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The BEGONIAS



The BEGONIAN

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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 PHOTOS:

Front - Don Miller took this photograph of *B. humilis* on a trip to Ecuador last October. See page 199 for an account of his adventures in pursuit of the wild begonia.

Back - Gene Daniels photographed this *Tuberhybrida* flower. Can you name the variety?

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B. 'LADY FINGERS'



KIT JEANS © 1999

PRESIDENT and MEMBER-SHIP CHAIR MOVE

ABS President Arlene Davis has sold her home in Riverside, California, and moved north to the quiet of Rio Dell. Notes Arlene, "I wouldn't want to say Rio Dell is small, but there are no signal lights, no banks, no big grocery stores, and no McDonald's!"

Please note the following new addresses:

American Begonia Society

P.O. Box 56
Rio Dell, CA 95562-0056

Arlene Davis and John Ingles, Jr.

157 Monument
Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617
(707) 764-5407

ATTENTION, BRANCH OFFICERS!

If your branch has changed officers since the last Branch Directory was published in July-August, or if your listing was incorrect, please notify Secretary Ingeborg Foo at 1050 Melrose Way, Vista, CA 92083 by Nov. 5 so we'll have an up-to-date listing in the January-February issue.

CONVENTION 88! "BEGONIAS IN BOSTON"

OFFICERS INSTALLED



On Saturday, September 17, at Convention 88! "Begonias in Boston," Mary Bucholtz installed the following officers for 1988-89:

President Arlene Davis (in absentia), First Vice-President Michael Ludwig, Second Vice-President Charles Jaros, Third Vice-President John Howell, Secretary Ingeborg Foo, Treasurer Eleanor Calkins. In the picture they appear from left to right; seated are banquet speaker Elvin McDonald, Mabel Corwin, and Richard Macnair.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To the members of the American Begonia Society both here and at home:

Again I thank all of you for the confidence you have placed in me in voting that I serve another term as president of this organization. I will strive to do the very best that I can to keep things going in an upward direction. I am sorry that I could not attend the convention this year, but some personal things have come up that I have to take care of: as some of you already know, we are moving to northern California. This will in no way affect our ABS involvement. The cooperation and friendship that have come about this year between all of the membership has been really wonderful. I know that it will continue on in this next year and for many more years to come so that we will be truly one great society. It has taken all of you to do this and I for one am proud to be a member of the American Begonia Society. I would like to congratulate all those who received awards, and to thank all those who have participated in making this a great show and convention, especially Michael Ludwig who has taken over in my absence. We hope to see all of you in 1989 at San Francisco. I know that all of you will give the same support to Carol and Peter Notaras that you have to Wanda and her committee, and to all the past hard workers that put these conventions together. Thank you, all of you.

Arlene Davis

The Begonian

ABS TOP AWARDS

GRAY AWARD WON BY MABEL CORWIN



The **Eva Kenworthy Gray Award** is presented for one of two reasons: for contributing original material toward helping our rank and file members in furthering their study of Begonias, or for contributing something of a spiritual value toward cementing good will and harmony among our members. The first recipient was Bessie Buxton. This year's recipient, **Mabel Corwin** of Vista, California, qualified on both scores. Mabel has served as Horticultural Correspondent for the last six years, and previously as Round Robin Director; but perhaps more outstanding is her spiritual contribution, her friendliness, her thoughtfulness, her helpfulness to all members with whom she comes in contact; Mabel embodies the last of our Aims and Purposes, "To bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias."

As a previous recipient of the Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service (1981) and the Alfred D. Robinson Medal for Begonia Hybrid (B. 'Christmas Candy,' 1987), Mabel joins Rudolf Ziesenhenne and Thelma O'Reilly in the small company of those who have won all three of the ABS top awards.

DYCKMAN AWARD GOES TO THOMPSONS

The **Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service**, given for long-time or very outstanding service above and beyond that usually expected of a member or officer, went this year to two of the most active promoters of begonias in the country: **Millie and Ed Thompson** of Southampton, New York. The Thompsons, well-known for their encyclopedic Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide (published in 1980), had already received the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award (1977) for their three volume Thompson Begonia Guide, and for articles in the **Begonian** and other publications. In addition to their publications, the Thompsons have conducted judging seminars and cultural programs across the country; Millie served as Nomenclature Director; both served as interim officers of the Eastern Region, ABS, and edited the ER newsletter. They have donated plants from their enormous personal collection to botanic gardens in an effort to popularize begonias, and correspond with begonia growers at home and abroad to keep information about begonia culture and classification current.

In presenting the award, Vice-President Michael Ludwig said, "They have done so much in sharing time, knowledge, and plants for branch and regional meetings and judging seminars; you always find them giving of themselves and of plants they have located around the world."

The Thompsons could not attend the convention, but the standing ovation at the banquet was an indication of the warm regard and admiration they inspire.

Chairman Michael Ludwig thanked his Awards Committee members Mary Bucholtz, Jack Golding, Carrie Karegeannes, Wanda Macnair, Pat Maley, and Paul Tsamtsis for their help in making the selections.

SPECIAL AWARDS GIVEN TO GOLDING, KAREGEANNES, WASSHAUSEN, SMITH, MARTIN

Nancy Alvord, President of the Bessie Buxton Branch, presented special awards to five people who have contributed greatly to our knowledge of begonias. Her remarks follow.

"ABS Convention 88! and the Bessie Buxton Branch take pleasure in recognizing the accomplishment of ABS members **Jack Golding** and **Carrie Karegeannes**, along with **Dieter C. Wasshausen** and **Lyman B. Smith**, in compiling Number 60 in the Smithsonian Contributions to Botany, Begoniaceae. They approached the large task, not only of compiling the enormous annotated species list but also of doing the necessary bibliography and research, with enthusiastic determination."

"ABS Convention 88! and the Bessie Buxton Branch are pleased to recognize the long service and devoted loyalty of a founding member, **Joy Logee Martin** of Danielson, Connecticut, on whose initiative and support we have come to rely."

A Special Message from Convention Chair Wanda Macnair

So many people from all over the country participated in our recent Convention that it was truly a *National Convention*. Houston Knight (CA) provided reiger begonias given to each registrant; Michael Ludwig (CA), besides presiding over the annual meeting, served as judging chair; Tim Last (NY) was classifications and entries chair; Bob Hamm (CA) and Tom Keepin (TX) handled show placement; Kit Jeans Mounger (TN) helped with plant sales and prize drawings, and provided designs for the banquet program and boutique items. We would not have had such a wonderful show without the entries of Janet Welsh (PA), Tim

MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY HONORS THOMPSONS, BUXTON BRANCH

Richard H. Daley, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, announced the endowment of a permanent Mildred and Edward Thompson Trophy, to be awarded annually at its Spring Flower Show.

The Society also awarded its Gold Medal to the Bessie Buxton Branch of ABS for fifty years of service to horticulture. Only rarely does the MHS present Gold Medals to other societies; they are usually given to outstanding individuals, and Bessie Raymond Buxton, for whom the branch is named, was an early recipient. President Nancy Alvord accepted for the branch.

Last (NY), Philip Seiden (NY). All entries were very appreciated.

Special thanks to my convention committee chairs: Nancy Alvord, Ernie Ayles, Mary Bagdigian, Evelyn Cronin, Anne Ehrlich, Corliss Engle, Dorothy Gardner, Frank Green, Mabel-Maria Herweg, Nancy Kingman, Gail Titcomb, Patrick Vaca, and all the Buxton Branch members who backed them up.

You were all very important, and I thank you and your understanding and supportive spouses from the bottom of my heart.

Wanda

CONVENTION 88! "BEGONIAS IN BOSTON"

1988 Convention Show Results



Best in Show: *B. versicolor*

BEST OF SHOW: *B. versicolor*, entered by Corliss Engle
Trophy donated by Wanda and Richard Macnair,
honoring Bessie Raymond Buxton

SWEEPSTAKES: Philip Seiden
Trophy donated by Nancy Alvord

SHOWING IS SHARING: Linde Sacksen, with 37 entries
Trophy donated by Barbara and Howard Berg

DIVISION WINNERS

Cane-like: B. 'Guy Savard'
Exhibitor: Janet Welsh
Trophy Donor: Sacramento Branch

Shrub-like: B. 'Ginny'
Exhibitor: Linde Sacksen
Trophy Donor: Margaret Lee,
honoring Paul Lee

Thick-stemmed: B. 'Boomer'
Exhibitor: Tim Last
Trophy Donor: Jacksonville Branch

Semperflorens: B. 'Brandy'
Exhibitor: Corliss Engle
Trophy Donor: Jack Golding

Rhizomatous,
small leaved: B. 'Tiger Kitten'
Exhibitor: Evelyn Cronin
Trophy Donor: Palomar Branch

Rhizomatous,
medium-leaved: B. 'Harbison Canyon'
Exhibitor: Philip Seiden
Trophy Donor: Greater Chicago Branch

Rhizomatous, large-leaved:	B. 'Sarabande'	Traveling Begonias:	B. 'Compte de Lesseps'
Exhibitor:	Janet Welsh	Exhibitor:	Leora Fuentes
Trophy Donor:	Potomac Branch	Trophy Donor:	San Gabriel Valley Branch
Rhizomatous, rhizome erect:	B. <i>crassicaulis</i>	New Intro., Hobby Grower:	B. 91588
Exhibitor:	Linde Sacksen	Exhibitor:	Philip Seiden
Trophy Donors:	Thelma & Tim O'Reilly	Trophy Donor:	Edna Stewart Pittsburgh Branch
Rhizomatous, dist. foliage:	B. <i>attenuata</i>	Novel Grown:	B. <i>partita</i>
Exhibitor:	Janet Welsh	Exhibitor:	Janet Welsh
Trophy Donor:	Brooklyn/Queens/ Nassau Branch	Trophy Donor:	Knickerbocker Branch
Rex:	Rex hybrid	Collections:	Rex collection
Exhibitor:	Philip Seiden	Exhibitor:	Philip Seiden
Trophy Donor:	Bessie Buxton Branch, honoring Percy Ehrlich	Trophy Donor:	Corliss & Ralph Engle, honoring Morton Loewenthal
Tuberous:	B. 'Amazing Lace'	Planters/Dish Gardens	Dish Garden
Exhibitor:	Philip Seiden	Exhibitor:	Frank Green
Trophy Donor:	San Francisco Branch	Trophy Donor:	Southwest Region, ABS
Trailing-Scandent:	B. <i>rhopalocarpa</i>	Cont. Atmos., Single Variety:	B. 'Millie Thompson'
Exhibitor:	Janet Welsh	Exhibitor:	Corliss Engle
Trophy Donor:	Ann & Gene Salisbury, honoring Ruth & Percy Merry	Trophy Donor:	Bessie Buxton Branch, honoring Fred M. Ritau
Species:	B. <i>versicolor</i>	Cont. Atmos., Mixed:	mixed begonias
Exhibitor:	Corliss Engle	Exhibitor:	Corliss Engle
Trophy Donor:	Martin Johnson	Trophy Donor:	Alfred D. Robinson Branch
This division winner also received a gift certificate from Bob Hamm			
Novice Grower:	Cane hybrid	Hanging Cont.:	B. <i>solananthera</i>
Exhibitor:	Linde Sacksen	Exhibitor:	Linde Sacksen
Trophy Donor:	Rubidoux Branch, honoring Robert M. Terrell	Trophy Donor:	Miami Branch
ABS Seed Fund Seedlings:	B. <i>ulmifolia</i>	Photographs:	B. 'Chantilly Lace'
Exhibitor:	Linde Sacksen	Exhibitor:	Mary Bucholtz
Trophy Donor:	Joy Porter, honoring Orpha Fox	Trophy Donor:	Orange County Branch
		Arts & Crafts:	watercolor, B. 'Lillian'
		Exhibitor:	Irene Brownlee
		Trophy Donors:	Lynda & Lawrence Goldsmith

SPECIAL AWARDS

ABS BEGONIA HYBRID OF DISTINCTION:

B. 91588, by Philip Seiden, with 90 points

THE MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AWARD
FOR HORTICULTURAL EXCELLENCE:

B. scharfii, exhibited by Linde Sacksen,
with over 50 years in cultivation



CULTURAL AWARDS

- B. 'Guy Savard,' Janet Welsh, 98 points
- B. versicolor*, Corliss Engle, 97.2 points
- B. Rex hybrid, Phillip Seiden, 97 points
- B. 'Harbison Canyon,' Phillip Seiden, 97 points
- B. attenuata*, Janet Welsh, 97 points
- B. 'Sarabande,' Janet Welsh, 95.3 points
- B. 'Millie Thompson,' Corliss Engle, 95.1 points
- B. 'Tiger Kitten,' Evelyn Cronin, 95 points
- Mixed Begonias, Corliss Engle, 95 points

The Bessie Buxton Branch would like to thank the following additional trophy sponsors: Santa Barbara Branch, San Miguel Branch, Evelyn Cronin (honoring Dr. Fred Barkley), Westchester Branch, and all of you who made donations for trophies and the sale.

LOOKING AHEAD one year later

by Robert B. Hamm

When I spoke at the 1987 ABS Convention in Long Beach on 'ABS In The Next Decade' (see article, Jan.-Feb. 1988 **Begonian**), I was trying to get our members thinking of the future of our organization.

After my talk, ABS President Arlene Davis asked if I would take the chairmanship of a special Committee on Long-term Planning to arrange for future conventions and, to quote Arlene, "your other suggestions, like an International Conference and establishing reference collections." This is an update on what has occurred since then.

The Long-term Planning Committee has been active! The ABS Board has received and accepted convention bids for: 1989 - San Francisco, California; 1990 - San Antonio, Texas; 1991 - Washington, D.C. 1992 is still open at this time, but letters have gone out to all branches, and the Board has received several inquiries already regarding the possibility of hosting future conventions. Finally, 1993 will be in New York as part of an **International Begonia Conference**.

We are interested in bids for the 1992 and 1994 Conventions, and want to encourage all branches and Regions to consider hosting a national convention. The Committee is dedicated to the idea that not only should the conventions move around the country, but that they should be truly national in scope, with members from all parts of the country banding together to help put on the convention. While the hosting branch needs to do the local legwork, many of the other tasks can be done by other groups, or by those attending the convention. This not only encourages better cooperation and understanding, but allows the hosts some time to enjoy the convention.

I will not say much about the International Conference, as only preliminary work has been done. However, talks have been held with several foreign United Nations delegations about the conference, and many seem interested in helping arrange attendance by their countries' botanists and growers. We are really just beginning the five year job of putting it all together, and wanted to get the arrangements for convention sites for the period leading up to 1993 done first.

Members of the Long-term Planning Committee, besides myself, are Tim Last of the Brooklyn-Queens-Nassau Branch (NY) and Kay Tucker of Southwest Region. As the work load increases, and we begin work on the International and start on the idea of reference collections, I will be looking for two additional members to bring the number on the committee to five.

We are excited about future ABS events, and hope this report encourages all members to be interested and anxious to participate both as attendees and helpers!

YOU CAN HELP PROMOTE ABS!

The Long-term planning Committee asks YOUR help in promotional work for ABS and future conventions. Please send names and addresses of your local newspapers and radio stations to: Robert Hamm, 10065 River Mist, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 for use in promoting future ABS events. If you would be willing to help with publicity in your area, please let Bob know. Thank you all!



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CONVENTION 88!

Boston scenes

We were honored by visitors from abroad. Among them were Taezo Horio (on the right) and Hikoichi Arakawa of the Japan Begonia Society. Hiko was the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award recipient in 1985.



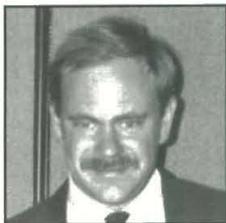
Arnaud Maurieres of France is interviewed by Don Miller of Southwest Region - watch for future article!

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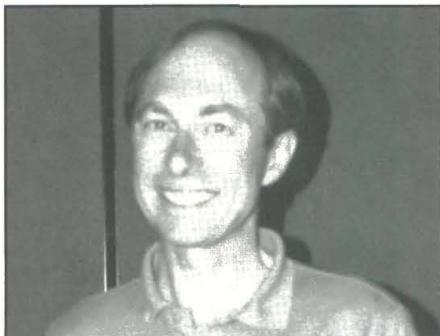
Moment of decision:
Which one?
Or both?

Kit Jeans Mounger
of Tennessee (seated)
helps check out
at the sale



Scott Hoover presented slides of beautiful species in the wild - and of snakes he saw getting to the begonias

Sunset magazine editor Chuck Anderson, on photographing Begonias:
"The most important thing is simplicity. Eliminate anything that isn't absolutely essential!"



SEMINARS

Below: Susan Dumaine, Corliss Engle, Tom Keepin, Earl McKinley (left to right) get ready to shape up a begonia for their seminar.

Susan: *"...taking off the old growth is making space for new, and letting in light"*

Corliss: *"If you groom on a regular basis - ideally, every couple of days - you can spot problems before they build up and you're also establishing a relationship with your plant."*

Tom: *"...clip close to the rhizome, so that you don't leave a place for pests or diseases to grow."*

Earl: *"...take the dead, damaged leaves off first, that opens up the plant. Then you start the shaping up..."*



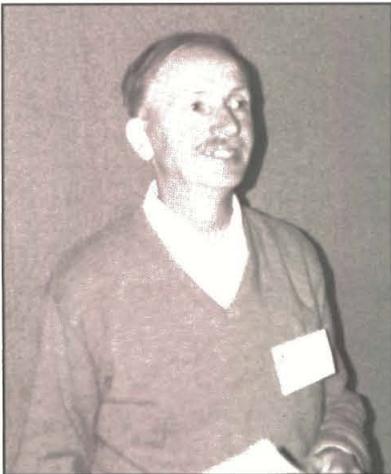


Lynda Goldsmith introduced the seminar speakers. Here she visits with Rudy Ziesenne, who told us how plants Scott collected in Ecuador are doing in cultivation in the U.S.



Seminars compelled interest and generated much discussion.

Banquet speaker Elvin McDonald:
Bessie Buxton said, "If more people would grow begonias, the world would be a better place..."



Hybridizer Mike Kartuz: *"Sometimes the name for a hybrid just pops into my mind, and sometimes I never come up with a name I like. How do you name a child?"*

Note: Reports on these seminars and on the exciting research at Montreal Botanical Gardens will begin in the January-February issue.

ON TOUR

3rd Vice-President John Howell and wife Mary Carolyn at the USS Constitution on the Boston Freedom Trail. It's a good thing they came prepared for cold weather! To their right is Julia Broadhurst of England.



At the Wellesley College Greenhouses: Joyce Caveny of Potomac Branch and 2nd Vice-President Charles Jaros of Miami admire the begonia collection.

Right: Martha Curry, Treasurer of Southwest Region, and Toni Baker, President of San Miguel Branch, admire a begonia in the Barkley Collection at Northeastern University. Greenhouse Manager Eugene Courtney is on their right.



Mecca for begonia lovers! Maxine Wilson of Missouri, Nancy Rentfro of Arizona, and Californians Marion Paris, Past President Margaret Lee, and 1st Vice-President Michael Ludwig arrive at the fabulous Logee's Greenhouses.



by Don Miller

It was dawn on October 6, 1987, as we flew into Quito, capital of Ecuador and one of the most beautiful cities in South America. It is situated in a high valley between the eastern and western ranges of the Andes mountains at an altitude of 9000 feet. On a clear day you can see several snow capped volcanoes around the city. I was so excited about the trip that the change of altitude didn't even faze me.

I was searching for begonias, and my companion Betty Gerko, a seasoned Ecuador traveler, was after bromeliads. We had 5 days to see Quito and do some hiking in the nearby mountains before the arrival of the rest of our group. We hiked up Mt. Imbabura, north of Quito, and found several nice bromeliads but no begonias.

Next, we went south to Mt. Cotipoxi. This is one of the highest active volcanoes in the world at 19,360 feet. We hiked up to the glaciers and refuge at 15,750 feet. What a fantastic sight looking down over the paramos with the blue-white glaciers behind us

and the mist rolling across the mountains! It's hard to imagine glaciers in the tropics, but these mountains are so high the ice never melts completely. We found several alpine composites at the glaciers' edge, but that was all the vegetation to be seen at this altitude.

On our return to Quito we were joined by Betsy Feuerstein, our leader and a fern collector, and also by Joy Garrett, another fern collector from Florida, and Sebastian, our Ecuadorian guide for the rest of the trip.

Now we headed north to Tulcan. This small town situated on the Colombian border is famous for its cemetery, which has the most wonderful topiary. Three acres are filled with artistically trimmed Arizona Cypress. The topiaries are of every shape - from armadillos to Egyptian pyramids and Inca heads. These works of art were created by Don Azael Franco, who started the collection in 1936. Now several gardeners keep them clipped to perfection.



Tulcan topiary

From Tulcan we went over the western range of the Andes to the flora-rich Maldonado area on the western slope. I will never forget coming down the slope through heavy mist and spotting a purple and pink passion vine (passiflora) climbing rampantly over the tropical brush. The flowers were glistening with droplets of mist.

This is where I found the first begonia, at an altitude of about 9,000 feet. This was an unidentified species with a roundish green leaf with dark brown markings and covered with many velvet-like hairs. It was small but looked like a shrub-type. I recognized it as one in the herbarium at the Catholic University in Quito. A note written on the herbarium sheet by Scott Hoover suggested this probably was a new species. It was a very beautiful species that would not tolerate the heat of the lower altitudes.

A little further down the road I found my second begonia. This was a trailing-scandent, with a green peltate leaf which had a red spot at the petiole attachment. This species was growing like a ground cover over the side of the road and up the bank. These first two begonias were not blooming, but everything else was! As we looked up, the trees were dripping with bromeliads, orchids, anthuriums, and ferns. This was a fantastic area.

It was now time to move on. Our next campsite was near Apula. Apula is about 60 kilometers southwest, as the parrot flies, another rich botanical area on the western slope of the western range of the Andes. Here, the trees were full of miniature orchids of every color and shape.

On the road to Apula, about 25 kilometers before the town, we spotted a magnificent colony of orange-scarlet flowered begonias. The vertical embankment on the side of the road was covered with this orange-flowered species. The altitude was around 7800 feet and water was dripping down the embankment over the plants. This species looked like B. U136, which was pictured on the March-April, 1985 cover of the **Begonian**. Staring at this mass of blooming begonias was an unforgettable sight.



Possibly B. 136



Close-up of begonia in gorge

I collected this plant and kept it in a terrarium in Dallas under air conditioning, but it melted when the temperature reached 80 degrees. It had an oblanceolate leaf with a serrated margin, and a stiff texture with stiff hairs on the upper leaf surface. The flowers were orange-scarlet, and it had a horned fruit. I sent a plant to a friend, Brad Neugebauer, to grow in his basement in Anchorage, Alaska. Hopefully, he can keep it cool and alive. That was the only begonia I collected in this area.

We then headed southeast and south of Quito over the eastern range of the Andes on our journey to the Amazon Basin. On the road from Quito to Baeza I found two more begonias.

These were growing on a vertical cliff, in the shade of trees, about 20 feet above a raging river. I was at the top of the cliff holding onto tree roots and branches, trying to reach this cane-like species. It had small light pink flowers, and an elliptical leaf with an entire margin. (This same species was found later on the road from Tena to Coca, growing in

the new road bed in full sun. The leaf had a reddish tinge and the flowers were a deeper pink).



Cane-like begonia in road bed, full sun.

A form of *B. glabra* also was found growing on this 20 foot cliff. The leaf is smaller than those I have seen in cultivation, and it had a reddish petiole. This *B. glabra* was found growing rampant in several areas.

Our next stop was a gorge with a small stream running through it. This was on the road to Tena. Huge clumps of *Heliconia* lined both sides of the stream with their red and yellow inflorescence hanging down. As we all know, stream margins are typical habitats for begonias, and this is where I found three or four trailing-scandent species. One was *B. glabra*. The second had a peltate leaf with a red spot at the petiole attachment. The male flowers were pendulous in clusters with rosy pink tepals and the stamens were on a long column. I did not see any female flowers.



Trailing-scandent with rosy pink tepals

The third begonia also had a peltate leaf with reddish petiole attachment, and red main veins. It had a long drip point. The male flowers had pale pink tepals with stamens on a short column. The stems of both of these species were semi-woody; although they were very thin, it was difficult to break them. There was also a third species or form which had a peltate leaf with no red on it. This one appeared to have raised silver spots on the immature leaf, and the leaf margin was wavy. I could not see any flowers on this one. These three species were all growing together, intertwined on the trees and branches, so it was difficult to tell which was which.

We spent the night in Tena, and went out collecting the next day on the road from Tena to Coco. Along this road we found lots of *B. glabra* and *B. parviflora*.

B. parviflora grows 10 to 12 feet tall, with a very thick woody stem, and has large clusters of tiny white flowers and huge leaves. I found many seed capsules on a very large inflorescence hanging over a cliff just out of reach. By stretching and hanging over the cliff I did manage to get hundreds of seed capsules that yielded 3 viable seeds.

In this same area I found the small seedling of the begonia on the front cover. I thought it was *B. parviflora*, but as it grew and flowered in the greenhouse I discovered the tiny white flowers and shrub-like growth habit. I believe this to be *B. humilis*. This species grows very fast and easily.

On the way back to Tena, I found two more shrub-like species. Both had oblanceolate leaves and one was covered with thick hairs which were reddish on the bottom of the leaf.

At this time we headed for Misahualli, where we boarded dug-out canoes for the trip down the Napo River. The wide, swift, and muddy Napo is a major tributary to the Amazon River. Parrots and Heliconias along the river's banks were an inspirational sight.

We spent the night at Anaconda Lodge, which is situated on a small island in the middle of the river. Arriving at the Lodge, we were greeted by several monkeys. We identified three species of monkeys: the spider monkey, the wooly monkey, and the "mean monkey." The "mean monkey" would look you in the face and bare his teeth while screaming, and grab any food (or anything that appeared to be food) from your hand. Even our bags of collected plants were not safe.

Here we collected along the Napo River, stopping here and there to venture into the jungle. As we tramped through the jungle collecting calathea, ferns, and gesneriads, I saw an orange flower in the distance and thought, "Could it be a begonia?" Yes; at close inspection it was an orange-flowered begonia. This was a real beauty, with nice terminal clusters of female flowers with a large winged ovary. This shrub-type species was growing on the jungle floor about 15 feet from a slow moving stream. The altitude at this location was about 800 feet. This species has tolerated the heat in Dallas fairly well, although it has suffered somewhat.



Shrub-like, found at 800 ft.; the orange flower had a large winged ovary.

I also collected another species further down the river. It is a shrub-like type which sometimes would have silver spots and sometimes not. The flowers are small and greenish-white. This species, I believe, is *B. mayanensis*.

Time was running out and we started back towards Quito. On the way back we stopped in Puyo and collected near the Puyo River. We found one last begonia growing as an epiphyte on an old dead palm stump. This tiny seedling has developed into what looks like the orange species found near Anaconda, but has not flowered yet.

It was sad to leave - beautiful Ecuador! It is such a lovely country and the people are so very friendly. But we were excited about bringing our collected plants back and getting them potted in their new home.

October 25 arrived too quickly. I had collected 13 different species of begonia, and felt I had a fruitful trip. I knew I would return to Ecuador.

Don Miller did return to Ecuador. A few days after returning from the ABS convention in Boston, he flew off again in search of Ecuadorian species. When home from the jungle, he can be found at 1005 Mt. Auburn, Dallas, TX 75223.



MAL NEWSLETTER #12 READY

Members-at-Large Director Thelma O'Reilly has the latest MAL newsletter ready for mailing. All ABS members who are not affiliated with a branch may receive a copy of the interesting and informative newsletter by sending a stamped, self-addressed legal-sized envelope to Thelma at 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 92041.

IN MEMORY

Services for Margaret Marie Graham were held September 3.

Margaret Marie was the unofficial greeter at our meetings, always cheerful and willing to do any task. She belonged to the Parent Chapter first, switched to the North Long Beach Branch as it was closer to home, but rejoined the Parent Chapter after N.L.B. dissolved.

She will be sorely missed, as will her German Chocolate Cakes and Tamale Pies!

She never cared whether she had the right names for her begonias, but what beautiful plants she grew! She said names didn't matter, they were all her babies. They knew she loved them all!

- Ruth M. Hurd, President,
Long Beach Parent Chapter

A DATE TO REMEMBER!

January 21, 1989. Happy Birthday,
all Begonia Society members!

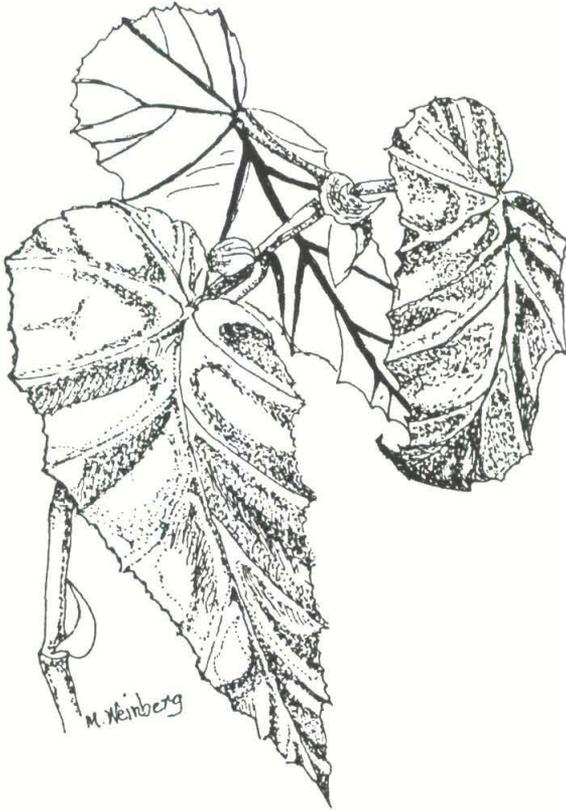
What better way to start the New Year than to invite all officers, past and present, and all members of our various branches to come and help celebrate our 57th birthday! Meet with old and new friends, exchange ideas and promote new growth.

Rudy Ziesenhenné and wife Margaret, honorary members of the Parent Chapter, are our official host and hostess. Rudy will be our guest speaker. He leads a rousing "Happy Birthday" song, and cuts cake like a pro. Bring your favorite finger food and service to join us. Happy New Year to all!

For more information on the Birthday Party, contact Ruth Hurd, President of Long Beach Parent Chapter, 2924 Sawyer, Long Beach, CA 90805.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Begonia angularis



In 1820 Giuseppe Raddi, an Italian botanist, published 40 species that he had collected in Brazil. *B. angularis* was on this list.

by Mary Weinberg

B. angularis Raddi is cane-like, tall growing, over 4 feet at maturity. It is a glabrous plant of medium strength, more or less bushy, ornamental by virtue of its leaves. Stems are erect, slightly branched, hexagonal roundish angled, red in color and brown at the base, with long internodes and a deep red ring at the base. Leaves are medium, ovate oblong, cordate, acuminate, undulate-crenate, denticulate on the edges,

glabrous, thick; the upper surface is dark green with silky lights and marked with silver bands along the primary veins; underneath is pale green on a red ground. Stipules are large, ovate-lanceolate, pale green quickly turning brown, persistent. Many very small white flowers appear on long erect peduncles. Male flowers have four tepals, female five. It is a sparse bloomer; in four years, my plant has never bloomed.

Physical Characteristics of Brazil

Brazil is a vast country, consisting of hilly upland plateaus and low mountains. Coastal plains are not extensive. In the north, Brazil has the world's most extensive tropical rain forest. The rain forest area has been so deeply leached during long exposure to heavy rainfall that it has little sustained fertility for shallow rooted plants. The central part of the country is the Amazon Basin. The soil in this area is alluvial, sand and clay deposited by flowing waters; very little of this area is subject to floods. The south consists of forests and tall-grass prairie. The central-west land is hilly with torrential streams.

Rainfall varies throughout the country, from an annual average of 40 inches in the south to over 80 inches in the north and northwest.

Temperatures in January average between 68-86 degrees in most of the country. In July the north averages 68-86 degrees, and the south 50-68 degrees.

CULTURE:

Light: *B. angularis* enjoys a semi-sunny location. Morning sun is ideal, and the plant can take some afternoon sun if it is not too hot.

Temperature: *B. angularis* is most happy with a temperature range between 65 and 75 degrees, but can take cooler temperatures of 40-50 degrees with no apparent harm.

Humidity: *B. angularis* does not require a high humidity, and gets along fine on a windowsill or shelf. In taking cuttings, I usually place a plastic bag over the cutting to help the plant promote roots. The last cutting I removed from the bag to pot had long hairy roots formed at all the nodes above the submerged base of the cutting.

Propagation: *B. angularis* roots easily from stem cuttings. This is the fastest way to get a full pot.

Growing medium: This plant does not appear to be fussy about the type of mix used, possibly due to the fact that Brazil does not seem to have very rich soil. I have been using the suggested soil mix in the Thompson's Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide, and my *B. angularis* seems to be very happy with it. Whatever you use, make sure it is a porous mix.

Potting: I have *B. angularis* in a clay pot. I think clay is best for all cane-like begonias, with the exception of hanging plants.

In 1937 the New York Botanical Garden received a plant from Kew Gardens labeled *B. acutangularis*. After studying the plant they changed its name to *B. acutangula*. Bessie Buxton thought this plant was a seedling of *B. angularis*. Chevalier a few years later designated it as *B. angularis*, Raddi var. *alta* Hort. Leod. It is a much larger plant than *B. angularis*, reaching eight feet at maturity. To this day it is considered a hybrid of *B. angularis*.

Daniel Haseltine points out that *B. angularis* often has been called by other names, such as *B. zebrina*. In 1820 Dr. Edgar Irmscher established *B. acutangula* and *B. zebrina* as synonymous to *B. angularis* Raddi. A sport of *B. angularis* listed in an old catalog was called *B. acute angularis*.

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



GROW GREAT FERNS

Annual membership \$15.00

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Los Angeles Int'l Fern Society

P.O. Box 90943, Pasadena, CA 91109-0943

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

November-December, 1988

This will be Joan Campbell's last listing as Seed Fund Director. It is an exacting job, and ABS appreciates Joan's excellent work. All members owe her a debt of gratitude for a job well done.

New Director is Diana Gould. Joan will transfer all materials to Diana by the first of October. Please send your orders from this and future listings to:

Diana Gould
4860 Idaho Dr.
Sacramento, CA 95823

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 25 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 (60 cents on orders of more than 12 packets). Overseas postage is \$1.20.

With care, I can get two sets of planter dishes with free instructions in one mailer. For this alone, send 62 cents. For dishes and seeds, send 75 cents postage or 92 cents if more than 12 packets are ordered.

Notes on the Seeds Listed:

We are pleased to offer *B. aconitifolia*, one of the great beauties of the species canes, discovered in Brazil and introduced commercially in 1892. The plant grows erect

and tall to five feet or more if you let it, branching little, and the base of the plant is swollen, almost tuber-like. It is a sparse bloomer. The leaves are palmately lobed with each lobe irregularly toothed, and have a dark, silky green color splashed with silver. The seedlings are so prettily marked that you cane lovers will hardly care about the look of the mature leaves.



B. aconitifolia. Photograph by Alfred D. Robinson

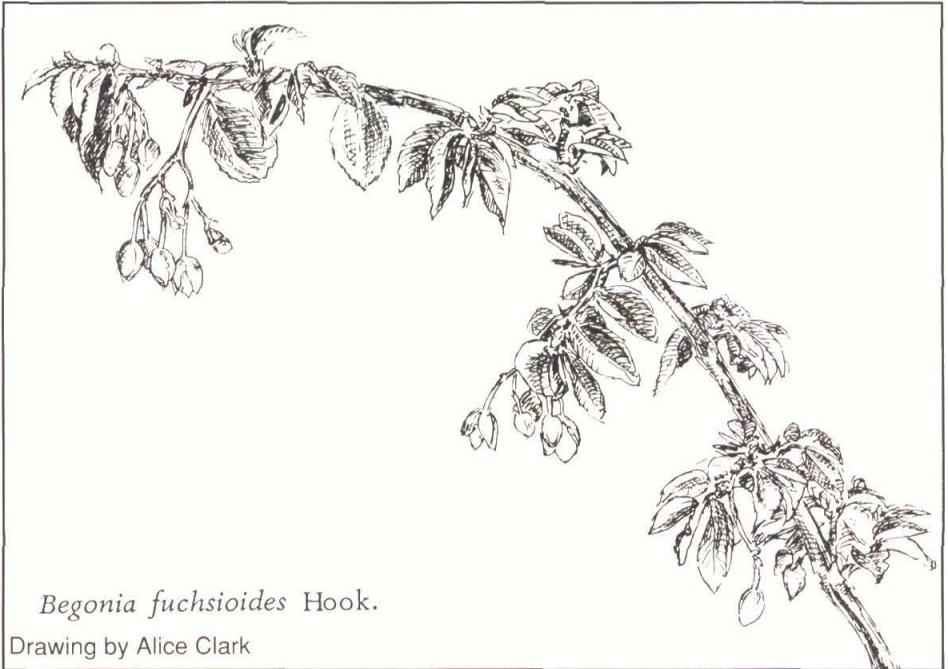
For many years *B. nigritarum* was incorrectly grown under the name of *B. nurii*; it may still be offered by commercial growers under this latter name. This is a small rhizomatous begonia, usually grown in a terrarium. The round, cupped leaves are spotted with silver and the lobes overlap occasionally. Under lights the flower buds are bright red, opening white. The color and look of the leaves are really quite charming. This begonia is a native of the Phillipine

Islands and is pictured on the cover of the **Begonian** for October, 1976.

B. acutifolia is the familiar shrub-like species introduced from Jamaica in the 18th century. In Jamaica it was called "Wild Rhubarb" because of its acid leaves, which are small, pointed, and toothed. The white blossoms are everblooming and this begonia makes a good basket plant as well as a good windowsill plant. Although classified as a shrub, *B. acutifolia* will produce bulbils. (This plant is also known as *B. acuminata* and, incorrectly, as *B. obliqua*, and should not be confused with *B. obliqua* from the Lesser Antilles or with *B. cubensis*.)

B. kellermanii from Guatemala is another old timer, easy to grow. A shrub-like begonia with cupped, ornamental leaves frosted with tomentum, it blooms profusely with pink flowers in the spring.

B. leathermaniae is a tall, cane-like species from Bolivia with a bulbous looking root or base at the soil line, similar to that of *B. aconitifolia*. The leaves are velvet textured, deeply lobed with silver shadings along the main vein; the leaf blade has a cuff of pale green spines where it joins the petiole. See cover and story in the **Begonian**, November-December, 1983.



Not offered for many years, *B. fuchsoides* is another Andean shrub, occasionally confused with its offspring, *B. 'Floribunda Rosea'*. The tiny, fern-like leaves are waxy and somewhat thick, and produce clusters of red flowers from the axils of the stems. The five full petals below the ovary of the female flowers imitate the fuchsia family, hence the name.

B. ludwigii, often found growing in the higher elevations with tuberous species, is identified easily by its striking, deeply lobed leaves tipped with white. A native of Ecuador, it is classified as thick-stemmed and the seedlings are often white spotted. It produces large clusters of white flowers in late winter.

B. luxurians, the aristocratic shrub-like species from Brazil, is an eye-catcher with its palm-like, compound leaves, which occasionally produce a crown of smaller leaflets. Dr. Tracy McLellan discussed the unusual growth habit of this plant's leaves in her seminar at the 1986 ABS convention. Its yellow-white blossoms reportedly are fragrant.

One of our constant reader-growers reports that pale-leaved seedlings of *B. roxburghii* will color up eventually, and be indistinguishable from the other seedlings.

Blackmore and Langdon seeds of *tuberhybrida* have been promised, but won't arrive before early December or possibly later with the delays in mail around Christmas. There will be seeds of other tuberhybrida crosses and seeds of *B. 'Santa Barbara'*, Mr. Ziesenhenne's species tuberous cross of unknown parentage.

As usual, there is a good assortment of seeds of species tuberous coming in and being tested. *Bs. cinnabarina*, *micranthera* var. *venturii*, and *gracilis* var. *martiana* are ready to sow. Don't hesitate to ask for others which are usually offered at this time of year.

Just in from Panama, but not yet tested, the following should probably be saved for January offering: *B. quaternata*, the rhizomatous species with six inch leaves - common in the higher altitudes, yet took heat well here this summer; *B. multinervia* (the form previously known as *B. U115*, thick-stemmed begonia found in many places in Central America), easy to grow, it is pictured on the cover of the May-June, 1982 issue of the **Begonian**; *B. tonduzii*, pictured in the **Begonian** of November-December, 1985, p. 138, is described as shrub-like with blue-green, five inch compound leaves on arching branches, producing red-pink flowers in drooping clusters near the branch tips. It is from the same section as the short-lived annual begonias, and I would give it cool conditions; and *B. plebeja*, the form also

known as *B. tenuipila* var. *kennedyi*, with procumbent rhizome and pink flowers. The leaves are about six inches, dark green and ovate.

I've had good reports on Burpee's new semp introduction, *B. 'Wings.'* A member from Oklahoma say it makes a tall bedding plant, with leaves the size of a woman's hand, and large, showy blossoms well in excess of two inches. Some plants with variegated foliage came from the commercial mix. It does bloom in less than three months from seed. We may be able to offer seeds of this in January, as well as "Frillies" and "Calla" semp seeds.

There are a few seeds on hand of hybrid or cultivated canes and rhizomatous begonias; ask about these if you're interested.



Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund

Species seed
(\$1 per packet)

- N-D 1 *B. aconitifolia*
- N-D 2 *B. nigritarum*
- N-D 3 *B. acutifolia*
- N-D 4 *B. fuchsoides*
- N-D 5 *B. kellermanii*
- N-D 6 *B. leathermaniae*
- N-D 7 *B. ludwigii*
- N-D 8 *B. luxurians*
- N-D 10 *B. cinnabarina*
- N-D 11 *B. micranthera* var. *venturii*
- N-D 12 *B. gracilis* var. *martiana*

Hybrid Seed
(50 cents per packet)

- N-D 9 *B. 'Santa Barbara'*

NEW CULTIVARS

Official International Registration Numbers 920-932

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



B. 'Ruth Siebold'

Begonia 'Ruth Siebold'

No. 920—*Begonia* ('Yellow Sweety' x unnamed Tuberhybrida) 'Ruth Siebold'

Tuberhybrida Pendula cultivar with large, fragrant, scarlet camellia-form flowers summer and fall. Stems are pendent, close to 14" long. Leaf blades are long-ovate, 11" x 6 1/2-7 3/4", medium green with long tapering tip (acuminate), rounded lobes at the obliquely cordate base, and toothed (double serrate) and angulate margin. Upper and lower surfaces are sparsely short-hairy,

especially on the 9 to 10 paler main veins. Petioles are 6" long and sparsely hairy, stipules 3/5" long. The scarlet, fully double male flowers have 50-60 tepals and measure 4 1/3" in diameter and 1 3/4" in depth. Scarlet female flowers have 5 tepals and white-winged ovaries. Male-centered pendent clusters on 5 1/2-6" peduncles cover the plant. This cultivar, named for the originator's wife, is distinguished especially by its fragrance, which slightly resembles that of a carnation. Originated in 1981 by Howard Siebold (32050 Westwood Drive, Fort Bragg, CA 95437), continuing his series of fragrant Tuberhybrida; first bloomed in 1982; tested by Brown Bulb Ranch (P.O. Box 67, Capitola, CA 95010). Registered Aug. 2, 1988.

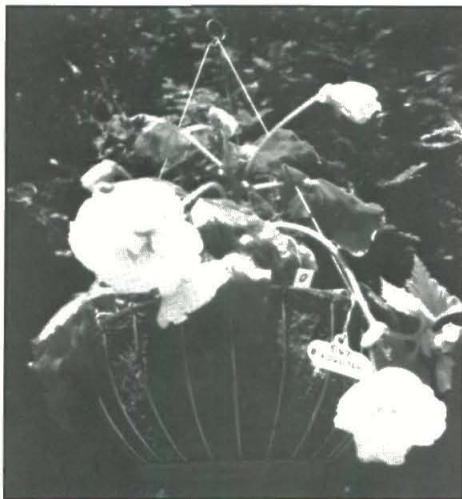


B. 'Sweet Dianne'

***Begonia* 'Sweet Dianne'**

No. 921—*Begonia* ('Yellow Sweety' x unnamed *Tuberhybrida*) 'Sweet Diane'

Tuberhybrida *Pendula* cultivar with large, two-toned pink, fragrant flowers summer through fall. Pendent stems are 7" long. Leaf blades are medium green, triangular-cordate, 7 3/4" x 5 1/2", with acuminate tip, almost equal rounded basal lobes, and double-serrate margins. Both surfaces are sparsely short-hairy, especially on the 8 main veins. Petioles are 5" long, stipules 2/5". Camellia-like flowers in hanging clusters on 6 1/3" peduncles are pink with centers of pale pink or white, 4 3/4" in diameter and 2" deep. The double male flowers carry 60 tepals, the females 5. Fragrance particularly distinguishes the cultivar named for the originator's granddaughter, Dianne. Originated in 1983 by Howard Siebold (address above); first bloomed in 1984; tested by Brown Bulb Ranch. Registered Aug. 2, 1988.



B. 'Love Song'

***Begonia* 'Love Song'**

No. 922—*Begonia* ('Yellow Sweety' x unnamed *Tuberhybrida*) 'Love Song'

Tuberhybrida *Pendula* cultivar with large, fragrant, shell-pink flowers summer and fall. Pendent stems reach 6". Medium-dark-green leaf blades are 6" x 5", trans-

versely broad-ovate, obliquely acute-tipped, and shallowly cordate at the base, with double-dentate and slightly angulate margin and a few scattered hairs above and below. Main veins number 8. Petioles are curly-hairy, 4 3/4" long, stipules 2/5". The fragrant camellia-form flowers, borne on drooping 5 1/2" peduncles, are 4 3/4" across, 2 1/2" deep. Double male flowers carry 50-60 tepals, females 5. Originated in 1982 by Howard Siebold (address above); first bloomed in 1983; tested by Brown Bulb Ranch. Registered August 2, 1988.



B. 'Carole Hansen'

***Begonia* 'Carole Hansen'**

No. 923—*Begonia* ('Sweety II' x unnamed upright picotee *Tuberhybrida*) 'Carole Hansen'

Erect *Tuberhybrida* cultivar to 3 feet tall, with fragrant, pale apricot-and-pink picotee flowers summer through fall. Glossy medium-green leaf blades are 12" x 7 1/2-8", obliquely long-ovate, acuminate-tipped, deeply cordate, double-serrate, and sparsely short-hairy above and below, with 7 main veins. Petioles are 7" long, stipules 2/5". Classic rose-form flowers 6 1/3" across and 4" deep on 7" peduncles are pale apricot with fine pink picotee edge. Males have 32-36 tepals, females 5. The originator named

his first upright tuberous cultivar with fragrance for his daughter. Originated in 1983 by Howard Siebold (address above); first bloomed in 1984; tested by Brown Bulb Ranch. Registered Aug. 2, 1988.

***Begonia* 'Wow!'**

No. 924—*Begonia* ('Yellow Sweetey' x 'Santa Monica') 'Wow!'

Tuberhybrida Pendula cultivar with large, fragrant, orange flowers. Pendent stems are 6 1/3" long. Medium-green, 7 1/2" x 5", leaf blades are obliquely ovate, acute, shallowly cordate, double-crenate, and slightly ciliate. The smooth surface, crossed by 8 main veins, carries a few hairs. Petioles are 4" long; stipules 1/3". The orange, rose-form, slightly ruffled flowers, in clusters on pendent 4" peduncles, are 5" across and 2 2/5" deep. The double male flowers have 60-70 tepals, the females 4 or 5. Originated in 1981 by Howard Siebold (address above); first bloomed in 1982; tested by Brown Bulb Ranch. Registered Aug. 2, 1988.

***Begonia* 'Betty Fortune'**

No. 925—*Begonia* ('Yellow Sweetey' x unnamed upright picotee Tuberhybrida) 'Betty Fortune'

Tuberhybrida Pendula cultivar with large, fragrant, pink-and-white picotee flowers summer through fall. Pendent stems reach 11". Medium-green leaf blades are 7 1/2" wide and 5 3/4" long, transversely and broadly rounded-ovate, obtuse, and very shallowly cordate, with a few hairs on smooth surfaces and petiole. Margins are coarsely and irregularly dentate, almost lobed. Petioles are 4" long, stipules 3/5". The fragrant white flowers with pink-edged tepals are 5 1/2-6 1/3" across, 2 2/5" deep, and carried on pendent 8" peduncles. Extra-double male flowers with unusually densely packed centers have 150-200 tepals, the females 5. Originated in 1983 by Howard Siebold (address above); first bloomed in 1984; tested by Brown Bulb Ranch. Registered Aug. 2, 1988.

***Begonia* 'Golden Anniversary'**

No. 926—*Begonia* ('Yellow Sweetey' x unnamed Tuberhybrida Pendula) 'Golden Anniversary'

Tuberhybrida Pendula cultivar with large, fragrant, yellow-orange flowers summer through fall. Pendent stems reach 12 1/2" long. Medium-green, 9" x 6 1/2-7" leaf blades are broad-ovate, obliquely cordate, acute-tipped, with large-crenate and dentate margin. Both surfaces are sparsely short-hairy, especially on the 7 main veins underneath. Petioles are 7 4/5", stipules 4/5". Double, rose-form, slightly ruffled flowers blend yellow and orange shades. They are 6" across and almost 3" deep, with 45 male and 5 female tepals, and are borne in clusters on pendent 5 1/2" peduncles, the fragrance marking another in the tuberous Siebold series. Originated in 1984 by Howard Siebold (address above); first bloomed in 1985; tested by Brown Bulb Ranch. Registered Aug. 2, 1988.

***Begonia* 'Sweet Sixteen'**

No. 927—*Begonia* ('Yellow Sweetey' x unnamed upright picotee Tuberhybrida) 'Sweet Sixteen'

Tuberhybrida Pendula cultivar with large, fragrant, pink-edged ivory flowers summer through fall. Pendent stems to 11" long. Medium-green, 7 3/4" x 4" leaf blades are transversely narrow-ovate, acute, and obliquely shallow-cordate, with double-serate and slightly angulate margin. Surfaces are sparsely short-hairy, especially on the 8 main veins underneath. Petioles are 4", stipules 2/5". Double rose-form flowers with wavy tepals are ivory with pink picotee edge and measure 4" across and 1 3/5" deep. Males have 50 tepals, females 5. The fragrant clusters hang on 5 1/2" peduncles. The tepals are not densely bunched in the center as in 'Betty Fortune,' and the leaves are not rounded-obtuse. Originated in 1984 by Howard Siebold (address above); first bloomed in 1985; tested by Brown Bulb Ranch. Registered Aug. 2, 1988.

***Begonia* 'Ilah Reynolds'**

No. 928—*Begonia* ('Yellow Sweety' x 'Orange Cascade') 'Ilah Reynolds'

Tuberhybrida Pendula cultivar with large, fragrant, coral flowers summer through fall. Pendent stems reach a foot long. Medium-green, 6" x 4 1/4" leaf blades are obliquely broad-ovate, acuminate, and shallowly cordate, with crenate-dentate margin, 8 main veins, and sparse hairs above and below. Petioles are lightly hairy and 3" long, stipules 2/5". Flowers are rose-form, rich coral, fragrant, 5 1/2" in diameter, 1 4/5" in depth, with 50 male tepals and 4 or 5 female. Clusters are borne on pendent 7" peduncles. Originated in 1985 by Howard Siebold (address above); first bloomed in 1986; tested by Brown Bulb Ranch. Registered Aug. 2, 1988.



B. 'Vicki Cogburn'

***Begonia* 'Vicki Cogburn'**

No. 929—*Begonia* ('Yellow Sweety' x 'Red Triumph') 'Vicki Cogburn'

Tuberhybrida Pendula cultivar with fragrant red flowers summer through fall. Pen-

dent stems reach 9 4/5". Medium-green, 6 3/4" x 6 1/4" leaf blades are triangular with almost equal sides, acuminate tip, and base almost as if cut straight across. Surfaces are only slightly and minutely hairy. Petioles are slightly hairy, 4 3/4"; stipules 1/2". Rose-form, somewhat ruffled red flowers on 6" pendent peduncles are 4 1/3" across and 2 2/5" deep, with 110-120 male tepals and 5 female. Fragrance again marks the cultivar as one of the Siebold series. Originated in 1981 by Howard Siebold (address above); first bloomed in 1982; tested by Regine Plows (Fort Bragg, CA). Registered Aug. 2, 1988.

***Begonia* 'Scarva Cherry'**

No. 930—*Begonia* (chance seedling) 'Scarva Cherry'

Semperflorens Cultorum cultivar with double, cherry-red flowers against bright green foliage. Stems are not more than 8" high, fleshy. Leaf blades are heart-shaped (cordate), fleshy, and glabrous, with minute but conspicuous glands, like pinpricks. Profuse clusters of very double flowers - cherry-red with pinkish tinge (RHS color chart 46C-45A) - remain on the plant a long time. Kidney-shaped, entire outer tepals envelope a mass of smaller tepals that replace pistils in female flowers and stamens in male, leaving the flowers sterile. Some blossoms are so full of tepals they are almost spherical. The original seedling was the only double in a batch of single, red-flowered seedlings from a commercial seed packet. It was propagated by cuttings and micropropagation and offered for sale by the Irish Plant Garden Society. Originated about 1980 by John Morris (25 Terryhoogan Road, Scarva, Craigavon BT63 6NF, Northern Ireland, UK); first bloomed the same year; first distributed in 1986. Tested by Department of Plant Science, University College, Cork, Ireland. Published in Moore (Journal of the Irish Plant Garden Society), vol. 6, p. 44, 1987. Registered Aug. 3, 1988.



B. 'Aussie Star'

Begonia 'Aussie Star'

No. 931—*Begonia* (*wollnyi* x *thiemei*) 'Aussie Star'

Thick-stemmed, trunk-like cultivar with palmately 7-parted, silver-patterned leaves. Close-noded green stems to 18" tall are indented between nodes. The 14" x 11 3/4" leaf blade is deeply parted into long-triangular, acuminate lobes that are again shallowly lobed and serrulate, with cordate basal lobes overlapping. The Winchester-green (RHS color chart 132A) upper surface is glossy, smooth, and sparsely short-hairy, heavily splashed with silver between green-outlined veining; the under surface is flushed red. The 7 palmate main veins are in turn pinnately branched the length of each lobe. Petioles are 13" long, green with red tinge, glabrous;

stipules are thin, glabrous, triangular with bristle at tip, 3/4" x 5/8", green quickly drying to brown, persistent. Flowers are pale green (Agatha green, RHS color chart 142C), the tepals and 3 ovary wings gaining a pink flush at margins on maturity in strong light. Both males and females are 4-tepaled, in many-flowered cymes on 12" peduncles from late winter into early summer. Reminiscent of cultivars from the reverse cross—B. 'Bill Cook,' B. 'Billiam', and B. 'William Cook'—this cultivar, however, branches from the base, has somewhat darker green flowers, and much larger leaves with redder under surface. Originated in 1985 by Jan Goodwin (63 Second Avenue, Sefton Park, South Australia 5083); first bloomed in 1987; first distributed in 1987. Tested by M.C. R. Sharad of Ridgehaven, South Australia. Registered Aug. 4, 1988.

Begonia 'Molisa'

No. 932—*Begonia* ('Sir Percy' x unknown) 'Molisa'

Rhizomatous begonia with creeping rhizome and silvery green, shallowly star-lobed leaves, showing pink to red underneath. Leaf blades are 5" x 4 1/2", leathery, 7-veined, broad-ovate, and obliquely cordate with basal lobes overlapping. Margins are serrulate and white-ciliate. Lobes are acute. Petioles are 5-6" long; stipules green, 1/2", not showy. No flowers have been produced to date. The new cultivar is named for Molisa Miller. Grown by Bob Hamm from Mickey Meyer's seed, it differs from B. 'Sir Percy' in having a star-lobed leaf rather than an almost entire, ovate-acuminate leaf. Originated in 1984 by Mickey Meyer (16 Yuppapa Street, Tathra 2550, New South Wales, Australia); first distributed in 1988. Tested by Robert B. Hamm of Rancho Cordova, CA. Registered Aug. 4, 1988.



ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Margaret Coats, Round Robin Director

The main topic of conversation in all the Robins has been the unbearable heat and lack of rain, which have caused many problems with growing begonias. By this time, however, the mean summer conditions are hopefully only a nasty memory.

I have been asked by quite a few people what it is that makes their begonias "melt" away in the heat of summer. I think Mary Bucholtz (FL) came up with the cause and solution to this problem in the Mini Robin. Mary says to be very careful with your watering during the hot months, and don't water your plants before the soil has completely dried out from the last watering. One of the biggest problems in her area is that summers are so muggy and oppressive, and begonias can't handle wet feet. Mary has been busy repotting some of her plants into sheet moss lined baskets she has made from gutter wire. She uses the bottoms of gallon bleach bottles as saucers for baskets' bottoms, and sets the baskets in them; that way the moss is able to soak up the water and fertilizer, which doesn't go right through and drain out. In about an hour, she removes any remaining liquid. Risa Young (FL) reminds her group that in order for plants to utilize iron in fertilizers, magnesium sulfate must be added. Risa will be giving a lecture on begonias at her garden center in the very near future. Not long ago, she did a program about begonias on TV, so she is doing her part at promoting them.

Everytime I read a Robin and see all the help and tips the experienced growers give to the novice growers, I think of the phrase, "picking one's brain." All writers are so eager to help the newest members.

We have begun a third group for Odd/Rare/Unusual begonias, and it really got off to a good start. Charlotte Kuhnle (OR) advises Mary Miller (FL) to grow as many different begonias as she can before getting selective. Charlotte has grown, at one time or another, over 400 kinds. She said she got awfully discouraged early on because she was trying to grow begonias that couldn't possibly survive under her growing conditions. Then Frances Hoffman (NY) gave some good advice to Mary on her question regarding mildew. Frances says, "No, you never get rid of mildew, as the spores are in the air and just waiting for the right conditions, mainly wet and cold, to begin destroying our lovely plants." Frances tries to grow her begonias on the dry side during the cold, cloudy months.

The new Research Robin also took off on a good start. Kevin Handreck (AUS) asks if anyone knows why his begonias lose quite a few leaves in the winter. He wonders if the yellowing of leaves could be related to poor supply of manganese in cold weather or to a mild magnesium deficiency. Gwen Stephens (CA) says that in her experience leaf yellowing is a matter of over-watering. Almost all the members listed the contents of their potting soil, which was as varied as alphabet soup. This proves to me that begonias can adjust to almost any kind of soil they are put into.

The subject of mealy bugs came up in the Greenhouses in Cold Climates Robin. Joan Hill (ENG) said that when she had mealy bugs for the first time, she tried everything, and finally resorted to a biological cure — a small ladybug whose larvae live on the mealybugs. It has worked. Elaine Ayers (OH)

said she wouldn't be able to keep the ladybugs in her greenhouse, so she uses a liquid dishwasher detergent on her plants and finds it works well. Albert Weatherhead (ENG) has quit using perlite in his potting mix. He never could get a satisfactory answer as to why the perlite finished up on top of the soil, where it was doing no satisfactory job. He now uses grit sand and 1/8 inch of crushed gravel. With such intense heat over most of the country, Mary McClelland (NE) said her greenhouse fan worked so hard she had to have it repaired. Her electrician advised her to buy a small fan and place it so it circulated air on the large fan's motor. Now she has a "fan for a fan." Wonder what keeps the small fan cool?

One of the members in the Tuberous group wondered, after receiving an order much too late for the regular planting season, if tubers would survive in the fridge for 8 or 9 months. Howard Siebold (CA) says tubers really should be started when they arrive, even if it is June. The tuber can be built up for next year, with perhaps a bloom or two. Trying to hold them over does not work well. Keeping them refrigerated doesn't fool them 100%. The sprouts will grow slowly. Howard also adds that he has been picking off flower buds faithfully, as he says the stem needs to be one inch in diameter before you allow the flowers to develop.

Some of the members of a Cane Robin say they have never experienced scale, so do not know what it looks like. Art Sackentruther (CA) declares that if you have scale you will know it. He says usually if you see ants working near a plant, check it carefully, for you have either aphids or scale. If Art spots ants at work, he acts quickly by separating the affected plant and treating it with Cygon 2E, which he finds both easy and economical.

Judy Hansen (CA) and her husband use a lot of aged dairy cattle manure on their shrubs and roses. The day after he had spread a batch around, Judy discovered he

had applied about an inch of the manure on a newly planted B. 'Richmondensis.' She washed the leaves, but decided to leave the manure. The leaves are now very dark and the flowers have more color than she has ever seen. Impressed with the success with B. 'Richmondensis,' she went around and put a light dusting of the manure on all her pots over 6 inches. So far, so good.

Have you ever wondered why plants do better in clay pots? Well, we have two different opinions from members of the Small Commercial Robin. Sydneyanna Kirksey (TX) read a book concerning the Magnetic Life of Agriculture, and from what the author wrote about the properties of stone, clay, and sand, she thinks that perhaps the success obtained by using clay pots is due to the property of the clay itself. The second opinion came from Houston Knight (CA). He says clay pots evaporate water and make a little air-conditioning cell for plants. Most plants have a "best" root ball temperature and clay helps cool the root ball by transmitting water through the pores of the clay, evaporating at the clay pot surface to cool the root ball.

Sheila Matthews (IL), leader for the Growing Under Lights Robin, is going to try something new when it comes time to bring plants in this winter. Instead of leaving everything out as long as possible, which is usually when the weather gets quite cool, she is going to bring her plants into her plant room when the temperature outside equals the temperature of her room. She is hoping to avoid any leaf drop or shock thereby.

Mary Bucholtz (FL) found a surprise in an old pot of soil that had sat outside all winter devoid of any plant: a small B. 'Tom Ment' is growing there now. She figures if he wanted to be around that badly, the least she could do was to give him a clean pot and fresh soil and a spot among her canes.

Everyone will agree, I think, that some things are learned quite by accident. One such learning experience happened to Mary

Simon (OH), a member of one of the General Culture Robins. Throughout many years she tried to self *B. rajah* with no success; she found all of a sudden it decided to set seed all by itself. After "rolling" the seeds, she sowed them on a mix containing small bits of wood. The little seedlings, which are apparently growing on the wood chips, are now beginning to show the true leaf pattern, while the ones which germinated on the soil itself are struggling to survive. She was not convinced that the little plants with roots in the wood chips could make it, so she sprinkled some very finely grained humus onto the plants. Most of the ones which rooted in the soil are now gone, while the ones which germinated on the wood chips are doing great. Rhodora Buss (IA) believes the wood chip bits are humus and contain nutrients.

I have a request from Kit Jeans Mounger (TN) to begin a Robin on the following subject: Specific Cultural Requirements of various begonias. This will be a serious Robin and will require some studying, record keeping, etc. If you feel you have the time and interest, please write me so I can get you on the list. Kit will lead the group, and the information obtained should prove invaluable to the entire begonia world.

Join begonia lovers around the world and share the secrets of success with growing: become a member of a Robin! Write Round Robin Director:

Margaret Coats
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for a list of Robins and the topics each covers.



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IN THE NEWS

ENGLE FEATURED

The March, 1988 issue of Horticulture carried an article by Steven Krauss on the light gardening techniques of ABS member Corliss Engle.

Corliss grows about 500 plants, including begonias, orchids, gesneriads, ferns, cactus and succulents, and what she calls "oddballs," plants with swollen caudices. She has light gardens in four areas of her home: in windows in the living and dining rooms, on shelving in a room once used as a sewing room, and in her cellar.

Corliss finds that growing indoors under lights allows control of temperature (generally in the high 60's during the day, 50's at night), light (generally 12 hours a day), and humidity (40-60%). These factors can be adjusted as needed. Fans keep the air circulating.

Corliss served as Registration Chair for Convention 88!, and was prominent among the show winners.

NEW BEGONIAS HERALDED

In an article entitled "New Plants for House and Greenhouse," Flower & Garden magazine for September has included descriptions and photographs of three new begonias, B. 'Hocking's Trocadero,' a B. 'Bowkit' (sic) x *B. rex* cross, and B. 'Glennis Crouch.' The plants are available (in the order listed) from Glasshouse Works, Logee's, and Robert Hamm.

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:

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

July 17, 1988

The July 17, 1988 meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society, held at the home of Mabel and Ralph Corwin, 1119 Loma Vista Way, Vista, CA, was called to order at 11:30 A.M. Aims and Purposes were read by Ralph Corwin.

Treasurer's Report showed a balance as of June 30 of \$13,701.91 in checking, \$35,729.01 in savings for a total of \$49,430.92.

Minutes of the May 22 meeting were approved as read. A typing error in the minutes was corrected to show the amount of the check sent by the Eastern N.Y Branch was \$74.60.

Correspondence was read. Joan Campbell, Seed Fund Director, asked to be replaced by October. A letter was received from the Desert Begonia Society (AZ) advising they had disbanded as of June 13. Phyllis Bates has sent all photo archives to Tamsin Boardman.

Bob Hamm reports the Potomac Branch has offered to host the 1991 convention. The Board approved.

Bookstore reports for the period of April, May, and June, income of \$55.15, expenses of \$86.01, for a current balance of \$103.71. He has a new supply of looseleaf binders for the Begonian.

Branch Relations reports inquiries to start new Branches have been received from Florida, Tennessee, New Jersey, and two from Texas.

Seed Fund reports for the month of April receipts of \$444.35, expenses of \$28.32. A check was sent for \$391.03, leaving \$50 in account.

1988 Convention: Noted garden writer Elvin McDonald will be the Banquet speaker.

Membership reports zip code lists of Branch members and non-members of A.B.S. were sent out June 31. We have 81 Life Members, 114 Institutions, and 1340 dues paying

members. Membership has stayed stable over the past year. In the membership contest, Buxton Branch with 14 and Wanda Macnair with 12 are still ahead. The contest ends 7/31.

New Business: Board approved change to quarterly meetings instead of every other month. Branch Reps reported on their upcoming summer shows (also reported in last Begonian).

Branches - Those of you who haven't already done so, send your end-of-year reports to the President by August 13Chairmen, we also need your end of year reports.

Meeting adjourned at 1:12 P.M. Next meeting to be the Annual Luncheon at the convention.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannette Gilbertson,
Secretary

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