

The

BEGONIA

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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 - Thelma O'Reilly photographed this "favorite favorite" semperflorens, B. 'Cherry Blossom'. On page 45 she tells how she fell for semperflorens.

Back - The lovely leaves of *B. tenuipila* were photographed by Roberto Brin of Panama.



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KIT JEANS © 1979

IN MEMORY

Irvin Kramer, a past president of the San Francisco Branch, died in November. His cheerful smile and presence will be sorely missed.

- the San Francisco Begonian

Softly and tenderly: our original club librarian, **Jean-Frances Clay**, now resides with our Maker. Please keep good and positive thoughts in mind for her and her loved ones.

- the Orange County Branch newsletter

"We mourn the passing of senior member **Bea Hessel** on Sunday, December 11 (1988) of complications following an auto accident. Bea...had been a Knickerbocker Branch member for over 30 years...she immediately established herself as the preeminent grower in the club, winning ribbons and awards from flower shows in Boston, Hartford, and New York. At the old NY Flower Show at the Coliseum, Bea annually received the pewter plate - she had 11 in a row....Corliss Engle awarded her a GCA Certificate for her Begonia on the Rock, B. 'Long Horn', at the Hartford Show...We will miss her contributions and long remember her fine example. We send our sympathy to her family, in particular Club Historian Sue Hessel."

-from The Knickerbocker News

"Our hearts reach out to Bill Goetz. They needed someone in heaven to tend begonias, and the Lord selected **Loid Goetz**. Rejoice, celebrate, for Loid is now in perfection, where every seed germinates, every leaf cutting roots, and pinching is not necessary."

-from the Whittier Branch newsletter

"it is with great sorrow that I tell you of the passage of **Edna Dufresne** a few days before Christmas. She gave so much of her

energy to the Buxton Branch as hospitality chair and played a very active part in the success of bus trips. Our deepest sympathy goes to Normand, who must carry on alone after a long and very close relationship with his sister. Edna will be missed very much."

-from The Buxtonian

Rosamah W. Nichols of Wichita Falls, Texas, passed away on October 15, 1988. Her husband wrote that she enjoyed her ABS membership and the **Begonian**, and had some lovely begonias.

Grace Van Dyke, longtime member of the Jacksonville Branch, died in January.

Grace was known throughout the city for her rex begonias and ferns. At branch shows she won Best in Show many times with her magnificent rex specimens. Her positive attitude and gentle manner will be missed.

The branch has made a contribution to the ABS Conservation Fund in her memory.

CORRECTIONS:

Please turn to page 25 in the January-February, 1989, issue, and add the words in bold to the recipe for soil mix given in the second paragraph, right hand column:

"The moss is costly, so for most of my pots the mix is one part sphagnum moss (3" to 4"), **one part coarse ground sphagnum peat moss**, with one part each of perlite and coarse vermiculite."

Thank you, Howard Siebold, for noticing the omission.

On the inside back cover, the address given at the bottom of the page for John Ingles, Jr. is incorrect. His address on the inside front cover and on the inside back cover under "Appointed Chairmen and Directors, Business Manager" is correct: **157 Monument, Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617.**



B. 'Party Boy' photo by Jack Golding

TO SEMPERFLORENS WITH LOVE

by Thelma O'Reilly

"Teenagers" and "Golden Girls" are most susceptible to "Crushes," usually focusing in on an offbeat subject. While a "Teenager's Crush" is of short duration, a "Golden Girl's Crush" is everlasting.

An arrow pierced this Golden Girl's heart after my appointment as Members At Large Director for the ABS. This job made possible my introduction to the world of *Semperflorens* Cultorum aficionados. I discovered that they were seriously dedicated, wholeheartedly, to this group of begonias. A sense of obligation, part of my job, quickly turned into enthusiasm for these cultivars, which I had neglected during my years of involvement with the *Begoniaceae*.

During my previous thirty years of begonia growing, this group was relegated to the

host of outdoor bedding plants displayed with zinnias, pansies, coleus, etc., at super markets and nurseries. At begonia shows the *Semperflorens* Division exhibited the least entries, and that situation remains the same today. I remember co-chairing "Begonia Beauty" in 1973, a show hosted by A.D. Robinson Branch. Aiming for entries in each division, I planted three small, white-flowered cultivars in a redwood tub. That was my first and last exhibit in the *Semperflorens* Division. It was the lone entry and was awarded a blue ribbon.

In 1977 I was intrigued with the exquisite, large, ruffled flowers of this group that I observed as Captain Hope's Seed Farm in Cartago, Costa Rica. Captain Hope advised me to watch Park's and Ball's catalogs for their release. A few years later the plants

were released by the Ball Seed Co. under the names of B. 'Frilly Pink' and B. 'Frilly Red'.

Unaware of the arrow's impact but determined to learn more about these cultivars so I could discuss them intelligently in the MAL newsletter, I visited Ronnie Nevins in Fullerton, CA. Luckily, my visit occurred when her semperflorens were at their peak of bloom and beauty. I was impressed with two specimens in particular, a wheelbarrow and a wine cask both overflowing with masses of flowers. The cask was featured on the **Begonian** cover, July-August, 1986.

Several more California friends encouraged my "Crush." Mabel Corwin introduced me to lovely B. Glamour 'Rose Picotee' and brilliant B. 'Christmas Candy', followed by B. 'Forto Pink' and B. 'Verdo Scarlet', which were grown from European seed imported by Martin Johnson.

Then that fateful day arrived when Bob Ammerman presented me with my first plant of B. 'Frilly Pink', followed by B. 'Frilly Red' and mixed colors of the enchanting B. 'Frilly Dilly' series. What a shock to discover that mildew favors these "pets."

While touring Arlene Davis' garden, I happened upon one of the prettiest hanging specimens I have seen, B. 'Apple Blossom'. It was covered with white, delicately pink-tipped pompon-like flowers. Arlene shared cuttings twice but only one survived, and it has not produced a strong plant. Always on the alert, I have never seen it again. It is reminiscent of B. 'Cherry Blossom'.

I'll always remember my introduction to B. 'Tropic Fire', then an unnamed plant at Kartuz Greenhouses. I was attracted first to the colorful foliage, then to the blazingly colored and remarkably formed flowers. At my urging, Michael Kartuz gave this interesting begonia its appropriate name and propagated it for distribution.

Information was also flowing in from MAL, especially Pauline Chambers of Florida, whose newsy letters were filled with important informative notes on all aspects of semperflorens culture and pointers about the different cultivars.

I am deeply grateful to MAL David Atkinson of Atkinson's Greenhouses, Arkansas, because he shared excellent quality plants of varieties I had not seen before, including the lovely, double-flowered, pristine B. 'White Ruffles'; B. 'Lady Frances Red' with its large, double orange-red flowers and bronze foliage; B. 'Pink Avalanche' which I love because of its small leaves with scattered, fine hairs, dainty pink flowers, and the ability to defy below freezing temperatures; and my favorite favorite, B. 'Color Queen'.

At the 1988 convention in Boston Jack Golding gave me B. 'Lucifer', which promptly dissolved after our first winter rain, and B. 'Othello Improved' which has, to date, survived the winter rains and a long spell of frosty weather. Its lacquered near-black leaves and intensely red flowers make a most attractive color combination.

Jack permitted me to feature two of his slides in this article: B. 'Scarletta' which I found listed in Sutton & Sons Ltd. Seed Catalog, 1973. and B. 'Party Boy'. Finding no information about B. 'Party Boy', I wrote to David. He responded as follows:

"The Party Series was developed by Ernst Benary of West Germany. Northrup King Catalog described B. 'Partyboy' as having large, scarlet-red flowers with very large deep green leaves, and having a great garden performance. Others in the series are pink flowered B. 'Partyflirt' with bronze foliage and B. 'Partygirl' with green leaves; white-flowered B. 'Partylove' and B. 'Partydress', and scarlet flowered B. 'Partyfriend'."

It is interesting to note that early listings spell the names in this series as one word, later listings are two words.



Planting of B. 'Scarletta' in Jack Golding's garden (New Jersey)

Now I find myself heading for the annual plants area in nurseries, photographing semperflorens flowers, hybridizing, and pouring through catalogs and research material. I also realize that the arrow pierced my heart, deeply, and I have joined the group of Semperflorens Aficionados who enjoy these begonias that are so popular world-wide.

Choosing a few favorites is difficult, but here they are -

B. 'Cherry Blossom' because of its femininity as it displays its beautiful array of white, pink and rose-red colors, its ease of culture, and its large, unusually shaped double flowers whose outer layer of tepals remind me of a ballerina's "Tutu" dangling tiny parachutes (see cover photo).

B. 'Frilly Pink' because of its intriguing semi-double, usually fasciated, blazing orange flowers, and its colorful foliage of green, bronze and orange-red when grown in bright light.

B. 'Christmas Candy' because of its dazzling red flowers, interesting parentage (see *Begonian*, Nov-Dec. 1982), and its hybridizer, that special begonia lady, Mabel Corwin.

B. 'Color Queen' because it responds to my T.L.C. It was introduced in 1973 by Sutton & Sons Ltd. of England and described as follows: F1 hybrid (New). Quite distinct, this variety is unique in that it has a variegated leaf, splashed and mottled with white on green becoming more bronzed with pink mottling when outdoors; flowers a bright carmine rose, 8 inches.

I have much more to learn about growing these begonias. I have not developed yet the habit of "pinching." While delighting over the flowers, I always feel guilty and hear Jack Golding saying, "Pinch, Thelma, pinch." Well, Jack, I made a 1989 resolution: I'll pinch every plant, no matter how much it hurts.

Another lesson for us "Golden Girls" is - it's never too late for new and exciting adventures to enter our lives! To Semperflorens, With Love...

Thelma O'Reilly and her semperflorens loves live at 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 92041 (with plenty of the other begonias for company).



SUMMARY OF 1987-1988 BOTANICAL EXPEDITION TO ECUADOR

W. Scott Hoover
ABS Conservation Department

In retrospect, the expeditions conducted during 1987 and 1988 were the most productive I have ever had. Four months were spent in Ecuador, from November to February, resulting in several thousand collections and many new *Begonias*, some new to horticulture and some new to science. This report will summarize the general collecting expeditions in Carchí and Esmeraldas Provinces, and describe the results of the *Begonia* collecting work through the southern provinces of Ecuador.

The general collecting expeditions involved botanical and geographical exploration of remote parts of Carchí and Esmeraldas Provinces, adjacent to Colombia. The areas explored were in the Awá Ethnic Forestry Reserve and the proposed UNESCO Bio-Reserve. The entire region is part of the southern Chocó Phytogeographical Region, one of the most species rich areas on earth, if not the richest. The purpose of this botanical expedition was to document further the extreme floristic diversity of the Chocó Region, assist the Awá in preserving their forests, and provide some initial botanical data and photographic documentation of the Bio-Reserve buffer zone in hopes that UNESCO will establish this Reserve (see Fig. 1 and Table 1).

Table 1:
Northwest Ecuador Biological Collections

Location	No. Collected
Cerro Golondrinás	967
approximate duplicates	800
Alto Gualpi	1085
approximate duplicates	2400
Araceae	78
approximate duplicates	200
insects on Araceae	500
Rio Palaví	846
approximate duplicates	1600
Total Collections:	8476

Three volunteers assisted with the general collecting work in northwestern Ecuador: Stanton Wormley of Maine, Peter Gelpi and Ruth Ann Lorentzen of California. Their help was immeasurably valuable and added a great deal to the scientific content of the expeditions. Eleven people and two horses were hired for this first expedition.

The first expedition accomplished most of its objectives: to conduct an initial botanical survey of the upper Rio Verde and geographically to explore for the first time ever the mountain group called Cerro Golondrinás, collecting all the while, of course. Stanton accompanied us for this phase of work. Cerro Golondrinás is near the western edge of the proposed UNESCO Bio-Reserve and is part of the Andes geologically, though it is separated from the main Andean mountain chain by a large valley. Our expedition was the first to penetrate this area and document photographically the huge crater bowl forming Cerro Golondrinás. We were hoping to reach the top of the middle-sized peak but discovered the vertical faces forming the mountain were inaccessible, which prevented us from achieving one of the expedition's objectives. Nonetheless, nearly 1000 botanical collection numbers were acquired from the effort, and collecting was my main purpose.

The second and third expeditions were conducted in the Awá Ethnic Forestry Reserve. Peter and Ruth Ann provided assistance for the duration of work in the Awá Reserve. Regions near the Rio Gualpi Chico were explored botanically, with about 1100 general collection numbers added, along with assorted aroid collections and insect visitors on numerous aroids, thanks to the ambitious efforts of Ruth Ann. The Gualpi Chico region is near the eastern border of the Awá Reserve. Support for this part of the expedition included hiring eighteen people and eleven horses.

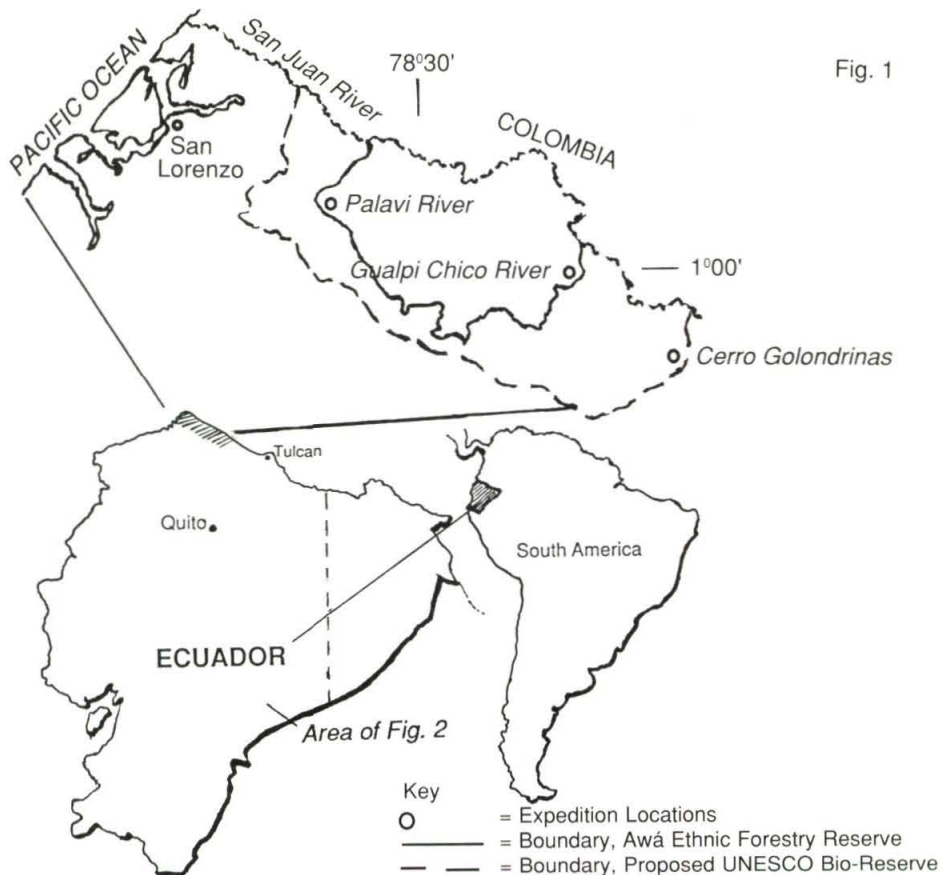


Fig. 1

The third expedition explored a region near the western border of the Reserve on the Rio Palaví. Support required hiring of sixteen people and twelve canoes. At the Rio Palaví we amassed close to another thousand collection numbers, but not without substantial compromise; it took us 8 days of traveling to get to and from our base camp on the Palaví, while only 6 days were spent actually collecting. Such is the way it goes when working in remote areas.

Had it not been for the Awá guides it would not have been possible to conduct this botanical expedition; their knowledge and resourcefulness were of the utmost importance to the success of the expedition. Furthermore, their willingness to help and work under difficult circumstances proved essential. I look forward to the opportunity to work with the Awá again and hope this botanical effort assists in preserving their forests.

When the work in northwest Ecuador was completed, it was time to focus on just *Begonia* and enhancing the productivity of this phase of the expedition was the assistance of Barbara and Howard Berg. Our itinerary included collecting along elevation gradients through most of the provinces to the south of Quito, and, anticipating that the roads would be terrible on occasion, we rented a 4-wheel drive vehicle. This trip led us over a thousand miles through southern Ecuador and resulted in collecting many species I had never seen before, including a number of tuberous species (see Fig. 2 and Table 2). All herbarium specimens were deposited with the Universidad de Católica in Quito and the Missouri Botanical Garden.

It became evident immediately that having two more sets of expert eyes, combining the embankments for *Begonia*, was a tremendous asset. If I didn't spot a *Begonia*,

Fig. 2



Howard would, and if either of us missed something Barbara picked it out. So it went day after day: we just kept amassing species I had never seen before. Of particular interest were two different peltate rhizomatous species on the west slope of the Andes, both of which I believe have been successfully cultivated. Rhizomatous species, possibly in the section *Gireoudia* but with no flowers, were the last type of *Begonia* I expected to find, but there they were.

The tuberous species collected were so variable in character it was impossible to keep them straight. We would collect one species, then the next day collect another

one that had characteristics so similar to the first that you would swear it was the same species; but upon careful examination several variations would be found that distinguished the species. This made the collecting most interesting, but a bit frustrating also.

Two different species were collected which had flowers arising from the axils. Both were species I had collected in 1984 and 1986, but this time I collected cuttings as germplasm, in hopes that this would yield to successful propagation. At this time, I do not think either of these species has succumbed to cultivation. Flowers arising from leaf axils are quite rare in *Begonia* and would offer interesting horticultural possibilities.

Table 2:

Begonia Collections from Ecuador

Collection Data	No. Collected
Approx. total Herbarium Specimens	125
Populations collected on w. slope	50
Species collected on w. slope	24
Populations collected on e. slope	22
Species collected on e. slope	15
Approx. no. of epidermal peels	640
Approx. no. of leaf sections	640
Approx. no. of <i>Begonia</i> photographs	90

Many Andean species are notoriously difficult to cultivate. In spite of this, initial horticultural results from these southern Ecuadorian species are promising. The report from Rudolf Ziesenhenné and comments from Martin Johnson, Mabel Corwin, and Normand Dufresne indicate that 69% or more of the cuttings introduced have survived. This does not include results from the seed that was introduced, either. Reviewing the last 15 years of my *Begonia* collecting, 721 collections later, I must say that the horticultural results of this expedition are the most successful so far.

The timeliness of this positive horticultural success is most appropriate, since the ABS Conservation Department efforts are becoming increasingly professional with greater member involvement, largely due to the work of Martin Johnson. As ABS matures, we are becoming more professional, and more aware of the need for conservation.

At this valued stage in our Society's development, we have to continue our efforts. At one level, the conservation of our beloved plants only serves us, that is, members of ABS. No one else is going to preserve the plants we adore; that is why we have ABS. A commitment and responsibility comes with the appreciation of *Begonia*, and that responsibility concerns their conservation, since species and their habitats continue to be destroyed. Though certain individuals are more directly involved in conservation efforts, all members of the ABS can assume a small responsibility for conservation. If every member of ABS contributed \$10

per year to conservation, we could literally scour the earth for *Begonias* over a 5 year period, and make a substantial effort to preserve our plants. Please think it over.

Beyond our commitment to *Begonia*, we share a responsibility for the fate of our planet. The next 25 years will witness one of the largest mass extinctions of organisms in the history of life on earth. The human race is entirely responsible for this recent mass extinction, which, unlike those of past geological epochs, is happening at such an accelerated rate that there is no precedent in the 4.5 billion years of evolutionary history. Yet we, the human race, supposedly represent the pinnacle of evolutionary success. This may well prove to be a mistaken supposition, since man's recent history of destroying his environment suggests that we may lack the necessary adaptive qualities to rank as a successful species. In terms of evolutionary longevity, the human race has much to achieve before it reaches the success of many species of dinosaur. Furthermore, with the environmental destruction presently taking place, what kind of world will our children, and their children, face? It is important to conduct botanical expeditions and collect *Begonias* because we are ultimately assisting in the preservation on planet earth, our home.

Acknowledgements

The American *Begonia* Society, many of its associated branches, and numerous individual members contributed to this expedition, as they have for many years. I extend my gratitude to all those people who continue to support these expeditions and appreciate their awareness of the problem we all face and their willingness to do something about it. The botanical exploration of northwestern Ecuador was supported by grants from the Missouri Botanical Garden and The Explorers Club.

Scott Hoover's address is 718 Henderson Rd., Williamstown, MA 01267.



VISIONS

by Walt Maurus

While I have always found Begonias interesting and admired specimen plants grown by others, I came into the plant hobby in retirement, so I've had a lot of catching up to do before I could contribute much to this magazine. But perhaps now I can offer some thoughts that might prove useful to other readers.

All of us who receive the **Begonian** are particularly responsive to the beautiful variations on the theme *Begoniaceae*. I believe that responsiveness to plants and their cultural challenges make us uniquely responsive to the colors and patterns of begonias. Or is it the other way around? Well, however that may be, the incredible variety of color, pattern, leaf shape, hirsuteness or the lack of it, would seem to make for endless delights with begonias. But we can always look for additional ways to enjoy them, right?

I suppose a lot of begonia hobbyists have used a magnifying glass to look at their begonia leaves. If so, they have enjoyed one of the hobby's unique experiences - to go where few have gone before! To look at your plants this way will assure that they will always be seen "in that new light" from then on.

Want to double your pleasure? Use two magnifying glasses. Prop up the first one so it magnifies the leaf well. Then use the second glass to enhance the first image. But to make these images breathtaking, use a strong flashlight, or other strong light, that can be focused closely on the leaf. Whereas with the naked eye we see only solid areas or patches of color, at this magnification we can begin to see populations of individual color cells. They are very tiny, but there they are. Reds, greens and silver iridescence are beautifully enhanced. Iridescence sparkles like the glitter of Christmas tree ornaments.

Move the light about to vary the image. That's fascinating! The more colorful and patterned the leaf, the more fun this is.

Finally, if you have a microscope, take looking at begonia leaves one step further. (If you don't have a microscope - get one, borrow one, or - ?) Set it at the lowest magnification (120x?). Place a small leaf or portion of leaf in place under the lens. Use the flashlight to illuminate the leaf and adjust the lens to the best image.

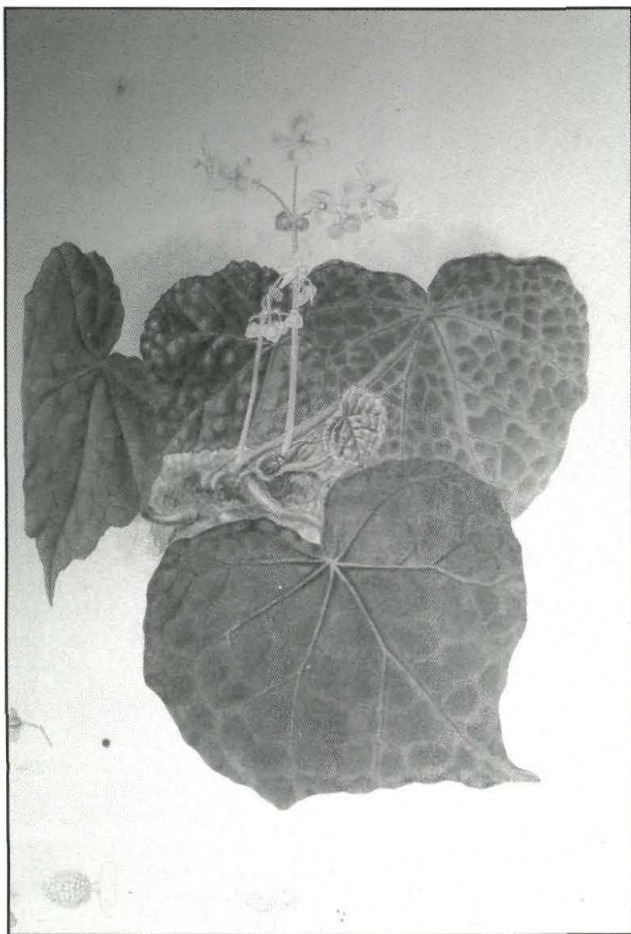
Color cells are seen like colored glass marbles, spherically shaped. Sparkle spots are interspersed between the color cells. If you haven't looked at begonias this way, please do. You have much to look forward to! B. 'Mini-Merry' is one that is delightful. Use leaves at their best color - not the newest and not the oldest leaves. Enjoy begonias in an extended way.

Multi-talented Walt Maurus is an artist and editor of the Gesneriad-Saintpaulia News. His address is P.O. Box 2247, Livonia, MI 48150.

For a fascinating look at begonias under microscopes, see page 57.



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BEGONIA RAJAH :

REFOUND!

by Ruth Kiew, PhD.

Mystery surrounds the origin of *Begonia rajah* Ridl. That it was grown in the Singapore Botanic Gardens where it flowered in 1892 is well known, and that it was sent from there to England where it won a First Class Certificate at the Royal Horticultural Society in 1894.

It was a much admired species. The Gardeners' Magazine (25 August 1894) described it as "one of the most distinct and handsome species introduced of late; its attractiveness is due to the shades of pale

buff-green, bronze-green and reddish-brown, which contrast so effectively in the different lights and shades that play upon the curiously undulated surface of the leaves."

It was still exhibited in the pitcher plant house in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in 1913, where "planted on a little arrangement of soil and stones, it has formed a large tuft of foliage and is a great attraction to visitors." *B. rajah* has since been lost from cultivation at both Kew and at Singapore.

Thompson (the **Begonian** Vol. 43, 1976, 68-69, 82) stated that "R. H. Ridley, a plant collector for the Singapore Botanic Gardens, discovered *B. rajah* in the Tringganu district of the Malay Peninsula." In fact, H. N. Ridley was director of the Gardens and is famous for introducing rubber into cultivation in Malaysia. However, although an energetic collector of plants (he wrote the five volume *Flora of the Malay Peninsula*), he did not collect *B. rajah*.

The type specimen notes it was collected by a native collector. Only the state, Tringganu (now spelt Trengganu) is given for the locality. There are no records of the circumstance under which it was collected or how the Botanic Gardens came to acquire it.

It looked a hopeless task to refind *B. rajah* in the wild until I came across two unnamed begonia specimens in the Herbarium at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Both came from the foothills of Mount Lawit in the north east of Trengganu. Fortunately, Mr. Dennis Yong, who had participated in a British Museum expedition to Mt. Lawit and knew the area, agreed to act as a guide.

At first prospects of finding the begonia seemed bleak, as the foothills have been heavily logged, causing many of the small



The author with wild population of *B. rajah*

streams where begonias usually grow to be blocked with silt. However, on the second day we located a shaded waterfall that cascaded into a round pool where the water disappeared under a mound of pebbles.

A wild specimen



The spray-dampened rock faces flanking the waterfall were covered with plants of *Begonia rajah*, their variegated leaves scintillating in the dappled light. The more deeply shaded their position, the more richly colored their leaves.

This was exciting indeed, not only to find a healthy population flourishing in the wild, but also to know that it had survived logging of the surrounding forest. However, *Begonia rajah* is not a widely distributed species, as we were not able to find it anywhere else in Trengganu.

Dr. Ruth Kiew is associated with the Biology Department at the Universiti Pertanian Malaysia in Selangor, and has been working on the taxonomy of Malaysian plants for twenty years. She is currently on sabbatical at the University of Cambridge Department of Botany.



B. U016: A SURPRISING TWIST

by Robert B. Hamm

When you have grown a plant for over two years, you tend to believe you know something about how it grows. After all, you have watched it through the changes of season, have propagated it, watched the youngsters develop, and grown it under different conditions.

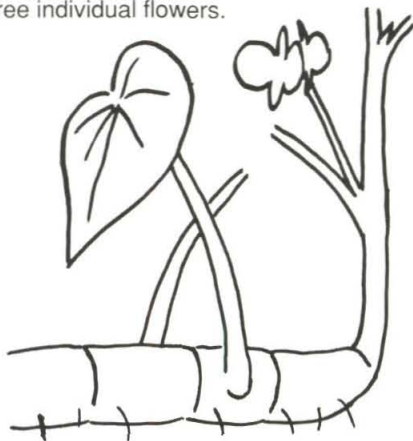
What do you say, then, when your plant suddenly does something completely unexpected? When it changes its pattern of growth so drastically that its classification changes? This is exactly what has happened to me with B. U016, and my reaction (after getting over the shock and surprise) is to write up the experience and share it with others who may grow this plant, hoping that they may have more information.

I had been growing B. U016 and considering it a regular rhizomatous begonia. It had a creeping rhizome with short internodes. The foliage was bright green with a red edge to the leaf, and pink petioles. Leaf size was up to 6" in length, and about 4 1/2" wide. The leaves had 6 to 7 prominent, slightly raised veins. Growth was compact and sturdy.

I had grown B. U016 indoor under lights, and outdoors in part shade in the summer. Last winter it had done well on my patio with lower light levels and temperatures as low as 38 degrees. I considered it a sturdy and pretty plant, even though it had never bloomed for me.

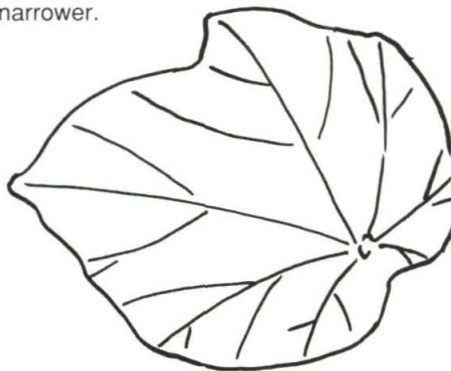
Then this past summer, starting in July, I noticed the rhizomes had stopped growing and what looked like young bloom spikes were growing from the terminal tips of the rhizomes. However, as they grew I realized that the rhizomes had started to send up UPRIGHT stems with leaves and large pink flowers (1 1/4" x 1 1/8"). The flowers were

white in lower light. The flowers are borne on 2 1/4" to 2 3/4" peduncles that originate in the leaf axil and branch at the tip to hold two or three individual flowers.



B. U016, with upright stem rising from rhizome

The upright stems are much thinner than the rhizomes (1/4" diameter compared to 1/2" to 3/4" for the rhizomes), and have longer internodes (up to 2 1/2" compared to the 1/2" or less for the rhizome). Alternating leaves with flower stems from the leaf axil go up the stems. The tallest stems have reached 7", blooming as they grow. The leaves on the upright stems are smaller and narrower.

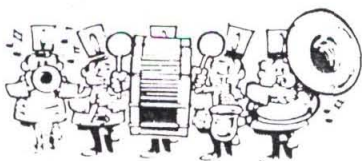


Leaf trace, with vein pattern

Now I am starting to believe the upright stems may be seasonal and temporary. Why? First, because the rhizome, which had stopped growing, has branched heavily behind the terminal uprights and is growing with normal rhizomes again. Second, because blooming has stopped, and the tips of the uprights have suddenly gone from long internodes and smooth rounded stems to the short internodes and small young root growth from the bottom of rhizomes! If I had to guess, I would suggest that in the wild, the uprights will abscise or fall over and these small rhizomes at the tips of the uprights will root and grow. This would be an adaptation not unlike the bulbil formations on some tuberous species. Both would aid propagation when conditions were poor for seed production.

So we have a unique plant with unique growth development that seems unlike any begonia I can think of. What will it do over the next year? I am eager to find out. Meanwhile, perhaps someone can give some thought to classifying it. The uprights would indicate it should go in "Rhizomatous, branched at or below soil level with erect stems." But if the uprights are just seasonal bloom stems, does this really hold true? While classification for shows is debated, I will wait and watch to see what other surprises this pretty plant has in store.

Robert Hamm lives at 10065 River Mist Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670, and he would like to hear from others growing the intriguing B. U016.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Janet Welsh and Maxine Zinman have advanced to Senior Judge.

COMING EVENTS

March 4-12: New York Flower Show at Pie 92. Knickerbocker Branch will have an exhibit.

March 4-12: New England Flower Show Buxton Branch will have display, and commercial booth with begonias for sale. Contact Frank Green at (508) 342-6537 for more information.

April 13-17: San Francisco Branch will have a display at the San Francisco Landscape Show at Fort Mason.

April 23-24: "Begonia Heritage," Barkle Branch 10th annual show and sale, at the Will Rogers Garden Center Exhibition Center, 3400 N.W. 36th St., Oklahoma City, OK. Open to the public Saturday, 2-5 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. with no charge for admission. Contact chair Archie Butler, 143 N.W. 35th, Oklahoma City, OK 73118 for more information.

May 5-7: Southwest Region Get-Together "Begonia Trails," at the Harvey Hotel Addison, Dallas, TX. Contact chairman Do Miller, 1005 Mt. Auburn, Dallas, TX 75223, you'd like to receive a packet.

May 12-14: Pinellas County and Tampa Bay Area are combining their efforts in a show "Begonias by the Bay," to be held at the Gateway Mall, 7885 9th St. North, St. Petersburg, FL. Hours are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. May 12 and 13, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday May 13. This will be their first show, and a ABS members are invited to attend.

May 13-14: Jacksonville Branch annual Show and Sale, at Roosevelt Mall, Roosevelt Blvd. at San Juan Ave., Jacksonville, FL. Show open during mall shopping hours.

August 3-6: ABS National Convention San Francisco, CA

BEGONIA LUXURIANS

and the Formation of Compound Leaves

by Tracy McLellan, PhD

Compound leaves have numerous separate leaflets, like palms and some ferns. Of the approximately 1,000 species in the genus *Begonia*, only a handful have compound leaves. *B. carolineifolia* and *B. thiemei* (syn. *B. maddougalli*) from Central America and Mexico, have horizontal rhizomatous stems and large leaves with a few broad leaflets. The leaves of *B. hemsleyana*, from China, are similar, but the stems have the rhizome jointed at or below the soil, as is typical in the Asian section *Platycentrum*. A shrub-like plant from the Philippines, which we grow as *B. incisa*, also has compound leaves, in which each of the leaflets is deeply incised.

The fourth group with compound leaves comes from Brazil, and includes five species of shrub-like plants with large leaves: *Begonias luxurians*, *digitata*, *semidigitata*, *incisoserrata*, and *pentaphylla*. They differ from each other in the amount of incision between the leaflets, the numbers and size of flowers, and the surface of the petioles. *B. luxurians* can get very large, and the leaves get larger and have more leaflets as the plants increase in size.

When grown from seed, each of these species produces first a pair of small, round cotyledons, and then a small, oval leaf with no indentations on the margin. As the seedlings grow, the leaves become more and more deeply incised, until truly compound leaves are produced, somewhere between the fifth and the tenth node.

Given that the series of seedling leaves at first resemble other species of *Begonia* with entire leaves, it is interesting to ask the question: how do the compound leaves on large plants form? Do they at first resemble

entire leaves, the leaflets becoming separate later, or do the leaflets appear separately very early in leaf growth?

The leaves of *Begonia* grow inside several layers of stipules, and are about 0.1 millimeters long when they start to form. In order to look at them, it is necessary to use some sort of magnification. The scanning electron microscope allows looking at tiny objects in three dimensions with good depth of focus.

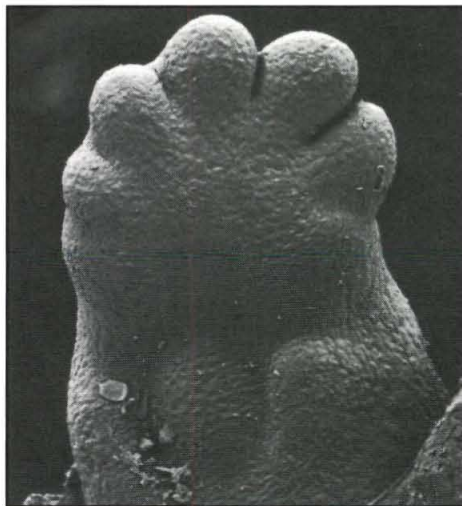


Fig. 1: leaf of *B. luxurians*, 0.3 mm.

The scanning electron micrographs of tiny leaves show that as soon as the leaf starts to form, there are several small knobs around the top margin, which will soon become the leaflets. The first leaf is 0.3 mm long (about one one-hundredth of an inch). At either side of its base are small protrusions that will become the stipules surrounding the next leaf. In the middle of the base is a small dome, the apical meristem, from which all future leaves and flowers will eventually come.

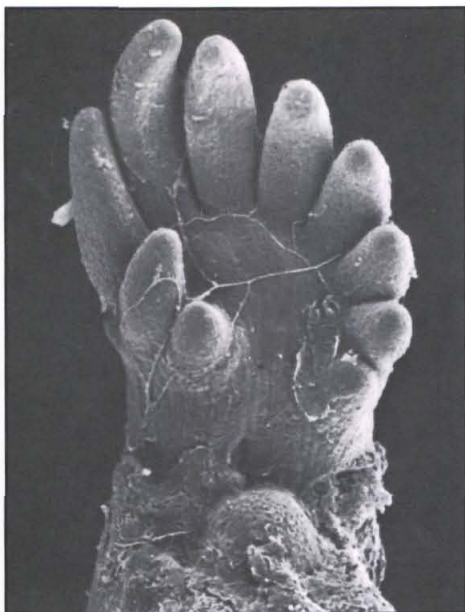


Fig. 2: *B. luxurians* leaf, 0.6 mm.

The second picture shows a leaf twice the size of the first. There are many more leaflets, which have been added on from the bottom. The next smallest leaf is present as a bulge at the base of this leaf, and the petiole is just starting to grow between the leaves. The stem, or internode, will be the last piece to form. (The fine white threads cutting across the leaf are probably bits of waxy cuticle which have been dislodged in the processing of the specimens for examination in the electron microscope.)

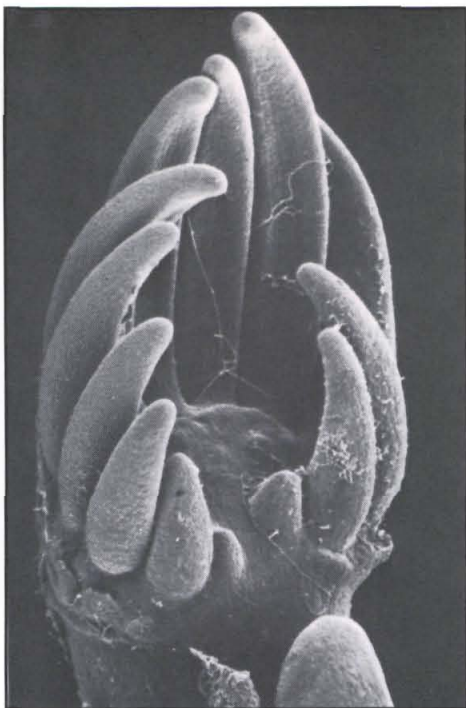


Fig. 3: *B. luxurians* leaf, 1.0 mm.

By the time the leaf is one millimeter long, it can easily be recognized as a leaf of *B. luxurians*, with numerous slender leaflets tightly clustered together, nearly forming a circle around the center of the leaf. This center area looks a little lumpy, and will produce, as seen in the fourth micrograph,

ABS COLOR FUND CONTRIBUTORS

*The Members at Large Committee started the Color Fund to raise money for publishing more color pictures in the **Begonian**. Contributions may be made to: ABS - Color Fund, c/o Thelma O'Reilly, 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 92041. Thanks to your contributions, the fund stands at \$791.25.*

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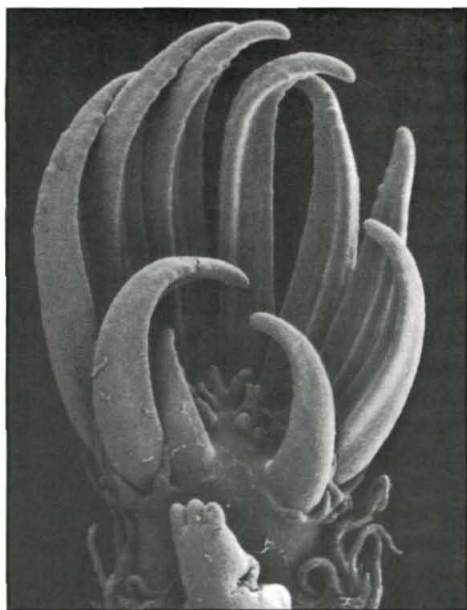


Fig. 4: *B. luxurians* leaf, 1.7 mm.

a bunch of small leaflets of irregular shape. At the base of this leaf, it is possible to see the next leaf, at about the same stage as that in the first micrograph. There are also some twisted hairs in between the bases of the leaflets and surrounding the base of the leaf.

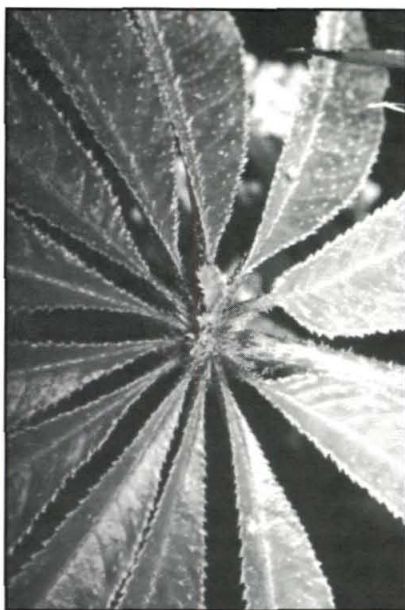


Fig. 5: Fully grown leaves of *B. luxurians*

The small leaflets are present in fully grown leaves as a small group at the point where the leaf joins the petiole.

The compound leaves of *B. luxurians* start out very early with their separate leaflets, and so are very different from the series of leaves produced by seedlings. It will be interesting to find out if the compound leaves in other *Begonia* species form in the same way.

Dr. Tracy McLellan is doing research on leaf development in Begonia species. Her address is Department of Biological Sciences, University of California at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106.



TIPS FOR BEGONIA BEGINNERS

by Dorothy Patrick

Winter is on a downhill slide, and I hope your begonias are hanging in there, whether in a greenhouse or your window. Here are just a few tips for this, an in-between-season for most of the country:

1. If you have begonias growing in a cool to cold location, be careful, still, not to overwater them. Give no fertilizer yet, either; wait for warmer weather.
2. In a very cool location some begonias may have gone semi-dormant, or even dormant, losing some or all leaves. Or maybe the plant just sits there, doing nothing. Don't toss it out! Water it very sparingly, only occasionally. Give it a chance. I've had a lot of seemingly dead plants come back from the roots.
3. If your rhizomatous begonias have bloomed, be sure to keep fallen petals off of the foliage. Take off the spent blossoms, and their stems.
4. Look carefully at your begonia leaves (both top and undersides), leaf axils, and stems. If you see round, white, powdery

areas, they could be mildew. Your nurseryman can recommend a fungicide. Follow the directions carefully, and isolate the plant. Look, also, for small blobs of milk-white, sticky material, which may be mealy bugs. Small amounts of mealy bugs can be removed by applying rubbing alcohol on a Q-tip. If they persist or spread, consult your nurseryman about an insecticide (be sure to tell him that it will be used on begonias). The same advice holds for scale, which appears to be a small, hard lump (usually brown).

5. Regardless of where you are growing your begonias, beware of heat build-up from the sun as the days grow longer. This can happen even on a cold day.

And remember, Spring in all its glory is just around the corner! And that makes it all worthwhile.

Dorothy Patrick, Convention Chairman for ABS in 1984 and a frequent blue-ribbon winner, lives in a warm climate along the Texas coast. Her address is P.O. Box 2515, South Padre Island, TX 78597.



NATIONAL CONVENTION: PLANT SALE

This year we are appealing to branches, growers, and members-at-large for plant donations for the National Convention in San Francisco, August 3rd through 6th.

Please let me know the approximate number of plant donations you can bring.

Donors' names will be published in the **Begonian**.

Thank you!

Joan Coulat,

Plant Sale Chairman

4111 De Paul Court

Sacramento, CA 95821

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OUR EUROPEAN VISITORS

by Dorothy Patrick

MEET ARNAUD MAURIERES:

On Wednesday night, Sept. 14, 1988, I was thrilled to encounter Martha Curry, also from Texas, at Logan Airport in Boston. We had arrived on different airlines, but very near the same time. Martha's luggage was misplaced, so we visited as we awaited her luggage and discussed possible transportation to the hotel for the beginning of the ABS National Convention. A handsome young man approached us and asked, in perfect English but with an oh! so beautiful French accent, if we were here for begonias. So, as fate would have it, we two Texans were the welcoming committee for Arnaud Maurieres, who was there to attend the convention. It was a pleasure to observe him mixing and making friends, as he absorbed all the wonderful goings-on at the convention.

I pinned him down as we drove to Connecticut on the last day to visit Logee's Greenhouses, and I'd like to tell you about him.

Arnaud is a member of the American Begonia Society. This was his second visit to the U.S. Eight years ago, when he had reached the ripe old age of 18, he had traveled to West Palm Beach, Florida, to pursue an interest in orchids. He told me that he had been interested in plants since he was a young child. He has lived for the past several years in southwest France, close to the border of Spain, in the Pyrenees Mountains. The village where he lives is very small, with only about 80 residents. In this location he and his partner have a nursery. His partner is a landscape designer whose special interest is a large collection of aquatic plants. Arnaud's field of study was plant biochemistry, and, of course, his specialty is begonias. Their mail order business is the only begonia nursery in France!

He told me that up until a few years ago, begonias were not a popular house plant in France. They were thought to be "old-fash-

ioned." But a man (and I didn't obtain the spelling of his name, so for this story he is Mr. M.) with a nursery of many different houseplants started a begonia collection. He heard of the begonia collection of Mr. Chevalier who had been the curator of the Botanica Gardens of Liege, Belgium. Mr. Chevalier had died in the 1950's, but the collection was still in Liege. Mr. M went there, and was given all of the Chevalier collection. Mr. M. came back to France and started selling begonias. At this time Arnaud and a friend opened a shop for rare plants in Coulouse, France. He purchased begonias from Mr. M, and became interested in them.

At the same time the city officials of Rothesort, France, which had once been a popular resort, were seeking ways to re-establish a resort status. Since this city was the birthplace of Michael Begon, for whom begonias are named, it was decided to open a begonia museum as a drawing card. They approached Mr. M., who let them have one or two plants of every begonia in the Chevalier collection. Mr. M. was now 72, and wanted to retire; he sold the remainder of the collection, along with his list of mail order customers, to Arnaud. Arnaud and his partner moved to the Pyrenees, and opened a mail order business. Times were difficult, for they had little money and needed greenhouse and all of the other supplies. But, to put it in Arnaud's words: "This was a great event. Chevalier's collection, the Rothesort Begonia Museum, and our mail-order business. Magazines and horticultural societies in France gave all this much publicity, and this gave Arnaud the boost he needed. He now has between three and four thousand mail order customers.

In March, 1988, the French Begonia Society was started. They have an annual meeting and exhibit, and a newsletter. Their first newsletter has gone out, with an article re-printed from our **Begonian**. (The article was Dorothy Patrick's, on Pinching and Pruning - Ed). Their initial exhibition was in Paris in May, in the largest greenhouse in the city. Once again, in Arnaud's words: "It was interesting to see how you exhibit begonia

at your show. We do not do this. We do it more as designers, not as growers. We made a large rain forest in the greenhouse, using many trees, and included begonias as part of it - with music in the background. I wish ABS members could come and see our exhibit." (What a lure to visit Paris!)

Arnaud told me that they have a very good climate for begonias, with fairly mild, uniform temperatures both summer and winter. He said that because of this climate they can grow every variety of begonia. As yet he has not tried growing begonias from seed, but that is a project for the near future. Other plants grown in his greenhouse are fuchsias, pelargoniums, gesneriads (although not the wide variety available in the U.S.), and plants obtained from the nearby Atlantic and Mediterranean islands, where the flora is very interesting.

Your story, Arnaud, is like something from the Arabian Nights! All of us wish for you the very best, as you attempt to stimulate an interest in begonias in all of your countrymen.

I will end this with Arnaud's words: "I really want to thank all the ABS members I met in Boston for their friendship. I had a wonderful time and I hope you can come to visit us in our beautiful country of France, and see our begonia exhibit and our Botanical Gardens."

MEET JULIA BROADHURST:

Julia is from the village of Tickenham, England, about 110 miles west of London's airport. She is an absolutely delightful lady, with a great zest for life and a fine sense of humor. Just being in her company was a pleasure. We might classify her as a "senior citizen," but she remarked that it really ruffles her when people treat her like an invalid because she has grey hair! This is her third trip to the U.S. She and her late husband toured the east coast and went up into Canada in 1979, and they enjoyed it so much that six months later they returned and toured the west coast.

Julia has been growing begonias for years, but not seriously until she saw some in

an English botanical garden. This inspired her to join ABS in January, 1986. She had the idea that just joining would make begonia plants magically accessible! But she lost heart at all of the obstacles, and the expense, involved with ordering plants from the U.S. Not defeated, she turned to ordering begonia seeds from the ABS Seed Fund. She orders from every issue of the **Begonian**, and she states that she takes care not to sneeze when putting them down! They have done well, and she now has many begonias growing and blooming.

In her part of England, summer temperatures, with luck, might reach 80 degrees, and begonias can be grown outdoors. In the winter they must be brought in, although Julia told me she has semps up in the garden that were left in the ground over last winter, which was mild. She feared that the cold climate of England would not be good for begonias, but she has persevered, and coming to the convention spurred her on.

A conservatory across the back of her home is where her begonias and other tropical plants go in the winter, or in a cold summer. Since it is part of her house, she has greater access to it at any time of day or night. She heats with electric heaters, and tries to keep the temperature at about 60 degrees.

In the conservatory she has three large propagating trays covered with plastic, with heating cables, which she uses for germination of seed and for seedlings. Sometimes the summers are so cool that she keeps the heating cables plugged in year round. Also, she has found that moving the trays into her living room under a fluorescent light fixture gives her the best results in the winter. Rexes have thus far defeated her, for once she takes them out of the propagation trays she loses them.

Growing from seed has always been a joy to her, long before she became serious about begonias. She stated that this gives her an almost God-like feeling. She puts her seeds down in a peat-based soilless mix, and when the seedlings are large enough she switches to John Innes Compost. She

also has fish tanks which she uses for leaf propagation, and she never tires of the miracle of the tiny plant that comes from a leaf. Depending on the temperatures in summer, her seedlings and rooted cuttings go into the conservatory or into sheltered areas of her yard. She remarked that begonias summered outside develop a "rugged" look, whereas those grown in the conservatory are more lush.

Julia has 1/2 acre of land, with many flower beds. She told me emphatically that she cares nothing for formal, precision-planted gardens. She grows many plants besides begonias, and said that gardening is her real life.

This energetic lady had been seen running around the hotel, and on the outings, snapping pictures as fast as possible. She said her son had given her the camera for Christmas so that she could "capture" her plants. I tried to influence her to join the Photography Robin, and found out that she already belongs to 5 Robins! She said if she didn't stop joining Robins she wouldn't have time to grow plants.

Listening to the tape of my talk with Julia and hearing her lovely, cultured voice has had two effects on me. One is that I go around chanting repeatedly: "The rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain!" The other is to wonder if, in my future, I might arrange a trip to Tickenham, England, for a visit to this lady who is undaunted by obstacles.

Courtesy of the MAL newsletter #13, we have a few words from Julia Broadhurst herself on her view of the ABS convention in Boston. See page 64.



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Book Review:



Phyllis Bates reviews

The Mail Order Gardener

by Hal Morgan

Harper and Row, New York

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Specialists in any plant field soon develop a list of sources for their growing needs. But if you want something from another specialty or if you are not able to consult with other growers, it is great to have a list to pore over, and the addresses and phone numbers to take action. There are numerous old drawings and woodcuts to illustrate the groupings.

This book contains list after list of a sorts of horticultural needs from alpine to vegetables and gardening supplies, books, organizations and publications. These various categories are great fun to consider. I tried thinking of things growers might want such as a source for old books (it's there), gifts for gardeners, plant labels, even horticultural tours. It seems as if there is just about everything but fish for the garden pond.

ABS members should be familiar with most of the entries under "Begonias," but there may be a nursery new to you. The usefulness of this book will surely depend upon where you live and the variety of thing you grow. Stop by your neighborhood bookstore to take a peek!

Phyllis Bates, who with husband Ed won the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award in 1983, is past editor of the **Begonian**. Her address is P.O. Box 502, Encinitas, CA 92024.



Convention Visit

by Julia Broadhurst

As our 747 aircraft landed at Logan International Airport on Tuesday, September 13th, I was excited and eager to take part in my very first Begonia Convention. I would find out for myself, perhaps, what it was that attracted begonia lovers from every little corner of America and indeed from other countries as well, to come together like this. Above all, I wanted to see those superb, well grown plants at the show. Since joining the Society in January, 1986, I had made many Robin friends and I wanted to meet them, face to face.

Well, I don't know which was the most exciting, recognizing members (the famous ones) from their pictures I had already seen in the **Begonian**, or identifying members just by reading their names on their badges, or members identifying me by my badge, or indeed being introduced in the usual way. Of course, meeting once again the people I had already met in England was a great pleasure.

On Friday, the flower show was open at last, for all to see. Those interesting seminars had delayed that moment I had been waiting for and we had to be ready by 6 p.m. for the New England Clambake. *Begonia schaffii* was there, a large, well-shaped specimen with its flowers that I knew so well, as it was my first begonia. *B. versicolor*, which I am hoping to grow from seed, was superb and I would like mine to grow just like that beauty on display. *B. 'Cherry Blossom'* was new to me. *B. 'Sweet Magic'*, *B. crassicaulis*, *B. 'Irene Nuss'*, and the lovely *B. 'Ginny'* were all there, also many rhizomatous begonias. I photographed some well grown seedlings, from 6 months to 1 year old, including *B. chlorosticta*. A man of 6' was standing under the branches of *B. 'Lucerna'*, looking like a dwarf! I had always wanted my *B. 'Lucerna'* to perform like this one but now I'm not so sure. I also have a photograph of a lovely begonia (unknown to me) with bright red stems and petioles and smooth, asymmetrical green leaves; I still don't know what it is. I would have liked far more time to

wander around, reading the labels and getting familiar with all the plants.

At the seminars, the lecturers seemed happy and willing to continue lecturing all through the day, and were eager to impart as much information as they possibly could in the all-too-short time allotted to them. I am hoping to read more on the valuable research being done at Montreal Botanic Gardens, on the Ecuadorian rain forest exploration, and about growing begonias in Alaska.

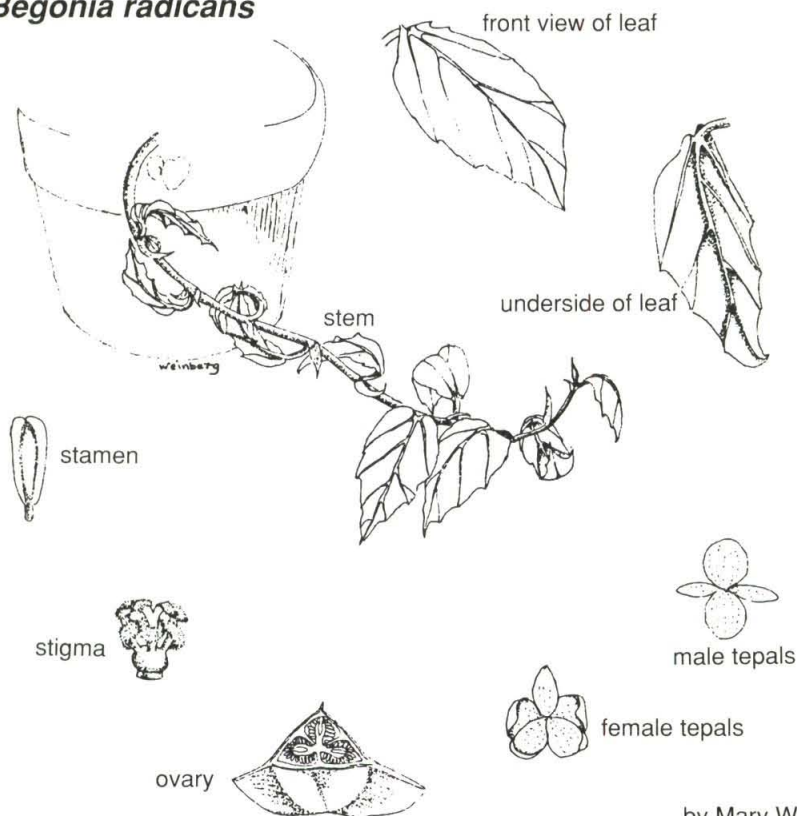
At Logee's Greenhouses we were welcomed, fed, and allowed to wander at will through the extensive greenhouses. The lovely orange bougainvillea was in full bloom and so nicely trained on its wire structure. The colorful *Acalypha hispida*, the gorgeous *Mussaenda erythrophylla*, and so many other beautiful plants all caught my admiring eyes. Hundreds of people seemed to be selecting begonias. These friendly and dedicated nursery people coped brilliantly with this invasion from Boston, on that quiet Sunday afternoon. My begonia cuttings were packed for the journey home with such expertise and care and in record time, just minutes before the bus left. *B. 'Posy Wahl'*, *B. 'Margaritacea'*, and *B. 'Looking Glass'*, to mention just three, are all doing well. It was a great moment for me when I was able to acquire these lovely cuttings.

This Convention was like a family gathering. The members, unlike me, had done it all before, liked it, and had come back for more of the same. In Boston, a unique and beautiful city, at a wonderful hotel with such excellent cuisine, including a Robin breakfast, an old world banquet, and a working annual business meeting and lunch, and of course a well conducted MAL meeting in such friendly company, I had myself discovered the secrets of a convention's fatal attraction. The lady at the hotel desk who remarked, "This lady, Julia Broadhurst, has come all the way from England, just to see a begonia," has yet to learn these secrets.

Julia Broadhurst's address is Edgemoor 92 Clevedon Road, Tickenham, Avon, BS21 6RE, England. We'll hope to see her in San Francisco!

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Begonia radicans



by Mary Weinberg

B. radicans Vellozo was discovered in Brazil in 1831, and described in the Archives of the National Museum in Rio de Janeiro, 1881. Prior to 1984 it was known here as *B. procumbens*, and earlier by a staggering variety of names, some of which I will mention here because books on begonias still refer to the earlier names: *B. limminghei*, *B. limmingheana* Morre., *B. fritz-mulleri* Brade, *B. glaucophylla*. The earliest known name was Sandersii, but it did not take precedence over a later given name because it was not published with illustrations and descriptions.

B. radicans is in section *Solananthera* and has 56 chromosomes. It is trailing-scan-dent, having slender red creeping stems. Leaves are elliptical, alternate on stems, apple green in color but turning slightly

darker with age, glabrous, shiny, crisp and rippled; the undersides are blushed light red with raised venation. Flowers hang in pendulous clusters. Male flowers with four tepals appear first, followed by female flowers with five tepals as clusters age. Ovaries have red-orange wings fading into pearl-white over the seed area. Blossoms are described variously as being salmon-pink, coral red, to near orange in color, and having white edges. Blooms appear in late winter to spring, and can be profuse; but *B. radicans* can also be a shy bloomer.

More recent collectors of begonias found *B. radicans* in the southern part of Brazil in the Mantiqueira Mountains at an altitude of 2300 feet on the boundary of the states of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. Ric

de Janeiro has an average temperature of 80 degrees in the warmest month and 71 degrees in the coldest; in the mountains temperatures are several degrees lower, and frosts occur every winter. The climate of Brazil contains no extremes of temperature and rainfall is moderate, between 40 and 60 inches annually.

B. radicans was given to me as a cutting at a branch meeting. As I have done with several of the trailing-scandent begonias, I pinned the stems down in a pot of mix by twining them around in circles and using bent wires to hold them in place. As a growing medium I used chopped sphagnum moss, perlite, and Jiffy Mix in about equal portions, and I placed a plastic bag over the top; this last helped to keep the medium moist at all times. In a very short time the cuttings rooted and sent up shoots from each node. I now have a full pot of crispy long stems hanging over the edges of the pot. Leaves are quite tiny at first, but as the stems lengthen the leaves get larger. Kingsley Langenberg states that the more humidity given this begonia the larger its leaves become. I have read that stems will grow to six feet in length if allowed, and the leaves will attain a size of 4 1/2 inches.

CULTURE

Light: *B. radicans* likes bright light dappled with shade during the summer months. It can take a few hours of morning or late afternoon sun during the winter months.

Temperature: Keep *B. radicans* on the warm side. If kept too cool during the winter months it will tend to drop its leaves.

Water: Growing medium should be kept evenly moist (not wet) at all times.

Growing Medium: Use a mix that will retain some moisture, but still have good drainage.

Propagation: *B. radicans* is known as a root climber, rooting readily from nodes. New

shoots will start readily when put down on a growing medium. It does not start well in water or liquid solutions.

Pinching and Pruning: Cut back the stems in winter, as tops of runners may die back. Pinch to promote bushy growth.

This article first appeared in The Chicago Begonian of December, 1985, and is reprinted with the author's permission.

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



IN THE NEWS

The December, 1988 issue of The Explorers Journal featured an article by Scott Hoover on his expedition to Ecuador. ABS was mentioned as one of the sponsors of his trip, along with The Explorers Club and the Missouri Botanic Garden.

Begonias were featured on the cover of the January issue of Gardens and More, with an article inside by horticulturist Neil Sperry on rexes and rhizomatous begonias, denoted as the "fancy-leaved begonias." An article on Cane-like begonias is to follow.

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(\$14 Canada & Mexico,

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P.O. Box, 485, Berkeley, CA 94701

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

March-April, 1989

Diana H. Gould, Seed Fund Director

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

COSTS:

All packets of species seed are \$1.00 each, and all packets of hybrid seed are 50 cents each, and a pamphlet on growing begonias from seed is 25 cents.

All orders must be accompanied by check or money order payable ONLY in US funds, and made payable to the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund.

The cost of mailing to the US, Mexico, or Canada is: 1-12 packets, 45 cents; 13-24 packets, 60 cents; 24-36 packets, \$1.05.

Foreign mailing costs are: 1-12 packets of seeds, \$1.20; 13-24 packets of seeds, \$2.00; and 13-24 packets of seeds, \$3.00.

Two sets of planter dishes with free instructions in one mailer costs 62 cents. The cost of mailing 2 sets of planter dishes and 1 to 12 packets of seeds in one mailer is 75 cents, whereas the cost of mailing 2 sets of planter dishes and 13 to 24 packets of seeds in one mailer is 92 cents. The cost of mailing 2 sets of planter dishes and 25-36 packets of seeds in one mailer is \$1.27.

CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS PLEASE ADD 6 1/2 % SALES TAX TO ALL ORDERS.

INVENTORY LIST AVAILABLE:

The Seed Fund has an Inventory list available for sale at a cost of \$3.25. The Inventory will be updated for 'SOLD-OUTS' prior to each mailing. However, please realize that no inventory can be 100% accurate at all times when it is mailed out. WHEN ORDERING THE INVENTORY ONLY, PLEASE SEND \$3.25. WHEN ORDERING THE INVENTORY WITH A SEED ORDER, JUST INCLUDE THE \$3.00 FOR THE INVENTORY TOGETHER WITH THE COST OF YOUR SEED ORDER.

ORDER BY NAME:

Please do not use the old numbering system when ordering seeds, because I am not using that numerical system any more, and you could receive seeds that you do not want. Therefore, please order all seed by its published name and not by number. I interpret at YOUR expense only and NOT at the Seed Fund's. THANK YOU.

SOLD OUT:

The Seed Fund still has available LIMITED QUANTITIES of all of the 1988 selections EXCEPT FOR: *Begonias micranthera* var. *venturii*, *fuchsioides*, *gehortii*, *megaphylla*, U188, U218, *echinosepala*, *pearcei*, *macrocarpa*, and the selections previously published in the Jan-Feb issue as sold-out.

DONATIONS SOUGHT:

The Seed Fund is still soliciting donations of tested seed. See the Jan-Feb issue for guidelines. Requests have been received for seed of the following begonias: *acetosa*, *attenuata*, *chlorosticta*, *convolvulacea*, *dichroa*, *echinosepala*, *ficicola*, *fuchsioides*, *gehortii*, *goegoensis*, *hatacoa* 'Silver,' and 'Spotted,' *hemsleyana*, *Hillebrandia*, *incisa*, 'Santa Barbara,' *undulata*, *versicolor*, *lyman-smithii*, *macduffiana*, *oaxacana*, *paulensis*, *pearcei*, *rajah*, *rhopalocarpa*. Members who have these or any viable seed are urged to contact the Seed Fund Director. Thank you.

GERMINATION TIMES:

Germination times on this month's selections have a variable of 9 to 51 days depending on water, light, temperature, mix used, etc. Please remember that very little information is available on most of the U# species, and that member-supplied information, based upon growing experiences, is so very important to all of us. One photo of your plant can easily be worth one thousand of my words! **Please share!**

NOTES ON SEEDS LISTED:

B. U007 is a cane that is native to Lucban in the Philippines, and was first offered in M-J '87. When grown as a tree, it can reach a height of 10 feet. Amazing as that may seem, it can also be grown as a wall-pocket provided it is properly pinched and pruned. It has smooth, fairly thick, bright-green leaves, and is everblooming with huge clusters of bright-pink flowers.

B. U008 was first offered in J-F '87. It is small and round with hairy leaves and flowers, shrub-like in appearance. Most interesting of all is that all parts, including blooms, will turn rose-colored when grown in good, strong light.

B. U014 is shrub-like and native to Ecuador. It has long, ovate, grass-green leaves that can measure 4"-5" in length. This plant blooms most of the year and has large orange-red flowers with orange-red bracts covering the ovaries. It is very mildew resistant.**

B. U060 appears to be native to both Costa Rica and Peru, and is not, as yet, classified. B. U106 is a rhizomatous plant collected along the highway from Panama City to Colon. B. U134 is native to Columbia, grows at 5800', and may be a form of *B. incarnata*. Please share your growing experiences of these plants. Your photos will be more than appreciated, they are NEEDED by all of us.

B. U095/U186 may possibly be classified as thick-stemmed. It has thick, glossy-green ovate leaves with no hairs. The underside of the leaves is a lighter green, and it has a very distinct reddish purple spot at the petiole. The white flowers are profuse and stunning!

B. U115 is trailing, and it was collected along the trail from El Valle to La Mesa, Panama. The red-backed leaves, red stems, red petioles, and reddish-pink flowers of this species are quite similar to *B. multinervia*. Seeds were first offered in J-A '86. Do you have a

mature plant? The Seed Fund will be delighted to publish a photo.

B. U154, U155, U156, U161, and U1267 are some additional rhizomatous and trailing species collected around Panama. B. U155, U156, and U161 were offered in J-F '86, and, again, the Seed Fund is looking for photos of mature plants. B. U167 has leaves similar to *B. glabra* (which is also offered this month), and it has reddish-pink flowers with red stems and petioles. It should be quite interesting to grow both plants side by side (photos welcome).

B. U172 is a rhizomatous species collected in Trinidad. It has a 4" to 5" cleft leaf with brown felt on the back and on the petiole, and white flowers in winter. This one is truly a show stopper!

Begonias U194, U195, U196, U197, U198, U199, U202, U203, and U204 have not been offered since the M-J '86 issue. U197 and U204 are trailing, U199 is shrub-like, and the others are rhizomatous. These nine species have all been field-collected in Panama at elevations that range from 2800' to 6000.'

B. glabra is trailing, native to Costa Rica, yet commonly found throughout Central America because it is such an easy grower. It has profuse white flowers in spring.

B. rex cultorum seeds were donated by a member who is known for her spectacular California rexes. Thank you!

B. 'Pink Perfecta,' a hybrid cane, open-pollinated (possibly by *B. maculata*) was generously donated by Annette Boree (NY). Thank you!

Just received from Europe:

B. 'Experimental Salmon Orange,' *B. davisii* F:1 triploid, semi-double, very free blooming, early to bloom, uniform, for pots and bedding.

B. 'Imperial Orange,' B. tuberhybrida F:1, the largest of full double tuberous begonias for pots and bedding, also 100% uniform.

Giant Asplenium Nidus, "Bird's Nest Fern," will be a free gift to all members who order 30 seed packets.



CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

Species Seed
\$1.00 per packet

B. U007
B. U008
B. U014**
B. U060
B. U095/U186
B. U106
B. U115
B. U134
B. U154
B. U155
B. U156
B. U157
B. U161
B. U167
B. U172
B. U194
B. U195
B. U196
B. U197
B. U198
B. U 199
B. U202
B. U 203
B. U204
B. glabra

Hybrid Seed
(50 cents per packet)

B. rex cultorum
B. 'Pink Perfecta'
B. 'Experimental Salmon Orange'
B. 'Imperial Orange'

**very limited supply

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 AND PLANTS

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

BEGONIAS, GESNERIADS, PEPEROMIAS, RARE PLANTS for indoors and out. Informative newsletter 4 times a year. New plants with each issue! Subscription (1 year): \$3 (Canada \$4, Overseas \$6) 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 (165 in color). Culture, classification, and history. \$20.00 to ABS members. To order autographed copies write: THE THOMPSONS, P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, NY 11968. **BEGONIAS: 1984 UPDATE** \$6.75. Prices include shipping. Master Card and Visa available. Foreign orders \$5 additional for shipping via Surface Mail.

SOUTHWEST REGION, ABS: Annual Get-Together, show, sale; monthly newsletter. Membership \$7, family \$10. Send to Marie Harrell, Rt. 3, Box 689, Elgin, TX 78621.

"BEGONIAS GALORE" Cuttings and Plants. Please send \$1 for list. P.O. Box 5073, Gainesville, FL 32602. CA 95437.

CONSERVATION NEWS

by Martin Johnson

Almost every day we read in the news about disasters affecting the rainforests, their indigenous people, and all their flora and fauna. The World Wildlife Fund estimates 54 acres of tropical rain forest are wiped out every minute, and most scientific estimates conclude that if destruction continues at its present pace the rainforests will *be completely destroyed in twenty years.*

A large part of the destruction is caused by commercial logging. Logged over forests are not good hunting grounds for begonias or for adding to our knowledge of biology. It has become a matter of urgency to study the remaining undisturbed areas in their natural state. If we don't rescue the begonias now they will be lost forever.

The Santa Clara Valley Branch is using the monthly sale to raise money for the Conservation Fund. Evelyn Morrie and her daughter Judy Wallach are spearheading the project. Judy is using her creative talents to make ceramics that are donated for the sale table. Unusual and rare begonias will be donated as they become available.

Final estimates for Scott Hoover's proposed Malaysian expedition are being prepared. It appears that this will be the most costly of all expeditions that our Society has financed. Perhaps your branch and the Members at Large will follow the lead of the Santa Clara Valley Branch and help ABS save begonias wherever they may be. Your suggestions for fundraising ideas will be most welcome.

Conservation Co-Chair Martin Johnson's address is 959 Glennan Dr., Redwood City, CA 94061.

AT LAST!

This may be the year for conservation. The national press has discovered the "greenhouse effect," acid rain, drought, ozone "holes", medical wastes in our oceans, all featured in headlines accompanied by tragic photos. National Geographic devoted its December issue to the dire plight of our Earth, and Time featured Earth as "Planet of the Year." Both magazines explored the rapid degradation of the planet, and issued urgent calls for conservation and restoration before humanity destroys itself along with its habitat. What conservationists have long known is finally surfacing in the public consciousness and conscience.

You, as a member of ABS, can pat yourself on the back. Simply by growing begonias and companion plants, you are adding badly needed oxygen to our atmosphere and removing toxins. There's more: your ABS dues help support preservation of species through the Seed Fund and expeditions to catalog and collect, and ABS has donated to The Nature Conservancy, which buys lands for preservation worldwide.

With a little bit of effort, we can do more. We can learn about the chemicals used in horticulture, and use them as responsibly - and sparingly - as possible. We can learn about safer methods of pest and disease control, and stop adding to the tons of toxics in our soil and air. We can join the ranks of recyclers, and dispose of trash carefully.

We can, of course, go the extra mile. We can become activists in our own communities, join national and international conservation organizations, write letters, donate money.

In doing these things, we save not only begonias. We might be in time to save our very Earth. - Tamsin Boardman

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Margaret Coats, Round Robin Director

This seems to be the favorite time of year for planting seed. Most growers feel they have more time to devote to little seedlings, and the plants grow to a size where they are able to hold their own when hot weather arrives.

All sorts of hints and tips were given in one of the Rex Robins last round. Seems Houston Knight (CA) has discovered the marvelous virtues of "Oasis" in getting new plants started. He put down perhaps 400 rex leaves, expecting about a 10% success rate, and was surprised at the 90% he got. Houston says growing cuttings is a cinch in Oasis. And to a newer member of the group, who is also a new begonia grower, Mary McClelland (NE) sent the following information: "When you learn about some of the plants and their parentage, you will learn what will grow for you. Some plants die in no time because we just can't give them the humidity or temperature they require. Try putting your rex plants in a sweater box or fish tank or fruit ripener for more humidity until you figure out what they need. Growing is something done by trial and error, for we all have different growing conditions."

I guarantee Mary Simon's description in the Mini Robin of B. U192, also known as "Martin's Mystery," would send you out looking for one. Mary said she became a staunch admirer of this plant the moment she unpacked it, and admires it even more as time goes on. As she puts it, "it has such a knowing way of going about its business of growing and blooming." Since the plant acted as though it wanted to climb, she placed a stick in the pot and B. U192 now is beginning to twine its new growth up and around the stick. Mary is not the only admirer of this quaint little plant, as quite a few of the Robin members mention growing and enjoying it.

Responding to a question by Frances Hoffman (NY) in the Species Robin, Bob Hamm (CA) gives his theory as to why some cuttings shrivel up or rot while other cuttings of a different variety root readily even though all are in the same rooting medium. Bob believes it may have to do with the stage of growth the parent plant is in. He has found that cuttings from some plants going into rest or dormancy just will not root. This problem is particularly evident during November and December, and in January, when the days start getting longer, the problem seems to vanish. The cuttings look the same, but it seems their internal chemistry is different.

Members of the Southwest Growers Robin were overjoyed to welcome Mae Blanton (TX). She started right off with her usual good tips. Mae gave a detailed description of how she plants terrariums (see Jan.-Feb. issue of the **Begonian**, p. 33). Mae adds that it is amazing how happy a begonia can be growing in just about one inch of sphagnum. After a plant has been growing in the same medium about 2 years, Mae either gives the plant a little dolomite water, or sprinkles a bit of dolomite lime around the plant.

Mary Ellen Taback (VA) was reminded of something at one of the Boston seminars: be sure to cut back on watering after you prune those big canes. They won't need as much water after loss of foliage.

Walt Maurus (MI), newcomer to the Robins, enjoys looking at episcia leaves under a strong magnifying glass. He says it becomes quite obvious how two or more colors occupying the same part of the leaf are overlaid to create patterns and new colors. (Note: see Walt's article on page 52.)

Finding mildew on *B. suffruticosa*, Mary Ellen Taback (VA) tried spraying with 1 tablespoon of Clorox in a quart of water, and found it worked every bit as well as Funginex. Here's a twist, though. She then used a hair dryer so that the leaves were not left wet. Mabel Corwin (CA), a member of the same General Culture Robin, said she had not used the Clorox spray; however, she dips rex wedges in a mixture of 1 teaspoon of Clorox added to 1 quart of water when she puts them in her prop box. She seems to have fewer losses with this method.

Rod and Joyce Hamilton (IL) had to lift their tuberous plants in October because they would be unable to get to them at the proper time. They were worried about having to take them up so soon, so to cushion the shock somewhat they left on all the soil that clung to the roots, cut back the plants, and left a few leaves on each stem, then potted them in small pots. The pots were placed outside under a large roof overhang and allowed to die back slowly, which took about 4 or 5 weeks. As the stems released, the Hamiltons cleaned each tuber, brushing out all soil, and put the tubers away without washing. The tubers were placed in their "cold closet" where the temperature hovers around 45 degrees.

A LOOK BACK IN TIME: Every once in a while I go back through old copies of the *Begonian* just to refresh my memory. In the October, 1980 issue, in the Round Robin column, there was an excellent piece on begonia names and seedlings which I think deserves to be repeated. I hope you find it interesting as well:

"In puzzling over begonia names, many growers wonder what to call rex and other seedlings. Pat Maley (CA) gives a definitive answer. Only species come true from seed...all the rexes are hybrids (other than the original *B. rex*). The only way to propagate a named hybrid is vegetatively...from leaves or cuttings. Seedlings of a hybrid can never be called by the name of the parent,

even if selfed, for the genes are mixed and they will not be alike. All too often someone has grown seedlings from a named plant, put the name of the parent plant on the seedlings, and shared with others, resulting in several plants out under the name of the parent...incorrectly...and adding to the confusion of begonia nomenclature."

Joining a Robin brings you a packet of letters jammed with growing tips, questions, and "friendly contact." It's a great way to go from beginner to expert! To join in the fun, write to Round Robin Director:

Margaret Coats
11203 Cedar Elm
San Antonio, TX 78230



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AROUND ABS

Notes from our Newsletters

ABS Branches celebrated the holiday season with parties, dinners, song, and gift exchanges. Del Severy of San Francisco composed a song about begonias, their names, culture, and growing methods - which the branch sang to the tune of "Jingle Bells." In attendance was their member from France, Daniel David. Several branches remembered the less fortunate: Seattle and Sacramento brought toys for needy children, and the Mae Blanton Branch donated food and a check to a Denton, TX shelter for women and children.

Happy Birthday to Sacramento Branch, 41 years old in February, and to San Francisco Branch, 51 years old in February!

Palm Beaches must have had an exciting program in January: Hugh McLaughlin from Scotland showed slides of the Glasgow Garden Festival. That's where they have those incredibly enormous tuberous blooms.

The first Ft. Lauderdale Branch show was a success story, with over 100 entries. Best of Show went to Daisy Farm Nursery with B. U002. Alma Crawford took Best Artistic Design.

Congratulations to Paul Riviere, v-p of San Francisco Branch, who has been elected President of Flower Show, Inc.

The Tampa Bay Area newsletter reminded members that plant societies are special in a way we may overlook: "Some of the members do not realize the significance of plant societies. The societies not only assist the grower of a particular plant and help members obtain more varieties, the societies and their members are actually keeping the individual plants from becoming

extinct. The more plants we grow and the more plants we share the more plants we keep in circulation for others to enjoy. Think of your favorite begonia - it might not be here were it not for others growing it. Plant societies serve different purposes for different members, but they are also preservationists."

Begonias do have problems with mildew. The December issue of The Buxtonian offered advice:

1. Air circulation is a MUST. A small fan helps, and a circulating fan is an absolute necessity in a greenhouse.

2. Water stress, both from under and over watering, weakens the plants and invites problems.

3. Member Marion Smith reports excellent results with Safer's Garden Fungicide, which contains 4% sulfur.

4. Plants particularly susceptible include the semi-tuberous begonias, B. 'Guy Savard,' B. 'Looking Glass,' B. 'Gloire de Sceaux,' and B. 'Tea Rose.'

From The Potting Shed, newsletter of the Edna Stewart Pittsburgh Branch, comes advice on simplifying watering:

"Automatic or semi-automatic watering systems are a great time saver. If you have only a few plants, the new self-watering pots may be useful to you. These pots contain a reservoir from which the plant can draw moisture as needed. Don't forget to check the reservoir once in a while, however.

Light gardeners may wish to look into capillary matting. This material is spread in water-proof trays. To water, simply pour water into the trays. The pots, which must have drainage holes, are set on the matting and draw moisture as needed. Inexpensive orlon blanket material can be substituted for

matting. This system has the added advantage of increasing humidity in the immediate area. Any debris falling onto the matting must be removed before it decays to prevent mold and odor.

There are numerous drip or trickle systems adaptable to larger numbers of plants. Check your local supply house or mail order catalog for these.

It is important to maintain adequate spacing between plants and good air circulation in the growing area to prevent disease. This can be difficult for light gardeners trying to maintain humidity. A small circulating fan placed behind a pan of water will accomplish both objectives. The air passing over the water will pick up extra moisture and add to the humidity while improving air circulation."

"Oh those begonia growers" department: the following was overheard at a restaurant.

He: "I don't know what has happened to our marriage. We don't have any common interests any more. We don't have fun together. I'm not seeing anyone, and I know you're not. Maybe we should see a marriage counselor."

She: "We don't need a counsellor."

He: "But you've been acting so strange lately."

She: "I'm acting strange! *You're* the one who grows those stupid begonias!"

Blame the Sacramento Branch Begonia Leaf for that one! Editor Paul Tsamtsis comments: "But would we believe it if we saw it on Dynasty?"

Well, we do tend to be a little off where begonias are concerned. Which is why Mae Blanton wrote the following poem about the joys and frustrations of begonias; it's taken from the Southwest Region Begonia Leaflet (editor Maurice Amey):

BEGONIA FEVER

In the world of flower gardeners
Was one gardener quite sublime,
Growing posies by the dozens,
Trying new ones all the time.
Then, as chance would have it,
A great beauty he espied;
Fancy of leaf and blossom,
Description it defied.
Then another was discovered
(Different as day to night!)
Other gardeners soon grew them;
They got together in their plight.
How they shared and how they traded
As each new one came to view.
Our gardener planted seeds of them;
His cuttings how they grew!
He watered and he potted
(Worked his fingers to the bone).
Soon he felt they had him trapped
And he shouted, "Beauties, Begone!"
Of course, he didn't mean it -
They made him feel like a king;
He hurried out each morning
To see what new joy they'd bring.
Now I'm wondering - though they say not,
Yet it could be so!
Could begonias have been named thus?
It seems logical, you know!



THE AMERICAN IVY SOCIETY

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

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING (condensed)

December 4, 1988

The quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society was held on December 4, 1988 at the home of Michael Ludwig, 7007 Mount Vernon, Lemon Grove, California, 92045.

President Arlene Davis called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. There were 15 people present. Michael Ludwig read the Aims and Purposes.

Minutes: There were three corrections to the Minutes of the last board meeting. The name of Wanda Macnair was spelled incorrectly, plans for the 1992 convention were not yet final, and Diana Gould compiled the booklet of begonias grown by Sacramento Branch members.

Treasurer's Report: Checking account balance is \$23,263.86 and savings account balance is \$35,892.03 as of November 30, 1988.

Appointments: Diana Gould is new Seed Fund Director. Maurice Amey will chair a committee to study recruiting new members through advertising; his committee members are Tamsin Boardman, Eleanor Calkins, Tom Keepin, and Don Miller.

Correspondence: A letter from the Thompsons thanking the Society for the Herbert Dyckman Award was read. San Francisco Convention Chairman Carol Notaras is ready for the \$1,500 to get the convention preparations going. Maurice Amey sent a letter on recruiting new members through advertising. The Board voted to send Maurice \$500 now and \$500 later for advertising. Arlene Davis mentioned that it is each member's responsibility to advertise ABS.

Long Range Planning: Orange County request to host the 1992 convention has been accepted. The Board decided to hold off approving conventions more than four years in advance.

Audit Committee: Marion Paris reported that the audit was done on September 17, 1988, and everything is in order.

Tax Forms: John Ingles stated that as of September 15, 1988, all six tax forms were completed.

Special Projects: John Ingles reported there are three copies of the Buxton checklist update. Each is 475 pages, cost \$54 to print and \$20 for postage. Before the checklist goes on sale it must be checked for correct spelling of the 14,000 cultivars. This will be discussed with Nomenclature Chairman. Information should be gathered on how many members are interested in obtaining this reference book. Decision on publication

tabled for next meeting.

Membership: John Ingles sent reminders to 375 members delinquent in dues. There are 1,349 dues paying members. The Membership Chairman should be notified when members pass away. It would be advantageous if the branches had a guideline for membership. Only 35% of the members rejoin; many drop out after one year.

Seed Fund: Financial report from Oct. 1 to Nov. 23, 1988: \$558.88 on hand, postage expenses of \$99.64; a check for \$409.24 will be sent to ABS on Dec. 7, leaving \$50 in checking. The Board voted to buy new binders for the Seed Fund set of **Begonians**.

Judging Department: Michael Ludwig received requests for (1) guidelines for first time show with a list of judges, and (2) special judges for artistic divisions. Maxine Zinman and Janet Welsh advanced to Senior Judges.

Members at Large: Thelma O'Reilly reported sending 15 newsletters and 29 letters to Members at Large in 1988. There was a good turnout for the MAL meeting at the Boston Convention.

Nomenclature: Thelma O'Reilly finished a list of 350 begonias.

Boston Convention: A check for \$3,546.01 was received from the Boston Convention.

New Business: Tim Last requested that ABS publish a complete listing of U numbers classification to be offered at nominal cost to membership. The Board decided this was a function of the Nomenclature Department.

The Board voted a Life Membership for Leslie Woodriff.

The Board voted \$150.00 for expenses for Arlene Davis to attend the Southwest Region convention.

San Miguel Branch meets the first Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in homes of members.

A special thank you goes to the San Miguel Branch for the delicious lunch served at the Board meeting and also for the plant each member present received.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ingeborg A. Foo,
Secretary



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BRANCH DIRECTORY

REGIONAL GROUPS

Eastern Region

Maxine Zinman, Pres.
Rt. 1, Box 73
Boyce, VA 22620

Southwest Region

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

CALIFORNIA

Alfred D. Robinson

2nd Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.
Homes of members
Mary Zemcik, Pres.
4157 Catalina Place
San Diego, CA 92107

Central San Joaquin

Mary Lane, Pres.
19239 Road 232
Strathmore, CA 93267

East Bay

3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.
Northbrae Com. Church,
Berkeley
Katharine Olson, Pres.
1244 Mountain Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94611

Garden Grove

1st Wed., 7:30 p.m.
12860 Euclid St.
Garden Grove
George Allison, Nat'l. Dir.
1531 E. Romneya Dr.
Anaheim, CA 92805

Long Beach Parent Chapter

3rd Saturday, 1:30 p.m.
Mercury S & L
4140 Long Beach Blvd,
Long Beach
Ruth Hurd, Pres.
2924 Sawyer
Long Beach, CA 90805

Monterey Bay Area

4th Wednesday, 8 p.m.
New Monterey Neighbor-
hood Cntr,
Lighthouse & Dickman
Sts., New Monterey
(no meeting June, Aug.)
Raymond Peterson, Pres.
192 Walker Valley Rd.
Castroville, CA 95012

Orange County

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Fullerton S & L
2310 E. Lincoln Ave.
Anaheim
Elda Regimbal, Pres.
3117 San Juan Dr.
Fullerton, CA 92635

Palomar

2nd Sunday, 2 p.m.
Quail Botanical Gardens
230 Quail Gardens Dr.
Encinitas
Ed Bates, Pres.
P.O. Box 502
Encinitas, CA 92024

Rubidoux

4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
W. Riverside Mem.
Auditorium
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
Leora Fuentes, Pres.
2412 Masoni Way.
Rancho Cordova,
CA 95670

San Francisco

1st Wednesday, 8 p.m.
Garden Center
Golden Gate Park,
9th Ave. & Lincoln Way
Carol Notaras, Pres.
2567 Green St.
San Francisco 94123

San Gabriel Valley

2nd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
Los Angeles State & County
Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Ave.
Arcadia
Elaine Baxter, Pres.
2333 Treelane
Monrovia, CA 91016

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 Ziesenhenné,
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
Barbara Schneider, Pres.
3774 Vineyard Ave.
Oxnard, CA 93030

Westchester

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Univ. Christian Church
5831 Centinella Ave.
Irene Nuss, Pres.
8329 Regis Way
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Whittier

1st Friday, 7 p.m.
Room 1, Civic Center
7630 Washington Ave.
Whittier
Nellie Weaver, Pres.
6123 Corona Ave.
Huntingdon Park, CA 90255

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut

4th Monday
homes of members
Arlene Peck, Pres.
Eagle Peak Rd., R 1,
Box 478
Pascoag, RI 02859

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AREA

Potomac

4th Sunday, 2 p.m.
Sherwood Hall Library
1205 Sherwood Hall Ln.
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
Nan Scoble-Burbules,
Pres.
209 SE 21st St.
Fort Lauderdale, FL
33316

Jacksonville

3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m.
Garden Club
1005 Riverside Ave.
Jacksonville
Mary Harrell, Pres.
1628 Broward Road
Jacksonville, FL 32218

Miami

4th Tuesday, 8 p.m.
Simpson Garden Center
55 SW 17th Rd.
Miami
Charles Jaros, Pres.
2621 NW 23rd Court
Miami, FL 33142

Palm Beaches

2nd Monday
Horticultural Center
531 N. Military Trail
West Palm Beach
Paul Lowe, Pres.
5741 Dewberry Way
West Palm Beach, FL
33415

Pinellas County

3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Suncoast Bot. Gardens
10410 125th St.
Seminole
Risa Young, Pres.
7811 First Ave. South
St. Petersburg, FL 33707

Tampa Bay Area

3rd Thursday, 7 p.m.
North Tampa Com. Cntr.
N. 11th St. & E. Seward
Tampa
Robert L. Moore, Pres.
6316 8th Ave.
St. Petersburg, FL 33710

GEORGIA

Greater Atlanta

Betty Lockett, Pres.
2064 South Akin Dr. NE
Atlanta, GA 30345

ILLINOIS

Greater Chicago

4th Sunday, 1:30 p.m.
Oak Park Conservatory
Earth Shelter
621 Garfield St.
Chicago
Daniel Paulson, Pres.
6339 S. Kenneth Ave.
Chicago, IL 60629

MASSACHUSETTS

Bessie 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

Helen Green, Pres.
2100 Hunter St.
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

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

Homes of members
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
Gene Salisbury, Pres.
Box 504
Tonkawa, OK 74653

PENNSYLVANIA

Edna Stewart Pittsburgh

3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh Garden Center
Melissa Jones, Pres.
5220 Beeler St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

William Penn

4th Tuesday, noon
Homes of members
Mrs. Jacques Le Roux,
Pres.
Dove Lake House
Gladwyne, PA 19035

RHODE ISLAND

Roger Williams

3rd Monday night
Homes of members
Arline Peck, Pres.
Eagle Peak Rd., R 1,
Box 478
Pascoag, RI 02859

TEXAS

Alamo

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

Astro

Tom Keepin, Pres.
4513 Randwick Dr.
Houston, TX 77092

Dallas Area

3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Northaven Gardens
7700 Northaven Rd.
Dallas
Merle Gotcher, Pres.
4553 Dee Lane
Fort Worth, TX 76117

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
7400 Woodlawn Ave. NE
Robert Major, Pres.
4825 Terrace Dr. N.E.
Seattle, WA 98105

ABS SERVICES

These services are available to all ABS members. For names and addresses of department heads, see inside back cover. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope when you write.

At-Large Members

Members who do not belong to branches are represented at board meetings by the *Members-at-large director*. MAL committee works on projects by mail.

Bookstore

Books about Begonias and back issues of the *Begonian*.

Judging Dept.

Mail order course for members who wish to become accredited judges. The course is currently being revised.

Nomenclature Dept.

Monitors newly published findings on *Begonia* names. Handles official international registrations of new *Begonia* cultivars and publishes these registrations. Gathers information about and assigns numbers to unidentified species.

Question Box

Prompt assistance with horticultural questions. Those of general interest will appear in the *Begonian*.

Round Robins

Members exchange information about begonias and their culture through packets of letters which circulate among a small group of growers. There are dozens of these packets, called flights, on many specialized subjects. Contact the director for information.

Seed Fund

The Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund offers seeds of begonia species and cultivars by mail. New acquisitions are discussed in the *Begonian*. Donations of seeds are encouraged.

Slide Library

List of programs available from slide librarian. Donations of individual slides and programs requested.

Speakers Bureau

The director maintains a list of speakers on begonias and related subjects.

ABS BOOKSTORE

Begonia Book, Gray \$4.

Begonias, Arakawa \$25

Begonias in Color, Murotani \$15

Growing Begonias, Caterall \$18

Les Begonias, Chevalier \$5 soft cover

Buxton Check List \$20

Guidelines for Conventions & Shows,

O'Reilly \$2.50 (5 or more, \$2 each)

Catalog of Reg. Cultivars \$4

Roses, Taylor \$14.95

Your Indoor Garden, Seddon \$12.95

NY Times Book of Houseplants, Faust \$10.95

Binders \$5.25

Prints, \$5 set of 6, \$1 single

ABS emblem pin \$6

Plastic sign, \$1

See Nov-Dec, 1987 issue for complete descriptions of items.

Back Issues of *Begonian*: \$1 for individual copy more than a year old, \$6 full year through 1981; 1982 and on are \$1.50 @ or \$7 year. Issues less than a year old \$2 @.

Send check or money order to:

Bob Bailey, ABS Bookstore

5190 Mission Blvd., Sp. #90

Riverside, CA 92509

Add 75 cents per book for postage and handling. California residents add 6% sales tax. Foreign orders must be paid in US currency. Please add \$1 per book for orders outside USA.

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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.

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