing the public in, showing them what begonias are, and getting them interested in growing begonias. A lot of us have forgotten that - we look into ABS, instead of looking out and trying to bring the rest of the world in. We do have to **become much more aggressive, as branches and as a national organization, in going out and getting new members, and making our organizations fit these new members' needs, and their scheduling needs.***

Looking beyond the national convention, ABS is the international registrar for begonia cultivars, and has a number of international members. What about the idea of all the branches, and the regions, and national, getting together one year and hosting an **international begonia conference** with the Japan Begonia Society, the British Begonia Society, the Scottish Begonia Society, the Australian Begonia Society? I see no reason why we couldn't skip a national convention, or the regional ones, and host an international gathering. This would be especially exciting if we could go through the paperwork involved in getting permits for our foreign visitors to bring their hybrids. I would like to see all of the societies world-wide work more closely together.

There's another problem that arises in all organizations, that of having a small group of people doing all the work. We have to learn not to wait for volunteers; we have to learn to go out and ask for help: "Will

you work with the plant sale for an hour?" You'll be surprised how many will say yes, and how many say later, "Well, sure, I'd have helped - but no one asked, so I thought everything was taken care of."

Let's go back to membership. Bringing in new members, and seeing that old ones renew, is primarily the function of the branches. Here again we may need to *think of new ways to do things. If a branch has relied on, say, one show a year to attract new members, and new members are not being attracted, then the branch will have to face the fact that they will have to find another method for reaching the public. We should look for new methods of reaching out, and we should let each other know what works. And I don't want to hear about ABS membership being too expensive! I belong to plant societies around the world, and believe me, ABS is an extremely good deal.*

The Peperomia Society, which has got to be the smallest plant society in the world, has established a national reference collection of peperomias. Each member and collector is asked to send a specimen of each variety collected to one grower, a commercial grower who deals a lot with botanic gardens, so there is a standard reference collection and everything can be cross-referenced. Think what it would be like if ABS, working with botanic gardens such as Fort Worth, which has a good begonia collection, and the Barkley collection, and others throughout the country, could **establish reference collections** where you could go and be immersed in begonias. The catch is that these would have to be funded; but I think we would have enough member support. The position we're in now is that, if certain members' personal collections were destroyed, a lot of the begonias in cultivation would vanish. There should be some way to establish permanent collections, especially as ABS gets more into research.

Bob Hamm lives at 10065 River Mist Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. He spoke on this topic in Long Beach.



HYBRIDIZING WITH LAST YEAR'S POLLEN: A SUCCESS!

by Masami Fujimoto

I read that some kinds of plants are hybridized using stored pollen. I thought that if I can use this method with *Begonia* I could easily cross shrub-like and rex begonias with cane-like and with semperflorens, even though they flower at different times.

I have crossed *B. lubersii* and *B. grandis* ssp. *evansiana* with *B. solananthera* pollen taken the previous year. I collected the seeds and sowed them. Only the *B. solananthera* x *B. lubersii* hybrids grew, the *B. solananthera* x *B. grandis* ssp *evansiana* cross did not. Remembering that *B. grandis* ssp *evansiana* has the character of winter dormancy, I put that seed in the refrigerator to be awakened later as in the spring. After this treatment, which I realized they needed, I sowed the seeds and they germinated.

I have confirmed that begonias can be hybridized with pollen that has been stored in a refrigerator. I will explain my technique for storing the pollen and the way I made my crosses.

1. Collecting and Storing Pollen

Usually some pollen of begonia can be taken when the male flowers stop blooming until two days after the flowers drop. Gather the fallen male flowers, with tweezers remove the pedicels and tepals, and put the rest in a sealed container with silica gel to dry for one or two days.

Then using tweezers separate the dried stamens from two or three flowers, put them into a gelatin capsule (no. 00) and shake vigorously. If there is pollen it will adhere to the wall of the capsule. After discarding the empty stamens, the closed capsule and some silica gel are put in a 35 mm film container and stored in a refrigerator.

2. Procedure for Crossing

I use a cotton swab to transfer the pollen. But first I pull the cotton out fluffy so as not to injure the pistil. On a good dry day, I insert the cotton swab in the pollen-containing capsule and take pollen. Selecting a female flower that has bloomed for one or two days, I turn it upward and with the swab gently put pollen on the pistil.

Since the success of pollination is influenced by the density of pollen, I use three female flowers and two pollen capsules for each cross. First, I put pollen from capsule #1 on female flowers #1, #2, and #3, in that order, then I put pollen of capsule #2 in the reverse order on female flowers #3, #2, and #1. With this procedure I can put pollen from several male flowers on one female flower and prevent almost all failure.

If the female flower has been fertilized, its ovary will fatten within one week, and it will be brown within five to eight weeks. A crescent-shaped fissure will appear at the base of the capsule (matured ovary) indicating that the seeds are ripe. If the fissure does not appear, the cross did not take.

3. Collecting, Separating, Sowing, and Preservation of Seeds

We handle the seed capsules with care so as not to drop any seed. Put the seed capsule up side down in an empty pollen container; static electricity will cause the seed to fall uniformly to the base of the container. Then we hold the pollen container open face down over a large piece of paper and tap the container lightly. The good seed drops to the paper, the chaff and dust remain in the container. Repeat this several times to separate all the seed.

Begonia seeds germinate easily when sown soon after collecting. However, in the winter it is difficult to germinate even freshly collected seed without the proper heating equipment. To hold the seed until warmer weather, put the seed in a gelatin capsule and store it as we do the pollen.

NOTES:

1. We must keep records of taking and storing of pollen, the hybridizing and the storing of seeds.

2. Condensation will form on a pollen capsule when it is first removed from the refrigerator because of the difference in temperatures. Allow the capsule to adjust to room temperature and the moisture to evaporate before opening the capsule. Take care; if the pollen becomes wet it is useless.

3. Almost all types of seeds can be sorted by the method given above. An exception is the seed of *B. solanathera*; because its seeds are curved in an arch they will not shake free and separate.

ADDENDA

Recently I tried crossing B. 'Stained Glass' and B. 'Bolero' with pollen of B. 'Mrs. Hashimoto' and B. 'Laura Engelbert'; the pollen was preserved in a gelatin capsule with silica gel and kept in the freezer compartment of a refrigerator for one year. I sowed the seed, but they did not germinate.

On the other hand, I have been able to germinate seeds of *semperflorens* x B. 'Mrs. Hashimoto', *semperflorens* x B. 'Laura Engelbert', and B. 'Mrs. Hashimoto' x B. 'Mrs. Hashimoto' with year old refrigerated pollen.

With these experiences, I have proved that pollen of cane-like begonias can be viable after storage at low temperature. I have shown that by using stored pollen, rex and rhizomatous types can be hybridized easily with cane-like and *semperflorens*

types. I would be interested in hearing from others who have used stored pollen and seed.

References:

"Storing of Pollen" by Shinichi Hirao, President of the Japan Iris Society, in *Engei Topics (Horticultural Topics)*, published by Sakata no Tane Company.

Permission to use this article is granted by the Japan Begonia Society, which holds the copyright. The original appeared in **Begonia**, the bi-monthly magazine of J.B.S., No. 120, January February, 1987. We thank Akira Tanaka, Director of the Japan Begonia Society, for sending this article.

Masami Fujimoto is a member of the Kansai Branch of the Japan Begonia Society.

Edited by Jack Golding, November 15, 1987.



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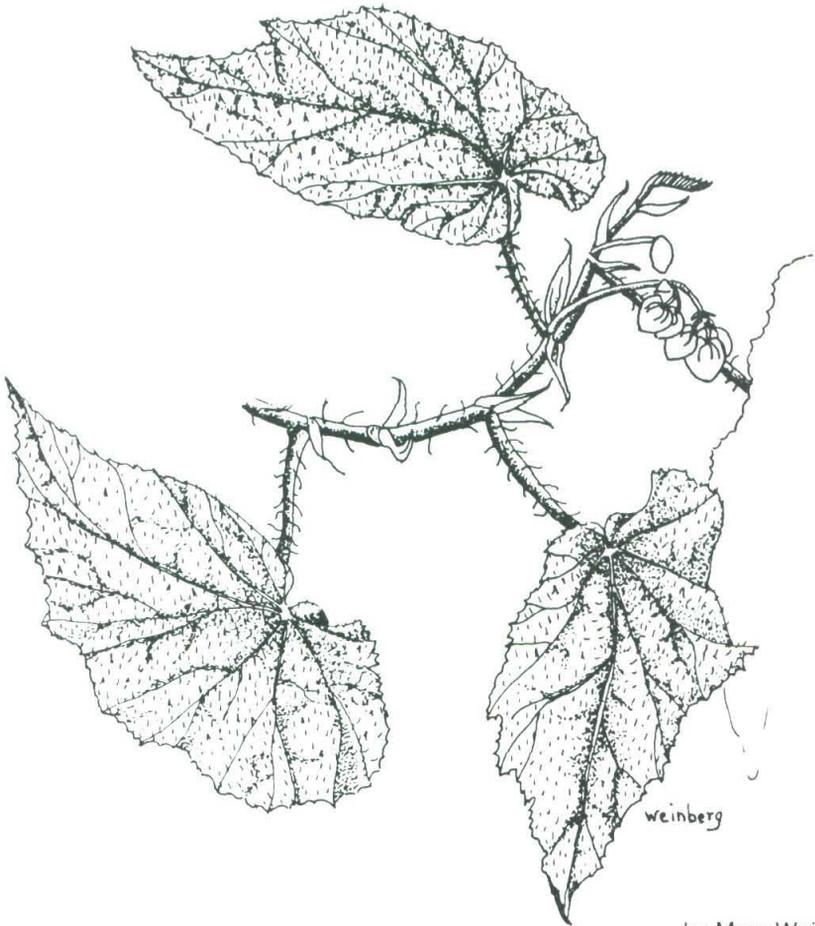
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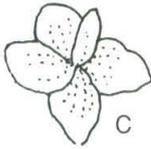
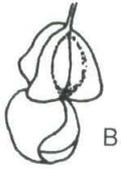
BEGONIA U093



by Mary Weinberg

B. U093 was discovered in Quezon, the Philippines, and introduced by Martin Johnson

B. U093 is a shrub-like begonia. Leaves are greenish-silver in color; they are ovate acuminate and cordate, 5 1/2" long and 3" wide, 8 nerved with a pink apex radiating into olive green veins. Fuchsia trichomes are scattered over the slightly pucker-surfaced surface. The edges of the leaves are crenate and tinted fuchsia; the underside of the leaves are pale green with prominent pink veins, fuchsia colored trichomes grow along the veins. The stems are light green in color with sparse white-to-pink villi, and short internodes. Petioles are rose color with fuchsia hair-like trichomes scattered over the surface. Flowers are pink. The male flowers have 4 tepals and side petals which are whitish in color and much smaller in size than the sepals. The female blossoms have 5 tepals; the ovary is darker pink than the tepals, three-lobed, with equal wings. Blooms appear fall to winter, and are profuse.



- B. Ovary with tepals
- C. Pistillate tepals
- D. Stigma
- E. Staminate tepals
- F. Stamen
- G. Single stamen
- H. Stipule

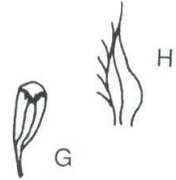
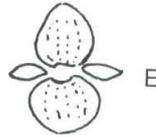
The physical environment of the Philippines is as follows:

The Philippines are a group of very mountainous islands. The mountains lie close to the sea, leaving very narrow coastal areas. Forty percent of the land area is covered with forest; many of the mountains are covered with dense forest also. Volcanoes are the most conspicuous feature of the landscape; there are about 50, with 10 considered active.

The climate is tropical, having two seasons: wet and dry. The dry season generally begins in March and ends in June, and the wet season covers the rest of the year. From June to December typhoons occur frequently, accompanied by floods or high winds. The Quezon area usually has pleasant climate throughout the year, with temperatures ranging from 60 degrees F. in the cool season to 100 degrees F. during the hot dry season.

BU93 is a very colorful begonia, looking very much like an oversized *B. bartonea* (syn. *B. 'Winter Jewel'*). Its fuchsia colored trichomes give a pink cast to its greenish-silver leaves. *B. U093* will require pinching at an early age to help make it a full plant; if this is not done early, it will grow quite leggy. As my plant was getting leggy Martin Johnson suggested I bury the stem in the soil; very shortly after new shoots appeared from the buried nodes and now my plant is bushy.

The first flowers to appear on all cymes were male blossoms. The female flowers came much later, but while there were still male blossoms present. The male blossoms do not open. Pollination should be possible by saving the male blossoms and removing the tepals in order to reveal the stamen; the female blossoms do open wide during the daytime, and close in the evening.



CULTURE:

Give *B. U093* bright light, but do not put it in direct sunlight. I grow my plant under fluorescent light; it is placed under the center of the tubes.

Water when the top of the growing medium feels dry to the touch.

B. U093 does not require terrarium care. A desirable humidity would be 50-70%.

B. U093 likes it on the warm side; minimum temperature of 60 degrees desirable.

Use a porous mix for the growing dium, but one that will retain moisture as well.

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

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



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January-February, 1988
Joan Campbell, Seed Fund Director

The Seed Fund is a service for members only. It is a privilege of your membership.

All packets of species seeds are \$1 each. Hybrid seed packets are 50 cents. A pamphlet on growing begonias from seed is 5 cents.

Orders must be accompanied by check or money order in U.S. funds made payable to Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. For seeds alone, add 45 cents for postage on orders from the U.S., Mexico, and Canada (30 cents on orders of more than 12 packets). Overseas postage is \$1.20.

With care, I can get two sets of lantern dishes with free instructions in one trailer. For this alone, send 62 cents. For dishes and seeds, send 75 cents postage or 2 cents is more than 12 packets are ordered.

Send check or money order to:
Joan Campbell
814 NE Honey House
Corvallis, MT 59828
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Notes on the Seeds Listed:

B. U175 is a small-leaved rhizomatous begonia from Trinidad. The plant is somewhat reminiscent of a fern as the leaves are lanceolate and pinnately veined. The emerging new leaves are a rich red-orange color which changes to green as the leaf develops. Although not especially demanding of humidity, this plant should make a good terrarium subject. Its collection was first described in the **Begonian**, September-October, 1985, p. 111. This is the first time it has been offered.

B. macrocarpa is a rhizomatous begonia from Africa. It is small, but well branched with deep glossy, green elongated leaves which are reddish underneath. The flowers are green-white. This will make a nice hanging plant.

B. macduffieana is a canelike begonia from Brazil which was featured on the cover of the **Begonian** of November-December, 1985. An easy grower, its leaves are green and its blossoms red to red-orange, depending upon the light in which it is grown.

B. coccinea is a canelike begonia from Brazil first collected nearly 150 years ago. It has thick, rubbery, succulent leaves which sometimes grow upwards while others lean, giving it a very graceful natural shape. The blossoms are pink-to-red depending on the light in which it is grown. I have seen female blooms with a true orange cast to the ovaries. This is the true species.

B. solananthera is a trailing-scandent begonia from Brazil, well known for its heart-shaped leaves and fragrant white blossoms with red centers, which give this plant its nickname, "Brazilian Heart." The seeds were received in November and are notoriously short-lived, so don't order unless you plan to put them down right away.

B. boliviensis is a tuberous species from the Bolivian Andes. Its narrow elongated leaves are distinctive as are the scarlet, tubular-shaped blossoms. Semi-erect stems become pendant as the plant grows. Easy to grow where summers are not above 90 degrees, it makes a medium sized plant.

The species tuberous are most rewarding in that they grow and bloom very rapidly, then go dormant as fall approaches, and storage of the tubers is the only care they will require until late winter.

B. pearcei is a low growing tuberous species also from the Bolivian Andes and also is easy to grow if the summer is not too hot. It has medium sized leaves veined with dark velvety green and blotched with brown. A compact grower, the erect flower stalks hold yellow blossoms well above the foliage. Because of its size, this is a good one for your light garden.

B. sutherlandi is a tuberous species from the subtropical (or temperate) climate of Natal, South Africa. Low-growing, it has small, narrow, soft green leaves with green veining and produces small coppery-salmon-to-orange flowers. When you see bulbils forming in the leaf axils, the plant may be preparing to rest. A plant will form from each bulbil and occasionally leaves will sprout from bulbils which are still on the plant. It may go dormant several times a year, even though grown under lights.

I have recently learned that bulbils from the Mexican tuberous species will take two years to grow and become mature blooming plants.

The species *semperflorens* are all believed to have played a part in the development of our modern bedding semps. One begonia in which this seems most obvious is *B. schmidiana* with its small green leaves and red undersides. This is nearly ever-blooming with white flowers sometimes tinged with pink and is a popular houseplant. *B. subvillosa* var. *leptotricha* is our old friend, "Woolly Bear," known for its small size and soft white hairs on all the plant parts, including the white flowers. *B. cucullata* has creeping stolons and erect succulent stems with white or pink-tinged flowers. These three are eye-catching when grown near your bedding semps.

The green and white leaved 'Calla Lily' semps are always interesting plants to grow. There can be a high proportion of albino seedlings; look closely at the small seedlings, don't mistake this for mildew and toss 'em. Give them a chance to color up. These seeds are from a commercial source, the gift of Ruth Wills, as are the seeds of *B. 'Avalanche'*. Bedding semps will grow and bloom at the same time, but seed setting slows them down. The 'Avalanche' semps are sterile and never go to seed and so are unusually floriferous compared to other bedding semps. 'Avalanche' will make a hanging basket plant, but start the seeds as early as you can and be sure the first fertilizer given is high in nitrogen.

The 'Filly Dilly' semps, both pink and red, aren't well known. Commercial growers consider them too tall to make good bedding plants, but I found with a pinch or two (as most bedding plants require) they stayed well within bounds. One bloom on a red 'Filly' measured more than 3 1/4"! Can anyone top this? Thelma O'Reilly found one 'Filly' she thinks very superior in size and leaf color and she has selfed it for us, as well as a bicolor 'Filly' she ran across.

I have some selfed seeds of a very double rose *semperflorens* similar in type to *B. 'Lady Frances'*. You have roughly a 25% chance of getting double blossoms from these seeds. Remember, plants selfed from their highly inbred parent may produce less uniform growth and the color of the blossoms may differ.

Your growing comments are always interesting to me. One grower wants to know why the seedling in the exact center of the clump seems to thrive the most. Is it because it gets the most humidity or benefits from so many surrounding natural root auxins? Have you ever transplanted your semps to find a late germinator has appeared and is growing well, but completely shaded under the leaves of a larger sibling? Seedlings of Alpine trees survive best when grown in the

shade of shrubs. Even in the cool summer of the mountains, too much sun is a common cause of seedling demise. Perhaps our shade-loving begonias protect themselves for the same reason in this way.

B. 'Othello' is another good bedding semperflorens which also makes a good basket plant. The leaves are dark bronze and flowers are red.

Fresh seeds of B. 'Rory' have arrived from Goldie and Doug Frost. This is a repeat of their cross of *B. cinnabarina* x *B. boliviensis* and is offered strictly for your pleasure at no charge. Remember, all your tuberous species and their crosses require long days after germination; keep them under lights if you must.

Congratulations to Howard Siebold of Ft. Bragg, California. He has developed the first ever fragrant tuberhybrida, B. 'Carole Hansen'. For several years Howard has donated to the Seed Fund the commercial seeds of tuberhybrida from Blackmore and Langdon.

A friend sent me a strip of double-numbered metallized mylar labels. He uses them for planting by placing one label in his record book and the other on the pot or plant. They will adhere to peat pots and pellets if applied before the pot is wet. If you're breaking up soaked cuttings to "prop" them, it's a quick way to label them without taking time to write up labels as you go. If you're interested, let me know and I'll tell you where you can get more information.



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- J-F15 B. 'Thelma's Improved Frilly Red' semp. cult.
- J-F16 B. 'Frilly' semp. cult. bicolor
- J-F17 B. unnamed double blossom, semp. cult., rose
- J-F18 B. 'Othello', semp. cult., red

Cultivar, no charge

- J-F19 B. 'Rory'

NOTE:

Joan Campbell has heard from branches promising to set seed for the Seed Fund as a special project. Your branch may wish to think about this project, too. If you're interested in setting and harvesting seed, here's a list of references:

'Question Box,' **Begonian**, Jan. -Feb. '87, p. 19.

'Growing from Seeds,' Jan Doorenbos, **Begonian**, Nov.-Dec. '86, p. 156.

'First time Hybridizing...' by Kingsley Langenberg, **Begonian**, May, 1981. Photos.

The Seed Fund offers a pamphlet on growing from seed for 25 cents.

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Margaret Coats, Round Robin Director

Ian Robertson (Aus) reports to members of one of the **odd/rare/unusual** Robins that he has started growing seed on chopped sphagnum. He chops it into pieces about 1 cm. long, packs it into pots, pours boiling water through it, and, when it cools, sows the seed. He says this is still a trial at present, but he has had good success so far. He also brings up the subject of plant dormancy. He has found that plants with a dormancy period, if grown from seed, will have a time clock set to Australia's seasons. However, if the plant is imported, it will take from 3 to 5 years to adjust, slowly, to their seasons. He finds it very difficult to acclimatize some plants, as they will need some supplementary light and heat. Some plants respond to a cool change, some to watering, but most have an inherent time clock.

Virginia Hamann (IA) thinks she really should start promoting the Semps, as they are so underrated as "just plain old wax begonias." She made a planting of B. 'Pink Flare' in a strawberry jar, and four plants have covered the jar and are blooming enormous pink, slightly fluted blooms. She found them very hardy, getting through the summer without many waterings. Also, a bare spot in her yard was planted with the "Cocktail" series, and is breathtaking with the red, pink, and white blooms on plain green or bronze foliage.

Elaine Ayers (OH) has been busy scrubbing down her greenhouse floor and walls. She reported to others in her **greenhouse** Robin that she has found detergent for automatic dishwashers does a much better job than anything else, including Clorox.

Joan Hill (Eng.) remarks that begonias are amazing when one thinks of the variety of conditions they are asked to grow in, and also the strange way two plants of the same species or variety will act. She has two plants

of *B. partita* sitting side by side - one sheds all its leaves in cold weather, while the other grows away quite happily.

Here's some expert advice from Howard Siebold (CA) on how to get tubers to sprout. If harvesting and storage are performed properly, the controlling factors in sprouting time are the period of dormancy and the starting temperatures. The tubers must be dormant for sixty days. The best starting method is to place them on a layer of wet, not soggy, peat moss, rough ground if possible; cover them with about 1" of the same wet peat; hold them at 70 to 75 degrees (but if that doesn't do it, raise the temperature to 80 or even 85 degrees). He reminds everyone in his **tuberous** Robin that two teaspoons of sodium bicarbonate in a gallon of water is about as good as anything for preventing or stopping mildew, and the best preventative for stem rot is plenty of space for air circulation. Also, remove any leaves in the center of the plant that might prevent good circulation, and remove the lower leaves as soon as they show brown spots or edges. He says a good rule of thumb is: "tubers kept wet and warm will sprout; tubers kept wet and cold will rot."

The **propagation** Robin had an unusual way of starting rex begonias. This hint was given by Art Sackenruther (CA). After putting down a shoebox full of leaf wedges, he had a handful of tiny pieces left over (confetti), so he took a clean, clear plastic shoebox, laid several thicknesses of wet paper towels on the bottom, and scattered thinly the tiny pieces of leaves (some 1/4" square). He then covered the box and placed it on a shelf in his cool greenhouse. He now has more than 50 tiny rexes ready to be potted up.

In discussing **double semps** in that Robin, Pauline Chambers (FL) says the seeds take longer to germinate than the

semi-doubles and single-flowered. She says this is why she never discards a seed tray after plucking out the first small seedlings. She scratches the seed mix slightly, gently mists it, and then re-covers the tray and puts it back for several more weeks. Usually more seedlings come up, and these turn out to be 99% doubles. Beryl Orchard (MA) made a bed of peat about 2" thick in the greenhouse, and watered it well with a weak solution of Peters 20-20-20. She put seedlings into small clay pots and buried them in the peat, keeping the peat damp at all times. The plants have grown thick and well, with flowers. They are all pot-bound, but she says as long as they can get at the fertilized peat through the clay pots they do not seem to mind.

The age-old but never-ending subject of how to bring B. 'Sophie Cecile' into bloom was being tossed about in one of the cane Robins. Mary Bucholtz (FL) wrote she had given the plant so much food, lime, etc., that she almost killed it, but after going into a wilt and losing several branches and standing still in its growth for about a month, it slowly came out of it and now has been blooming several weeks. Most all members of the Robin agree that "Sophie" requires more lime than most canes to bring it into bloom.

Such gorgeous photos of Margie Smith's (TX) plants were included in this round of the **terrarium** Robin! Ruth Wills (OK) advises those whose plants outgrow their containers to sell them, share them, get an aquarium large enough, or toss the excess - if you can! Sheila Matthews (IL) uses long fiber sphagnum cut in small pieces and mixed with perlite and charcoal (half and half) for planting her terrarium plants - unless she intends to leave them for one or more years: then she prefers 1/3 soil, 1/3 perlite, 1/3 Canadian sphagnum and a little charcoal, with the cut-up long fiber sphagnum placed on top of the soil to keep it clean. The plants in this mix do not need fertilizing as often as those in the moss alone.

Mary Ellen Taback (VA) expressed her wish that everyone in her **fern** Robin could have been with her in the canoe on the Buffalo River. They paddled a few feet into the overhang of a cave formed by a bend in the river to glory in the ceiling covered with small draped maidenhair ferns, gently moving in the breeze, turning green-gold in the sunlight patterns reflected from the river surfaces. She said it was "breathtaking," and from her description, it sounds as though it surely was. And speaking as a true Texan, Marguerite Hankerson boasted that, after Florida, Texas has more different species of ferns than any other continental state; Hawaii, naturally, leads all our states.

Although some members of a **miniature begonias** Robin find *B. picta* difficult to grow, Gwen Stephens (CA) wrote she was delighted with hers at the moment. She grew it from ABS Seed Fund seeds about two years ago. At first it was very slow, and even last season it was a weak plant, going in and out of dormancy. Finally it seemed to give up altogether. But she kept the pot intact over the winter, and lo and behold this spring it started growth in no uncertain terms, vigorous, both the dark brown-red and the green leaves, and flowered continuously. She says a terrarium is a must.

In answer to a question by one of her Robin members, Mabel Corwin (CA) explains how she grooms her rexes. She pinches and rotates her plants, as the rhizome of a young rex plant will grow in one direction, toward the edge of the pot. In the spring when they are ready to start new growth, she cuts the tip of the rhizome off, which forces growth along the rhizome and makes a full plant. She keeps turning the plants as they grow. Mabel also warns of the damage done if plants are allowed to wilt. Although placing them in a pan of water will seem to revive them, the cell walls collapse and damage has been done to the plant. She fertilizes her rexes every two weeks, as it brings out the colors as well as encouraging growth.

And here is my award to "Begoniac of the Month." See if you can guess who it is. One of the Robin members was telling her friends of her recent 8 day vacation to the Ozarks. She went into a Wal-Mart store, and sitting there and looking very beautiful was a "Sophie" she could not resist. Well, she wound up hauling it in and out of motels for the rest of her holiday, but said it was nice to have someone to talk to! Now, if you guessed Mary McClelland of Nebraska, you are correct. Attagirl, Mary!

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, with topics ranging from all varieties of begonias and aspects of begonia culture through photography, ferns and gesneriads.



The prices in the Schultz Company ad on the back cover are incorrect. Please note the correct prices in the ad below.

"Schultz-Instant"
ULTRA-PURE CONCENTRATED ALL PURPOSE
LIQUID PLANT FOOD
EASY DIRECTIONS
"7 drops per quart water
Every time you water,
Every thing you grow."
Available at your store or send:
\$1.85 for 5½ oz., \$3.20 for 12 oz.,
\$4.70 for 28 oz. (Includes Mailing)

"Schultz-Instant"
ULTRA-PURE CONCENTRATED ALL PURPOSE SOLUBLE
Fertilizer
EASY DIRECTIONS
"¼ teasp. per gal. water
Every time you water,
Every thing you grow."
Available at your store or send:
\$3.20 for 1 lb., \$12.50 for 5 lb.,
\$45.00 for 25 lb. (Includes Mailing)
©1983 A. Y. Schultz By the makers of Plant Shine
Mfg. by SCHULTZ CO., St. Louis, MO 63043 U.S.A.

BEGONIAN MINI-ADS

Mini-ads are a service to our members. The charge is \$1 per line per insertion with a minimum of \$4. Payment must accompany order. Make checks payable to ABS and mail to:

James Hankerson,
Advertising Manager
3010 San Paula
Dallas, TX 75228

BEGONIA CUTTINGS & PLANTS

Send \$1 for list. Kay's Greenhouse, 207 W Southcross, San Antonio, TX 78221.

BEGONIAS, PEPEROMIAS, outdoor

perennials, and much more! Send \$3 to Robert Hamm, 10065 River Mist Way Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

BEGONIAS: THE COMPLETE REFERENCE GUIDE

by Mildred L. and Edward J Thompson. 884 pages, 850 illustrations (16! in color). Culture, classification, and history \$20.00 to ABS members. To order autographed copies write: THE THOMPSONS, P.C Drawer PP, Southampton, N.Y. 11968

BEGONIAS: 1984 UPDATE \$6.75. Price: include shipping. Master Card and Visa available.

SOUTHWEST REGION, ABS: Annual Get

Together, show, sale; monthly newsletter Membership \$7, family \$10. Send to Mari Harrell, Rt. 3, Box 689, Elgin, TX 78621.

THE BEGONIA HOUSE

Mail order: hundreds of begonia species and cultivars - also episcia varieties. Send \$1 for list mailed in Jan. to Jeanette McCombs, 2228 W Southgate, Wichita, KS 67217.



JUDGES' CORNER

The start of a new year is traditionally a good time for new ventures. This month will see the beginning of what will become, hopefully, a regular feature in the **Begonian**. Judges' Corner will serve as a forum for discussion and information for judges and for all members who are interested in showing.

Judges' Corner is the idea of judge James R. Nunes of Potomac Branch, who is starting it off by raising some questions which came up during the judging of the Eastern Region Convention show.

Some background information may help in understanding James' questions.

In March, 1987, the ABS board, at the request of judging department director Luana Curtis, halted all sales of the 20 year old judging course. The course was twenty years old, outdated, and confusing. A committee established to revise the course has been soliciting input from all judges and members. New judging department chair Bob Ammerman hopes you will let him know if your concerns and areas that you feel need clarification as the committee strives for clarity and consistency - a goal they hope to achieve - **with your help!**

James' questions appear below, and Bob will undertake to answer them in this and subsequent columns.

During the recent Eastern Region, ABS convention and show held at Dulles International Airport Holiday Inn, I observed as an ABS judge that two blue-ribbon-awarded plants entered in the same division had received identical point scores. In resolving this dilemma over two meritorious

plants, how should ABS judges proceed in determining the Best in Division award?

A second observation concerned the Sweepstakes award. Two exhibitors had the same number of blue ribbons as well as the same number of red ribbons.* The inquiry here is, how should the show chair or judging chair proceed in determining the Sweepstakes award under these circumstances?

Lastly, under ABS judges' instructions, the Cultural Award is made to a plant achieving a point score of 93 points or more. In the minutes of the latest ABS board meeting, it is indicated that a cultural award is made where a plant is point-scored with 95 points or more.

For the edification of judges and begonia growers, what is a cultural award, and why is it given? Is there a limit to the number of cultural awards that may be given at an ABS show, and why? Is there a point scoring schedule which judges must follow in determining the cultural award?

The above observations and inquiries are submitted with the view of soliciting the opinions and comments of judges, begonia growers, ABS board members and directors, thereby stimulating articles of interest for publication in the "Judges' Corner."

- James Nunes

I think that the Judges' Corner is a great idea. This column will cover questions about judging, revisions, clarification of questionable information, opinions and comments of judges or anyone with an interest in judging.

A select committee is now in the process of revising the very outdated judging course, and forming new guidelines for judging. A very productive seminar on the revision of the course was held at the Long Beach Convention in August. We would also like to receive comments from anyone interested

as to what they would like included in a new course.

The questions have been asked, "What is a cultural award, and why is it given? Is there a limit to the number of cultural awards that may be given at an ABS show, and why? Is there a point scoring schedule which judges must follow in determining the cultural award?"

A cultural award is given by a team of ABS certified judges to a plant which receives 95 or more points. By awarding this certificate to a plant, the judges are recognizing cultural perfection and showing great respect for the ability of its grower in using all his knowledge and ability in producing the perfect plant. The 95 points are determined by point scoring from the regular ABS point scoring schedule; all ABS judges have a copy of this schedule, and are expected to use it.

It was determined by the Judging Department and the Board of Directors of ABS that a national show could give an unlimited number of cultural awards and that Branch shows would be limited to 10 per show.

More questions, problems, and up-to-date information will be discussed in future columns.

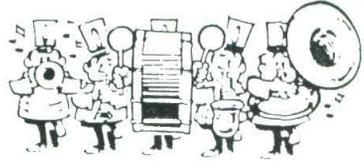
- Bob Ammerman,
Judging Dept. Director

*NOTE: the begonian, Potomac Branch newsletter, of November, 1987, states that the Sweepstakes Award at the Eastern Region Convention was actually a 3-way tie, with **Joyce Cavenny** having the same number of blue ribbons as Janet Welsh and David Hott. Now there's a conundrum for a judging team!



CONGRATULATIONS!

Lynda Goldsmith has advanced to Junior Judge, and Michael Ludwig to Senior Judge



MILDEW

Mildew spores are present everywhere and are carried by water, insects, pets, cut flowers, hands, clothing. The germination of the spores on plants is dependent on conditions created by the grower.

Prevention: Remove dropped leaves and flowers; increase light; raise temperature; improve air circulation; set plants farther apart; water in the morning; don't water leaves; use sterile soil.

Treatment: Remove infected plant parts; remove infected plant, and spray plant and drench soil with fungicide. Follow directions and use extreme care; most fungicides are toxic. Repeat spray in 3-7 days; Note: after three treatments, change your fungicide, as mildews will build up resistance. A preventive spray of all plants in the fall may be necessary.

Condensed from a longer article by Mai Weinberg in the December, 1985 Chicag Begonian.

REGIONAL GROUPS

Eastern Region

Howard Berg, Pres.
16 Highview Terrace
New Canaan, CT 06840

Southwest Region

Kay Tucker, Director
207 W. Southcross
San Antonio, TX 78221

ARIZONA

Desert Begonia

CALIFORNIA

Alfred D. Robinson

2nd Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.
Homes of members
Hazel Jacob, Pres.
2035 Illion St.
San Diego, CA 92110

Central San Joaquin

Viola Jones, Pres.

East Bay

3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.
Northbrae Com. Cntr.
Berkeley

Garden Grove

1st Wed., 7:30 p.m.
12860 Euclid St.
Garden Grove
Art Monday, Pres.
12881 Sylvan
Garden Grove, CA 92645

Long Beach Parent

Chapter

3rd Saturday, 1:30 p.m.
Mercury S & L
4140 Long Beach Blvd.
Long Beach

Monterey Bay Area

4th Wednesday, 8 p.m.
New Monterey
Neighborhood Cntr,
Lighthouse & Dickman
Sts., New Monterey

BRANCH DIRECTORY

Orange County

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

Palomar

2nd Sunday, 2 p.m.
Quail Botanical Gardens
230 Quail Gardens Dr.
Encinitas
Ingeborg Foo, Pres.
1050 Melrose Way
Vista, CA 92083

Rubidoux

4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
W. Riverside Mem. Adtrm.
4393 Riverview Dr.
Richard Moore, Pres.
8710 Tourmaline Court
Riverside, CA 92509

Sacramento

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
Garden Center
3330 McKinley Blvd.
Sacramento
Paul Tsamtsis, Pres.
1630 F St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

San Francisco

1st Wednesday, 8 p.m.
Garden Center
Golden Gate Park,
9th Ave. & Lincoln Way
Carol Notaras, Pres.
2567 Green St.
San Francisco

San Gabriel Valley

2nd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
Los Angeles State &
County Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Ave.
Arcadia

San Miguel

1st Wed., 7:30 p.m.
Casa del Prado, Rm. 104
Balboa Park, San Diego
Toni Baker, Pres.
6575 50th St.
San Diego, CA 92120

Santa Barbara

4th Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
The Cottage
1130 N. Milpas St.
Santa Barbara
Rudolph Ziesenhenne,
Pres.
(address same as above)

Santa Clara Valley

3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.
Rm 2, Kirk Com. Cntr.
1601 Foxworthy Ave.
San Jose
Mary Ann Leer, Pres.
1600 Nilda Ave.
Mountain View, CA
94040

Theodosia Burr Shepherd

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Senior Citizens Bldg.
420 Santa Clara St.
Ventura

Westchester

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Univ. Christian Church
5831 Centinella Ave.

Whittier

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Nellie Weaver, Pres.
6123 Corona Ave.
Huntingdon Park, CA
90255

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AREA

Potomac

4th Sunday, 2 p.m.
Sherwood Hall Library
1205 Sherwood Hall Ln.

Potomac, con't.

Alexandria, VA
 Barbara Nunes, Pres.
 6025 Greeley Blvd.
 Springfield, VA 22152

FLORIDA**Fort Lauderdale Area**

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
 Melrose Park Com. Cntr.
 Plantation
 John Doel, Pres.
 5280 Redwood Ct.
 Plantation, FL 33317

Jacksonville

3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m.
 Garden Club
 1005 Riverside Ave.
 Jacksonville

Miami

4th Tuesday, 8 p.m.
 Simpson Garden Center
 55 SW 17th Rd.
 Miami
 Ralph Beaudry, Pres.

Palm Beaches

2nd Monday
 Horticultural Center
 531 N. Military Trail
 West Palm Beach

Pinellas County

3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
 Suncoast Bot. Gardens
 10410 125th St.
 Seminole
 Robert L. Moore, Pres.
 7660 57th St. N.
 Pinellas Park, FL 33565

Tampa Bay Area

3rd Thursday, 7 p.m.
 North Tampa Com. Cntr.
 N. 11th St. & E. Seward
 Tampa
 Robert L. Moore, Pres.
 7660 57th St. N.
 Pinellas Park, FL 33565

ILLINOIS**Greater Chicago**

4th Sunday, 1:30 p.m.
 Oak Park Conservatory
 Earth Shelter
 621 Garfield St.
 Chicago

MASSACHUSETTS**Buxton**

Call for meeting info.
 Nancy F. Alvord, Pres.
 79 Shore Ave.
 Quincy, MA 02169

MINNESOTA**Minnesota**

2nd Wed., 7:30 p.m.
 Homes of members

NEW JERSEY**Elsa Fort****NEW YORK****Knickerbocker**

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
 Hort. Society of NY
 128 W. 58th St.
 New York
 Edwin Hymovitz, Pres.
 144 East 74 St.
 New York, NY 10021

Brooklyn-Queens-Nassau

Tim Last, Pres.
 437 Prospect Ave. # 15
 Brooklyn, NY 11215

OHIO**Greater Cincinnati**

Erich Steiniger, Pres.
 208 Beachpoint Dr.
 Oxford, OH 45056

OKLAHOMA**Fred A. Barkley**

3rd Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
 Will Rogers Garden Cntr.
 3400 NW 36th St.
 Oklahoma City

Barkley, con't.

Gene Salisbury, Pres.
 Box 504
 Tonkawa, OK 74653

PENNSYLVANIA**Edna Stewart Pittsburgh**

3rd Wed., 7:30 p.m.
 Pittsburgh Garden Cntr.

William Penn

4th Tuesday, noon
 Homes of members

RHODE ISLAND**Roger Williams**

3rd Monday night
 Homes of members

TEXAS**Alamo**

3rd Saturday
 homes of members
 Kay Tucker, Pres.
 207 W. Southcross
 San Antonio, TX 78221

Dallas Area

3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
 Northaven Gardens
 7700 Northaven Rd.
 Dallas
 Don Miller, Pres.
 1005 Mt. Auburn
 Dallas, TX 75223

Mae Blanton

4th Wed., 9:30 a.m.
 Homes of members
 Tamsin Boardman, Pres.
 Box 249
 Roanoke, TX 76262

WASHINGTON**Seattle**

3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Bethany Lutheran Church

No report: Georgia,
 Connecticut, Houston,
 Astro.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

November 15, 1987

The November 15, 1987 meeting of the Board of the American Begonia Society, held at the Corona Steak House, Corona, California, was called to order at 11:45 A.M. The Aims and Purposes were read by Bob Ammerman. Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting were approved as sent out.

Treasurer's report showed a balance as of October 31 of \$51,244.64, \$16,978.79 in checking, \$34,265.85 in savings.

Board approved the appointments of Bob Ammerman as Judging Chairman, Lorra Almstedt as Public Relations Chairman, James Hankerson as Advertising Director, Pat Maley and Mary Bucholtz to the Awards Committee, and Margaret Lee as Parliamentarian.

Reports:

Bookstore/Back Issues Chairman Bob Bailey reported sales have been slow. Bookstore account stands at \$255.23. A rumor was heard at the convention in Long Beach that Millie Thompson's book, Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide had been banned from the bookstore. This is not so. After the convention, Bob Bailey wrote to Millie and asked for copies to sell through the Bookstore. A letter was read from Millie, explaining that it was necessary to sell the books directly to A.B.S. members in order to recover the expense of publishing. Any A.B.S. member who wishes to order a copy must write to the Thompsons.

Business Manager reported all tax forms have been filed, except for sales tax, which will be submitted in January. The post office box in Encinitas is being retained for tax purposes. There will be a new box and change of bulk mailing permit as of January.

Begonian is getting back on schedule. The September-October issue was mailed out Oct. 20. The November-December issues was mailed Nov. 6. The January-February issue is almost ready to go to the typesetter. Editor Tamsin Boardman does need articles, both technical and of general interest.

Membership reports 83 Life Members, 111 institutions, and 1328 dues paying members. On Nov. 10, 390 letters were sent out to members who did not renew from October '86 to Sept. '87.

Board approved a new membership drive as suggested by Howard Berg. Branch and/or individual obtaining the most new members will receive a \$25 gift certificate from Kartuz Greenhouses. The Branch that sends in the new member will get the credit. Letters will go out in January with all the details.

Judging Department Chairman Bob Ammerman reported there will be a "Judges' Corner" column in the *Begonian*. Lynda Goldsmith was advanced to Junior Judge, and Michael Ludwig was advanced to Senior Judge.

Members-at-Large reported 39 #9 newsletters were sent out. #10 will be ready for mailing before Thanksgiving. MAL member Roberto Brin gave a talk on Begonias which was printed, along with pictures, in the magazine of Panamanian Airlines.

Convention chairman Wanda Macnair reports plans for the 1988 convention in Boston are shaping up. Committee chairmen have been appointed.

Phyllis Bates sent an inventory of all materials that were sent to Tamsin. The list was given to the secretary. Phyllis still has the Photo Archive, and requests Mabel Corwin and Margaret Lee to help in identifying the photographs.

A financial report was sent in by Round Robin. Slide Library sent a check for \$40. Seed Fund reports for months of August and September receipts of \$194, expenses of \$24.36. A check for 145.74 was sent to ABS, leaving a balance of \$49.30.

Branch reports:

Whittier Branch is doing well, despite having their meeting place destroyed by an earthquake. Beside the regular meeting, they also have a separate culture class once a month. San Miguel Branch is checking into changing their evening meeting to daytime. Palomar reports membership is up since they moved their meeting place to Quail Gardens.

New Business: President Arlene Davis presented immediate past president Margaret Lee with a Life Membership, and her outgoing gift, a beautiful painting of B. 'Kristy' by Pat Maley.

It was proposed that there be a special issue of the **Begonian** each year just covering the convention. The Publications Committee will consider it.

The Board approved the purchase of a new tape recorder for the Secretary, as the one now in use is malfunctioning.

Next meeting will be held the first or third Sunday of January at Quail Gardens. Board members and Committee Chairmen will be notified by mail. Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICERS

President Arlene Davis
923 E. Francis St., Corona, CA 91719
(714) 371-8042

Past President Margaret Lee
1852 31st St., San Diego, CA 92102

First Vice-President Michael Ludwig
7007 Mt. Vernon Ave., Lemon Grove, CA 92045

Second Vice-President Charles Jaros
2621 NW 23rd Court, Miami, FL 33142

Third Vice-President Bob Dodd
540 NW 32nd St., Oklahoma City, OK 74105

Secretary Jeanette Gilbertson
410 JoAnn Circle, Vista, CA 92084

Treasurer Eleanor Calkins
910 Fern Street, Escondido, CA 92027

APPOINTED CHAIRMEN & DIRECTORS

Awards Committee Michael Ludwig
7007 Mt. Vernon Ave., Lemon Grove, CA 92045

Audit Committee Marion Paris
4793 Soria Drive, San Diego, CA 92115

Ballot Counting Ronnie Nevins
1913 Aspen Circle, Fullerton, CA 92635

Book Store Bob Bailey
5190 Mission Blvd., Sp. 90, Riverside, CA 92509

Branch Relations Director Douglas Hahn
7736 Stonehill Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45230

Business Manager John Ingles, Jr.
8922 Conway Dr., Riverside, CA 92503

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Joan Campbell
814 NE Honeyhouse, Corvallis, MT 59828

Conservation Committee

Co-chairman Scott Hoover
718 Henderson Rd., Williamstown, MA 01267

Co-chairman Martin Johnson
959 Glennan Dr., Redwood City, CA 94061

Corresponding Secretary Jeanette Gilbertson
410 JoAnn Circle, Vista, CA 92084

Judging Department Bob Ammerman
1770 Foothill Dr., Vista, CA 92084

Historian Norma Pfrunder
3484 Jefferson St., Riverside, CA 92504

Members At Large Thelma O'Reilly
10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 92041

Nomenclature Carrie Karegeannes
3916 Lake Blvd., Annandale, VA 22003

Parliamentarian Margaret Lee
1852 31st St., San Diego, CA 92102

Public Relations Lorra Almstedt
1965 Celeste Lane, Fullerton, CA 92633

Research Paul Tsamtsis
1630 F St., Sacramento, CA 95814

Research Librarian Lorra Almstedt
1965 Celeste Lane, Fullerton, CA 92633

Round Robin Margaret Coats
11203 Cedar Elm, San Antonio, TX 78230

Convention Advisor Gilbert Estrada
7914 Springer, Downey, CA 90242

Convention Chariman Wanda Macnair
177 Hancock St., Cambridge, MA 02139

Show Entries Michael Ludwig
7007 Mt. Vernon Ave., Lemon Grove, CA 92045

Slide Librarian Daniel Haseltine
6950 W. Nelson St., Chicago, IL 60634

Speakers Bureau Muriel Perz
1917 Pine St., Long Beach, CA 90806

BEGONIAN STAFF

Editor: Tamsin Boardman, Box 249, Roanoke, TX 76262 (817) 481-4305, 481-2169

Editorial Associates: Bruce C. Boardman, Marguerite Hankerson, Dael Jones, Mary Weinberg.

Please send manuscripts to editor, with SASE if return requested.

For subscription, dues, circulation inquiries contact John Ingles, Jr., 8922 Conway Dr., Riverside, CA 92503 (714) 687-3728.

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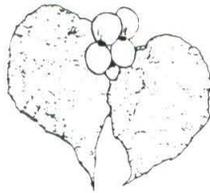
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