

March/April, 1990

The BEGONIA 

The BEGONIAN

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Publication of the American Begonia Society

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: Species, Old and New

Front - In keeping with our Gardens issue, Don Miller took this photo of *B. grandis* ssp. *evansiana* at River Farm, Mount Vernon. This species has been known for centuries - is it possible George Washington grew it?

Back - *B. U230*, an exciting new species, was grown and photographed by Thelma O'Reilly. See article, p. 45.



B. 'KILEY'

KIT JEANS ©1979

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Reminder!

March 20 is the deadline for submitting nominations for ABS' top awards. See the January-February 1990 issue of the **Begonian** for criteria for nominations, and the May-June 1989 issue for a list of previous winners (awardees may be honored only once in each category). Then send your nominations for the members who have performed outstanding service and for the most outstanding begonia hybrid to: Awards Chairman Rudolf Ziesenhenné, 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103.

¡OLE!

Tours! Seminars!

Wednesday: LBJ Ranch - Fredericksburg - Luckenbach	Don Miller on collecting begonias in Thailand
Thursday: San Antonio & the River Walk	Thelma O'Reilly on the U#s project
Sunday: San Antonio Botanic Gardens & John Howell's greenhouse- garden, plus brunch	Kit Mounger on where the species are plus cultural demonstrations

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY CONVENTION 1990

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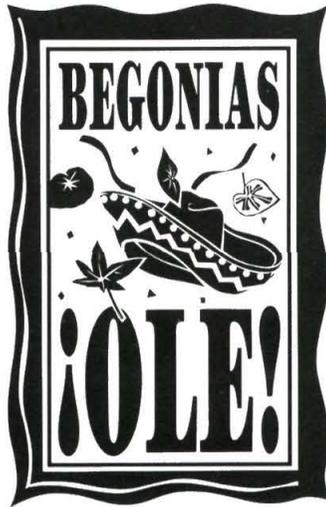
Sale!

Thousands of begonias
Unusual varieties
Great prices

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Special Events!

Round Robin Tea Party
MAL Meeting
Sing-Along
Barbecue



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Boutique!

All kinds of begoniana
Unique handcrafts
Horticultural treasures

S A N A N T O N I O

MAY 16-20, 1990

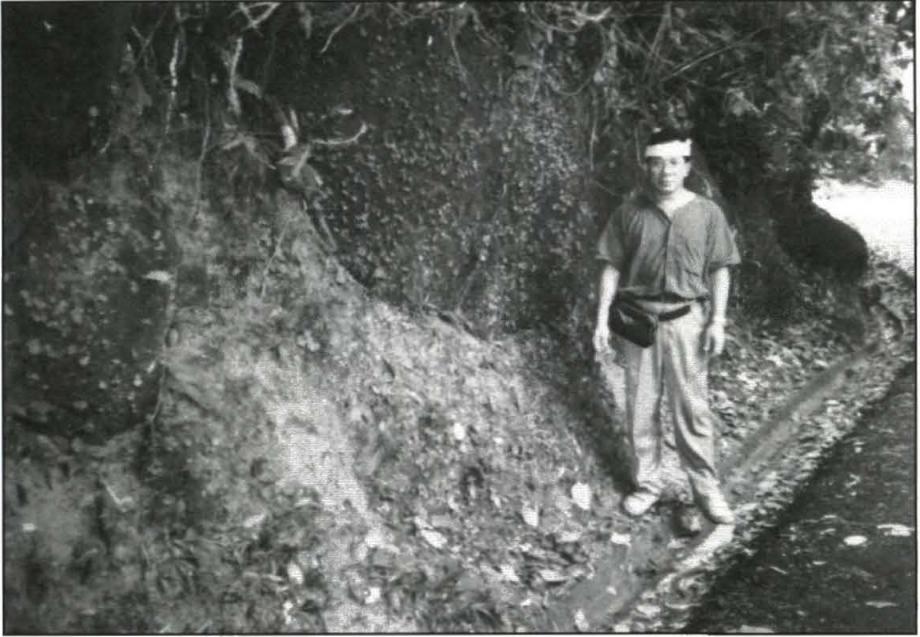
Show!

Hundreds of glorious begonias
"Traveling Begonias" Division
First time for Alice Clark Memorial Trophy for artistic
entries
Trophies by Kit Mounger & Charles McGough
Special Exhibits

¡OLE!

**and featuring the fabled
Southwest Region hospitality:**

¡OLE!



Mohamed Ibrahim: "You will notice that the plants on my right are all wild begonias. This is at a height of 1,500 ft. above sea level."

A COMMON ANNUAL/ A RARE TREASURE!

Malaysian Seed Project Report

by Thelma O'Reilly

"A Common Annual" and "A Rare Treasure:" both titles describe the results of the Malaysian Seed Project which began when Mohamed Ibrahim of Western Malaysia sent me a packet labeled "wild begonia seed" (see "A Western Malaysian Wind-fall," the **Begonian**, March-April 1988).

The reports of project participants Joan Campbell, Mabel Corwin, Goldie and Doug Frost, Martin Johnson, Don Miller, and Thelma O'Reilly conclude that two begonia species resulted from the seed collected by Mohamed Ibrahim. Two participants reported a showing of some semperflorens plants, which must have resulted from stray seed during cleaning or planting. There were no plants of the Semperflorens Cultorum photographed or described by the collector.

A Common Annual:

Wild Malaysian mixed seed gave excellent germination. Seedlings grew rapidly and bloomed white flowers. They were quickly identified as *Begonia hirtella*, a common annual that has acclimated in many parts of the world. One participant and Louis Manning of Georgia, whose source was the ABS Seed Fund, reported pink flowers on some plants.

"Malayan Wild Flowers," Part 1, 1949, by M. R. Henderson, Director of the Botanic Gardens, Singapore, reports "*B. hirtella* (Bearded Begonia). An escape from cultivation, now quite well established on Penang Hill on banks and in rocky places, also on Taiping Hill. The hairy leafstalks distinguish it."



B. U230: Plant grown and photographed by Thelma O'Reilly. See back cover for color shot.

A Rare Treasure:

Begonia U230 is a rare treasure, probably cultivated in this country for the first time. I harvested seed from capsules attached to the excellent herbarium specimen I received from Mohamed Ibrahim. This was accomplished by pricking the base of each capsule with a needle and shaking out the seed.

My interest was captured by one of the large, equally-winged ovaries whose short pedicel appeared to be attached directly to a stem instead of a peduncle, a growth pattern reminiscent of *B. roxburghii*.

Research quickly led to two closely related Malaysian species, *B. holttumii* and *B. pseudisoptera*. Leaf shape favored *B. holttumii* identification. Carrie Karegeannes and I visited Dr. Lyman B. Smith at the Smithsonian in July, 1988. He checked copies of my herbarium material with the Smithsonian's material on *B. holttumii* and verified my identification: B. U230 = *B. holttumii*.

The final report from project participants showed poor to excellent germination and slow to fast growth on seedlings of seed designated B. U230. One reported "no germination." Plants reached maturity

and bloomed for Mabel, Don, and me. Joan reported "B. U230 very strong, attractive growers, but I couldn't get them through the winter, even under lights."

When I returned from Texas in April, 1989, my fourteen plants had succumbed during my absence to the unseasonable 105° temperatures in southern California. At present Mabel and Don have one plant each remaining. Mabel's plant is in the greenhouse. Don's plant thrives in a terrarium, is now seventeen inches high, and has been blooming since March, 1989. To date all efforts to self-pollinate this species have failed.

In "Malayan Wild Flowers" M. R. Henderson reports, "*B. holttumii* (Holttum's *Begonia*) Like *B. pseudisoptera* in habit, being a large, branched plant up to about 3 ft. tall, but differing in having broader and more rounded leaves, more or less oval in outline, on much longer stalks (up to about 4 in. long), and in having a more branched flowering shoot with more numerous female flowers; the capsule has 3 nearly equal wings, and is very similar to that of *B. pseudisoptera*. Not uncommon in damp places in lowland forest from Penang to Gunong, Johore."

In addition to the above description the satiny upper-surfaced leaves are medium green highlighted by red veins; staminate flowers are white, glabrous and four tepalled; pistillate flowers are five tepalled and glabrous, tepals are white, ovary and wings are green. Flowers commence blooming at the upper node and continue down the nodes of the stem.

My special thanks to each of the members who have contributed to and supported me in completing this project. A special, special thanks to Mohamed Ibrahim, whose contribution of *Begonia* seed sparked this undertaking

Thelma O'Reilly lives at 10492 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 92041.



Hey, There May Be Another Helen Out There!

by Helen Spiers

For many years before my retirement I had enjoyed growing ferns and begonias, the ones I could find occasionally in the nurseries (which translates into the most common varieties). With more time on my hands following retirement, I elected to expand my collection of begonias and began in earnest to learn all I could about growing begonias in Houston.

The question was where to begin? Surely a city the size of Houston would have a begonia society. The public library was unable to provide any information - however, the lady I talked to was interested in begonias, and asked that I let her know of any information I might receive!

A call to the Houston Garden Center was rewarding. I was given the names of a few former members of a Houston begonia society with the information that at one time there had been two branches, but as far as my informant knew neither was presently active.

At a local nursery where I occasionally found a begonia I was given the name of someone who is now a good friend, Gloria Quinn. From Gloria I learned all about the had-been branches, plus answers to some begonia questions. Why was there no branch when I needed one so badly?

Months passed before I thought I saw a sign on Interstate 35 south of Austin, Texas, which read "Begonia Treasures." Could I have been dreaming? My kind husband made a U-turn as quickly as possible and confirmed my sighting. There, right in plain view by the sign, was a most unique greenhouse. It was as if it had been placed there just for me!

Entering the greenhouse, I found myself speechless; I couldn't believe my eyes - an entire greenhouse brimming with begonias from wall to wall and from floor to ceiling! But more amazing than begonias was the person who greeted me - none other than Sydneyanna Kirksey (now Sydneyanna Wilkerson, following her marriage in May, 1989). We were magnetically drawn together by my need to learn and her willingness to share her vast knowledge. She held me spellbound!

Sydneyanna wasted no time in informing me about The American Begonia Society and the Southwest Region, both of which I immediately joined. Can you imagine how many excuses I came up with to go to Austin? Each time I returned home with more begonias and more knowledge from Syd. More important was the treasured friendship that developed.

In August, 1987, I decided to explore the world of begonias even more and attended the ABS annual convention in Long Beach, California. There it was my pleasure to meet many great begonia people. One was John Ingles, who made available to me the names of people in the Houston area who were or had been members of ABS. Armed with this information and strong encouragement from John and from a good, long-time friend, Houston Knight, I returned home determined to surround myself with people who shared my delightful new-found interest. How could I do otherwise with the beauty of the begonias at Long Beach permanently impressed on my mind?

Upon my return, I made several telephone calls (what I did was bug the Houston area begoniacs) and was told the interest of the group would be surveyed. All to whom I spoke were very gracious but not too encouraging. Meanwhile, my enthusiasm overflowed with all plant lovers I met, and I thought of organizing a branch in Clear Lake City, where there seemed to be much interest.

Time passed, and I was asked by my friend Sydneyanna to chair the decorating committee for the SWR Get-Together, 1988. Wow, what an honor for this novice! Soon after a list of chairmen was published in the SWR Begonia Leaflet I received a call from Gloria Quinn, who was happy to have my phone number - she hadn't contacted me because she had misplaced my number. She volunteered her assistance and that of other Houstonians in carrying out my decorating responsibilities. Open communications were now in place with Gloria, Tom Keepin, and others.

It was in Austin at the SWR Get-Together that I finally met the wonderful people from Houston - and help they did! I was sooooo happy!

Repeatedly, I expressed my desire for the group to resume meetings. See, I was selfish; I needed their help, their support. My first desire was to see these capable begoniacs reorganize. But if they chose not to do so I stated my intent to organize a branch on my side of town (most of them live across Houston from me).

In June, following the Get-Together, Tom Keepin invited me to meet with a group to discuss the possible reorganization of a Houston Begonia Study Group. What a happy day for me! It has been about nineteen months since that first meeting. The knowledge, support, and, most importantly, the friendships I have gained from participation in the Astro Branch, ABS are treasured.

IN MEMORY

Margaret Taylor, past president of Orange County Branch, passed away October 10, 1989. The Branch was blessed to have Margaret as a very active member who lived by the "Golden Rule." She served in every office, diplomatically and efficiently, her sage advice and knowledge proving on many occasions that the Aims and Purposes of the A.B. S. do make the difference. - Ronnie Nevins

Our branch will soon have its first plant sale since reorganizing. One day Tom and I were enthusiastically bouncing ideas for advertising ABS and our branch, and for utilizing this sale to let the public know we are here, in Houston, and welcome those interested in begonias. Tom said, "Hey, there may be another Helen out there!"

Is there a Helen (or Harry) somewhere in your vicinity, thirsting for more knowledge of begonias, searching for a support group, longing for your guidance and friendship? PLEASE HELP THEM FIND YOU! QUICKLY!

Ebullient Helen Spiers collects begonias and begonia friends at 1423 Laskey St., Houston, TX 77034. In our next issue, Helen will offer suggestions on getting the general public to sit up and notice begonias.



If you're interested in finding other begonia lovers, Membership Chair John Ingles can help by sending you a list of ABS members in your area (there's no charge). If you'd like to start a branch, contact Branch Relations Director Douglas Hahn for help.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

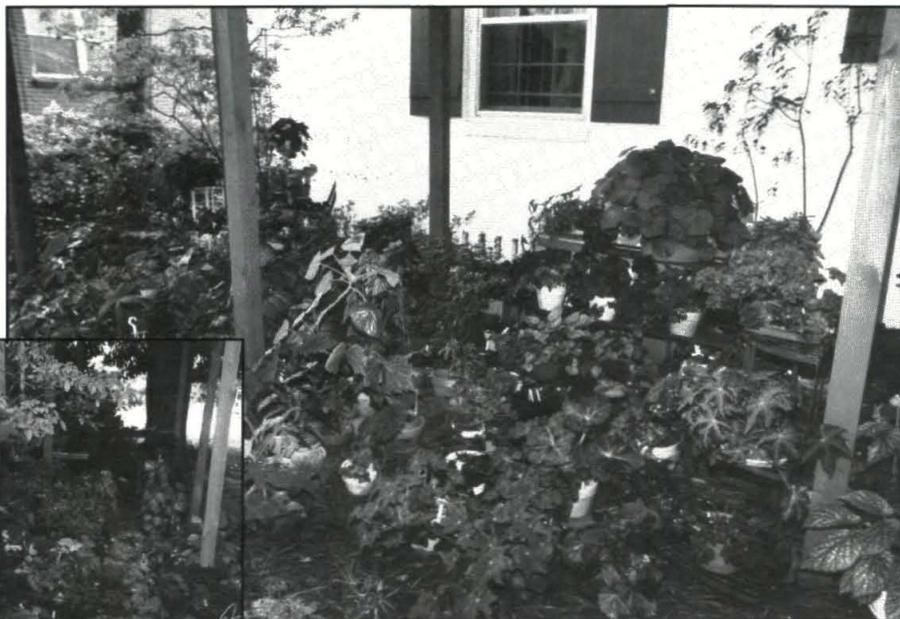
With imagination, perseverance - and love!

For ABS members, begonias brighten the days outdoors...

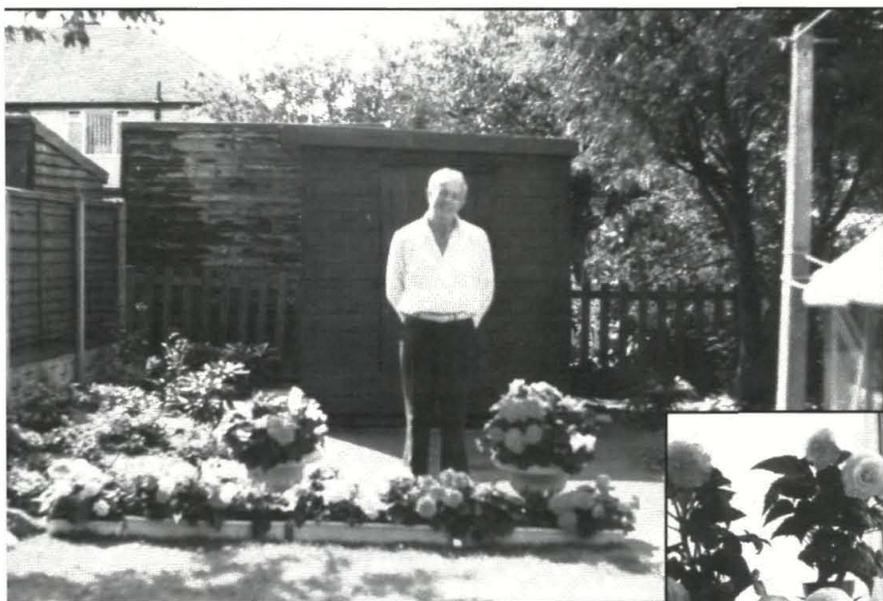
Shirley Armstead has an outdoor potting area and uses begonias in large containers as accents. In an old Campbell soup demonstration kettle she grew an assortment of tuberous begonias "purchased in April and forgotten for a month...I hastily planted them in May and enjoyed a mass of blooms in June and July due to the cool and humid weather we had in the eastern states the summer of '89."

The large semperflorens, lower right, was started from a slip in May, pinched back and pruned severely until the middle of June. This picture was taken in July. (New Jersey)





Mary Bucholtz: Florida sunshine requires 60% shade cloth and conveniently placed magnolia and oak trees. Her begonias are found outdoors April through November.



Edward Bradshaw grows tuberous begonias for competition in Fleetwood, Lancashire, UK, a resort area on the Irish Sea famous for its public gardens.



The Begonian

Helma Carden planted three small begonias in April in her Seminole, Florida, Gulf Coast sand, feeding (20-20-20) twice between April and September. The photo was taken in November - after they survived a freeze! Begonias are 'Texas Star', 'Green Giant', and 'Aquamarine'.

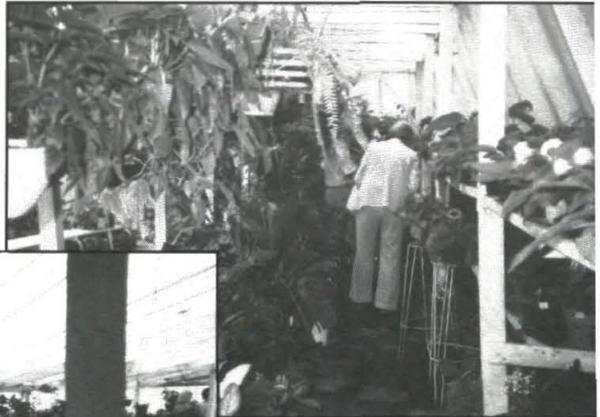


Don England's deck in Monterey, California, is covered with some of the 200 or so tuberosus begonias that he grows in his yard each year. Wind and mildew are two problems he encounters and conquers. Carol Catalano snapped this photo

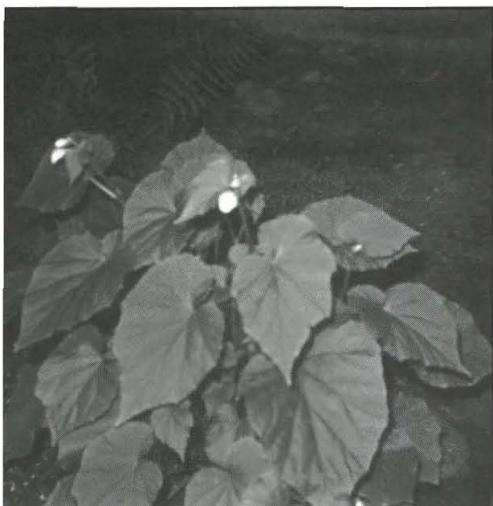
The horseshoe-shaped bed of semperflorens in **Jack Golding's** front yard in Kearny, New Jersey, is a show-stopper (see the **Begonian**, May-June '88, for Jack's tips on getting super performance from semps).



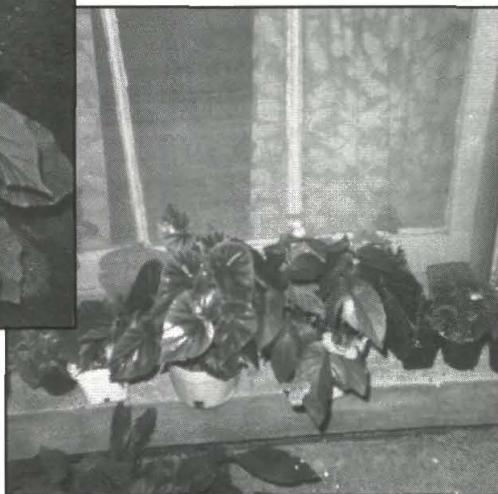
John Howell covered his backyard to give his begonias an enormous greenhouse around his pool in San Antonio, Texas.



Eleanor Calkins photographed John's growing area at the 1987 Southwest Region Get-Together.

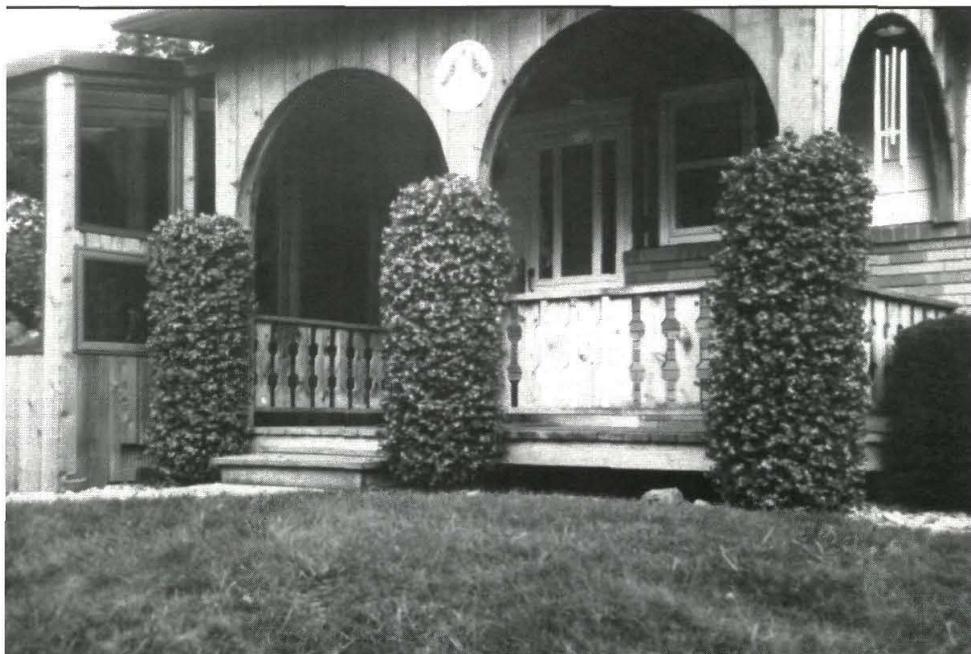


Frances Hurley of Chicago, Illinois, finds *B. grandis* ssp. *evansiana* an interesting species. It didn't do well indoors over the winter, so she left it out in a protected spot at the edge of the back porch, with shrubs blocking



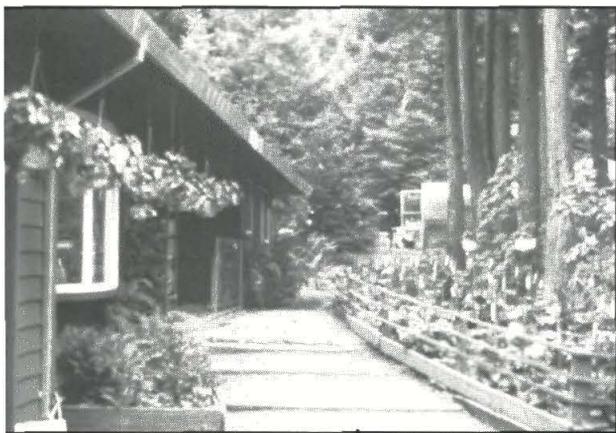
out most of the sun. It has come back for her for two years now. Flowers appear late summer. She also grows on a north basement windowsill which gets morning sun.

Fran and Larry Kanaby of Bad Axe, Michigan, grow semperflorens in columns! See page 66 for their "how-to" instructions.





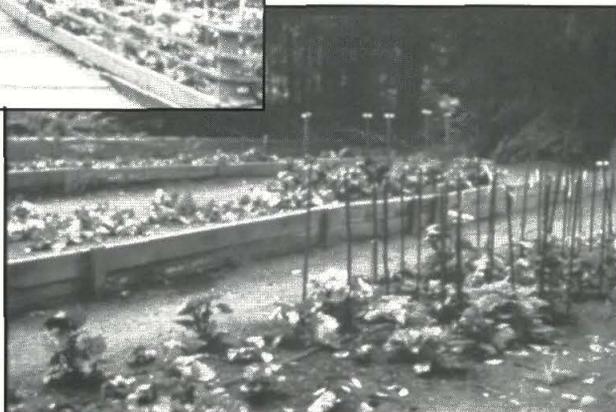
Naomi Lynch has created a garden in Cuero, Texas, with ancient live oak trees providing large natural bonsai and a pond spanned by an oriental bridge for a feeling of tranquility and continuity. Her large deck is festooned with potted plants and hanging baskets, many grown from Seed Fund seeds.

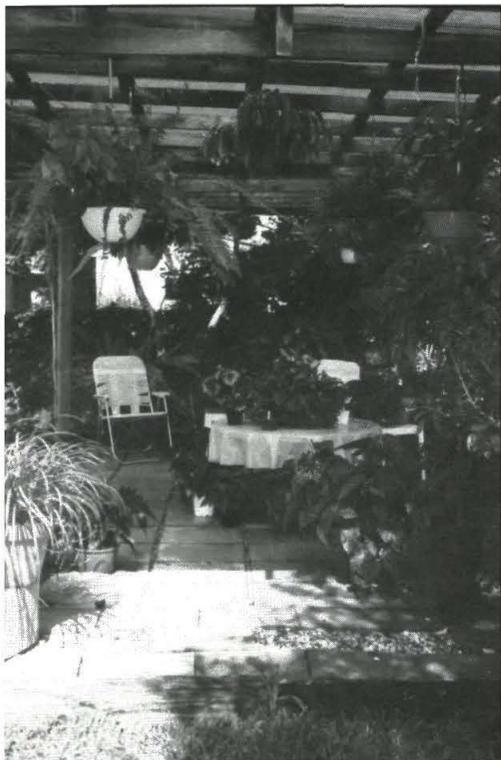


Fort Bragg, California, is redwood country. The breathtaking entrance to the home and gardens of **Ruth and Howard Siebold** enchants the visitor.

All tuberous begonias are labeled, as Howard seeks to perfect his fragrant crosses.

It's a wonderland of color, with tuberous begonias, wild birds, butterflies. Part of their property is left natural. Asked if the garden took much time, Ruth replied "Every waking breath."

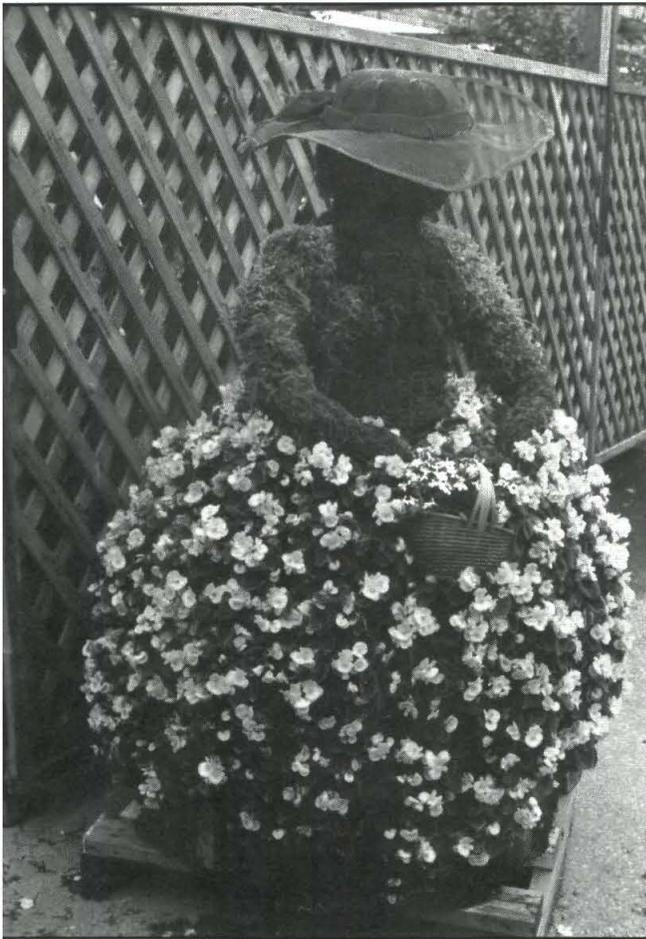




Houston, Texas grower **Helen Spiers** surrounds herself with begonias on her freestanding 16' x 16' covered patio (above) and has air-conditioned her cedar greenhouse (above right) so she can entertain there during hot weather.



Johanna Zinn composts her leaves to lighten the clay soil of Virginia. She uses no pesticides and little fertilizer, for her pet rabbits have the freedom of the fenced yard (right). She says Begonias *grandis* ssp. *evansiana* and 'Richmondensis' don't attract many pests, nor do they have problems with mildew.



Carol Catalano photographed this "begonia lady" at the Hawks Farm & Garden Center in North Pole, Alaska, about 65° N. latitude (that means 24 hours of sunlight daily in the summer). Have you ever wished for a skirt of pink *semperflorens*? It looks smashing with a cerise sunhat and sphagnum sweater.



Thelma Newman of Riverside, California, summed up her feelings about her begonia garden:

My Raingarden

Just a small place at my backdoor, but what enjoyment I receive when walking by and entering my house through the back entrance!

Layout by Bruce C. Boardman

Looking Ahead to Summer:

Heat-tolerant Begonias

One way to avoid watching your begonias droop and die during periods of extreme heat is to look for heat resistant varieties. Here are some suggestions from fellow members.

Two for Summer

by Esther Nagelberg

Every summer I have trepidations about my ability to keep some of the more exotic-leaved begonias alive, and since the weather in south Florida has temperatures of 90° or better, plus high humidity, for at least three months of the year, one can understand my concern.

In summer of 1989 I watched two such exotic-leaved begonias flourish, seemingly impervious to the heat and humidity. I am referring to *B. 'Shawn Worley'* and *B. 'Dancing Fred'*.

B. 'Shawn Worley' was registered in 1982 by Patrick Worley of California. Its parents are *B. dipetala* and *B. deliciosa*. It is shrub-like with distinctive foliage and has lovely, almost ever-blooming pink flowers.

B. 'Dancing Fred' is a Kit Jeans Mounger hybrid, rhizomatous, with rather insignificant pale pink flowers. Its leaves are large, cleft, and green spatter-dashed with chocolate. A good-sized plant, it is lovely to behold.

Both of these are potted in clay and sit on a roofed, south-facing patio. Since I am away a fair bit in the summertime they do not get watered or fertilized on a regular basis, but do not seem to have suffered. I can definitely recommend both of these plants for hot areas.

Esther Nagelberg is the editor of the Palm Beaches Branch newsletter. Her article appeared in the September, 1989 issue. Her address is 6306 Emerald Sky Lane, Lake Worth, FL 33463.

And There Are More...

From the Round Robin Notes of September-October, 1988, comes this list of begonias (all canes) that the Southeast Growers Robin found to be particularly heat-tolerant:

Begonias '*Pinafore*' sport, '*Silver Mist*', '*Lana*', '*Nokomis*', '*Kristy*', '*Irene Nuss*', '*Sophie Cecile*', '*Kentwood*', '*Orange Rubra*', '*Elaine*'.

To the above list, Dallas Area Branch members, meeting in August, 1989, added the following begonias to the heat-tolerant list:

Begonias *salicifolia*, '*Lucerna*', '*Lois Burkes*', '*Orpha C. Fox*', '*Esther Albertine*', '*Pruessen*', *coccinea* (cane-like); '*Argenteo-guttata*', '*Richmondensis*', '*Medora*', '*San Miguel*' (shrub-like); '*Moly Poly*', *convolvulacea*, *radicans*, *solananthera* (trailing-scandent); and all semperflorens varieties.

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MOVING PLANTS OUT-DOORS

Take it Easy!

Soon growers will be thinking of moving plants outdoors. Don't forget to avoid sun-scald and other problems. Even cacti can be burned by sudden placement in the sun.

Deep shade outdoors is sometimes brighter than bright light near a window. Placing plants in deep shade or a slightly shaded place for a few hours a day helps them become used to the stronger rays of the sun before they are put outdoors for the summer. Even placing plants outdoors only on cloudy days at first will aid the acclimatization.

Semperflorens, cane-like, and shrub-like begonias as a rule can take stronger light than rhizomatous plants. Close observation indoors or out should tell whether the exposure is too strong or too weak.

If the plants are remaining indoors, attention should also be paid to the exposure. Just because plants are near a window does not mean they are receiving sufficient light. Perhaps the plants were in a southern exposure during the winter - but if a tree provides shade during the warmer months, the plants may become spindly with weak growth. An outdoor overhang may not prevent winter sun from nourishing the plants, but may block light from the summer sun which is higher in the sky. To sum it up, *plants must be observed closely at all seasons, whether indoors or outdoors, to see if they are happy and healthy.*

Above all, don't rush the season and put plants out too soon!

- from The Buxtonian, Vol. 17, no. 8, editor Judy Calvert.



Do you have a question about growing begonias, indoors or out? Write ABS' horticultural expert Mae Blanton, 118 Wildoak, Lake Dallas, TX 75065 and let her solve your problem!

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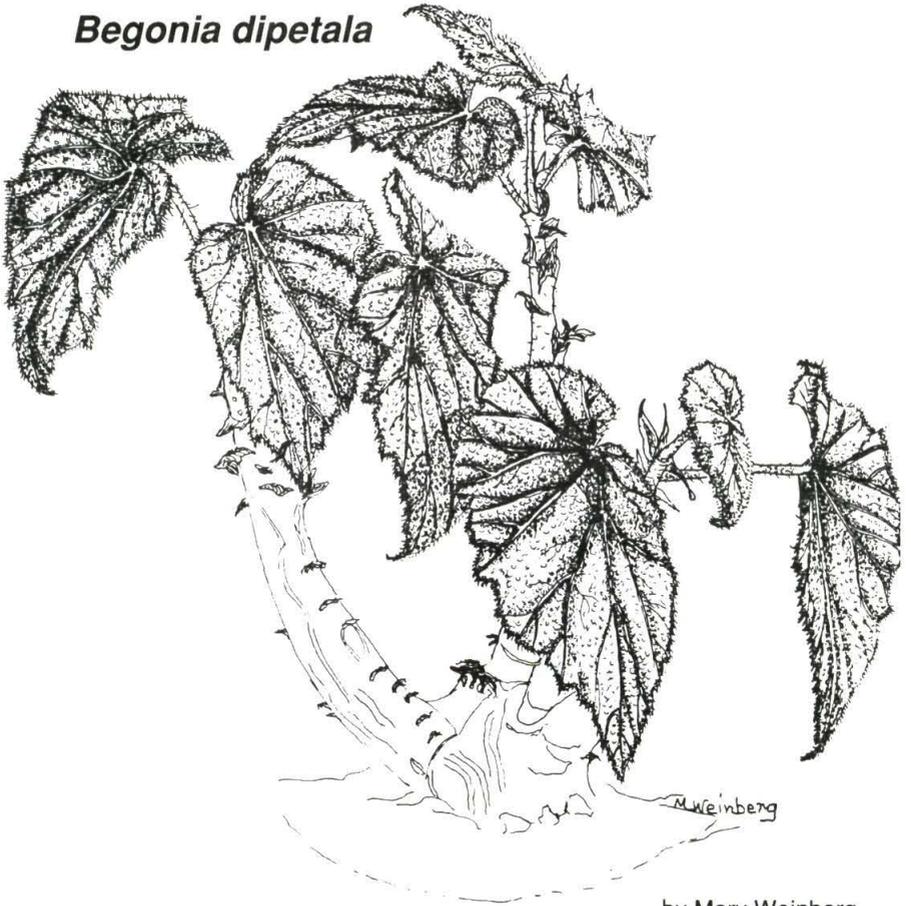
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SPOTLIGHT ON:

Begonia dipetala



by Mary Weinberg

B. dipetala (dye-pet-al-ah) was first discovered in Bombay, India in 1826 by H. H. Johnstone, and first described by Graham in 1828. It was introduced accidentally into the U.S. as *B.* 'Mrs. W. S. Kimball' in 1913. It is in section Haagea, and has 30 chromosomes.

B. dipetala is a thick-stemmed begonia. Its stem is erect and tapering, greyish brown in color. Leaves are medium-sized, grass green, obliquely ovate, semi-cordate, acute at the tip, and have a red sinus with the red radiating down indented veins and fading into green. Leaves are minutely

pustulate, having white spots at the tip of pustules with a short white bristly hair coming from the center of each pustule. Both staminate and pistillate flowers have two tepals, the female ovary has three subequal wings, flowers are on semi-erect peduncles that tend to droop as they age. Flowers are white tinged with pink. *B. dipetala* blooms February through September.

In early literature, *B. dipetala* is described as being a variety of *B. malabarica*. Now it has been determined to be a separate species.

It is a good thing we know that *B. dipetala* came from the Bombay area, as India has three types of climate including very large areas of arid land where almost nothing grows. Bombay is on the west coast of India, located close to the Western Ghats range of mountains. This area has a very heavy annual rainfall, over 80 inches, and in some areas up to 400 inches annually. The rainy season is from July to October. The soil in this area is described as alluvial (soil consisting of sand and mud caused by flowing waters). Temperatures in this area average 68° F. in the cold season (Nov.-Feb.), to 86° F. during the hot season (March-June).

I have had *B. dipetala* for several years, and recently acquired another plant from a Robin member who was moving. Both plants were kept outside in the summer greenhouse from early June until mid-September; they put on many leaves, which gave them a rounded appearance. When fall came I brought them inside, putting my first and smallest plant in the upstairs light garden (cool condition in the fall) and the larger plant in the basement light garden (very warm condition in the fall). The plant in the warm basement atmosphere continued to thrive and did not lose leaves, while the plant in the upstairs light garden lost many of its lower leaves. I think this demonstrates very well *B. dipetala*'s preference for warm situations.

B. dipetala is very compact in its growth habits, growing to a height of about 18 inches. It does not branch readily; its main stem is rough in texture and very thick at the base. It can be used very successfully as a subject for bonsai.

Vénganse todos!

Sunny San Antonio, Texas, land of mañana and flowers, is only 3 hours by plane from Boston and Seattle and even closer for most of you -
ándale! ándale!

CULTURE

Light: *B. dipetala* likes bright light, but like most hairy begonias it must be protected from the hot midday sun. Give filtered light during this part of the day.

Temperature: *B. dipetala* likes a warm environment. 65° to 80° is an ideal range, but it can tolerate temperatures slightly higher or lower than the ideal.

Humidity: 50% to 60% is good. It does not need terrarium care.

Growing Medium: Use a very porous mix for good drainage. Pot in clay pots; they are best for the thick-stemmed begonias, as they allow for evaporation of water through the sides of the pot.

Water: Do not water until the surface of the growing medium feels dry to the touch. Water well, letting water run out of the bottom of the pot. Do not let pot stand in water for more than a few minutes.

This article first appeared in the Chicago Begonian, December, 1984. It is reprinted with the author's permission.

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



AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY CONVENTION 1990



S A N A N T O N I O

Nomenclature Update

Jack Golding

Note on format:

Correct names are distinguished by printing in **Bold**. Illegitimate names and synonyms are printed in *italics*.

Begonia nepalensis Warburg and **Begonia silletensis** C.B. Clarke

Dr. Nathaniel Wallich, Superintendent of the Calcutta Botanic Garden, made "A Numerical List of Dried Specimens" of plants in the East India Company's Museum, published in 1831. On page 129 he listed No. 3677 *Begonia gigantea* Wallich for two specimens. Wallich's *Begonia gigantea* was a name without a description and is illegitimate, a nomen nudum.

A. de Candolle, *Ann. Sci. Nat. Bot.*, IV, 11: 144, 1859; *Prodromus*, 15 (1): 406, 1864, under the genus *Mezierea* (established by Gaudichaud, *Voy. Bonite, Bot.*, pl. 32, 1841) listed and described *Mezierea nepalensis* based on Wallich's *Begonia gigantea* No. 3677.

C. B. Clarke in J. D. Hooker, *Fl. Brit. India* 2: 643, 1879, described *Begonia gigantea* Wallich ex C.B. Clarke, based in part on the Wallich specimen No. 3677. *Mezierea nepalensis* A. de Candolle, was listed as a synonym.

Otto Warburg in Engler & Prantl. *Natur. Pflanzenfam.*, 3 (6A): 142, 1894, changed the rank of *Mezierea* from a genus to a section of **Begonia**. The A. de Candolle name *Mezierea nepalensis*, based on the Wallich specimen No. 3677 was validly published in 1864, therefore the epithet **nepalensis**, having priority over Clarke's epithet *gigantea* of 1879, is transferred to **Begonia**. The correct name of this species and its synonymy is:

Begonia nepalensis (A. de Candolle) Warburg var. **nepalensis**, in Engler & Prantl., *Nat Pflanzenfam.*, 3 (6A) : 142, 1894. Nepal.

Begonia gigantea Wallich, 1831, pro parte quoad No. 3677, nomen nudum

Mezierea nepalensis A. de Candolle, 1864.

Begonia gigantea Wallich ex C. B. Clarke, 1879.

The second Wallich specimen *Begonia gigantea*, No. 3677B and his unnamed specimen No. 9107, were designated **Begonia silletensis** by C. B. Clarke in J. D. Hooker, *Fl. Brit. India* 2:636, 1879. He had used the epithet *silhetensis*, an orthographic error that had to be corrected. The Wallich No. 3677B from the Sillet Hills, Khasia Mts., and the Griffith No. 2569 from East Bengal are the same. But they differ (being more hairy and with larger flowers) from the Wallich No. 9107 on which A. de Candolle, *Prodromus*, 15 (1): 277, 1864, based his *Casparya? silletensis*. It is possible that two species are here mixed but the material is insufficient to justify their separation. The correct citation is as follows:

Begonia silletensis (A. de Candolle) C. B. Clarke in J. D. Hooker, Fl. Brit. Ind., 2: 636, 1879, "*silhetensis*". India.

Begonia gigantea Wallich, 1831, pro parte quoad No. 3677B, nomen nudum.

Begonia sine nomen, Wallich No. 9107, 1849.

Casparya? *silletensis* A. de Candolle, 1864.

The following descriptions are adapted from C. B. Clarke in J. D. Hooker, Flora of British India, Vol. 2, 1879.

Begonia nepalensis (A. de Candolle) Warburg var. **nepalensis**

Begonia with thick rhizome, woody, not tuberous. Stems 2-3 feet tall, glabrous, unbranched. Leaves 9-12 by 3 in., narrowly ovate with caudate tip (sometimes larger and more ovate), undulate, toothed, pubescent on underside of veins, otherwise glabrous, base very unequal deeply auriculate on one side; petiole 1/4 - 1/2 inch; stipules narrow lanceolate, glabrous, deciduous. Peduncles short, dichotomous, with many rather small white or pale pink flowers; bracts ovate, acute, deciduous. Male: 2 tepals, ovate subacute, glabrous. Female: 3 tepals, outer two ovate subacute, resembling but smaller than the male, inner one small lateral.

Begonia silletensis (A. de Candolle) C. B. Clarke

Begonia with short thick rhizome, scarcely tuberous. Stemless. Leaves 6 in., broadly ovate, not acuminate, shaggy on both surfaces; hirsute petioles 6-18 in. Scape 2-4 in., 1-7 flowered. Male: 2 outer tepals, hairy without, 1/2 in 2 inner tepals smaller, narrowly oblong.

Begonia glandulosa W. J. Hooker
is not **Begonia pinetorum** A. de Candolle.

Dr. Kathleen Burt-Utley's definitive analysis in *Brittonia*, 36: 233, 1984, determined that **Begonia glandulosa** W. J. Hooker is a correct name and is a different species from **Begonia pinetorum** A. de Candolle. Their citations and synonymy are:

Begonia glandulosa W. J. Hooker, Bot. Mag., 87: pl. 5256, 1861. — L. B. Smith & B. G. Schubert, *Fieldiana: Bot.* 24 (1) : 178, 1961 [= **Begonia pinetorum** A. de Candolle, 1859, *sphalma*]. — J. Golding, *Phytologia*, 40: 456, 1978 [nomen confusum, *sphalma*]. — R. Ziesenhenne, *Begonian*, "49" 48: 186, 1981 [non **Begonia pinetorum** A. de Candolle, 1859, sed *sphalmate* = *Begonia nigrovenia* hort. Linden ex W. J. Hooker, 1861].—Burt-Utley, *Brittonia*, 36: 233, 1984, nomen legitimum. Mexico.

Begonia nigrovenia hort. Linden ex W. J. Hooker, 1861, pro syn.

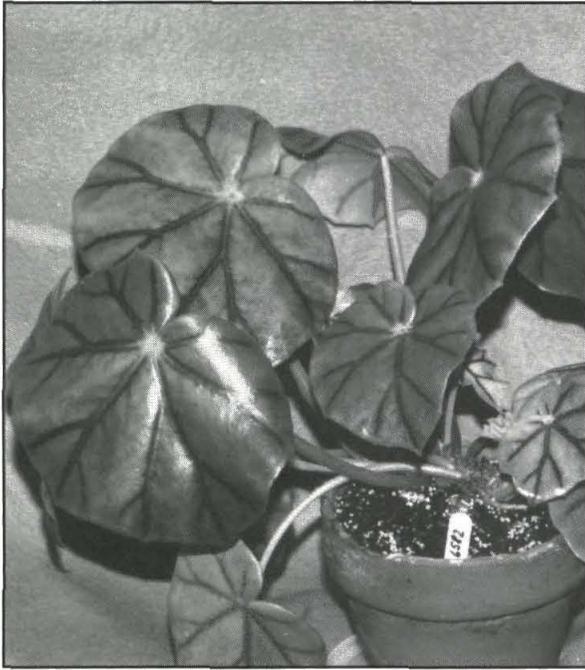
Begonia nigrovenia Regel, 1867.

Begonia dayi hort., 1947.

Begonia hidalgensis L. B. Smith & B. G. Schubert, 1950.

Begonia pinetorum A. de Candolle, *Ann. Sci. Nat. Bot.*, IV, 11, 131, 1859; *Prodr.*, 15 (1): 326, 1864. — L. B. Smith & B. G. Schubert, *Fieldiana: Bot.* 24 (1) : 178, 1961 [sine synonym **Begonia glandulosa** W. J. Hooker, 1861, nomen confusum]. — J. Golding, *Phytologia*, 40: 461, 1978 [sine synonymy **Begonia glandulosa** W. J. Hooker, 1861, nomen confusum; *Begonia nigrovenia* hort. Linden ex W. J. Hooker, 1861 et Regel, 1867]. — R. Ziesenhenne, *Begonian*, "49" 48: 186, 1981. — Burt-Utley, *Brittonia*, 36, 233, 1984. Mexico, Guatemala.

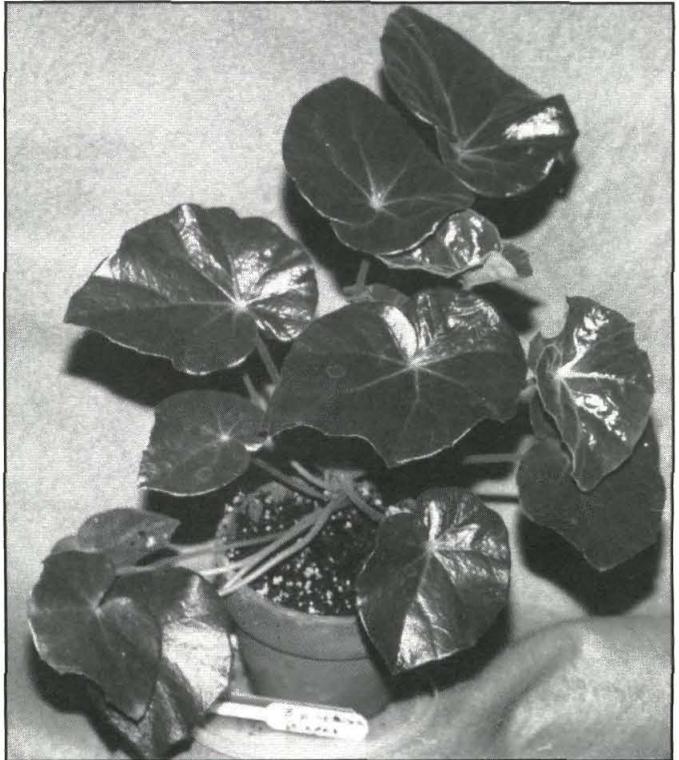
Begonia tuerckeimii C. de Candolle, 1895.



The leaves of **Begonia glandulosa** are 5-7 in. X 4-5.5 in., broadly elliptical almost circular, cordate base with a narrow sinus or with basal lobes overlapping, short acuminate tip at main vein and at ends of other veins but smaller; upper surface, glabrous, shiny bright green, 6-7 palmate veins, dark brown, depressed; lower surface, light green, veins red, light green elsewhere, finely tomentose. This description from plant, grown under lights, from a cutting of Uteley No. 6582, collected between San Luis Potosí and Hidalgo, Mexico.

These two begonias can be identified easily by the character of their leaves.

The leaves of **Begonia pinetorum** are 3-7 in X 2-4.5 in., obliquely ovate with acute tip; upper surface, green, very minutely tomentose, 7-8 palmate veins, light green; lower surface, green, finely tomentose, heavier and light pinkish-brown on veins. This description from plant grown under lights from a cutting of Uteley No. 7668, collected in Chiapas, Mexico.



BULLETIN BOARD

Michael Ludwig has resigned as president of the American Begonia Society, citing the need to spend more time with his family and his business. First vice-president Jeannette Gilbertson will assume the duties of the presidency.

From the President:

The American Begonia Society wishes to thank Michael Ludwig for his service as President and head of the judging department. We especially thank him for his work on the new judging course and wish him well in all future endeavors.

It is my goal during the remainder of Michael's term to strengthen the bonds between the different regions and all members, and to involve as many members as possible in the ongoing work of the American Begonia Society. I ask for your support, and look forward to the challenge.

Jeannette Gilbertson

Appointments:

Maxine Zinman has been appointed Judging Chairman.

Glennis Crouch, Houston Knight, and Wanda Macnair have been appointed to the nominating committee.

THANK YOU! To all the Branch Officers who sent in updates on their officers for the Branch Directory.

Elections Schedule

March 2: Nominating Committee appointed (not later than 150 days before end of fiscal year)

May 3: Additional nominations may be made by a petition signed by at least 15 members of the ABS, and delivered to the Secretary at least 90 days before the end of the fiscal year

June 16: Ballots will be mailed to all members at least 45 days prior to the end of the fiscal year

July 21: Ballots must be in. Only ballots received 10 days prior to the end of the fiscal year will be counted

July 22: Ballots will be opened by Ballot Counting Committee nine days before the end of the fiscal year

July 31: End of fiscal year

Article VII of the By-Laws of the American Begonia Society, Elections, contains instructions for our elections.

continued, p. 78

SAN ANTONIO

Packets go out mid-Feb. - watch for yours!



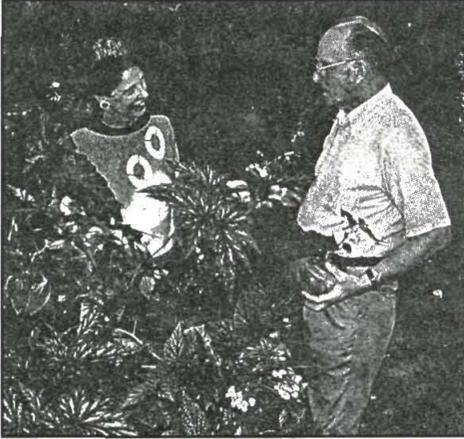
Freeze Damages Lowe Plants

December's unusual freeze severely damaged plants in Florida, and Paul Lowe will be unable to ship plants for some time.

Please do not order from Paul until you see his ads again. If you have already ordered plants from him, Paul will refund your money.

Note: It is heartbreaking to lose plants you love, particularly your own hybrids. When spring thaws come, perhaps members who have ordered from Paul in the past would be willing to send plants or cuttings to help him restart his collection.- Ed.

IN THE NEWS...



Russ Richardson taught a course on growing begonias at the Atlanta Botanical Garden October 4. A picture of Russ and part of his lovely begonia collection appeared in local newspapers, and the large, healthy plants served to show he knows his begonia culture.



“Begonias bloom for the Michelsons”

read the headline in the De Land, Florida, Sun News for November 11-12, 1989. ABS members **Helen and Francis Michelson** were pictured surrounded by begonias and featured in an article by Eileen Terry.

The Michelsons have a collection of over 500 begonias. It was Helen who, as a young girl in New York, began growing begonias. The couple moved to Daytona Beach in 1933, and Helen continued growing begonias until a freeze in 1937 killed

many of her plants. Francis, watching her start new plants, had “the begonia bug” bite. He began to help, and ended up addicted.

Together the Michelsons helped organize the Miami Branch in 1944. Francis began to create hybrids, and in 1986 won the Alfred D. Robinson Medal for his B. ‘Withlacoochee’.

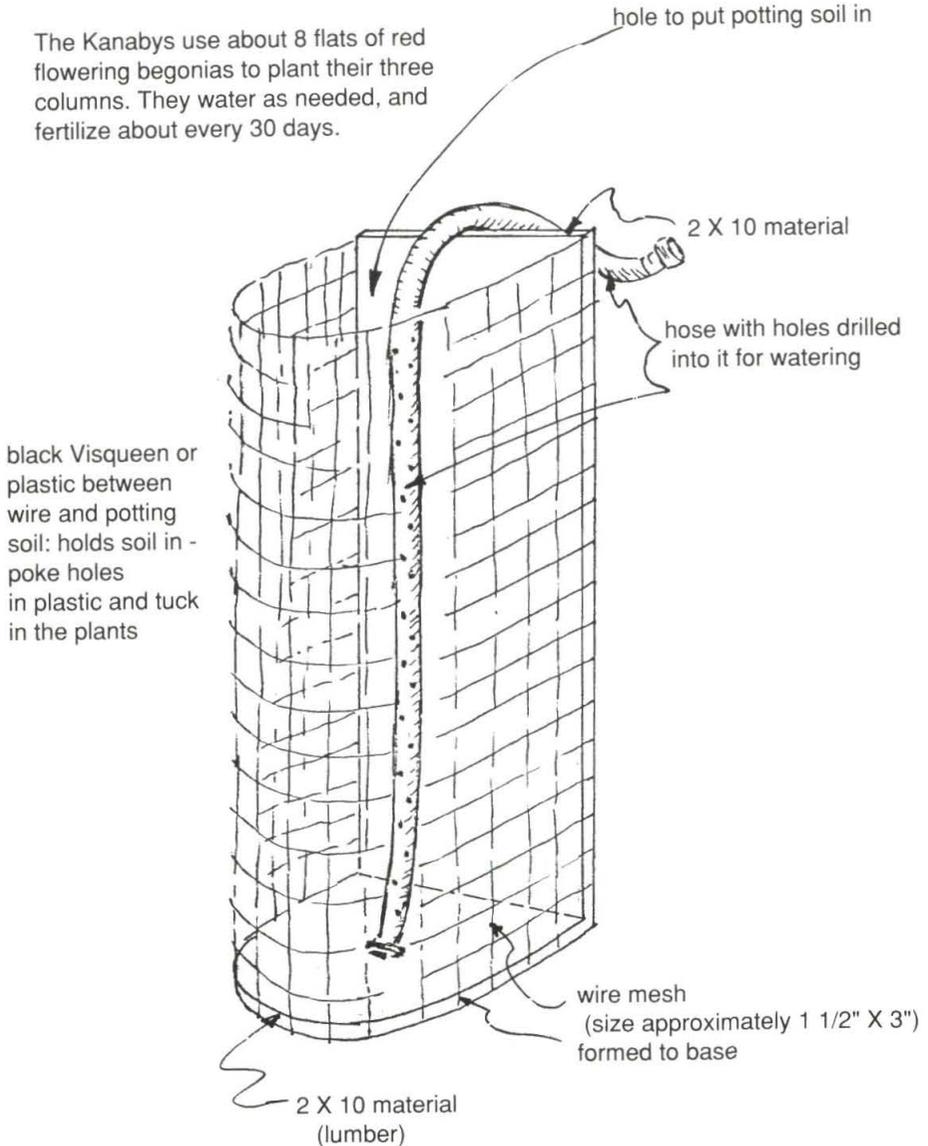
Astro Branch and its members were featured in an article by Brenda Beust Smith in the Houston Chronicle (Houston, Texas) on Saturday, Oct. 14, 1989. The immense diversity of the begonia family, from dainty semperflorens to tall cane-like types, was stressed, and Astro President **Tom Keepin** gave tips on growing begonias in Houston.

Building a Begonia Column

Larry Kanaby's Way

The flowering columns adorning the porch of Fran & Larry Kanaby are pictured on page 53. Wow! Wish you could see the picture in blazing color!

The Kanabys use about 8 flats of red flowering begonias to plant their three columns. They water as needed, and fertilize about every 30 days.



CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

March-April 1990

Diana H. Gould, Seed Fund Director

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

All packets of species seed are \$1 each, and all packets of hybrid seed are 50c each; a pamphlet on growing from seed is 25c.

All orders must be accompanied by check or money order payable ONLY in U.S. funds, and made payable to the CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND.

Cost of mailing in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico are: 1-12 packets of seeds, 55c; 13-24 packets, 70c; 25-36 packets, \$1.15; 37-48 packets, \$1.45.

Foreign mailing costs are: 1-12 packets of seeds, \$1.30; 13-24 packets, \$2.10; 24-36 packets, \$3.10; 37-48 packets, \$4.10.

Two sets of planter dishes with free instructions in one mailer costs 77c. If ordered with seed and sent in one mailer, the cost of 2 sets of planter dishes and 1-12 packets of seed is 90c; 2 sets of planter dishes and 13-24 packets cost \$1.07; 2 sets of planter dishes and 25-36 packets cost \$1.42; 2 sets of planter dishes and 37-48 packets cost \$1.75.

CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS PLEASE ADD 6 3/4% SALES TAX TO ALL ORDERS (please note increase). Please send your order and payment to:

Ms Diana H. Gould
9940 Falcon Meadows Dr.
Elk Grove, CA 95624

Note change of address!

Germination times for this issue's selections range from 7 to 51 days, so please be patient. Unless otherwise noted, these selections have not been offered during the last three years.

The Seed Fund would like to thank **Zeph Ballmer, Ed Bates, Roberto Brin, LaVerne Carpenter, Jackie Davis, Lynda Goldsmith, Jan Goodwin, Doug Hahn, Bob Hamm, Eiichi Kawamata, Naomi Lynch, Phil Mudgett, Thelma O'Reilly, Joy Porter, and all of our anonymous donors** for their most generous donations. THANK YOU!

Notes on Seeds Offered: *Hillebrandia sandwicensis* (Hawaii) is in another genera within the *Begoniaceae* family, and was featured in the SO '89 issue of the **Begonian**. This rare jewel requires terrarium care. Its roots are tuberous and the rhizome **must** be set on top of the soil. It is very slow-growing (seeds planted end of June are just over 1" in December). It needs to be grown in shaded conditions with only a few hours of indirect sun, in a moist well-drained mix. Its temperatures should be in the mid-70's F. for best results. For those growers with green-

houses, it is suggested that this plant be grown on your greenhouse floor under your benches. This rarity in our family is well worth all of the aggravation required to keep it in cultivation.

Cane-like

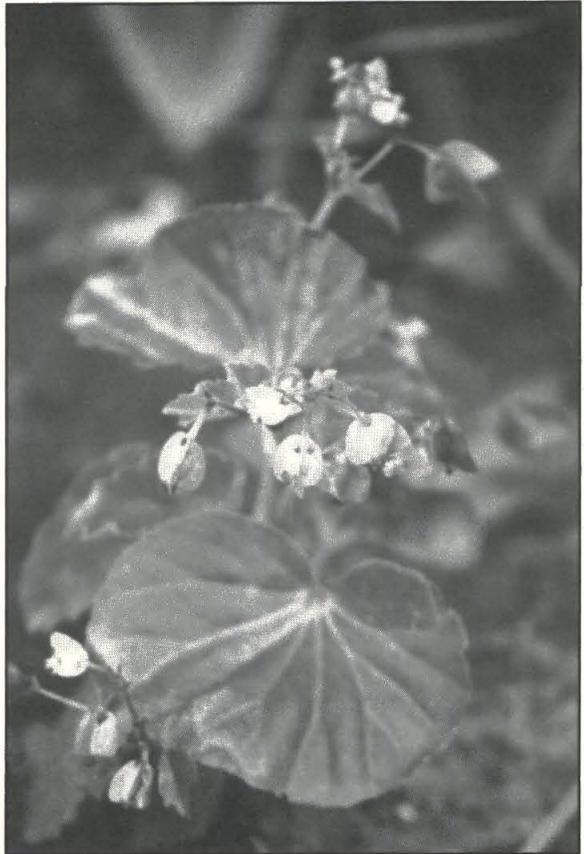
B. leathermaniae (Bolivia; ND88) is a Superba-type with beautiful dark green leaves spotted with a lighter green, and white flowers flushed with pink. *B. macduffieana* (Brazil; JF88) is an easy-grower with green leaves and red to red-orange flowers depending on light level. *B. pseudolubbersii* (Brazil) is a tall-growing cane with white flowers that have pink edges. *B. U007* (Philippines; MA89) has spotted and/or plain green leaves. *B. U031* (Brazil; ND87) is a tall cane with large spiral leaves with red on the reverse, and white flowers.

Shrub-like

B. bracteosa (Peru) has bare, medium leaves with rose flowers, and *B. bradei* (Brazil; MJ86) has narrow, hairy leaves and white flowers with crimson hairs. *B. dietrichiana* (Brazil) has small, bare leaves with white flowers, while *B. edmundoi* (Brazil) also has small bare leaves but has sparse greenish-white flowers. *B. epipsila* (Brazil;

MA87) has medium, bare leaves with profuse, fragrant white flowers, and *B. kellermanii* (Guatemala; ND88) has hairy, felted leaves with profuse, fragrant white flowers.

Also offered is *B. taiwaniana* var. *albomaculata* hort. (Taiwan); this could be an erroneous label for a different species, *B. formosana* var. *albomaculata* - I regret that I received no description. *B. tonduzii* (El Calle, Panama) is an attractive, low-growing, moderately branching species with glossy, dark-green, glabrous leaves 1 1/2" x 3-4" and bright pink blossoms on red peduncles (and it makes a lovely basket!) *B. U252* (Dominica, not Dominican Republic) has dark-green, glossy leaves, some of which are puckered, and hairy petioles with coral-red buds that open to white or pale-pink flowers.



B. U257, grown and photographed by Ed Bates

Thick-stemmed

B. ebolowensis (Cameroon) has medium, bare leaves with profuse white flowers, and *B. malabarica* (India) has medium hairy leaves with profuse, fragrant, bluish-pink flowers.

Semperflorens

B. U257 (Panama), from a private garden collection, is similar to *B. U250* but has deep pink flowers; the color deepens in strong light. Ovaries are decidedly greenish. Leaves are rounded. (Please see note on *B. U257*, page 69.)

Trailing-scandent

B. loranthoides ssp. *rhopalocarpa* (Cameroon) is an extremely rare and hard to grow epiphyte with profuse white flowers that goes completely dormant in fall and winter. It is slow to germinate, hard to grow, and in **very limited supply**.

Rhizomatous

B. cardiocarpa (Nicaragua; SO88) is an erect-growing species with pink-tinted white flowers.

Seed offered in our convention listing as *dayi* hort. (Guatemala) has medium-sized, glossy, dark green

leaves that are smooth on both the top and reverse, with profuse greenish-white flowers; these may be seeds of *B. glandulosa* (Mexico), which has prominent dark brown veins. See "Nomenclature Update" for photos of *B. glandulosa* and *B. pinetorum*, both of which have been labeled *dayi* hort. Try growing these side by side with *B. pinetorum*, listed below.

See "Nomenclature Update" also for the background on *B. nepalensis*. We have offered this seed in our convention listing by its synonym *B. gigantea*. From

India, it has giant leaves with moderate white flowers.

B. heracleifolia (Mexico; MJ87) has large, parted leaves with profuse, fragrant pink-tinted white flowers, in contrast with a variety of *B. heracleifolia* (Mexico), which has very large cleft green leaves and white flowers. *B. hispidivillosa* (Mexico) has medium leaves with profuse spinel-red flowers. *B. lyman-smithii* (Mexico) has spots on its early leaves. *B. pinetorum* (Chiapas, Mexico) has medium, felted and "fuzzy" leaves with profuse pink flowers.

B. richii hort. has giant, compound, green leaves and greenish-white flowers. *B. rotundifolia* (West Indies) has light pink flowers, and *B. roxburghii* (India-Burma) is erect-growing with fragrant white flowers. *B. hatacoa* (seed sent in under the synonym *B. rubro-venia*) may be one of the varieties that come from Tibet or China, or it may not be. When seed comes in without a description, your guess is as good as mine. However, I do expect to have some of the *hatacoa* seeds later this year.

B. strigillosa (Mexico and Central America) has medium leaves with pink flowers, and *B. tayabensis* (Philippines; SO88) blooms year round with large white flowers and long, green, peltate leaves.

Tuberous

B. davisii (Peru) is a low-growing species with profuse orange-scarlet flowers. *B. fimbriatipula* (China), **endangered in China**, is a low-growing species with olive-green, white-hairy, heart-shaped leaves 5" x 6 1/4", massively veined with reverse red veins, and fragrant, light pink flowers. This species is very slow growing, hard to grow, but vital to our international species preservation. As of January 1st I do not have test results, but have to offer the seed in this issue or it will be too late. If it does not test out, I shall send credits.

B. gracilis var. *martiana* (Mexico; ND89) is tall-growing, with fragrant, rose-pink flowers - **bulbils only** are offered in this issue. *B. micranthera* var. *venturii* (Bolivia-Argentina; ND88) is a tall-growing species with apricot flowers.

Classification Unknown

B. U246 (Ecuador; SO88) is from Scott Hoover's expedition, and its identity is still unknown.

"B. mixed species" is a surprise collection of all of the spills and leaks.

Hybrids

B. dichroa x *B. 'Lo Sport'*; *B. 'Gin'*; *B. 'Glamour Rose Picotee'*; *B. rex* cultorum (mostly green and white). Please note that hybrid seeds are no longer tested by the Seed Fund.

Please use the 1989 Convention Listing as the

available Seed Fund inventory until the 1990 Convention Listing becomes available. The 1989 Listing is available upon request with your seed order, OR by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to receive it.

Thank you all so very much for all of your warm wishes and for your generous support.



Note on B. U257

Roberto Brin distributed this and other seeds to friends during the Christmas season, 1988. At their 1989 sale, Palomar Branch offered plants grown by Phyllis & Ed Bates labeled only as "Semperflorens from seed from Panama." Thelma O'Reilly, chairman of the Unidentified species Project, asks that anyone who received seeds or purchased plants at the Palomar sale contact her. She is trying to determine if the plants are species, and to coordinate information about them.

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

Species Seed - \$1 per packet

Hillebrandia sandwicensis

B. bracteosa

B. bradei

B. cardiocarpa

B. davisii

B. dietrichiana

B. ebolowensis

B. epipsila

B. fimbristipula

B. glandulosa (dayi hort.)

B. gracilis var. *martiana*

B. hatacoa (syn. *rubro-venia*)

B. heracleifolia

B. heraceifolia var.

B. hispidivillosa

B. kellermanii

B. leathermaniae

B. loranthoides

B. lyman-smithii

B. macduffieana

B. malabarica

B. micranthera var. *venturii*

B. nepalensis (*gigantea*)

B. pinetorum

B. pseudolubbersii

B. richii hort.

B. rotundifolia

B. roxburghii

B. rubrovenia

B. sanguinea

B. strigillosa

B. taiwaniana var. *albomaculata* hort.

B. tayabensis

B. tonduzii

B. U007

B. U031

B. U246

B. U252

B. U257

B. mixed species

Hybrid Seed - 50c per packet

B. dichroa x *B. 'Lo Sport'*

B. 'Gin'

B. 'Glamour Rose Picotee'

B. rex cultorum mix

COMING EVENTS

March 2-11: Knickerbocker Branch booth at New York Flower Show, 10 a.m.- 8 p.m. (10-6 Sundays).

March 10-18: Buxton Branch will participate in the New England Spring Flower Show.

March 16-18: 63rd annual Philadelphia Flower Show.

April 7-8: Miami Branch Show and Sale at Fairchild Tropical Gardens.

April 7-8: Barkley Branch Show and Sale, "Memorial to Dr. Fred A. Barkley," Will Rogers Garden Center, 3400 N.W. 36th, Oklahoma City, OK, 2-5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday.

April 14-15: Rubidoux Branch participates in the Riverside Flower Show.

May 5-8: International Symposium, "The Biology and Conservation of Epiphytes," at Selby Gardens. Contact Nalini M. Nadkarni, Director of Research, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, 811 South Palm Ave., Sarasota FL 34236, USA.

May 11-12: Jacksonville Branch Show and Sale, Roosevelt Mall, Roosevelt Blvd. & San Juan Ave., Jacksonville, FL.

OLE!

May 16-20: ABS National Convention, Begonias Olé!, San Antonio, Texas, hosted by Southwest Region. Chair is Melba Schultz, 603 Chauncey, San Antonio, TX 78216. Packets will be mailed in February - if yours hasn't arrived by March 10, contact Convention Chairman.

CONSERVATION NEWS

There's Good News
from Thailand:

Scott Hoover sends word that Thailand is proving to be very exciting in terms of new begonia species. Some of these species should be arriving in this country soon, as Jackie Davis will be flying over to meet with Scott and bring back collected materials.

In mid-February, Don Miller, Director of Southwest Region, will be joining Scott on the collecting expedition.

and Bad News
about rain forests:

"The National Geographic Society has stated that at the current rate of destruction, the rain forests of the earth will be totally gone in just thirty years. With the forests, the Society says, will be lost forty thousand species of animals and plants dependent upon the rain forests for their existence - most disappearing before they can be catalogued and studied by science. Will the cure for cancer or the fabled anti-aging enzyme be contained in an obscure gray fern growing on the next tree to fall under the lumberman's blade? We may never know."

-from a brochure of the National Wildflower Research Center, 2600 FM 973 North, Austin, TX 78725

HONOR ROLL
of Contributors
to the Conservation Fund
for Scott Hoover's
Malaysian Expedition

Katherine Elliott
Bob Hamm*
Timothy Last
Emily Oxford
Paul Riviere

Santa Clara Branch**

*third contribution

**fifth contribution

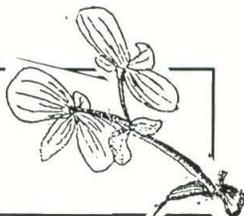
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY CONSERVATION STATEMENT

Conservation will be the theme of the 1990 ABS Convention in San Antonio, Texas, May 16-20. On the agenda will be ratification of the Society's Conservation Statement. Last year, President Arlene Davis asked the Vice-Presidents to cooperate with Conservation CoChairmen Martin Johnson and Scott Hoover in writing the statement of ABS' Conservation goals and principles. John Howell serves as chairman.

The Conservation Statement is in its fifth draft. If you would like to read the latest draft before considering the statement for adoption, please write John at 129 Trillium, San Antonio, TX 78213 and request a copy.

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Margaret Coats, Round Robin Director



We shall begin this column with a humorous story related by Kit Mounger (FL) after her trip to the Potomac Branch Show and Judging School in Washington, D. C.: "the Botanic Garden had this humongous blooming specimen of *B. aconitifolia* which they allowed me to take the male flower from. Wellsir, I very carefully put the blossoms in a film cassette and nursed them all the way home. As soon as we got in, I took out the flowers, put them on a paper towel to dry and set the towel on the kitchen table. A couple of hours later, I came in from playing catch-up in the lath house and discovered Tinkerbelle, my usually favorite cat, curled up asleep on that towel. Oh, the urge to kill! I felt like grabbing her up and using her behind to dust all those plants I had pegged for that pollen. My *B. aconitifolia* is YEARS away from blooming."

Members of the thick-stemmed Robin are contemplating compiling a list of all those plants so classified. Quite an undertaking, but such a list would prove beneficial to all growers. Martin Johnson (CA) finds *B. U032* a very attractive plant with large, cleft, ovate leaves, and says Doug Frost (CA) considers it one of the most beautiful. However, Martin says no one has seen it in bloom yet. Dora Lee Dorsey (FL) says her plants have suffered some damage from the city-treated water supply. She always collects rain in barrels for her plants, but she ran short this year because of a limited supply of rain.

This excellent idea comes from a fairly new begonia grower, Nancy Gilliam (TN). She has decided to give little baskets of begonias as Christmas gifts. She begins with pretty, shallow baskets lined with several layers of garbage bag plastic anchored with aquarium gravel, adds two or three small pots of compatible begonias and fills

the gaps with Spanish moss. Then a pretty ribbon is added to finish off this lovely, personal gift. Nancy expressed the opinion that when you give away a plant that you have grown yourself, it's truly a gift from the heart. She's also hoping to obtain some begonia converts.

After one of the members of her mini-begonias Robin wrote about losing *B. baritonea* hort. 'Winter Jewel', Mary Bucholtz (FL) encouraged her to try again, as Mary finds it a true delight. Mary explained that it can be difficult to find the right spot for this begonia, and just moving it from one location to another may be the answer.

Some of the members of one of the rex Robins commented on a photo of a *B. thomsonii* grown by Mary McClelland (NE). Mary started it from seed from one Seed Fund, and found it liked the cool basement. She kept it in a terrarium at first, as she believes plants with so many hairs do not like to be overwatered. For those of you who feel you cannot grow rexes, please listen to these words from Mary: "Just because those rexes die, no need not to buy them."

George Jendrusiak (FL) reported that, following a program on growing in contained atmospheres at his branch meeting, he made two terrariums using antique pickling jars planted with miniatures. He also did a begonia bonsai, using a miniature begonia planted over a piece of volcanic rock. Watering does not present a problem since he has it in a shallow container of white sand which holds water. The rock absorbs the water and wicks it up to the begonia roots. George uses the bonsai as a table decoration both at home and at work and has received many positive comments.

A word to the wise from a member of a hybridizing Robin: "It behooves every hybridizer to be very selective of the plants they name and release. I have about a dozen new hybrids that were supposed to be 'out of this world.' Some are so similar to hybrids that we have been growing for years and years. One is identical to a hybrid that is older than I am. I have them growing side by side and can't tell the difference. And we wonder why our nomenclature is so cluttered."

Think everyone agrees that the smell of fish emulsion ain't no bed of roses! Well, to mask that smell Elaine Ayers (OH) says she adds a little green soap or Murphy's along with a dash of Clorox and has had no plant damage.

Not being one to argue with success, especially that of a grower with many, many more years of experience, I am thoroughly convinced that the moon phases affect many things. Dora Lee Dorsey (FL) takes her cuttings when the moon is NEW, and if it's good enough for her, it's good enough for me. She also starts her cuttings in water, with chunks of charcoal in it to prevent fermenting.

And...more good tips from Mae Blanton (TX) on terrarium growing: "I only transplant when the plant becomes too large for the container and I can't trim it down to size. In larger bowls (12" container) I put a layer of perlite with a bit of horticultural charcoal to soak up fertilizer salts under the moss. After several years, moss may get too acid and plants begin to look distressed. I test the pH of the moss, and if it's too acid, I add dolomite lime or lime water. In a month or two, the plant's health improves. Many plants grow and bloom for months and then rest. Allow them to rest without food until new growth begins, then start feeding again. If a young plant outgrows a small bowl, gently ease it out and into a larger one until you reach the largest container you wish to use." (Note: use only *dolomite* lime,

and charcoal for horticulture or aquariums, not barbecue briquets).

Julia Broadhurst (Eng.) is what I call a dedicated grower. For a while, she was carrying special plants in each night and out again every morning. She admits it became quite a chore. Now that's devotion!

Mary Bucholtz (FL) winters her B. 'Honeysuckle' in a south window over her kitchen sink. She says every morning the room is filled with its delightful scent, but the scent grows fainter by evening. I think this is true of most of the scented begonias, and that's why an early morning walk around the garden is such a heavenly experience.

When people say to me that I have a green thumb, I always reply, "No, just a strong back and a weak mind." But I think Brad Thompson (CA) has a better answer - hard work and a genuine desire to learn the particulars. Brad says he started out with ten begonias last March, and without trying too hard has managed to accumulate four or five hundred. Sound familiar?

To root cuttings, Jane Hays (CO) makes a marvelous arrangement of leaves and flowers for her garden room. When stems have rooted nicely, she pots them up.

Like a lot of people, Lois Rowland (AR) plants her seed in the 2-liter soft drink bottles. Then she pulls sheer panty hose around the bottom for warmth until the seeds come up.

All members of the Robin enjoy seeing pictures of each others' plants, but please try to limit the number of photos you send in a Robin. With the high cost of postage, this works a hardship on some, particularly our foreign members. Thanks!

Q: *What's fun, instructive, and circles the globe several times a year?*

A: *Congratulations, you guessed it! A turn page for answer!*

Round Robin! To join in, write:

Margaret Coats
11203 Cedar Elm
San Antonio, TX 78230

and tell her what your special interests are.



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Begonias Galore: No More

"It is with some regret that we must inform you that "Begonias Galore" is longer going to function. It has just gotten to be more than we can handle. Both of us have had a lot of changes in our lives and we cannot devote the time to propagation.

When we started our begonia list, we were only doing this as a hobby and to share our plants. We are still going to grow our begonias, at least most of them, but not on as large a scale.

Thanks to all of you who ordered our list and placed plant orders. We enjoyed corresponding with you, especially all the nice comments we always received from you regarding the quality of our plants. Happy Growing!"
Betty Jean Kelly and Mary Miller

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:

Martha Curry
P.O. Box 1232
Weatherford, TX 76086

BEGONIA CUTTINGS AND PLANTS

Send \$1 for expanded 1990 list. Kay's Greenhouses, 207 W. Southcross, San Antonio, TX 78221.

BEGONIAS (a specialty), plus Gesneriads, Peperomias, Succulents, Perennials and more. Informative Quarterly Newsletter! New plants each issue! \$3 (1 yr.) (Canada \$4, Overseas \$6) to: **UNUSUAL PLANTS**, 10065 River Mist Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

BEGONIAS: THE COMPLETE REFER-

ENCE 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. 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.

"VICKI'S EXOTIC PLANTS" Beautiful Begonias, Episcias, and Hoyas. Large variety of each. Please send \$1 for list to 522 Vista Park Dr., Eagle Point, OR 97524.



AROUND ABS

Notes from our Newsletters

The big topic of conversation in most newsletters during January was the shockingly hard freeze. Even from clear down in Miami, where begonias usually thrive outside in winter, came tales of devastation. Some growers moved plants indoors: Frances Hunter brought 1,000 plants into her house, then left to spend the holidays with family (there probably wasn't room for her in the house, anyway). Even among those plants left to the elements, however, there were survivors. Charles Jaros reports that many of his leafless stalks were sprouting out leaves: "It seems that being defoliated acted like a severe pinching and pruning."

Look out, world! Despite the freeze, begonias are headed for a population explosion this spring as branches all over the country are planting seeds. Sowing was definitely the "in" activity for January meetings. Watch for fierce competition in the seedling division at the Washington, D.C. convention in 1991.

Dallas Area Branch joined in the seed planting, with the experienced hand of George Fix leading the sowing. A bonus was a demonstration of the basics of pollination and cleaning seed by Don Miller, who also donated seed from his Ecuador expedition for members to plant. What was really wild about the evening, though, is that Anita Ruthenberg brought refreshments. A large clay pot with plastic flowers stuck in dirt, and a trowel, decorated the table. At break time, Anita casually removed the flowers, and began dishing out dirt with the trowel! The "Dirt" was a most fabulous chocolate dessert, and how very appropriate for begonia freaks!

A prize for the most unusual branch activity should go to Alfred D. Robinson Branch, which in February held a "Dog Show." Not canines, but begonias that "look like they have been left out in the rain

- Don't throw them out. The worse they look, even dead, the better. There will be suitable classifications and appropriate ribbons awarded with a suitable honor for Best of Show." It was one show where no one could exclaim, "I just don't have a thing good enough to enter!"

Also from the Robinson Branch newsletter, the B-Line, comes a handy guide to modern science:

"If it's green or it wriggles, it's biology. If it stinks, it's chemistry. If it doesn't work, it's physics." - from Murphy's Law, Book Two: More Reasons Why Things Go Wrong, by Arthur Block.

Mabel Corwin spoke to Palomar Branch on *B. ghertii*, which she grew from seed. The Palomar Planter gave the following summary:

"*B. ghertii* likes low light and likes to be on the cool side. If you have found a spot where the plant thrives, it is a good idea NOT to move it!

"*B. ghertii* is a most handsome plant with large, light green, shiny, and crinkly leaves. It was collected in 1959 in Brazil. It does quite well outside in a shade house. Hang it under a bench; I grow mine shaded by cane begonias. Protect it from frost."

B. ghertii also made an appearance in the Eastern Region Rambler. Editor Kit Mounger, writing of begonias she has had trouble growing, says

"I keep it in clay in a large bowl 3" deep with damp perlite on the floor of the lath house under the bench. Bears watching, keep on the dry side."

(If you're interested in *B. ghertii*, see also Mary Weinberg's article in the January-February 1990 issue).

Ann Salisbury edits the newsletter for Barkley Branch, and in January she printed the words to "The Begonia Song," found in an old Begonian. She'd like to know the tune - does anyone remember it?

BRANCH DIRECTORY

REGIONAL GROUPS

Eastern Region

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

Southwest Region

Don Miller, Director
1005 Mt. Auburn
Dallas, TX 75223

CALIFORNIA

Alfred D. Robinson

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

East Bay

3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.
Northbrae Com. Church,
Berkeley
Rich Bishop, Pres.
1404 Cypress
Berkeley, CA 94703

Garden Grove

1st Wed., 7:30 p.m.
12860 Euclid St.
Garden Grove
Barbara Berton, Pres.
1130 S. Karen Lane
Santa Ana, CA 92704

Long Beach Parent Chapter

3rd Saturday, 1:30 p.m.
Mercury S & L
4140 Long Beach Blvd,
Long Beach
Gil Estrada Pres.
7914 Springer St.
Downey, CA 90242

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
Eleanor Calkins, Pres.
910 Fern
Escondido, CA 92027

Rubidoux

4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
W. Riverside
Mem.Auditorium
4393 Riverview Dr.
Norma Pfrunder, Pres.
3484 Jefferson St.
Riverside, CA 92504

Sacramento

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
Garden Center
3330 McKinley Blvd.
Sacramento
Joan Coulat, Pres.
4111 DePaul Court
Sacramento, CA 95821

San Francisco

1st Wednesday, 8 p.m.
Garden Center
Golden Gate Park,
9th Ave. & Lincoln Way
Susan Muller, Pres.
124 St. Charles Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94132

San Gabriel Valley

2nd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
Los Angeles State &
County Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Ave.
Arcadia
Kenneth Dahlquist, Pres.
696 E. McKinley Ave.
Pomona, CA 91767

San Miguel

1st Wed., 7:30 p.m.
Casa del Prado, Rm. 104
Balboa Park, San Diego
Toni Baker, Pres.
6475 50th St.
San Diego, CA 92120

Santa Barbara

4th Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
The Cottage
1130 N. Milpas St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93103
Rudolph Ziesenhene,
Pres.
(address same as above)

Santa Clara Valley

3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.
Rm 2, Kirk Com. Cntr.
1601 Foxworthy Ave.
San Jose
Jackie Davis, Pres.
170 Wingfoot Way
Aptos, CA 95003

Theodosia Burr Shepherd

1st Monday, 7:30 p.m.
American Commercial
Bank
6401 Telephone Rd.
Ventura
Pam Hantgin, Pres.
94 N. Santa Rosa St.
Ventura, CA 93001

Westchester

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Univ. Christian Church
5831 Centinella Ave.
Jo Pangrazio, Pres.
422 Sherman Canal Court
Venice, CA 90291

Whittier

1st Friday, 7 p.m.
Room 1, Civic Center
7630 Washington Ave.
Whittier
Bill Scarborough, Pres.
4960 N. Bleeker St.
Baldwin Park, CA
91706

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut

4th Monday
homes of members
Priscilla Beck, Nat'l. Dir.
312 Shewville Rd.
Ledyard, CT 06339

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-Burbles,
Pres.
209 SE 21st St.
Fort Lauderdale, FL
33316

Jacksonville

3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m.
Garden Club
1005 Riverside Ave.
Jacksonville
Robert Brownlee, Pres.
7041 Ridge Trail Rd.
Keystone Height, FL
32656

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
Charles Jaros, Pres.
2621 NW 23rd Ct.
Miami, FL 33142

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
Stefan K. Brown, Nat'l. Dir.
2701 W. Kenmore Ave.
Tampa, FL 33614

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.
Mary Bagdigian, Pres.
26 Andover Road
Billerica, MA 01821

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
Natasha Lutov, Pres.
144 East 74 St.
New York, NY 10021

Brooklyn-Queens-Nassau

3rd Sunday
Clark Gardens
Albertson, NY
Phil Seiden, Pres.
733 East 93rd St.
Brooklyn, NY 11236

OHIO**Greater Cincinnati**

Douglas Hahn, Pres.
7736 Stonehill Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45230

OKLAHOMA**Fred A. Barkley**

3rd Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
Will Rogers Garden Cntr.
3400 NW 36th St.
Oklahoma City, OK
Merril Calvert, Pres.
11201 Draper
Choctaw, OK 73020

PENNSYLVANIA**Edna Stewart Pittsburgh**

3rd Wednesday, 7:30
p.m.
Pittsburgh Garden Center
Melissa Jones, Nat'l Dir.
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
John Howell, Pres.
129 Trillium
San Antonio, TX 78213

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
Barbara Hamilton, Pres.
268 Shoreline Dr.
Azle, TX 76020

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.

BULLETIN BOARD, continued

Publications Available

Three publications can be ordered from Membership Chairman John Ingles, 157 Monument, Rio Dell CA 95562-1617: ABS Constitution \$1
ABS Membership List \$7
Bessie Buxton Checklist Update \$35
Prices include postage.

Attention, Branch Officers

Is your branch is having a show or sale? Would you like to have issues of the **Begonian** to give to guests who seem particularly interested in begonias? Overprints of recent issues are available if your branch will pay postage costs. Contact Bookstore Manager or **Begonian** editor.

Finance, Publications Committees Meet

The Finance and Publications Committees met in joint session on January 26 at the home of Michael Ludwig to discuss how best to continue services at the present level despite falling interest rates and rising costs. The good news is twofold: ABS is fiscally sound, and we do not need an increase in dues at this time. A full report will appear in the next issue.

Moving?

Please remember to notify the Membership Chairman of your change of address. The Post Office does not forward bulk rate mail: ABS is billed for notification of the new address (if one is available), but the issue is 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 Bookstore - that gets expensive!

ELECTED OFFICERS

President Michael Ludwig
7007 Mt. Vernon Ave., Lemon Grove, CA 92045
(619) 461-6906

Past President Arlene Davis
157 Monument, Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617

First Vice-President Jeannette Gilbertson
410 JoAnn Circle, Vista, CA 92084

Second Vice-President Joan Coulat
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Third Vice-President John Howell
129 Trillium, San Antonio, TX 78213

Secretary Ingeborg Foo
1050 Melrose Way, Vista, CA 92083

Treasurer Eleanor Calkins
910 Fern Street, Escondido, CA 92027

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1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103

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

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

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

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

Business Manager John Ingles, Jr.
157 Monument, Rio Del, CA 95562-1617

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Diana Gould
7700 Deanton Ct., Citrus Heights, CA 95610

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718 Henderson Rd., Williamstown, MA 01267

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

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3484 Jefferson St., Riverside, CA 92504

Long Range Planning Bob Hamm
10065 River Mist Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

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10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 92041

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3916 Lake Blvd., Annandale, VA 22003

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1852 31st St., San Diego, CA 92102

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1965 Celeste Lane, Fullerton, CA 92633

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

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

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

Convention Advisors Carol & Peter Notaras
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Convention Chairman Melba Schultz
603 Chauncey, San Antonio, TX 78216

Show Entries Tim Last
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Slide Librarian Daniel Haseltine
6950 W. Nelson St., Chicago, IL 60634

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

For subscription, dues, circulation inquiries contact John Ingles, Jr., 157 Monument, Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617



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